

Sligo Local Community Development Committee



2022 Annual Report



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Foreword from the Chairperson of Sligo LCDC

The Local Government Reform Act of 2014 bestowed 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. As always, Members of Sligo LCDC carried out their role with diligence, integrity, and professionalism in terms of input into and oversight of the main LCDC programmes, such as the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP), the Rural Development Programme/LEADER (RDP) through the Local Action Group, the Community Activities Fund and other community funds, and the Healthy Ireland Programme fund. 2022 also saw the establishment of the Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership which will build on the work of previous PEACE Programmes.

The LCDC has continued to work in partnership with Sligo County Council, the Sligo Economic Forum, and Strategic Policy Committee 3 in the development of the overarching Strategic Framework to guide the development of all of County Sligo. 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 2022.

I look forward to the continuation of the good work of the LCDC in partnership with local stakeholders and the local community for the betterment of Sligo, and to our work during 2023 in developing the new LECP for Sligo, to take Sligo forward towards 2030.



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 2022. This report outlines progress in respect of the various LCDC functions over 2022 including a review of progress generally, details of meetings held, preparation of the 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, a range of Community grants and the PEACEPLUS Programme.

Since the submission of the 2021 report, Sligo LCDC and its subgroups have had another busy and productive year. 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. As Chief Officer, I wish to thank outgoing members for their valuable contribution and commitment to the LCDC and I welcome the new Members to the Committee.

The Transitional LEADER Programme which commenced in 2021, continued to work with and support community activity during 2022. On 27th October 2022 Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced the details of the €180 million LEADER Programme for 2023-2027. The 2023-2027 LEADER funding allocation for Sligo has been set at €6.1 million.

The Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership was established during 2022 and will build on the good work of previous PEACE Programmes. Sligo County Council was awarded indicative funding of €3.6 million to develop and implement a Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plan. Tendering for external expertise to support and facilitate development of the Action Plan formed the focus of the work on the PEACEPLUS Programme during 2022.

The period has been busy, 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 7th 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.

Dates and attendance at LCDC Meetings

LCDC/LAG meetings took place on the following dates in 2022 – meetings were held virtually/hybrid arrangement.

| Attendance of Sectors represented on Sligo LCDC at meetings during 2022 | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sector Represented | 24th Feb | 7th April | 26th May | 28th July | 22nd Sept | 27th Oct | 8th Dec |
| Elected Member | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Elected Member | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Elected Member | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| Local Authority Official | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| Local Authority Official | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes |
| State Agency - DEASP | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| State Agency – HSE | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| State Agency - MSLETB | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No |
| Local Development Company | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Trade Union | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Business | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| Farming | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| PPN - Environment | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| PPN - Community & Voluntary | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| PPN - Community & Voluntary | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | No |
| PPN - Social Inclusion | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No |
| PPN - Social Inclusion | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |

Sligo LCDC Membership 2022

| Name | Sector | Organisation |
|---|--|---|
| Cllr Dara Mulvey (Chairperson) | Local Government | Sligo County Council |
| Cllr Joe Queenan | Local Government | Sligo County Council |
| Cllr Tom Fox – (Vice Chairperson) | Local Government | Sligo County Council |
| Mr. Martin Lydon – (Chief Executive) | 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. Pat Fallon | 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 |
| Dr Connie Nell | Environmental Interests | Environment Pillar (PPN) |
| Mr. Brendan Lynch | Social Inclusion | PPN |
| Ms. Noelle O’Gara | Social Inclusion | PPN |
| Mr. Pat Benson | Community & Voluntary | PPN |
| Ms. Jean Finnerty – Resigned Aug 2023. Replaced by Mr. Billy Gallagher – Elected Sept 2023 | Community & Voluntary | PPN |

1 LECP – Sligo 2030: One Voice One Vision

Following the solid foundation laid by the first LECP, 2022 saw the continued work in developing the next LECP which is to act as a strategic framework for Sligo for the next 7 years. Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision (Sligo 2030) will be an integrated and strategic Economic, Social, Community and Spatial Framework – focusing on a modern Green and Smart Sligo.

KPMG FA Consultants are appointed to prepare the plan and substantial public engagement with community, committees and agencies has taken place. This framework will have regard to the new and revised LECP guidance providing for a broad focus and extensive stakeholder engagement. The new Plan will, with the benefit the 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.

