



Minutes of the Waterford LAG Meeting
Thursday 10th December 2020, teleconference at 11.00 a.m.

Present: **Non Public Sector:** **Public Sector**

1. Gabriel Foley *	PPN / Environment	1. Cllr. D. Geoghegan Chair	Mayor Public Rep
2. Richard Grant	CEO – Waterford Area Partnership	2. Michael O’Brien	WWETB
3. Jimmy Taaffe	CEO – WLP CLG	3. Cllr. Adam Wyse	Elected representative
4. Heather Kiely	PPN/ Community & Voluntary	4. Julie Somers	CYPSC Coordinator
5. Maggie Flanagan	PPN / Community & Voluntary	5. Brendan Lawton	Reg. Mgr. Dept Social Protection
6. Senan Cooke	PPN / Community & Voluntary	6. Richie Walsh	Head of LEO
7. Gerald Hurley	CEO Waterford City Chamber		
8. Catherine Quinlan	I.C.M.S.A.		
Apologies:		Apologies:	
1. Jenny Beresford	CEO Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber	1. Derval Howley	Head of Wellbeing HSE
2. Breda Fell	PPN / Community & Voluntary	2. Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan	Elected representative
		3. Michael Walsh	CE, WC&CC

Staff Present: D. Tuohy Chief Officer, Ivan Grimes DoS, J. Codd A/S.O, E. Smyth, A/A.S.O., Susan Whelan A/A.O, Colette O’Brien S.O.

1.Total current Membership	19
2.Total attendees	14
3. Quorum % required (50% of 1 above)	Achieved – 74%

4. non-public/public ratio attendees % ratio non-public/public attendees	8 non-public : 6 public 57% non-public: 43% public
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1. Confirmation of Quorum: Having reviewed the attendance record, Chief Officer D. Tuohy confirmed that a quorum was achieved. Non-public 8: Public 6; 14 members in attendance. The Chair Mayor Damien Geoghegan opened the meeting.

2. Apologies

As per table above, apologies were noted.

3. Conflict of Interest

- (i) Chief Officer D. Tuohy outlined the provisions of Section 5.4 of the LEADER Operating Rules (v2.0) and reminded members of their obligations therein. He reminded members to consider whether a conflict of interest could arise on receipt of the notice of meeting and agenda items. He requested members to contact him in advance of the meetings following reviewing the Agenda and associated documentation should a C.O.I. arise.

Agreed

- (ii) Mr. J. Taaffe C.E.O. WLP Declared a C.O.I. as project officer on Agenda Item 8.a.iii 31LDRWAT114144 Gallows Hill.
- (iii) Chief Officer D. Tuohy confirmed that a quorum of 7:6 in favour of non public sector was still in place following C.O.I. declarations.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of LAG Meeting held on November 12th 2020.

Proposed: G. Foley	Seconded by: S. Cooke.
Abstentions: N/A	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

5. Matters arising: No matters arising.

6. Circulars: D. Tuohy, Chief Officer gave an overview of Circular 14 2020.

7. For Noting: D. Tuohy, Chief Officer informed the committee of the current Co-op Budget position as outlined in the DRCD update. Mr. J. Taaffe C.E.O. WLP advised of two forthcoming Co-op projects.

8. Rural Development Programme.

(a) Project Approvals

Projects for consideration (Evaluation committee decision sheets, and score records as circulated on the extranet): Mr. J. Taaffe C.E.O. WLP summarised the main points and background of all projects detailed below for the members.

(i) 31LDRWAT114248 IR Combi Finishing Oven

Decision of Evaluation Committee

Project ID	31LDRWAT114248
Project Type:	Capital
Project Name:	Design, supply and installation of an energy efficient IR Combi Finishing Oven
Promoters Name:	Tobin Engineering (Tallow) Ltd T/A Goalpost Ireland
Address:	MI J. Prendergast Rd, Tallow, Co. Waterford
Description:	The promoter has developed into manufacturing and installing sports pitch equipment. The market is becoming more competitive and requires a more innovative high quality unique finish to the end product putting them on par with their European competitors. The combi finishing oven will provide a long lasting and durable finish on their product enabling them to redesign and develop new products for the export market in flat pack models increasing efficiency and expanding production.
Theme:	LO2 Enterprise Development
Sub-theme:	SA2.1 Capital investment in existing technology
Link to LDS	Investing in new technology and supporting rural enterprise in County Waterford

