

## Sligo Local Community Development Committee 2023 Annual Report



## Contents

<b>Contents</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Foreword from the Chairperson of Sligo LCDC</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>A Statement by the Chief Officer, Sligo LCDC</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Local Community Deveelopment Committee (LCDC)</b>	<b>5-7</b>
<b>LECP – Sligo 2030: One Voice One Vision</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)</b>	<b>8-11</b>
<b>Social Inclusion – Other Initatives</b>	<b>11-13</b>
<b>Rural Development Programme/LEADER</b>	<b>14-15</b>
<b>Public Participation Network</b>	<b>16-17</b>
<b>PEACEPLUS Programme</b>	<b>18-20</b>
<b>Healthy Ireland Fund</b>	<b>20-22</b>
<b>Funding Opportunities – Community Activities Fund</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Economic Agenda</b>	<b>23-27</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>28</b>

### **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 working collaboratively with other stakeholders, 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.

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 Support Fund allocated under the DRCD Community Enhancement Programme, and other community funds, the Healthy Ireland Programme fund and the Sligo PEACEPLUS Programme.

During 2023 many months of hard work, by LCDC members and Support Staff, culminated in the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision.

As Chairperson of the LCDC, I wish to acknowledge the ongoing commitment and work of all members of the LCDC and Support Staff during 2023.

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 continued work during 2024 in making Sligo a better place in which to live, work and invest.



***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 2023. This report outlines progress in respect of the various LCDC functions over 2023 including a review of progress generally, details of meetings held, and details of the oversight, management and collaboration in relation to public-funded programmes under the LCDC's remit. These include the LEADER Programme, SICAP, Healthy Ireland Fund, a range of Community grants and the PEACEPLUS Programme.

Sligo LCDC and its subgroups have had another busy and productive year during 2023. 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.

As mentioned by the Chairperson, Cllr. Dara Mulvey, the **Local Economic and Community Plan Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision** was launched by Minister Joe O'Brien, Minister of State for Community Development, Integration and Charities at City Hall, Sligo on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Sligo County Council were the first Local Authority in the country to adopt a new Local Economic and Community Plan.

I wish to acknowledge the co-operation of all 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 who joined the Committee, during 2023.

The Transitional LEADER Programme which commenced in 2021, continued to work with and support community activity during 2023. In Quarter 4 of 2022 Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced the details of the €180 million LEADER Programme for 2023-2027. Sligo received a funding allocation of €6.1 million for the new programme. Delivery of the new programme was put out to tender during 2023 and Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG were the successful tenderers.

The development and implementation of the Healthy Ireland Programme under Round 4 Funding advanced in 2023. This saw commencement of activities in local communities under two indicators: 1. Mental Health & Wellbeing and 2. Physical Activity.

During 2023 work progressed with Sligo LCDC, the Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership and relevant stakeholders to co-design the Sligo PEACEPLUS Plan 2023-2027 for submission to the Special European Union Programmes Body for programme funding of €3.6m.

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 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.

# Sligo Local Community Development Committee 2023 Annual Report

## Dates and attendance at LCDC Meetings

LCDC/LAG meetings took place on the following dates in 2023 – meetings were held virtually/hybrid arrangement.

<b>Attendance of Sectors represented on Sligo LCDC at meetings during 2023</b>							
<b>Sector Represented</b>	<b>23rd Feb</b>	<b>6th April</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> Sept</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>
Elected Member	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Elected Member	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Elected Member	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Local Authority Official	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Local Authority Official	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
State Agency - DEASP	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
State Agency – HSE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State Agency - MSLETB	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Local Development Company	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trade Union	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Business	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Farming	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PPN - Environment	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
PPN - Community & Voluntary	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PPN - Community & Voluntary	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
PPN - Social Inclusion	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PPN - Social Inclusion	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

# Sligo Local Community Development Committee 2023 Annual Report

## Sligo LCDC Membership 2023

<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 – (Vice Chairperson)	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Mr. Martin Lydon – (Chief Executive)	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Reilly – Resigned October 2023 Replaced by Mr. Liam Kiely – December 2023	Local Government / Local Enterprise Office	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Kennedy	State Agency	Dept. Of Employment Affairs & Social Protection (DEASP)
Ms. Patricia Garland – resigned January 2023 Replaced by Ms. Cara O’Neill – March 2023	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 – resigned December 23. Replacement TBC	Environmental Interests	Environment Pillar (PPN)
Mr. Brendan Lynch – resigned August 2023 Replaced by Ms. Bernadette Maughan – September 2023	Social Inclusion	PPN
Ms. Noelle O’Gara	Social Inclusion	PPN
Mr. Pat Benson	Community & Voluntary	PPN
Mr. Billy Gallagher	Community & Voluntary	PPN