2 Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 – 2023 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. In July 2022, it was announced by DRCD that the SICAP Programme 2018 – 2022 was extended by one year to the 31st December 2023.

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 - 2023 are as follows.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Disadvantaged Children and Families | People living in Disadvantaged Communities |
| Lifelong Learning opportunities | People with Disabilities |
| Isolated and Disadvantaged Women | Roma |
| Older People | The Disengaged from the Labour Market (Economically Inactive) |
| Emerging Needs Group* | Local Community Groups/Social Enterprises |
| Low Income Workers/ Households | The Unemployed and Underemployed |
| New Communities non-Ukrainian | Disadvantaged Young People (aged 15 – 24) |

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.

Progress under SICAP 2022

The allocated budget for 2022 was **€669,418 plus additional funding of €73,101 for Ukrainian Supports.**

Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG continue to address the needs and challenges facing all beneficiary types. In the annual progress report, it was noted there is a strong emphasis on collaboration throughout the report in terms of the delivery of the Annual Plan with particular emphasis on the approach used by the LDC in addressing the needs of displaced Ukrainians residing in the Lot.

Examples of collaborations of note in 2022 were:

- Ukrainian Response – Supporting the newly arrived Ukrainian Refugees by being active on the ground, acting as an intermediary at a local level providing linkages with other key stakeholders who can develop and deliver the appropriate supports required to respond to the needs of Ukrainian people arriving in the County.
- Mental health, Older People and new communities – collaborating with the HSE managing Active Age Grants, funding for intercultural workers in partnership with SICAP, managing of three Older Person Day Centres and delivery of Ageing Well programme with the Occupational Health Team. This has enabled HSE service facilitated in local communities to ensure that they are most accessible to those most marginalised.
- Community Response – Establishment of Ballymote Community Council –SLPCo development staff engaged with interested individuals in the local community to help set up a committee facilitating interested individuals to participate in a LEADER Funded Innovating Communities training programme and supported in setting up a constitution

and committee. This work resulted in identifying a need for a Men's Shed in the area which was subsequently set up.

- Supporting disadvantaged women and Isolated Women – Delivery of the 'Women's Hour' Programme meeting the needs of the many women who presented needing supports in the areas of confidence building, anxiety and stress control supports. The programme consisted of 6 weeks series of workshops on reducing anxiety, improving stress control, breathing exercise and sleep techniques.
- Low Income Families – Parenting Support Tubbercurry – SICAP Staff provided support to Tubbercurry FRC to run a Parenting Support programme with their Parent and Toddler group. Supports included venue rental, facilitator fees, recruitment and day to day running of the programme.

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 2022 Annual performance review targets under both KPIs (below) were exceeded, the LCDC approved the 2022 SICAP Annual Performance Review reports at their meeting on the 23rd of February 2022.

| Ref | Key Performance Indicator | Annual Target | Actuals as at 31/12/22 (From IRIS) | % Achieved |
|-------|---|---------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| KPI 1 | Total number of local community groups engaged under SICAP (in receipt of at least 2 interventions) | 38 | 42 | 105% |
| KPI 2 | Number of Individuals (aged 15 years upwards) assisted under SICAP on a one-to-one basis (in receipt of at least 2 interventions) | 366 | 570 | 156% |
| | Percentage of Individuals supported under KPI 2 living in disadvantaged areas (105 individuals) | 18% | 43.99% | |

Some samples below of SICAP collaborative projects in 2022:



Ukrainian Start Your Own Business Course – Northside Sligo



Men's Shed visit – Geevagh Mens Shed

Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee

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

Members on the Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee 2022 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) - 27.5.21 to 27.10.22
6. Mr. Billy Gallagher (PPN Community & Voluntary rep on LCDC) - nominated -27.10.22
7. Dr Connie Nell (PPN Environment rep on LCDC) nominated 27.5.21
8. Ms. Patricia Garland (HSE Rep on LCDC)
9. Ms. Dorothy Clarke (Chief Officer)

The Committee met on the following dates to discuss progress on SICAP in 2022 with meetings convened hybrid option:

16th February; 25th July; 7th October (Pobal also in attendance) and 17th of October.

The Department of Rural and community Development in conjunction with Pobal and the LCDCs will be rolling out a new SICAP Programme to cover the period 2023-2028. The LCDC will have a key role in the setting of targets and delivery of this programme.

Social Inclusion – other initiatives

The work of the LCDC and the thrust of the LECP 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.

