



Kilkenny Local Community Development
Committee (LCDC)
Annual Report 2019

As Adopted by Kilkenny LCDC at its meeting held 14th February, 2020

In remembrance of Mary Barron, Assistant Principal, in the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and LCDC representative since 2014. Mary was a committed member of the LCDC who always made positive contributions to the meetings. Her work and dedication to the LCDC and LECP process was significant; she was continuously involved in making sure these worked to their optimum level and had realistic outcomes for the public.

Mary was a valued member of the LCDC, she will be missed by all. May she rest in peace.

Background

Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) are required, under the provisions of Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001, to prepare, adopt and submit an annual report to the local authority, no later than the 31st March each year, in respect of the performance of its functions in the previous calendar year. The annual report should be co-ordinated with the preparation of the local authority's annual report and include an outline of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) activities in the relevant period.

Functions of the LCDC

The LCDC functions set out in the Act are as follows:

- the preparation and adoption of an LECP,
- implementing the community elements of the LECP,
- reviewing the LECP and amending it or amending any element of it,
- monitoring, and reviewing the implementation of the plan on an ongoing basis,
- co-ordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of community development programmes that have been approved by the Council, agreed between the Committee and a public authority and to ensure that any plans or strategies are implemented in accordance with the community elements of the LECP,
- seeking to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoid duplication between local and community development programmes,
- pursuing the co-ordination of all local community and coordination of programmes so as to optimise resources for the benefit of local communities and improve efficiency with which public funded local and community development resources are used,
- to consider and adopt a statement in respect of the economic elements of a draft plan and
- not later than 31st March each year adopt and submit to the Local Authority a report relating to the performance of its functions in the preceding calendar year.

Membership

The membership of the Kilkenny LCDC is 19. In addition, Kilkenny LCDC has 1 Associate Member. The composition of the LCDC is such that it brings together the expertise and skills of people actively working with local development, community development and economic, cultural and environmental organisations and local authority members, officials and state agencies to implement a joined up, cross sectional approach to local and community development programmes.

Anne Corr, Social Inclusion representative from the Public Participation Network was elected chairperson on the 7th December 2019 for the 3-year period to November 2021. As an outcome of the May 2019 Local elections the LCDC welcomed Cllrs Michael McCarthy, Martin Brett, Ger Frisby and Joe Lyons as members.

A full listing of members and their nominating bodies is included in *appendix No 1*.

Role of Chief Officer

The Chief Executive of the Local Authority has a legal obligation to assign staff to assist the LCDC in performing its functions including the assignment of a staff member to the position of Chief Officer.

The Chief Officer has responsibility for carrying out, managing and controlling generally the administration and business of the Committee and for providing ongoing support. In particular, the role envisages the facilitation and promotion of partnership and interagency working, managing membership, being a link and conduit between the LCDC and the Local Enterprise Office and SPC 1 and the Department, providing capacity building interventions, pursuing funding streams and broadening the work of the Committee, providing advice and guidance and bringing local authority experience to the Committee.

Mr Michael Delahunty had been assigned to the position in May 2017 and continued in that role until September 2019 when he retired as an Officer of the Local Authority.

LCDC Meetings

The LCDC met on six occasions in 2019 in accordance with the schedule of meetings agreed at the meeting of the LCDC held in December 2018.

Engagement with Stakeholders.

It is the policy of the LCDC to meet Local Economic and Community Plan implementing partners in connection with their LECP actions and to consider issues of mutual concern. During 2019 the LCDC heard presentations from:

Healthy Ireland Implementing partners with regards progress and outcomes of their actions

- Buddy Bench
- Foroige
- Castlecomer Discovery Park
- Kilkenny Recreation & Sports Partnership

Family supports in the region

- South East Regional Family Support Network

The LCDC Task Group on Lone parents presented on Lone Parents Needs Analysis – Findings, Research, action plan and recommendations

The County Childcare Committee presented information about the new Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) Programme

Local Economic and Community Plan. (LECP)

The LCDC monitors and reviews the implementation of the Local Economic Community Plan on an ongoing basis and in doing so it considers the reports and advice from the LECP Advisory Group.

