



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Shligigh  
Sligo Local Community Development  
Committee

# Sligo.

## Sligo Local Community Development Committee



# 2021

# ANNUAL REPORT



#sligoliveinvestvisit

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## Foreword from the Chairperson of Sligo LCDC

The Local Government Reform Act of 2014 bestowed particular responsibility on local government to provide strategic leadership at local level, with the establishment of Local Community Development Committees. LCDCs have responsibility for the planning and oversight of a substantial amount of local development funding on behalf of the State or by other local development agencies and structures and have brought a new collaborative approach which is reflected in the framework set out in the Local Economic Community Planning process.

Fortunately, in Sligo there has always been a strong tradition of mutual co-operation between the local government, local development and community sectors both at an informal and formal level and the ongoing success of the LCDC structure has helped cement this partnership and served us well through a challenging year with the continued impact of Covid-19. Members collectively have input into and oversight of our main programmes such as the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP), the Rural Development Programme (RDP) through the Local Action Group, the Community Enhancement Programme and other community funds, the Healthy Ireland Programme & Community Resilience fund, and the PEACE funds and have always carried out their role with diligence, integrity and professionalism.

As we face into the next iteration of our Local Economic and Community Planning process the steering of Members has been crucial to date in shaping an overarching Strategic Framework to guide the development of all of County Sligo over the next 8 to 10 years. This plan - Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision (Sligo 2030) will act as an integrated multi-sectoral 'Local Economic & Community Plan' based on the principles of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with an ambition for a smart, green and inclusive Sligo.

As Chairperson of the LCDC, I wish to acknowledge the unselfish and ongoing commitment of all members of the LCDC and Support staff during the year. In accordance with the Department's *Guidelines for the Operation of Local Community Development Committees*, a review of the membership of the LCDC was carried out in 2021. Following this review, we welcomed six new members to the Committee and acknowledged the contribution of outgoing members.

I look forward to seeing the LCDC continue its good work in partnership with local stakeholders and the local community for the betterment of Sligo.



***Cllr Dara Mulvey, Chairperson Sligo LCDC***

### **A Statement by the Chief Officer, Sligo LCDC**

We are pleased to present the Annual report for the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for 2021. This report outlines progress in respect of the various LCDC functions over 2021 including a review of progress generally, details of meetings held, preparation of the next Local Economic & Community Plan/Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision and details of the oversight, management and collaboration in relation to public-funded programmes under the LCDC's remit including the LEADER Programme, SICAP, PEACE, Healthy Ireland Fund and the range of Community grants.

Since the submission of the last report, Sligo LCDC and its subgroups have had another busy and productive year despite the ongoing challenges of Covid 19 and the more recent challenges presented by the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Under the leadership of Cllr Dara Mulvey, Chairperson, the LCDC continued to embark upon an ambitious work programme which included the oversight of many funding programmes and key involvement in the consultation process for the development of the new Local Economic & Community Plan for Sligo, Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision (Sligo 2030).

I wish to acknowledge the co-operation of all the members and partners of the Sligo LCDC over the past year which has seen the benefits of real partnership arising from the existence of the valuable structure and programmes of the LCDC. The Membership of the LCDC has seen many changes in 2021 following the review in May and we welcomed the appointment of Mr. Martin Lydon as Chief Executive of Sligo County Council in September. As Chief Officer, I wish to thank the outgoing members for their valuable contribution and commitment to the LCDC and I welcome the new Members to the Committee. (*Sections 1.2/1.3 of this report refers*).

The ongoing impact of the Covid 19 pandemic meant that LCDC meetings were held virtually in keeping with Government guidelines. On the easing of restrictions later in the year, the Committee were in a position to convene meetings in a hybrid arrangement with some Members in attendance in the Council Chamber and other joining online. The pandemic continued to impact on how we deliver our programmes in 2021, in particular SICAP, Healthy Ireland and Community Grant assistance.

In December 2020 Minister Heather Humphreys announced that the LEADER programme 2014-2020 would be extended to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 with the Transitional LEADER Programme commencing on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and details of the new LEADER programme are awaited.

The period although challenging, has been active and successful for the Sligo LCDC, and I set out hereunder more detail in relation to this activity.



***Dorothy Clarke, Chief Officer***



## 1 Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Sligo LCDC was formally established by resolution of the local authority on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 for the purposes of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development. The committee is made up of representatives from the local government and local development sectors, public bodies and representatives of social, economic, environmental and community interests.

National policy envisages a central role for local government in the planning and oversight of local and community development programmes while maintaining a key role for local development entities in front line delivery.

Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001 sets out the **functions** of LCDCs. These functions include—

- in relation to the **Local Economic and Community Plan**, to –
  - prepare and implement the community elements of a 6-year Local Economic and Community Plan (the Plan),
  - review and monitor on an on-going basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan and, if appropriate, to revise the actions and strategies set to achieve the objectives of the Plan, and
  - consider a draft of the economic elements of the Plan and adopt a statement for consideration of the Council in this regard,
- to coordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of **local and community development programmes** that –
  - may be agreed between Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and other Government Departments or State bodies,
  - may be sourced through direct application by the LCDC or local authority on the LCDC's behalf (e.g. EU programmes), or
  - may be agreed by the local authority with relevant State agencies or Government Departments.
- to improve the **coordination of public-funded local and community development programmes** and reduce duplication, and to coordinate generally local and community development programmes within the LCDC's operational area, and
- to prepare an **annual report** on the performance of its functions.

The LCDC, like the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC), is a committee of the local authority. Unlike the CPG and SPCs, however, the LCDC is independent from the local authority in the performance of its functions. While these functions will be determined by Government from time to time as provided for under Local Government Act, how those functions are carried out and any decisions to be made by the LCDC when carrying out those functions are solely a matter for the LCDC.

This independence is provided for explicitly in sections 49A (2) and 128B (8) of the 2001 Act.

### 1.1 Dates and attendance at LCDC Meetings

LCDC/LAG meetings took place on the following dates in 2021 – meetings were held virtually/hybrid arrangement.

