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# LCDDC

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Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil  
Chill Mhantáin

Wicklow Local Community Development  
Committee

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



## 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

## Background

### 1. 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	ClIr Grainne McLoughlin (Chair)
Wicklow County Council	ClIr Pat Kennedy
Wicklow County Council	ClIr 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

### 2.2. Meetings

10 LCDC meetings took place in 2018: January, February, March, April (2), May, June, September, November and December.

### 3. Progress of the LCDC in 2018

The LCDC work plan consisted of four key areas in 2018. 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)

## 3.2 Implementation

### 3.2.1 Goal 1

Goal 1: Develop Community Capacity in Disadvantaged Communities and engage in urban regeneration and rural development

- Build capacity and social capital across all communities
- Maximise opportunities for 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:

- Town & Village Scheme
- CLAR
- Outdoor Recreation Scheme
- Urban Regeneration & Development Fund
- Rural Regeneration & Development Fund
- Community Enhancement Scheme

Funding Schemes 2018	Funding Received 2018
Town & Village Scheme	€518,005
CLAR	€130,590
Outdoor Recreation Scheme	€438,000
Urban Regeneration & Development Fund	€6,700,000
Community Enhancement Scheme	€250,530
- Men's Shed Scheme	€17,391
<b>Total</b>	<b>€8,054,516</b>

### 3.2.2 Goal 2

Goal 2: Promote active citizenship underpinned by good governance and participation in decision making

- Develop strong representative fora in the county

### County Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg

The County Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg had a fantastic year in 2018. The Comhairle's work on Cyber Bullying and online safety won them the Aldi Youth Award, and a lot of national attention.

The Comhairle members presented to the Oireachtas Committee on Children and Youth, on Cyber Bullying and internet safety. They also attended the National Comhairle Showcase

where two members from Wicklow gave keynote speeches to the forum. Two members attended the Open Policy Debate on Online Safety, along with Government Ministers, an Garda Síochána, the Children's Rights Alliance, ISPC and international experts from Google and Facebook. This is bringing the work of the Wicklow Comhairle beyond county Wicklow, to have a national impact.

The AGM, held in November, was well attended. The topics discussed were youth homelessness; youth attitudes towards drugs; the Children & Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) Plan; the PPN Well-being initiative and discussions were held with the Older Persons Council. This work will be continued at the monthly meetings of the Comhairle.

### **County Wicklow Older Persons Council**

The County Wicklow Older Persons Council played host to the National Convention in November, welcoming over 200 delegates for two days of speakers and networking.

The AGM was held in May 2018 and was very well attended.

Work continued to make Arklow an Age Friendly Town with a lot of consultation with local businesses and community groups. Signage in respect of age-friendly parking for older people has been installed in the town, along with a number of other accessibility initiatives. Overall the response has been overwhelming and we hope that 2019 will see Arklow reach its goal.

Dementia Table Technology has been launched and is available in Arklow, Blessington and Ballywaltrim libraries. This is an interactive innovation in the area of assisting people with dementia as well as people with learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities and autism.

The Older Persons Council continues to meet monthly.

### **County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)**

A report from the PPN is included at the end of this report.

#### **3.2.3 Goal 3**

Goal 3: Develop high quality integrated services available to all communities, in particular disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups

- 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

## 2018 Priorities

Strategy	Status
Healthy Wicklow Strategy	Work continued on the Healthy Wicklow Strategy – to be completed in 2019 The project plan was implemented and received funding of €100,000
County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy	Work continued on the County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy – to be completed in 2019
Integration	The report ‘Somali Families in Arklow: A Review of Resettlement, Reunification and integration’ was launched
RSES	The Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy was open for consultation A submission was made from the LCDC as part of the Wicklow County Council submission
CYPSC Plan	Consultations were held on the development of a new CYPSC plan

## Healthy Wicklow Programme 2018

1. HSE Physio Intervention Programme – Repeat Action from Round 1 – Lead Agency Wicklow Local Sports Partnership
2. Healthy Ireland Coordinator – Lead Agency Wicklow LCDC
3. Inclusive Physical Activity for All – Lead Agency Wicklow Local Sports Partnership
4. Accessible Beach Wheelchair - Lead Agency Wicklow Local Sports Partnership
5. Healthy Estates - Lead Agency Wicklow Local Sports Partnership
6. Social Prescribing – Lead Agency Bray Area Partnership & County Wicklow Partnership
7. Meet + Eat – Lead Agency County Wicklow Partnership & Wicklow Dementia Support
8. Trails Passport – Lead Agency County Wicklow Partnership

**3.2.4 Goal 4**

Goal 4: A vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector
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County Wicklow Partnership took the lead with this Goal. A consultant was contracted to develop a Social Enterprise Development Strategy incorporating the goals and objectives of the LECP. A lot of research was carried out in the County. The strategy is due to be completed and launched in 2019, along with a funding and support programme.