## 2. LECP – Sligo 2030: One Voice One Vision

The Local Economic and Community Plan Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision was launched by Minister Joe O'Brien, Minister of State for Community Development, Integration and Charities at City Hall, Sligo on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The gala launch was attended by elected members, Parliamentary reps, agencies, business and community across Sligo, including Government Departments. The Development of Sligo 2030 'One Voice One Vision' is the collaboration of the work of the Council, all the Agencies delivering services in the county, and the Sligo Community. Sligo County Council were the first Local Authority in the country to adopt their new Local Economic and Community Plan.



Minister Joe O'Brien, distinguished guests and Sligo County Council staff at the launch of the LECP – Sligo 2030: One Voice One Vision

## 3. 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 2023**

The allocated budget for 2023 was **€689,501 plus additional funding of €167,473 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 2023 were:

- Geevagh Community Health & Wellbeing Project** - In April Geevagh Community Health and Wellbeing event was launched. This event is being run in association with Geevagh LGFA and the Lidl One Good Club initiative, was aimed at supporting a local group in a rural isolated area, to generate awareness and support for mental health across all people in this rural community. Lidl One Good Club is run in association with the LGFA and Jigsaw. The One Good Club programme is based on Jigsaw's '5-a-day for your mental health' framework that provides a simple set of evidence-based actions for people to improve their wellbeing.
- Advocacy and Support for New Communities:** In order to assist refugees and asylum seekers navigate the often difficult demands of our social system we provide one-to-one supports on any issue where they cannot find these through other means. Very often they come to us in a stressful or confused state not knowing how to deal with the obstacles presented by various bureaucratic requirements.
- Disability Access to Lifelong Learning** - In consultation with frontline disability services and people with disabilities themselves a disability drama course was developed. This builds on the previous development work using drama with people with disabilities to promote self advocacy and self confidence.



## Sligo Local Community Development Committee 2023 Annual Report

- **Women's Car Maintenance** – women's confidence building workshops through car maintenance in South Sligo.

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 2023 Annual performance review targets under both KPIs (below) were exceeded, the LCDC approved the 2023 SICAP Annual Performance Review reports at their meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2024.

Ref	Key Performance Indicator	Annual Target	Actuals as at 31/12/23 (From IRIS)	% Achieved
KPI 1	Total number of local community groups engaged under SICAP (in receipt of at least 2 interventions)	38	43	113%
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	669	183%
	Percentage of Individuals supported under KPI 2 living in disadvantaged areas (105 individuals)	18%	38.52%	

### Some samples below of SICAP collaborative projects in 2023:



**Rosses Point Sailing Course – Rosses Point Sligo**



**Ukrainian Christmas Night – Riverstown Folk Park**

### 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 2023 were as follows:

1. Cllr Dara Mulvey (Chair)
2. Mr. John Kennedy (DEASP rep on LCDC)
3. Mr. Peter Egan (MSLETB rep on LCDC)
4. Mr. Brendan Lynch-(PPN Social Inclusion rep on LCDC)

## Sligo Local Community Development Committee 2023 Annual Report

5. Mr. Billy Gallagher (PPN Community & Voluntary rep on LCDC)
6. Dr Connie Nell (PPN Environment rep on LCDC)
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 2023 with meetings convened hybrid option:

*15<sup>th</sup> February; 22<sup>nd</sup> June; 14<sup>th</sup> September and 30<sup>th</sup> November.*

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.

### **4. 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 2023 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 Síochána and MSLETB.



The Sligo Age Friendly strategy 2023 -2026 was launched on the 08<sup>h</sup> of December 2023 in Sligo City Hall. Following the launch of the strategy a number of actions which were contributed by members of the Sligo Age Friendly Alliance have already been implemented some examples are the SSPR and Sligo Older Peoples Social Walk in October, Sligo County Council Walkability Audit and Tubbercurry feedback group. The Implementation and monitoring of actions will be a key focus for the 2024 Age Friendly Alliance.



Pictured above are members of Sligo Age Friendly Alliance, Sligo Older Peoples Council , Age Friendly Ireland and SCC Staff at the Sligo Age Friendly Strategy launch, City Hall

### **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 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at which new members were elected and ideas for including in the annual work plan were agreed by the general assembly. The 2023 AGM was held in the Radisson Hotel & Spa, Ballincar, 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). The topics chosen for the Comhairle to focus on for 2024 was Drugs.