25<sup>th</sup> February, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 29<sup>th</sup> July, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 16<sup>th</sup> December

Attendance of Sectors represented on Sligo LCDC at meetings during 2021								
Sector Represented	25th Feb	15th April	27th May	10th June	29th July	23rd Sept	2nd Nov	16th Dec
Elected Member	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Elected Member	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Elected Member	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Local Authority Official	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Local Authority Official	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State Agency - DEASP	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State Agency – HSE	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
State Agency - MSLETB	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Local Development Company	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trade Union	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Business	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Farming	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PPN - Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PPN - Community & Voluntary	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
PPN - Community & Voluntary	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
PPN - Social Inclusion	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
PPN - Social Inclusion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

### 1.2 Sligo LCDC Membership 2021

<b>Name</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Cllr Dara Mulvey (Chairperson)	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Cllr Joe Queenan	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Cllr Tom Fox – elected Vice-Chairperson in Oct 2021	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Mr. Tom Kilfeather – Deputy Chief Executive Dec 2020 – Aug 2021 Mr. Martin Lydon, CE from Sept 2021	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Reilly	Local Government / Local Enterprise Office	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Kennedy	State Agency	Dept. Of Employment Affairs & Social Protection (DEASP)
Ms. Patricia Garland	State Agency	Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE
Mr. Peter Egan	State Agency	Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB
Mr. John Feerick	Local Development Sector	Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG.
Mr. Hugh MacConville, Vice - Chairperson – Resigned April 2021 Mr. Pat Fallon – nominated 21.4.21	Trade Union Interests	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Mr. Aidan Doyle	Business Interests	Sligo Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Kathleen Henry	Farming / Agriculture Interests	Farming / Agriculture Pillar
Mr. Michael Kirby – resigned April 2021 Dr Connie Nell (elected May 2021)	Environmental Interests	Environment Pillar (PPN)
Dr Jennifer Van Aswegen – resigned April 2021 Mr. Brendan Lynch (elected May 2021)	Social Inclusion	PPN
Ms. Elizabeth King – resigned April 2021 Ms. Noelle O’Gara (elected May 2021)	Social Inclusion	PPN
Mr. Pat Benson (elected May 2021)	Community & Voluntary	PPN
Mr. Gerry O’Connor – resigned April 2021 Ms. Jean Finnerty (elected May 2021)	Community & Voluntary	PPN





LCDC/LAG - Virtual Meeting in session 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

### 1.3 Review of LCDC Membership in 2021

A review of Membership took place in 2021 in accordance with Department *Guidelines for The Operation Of Local Community Development Committees*, issued in December 2016 which states that the Chief Officer, in consultation with the CPG and Chairperson, is to review the membership of the LCDC at least once every three years to ensure the membership is relevant and representative of the work of the LCDC

- The Guidelines state that as a general rule, **there is no requirement to renew the public sector members**. Local authority officials and State agency representatives are members because of the positions they hold within the organisations represented. The Guidelines say it would be neither practical nor logical to seek to rotate these members
- In January 2021, the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) advised that Private sector members (i.e. PPN representatives (Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental), local development and community development bodies (such as local development companies); and other civic society or 'local community' interests (including business, agriculture, etc.) **are limited to two consecutive 3-year terms** (per Regulation 30 - *Local Community Development Committee (Section 128E) Regulations 2014*)

- On the 21<sup>st</sup> April, the General Secretary of ICTU nominated Mr. Pat Fallon as the Trade Union Pillar representative replacing Mr. Hugh MacConville who had served on the LCDC since it was established in 2014.
- Following online PPN elections held in May 2021, five new PPN representatives were elected to the LCDC – Mr. Pat Benson & Ms. Jean Finnerty (Community & Voluntary); Mr. Brendan Lynch & Ms. Noelle O’Gara (Social Inclusion) and Dr Connie Nell (Environment)

At the LCDC meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Cllr Dara Mulvey welcomed the six new Members to the LCDC following the review of Membership.

Cllr Mulvey also paid tribute to the outgoing Members – Mr. Hugh MacConville, Mr. Michael Kirby, Mr. Gerry O’Connor, Ms. Elizabeth King and Dr Jennifer Van Aswegen and acknowledged their exemplary input to the LCDC.

At a meeting of Sligo County Council on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 a Resolution *to approve in accordance with Section 128C of the Local government Act 2001 the revised membership of the Sligo Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)* was proposed by Cllr Declan Bree, seconded by Cllr Tom Fox and agreed.

## 2 Local Economic and Community Plan (Community Elements)

### 2.1 Implementation & Monitoring of the LECP

In accordance with its primary function under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the Sligo LCDC has overseen the preparation and delivery of the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021.

The LECP 2016 – 2021 with its duration now complete was, delivered and monitored in a collaborative manner over the past 5 years. Substantial progress was made in achieving its vision goals and actions under its 6 key themes, which concentrated on:

1. Employment and Sustainable Economic Activity
2. Education and Training
3. Health and Wellbeing
4. Social Inclusion, Equality and Poverty,
5. Environment and Climate Change
6. Collaborative Framework

## 2.2 The next LECP – Sligo 2030: One Voice One Vision

Following the solid foundation laid by the first LECP, 2021 has seen the commencement of work on the preparation of the next LECP which is to act as a strategic framework for Sligo for the next 8 to 10 years. It is to be entitled Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision (Sligo 2030) and will be an integrated and strategic Economic, Social, Community and Spatial Framework – focusing on a modern Green and Smart Sligo.

KPMG FA have been appointed to prepare the plan and substantial public engagement with community, committees and agencies has already taken place. In developing this framework, regard will be had to the new and revised LECP guidance providing for a broad focus and extensive stakeholder engagement. The new Plan will, with the benefit of a specifically commissioned and updated socio-economic profile and resultant needs analysis model, provide a vision, high-level goals and objectives & actions, for Sligo to move forward into the next decade.

## 3 Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 – 2022 provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion at a local level through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.

County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG continues to deliver the programme on behalf of Sligo LCDC. The Covid-19 Pandemic influenced the delivery of the programme over the course of 2021 and SICAP proved to be a valuable and flexible tool at the disposal of the LCDC to meet this critical and unprecedented need.

There are 2 goals under the Programme;

### **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.

### **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.



**Target groups supported under SICAP 2018 - 2022 are as follows:**

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

\*Sligo LCDC agreed on the inclusion of ***Economically Vulnerable in need of Up-skilling*** under the Emerging needs Target group for 2021

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.

### 3.1 Progress under SICAP 2021

The allocated budget for 2021 was **€603,079**.

The Covid 19 pandemic continued to impact on the delivery of SICAP in 2021 with Local Development Companies having to adapt to meet the challenges faced by imposed restrictions.

The Department of Rural & Community Development and Pobal identified a number of ways in which flexibility could be adopted within SICAP to enable Local Development Companies to deliver responsive measures throughout 2020 and 2021.

Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG continued to engage with clients over the phone and online, with a combination of upskilling/ training, Education/ awareness, Youth Work, Personal development supports being delivered. There was a strong emphasis on collaboration throughout the year in terms of the delivery of the 2021 Annual Plan.

Examples of collaborations of note in 2021 were:

- Traveller support with Autism – responding to a need that was brought forward by the chairperson of Sligo Traveller Support Group for support/ education in supporting

Traveller families who have Autistic children/ young people. Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG provided professional autism training through ASIAM for the staff and some families of the travelling community.