Total Project Costs	€164,661.99
Eligible Project Costs	€164,661.99
Funding sought by promoter:	€82,331
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First Review
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	€82,331
Details of private funding:	€82,331 own funds
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No

Synopsis of project:	Investment in a new combi finishing oven which will apply a powder coating finish to a product enhancing its quality finish and durability		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report) Total Funding	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 50 %
	Design, supply, commission of IR Combi oven	£147,850 @ .8979 (4 th Nov) = €164,661.99	€82,331
		€164,661.99	€82,331
Was an assessment completed?: Date: ___Yes___	09-11-2020		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, the promoter sought in excess of the required 5 quotations for the product but could only gather 3 quotations. The quotations were scored under selection criteria using the most economic advantageous process		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	Not applicable		
Innovative Element of the project:	The oven will enable the promoter to redesign and develop new products for the export market in flat pack models facilitating expansion opportunity		
Consideration of Deadweight:	As per the promoters own response to Q10 of the application form, the project would proceed on a much reduced basis. From my own assessment, the promoter would find it very difficult to fund this technology out of their own funds given the current global situation		
Consideration of Displacement:	No displacement is not an issue as the product is unique and bespoke to the promoter		
Economic justification for project:	Potential to create two new jobs and sustain the existing 6 staff		
Average Score for Project:	86/100		
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €82,331 or 50 % of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser		
E. C. Executive Summary/Rationale for Funding	<p>The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The project scored 86/100 2. The project fits the Local Development Plan (LDS) Local Objective for Rural Enterprise development 3. Funding this project sustains employment in a rural area and helps the promoter compete on par with his European competitors 		

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
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2 ft	6 ft	€82,331 own funds	None in the last two programmes from WLP CLG
			€7,053.11 Waterford County Council Restart Grant June – Sept 2020
			€53,67839 TWSS Aug 2020

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Emailed L.E.O. 9 th November 2020	No response	

Detail of Discussion: The following were the main points raised in the discussion of the project: -	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Claire Connors advised that Tobin Engineering Tallow Ltd was established in 1979 in Tallow Co Waterford evolving in the 1990's to further develop the company's products range and began trading as Goalpost Ireland to manufacture and install sports pitch equipment. The founder Sean Tobin retired last year, and the company is now being managed by his two daughters; both of whom have been involved with the business for the past 18 years. - The promoter is planning to invest in an IR combi finishing oven which allow them to create a unique long lasting, durable finish to their products. They are the only business offering a complete service of design, supply and installation. - The Evaluation Committee agreed that it is a very good operation noting that the accounts for 2019 went up slightly despite Mr Tobin retiring. Ms Connors confirmed that he is available if needed but both daughters are highly experienced in the business. - A Committee Member asked what happened to the 1.6m in the profit and loss account in 2018 as the 2019 accounts has only 318k in it? It was said that it could have been a shareholder buy out considering the recent retirements. The number of shares held by Sean & Francis Tobin went from 1,650 on the 1/ 1/ 19 to 25 each on the 31/12/19. It was noted that the retiring Directors were entitled to their shares and had worked hard and put a lot into the business to make it successful over the years. - The Committee agreed that it is a very good project and funding will help the promoter expand his business and make it more efficient. - The Committee considered this a good use of Rural Development funds as it supports employment in a rural area. 	
A maximum of €82,331 or 50 % of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser.	
Amount Recommended: €82,331	50% of Eligible Project Funding: €164,661.99

Proposed: S. Cooke	Seconded by: G. Foley
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

(ii).