The Community Implementation Plan for 2018-2019 is being implemented by 23 stakeholders and includes 88 actions. Some of the actions identified by stakeholders are a continuation of the actions identified as part of the consultation process undertaken in 2015 when the LCDC were developing the plan, others are new actions.

All actions have been identified by each of the 23 stakeholder agencies in a workshop that the LCDC organised on the 1st December 2017 as part of a collaborative approach to reviewing and implementing the Community Plan.

The LCDC did not undertake any reviews of the LECP in 2019. A LECP Stakeholder review workshop is organised for early 2020 to review actions and identify key gaps and issues



Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme. (SICAP)

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is the successor programme to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2015-2017. SICAP's aim is to reduce poverty, promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration. It has two high level goals:

1. **Goal 1: Supporting Communities**

To support communities and target groups to engage with relevant stakeholders in

identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues, developing the capacity of Local Community Groups, and creating more sustainable communities.

2. Goal 2: Supporting Individuals

To support disadvantaged individuals to improve the quality of their lives through the provision of lifelong learning and labour market supports.

Funding

SICAP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development with co-funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020. *Kilkenny SICAP has been awarded €3,160,630 over 2018-2022.*

Delivery Structure

SICAP is managed locally by Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) with support from Kilkenny County Council. It is delivered on the ground by County Kilkenny LEADER Partnership (CKLP). Pobal acts as the agent of the Department of Rural and Community Development with respect to national management and oversight of the programme.

Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee (LCDCs) is the Contracting Authority for SICAP in County Kilkenny. Kilkenny LCDC is the key decision-maker in terms of annual planning, monitoring and oversight of SICAP services in County Kilkenny.

Kilkenny County Council

Kilkenny County Council supports the LCDC in managing the programme and provides administrative supports. It also has a role in relation to reviewing and enforcing the obligations of the Programme Implementer.

County Kilkenny LEADER Partnership

Programme Implementer (PIs) deliver SICAP at a local level as per their annual plan. They report to the LCDC on their progress in carrying out these actions. They engage with the programme target groups. County Kilkenny LEADER Partnership is the current PI for SICAP services across Co. Kilkenny.

Target Groups

SICAP supports a range of groups in society which are disadvantaged and marginalised and unable or unlikely to access mainstream supports. Pre-defined target groups have been set for SICAP and these have been selected based on the current socioeconomic context, the level of need in society and government priorities. See below for a list of the 13 identified target groups:

All beneficiaries of programme supports must belong to one of the 13 SICAP target groups which are:

Disadvantaged Children and Families	People living in Disadvantaged Communities
Disadvantaged Young People (aged 15 – 24)	People with Disabilities
Disadvantaged Women	Roma
Emerging Needs Group	Travellers
Lone Parents	The Disengaged from the Labour Market (Economically Inactive)
Low Income Workers/ Households	The Unemployed
New Communities	

Nationally SICAP is delivered through the framework for local development.



The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

The Department is the lead and funding department for SICAP, including in respect of ESF co-funding and the YEI special allocation. The Department channels funding directly to LCDCs

Pobal

Pobal provides a national oversight role in respect of the SICAP programmatic and operational requirements and provides the Department with regular county, regional and national programme progress reports. Pobal undertakes a technical review of the financial reports, monitoring reports and annual plans, submitted by Programme Implementers (via the IRIS on-line system), to ensure compliance with the SICAP framework, financial rules and the monitoring of all performance targets. Pobal can recommend any necessary actions to the Department and/or the LCDC/Local Authority where issues and concerns relating to the management and delivery of SICAP are identified. Pobal provides capacity building supports to LCDCs to assist in the strategic planning process and in delivering and evidencing quality standards in the programme. This involves providing some ongoing technical support to Programme Implementers locally, as well as thematic working, dissemination and sharing of best practice to support the delivery of the SICAP goals and objectives.

SICAP Sub-Group

Kilkenny LCDC has appointed a SICAP sub-group to undertake the role of annual planning, monitoring and oversight of SICAP services in County Kilkenny. This group makes recommendations with regards SICAP to the LCDC.