- Young People with Disabilities - Established groups supporting families such as the This Ability group showed great support for each other following the effect of Covid restrictions. They were used to working collectively and this came to the fore following social restrictions.
- Supporting disadvantaged women who have experienced domestic violence - In the recruitment of participants, SICAP collaborated with local partners to ensure individuals most at need were identified. Such organizations include, DVAS, Sligo Rape Crisis Centre, Focus Ireland, FRC's, Túsla, Sligo Social Services - Sligo LEADER continue to work together to promote awareness and support women in need.
- Barista and Customer Service training for Young People aged between 15 to 24 years, who are not in any education/ employment or are at risk of early school leaving. The feedback was very positive from the participants, who were delighted to avail of such a training that will help them secure employment. This course highlighted the skills and expertise that employers look for in this area of employment.

All progress under SICAP is recorded on the Integrated Reporting Information System (IRIS).

In accordance with the Programme Requirements for SICAP, continued funding is subject to positive findings from a mid-year and annual performance review by the LCDC and the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets being achieved.

As the 2021 Annual performance review targets under both KPIs (below) were exceeded, the LCDC approved the 2021 SICAP Annual Performance Review reports at their meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Ref	Key Performance Indicator	Annual Target	Actuals as at 31/12/21 (From IRIS)	% Achieved
KPI 1	Number of local community groups supported under SICAP	38	42	111%
KPI 2	Number of Individuals (aged 15 years upwards) supported under SICAP	366	492	134%
	Percentage of Individuals supported under KPI 2 living in disadvantaged areas (105 individuals)	18%	36.89%	



## *Some samples below of SICAP collaborative projects in 2021*



*Willow Weaving Workshop at Enniscrone FRC*



*Ways to Wellness Event with Enniscrone Men's Shed*

## **3.2 Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee**

The Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee continues to oversee the delivery of SICAP and to monitor implementation progress

The review of Membership of the LCDC in May 2021 resulted in subsequent changes to membership of the LCDC sub-committees.

Members on the Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee were as follows;

1. Cllr Dara Mulvey (Chair)
2. Mr. John Kennedy (DEASP rep on LCDC)
3. Mr. Peter Egan (MSLETB rep on LCDC) – nominated 27.5.21
4. Mr. Brendan Lynch-(PPN Social Inclusion rep on LCDC) - nominated 27.5.21
5. Ms. Jean Finnerty (PPN Community & Voluntary rep on LCDC) - nominated 27.5.21
6. Dr Connie Bell (PPN Environment rep on LCDC) nominated 27.5.21
7. Ms. Patricia Garland (HSE Rep on LCDC)
8. Ms. Dorothy Clarke (Chief Officer)

The Committee met on the following dates to discuss progress on SICAP in 2021 with meetings convened virtually.

*22<sup>nd</sup> February; 26<sup>th</sup> April; 12<sup>th</sup> July; 13<sup>th</sup> October (Pobal also in attendance)*



As part of the ongoing monitoring of the programme, it was agreed by the Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee to carry out two site verification visits on SICAP projects per quarter. County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG suggest projects for verification and suitable dates and a notification e-mail is sent to all members of the LCDC allowing members the opportunity to visit projects selected.

Due to the ongoing impact of Covid 19, most verifications were carried out virtually – projects visited include Birdwatching talks via zoom, QQI Level 4 Online Community Mentoring and Advocacy Training, Rethinking Community Communications, Basic Book-keeping, Intro to Menopause, Start Your Own Business and IT Sligo - Science Week Activities.



*Science Week, Ballymote – project in collaboration with IT Sligo & Abbvie*



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020

## 4 Social Inclusion

The work of the LCDC and the thrust of the LECF is underpinned by a commitment to promote social inclusion and tackle poverty and disadvantage. This is addressed in a wide number of ways across the LCDC programmes and member agency activities. The LCDC has used its programmes such as SICAP, RDP, CEP, HI and the more recent Community Activities Fund to support community initiatives and increase collaboration and local capacity building in urban and rural communities across the county prioritizing integration and vulnerable groups for funding assistance. The Social inclusion officer engages on a regular basis on an inter-agency level to see how collaboration can improve services and outcomes for disadvantaged groups. In particular the Council has throughout 2021 targeted specific groupings such as Older people, new communities, youth and LGBTI+ communities.

### *Some specific projects during 2021:*



With the **Age Friendly Alliance** having been re-established in 2021 efforts continue to successfully establish the Older Peoples Council for Sligo. Age Friendly Focus Group meetings have been held to discuss suitable ways forward. Community Information Events with regard to the Age Friendly Programme and the establishment of a Sligo Older Peoples Council took place during November 2021, at three locations throughout the county. Two other events were planned for Sligo town but due to Covid19 had to be postponed. However, there is now a small, committed cohort of people interested in working towards establishing a Sligo Older Persons Council.

While progress was impacted by Covid 19 , this also turned out to be an opportunity to put in place some projects in partnership and engaging with other programmes to support older people through difficult times of cocooning and isolation.

Work is under way to develop a Sligo Age Friendly Strategy for Sligo following a tendering process.

National Bike week 2021 was celebrated by the Sligo County Council Age Friendly Programme and the LCDC Healthy Sligo Programme by taking the St Johns Trishaw bike out for a spin. Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership received funding for the Trishaw bike under the Healthy Ireland (Round

2) Programme. The Trishaw is located permanently at St. John's Hospital for use by the residents and prior to Covid-19 volunteers from the Innisfree Wheelers took residents out in it on a regular basis.

To promote the visibility of Age Friendly initiatives branded merchandise such as reusable shopping bags and umbrellas with the Age Friendly and Sligo. logos have been designed and made up for promotional purposes. The Age Friendly pop-up banners and handheld signs have also been redesigned to reflect the updated Age Friendly logo.

The AGM of **Sligo Comhairle na nÓg** took place in November 2021 and the Social Inclusion Officer attended this meeting and facilitated discussion with Comhairle members on Mental Health and Climate Change. Arising from this it has been agreed that members will give a presentation to Sligo County Council in early 2022 on their chosen themes, to members of Sligo County Council. Six members of the Comhairle will represent Sligo at the national Dail na nÓg event in 2022 at the Convention Centre, Dublin.

As a result of an application submitted in December 2021 three Sligo based LGBTI organisations were awarded a combined total of €32,500 to support events planned by **LGBTI+ Community Organisations**, during 2022. Groups have been notified and Service Level Agreements are currently being prepared.

A service providers meeting was facilitated by the Social Inclusion Officer, between Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG., ALONE, Muintir na Tíre, HSE and the Healthy Ireland programme. Held in the ALONE Digital Living Hub, in Coolaney Community Centre, the purpose of the meeting was to develop working relationships and share information between the groups.

Engagement with cultural and community celebrations such as the Dept of Rural and Community Development lead events to acknowledge the effort of people who gave their time voluntarily during the pandemic to help others, and Africa Day to celebrate diverse communities living in Sligo.