Decision of Evaluation Committee

Project ID	31LDRWAT113898
Project Type:	Capital
Project Name:	Sea Safari Boat & Replacement equipment
Promoters Name:	Dunmore East Adventure Centre Ltd
Address:	The Harbour, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford
Description:	The promoters are investing in innovative equipment that is not already available in the marketplace to add value to their current offering including the addition of a sea safari boat offering whale watching from November – February and scenic boat trips during the summer period. The investment in auto belay devices will enable more adequate social distancing measure making it safer for visitors and instructors for indoor climbing.
Theme:	Lo1 Rural Tourism
Sub-theme:	SA1.1 Activity Tourism
Link to LDS	Supporting rural tourism enterprise that will provide a year round product to encourage dwell time

Total Project Costs	€239,502.71		
Eligible Project Costs	€239,502.71		
Funding sought by promoter:	€119,751.35		
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	Previously deferred		
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	€119,751.35		
Details of private funding:	€119,751.36 inhouse funds		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	Investment in new and existing equipment to add value to their current tourism offering		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 50%
	Sea Safari Boat & Engines	€141,532.71	€70,766.35
	Outboard	€18,990	€9,495

Total Funding	Engines		
	Auto Belays	€8,460	€4,230
	Training Boat	€20,585	€10,292.50
	Aquapark	€49,935	€24,967.50
	Total cost	€239,502.71	€119,751.35
Was an assessment completed?: Date: <u> Yes </u>	15-10-2020		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, direct tendering was used and the most economic advantageous tender process used to select the chosen suppliers		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	Not applicable, all efforts were made to seek the required number of quotations and in all cases more than 3 quotations was received for each element		
Innovative Element of the project:	The Sea Safari boat will be a new concept to the project providing a year round tourism experience. The investment in auto belay devices will enable independent and more adequate social distancing measure making it safer for visitors and instructors for indoor climbing. Additional equipment to the Wibit inflatable aquapark will generate renewed interest for customers who are familiar it.		
Consideration of Deadweight:	<p>As per Q10 of the application form, the promoters could only proceed on a reduced basis. They could not afford to invest this amount of private funds given the current pandemic and the impact on tourism related businesses</p> <p>The promoters are dependent on grant support to invest fully in this new equipment which will add greatly to their winter and summer offering.</p>		
Consideration of Displacement:	The promoters are deliberately investing in activities that are not currently available and additions to existing equipment in some cases. The spin off from the project will only benefit the local economy		
Economic justification for project:	The project will sustain existing employment and will increase seasonal jobs by up to 8 jobs as well as having a huge knock on effect on the local services in Dunmore East from accommodation to food outlets.		
Average Score for Project:	73/100		
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €119,751.35 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser		
E. C. Executive Summary/Rationale for Funding	<p>The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The project scored 73/100 5. The project fits the Local Development Plan (LDS) for supporting Rural Tourism, Activity Projects. 		

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
Up to 8 seasonal	6 ft, 2 pt & 30 seasonal	€119,751.36 own funds	Promoter received funding from WLP CLG under the previous LEADER programme

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Failte Ireland	12 Oct	Ivona Carr

Detail of Discussion: 28/ 10/ 2020 - The following were the main points raised in the discussion of the project: -

- Ms Claire Connors advised that the promoters are looking to purchase a sea safari boat to offer marine based trips for whale & dolphin watching tours. They also wish to upgrade their existing training boat and outboard engines. The addition of 4 auto belay devices will help them comply with government guidelines around social distancing when teaching climbing.
- Since the application was circulated the Insurance company has written to advised that cover will only be provided for the scenic coastal tours and not the adrenaline speed ride aspect.
- A Committee Member pointed out that this throws the whole project out of kilter as the business plan and projections include the thrill aspect of the adrenaline rides.
- It was noted that this is a shame as it is an excellent proposal that fits very well with other activities offered by the promoters. A discussion ensued on how Insurance companies are reluctant to insure any risk type activities.
- A concern was raised about potentially funding a powerboat that has the capability of great speed but is not covered by insurance. Ms Connors read out the specification for the boat noting that it was procured as a safari passenger vehicle rather than a powerboat. The two outboard engines procured might need to be looked at considering the Insurance companies' refusal to cover.
- Is the capacity of the engine required given the removal of the adrenaline thrill rides? It may prove too much of a temptation if it has the capability and is just limited by the insurance cover. Getting a more suitable boat maybe the best solution.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed that it is best to defer the project until it is clarified if the project should be re-tendered with new specifications or to see if another Insurance company will insure as proposed.