### 3.2.5 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"> <li>• Rural Tourism</li> <li>• Enterprise Development</li> <li>• Rural Towns</li> <li>• Broadband</li> </ul>
Theme 2: Social Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Youth</li> <li>• Basic Services</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Theme 3: Rural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity</li> <li>• Protection and Sustainable use of Water Resources</li> <li>• Renewable Energy</li> </ul>

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.

## 2018 Update

### Meetings

10 LAG meetings took place in 2018:

January, February, March, April (2), May, June, September, November and December

6 Evaluation Committee Meetings took place in the period between January and December 2018.

### Progress

From a review of the LDS 2018 AIP County Wicklow LCDC/LAG are on target in the subthemes of Rural Tourism, Enterprise Development, Rural Town and Basic Services.

The first contract under the Leader Programme 2014-2020 issued in February 2018. As at end of 2018 there was €1,776,150.73 committed to projects (including provisional approvals) which is 38% commitment of the overall budget achieved in a 12 month period. The LEADER programme achieved higher than projected (2018 AIP) commitments under the Rural Tourism, Rural Enterprise (including Social Enterprise) and Basic Services subthemes

A call for Festivals & Events projects taking place in 2019 was advertised in local press and on CWP website in October 2018.

### LEADER Co-operation Projects

County Wicklow LEADER is taking part in two co-operation projects. These have progressed in 2018.

#### Wicklow / Wexford / Waterford Blueway

Estimated total overall cost of Project **€600,000**

Estimated LEADER grant amount contribution of the LAG to the project **€200,000**

Proposed co-operation partners

- Wexford LAG
- Waterford LAG

#### Dublin /Wicklow Mountain Rescue

Estimated total overall cost of Project **€400,000**

Estimated LEADER grant amount contribution of the LAG to the project **€200,000**

Proposed co-operation partners

- Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Group (applicant)
- Wicklow LAG
- Rural Dublin LAG

### 3.2.6 SICAP (Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme)

Wicklow LCDC undertook an eTender procurement competition at end 2017 for the new SICAP 2018-2022 programme. As this did not result in successful bids being submitted, Wicklow LCDC selected to commence a negotiated process over the Q1 2018 period with the two applicants involved, namely Bray Area Partnership for Lot 15-1 (Bray and Greystones Municipal District Areas) and Co. Wicklow Partnership for Lot 15-2 (Arklow, Wicklow and Baltinglass Municipal District Areas).

To assist with this process an independent consultant was assigned to each Local Development Company to enable them improve their previously submitted bid. This process and approach was ultimately successful as the applicants submitted higher quality bids in early March. This allowed Wicklow LCDC to sign new SICAP 2018-2022 contracts with Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership at end March.

While engaging with the negotiated process in Q1, both Partnerships also successfully implemented a SICAP extension programme based on the actions and framework of their previous SICAP contract (SICAP 2015-2017).

On April 1<sup>st</sup> implementation of SICAP 2018-2022 commenced in Wicklow and as with its predecessor programme it aims to reduce social exclusion and poverty through:

- Community development (Local Community Groups)
- Education & Training (Individuals)
- Employment (Individuals)

Between April and December both Partnerships successfully implemented all actions contained within their SICAP Annual Plan 2018. Examples of actions included: Building healthy communities and community engagement in disadvantaged areas; Adult education access programmes; Prevention of early school-leaving; Supporting substance misusers and their families access the services they need; Providing one-to-one self employment and entrepreneurship supports.

Both Partnerships also over-achieved on targets set for key performance indicators. In total, Bray Area Partnership supported 25 Local Community Groups and 402 disadvantaged individuals while Co. Wicklow Partnership supported 11 Local Community Groups and 319 disadvantaged individuals. In addition:

- **495** participants received supports in relation to progressing their educational and training qualifications
- **36** participants progressed into employment
- **66** participants were assisted to progress into self-employment
- **32** local community groups received capacity-building supports

**SICAP** is funded and overseen by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and co-funded by the European Social Fund. In 2018 Bray Area Partnership received €711,777 and Co. Wicklow Partnership €597,842.

### Socio-economic Integration

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

### 3.3 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

#### 3.3.1 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.

### 3.3.2 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 has anticipated the development of the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy and will review the LCDC to ensure alignment.



#### **Report from Co Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)**

**We Grew!** – Membership increased by 61-member groups and we now have 238 diverse member groups from all over the county! Our Facebook Friends increased from 656 - 893

**We Developed Our Structures and Processes!** – Our Secretariat met bi-monthly to ensure that we were fulfilling our roles in: representing the community, acting as an information channel between national & local bodies and our members, and supporting our members to grow and develop. They also kept a watchful eye on our governance and financial procedures.