*Pictured Left to Right: Councillor Dara Mulvey, Chair of Sligo LCDC, Aisling Smyth, Administrative Officer, Sligo County Council, Marcella McGarry, Healthy Sligo Co-ordinator, Geraldine Timlin, Social Inclusion Officer, Mayor Councillor Arthur Gibbons (and Poppy the dog), May McConnell, Active Retirement Sligo, John Delory, Inisfree Wheelers, Shane Hayes, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer, Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership and Sandy Kelly, Sligo Age Friendly Ambassador.*

## 5 Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020/ Transitional LEADER Programme

Sligo LCDC delivers the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme and acts as the Local Action Group (LAG) working in partnership with Sligo County Council as Financial Partner and County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG as Implementing Partner.

The Local Development Strategy (LDS) for County Sligo forms the basis against which all project approvals will be measured. The LCDC as LAG has final approval on what projects proceed subject to the recommendation of the Independent Evaluation Committee (IEC). The Council acts as lead partner in administrative and financial matters. Its role is also to conduct verification checks, make payments to promoters and manage drawdowns from the Department and funding to the Implementing Partner.



The LEADER allocation for Sligo 2014-2020 was **€7,655,648**. This allocation was broken down among;

- Preparatory Support for the Local Development Strategy - €15,000
- Administration & Animation Costs - €1,913,912
- Implementation of operations/Projects - €5,726,736

The Local Development Strategy (LDS) outlines the three main Project themes that were identified as overarching needs for the county and out of that fall nine sub-themes as follows:

Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3
<b>Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation</b>	<b>Social Inclusion</b>	<b>Rural Environment</b>
<b>Sub Themes</b>	<b>Sub Themes</b>	<b>Sub Themes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rural Tourism</li> <li>○ Enterprise Development</li> <li>○ Rural Towns</li> <li>○ Broadband</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Basic Services targeted at hard-to-reach communities</li> <li>○ Rural Youth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Protection and sustainable use of water resources</li> <li>○ Local Biodiversity</li> <li>○ Renewable energy</li> </ul>

An additional budget of €184,696.05 was approved for Co-Operation projects under the LEADER Programme.

## 5.1 Transitional LEADER Programme

On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, T.D., announced funding for a Transitional LEADER Programme which commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 with a budget allocation of €1,565,928 for Sligo (Projects & Admin) with an additional €695,968 to be provided under EURI (European Union Recovery Instrument) Fund which opened from the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The aim of the Transitional LEADER Programme is to allow locally led rural development projects to continue to be delivered using the current LEADER model until the new EU programme commences in 2023.

## **Priorities for the Transitional Programme**

The Department Guidelines, issued in December 2020 stated that the *'Transitional LEADER Programme should seek to address the challenges facing rural Ireland in the coming period and to complement the forthcoming Rural Development Policy which will place an emphasis on job creation, remote working, and maximising the potential of broadband in rural communities.* The following actions were listed as priorities under the Programme;

1. Supports to rural businesses seeking to reach new markets, expand, innovate and/or diversify in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and/or Brexit, with a particular emphasis on providing support to businesses in the food sector.
2. Community based projects that seek to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Supports and capacity building for communities that have not previously received assistance under LEADER or other rural programmes, using the Transitional Programme for the LAGs and Implementing Partners to engage directly with new applicants to develop projects and enhance collaboration within communities.
4. Support for new and innovative projects in the areas of climate change, environmental protection and the green economy.
5. Maximising the potential of broadband and the digital economy in communities, including through skills development and building awareness and usage of available remote working facilities.
6. Projects that develop the concept of the Smart Village initiative or Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZs) which could serve as proof-of-concept for more substantial proposals in the context of the next EU-funded LEADER Programme.



## 5.2 LEADER Application Process



*\*\*Since the 1st February 2019, Local Authorities in their role as Lead Financial Partner (LFP), in each LCDC LAG area have been undertaking Article 48 Checks, on projects and claims, with the exception of "In-House" projects delivered directly by the LAG or Implementing Partner (IP) where Pobal will continue to perform Article 48 checks. Pobal will also carry out checks on Monthly administration claims.*

The LEADER programme has been a great success in Sligo. As of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022, a total of 201 Projects have been approved under the Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2022, with Letters of Offer issued to Project Promoters, to the value of €6,999,017.27

Projects vary from the development of community playgrounds, Walking Tracks, and all-weather playing facilities to purchase of equipment, marketing and feasibility projects. As of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022, a total of €4,230,240.51 has been paid to Promoters in respect of claims submitted on 131 No. projects and funds in the amount of €1,612,379.19 have been approved by the Department in respect of Administration of the LEADER Programme.



***Members of Sligo County Council and Sligo LCDC with the Project Promoter (Eastern Harps GAA)  
at the  
Launch of the Castle to Cave Camino on 29.3.22***



Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development

## 6 Public Participation Network (PPN)

A Public Participation Network (PPN) is a structure that brings together Community and Voluntary, Environmental and Social Inclusion groups in each local authority area. The primary purpose of the PPN is to enable member groups to have both an influence on and input into formal decision-making structures of the local authority.

The PPN is managed by an elected Secretariat made up of individuals representing the 3 PPN Colleges of Social Inclusion, Environment and Community & Voluntary, Borough of Sligo MD, Ballymote/Tubbercurry MD and Sligo Drumcliff MD. There are currently 9 seats on the Sligo PPN Secretariat. The role of the PPN is to facilitate structured input by the community through representation on various local policy making committees. In 2021, Sligo PPN had community representation on the following committees: Sligo Local Community Development Committee, Sligo Strategic Policy Committees, Joint Policing Committee, County Sligo Heritage Forum, County

Sligo Place Names Committee, Public Art Steering Committee, Disability Consultative Committee, Sligo Leader Partnership CLG, Northwest Fisheries Local Action Group.

## 6.1 Influencing and Informing Policies and Programmes

During 2021, Sligo PPN directly fed into or influenced a number of policy areas including Sligo County Council County Development Plan, National Wellbeing Indicators Initiative with Office of An Taoiseach, the national River Basin Management Plan, national PPN Structural Review, Alliance for insurance reform community engagement programme and Sligo 2030.

With 10 seats overall on Sligo SPCs and 5 seats on the LCDC, Sligo PPN community representatives are working towards informing local policy development for the better, utilising an evidence base gathered through consultation with the local community.