The SICAP subgroup is made up of the Chairperson and Chief Officer of the LCDC, the PPN Social Inclusion representatives, a Representative from the Family Resource Centre Programme locally, the Department of Employment and Social Protection and the Kilkenny Carlow Education and Training Board. Kilkenny County Council Community section staff support the subgroup.

The Subgroup met 5 times in 2019 to undertake and agree the SICAP annual Plan, the Mid-Year Review, the SICAP- Annual engagement meeting with Pobal and the End of Year Review

The SICAP Subgroup also agreed the Lone Parents Research, Needs Analysis and Action Plan would serve as a case study for 2019 and they also agreed the emerging needs group for 2019 as the LGBTQ community.

- SICAP has performed well over 2019 and has exceeded Targets for KPI 1 and KPI 2 by 135% and 108% respectively.

- The target for % KPI 2 from Disadvantaged areas is 26.21 %. This target was exceeded in 2019 at 26.92%.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Kilkenny LCDC has 3 Social Inclusion Representatives, 1 environmental and 2 community representatives from the PPN. The PPN have held the chair of the LCDC since its inception In The PPN has increased its membership in 2019 and has now reached 326 members.

The PPN held 2 Plenary meetings in 2019

- The 1st Plenary of 2019 took place on the 24th April, 2019. Over 86 members attended on the night. This was an increase since the last Plenary in November 2018. Two motions were passed unanimously. Motion 1 related to incorporation of an addendum to present constitution and Motion 2 related to ratification of the Sustainable Development Goals. Both of which can be accessed via the PPN website. The theme of the Plenary was “volunteerism”. 11 individual organisations were nominated to receive Certificates of Recognition for their volunteers and voluntary work undertaken.
- The second Plenary of Kilkenny PPN took place on Wednesday 20th of September 2019. Over 72 members attended on the night as well as invited guests. Guest speakers on the night included the following- Director of Service, Mary Mulholland, Senior Engineer, Tony Lauhoff and Jason Clerkin, CEO of the Abbey Quarter site; all of whom gave a joint presentation on the development of the Abbey Quarter site from an economic and

community space perspective. This was followed by Dr Senan Cooke, Dunhill Eco Park, Waterford who gave a presentation on “Community Regeneration and Social Enterprise” in the context of the revival of Rural Ireland and Ms Kathy Purcell, Business Development Manager, Castlecomer Discovery Park who spoke to members about the development of the Discovery Park as an example of a growing social enterprise.

- All newly elected representatives for the PPN were formally ratified by members at the Plenary.

The PPN also hosted a number of workshops over 2019:

- In line with Biodiversity week Kilkenny PPN undertook Climate Action workshops. Workshops were run in conjunction with the Environmental Section of Kilkenny County Council and the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office.
- Kilkenny PPN in conjunction with Kilkenny County Council and the Crime Division of An Garda Siochana have rolled out a series of informative workshops in rural areas to raise awareness in respect of Crime prevention
- Kilkenny PPN continues to support the Kilkenny Access for All Programme
- Kilkenny PPN participated in training with Social Justice Ireland in relation to the formulation of a Vision for Community Well Being in each Municipal District. This will be a significant piece of work to be rolled out over 2020.

The additional Support Worker for the PPN has enabled the PPN to take on more projects, engage communities more fully and support those that are involved as representatives on committees.

Community Funding Schemes

The LCDC is the conduit through which national community funding initiatives are developed and implemented. In 2019 the following schemes were implemented:

Community Enhancement Programme Funding (CEP)

The Scheme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in each Local Authority area provided funding to communities across Ireland to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. The programme provides funding to address disadvantage as identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and is targeted towards enhancing community facilities for individuals and communities that are impacted by disadvantage as identified in the LECP

Minister Ring announced an open application process for the €4.5 million programme in 2019, and Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee received an allocation of €136,300 for the 2019 programme. 30% of the funding was ring-fenced for small grants of €3,000 or less and 70% was ring-fenced for medium grants to a maximum of €10,000.

A total of 20 small grants averaging €1,500 per grant and 20 medium grants averaging €5,500 was allocated to projects across the county totalling €39,700.00 for small grants and €96,600.00 for medium grants.

