
LCDC



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil
Chil Mhantáin
Wicklow Local Community Development
Committee

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

logo

Chairs intro

Introduction

“Local government will be the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level - leading economic, social and community development, delivering efficient and good value services, and representing citizens and local communities effectively and accountably”

Ireland has a complex range of local development structures and entities that deliver local and community development actions. The 50 or so local development companies are one sphere of this activity – there are also volunteer centres, family resources centres, children services committees, local and regional drugs taskforces, etc., which also deliver or co-ordinate a range of local and community development services at local level. There is little by way of structural co-ordination for such funding and activity.

Unlike many other OECD countries, the local authorities in Ireland traditionally do not have a lead role in such co-ordination, partly because local authorities in Ireland have a narrow range of functions. However, in response to the economic climate, change is required across all sectors to help meet the challenges facing us, including reduced budgets both nationally and from the EU. In addition, the focus of local government reform, “Putting People First”, is also on maximizing resources to improve services to citizens. One of the main responses has been to set up the Local Community Development Committees in the context of:

- Emphasis on role of local government as vehicle of governance closest to citizen
- Greater alignment of sectors delivering local economic social and community services
- Reduction in central government operational role in local service delivery
- Less resources – emphasis on value for money
- Emphasis on local responsibility, accountability and oversight

1. Background

Local Community Development Committees

Section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the establishment of Local Community Development Committees. The LCDC in Wicklow was set up in May 2014 following the passing of a resolution by the Local Authority. The purpose of these committees is to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

1.1 The functions of the LCDC

- a. To prepare and adopt the community elements of a 6 year economic and community plan.
- b. To implement, or to arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the Plan.
- c. To undertake a review of the community elements of the Plan at least one within the 6 year period.
- d. To monitor and review on an ongoing basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan, including performance against any benchmarks or indicators of performance.
- e. To seek to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoidance of duplication between the local and community development programmes.
- f. To pursue the co-ordination generally of all local and community development programmes within the functional area of the Committee, so as to optimise resources for the benefit of local communities in that area and improve the efficiency with which publicly-funded local and community development resources are used.
- g. To consider and adopt a statement in respect of the economic elements of a draft of the Plan prepared by the local authority.
- h. The Committee may enter into an agreement in writing with a public authority, local development or community development body, or other person for the carrying out of those functions by such an authority, body or person, as the case may be, which the Committee considers appropriate to be carried out.

1.2 The Committee, in performing its functions, shall have regard to –

- The resources, wherever originating from, that are available or likely to become available to it for the purpose of such performance and the need to secure the most beneficial, effective and efficient use of such resources.
- The need for co-operation with, and the co-ordination of its activities.
- The need for consultation with public authorities and publicly funded bodies in appropriate cases.
- The need for consistency with the policies and objectives of the Government or any Minister of the Government or other public authority in so far as they may affect or relate to the Committee's functions.

- The need to integrate sustainable development considerations into policy development and implementation
- The need to promote social inclusion

1.3 Co-Operation with Local Community Development Committees.

It is the duty of a relevant body, including the local authority, in so far as it is consistent with the performance of its functions to co-operate with the LCDC in the performance of its functions.

2. County Wicklow LCDC

2.1 Membership of the LCDC

Nominating Body	Nominee
Wicklow County Council	Cllr Grainne McLoughlin (Chair)
Wicklow County Council	Cllr Pat Kennedy
Wicklow County Council	Cllr Mary McDonald
Wicklow County Council	Sheelagh Daly (LEO)
Wicklow County Council	Frank Curran (CE)
Public Participation Network	Mai Quaid (Vice Chair)
Public Participation Network	Niamh Wogan
Public Participation Network	Liam McLoughlin
Public Participation Network	Martina Cronin
Public Participation Network	Richard Webb
Health Service Executive	Siobhan Fitzpatrick
Kildare Wicklow Education & Training Board	Ray Tedders
Dept. Social Protection	Stephen Fitzgerald
Bray Area Partnership	Peter Brennan
County Wicklow Partnership	Brian Carty
Business Pillar	Pat O'Shuilleabhan
Farming Pillar	Chris Hill
Unemployment Pillar	Lorraine Hennessy
Wicklow County Campus	Lindsay Malone

The LCDC members wish to thank Bryan Doyle, Tom Gregan, Rory Benville, Mary Kavanagh and Catherine Byrne for their contribution to the work of the LCDC in 2017.

2.2. Meetings

6 meetings of the LCDC have been held in 2017, and 2 were convened but postponed as a quorum was not achieved.

- 15th February 2017
- 22nd March 2017
- 17th May 2017 (postponed - quorum not achieved)
- 1st June 2017 (postponed - quorum not achieved)
- 6th June 2017
- 19th July 2017
- 27th September 2017
- 14th November 2017

3. Progress of the LCDC in 2017

The LCDC work plan consisted of four key areas in 2017. Progress in these areas is outlined below.