Some specific projects during 2022 include the following:

Sligo Age Friendly Programme



The Sligo Age Friendly Programme is overseen by the Sligo Age Friendly Alliance which is Interagency in its membership. It is chaired by the Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council and includes the following agencies: Sligo County Council, Local Link, Muintir na Tire, Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership, Citizens Information Centre, ATU Sligo, An Garda Siochana and MSLETB. The Sligo Age Friendly Programme commenced working on the development of the Sligo Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2026 in quarter 2 of 2022. This saw in depth county wide consultation with older people on matters that are of concern to them.

An interagency workshop was held on the 28th of November 2022 with Dr Celia Keenaghan in Sligo Glasshouse. The workshop allowed for agency to address the issues raised at the consultations in a collaborative approach. Individual one to one meeting was held with Age Friendly Alliance members and the Sligo Age Friendly Programme Manager throughout 2022 continuing in 2023 as a follow up from the workshop. The first draft of the strategy was presented to the Age Friendly Alliance meeting on the 21st of December 2022 and was subsequently approved by all members. The Sligo Older Persons Council was launched on the 29th October 2022, in the Clayton Hotel during Positive Ageing Week.

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.



Pictured above are members of Sligo Age Friendly Alliance at a meeting held on 21st December 2023, in Sligo City Hall Council Chamber, to approve the First Draft Sligo Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2026.

Sligo Comhairle na nÓg

The Comhairle na nÓg is the recognised key national structure for young people aged 12-17 years old to participate in local decision-making in local authority areas. In Sligo, Foróige, won the tender to develop, organise, facilitate, and manage the Comhairle na nÓg on behalf of the Council. This is funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs through their Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund of €25,000 per annum.

Sligo Comhairle na nÓg held its AGM on 8th November 2022 at which new members were elected and ideas for including in the annual work plan were agreed by the general assembly. The 2022 AGM had the opportunity to be held in person after two years of being held remotely online, due to the Covid19 pandemic. The event was held in the Radisson Hotel & Spa, Ballinacra, Rosses Point, Sligo, and was hosted and co-ordinated by Foróige with the support of Sligo County Council and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). Representation from 11 of County Sligo's secondary schools attended as well as young people from community youth groups based in Sligo Town. There were 81 young people in attendance.

Cllr Martin Connolly was invited to open the event and spoke about the endless possibilities Comhairle na nÓg has to offer, and the expectation to see Sligo Comhairle na nÓg "go from strength to strength in future years". The three topics chosen for the Comhairle to focus on for 2023 were Mental Health, Transport, and youth facilities.



Sligo Comhairle Na nÓg AGM Oct 22 – Cllr Martin Connelly, Comhairle Na nÓg executive members, Tara Gavin – Comhairle Na nÓg

Africa Day 2022

Sligo Africa Day 2022 was hosted at The Model, Sligo. The event was a celebration and showcase of African food, fashion, craft, music and dance, of the Sligo African Community. An evening of fun workshops on singing, hair-braiding, and film, culminated with an address by the Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, food from Sligo Global Kitchen and musical entertainment.



Participants at the Sligo Africa Day Celebrations 2022



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

5. Rural Development Programme/LEADER

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) is a European programme which is overseen by LCDC's to support rural development by supporting communities and individuals to improve the quality of life of all rural dwellers. The programme is Funded by the EU through DRCD. The RDP 2014-2020 is complete, and in 2021 an extension programme 'RDP Transition Fund' was announced by DRCD extending the Programme to the 31st December, 2023.

The EU also announced an additional EURI Fund (European Union Recovery Fund) which was delivered in tandem to support rural community's response to the effects of the covid 19 pandemic, this also concludes on 31st December 2023. All funding will be committed by this date, but the Programme completion date is June 2024, to facilitate payment and completion of all projects. The overall budget for the RDP 2014-2020 is €7.6m with the additional Transition Programme funding of €2,261,896. All of these programmes are implemented by County Sligo LEADER Partnership with Sligo County Council responsible for the financial administration of the contract and the preparation of monitoring and oversight reports on behalf of the LCDC.

Sligo LAG met 7 times to the end of December 2022. In 2022 a total of 28 projects were approved by Sligo LAG to the value of €1,144,758.20. These projects cover a wide range of themes from the Local Development Strategy (LDS) including Rural Tourism, Enterprise Development, Basic Services for hard-to-reach communities, Broadband and Rural Youth.