### 6.1.1 PPN Elections

In 2021 a number of key election processes took place under the PPN;

#### **Sligo Local Community Development Committee**

5 seats were available for PPN representation, and the following were nominated to the committee;

- *Pat Benson, Community & Voluntary Sector, nominated by CADRA,*
- *Noelle O’Gara, Social Inclusion Sector, nominated by Sproi Glas,*
- *Jean Finnerty, Community & Voluntary Sector, nominated by West Sligo Family Resource Centre,*
- *Brendan Lynch, Social Inclusion Sector, nominated by Sligo Northside,*
- *Connie Nell, Environment Sector, nominated by Sligo Environmental Network*

#### **Sligo PPN Secretariat**

- *Brendan Lynch, Social Inclusion,*
- *Jean Finnerty, Community & Voluntary,*
- *Pippa Black, Social Inclusion,*
- *Mark Kupczak, Ballymote / Tubbercurry MD,*
- *Michael Bell, Environment*

**SPC 3 : Social Inclusion Seat** saw Sheila Scanlon replace Sanja Ivanick

## 6.2 General Operations

The PPN Secretariat remain very active. A Secretariat workshop was held in October 2021 which allowed the new committee to set out their programme for the following year.

As well as meeting every 6 weeks, the committee has also established a series of sub-groups which work continuously with PPN staff. The sub-groups include; Governance, Finance, Communications, Wellbeing, HR & staff management.

There is ongoing engagement with the SPC representatives and preparation for SPC committee meetings.

The Sligo PPN Annual Meeting took place in November 2021 via Microsoft Teams. The event afforded the new Secretariat an opportunity to introduce themselves to the full plenary, to talk about their priorities for their college and to lay out some of the ideas for future workplans.

The PPN continues to regularly report to DRCD, SCC LCDC and SCC Management Team.

## 6.3 Health and Wellbeing Vision

Supports have been provided to all PPNs to develop a Vision of Community Wellbeing for their county. The Sligo PPN has been working to capture all elements of a community's wellbeing not just employment and infrastructure although these are both vital parts of building and maintaining a strong community.

While the consultation phase of the programme took place in 2020, it was 2021 when the key documents were produced. Sligo PPN has produced 3 report documents as part of the Sligo wellbeing process;

- ***Masters Issues – full recording of all the issues that were raised through the extensive consultation process, organized by nature of the consultation attendance***
- ***Thematic Issues – consultation feedback organized into key thematic groups***
- ***Wellbeing Vision – the community hopes for their future in County Sligo***

All documents are available on the Sligo PPN website <https://www.sligoppn.com/sligo-ppn-consultation-and-research/>. The PPN also hosted a public information session to introduce the research to the community sector, where to find it, how to interpret it and how groups and organizations can use the information in their own programme planning, strategy development and funding applications.

The research has also been provided to SCC and KPMG to inform the development of the LECP and Vision 2030 documents.

## 6.3.1 Children's Voices

To ensure that young people also had the opportunity to also talk about their wellbeing experiences and their hopes for the future, Sligo PPN commissioned The Big Book of Sligo: A Children's Panorama of County Sligo in 2020, with additional funding from Creative Ireland Sligo.

The project gathers children's stories about their experience of 2020 and is framed within a wider lens of health and wellbeing, focusing on the children's local environment and sense of community. The aim of the book is to bring children's voices and their creative expressions to the wider community in County Sligo and ensure they are part of our future plans and visions as a community. The book was published in December 2021.

## 6.4 Responding to Community Issues

### Community Needs Analysis

Sligo PPN undertook a 2021 needs analysis to find out how to best support member groups over the year

### Responses:

- Sligo PPN re-commissioned the tailored Sligo based edition of the national Funding Digest on behalf of the local community sector.
- A six week online training programme was delivered by Woodrow Sustainable solutions to help support Tidy Town member groups in early 2021 to prepare for the annual competition. The content of the sessions was also open to other member groups and gave an insight into positive environmental practises that the community sector can take within their local area.
- Environmental Action Academy – The PPN engaged SEN to deliver a series of consultations, mentoring and workshops with community group members who are interested in taking more proactive environmental.
- Sligo PPN also supported the ATU (at the time IT Sligo) to submit a funding application to the national Climate Action Fund.

## 6.5 Consultations, Workshops & Information Sessions

- The PPN Facilitated an online public information session with LAWPRO to support communities to make submissions to the River Basin Management Plan
- The PPN worked with Sligo Family Resource Centre to host a series of Cultural Competencies workshops to support service providers, communities and businesses to deliver respectful and effective services in a multicultural county



- The PPN hosted an information session with Sligo County Council to provide an update on the status of the N17 road development
- The PPN continue to promote to all members any public consultation and engagement processes that we are made aware of.
- The PPN worked with the SEAI Community Energy mentors to host a series of Warmer Homes information sessions through our Resident Association members
- The PPN supported the HSE and the Sligo Social Prescribing Programme to hold an information session for interested community groups

## 6.6 Covid-19 Response

Across 2021, the PPN continued to support community engagement and coordination to support communities over the pandemic and the PPN fed into the national Covid Response Recommendation Report.

## 6.7 National Engagement

The Sligo PPN Resource worker continued in their role on the National Advisory Group across 2021 and was active in a number of national committees to drive the national development of PPN networks. Pippa Black was nominated to take on the National Secretariat seat to represent Sligo.

## 6.8 Sligo PPN statistics

As of Dec 2021, there were 497 FULL MEMBER groups registered with Sligo PPN. Of these groups 443 have registered with the Community & Voluntary Pillar, 41 with the Social Inclusion Pillar and 13 with the Environment Pillar.

## 6.9 Communications

Sligo PPN has a growing social media profile and the PPN regularly use Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to distribute information and share community news.

### **General Communications**

- Promotion of member activities via PPN website, email and social media platforms
- Production of quarterly Newsletter which goes out to around 1000 contacts
- Notification to member groups with regard to opportunities for informing strategy and policy development
- Promotion of all emerging funding rounds and circulars from Department of Rural and Community Development



- Promotion of PPN activities and opportunities through traditional local media
- Promotion of the work of LCDC partner organisations



## 7 PEACE IV Programme

The PEACE IV Programme is managed by the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) and the Sligo Programme had a budget of €979,395 administered by Sligo County Council. Sligo Local Community Development Committee was responsible for the oversight of the Programme and established a PEACE IV Sub Committee to oversee the implementation of the Programme. Organisations represented on the PEACE IV Sub Committee included Sligo County Council, Sligo Leader Partnership, Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education & Training Board, An Garda Síochana, Public Participation Network (PPN), Irish Congress of Trade Unions and minority faiths.



All programme activity was completed in 2020 and included a wide and varied range of projects delivered under the following three themes:

1. Children & Young People
2. Shared Spaces & Services
3. Building Positive Relations,

One of the legacy projects delivered by the Programme as part of the Shared Spaces & Services theme was the cantilever which was constructed at Stephen Street Car Park on the banks of the River Garavogue in Sligo. This shared space enhances the centre of Sligo and provides the local community and visitors with a meeting place and viewing point accessible to all. It was also seen

by the PEACE IV sub-committee and LCDC as an important legacy project marking the investment made by the successive PEACE programmes in County Sligo.