3.1 LECP

The LECP is a 6 year plan prepared by the LCDC and the Local Authority. The Community element is to be implemented by the LCDC. The Economic element is to be implemented by the Local Authority, specifically the SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise. The LECP is the framework for many operational and other plans in the County. It contains:

- Agreed priorities for the area
- Agreed agency roles in addressing these
- Places onus on parent bodies of agencies at local level to enable them to respond to plan

The combined Goals of the LECP are:

High Level Goals
Community Capacity and Urban regeneration and Rural Development
Active citizenship and public participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making
Targeted and integrated supports for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
Support local communities in innovation, entrepreneurship, micro-enterprise and social innovation
Training, education and lifelong learning based in analysis of employment trends and the skill needs of employers
Infrastructure and measures that are positive and supportive to investment, enterprise, innovation and knowledge creation
Sustain existing enterprise and develop quality employment and income opportunities for the wide range of employment needs in the county, with possibilities for reversing commuting patterns
Capitalise on Wicklow's unique attributes: proximity to the Dublin market; excellent quality of life; human capital; tourism; landscape; marine; agricultural and forestry resources
Low carbon and climate resilient economic activity, reducing energy dependence, and the sustainable use of resource, and leading in the smart economy
Harness efficiently the full resources of the county and promote interagency collaboration

(The Goals highlighted in blue are mainly the Community Goals)

3.1.2. Implementation

Goal 1:

Community Capacity, Urban regeneration and Rural Development

A number of programmes contribute to the achievement of this goal. The LEADER and SICAP Programmes are central to this – see separate reports on both. In addition a number of new development programmes were announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development:

Report table

Area	Project	Funding
Kilcoole	Enhancement Works and Health Check	€44,200
Carnew	Playground Equipment	€72,550
Shillelagh	Shillelagh Stick Project	€17,000
Wicklow Town	Enhancement Works & Health Check	€26,000
Dunlavin	Looped Walk	€72,250
Rathdrum	Enhancement Works	€100,000
Rathdangan	Playground Equipment	€48,000
Total		€380,000

T&V 2017 Scheme

Area	Project	Funding
Baltinglass	Digital hub, co-working space and heritage centre	€110,000
Blessington	Upgrading of amenities in preparation for Greenway	€70,000
Ballinaclesh	Upgrade car park and community centre for a social enterprise	€26,423
Rathnew	Community centre works for community enterprise	€100,000
Total		€306,423

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund 2017

Measure 1	Description	Funding
Greystones MD	Kilcoole to Kilquade Mass Path and Ballydonerea Loop Walk enhancement	€10,000
Rathdrum Playground Committee	Rathdrum Famine Graveyard Loop Walk enhancement	€8,000
Wicklow County Tourism	Wicklow Way enhancement	€7,266
Measure 2	Description	Funding received
Wicklow	Wicklow Cliff Walk	
Roundwood	Vartry River Walk	
total		

CLAR	Project	Funding
CLAR 2016	Pedestrian Crossing in Knockananna	€20,000
	Safety signs	€5,000
	Knockananna MUGA	€48,000
CLAR 2017	Knockananna - €27,000, provision of public lighting	€27,000
	Rathcoyle - €6,300, purchase and replacement of flashing amber safety lights.	€6,300
Total		€
REDZ		€

<p>Goal 1: Develop Community Capacity in Disadvantaged Communities and engage in urban regeneration and rural development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build capacity and social capital across all communities - Maximise opportunities for urban regeneration and rural development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health checks nearly complete: Arklow and Wicklow towns - Work beginning with towns and villages to develop plans for their areas and develop projects for Town & Village; CLAR; Outdoor Recreation and LEADER - Provide training and seminars in topics such as community skills, community facilities management and sustainability, placemaking, fundraising – with LEADER - See below for report on town & village and outdoor recreation scheme etc
<p>Goal 2: Promote active citizenship underpinned by good governance and participation in decision making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop strong representative fora in the county 	<p>Ongoing support for fora</p>
<p>Goal 3: Develop high quality integrated services available to all communities, in particular disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The LCDC will provide the strategic direction for the integration of existing services - The LCDC will provide representation for additional services and resources where gaps are identified or where new issues arise 	<p>SICAP & LEADER</p> <p>HSE – Healthy Ireland programme is underway</p> <p>Connecting for Life – Action Plan Kildare and West Wicklow – launch deferred until later in 2018</p>
<p>Goal 4: A vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a strong social & community enterprise sector in the county 	<p>Work beginning on:</p> <p>Map social enterprise in the county</p> <p>Outline steps to develop the sector</p> <p>Identify supports needed for start-ups and up scaling stages</p> <p>New fund for Social enterprise announced by IPB – details to be finalised</p>

Also:

- Tender process is underway for the development of a food strategy for County Wicklow, in partnership with the economic development unit and LEADER
- The development of an Integration Strategy is underway. The first steps are to carry out a consultation piece with the families in the resettlement programme in County Wicklow, in partnership with CIC; and to convene a meeting of stakeholders to aid in the development of the strategy

The LCDC also continue to work with other agencies to ensure alignment with the LECP and the strategies, plans and policies of the other agencies. These include:

- LEADER
- The Children and Young People Services Committee
- The Joint Policing Committee
- The Public Participation Network
- The HSE / National Office for Suicide Prevention