LCDC/LAG Meeting in progress



Castle to Cave Camino – Funded under the Transitional LEADER Programme 2021-2022 – 16th April 2022

As the current Rural Development Programme and Transitional LEADER Programmes come to an end, 2023 will see the commencement of a new LEADER Programme 2023-2027. On 27th October, 2022 Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced the details of the €180 million LEADER Programme for 2023-2027. The 2023-2027 LEADER funding allocation for Sligo has been set at €6.1 million.

The major investment will support a range of locally led rural development and enterprise projects over the next five years. The 2023-2027 LEADER funding allocation will be delivered by a Local Action Group (LAG) led approach working to a new Local Development Strategy (LDS) similar to the previous Programme, with new indicative LEADER Themes as follows:

1. Economic Development and Job Creation

The need to support the development of the rural economy has been identified as a critical challenge in both the needs analysis and Ireland's five-year rural development policy - Our Rural Future (2021-2025). Areas of focus within this theme might include:

- The Green Economy
- Agricultural Diversification (e.g. glamping on farm)
- Rural Tourism & Recreation
- Enterprise Development
- Rural Food Production
- Social, Community & Cooperative Enterprises

2. Rural Infrastructure & Social Inclusion

A central focus will be the need to not just support economic development but also to ensure that social inclusion is supported. Ireland is becoming increasingly diverse and it is important to embrace this diversity and ensure that future community development recognises the needs of all members of society. Areas of focus under this theme might include:

- Rural Infrastructure
- Accessible Services
- Optimising Digital Connectivity
- Rural Youth

3. Sustainable Development of Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

While recognising that climate change mitigation and adaptation is a cross-cutting issue and in this context will be considered for all LEADER interventions, there were a number of specific areas that emerged from the needs analysis process, these might include:

- Sustainable Development of Rural Environment
- Climate Change Capacity Building
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption



Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development

6. Public Participation Network (PPN)

2022 was another busy year for Sligo PPN and saw a hybrid model to programme delivery with the reintroduction of face-to-face events.



Elections and Representation

- Age Friendly – 2 PPN reps were nominated to the newly established Sligo Age Friendly Alliance – Maria Molloy and Ann Donegan
- Sligo PPN secretariat – Joan Swift from Sligo Cycles replaced Patricia Gardiner as environmental representative
- LCDC – Community Representative Jean Finnerty stepped down from her role as rep on Sligo LCDC and was replaced by Billy Gallagher from Cartron View Point Residents Association

- PPN environment rep Joan Swift represented the network on the OECD panel for the discussion and launch of the new national report “Towards Irish transport systems that work for the people and planet”
- Pippa Black, Social inclusion rep on the Secretariat and SPC1 was elected to the National PPN Secretariat and the newly established Roadmap Implementation group, charged with the implementation of the recommendations in the Mazars report
- The Sligo PPN Resource worker represents the national Resource Worker Network on the PPN National Advisory Committee (NAG). They have also been nominated to the Cross Sectoral committee for Community Development

Consultation, Information and Projects

- Sligo PPN were selected as one of 10 PPNs to host the pilot Climate Conversations programme with Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. This explored key priorities for Sligo groups in terms of climate action, highlighted best practise and generated new project ideas. The combined feedback from across the network forms part of the research for the National Climate Action Plan.
- Sligo PPN supported the roll out of the national Streetfeast initiative, and 12 events took place across County Sligo.
- As part of the Sustainable Development Goals week, Sligo PPN worked with the Rivers Trust and LAWPRO to host an information evening aimed at exploring the option of establishing a Rivers Trust initiative in County Sligo.
- We all acknowledge the pandemic has had a huge impact on the community sector. Sligo PPN undertook a programme of reaching out directly to every single member group to check on their status following re-opening. The process sought to confirm that groups are still in operation, to update contact details and to identify emerging needs and areas of support needed.
- In 2022, the Social Inclusion college of the PPN successfully applied for Sligo to be designated under the Autism Friendly Towns programme and social inclusion reps are currently working with local groups to develop the initiative.
- A new thematic group was established in 2022 focused on housing issues in the county. The network is made up of a range of PPN groups with an interest in this area. The network has secured the support of Social Justice Ireland to work with them to develop a series of policy positions on behalf of the PPN.
- Sligo PPN ran a photography competition in mid '22 aimed at both raising the profile of our member groups and building up a bank of images for use across Sligo PPN communications. The competition featured 2 special categories with Minister Joe O'Brien and CE Martin Lydon selecting their favourite images.