In 2023 The Sligo Comhairle Na nÓg collaborated with C&ED to avail of unallocated funding from the Dormant Accounts LGBTI Fund. Using the funding the young people worked with studio Meala and created a video called “here for you” The initiative is to raise awareness of the supports and services in Sligo town and online to the LGBTI+ community. It aims to help young people realise that that they are not alone and that there are services to help young people who are struggling with their identity, or just still finding their way.

The video was shortlisted at the National LAMA awards for best Mental Health Initiatives with 6 other Local Authorities and subsequently won the category. The Sligo Comhairle Na nÓg and Foróige staff joined the Cathaoirleach Cllr Gerard Mullaney and Staff of Sligo County Council in Sligo City Hall to celebrate the win in February.



**Sligo Comhairle Na nÓg celebrate their LAMA award in Sligo City Hall with Cathaoirleach Cllr Gerard Mullaney and SCC Staff, in Sligo City Hall chamber.**

### **Africa Day 2023**

Sligo Africa Day was hosted on the 25th of May 2023 in The Model Sligo. Sligo County Council planned and managed the event in collaboration with Diversity Sligo who support asylum seekers and refugees living in Sligo. This year focused on schools and children's activities. 3 schools attended and performed songs, poems and displayed their artwork. Diversity Sligo brought artefacts for the children to see and learn about. Taiwo from the ATU also gave an educational presentation on Africa. Aremoja women's group and melody drummers performed on the day. Sligo Global Kitchen provided African cuisine to the children and members of the public attending. Eileen Magner from RTE children's news attended and covered the event.

Given the number of people who attended the event was a great success and reflects the diverse culture in Sligo. **Photo below shows participants at the Sligo Africa Day Celebrations 2023**





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 Employment, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020

## 5. Rural Development Programme/LEADER

During 2023 Sligo LCDC/LAG continued to see out delivery of the current LEADER Programme 2014-2022 in the County which witnessed more of the projects funded under the programme come to fruition. As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, 215 projects had been approved by the LCDC/LAG to the value of over €7.9m. 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.



**Official Opening of new dressing rooms at Sligo Rugby Club December 2023 – Funded under the Transitional LEADER Programme**

In 2023 the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 was launched with an allocation for County Sligo of €6,054,309. The Local Action Group (LAG) submitted a Draft Local Development Strategy to the DRCD on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Following requests for clarifications, the Local Development Strategy was approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development in November 2023 with Sligo LCDC as LAG, Sligo Leader Partnership CLG as Implementing Partner and Sligo County Council as Lead Financial Partner to deliver the new programme for the coming years. Subsequently, the funding agreement between all parties was signed in December 2023.

This 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) working to the 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 include:

- The Green Economy
- Agricultural Diversification
- 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 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. Areas of focus under this theme include:

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

## 6. Public Participation Network (PPN)

### 2023 Projects



Public  
Participation  
Network  
Sligo

- The Sligo Community Expo took place on 4th May. Sligo PPN worked with An Garda Síochána, Age Friendly, Healthy Sligo and relevant organisations to host the event.
- Sligo PPN worked with Sligo FRC and Europe Direct to host the 'Celebrating the EU community' event in the Glasshouse hotel in June. This event was part of the EU50 programme and was held with the intention of highlighting the experiences of people from the EU community who have made Sligo their home.
- Sligo PPN are supported the national roll out of the Street Feast programme 2023. Twenty two celebrations took place across the county.
- The PPN collaborated with ATU, SCC and key local organisations to host a Community Supports and Information evening on the 12th September in the Clayton. The event introduced groups to environmental funding on offer in the county, how they can source community finance and where to go for support to develop and implement initiatives that form part of the solution to the climate change crisis.
- On 19th September, Sligo Disabled Persons Organisation partnered with Sligo PPN to launch the campaign Navigating Ordinary Things initiative, a campaign aimed at highlighting, via social media, the barriers that exist for disabled people when trying to access services in Sligo town.
- Sligo Autism Friendly committee began the implementation of a 3 year plan for the county. Key initial projects included Autism Friendly training, Autism friendly audits and mentoring to businesses. The committee and PPN staff worked with the Sligo Radisson Blu Hotel on the creation of a sensory and autism friendly experience within the hotel grounds.
- In November Sligo PPN held a transport consultation to explore the community needs around active and sustainable travel. Speakers included Joan Swift, Paul O'Rourke, Sligo County Council and John Carr, Local Link. There was a facilitated session to gather feedback and ideas and was used to formulate into a recommendation report.
- Sligo PPN held its plenary and participatory planning session on 8th November. The event featured formal plenary business such as presentation of annual report and ratification of elections, but also featured a participatory planning workshop which saw PPN members devise the 2024 workplan and budget for the network.
- Sligo PPN contributed to and is featured in the newly launched Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making.  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/bcc24-a-guide-for-inclusive-community-engagement-in-local-planning-and-decision-making/>