A review of policies took place resulting in amendments to our Constitution and our Reps Charter. Like all groups, we took steps to ensure we are working towards complete compliancy with the new GDPR regulations.

Our Environmental Network continued to develop, holding meetings on The Sustainable Development Goals and Working Towards a Fossil Free Wicklow. We held meetings to establish a Social Inclusion Network and a Coastal Community Network. We hope to develop these networks further in 2019.

**We Asked & Listened!** – Throughout the year we gathered experience and opinion through our seminars, through questionnaires, at our Plenaries, through our Networks and through asking for feedback all the time on everything we did.

**We Asked Community Groups to Develop Their Vision for Community Wellbeing** – We ran 11 workshops, 5 online consultations and took on board 2 submissions, and we developed a Vision for Community Wellbeing in all the Municipal Districts and for the county as a whole. The vision statements and high-level goals can be viewed on our website

**We Got Our Voices Heard! – Through Our Representatives** – Our PPN Representatives continued to bring community experience to the Wicklow County Council Strategic Policy Committees, The Local Community Development Committee, The Co Wicklow Joint Policing Committee, The Wicklow County Childcare Committee, The Co Wicklow Children & Young People’s Services Committee, The Wicklow Tourism Committee, The Bray Drug & Alcohol Task Force, Co Wicklow Volunteer Centre, and the Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary and Wicklow Rural Transport Programme.

The majority of our Secretariat and Representatives stood down this year (in accordance with our Constitution). Some have returned for a second term and we have been fortunate to welcome new representatives too.

**We Got Our Voices Heard! – Through Written Submissions** – We put what we learned through our consultations and talking to people into written submissions to: The Local Government Funding Baseline Review, The Transboundary Environmental Public Consultation on the Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Plant, and The Draft Code of Conduct for Persons Carrying on Lobbying Activities. These submissions can be viewed on our website.

Elected Representatives and the Chief Executive were also written to at the end of the year with suggestions/proposals relating to a 3<sup>rd</sup> lane on the N11 and in relation to the Transboundary Environmental Public Consultation on the Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Plant. These can also be viewed on our website

**We Ran Seminars!** – As part of our continued “Let’s Talk About” (L.T.A) information and consultation series, we ran: How Might the Proposed Expansion of the UKs Nuclear Power Programme Affect Ireland; L.T.A. The Sustainable Development Goals; L.T.A. Our Coastal Communities; Include Us In; and L.T.A. Working Towards a Fossil Fuel Free Wicklow

**We Went Out to Meet People & They Came to Visit Us!** – We were delighted to meet groups at the Community Awards ceremonies in the 5 Municipal Districts. We met groups at the Arklow Social Inclusion Network events, The Older People’s Council’s Events and the Co Wicklow Partnership Hear My Voice events. We presented to Wicklow Active Retirement Association and we attended the Co Wicklow Comhairle na Nog AGM.

Researchers from University College Cork came to interview us about our PPN experience. We welcomed Wexford PPN to visit us in Wicklow Town and we were delighted that Minister Sean Kyne came to meet us and find out more about our work.

**We Participated Nationally & Networked!** – We are participating in the National PPN Advisory Group along with members of the Dept. Rural & Community Development, the various social partners and PPN Resource Workers and Secretariat Members from around the country. We also sat on the National PPN Annual Report sub-group.

The PPN Resource Workers network meets quarterly and provides valuable peer support. We were also pleased to present our work on developing Our Vision for Community Wellbeing to the National PPN Conference in Athlone this year.

**We Supported Our Members!** – We supported member groups to put together their policies. We contacted groups with information about funding opportunities that were specific to their group and we helped one group to develop a funding application. We launched our Funding Handbook which gives tips and support to access funding and provides an extensive list of funding opportunities which is updated online regularly

We ran our first ever PPN Training Fair in September with 9 workshops and 19 information stands on topics that member groups asked for and said were important to them.

**We Communicated and Provided Information!** – Our Update E-bulletin contains PPN news, member group events, as well as training and funding opportunities and goes out to members on a monthly basis. Our Facebook Page is popular with some posts receiving over 1000 hits. Our website is kept up to date with all our news, reports, submissions etc. We have posted articles in all the WCC Countywise issues in 2018, had a page dedicated to our work in the Wicklow Uplands Council newsletter, and have had approx. 23 articles about our work printed in local media (Wicklow Times & Wicklow People). We were also fortunate to be given 3 opportunities to talk about our work on East Coast FM.



Comhairle na nÓg members meeting Minister Katherine Zappone, Minister for Children & Youth Affairs



The Trails Passport, A Healthy Wicklow Project

