



1. **Confirmation of Quorum:** Having reviewed the attendance record Acting Chief Officer Sinéad Breathnach informed the attendees that a quorum was achieved. Non-public 8: Public 5.

Chair John O’Leary opened the meeting.

2. **Apologies.**

As per table above apologies were noted.

3. **Review of Membership.**

- i) It was proposed that Kate Cassidy would replace Derval Howley as the HSE rep.

<b>Proposed: G. Foley</b>	<b>Seconded by L. Quinn</b>
<b>Abstentions: None</b>	
<b>Quorum achieved: Yes</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>

- ii) A replacement for Julie Somers from Tusla is to be considered at the November meeting.

4. **Conflict of Interest:**

- (i) No declarations submitted for this meeting
- (ii) Review of Quorum: Quorum achieved 8:5 in favour of non-public sector.

5. **Confirmation of Minutes of LAG Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

<b>Proposed: P. Nugent</b>	<b>Seconded by S. Cooke</b>
<b>Abstentions: None</b>	
<b>Quorum achieved: Yes</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>

6. **Matters arising:**

None.

7. **Rural Development Programme.**

- i) Project for Approval 31LDRWAT117891 St Declan’s Way – Facilitation, Training and Support Services.

<b>Project ID</b>	31LDRWAT117891
<b>Project Type:</b>	Capital
<b>Project Name:</b>	St. Declan's Way Steering Committee – Facilitation, Training and Support Services
<b>Promoters Name:</b>	St. Declan's Way Steering Committee
<b>Address:</b>	c/o Glenribbon, Lismore, Co. Waterford P51 R7X0
<b>Description:</b>	<p>St. Declan's Way Steering Committee was formed in 2015 and is a voluntary community organisation with representation from communities along the St. Declan's Way walking trail between Cashel and Ardmore. The committee has been working for many years towards its two main objectives; the reopening of St. Declan's Way as a National Waymarked Trail and the addition of the trail to the Walks Scheme. These objectives were attained in 2021 and St. Declan's Way has now moved to a new phased in its development. The Committee is taking stock and considering the long-term management of St. Declan's Way, particularly as the committee is the formal management body for the trail. The Committee is entirely voluntary, and they need to ensure there is a clear strategy and plan in place to guide the work of the group over the coming year along with attendant policies and procedures.</p> <p>Funding is sought to appoint a professional facilitator to work with the committee to develop its management structures, plans, policies, and procedures.</p>
<b>Theme:</b>	LO1
<b>Sub-theme:</b>	SA1.1
<b>Link to LDS</b>	Promoting activity tourism in the county

<b>Total Project Costs</b>	€14,760
<b>Eligible Project Costs</b>	€14,760
<b>Funding sought by promoter:</b>	€14,760
<b>State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend</b>	First Review
<b>Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:</b>	€14,760
<b>Details of private funding:</b>	€0

<b>Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)</b>	No		
<b>Synopsis of project:</b>	Funding is sought to appoint a professional facilitator to work with the committee to develop its management structures, plans, policies and procedures.		
<b>Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Total Cost (Expenditure)</b>	<b>Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 100%</b>
	Consultancy services for 6 months = 24 working days	€14,760	€14,760
	<b>Total Funding</b>		
		€14,760	€14,760
<b>Was an assessment completed?: Date:</b>	Yes		
<b>Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?</b>	Yes, direct tendering was used and the most economic advantageous tender process used to score tenders		
<b>Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:</b>	The promoter provided evidence of seeking to obtain 11 quotations however only two quotes were received and there was little margin between same		
<b>Innovative Element of the project:</b>	The creation of a longer-term management plan for the overall walk and the better equipping of the committee to oversee and develop same		
<b>Consideration of Deadweight:</b>	The promoter has confirmed the project would not go ahead without Leader funding and as this is a purely voluntary committee, I would also concur this project is solely dependent on funding to progress		
<b>Consideration of Displacement:</b>	As this is a training initiative, the project does not impact on any other activity		
<b>Economic justification for project:</b>	The proposed consultancy support will hugely enhance the skills of the steering committee, putting in place a much-needed management strategy and policies and procedures to help them over the coming years particularly given their voluntary nature. This will help sustain the overall walk and encourage more visitors creating a greater opportunity for auxiliary services and spend in the area		
<b>Average Score for Project:</b>	77/100		
<b>% level of aid &amp; ceiling:</b>	100% of total eligible cost of €14,760		
<b>E. C. Executive Summary/Rationale for</b>	<b>The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding</b>		