In 2021, focus was placed on concluding budget issues with the SEUPB and consultations in the shaping of the New PEACE Plus Programme.

## 7.1 PEACE PLUS

The PEACE PLUS programme is currently being developed by the SEUPB the aim of which is to contribute to a more prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland and will leave a lasting legacy. The programme will achieve this by funding activities that promote peace and reconciliation and contribute to the cross-border economic and territorial development of the programme area. It will build upon previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. Provision has been made for an indicative budget of approximately €1bn, including proposals from the EU budget, the Government of Ireland, the Northern Ireland Executive and the UK Government.

The PEACE Plus Programme will run from 2021-2027 and represents an excellent opportunity for Local Authorities and key stakeholders within the East Border Region to access funding for cross border projects which will make a positive contribution to the economic, social and environmental development of the Region. As part of this programme, Local Authorities in the Border Region (which includes Sligo), will have the opportunity in 2022 to develop Local Authority PEACE Plus Plans which will involve in-depth public consultation to determine a set of actions to be delivered in the county.

## 8 Healthy Ireland Fund

Healthy Ireland, a Framework for improved Health & Wellbeing 2013-2025' is the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of Ireland over the coming generation. Under Round 3 of Healthy Ireland Funding, the Department of Health and Pobal awarded all LCDCs funding in the sum of €246,010 to deliver on a number of approved actions by June 2021 (extended due to COVID to December 2021). Themes included in the Healthy Ireland Programme include, physical activity, mental health, nutrition, tobacco and alcohol, sexual health and spaces and places for health and wellbeing. Projects funded under the Programmes are completed, progress and financial reporting for completion by 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Sligo LCDC, through the administration of Sligo County Council worked in partnership with the national Healthy Ireland Programme to promote, animate, and support the programme through

local actions. Projects rolled out under Healthy Sligo were primarily under the themes of Mental Health Wellbeing & Physical Health and nutrition. It focused on a holistic approach to good mental health, physical activity, and wellbeing which was vital during the pandemic.

As a county Sligo recognised the need to work collaboratively across public, private, community and voluntary organizations to deliver the Healthy Sligo Plan. Sligo County Council is continually creating and improving its physical and social environments to enable people to enjoy and benefit from walking, cycling, parklets, and biodiversity projects through the Parks Department these developments provided opportunities to mainstream Health and wellbeing concepts across different Departments in the organisation.

During the implementation of Healthy Ireland Round 3 significant challenges were dealt with in relation to the Pandemic and the restrictions which curtailed people's normal activities. Projects and planned activities through dialogue were where possible repositioned and delivered in a virtual manner.

The programme targeted community groups and individuals in the County working virtually. Disadvantaged communities were targeted and engaged with the activities across the county, going forward these groups and individuals will be in a position to re-engage due to the positive experience they have already been part of through Healthy Sligo

With the commencement of Level 5 restrictions in January, 2021, some projects and planned activities were paused to resume when restrictions are eased. Since April, 2021 work progressed across all these programme/campaign areas. Despite this curtailment, projects which could be delivered virtually progressed and the community have benefitted from the activities. With the gradual lifting of restrictions from May, 2021 over the summer months, combined with the impact of the vaccine rollout and maintenance of Public health advice projects resumed on a gradual basis.

### **Healthy Sligo Projects include**

- Sligo Breast feeding Friendly Project (Lifestart)
- Ways to Wellness (Sligo Leader Partnership) Health and Wellness activities for target groups including Older People, New communities, Disadvantaged communities and Unemployed people.
- Social Prescribing (Sligo Family Resource Centre)
- Take a walk for Me: A creative project for Older people delivered by Sligo Arts Service which represented walks chosen by older people in artistic forms. The project also included collaboration with Northwest radio to connect with people during the lockdown. <http://ow.ly/ChRW50FI5Yi>
- Muintir na Tire/ Lend a Hand: Supporting older people to become digitally connected.

- Stronger for longer (Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership) – a strength-based exercise programme for older people
- Healthy Schools programme
- Ten Mental Health Small grants Scheme and Community Mental Health Actions.

The Keep well campaign was supported by Sláintecare and funded through Healthy Ireland. This campaign encourages switching off and being creative, eating well and managing your mood. Covid 19 has presented many challenges to communities and how projects are delivered. Agencies and community organizations have had to rethink and present projects virtually as opposed to the groups and person to person style of working.

In total through all of the supports offered by Sligo LCDC and Sligo County Council, an investment of €313,235 has been made in the county to roll out a total of 35 projects that respond to the needs of the local community.

Some examples of connecting and lifting your mood through virtual means are the initiatives by Eastern Harps GAA club, Sligo FRC's "Good for You" programme, the Sligo Age Friendly "Virtual Cook Along" and a programme on virtual device training for our older people. These virtual programmes supported people to connect to the Sligo Library network offering more opportunities to stay connected. The "Good for you programme" had a segment on the Six One news.

An example of the colour and flair of the Healthy Ireland Projects are included in the pictures overleaf:



*Launch of the virtual Christmas*



*Tubbercurry GAA with Cllr Dara Mulvey, Chairperson Sligo LCDC*





*Walks during Lockdown on Knocknarea*



*Young peoples school nutrition Project - Students at Corran College, Ballymote*



- To read more information on Healthy Sligo please click on the link provided <https://www.sligococo.ie/keepwell/>
- 
- Links to the six videos made during Covid 19
- <https://www.sligococo.ie/Keepwell/KeepWell/VideoSeriesLaunched/>
- <https://www.sligococo.ie/Keepwell/KeepWell/Week2-KeepWellVideoProgramme/>
- <https://www.sligococo.ie/Keepwell/KeepWell/Week3-KeepWellVideoProgramme/>
- <https://www.sligococo.ie/Keepwell/KeepWell/Week4-KeepWellVideoProgramme/>
- <https://www.sligococo.ie/Keepwell/KeepWell/Week5-KeepWellVideoProgramme/>
- <https://www.sligococo.ie/Keepwell/KeepWell/Week6-KeepWellVideoProgramme/>



## 9 Funding Opportunities - Community Enhancement Programme

In 2021 the Dept of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) once again made provision for this very welcome scheme. The allocation available to Sligo LCDC for 2021 was €134,084. Since its inception in 2018, over half a million euros has been disbursed in small scale capital grant aid across the County targeted at grass roots community groups in disadvantaged areas

This latest round took particular cognisance of the challenges that groups faced in reopening their facilities and returning to activities in the context of Covid19 and so 'reopening' costs were provided for in this round.

A total of 81 groups were successful in their applications(s) to this latest round of funding. Grants ranged between €1,000 to just over €3,000.

An example of groups supported was Owenmore Gaels GFC who used their grant to assist in the construction of a Universal Access Ramp at their grounds in Collooney, allowing those less mobile access the solar lit walking track.