This project is deferred until the next evaluation meeting to enable the promoters to revise the application accordingly.

Detail of Discussion: 23/11/2020 - The following were the main points raised in the discussion of the project: -

- Ms Claire Connors advised that the project was deferred previously due to concerns with the

adrenalin rides aspect of the project not being insured by the insurance company. This aspect has been removed from the application and the promoters are now proposing to use the boat during the winter period for whale watching and during the summer for scenic tours.

- The promoters wish to purchase a touring boat, outboard engines for the powerboats that they use for training, additional equipment for the aquapark and extra climbing equipment that will enable the climber to auto climb without being attached to another climber. The promoters are national trainers for powerboating.
- The Committee queried if the engine size for the boat should have decreased thereby reducing the costs? Ms Connors said that the promoters clarified that the boat specification quoted is required for a 14-passenger rig therefore the costs remain the same.
- The Committee expressed concerns that the boat will have the capability for adrenalin rides but will not be insured for that purpose. Car insurance was used as an example, whereby, if you go over the recommended limit and crash you are still covered but here the Insurance company stipulates that if used this way then they are not liable. So, would the LAG be liable?
- Ms Connors confirmed that the promoters agreed to remove the thrill rides due to the lack of insurance and are a credited national powerboat training organisation and will operate as stipulated. They are a very good outfit and have been in operation over 20 years.
- It was advised that only qualified skippers will drive the passenger boat and it is not something that someone inexperienced would be allowed to do.
- It was pointed out that a certain engine capacity is required by passenger rigs in the event of bad weather so reducing the specifications may not be possible.
- The Evaluation agreed to recommend funding this project with the following condition :-
 - Funding is conditional on the promoters abiding by the Insurance company's stipulations:-
 1. The promoters must be aware of and will comply with the Fast Vessel and Passenger RIB Conditions of the Insurance policy.
 2. They must confirm that they are aware that the quote/cover provided has been offered strictly on the understanding that the trips provided are purely sight-seeing/wildlife trips and the vessel will in no way be used for thrill or adrenaline rides of any type and neither will deliberate use of the sea conditions/wake be used to add excitement to the trips.

A maximum of €119,751.35 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser for the following reasons: -

- The project scored 73/100
- The project fits the Local Development Plan (LDS) for supporting Rural Tourism, Activity Projects.

Amount Recommended: €119,751.35	50% of Eligible Project Funding: €239,502.71
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Proposed: A. Wyse	Seconded by: D. Geoghegan
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

(iii).

Decision of Evaluation Committee

Project ID	31LDRWAT114144
Project Type:	Cultural and Heritage Tourism(Community)
Project Name:	Gallows Hill Architect Landscape Report
Promoters Name:	Waterford County Museum
Address:	St. Augustine Street, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, X35 NW63
Description:	<p>Following excavations by qualified and approved archaeologists, the next phase of the Gallows Hill Development is to develop an architectural landscape plan for Gallows Hill in consultation with the Local Community.</p> <p>This plan/design will be the basis for suitable capital works to integrate this neglected area into the heritage trail in the town and make it one of the focal points to visit.</p>
Theme:	L.O. 1 Economic Development, Rural Tourism
Sub-theme:	S.A. 1.2 Culture & Heritage
Link to LDS	L.O. 1 Economic Development, Rural Tourism

Total Project Costs	€14,990.00		
Eligible Project Costs	€13,491.00 or 90% of eligible costs whichever is the lesser.		
Funding sought by promoter:	The cost of this project is €14,990.00 and the promoter has requested funding of €13,491.00 or 90% of eligible costs whichever is the lesser.		
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First Review		
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	A maximum of €13,491.00 or 90% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser.		
Details of private funding:	Cash/Money in account 1,499 10%		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	To develop an architectural landscape plan for Gallows Hill in consultation with the local community.		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 90 %
	Consultation and Design Paul	14,990	A maximum of €13,491.00 or 90% of eligible