<b>Funding</b>	<p>this project for the following reasons:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The project fits the LCDC Local Development Plan for supporting tourism initiatives and their committees in County Waterford.</li> <li>2. The project scored 77/100</li> </ol> <p>A maximum of €14,760 or 100% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser with the following condition:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to ensure that the training is opened to as many as the new members as possible.</li> </ul>
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Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
0	0	€0	€220,000

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minibus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Local Enterprise Office	5 <sup>th</sup> Sept '22	Brid Kirby
Faite Ireland	6 <sup>th</sup> Sept '22	Ivona Carr

<p>The following were the main points raised in the discussion of the project: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Claire Connors advised that the St Declan's Way Steering Committee was formed in 2015. They are a non-formalised community group made up of representation from communities along the St Declan's Way Walking trail between Cashel and Ardmore. The promoters are seeking facilitation and training support to strengthen their committee and to move towards a more formalised structure.</li> <li>• They wish to put a three-year management plan in place and to further the development and the cohesiveness of the Committee. They wish to grow their membership and put plans and processes in place for the future development of the group.</li> <li>• The Steering Group will become a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) and training will be provided to ensure that the directors are aware of their legal responsibilities.</li> <li>• Ms Claire Connors said that the group invited 11 training providers to quote but only two tenders were received.</li> <li>• There was an error in the calculation of VAT on John Ruddle Consulting, but this was a minor discrepancy and did not affect the overall scoring and the winning tender. Tourism Development International (TDI) was the chosen supplier and they were successful in all criteria not just the</li> </ul>
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price.

- Ms Connors pointed out that TDI's quotation estimated a total of 24 day's consultancy at €14,760 versus John Ruddle Consultancy 22 days plus admin and expenses at €14,629.62. Therefore, TDI were better value overall and their proposal best suited to the promoter requirements.
- The Committee agreed that it is a good project noting that the St. Declan's Way is a great concept but queried the ownership of the walk and if all the permissions are in place? The financing of the ongoing maintenance costs were also queried? Ms Connors advised that all the correct permissions were obtained and that when Minister Humphries announced the addition of the St Declan's Way to the national trails that she announced rural recreation funding to maintain them.
- As part of the announcement WLP were allocated a Rural Recreational Officer that will work with the landlords along the trail and put work plans in place for its maintenance, each landlord will get a fee for maintaining their own section. It was advised that there is an equivalent Rural Recreation Officer in Tipperary as well.
- The Rural Recreation Officer will also work with the Anne Valley Walk as they too are part of the national trails. Going forward it will be part of their role to assist other walks in County Waterford achieve national trail status.
- Ms Connors advised that they are a very good committee with professional skills but as they are a fledging group, they wish to ensure there is a clear strategy and plan in place to guide them into the future with appropriate policies and procedures along with a more formal management structure.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed that they are supportive of funding this project but that the committee should try to ensure that the training is opened to as many as the new members as possible.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed that funding this project is a good use of Rural Development funds and agreed to recommend funding to the LCDC.

The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons:-

1. The project fits the LCDC Local Development Plan for supporting tourism initiatives and their committees in County Waterford.
2. The project scored 77/100

A maximum of €14,760 or 100% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser with the following condition:-

- Try to ensure that the training is opened to as many of the new members as possible.

**Amount Recommended: €14,760**

**100% of Eligible Project Funding:  
€14,760**

<b>Proposed: J. Beresford</b>	<b>Seconded by P. Nugent</b>
<b>Abstentions: None</b>	
<b>Quorum achieved: Yes</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>

- ii) 31LDRWAT110525 Knockanore Cheese Procurement Issue

WLP S.E.O Jimmy Taaffe informed the committee that A Peg Mill was purchased as part of the Knockanore Cheese Project. The item differed slightly to the Mill that was initially procured. A query was lodged with the Department and the response is that if the LAG is satisfied that the change does not adversely affect the outcome of the project, the LAG may approve the change.

<b>Proposed: P. Nugent</b>	<b>Seconded by G. Foley</b>
<b>Abstentions: None</b>	
<b>Quorum achieved: Yes</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>

- iii) Co-operation Budget Update was noted by the committee.
- iv) Rolling LEADER Call. Including De-committals there remains €210,000.00 to be allocated. Final Projects will come before LAG in December.
- v) The Carnegie Office Hub 31LDRWAT113899: Correction to Letter of Offer - a 12 month contract was offered not 13.

<b>Proposed: P. Nugent</b>	<b>Seconded by M. O'Brien</b>
<b>Abstentions: None</b>	
<b>Quorum achieved: Yes</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>

- vi) 31LDRWAT111766 Lismore Opera Festival: Approval for change of equipment.