Some examples of the over 40 projects supported in Kilkenny include:

- Foroige in Castlecomer received €2,900 to develop room in Castlecomer as an office for full time Youth Officer for the area
- The Eastern Environs Community group received €2,000 to provide IT facilities to help older people with technology.
- Threecastles Community Hall Development Group receive €5,347 to do renovations on the community centre
- Windgap Community Development Ltd. Received €3,210.00 to open the community café and shop in Windgap

The full list, including Kilkenny, of projects supported is available on the following link <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/1e973a-community-enhancement-programme-projects/>

Men's Shed Funding

Kilkenny LCDC has provided funding, as part of the Minister for Rural and Community Development's confirmation of 372 Men's & Women's Sheds allocation of a total of €500,000 from his Department. This fund supports the important work Men's and Women's groups that provide a crucial role in their communities.

Kilkenny's allocation of €11,800 as part of this national funding stream was distributed to seven registered Men's Sheds operating in the County. As the Minister says "Men's & Women's Sheds are making an invaluable contribution to community life in Ireland. They provide great support to their thousands of members and have helped tackle the problem of social isolation. In many cases these groups have also become vital cogs in a variety of community initiatives such as the Tidy Towns and local community events."

This capital funding will have enabled the seven Men's Sheds outlined below to purchase equipment or to carry out minor works to improve their premises through the provision of small grants.

1. Callan Men's Shed Callan	€650.00 Upgrade facilities
2. Graiguenamanagh Men's Shed Graiguenamanagh	€2,500 Upgrade facilities
3. Castlecomer Men's Shed Castlecomer	€880 Purchase of equipment
4. Kilkenny Men's Shed Kilkenny City	€1,500 Upgrade facilities
5. Fen Men's Shed Kilkenny City	€2,000 Storage & Equipment
6. Thomastown Men's Shed Thomastown	€2,900 Upgrade facilities
7. Mooncoin Men's Shed Mooncoin	€1,350 Purchase of container to convert to men's shed

Healthy Ireland Fund

The Department of Health has approved a third round of funding for the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) in 2019. The aim of this funding is to support local and national organisations to deliver actions that will improve health and wellbeing in line with *Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025*.

The grant period for Round 3 will run **from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2021**.

What is new for HIF for Round 3?

- Up to **two years funding** will be allocated to each LCDC/CYPSC.
- A Healthy Ireland County Coordinator must be employed
- Each action must be aligned to one of the **six thematic** areas i.e. Physical Activity, Mental Health, Nutrition, Sexual Health, Tobacco and Alcohol, Spaces and Places for Health and Wellbeing.

Kilkenny LCDC has been approved a budget of €246, 050 (HI Fund €184,000 and Community Mental Health Fund €62,050) to implement 3 HI actions under Healthy Ireland, employ a HI County Coordinator and undertake Engagement work across the county, Under the Community Mental Health Fund Kilkenny LCDC agreed to pilot a social prescribing scheme and implement a target small funding scheme for mental health projects

Appendix 1.

LCDC Membership at 31st December 2019.

Name of Member	Nominating Body/Group
Fiona Deegan	Local Enterprise Office
Siobhán Kavanagh	Teagasc
Eileen Curtis	Education Training Board
Mary Barron	Dept of Social Protection
Martin Brett	Elected Representative
Michal McCarthy	Elected Representative
Gerard Frisby	Elected Representative
Joe Lyons	Elected Representative
Elizabeth Dermody	PPN-Community Pillar
Angela Hayes	PPN-Social Inclusion Pillar
Eileen Ryan	PPN-Social Inclusion Pillar
Anne Corr	PPN-Social Inclusion Pillar
Sheila Donnelly	Family Resource Centres
Niall McManus	PPN-Environmental Pillar
John Bambrick	Irish Farmers Association
John Hurley	Chamber of Commerce
Denis Drennan	County Kilkenny Leader Partnership
Colette Byrne	Chief Executive Kilkenny County Council
Declan Gibbons	PPN-Community Pillar
Derval Howley	Associate Member – HSE