3.1.3 Monitoring the LECP

- The Advisory Committee was originally set up to develop the LECP and ensure integration of both elements of the plan. The Advisory Committee has agreed to continue in place to monitor the implementation of the plan. The members of the Advisory Committee come from both the LCDC and the Local Authority. They are:

Cllr. Grainne McLoughlin	Chair LCDC
Cllr. Gerry Walsh	Chair Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
Michael Nicholson	Chief Officer LCDC
Thomas Murphy	Director of Services, Economic Development & Enterprise
Sheelagh Daly	Local Enterprise Office
Sorcha Walsh	Senior Planner
Lorraine Gallagher	SEO Economic Development and Enterprise
Christine Flood	SEO Economic Development and Enterprise
Deirdre Whitfield	Community Culture and Social Development

3.1.4 Integrated Actions

There are many shared objectives between the community and the economic elements of the LECP and for the most part community and economic development are interlinked. In recognition of that, and of the fact that the plan is not static but dynamic and adaptable to new developments, the integrated element of the LECP is achieved through continuous dialogue and co-ordination. This is achieved through regular meetings of the Advisory Committee. Through the planning and reporting process at these meetings, information is shared and linkages between actions are drawn leading to co-ordination and integration where possible and where appropriate and on an on-going basis.

3.1.5 Regional

The Regional Assemblies' role in the LECP process is set out under Section 66c of the Local Government Act 2001, in particular Section 66c 2(c) and 3(c) which states that the consideration of an LECP by the Regional Assembly shall relate to its consistency with (i) the core strategy and the objectives of the development plan of the local authority concerned, (ii) any Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy or, as appropriate, Regional Planning

Guidelines (RPGs) that may apply, and (iii) between the economic and community elements of the Plan. County Wicklow LCDC anticipates the development of the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy and will review the LCDC to ensure alignment.

SICAP

2017 saw the government funded Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) being successfully delivered in Co. Wicklow by two Programme Implementers, namely Bray Area Partnership (BAP) for the Bray and Greystones Municipal District Areas (Lot 15-1) and Co. Wicklow Partnership (CWP) for the Wicklow, Arklow and Baltinglass Municipal District Areas (Lot 15-2).

SICAP's strong focus is on empowering and enabling the county's most disadvantaged communities and individuals to improve their opportunities, life outcomes and environment. This work is underpinned by the key principles of social inclusion, equality and collaboration.

Throughout 2017 the Programme Implementers continued to successfully achieve on each of SICAP's three key goals of:

- Community Development
- Education and Training
- Employment

While the LCDC is ultimately responsible for the oversight, monitoring and management of SICAP, the SICAP sub-group undertook the greater part of this work on its behalf reverting back to the LCDC with progress updates and recommendations in relation to key decisions. That said, final approval of all key decisions remained with the LCDC.

Throughout 2017, key performance indicators and headline indicators were all broadly achieved by both Programme Implementers, and all actions contained in the Annual Plans were fully implemented. As an example of the impact of the Programme in 2017, almost 1,500 disadvantaged individuals and over 60 community groups were engaged with on a one-to-one basis throughout the county.

As part of this work 835 people received support in relation to progressing their educational and training qualifications and over 70 people progressed to full-time or part-time employment. A new SICAP initiative in 2017 resulted in 1,679 children and young people receiving educational or development supports, including 235 young people at risk of early school leaving.

A new tender competition for SICAP 2018-2022 was launched in July. However, the scores achieved by the bids submitted were below what was required for contracts to be awarded. In the circumstances the LCDC had the option to engage in a negotiated procedure with the applicants. In November the LCDC made the decision to embark on this option, a process which will conclude at end March 2018.

3.2 LEADER

The LCDC and County Wicklow Partnership (CWP) worked closely together on the development of the Local Development Strategy (LDS) for the LEADER Programme 2014 - 2020. The priorities of the LEADER programme are social inclusion, the green economy and economic and community development. The LDS strongly reflects some of the relevant goals and objectives of the LECP.

The LDS was designed and developed through the following consultative processes:

- Feedback from countywide consultation process
- Relevant stakeholder consultations
- Socio-economic profile of the County
- Desk research – relevant policies and reports
- Available budgets

The themes of the LEADER Programme are:

Theme	Sub theme
Theme 1: Economic Development, Enterprise and Job Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Tourism • Enterprise Development • Rural Towns • Broadband
Theme 2: Social Inclusion	Rural Youth
Theme 3: Rural Environment	

Theme 1: Economic Development, Enterprise and Job Creation

Sub-Themes:

- Rural Tourism
- Enterprise Development
- Rural Towns
- Broadband

Theme 2: Social Inclusion

Sub-Themes:

- Basic Services
- Rural Youth

Theme 3: Rural Environment

Sub-Themes:

- Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity
- Protection and Sustainable use of Water Resources
- Renewable Energy

The LCDC is now the Local Action Group (LAG) for the LEADER Programme in the county, and now hold the LAG meetings separate from the LCDC meetings. County Wicklow Partnership is the implementing body for the programme. The Local Authority will be the lead financial partner for LEADER in County Wicklow with responsibility for the programme both administratively and financially.