- In October, the PPN launched their Environmental Action Academy toolkit for community groups developed in partnership with Sligo ATU and Sligo Environmental Network. The aim is to support groups to take simple steps to enhance their every day operation to become more environmentally friendly.
- The social inclusion college of the PPN devised a programme 'A day in the life' looking at the challenges the various groups in society navigating the physical environment and service delivery in Sligo.

The Dream for Our Land is an initiative that brings together the arts and the environment in creating a poetic vision for a just transition to a sustainable future. The project is led by acclaimed poet Stephen Murphy with input from member of our PPN groups.



National Interest

- The first PPN conference in 3 years took place in October 2022 in Laois.
- Following the release of the Mazars report a national initiative is now taking place looking at the structure of PPNs and how they operate. A Roadmap Implementation team has been established to devise a plan regarding the translation of recommendations from the Mazars report into practical action.

7. PEACEPLUS Programme



The PEACEPLUS Programme is managed by the Sp (SEUPB) and builds on previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. PEACEPLUS aims to contribute to a more prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. This will be achieved by funding activities that promote peace and reconciliation and contribute to the cross-border economic and territorial development of the programme area.

Sligo County Council has been awarded indicative funding of €3.604 million to develop and implement a **Co-designed¹ Local Community Peace Action Plan** (Action Plan) under Investment Area 1.1. The plan will be built on three core themes:

1. Local community regeneration and transformation: transformation and re-imaging of individual or collective areas within a community in a manner which challenges initial perceptions and increases levels of shared pride.
2. Thriving and peaceful communities: to build the capacity of local organisations through cross community collaboration.
3. Celebrating culture and diversity: to build, improve and sustain relationships between and within communities by addressing issues of trust, prejudice, and intolerance.

The resulting plan forms the basis of application to SEUPB from Sligo County council.

Sligo Local Community Development Committee has responsibility for the oversight of the Programme and established a sub-committee, Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership, to oversee the implementation of the Programme. It was agreed that the Partnership would comprise of 16 representatives from the following sectors:

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Pillar 1 Elected Members (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair LCDC Ballymote-Tubbercurry MD Sligo-Drumcliff Sligo-Strandhill | <p>Pillar 2 Relevant Statutory Bodies (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSE MSLETB TULSA/CYPSC Sligo Council Executive Member |
| <p>Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership</p> | |

¹ The co-design model is an approach based on participation, where the people taking part in and benefiting from a planned action are equal partners in the planning and design process of these actions.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Pillar 3 Social Partners (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographic • Community Representatives • Environment • Civic Society | <p>Pillar 4 Social Partners (4)</p> <p>PEACEPLUS Target groups and underrepresented groups sought via open call and through Sligo Public Participation Network</p> |
|---|--|

During 2022, the establishment of the Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership, and tendering for external expertise to support and facilitate development of the Action Plan formed the focus of work. Appointment of a staff member with responsibility for PEACEPLUS in Sligo and reporting to the LCDC took place in October 2023. The official call for applications from SEUPB with accompanying funding criteria detail was postponed until 2023.



Working on the Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plan, in Tech Laignhe, Tubbercurry.

8. Healthy Ireland Fund



Healthy Ireland Strategic plan (2021-25)

Healthy Ireland is a Government funded initiative and is the national strategy aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of everyone living in Ireland. The purpose of the Healthy Ireland Fund is to support Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in delivering actions which will improve health and wellbeing, in line with Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 – 2025. This is the National Framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Ireland. The Framework aims to bring a concerted focus on life-long

wellbeing, prevention of illness, it seeks to reduce health inequalities, address the settings in which health and wellbeing is impacted, and emphasises the need to empower people and communities to better look after their own health and wellbeing.

The design of the new Healthy Ireland Strategic plan (2021-25), HIF Round 4 has been informed by consultations with various Healthy Ireland stakeholders at both national and local level. Through this process, Pobal has endeavoured to address challenges identified and learnings experienced by LCDC's in administering previous rounds. As a result Round 4 represents a more evidenced-based outcomes led approach, with a longer 3-year timeframe and gives LCDC's more discretion to make changes to both the work being undertaken and how the budget is being spent. The grant period for Round 4 runs from 1 June 2022 to 31 December 2025, with the outcomes led approach to be delivered from 2023-2025. LCDCs funding for Actions under Round 4 is in the sum of €195,000.