Total Funding	Hogarth		expenditure, whichever is the lesser.
			€13,491.00
Was an assessment completed?: Date: _____ Yes _____	14/11/2020		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	The Evaluation Committee agreed that the promoters followed Category 1 National Procurement guidelines.		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	The Project promoters sought more than 3 quotations		
Innovative Element of the project:	It was agreed that the idea is innovative as the development of a plan will effectively integrate the monument with its surrounding landscape and support future development of a long term Dungarvan Heritage and Tourism plan.		
Consideration of Deadweight:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that deadweight is not an issue as without funding this project will not proceed		
Consideration of Displacement:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that displacement is not an issue as it's an unique site of historical interest.		
Economic justification for project:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that this project fits under the Local Development Strategy for Rural Tourism, Culture & Heritage.		
Average Score for Project:	After achieving an overall score of 92/100, the Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend this project for approval to the Board of Waterford LCDC.		
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €13,491.00 or 90% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser.		
E. C. Executive Summary/Rationale for Funding	<p>The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The project scored 92/100 7. The project fits the Local Development Plan (LDS) for supporting Rural Tourism, Culture & Heritage Projects. 8. Funding this project will create a practical and visually appealing community amenity that is available for the local community and visitors to the area. 		

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
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LEO – No Double Funding	13/10/2020	B Kirby
Failte Ireland – No Double Funding	14/10/2020	I Carr

Detail of Discussion. The following were the main points raised in the discussion of the project: -

- Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that this project is being promoted by the Waterford County Museum who are planning to do a restoration project of the area around the historical site. The work must be completed in line with heritage guidelines.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed that it is good that there will be continued consultation with the local community as this will help to keep the project sustainable.
- Mr Jimmy Taaffe noted that this project has been done properly to date by the promoters. It has brought in new younger members onto its committee and engaged with the public on all aspects of the project.
- The Evaluation Committee considered it a very worthwhile project and were happy to recommend funding.

Amount Recommended: A maximum of **€13,491.00** or 90% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser.

90% of Eligible Project Funding:

Proposed: G. Foley	Seconded by: D. Geoghegan
Abstentions: J Taaffe	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

(iv). 31LDRWAT112556 Ardmore Open Farm & Glamping - Appeal against approved Rate of Aid

An appeal against the approved rate of aid was received and reviewed by the evaluation committee. In light of the changing financial circumstances, largely due to the outbreak of Covid_19, the committee agreed that the requested increase in the rate of aid from 25% to 40% was both reasonable and necessary. The Committee recommended a revised rate of aid of 40% to the LAG. Chief Officer Don Tuohy noted that the appeal process was both fair and transparent. A revised rate of aid of 40% was proposed, seconded and approved.

Proposed: A. Wyse	Seconded by: G. Hurley
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

(b) WLP Board observations available on Extranet.

Board observations available on extranet for perusal.

(c) Re- allocation of Funds - 31LDRWAT110650 New Pipe Fabrication Facility

Mr. J Taaffe C.E.O. WLP informed the committee that a request for a reallocation of funding was made by project promoter Queally Walsh. The promoter finds it more economically advantageous to pipe a line to their existing compressor rather than purchase a second compressor as was approved in the original letter of offer. A reallocation of funding is required to proceed. R Walsh noted that this was an unusual request for work undertaken, J. Taaffe commented that the reallocation is under 5% and therefore is within reason.

Proposed: S. Cooke	Seconded by: D. Geoghegan
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

9. Report of the Rural Coordination sub-committee:

R. Walsh reported that the committee has not met since the previous report was given.

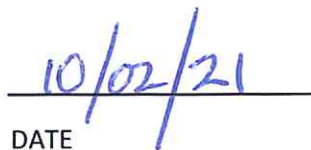
10. Correspondence: None

11. A.O.B. None

12. Date and venue of next meeting: Thursday 14th January 2021 at 11.00 a.m. via Zoom.

Meeting Closed

Signed 
CHAIRPERSON


DATE