## 10 The Economic Agenda

In addition to the extensive Community agenda which the LCDC oversees the committee can include in its report other area of activity related to the performance of its functions including those contributing to the economic objectives of its main vision document the Local Economic & Community Plan 2016 - 2021. Therefore, the LCDC would have received updates throughout the year on funding opportunities, inter agency proposals and the European JASPERS initiative in association with the new proposed Sligo 2030 Once Voice One Vision strategy.

A brief outline of some to the main activities that fall into the economic objectives are as follows:

### 10.1 Sligo Economic Forum

Under Action 1.1.1 of the Local Economic & Community Plan 2016 – 2021 the Sligo Economic Forum was set up in 2017 for the purposes of:

- Planning strategically and directing the economic vision for Sligo
- Collectively promoting Sligo in all its facets
- Sharing information and best practice

The Sligo Economic Forum consists of representation from Sligo County Council officials and members, LEO, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Chamber of Commerce, ATU, Fáilte Ireland, BID, and representatives from the Business and Farming sectors. The Chair of the SEF is Mr. Aaron Forde. The work of the Sligo Economic Forum (SEF) continues to centre around supporting, co-ordinating and promoting Sligo as an ideal place to do business, to live, invest and visit. The SEF met seven times throughout 2021.

### 10.2 Sligo: One Voice One Vision (Sligo 2030)

Sligo County Council is continuing to work in partnership with Sligo Economic Forum, the strategic Policy Committee and Sligo Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), intends to put in place an overarching countywide Strategic Framework to guide the development of all of County Sligo over next 10 years. 'Sligo: One Voice One Vision - Towards 2030' (Sligo 2030 Plan) will act as an integrated multi-sectoral strategy based on the principles of smart sustainable development, economic and environmental sustainability, be climate change responsive and create an equitable society that will be socially inclusive. The ambition is to place County Sligo at the forefront of smart technology utilisation, using its benefits to enable successful implementation of the climate action agenda, develop economic activity in Sligo and the Northwest region, improve social inclusion and create an environment which is an attractive place in which to live and work. The objective is to develop Sligo into a Smart City and County with the aim of realising energy efficient neighbourhoods, clean mobility and integration of current infrastructures. This will be achieved by working collaboratively with businesses, knowledge institutions and citizens while capitalizing on the potential of ICT, and the capability of using data analytics from smart technology to provide the information and processes which enables the ongoing improvement of all aspects of our city and county for the benefit of its citizens.

Sligo is nominated as a pilot under the JASPERS European programme where supports will be provided in developing this strategic plan for the county. The JASPERS programme will also offer an advisory support in availing of opportunities around availing of EU funding.

## 10.3 Sligo: Live Invest Visit Brand

Sligo County Council in collaboration with the Sligo Economic Forum initiated the vibrant Sligo. brand that reflects the strengths and vision of the county and promotes the concept of collaboration that supports Sligo as a world class place in which to live, invest and visit. These three brand pillars are reflected in the brand and tagline, *Sligo: Live Invest Visit*.

*Sligo: Live Invest Visit* was developed as a unique umbrella brand that helps deliver a positive message for Sligo. This gives organisations, community groups and the people of Sligo a central brand under which all of the positive Sligo stories can be celebrated and promoted. Under the 3 pillars of live/invest/visit the new brand presents an opportunity for Sligo to promote a positive image which will entice visitors and investors to the area to enjoy the Sligo landscape, culture, educational and innovative opportunities, with excellent choice and quality of life.



*Sligo. brand logo with updated taglines to reflect Sligo 2030*

As part of the development of the new **Sligo 2030 One Voice, One Vision** strategy, the Sligo. brand has updated its taglines to promote Sligo as the ideal location to encourage living green, investing smart and visiting sustainably. The Sligo. brand is a key asset to support and promote Sligo 2030. Additionally, with Sligo's designation as a regional growth centre under Project Ireland 2040, the Sligo. brand naturally reflects the requirement to promote County Sligo in achieving its growth centre targets.

In recent months there has been a significant effort placed on promoting the Sligo. brand and on engagement with stakeholders. To help further increase local brand recognition, strategically placed brand signage was placed at key points in Sligo Town including the Pearse Road entry to Sligo, at bus shelters and a large, branded billboard placed at Hughes Bridge in Sligo Town



(approximately 25,000 vehicles per day use Hughes Bridge). This has aided brand recognition among the local public as well as the brand stakeholders.



*Sligo. brand billboard Pearse Rd route into Sligo Town*



*Sligo. brand sign on Hughes Bridge*

### Examples of Sligo. brand logo usage:



*Sligo Rovers v. Finn Harps 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 with Sligo. brand pitch side sign in background  
(Photo credit LOI TV)*



***Sligo. logo included on SEF Member website – Sligo Chamber of Commerce***

The Sligo. brand has been successful in producing online video content as part of the communications strategy to promote the brand objectives. The first in a series of 3 new Sligo. brand videos launched on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The video, titled “**Sligo – so much more than a beautiful place**” has enjoyed a reach of over 50,000 views to date. It focused on the aspects of modern life in County Sligo and depicts the benefits of living in Sligo; its work-life balance, quality of life, unspoiled landscape, affordability and accessibility





*Screenshot from "Sligo – so much more than a beautiful place" video*

#### **10.4 County Sligo Diaspora Strategy initiatives**

One of the aims of the Sligo Diaspora Strategy 2019-2024 was to help foster and encourage the connection between Sligo and its Diaspora. The Sligo. brand team is currently working on developing a dedicated Sligo Diaspora landing page on Sligo.ie as well as a Sligo Diaspora newsletter that will help to inform our diaspora of news and events from around County Sligo. This will build on the success of the Diaspora video launched by the Sligo. brand on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and has received over 70,000 views to date. The Diaspora video acted as a call to the Sligo Diaspora to reflect on the beauty and potential of the county in offering a desirable lifestyle in a thriving and increasingly ambitious Sligo.



*Screenshot from Diaspora video launched for St Patricks Day 2021 which attracted 170,000 views across all channels*

## 10.5 Atlantic Economic Corridor

The AEC concept is an initiative developed by the government to maximise scale for the region from Kerry to Donegal with a shared goal to create a unified, connected and competitive Atlantic economic corridor.



Following the work of digital hub development in the AEC region, the national Connected Hubs Network supported by the AEC Network was launched during 2021. Connectedhubs.ie is a key action of Our Rural Future and has a target of 400 hubs on the platform by 2025.

Under the Department of Rural and Community Development “**Connected Hubs Call**” four Hubs in Co. Sligo were successful in being granted funding during 2021. The primary objective of the Connected Hubs Call is to support and complement the development of a National Hub Network. The successful applicants in Co. Sligo were: Stand Campus, An Chroi Digital Hub, Ballintogher Hub and The Building Block.