Proposals for programmes and activities must comply with the goals in Healthy Ireland. A Framework for improved Health and Wellbeing includes the following :

- HIF Planning
- Mental Health
- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Sexual Health
- Spaces and Places for Health and Wellbeing

The new strategic plan for Sligo County was developed in an inclusive, collaborative, and effective process to ensure the active involvement of statutory bodies, community & voluntary organisations, and individuals from through the region in informing the preparation of this Healthy Sligo strategy. The development of the strategy was undertaken by the Healthy Sligo Coordinator in conjunction with County Sligo Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) beginning in early 2022. Public engagement began in late 2022 with the launching of an online survey that was widely promoted by Sligo County Council, Sligo Public Participation Network (PPN), Sligo Business Improvement District (BID), HSE, Sligo Leitrim CYPSC, primary schools, and other organisations through social media channels, websites, emailing's, etc. The survey attracted more than 615 responses, of which 517 were from individuals, 53 from community and voluntary organisations, and 16 from government bodies. Respondents included adolescents and young people (24%), children (5%), people 65 years and older (11%), Roma and Traveller community (3%), people living with disabilities and chronic illness (10%), people experiencing disadvantage (10%), and asylum seekers and refugees (4%). In addition, one-to-one and group consultation was also conducted, as well as extensive desktop research and the review of Round 3 funded initiatives. A number of facilitated workshops were held between October 2022 to December 2022.

Some examples of projects that took place in late 2022 are as follows:

- the Connect Café in the Model which focused on mental health, nutrition, physical activity while connecting with people. The concept behind the café is to meet great people, sit and chat, enjoying a cuppa and all the while connecting with people. Two very successful Connect cafés took place with over 200 attending.
- In keeping with the LCDCs commitment to supporting diversity, Healthy Sligo was delighted to support Diversity Sligo in celebrating 21 years of working in Sligo. The anniversary was open to the public and in attendance were people from Ireland, Ukraine, South Africa, Sudan, Nigeria, Congo, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Iraq, Somalia and more. Funders, volunteers, and supporters were also in attendance. The Chairperson Nike Ugun gave a brief introduction of the history of the organisation and the Family coordinator within Direct Provision gave an overview of weekly services rendered. There was a colourful cultural display of traditional outfits and traditional customs to enhance the celebration. Refreshment was served by Sligo Global Kitchen, and included dishes from Ukraine, Ireland and Africa.
- Diversity Sligo also delivered a baking initiative called Sweet Proposal in Globe House. This project provided opportunities for new residents of Globe House, particularly new residents with no established links in the wider community. It provided opportunities to engage in a wider conversation regarding access to education while promoting information that facilitated their participation in healthy living and positive well-being. The project also encouraged a broaden engagement with the wider community.
- Sligo County Council recognised and supported the continuation and development of Breast-Feeding Friendly Sligo through promotional radio advertising and interviews using podcasts. This initiative is supported by Sligo County Council who recognise the importance of this campaign and its success to date.
- The Community Safety register is another initiative from Round 3 saw further progression and is developing incrementally.
- Providing programmes that support families and young people with their mental health through the Family Resource Centre was also significant in 2022 and recognises the need for such supports in the County by the LCDC. Working with sporting Clubs to support inclusion of children with a disability was also supported in 2022.



9. Funding Opportunities - Community Activities Fund

In late 2021 the Department of Rural and Community Development announced the Community Activities Fund (CAF). This new €9m fund provided by the Government to support community and voluntary groups impacted by Covid-19. The allocation to Sligo LCDC under the scheme was €268,168.

This once-off fund allocated under the Department's Community Enhancement Programme, built on the most recent iteration of that scheme by providing funding to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas with Non-Capital (Operational Costs) Grants towards their non-pay running costs for example utility bills (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges) or other non-pay operating costs for example rental/lease costs, insurance bills. Similar to the CEP Scheme groups were also able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities or purchase equipment with Capital Grants.

The CAF scheme was promoted widely across County Sligo through the PPN Network, social media channels of SCC along with notice published in the local press in early 2022. A record number of applications were received to this and a total of 123 groups were successful in their applications(s) to this latest round of funding. Average Capital Grant value was €1,825. The average Operational grant sum was higher at approximately €2,500 to take into account the new focus in this scheme to assist groups with their recurring running costs.