<b>Proposed: J. Beresford</b>	<b>Seconded by M. O'Brien</b>
<b>Abstentions: None</b>	
<b>Quorum achieved: Yes</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>

- vii) Reallocation Requests:
- a) 31LDRWAT114829 Conservation of our River Clodiagh  
P. Nugent requested an update on the outcome of this project upon completion.

<b>Proposed: P. Nugent</b>	<b>Seconded by M. O'Brien</b>
<b>Abstentions: None</b>	
<b>Quorum achieved: Yes</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>

b) 31LDRWAT116827 West Waterford Festival of Food

<b>Proposed: P. Nugent</b>	<b>Seconded by J. Beresford</b>
<b>Abstentions: None</b>	
<b>Quorum achieved: Yes</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>

viii) Project Extension Requests.

a) 31LDRWAT113546 Blackwater House second extension.

<b>Proposed: S. Cooke</b>	<b>Seconded by G. Foley</b>
<b>Abstentions: None</b>	
<b>Quorum achieved: Yes</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>

b) 31LDRWAT113649 Construction of Two Storey Office Block Lismore second extension.

<b>Proposed: S. Cooke</b>	<b>Seconded by G. Foley</b>
<b>Abstentions: None</b>	
<b>Quorum achieved: Yes</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>

c) 31LDRWAT113549 Tallow Community Enterprise Hub second extension.

<b>Proposed: S. Cooke</b>	<b>Seconded by G. Foley</b>
<b>Abstentions: None</b>	
<b>Quorum achieved: Yes</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>

d) 31LDRWAT113677 Villierstown Enterprise Centre second extension.

<b>Proposed: S. Cooke</b>	<b>Seconded by G. Foley</b>
<b>Abstentions: None</b>	
<b>Quorum achieved: Yes</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>



e) 31LDRWAT113885 O'Connell Whisky Storage Maturation and Bottling Unit second extension.

Proposed: J. Beresford	Seconded by P. Nugent
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

f) 31LDRWAT114829 Conservation of our River Clodiagh second extension.

Proposed: P. Nugent	Seconded by J. Beresford
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

## 8. Correspondence

Seven items of correspondence were noted by the committee.

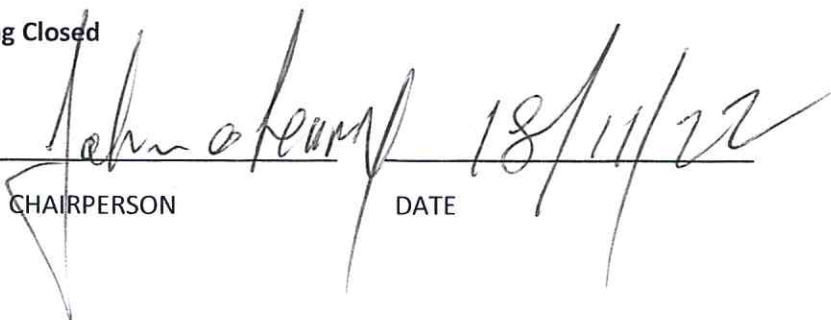
- Our Rural Future: Enhanced Community Centre Fund highlight of €390 million Rural Development Budget for 2023
- Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys announces suite of new initiatives to support Remote Working
- Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys welcomes return of The National Ploughing Championships
- Cavan-OECD Roadmap on Strengthening Rural Resilience against Global Challenges
- Invitation to Webinar on Supports for Local, Small and Micro Food Businesses/Producers
- Press Release: Minister Joe O'Brien's official two day visit to Limerick
- Press Release: Minister Humphreys announces over €12.5million to support almost 600 Community Centres nationwide

9. A.O.B. None

10. Date and venue of next LCDC meeting: 10.00am Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022, via videoconference.

Meeting Closed

Signed

  
CHAIRPERSON

DATE

LAG Decision Meeting Attendees Template						
18 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2022						
Attendee Details						
Public (Tick)	Community (Tick)	Physically Present (Tick)	Phone/Video Conference Attendee (Tick)	Vote by Written Procedure (Tick)	Organisation Represented	Member Name (Print)
	Az per					
	minutes					
	attached					
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>		

1 Total Current Membership	14
2 Total Attendees	13
3 Quorum Required (50% of 1 above)	Yes
4 Quorum % achieved	% 68
5 Non-public sector attendees %	% 62

Chairperson Signature

Date

*John O'Leary*  
 18/11/22