On 4th March 2022 Minister Heather Humphreys opened the new upgraded facilities at the An Chroi Digital Hub in Tubbercurry that included a smart suite and virtual shop front that were part of the AEC Smart Village and Community Pilot. The aim of this project, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development was to develop a number of pilot villages that will provide smart solutions to key regional challenges identified within the regional development policy framework.



**Minister Heather Humphreys T.D. at An Chroi Digital Hub Launch**

## 10.6 Tourism Development

### *Festivals & Events*

#### **Failte Ireland Regional Festivals and Participative Events funding 2021**

Changes were made by Fáilte Ireland to the Regional Festivals and Participative Events programme in 2021 considering the impact of Covid-19 on the tourism industry. Most notably, Fáilte Ireland made the decision to fund all Local Authorities only 25% of their original 2020 allocation. Sligo

County Council received €5,875 in 2021 (2020 allocation was €23,500). Seven festivals throughout the county availed of the limited funding under this scheme in 2021.



**CAIRDE** Sligo Arts Festival 2021  
3rd – 11th July

Join us for a week of unique artistic events - live + online  
**Advance Booking is essential**  
Booking and Info: [www.cairdefestival.com](http://www.cairdefestival.com)



**Sunday July 4 at 8pm**  
Blue Raincoat Theatre Company  
In the Shadow of the Glen by J.M. Synge  
Online Premiere

**Tues July 6 at 8pm**  
Writing from the West  
Kevin Barry, Louise Kennedy, Una Mannon  
Live Event + Live Stream  
Hawk's Well Theatre

**Wednesday July 7 at 8pm**  
The Alphabet of Birds  
with Sara Baume, Irene Buckley  
& Elaine Howley  
Live Literary, Visual & Music Event  
The Factory Performance Space

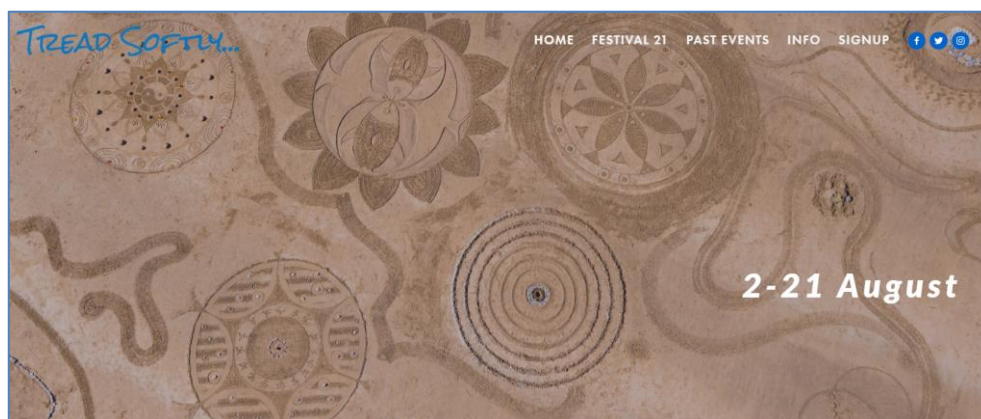
**Thursday 8 & Friday 9 July at 8pm**  
White Rabbit Red Rabbit  
Live Theatre Event  
The Factory Performance Space

**Friday July 9 at 8pm**  
Barry, Folan & McGowan with special  
guests Cathy Jordan & Daoiri Farrell.  
Live Music + Live Stream Ticket Options  
Hawk's Well Theatre

**Sat July 10 & Sunday July 11,  
2pm & 4pm**  
Tumble Circus  
Outdoor live family circus event  
Peace Park, Sligo

**Sat July 10 at 6pm**  
Cairde Word Short Story Competition  
Award Giving  
Live Literary + Live Stream Event  
The Model

**Plus many more events  
see [www.cairdefestival.com](http://www.cairdefestival.com)  
for details**

(Above: Some of the festivals that received funding from the FI Regional Festivals Scheme 2021)



Failte Ireland notified Sligo County Council on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 of the allocation for Sligo of €23,500 for the Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Participative Events Funding Scheme 2022. After an application process, funding was approved in April for nine festivals under the 2022 scheme.

## Sligo St Patrick's Festival

Fáilte Ireland approved an offer of assistance of €25,000 to Sligo County Council for the tourism development and support of a new **St. Patrick's Festival in Sligo**.



**Thursday 17th March:**  
2pm: The Sunday Roast Band  
4pm: Jamie Callaghan & Shane Benjamin  
5pm: The Ennis Brothers  
6.15pm: Peter Mooney  
7.30pm: Kerrie Herrity & Friends  
8.30pm: Wired For Sound  
10pm: Stocktons Wing

**Friday 18th March:**  
7pm: Some Remain  
7.30pm Glenn Cal  
8.00pm: Whatever Suits  
8.50pm: Ahren B Ft Back N Fourth  
9.30pm: Smash Hits

**Saturday 19th March:**  
6pm: Music Generation Presents Saving Sligo  
6.30pm: Music Generation Presents The Flight of The Frog  
7.15pm: Kevin & Elaine O Gorman and Friends  
8.30pm: Slippery When Wet (Bon Jovi Tribute)  
10pm: Jake Carter



€5 ADM Sligo County Council Comhairle Chontae Shligigh Sligo BID SLIGO BID Flag Fáilte Ireland WILD ATLANTIC WAY

This builds on groundwork commenced in 2021 and contributes in time to the implementation of a themed Development Plan for a St. Patrick's Festival around a USP for Sligo, developing a 3-day cultural programme, and building partnerships and international connections. SCC also provided funding of a further €10,000 to the Committee for the development of the festival celebrations.

### **International Marketing of Ireland's North-West focusing on Sligo, Donegal and Mayo**

Sligo County Council is currently working on a co-operation project with partners in Donegal County Council and Mayo County Council to develop a regional marketing strategy for the North-West that will promote the area to international markets. A tendering process is currently underway to appoint a supplier for the design, development and delivery of a North-West Tourism International Marketing Programme.

## **11 Conclusion**

The LCDC has achieved another successful year in 2021 and continued with its busy work programme despite the ongoing challenges posed by Covid 19. While it has many aspects of work to consider, the fundamental function it carries out in ensuring collaboration and planning of services and funding at local level has resulted in positive contributions to the Sligo community. This is sustained by ongoing effective engaging by elected members, agencies and the community with attendance and constructive debate at its meetings and sub-committees.

The LCDC looks forward to future changes, challenges and successes for Sligo in the years ahead and in particular in leading out with the new Sligo 2030 vision. It will embrace its challenging and rewarding role in developing the new LECP to take Sligo forward towards 2030 and build on the Sligo Brand promise to promote Sligo as a world class place to live, invest and visit.