10. The Economic Agenda

In addition to the extensive Community agenda which the LCDC oversees the committee can include in its report other areas 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. Therefore, the LCDC has kept a keen interest on the development of the economic elements of the LECP, on funding opportunities generally, on inter agency proposals and the Sligo: Live Invest Visit Branding initiative.

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

Sligo Economic Forum

Sligo Economic Forum was set up in 2017 and it's main focus in 2022 was the oversight of the Sligo 2030 strategy development and the concept of how Sligo can progress as a smart city

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 sector. The Chair of the SEF is Mr. Tommy Higgins. 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.

Sligo 2030: One Voice One Vision

The interagency work lead by the Council has continued to work in partnership with Sligo Economic Forum, the strategic Policy Committee and the LCDC, in the development of the overarching Strategic Framework to guide the development of all of County Sligo. '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.

Sligo: Live Invest Visit Brand

2022 saw the refreshing of the Sligo brand in line with the emerging emphasis of the Smart and Green agenda as part of the development of Sligo 2030, the brand taglines were updated to:

- ***Live Green***, Supporting Sligo as a socially inclusive and sustainable place that cherishes its vibrant communities.
- ***Invest Smart***, Supporting Sligo as a champion of innovative growth and smart development.
- ***Visit Sustainably***, Celebrating Sligo as a sustainable tourism destination offering rich culture and heritage and a unique natural landscape.

During 2022 a renewed focus on promoting the **Sligo.** brand was initiated. This included generating local brand awareness by placing brand signage at strategic locations around Sligo including Hughes Bridge, Pearse Road, Sligo Town bus stops, County Hall and at the Sligo Rovers Showgrounds, developing a suite of videos and taking opportunities to promote Sligo at local and national locations and events, and engaging with the Sligo Diaspora.



Sligo. brand billboard Pearse Rd route into Sligo Town



Sligo. brand sign on Hughes Bridge

The second **Sligo.** brand video released during 2022 promotes the Invest pillar of the Sligo. brand and was launched on Wednesday 29th June on Sligo.ie and partner social media channels.



"Why not make Sligo yours?" video launch in ATU, Sligo



Sligo LIVE GREEN
INVEST SMART
VISIT SUSTAINABLY

Sligo Diaspora Newsletter
Issue No. 1

Sligo: Live Green, Invest Smart, Visit Sustainably

Andy Rogers
Sligo Business Network in London

Sligo Walks
Website featuring over 60 walking trails

The Sligo Brand
Promoting Sligo as a world-class place to Live, Invest & Visit

NEW SLIGO DIASPORA NEWSLETTER

24-page Newsletter

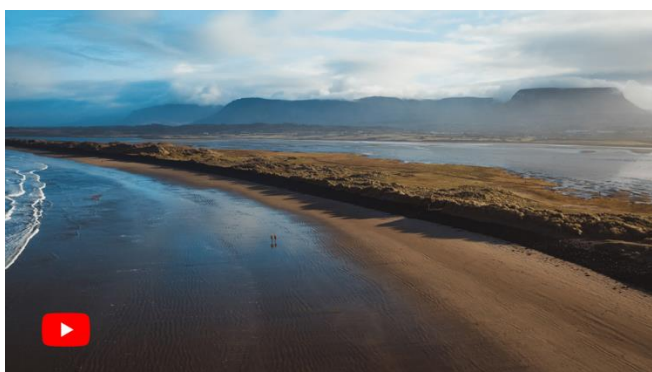
Featured Articles

Download from Sligo.ie

sligo.ie/visit/diaspora

Tourism Development

Sligo Co Council's role in tourism increased in 2022 which saw the undertaking of the Visit Sligo marketing campaign aimed at promoting Sligo as a world class place to visit all-year round was launched by the Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, and continuing to support festivals and events, and local live performances.




sligo St Patrick's Festival
To the Waters and the Wild

Thursday 17th March:
2pm: The Sunday Roast Band
4pm: Jamie Callaghan & Shane Benjamin
5pm: The Ennis Brothers
6.15pm: Peter Mooney
7.30pm: Kerrie Herry & 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

ES ADM Sligo.ie Sligo BID Plug Fáilte Ireland

Screenshot from *Sligo: Live Invest Visit* online video – “Visit Sligo”, and the St Patrick's Day 2022 festival poster.

11. Conclusion

The LCDC has achieved another successful year in 2022 and continued with its busy work programme. While it has many programmes 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 engagement of 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.