### Power to Change

This 3-year programme is a joint partnership between Sligo PPN and ATU. It is funding under strand 2 of the Community Climate Action Programme

- PTC supported 5 groups across the community with one-to-one mentoring and support to implement positive climate action as well as hosting a series of community information workshops.



## Sligo Local Community Development Committee 2023 Annual Report

- The programme met with local primary schools on the development of an SDGs workbook which is to be piloted with a range of classes to raise awareness of the goals through the education system. The booklet was completed in 2023 and will be piloted across 2024.
- As part of the community education section of the Power to Change initiative, Sligo PPN worked with ATU Sligo to host Community Woodland Day in October. This was the first in a series of community workshops and the aim of the event was to engage the community sector with native woodland planting. This was followed by 2 further workshops in December, the first online exploring community rainwater harvesting, the second in Sligo Childrens Community Garden exploring composting and sensory garden development.

### Representatives

- Aisling Smith, nominated by Sligo DPO, become the newest member of the Sligo PPN Secretariat in October
- Roux Mellet was elected to Sligo Public Arts Steering Committee by Sligo Autism Friendly programme.
- Bernadette Maughan from Sligo Traveller Support Group replaced Brendan Lynch on Sligo LCDC.



## 7. PEACEPLUS Programme



*The Programme is a funding partnership between the European Union, the Governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland, and the Northern Ireland Executive and will be administered by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).*

The PEACEPLUS Programme aims to contribute to a more prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland 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 was allocated funding of €3.604 million to develop and implement a **Co-designed<sup>1</sup> Local Community Peace Action Plan** (Action Plan) under Investment Area 1.1. This allocation was subject to submission and approval of Action Plan originally due by 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (subsequently extended to 28 March 2024 by SEUPB for all applicants). The co-design of the Action Plan formed the basis of work undertaken during 2023 and was realised through a number of milestones and actions.

Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership. This was fully formed with representation as per table. 1. The full Partnership met on 5 occasions during 2023 with a Working group formed to shortlist feasible ideas for development meeting on additional dates in July and August. Terms of Reference for the Partnership were agreed in April 2023 with a minor amendment re temporary Chairing added in November.

Pillar 1 - Elected Members	Pillar 2 - Relevant Statutory Bodies
Cllr. Dara Mulvey, Ballymote-Tubbercurry Cllr. Declan Bree, Sligo-Strandhill Cllr. Dónal Gilroy, Sligo-Drumcliff Cllr. Paul Taylor, Ballymote-Tubbercurry	Patricia Garland, Health Service Executive Mary Brodie, Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education Training Board Maeve Whittington, TUSLA/CYPSC (Youth & Social Services) Brian Flynn, Sligo County Council Executive Member
<b>Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership</b>	
Pillar 3 - Social Partners - Geographic, Community Representatives, Environment, Civic Society	Pillar 4 - Social Partners - PEACEPLUS Target groups 75/underrepresented groups
Aidan Doyle, Sligo Chamber (Business) Kathleen Henry, Irish Farmers Association Pat Fallon, ICTU (Trade Unions) Fintan Kennedy/John Feerick, Sligo LEADER	Liam Boland, Ballymote GAA (Sport/Community) Stephen Conway, Tus Nua (Conflict legacy/Community) Tara Dolan Mbongue, Aremoja Women's Group (Migrant Women/ Community) Trish Fallon, Havin a Laugh (Mental Health/Community)

1. The co-design mode 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.

## Sligo Local Community Development Committee 2023 Annual Report

### Plan Development

The foundations for developing the Action Plan were laid in quarter 1 by establishing relationships with target groups, the final formation of the Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership and their initiation meeting in February, and appointment of Pinnacle Growth Group and Third Sector Connect to support development of the Plan. The consultants were appointed through open tender process.

Public Information Sessions were held across the county and online during March and April to provide communities with an understanding of the Co-design process and of the parameters of the fund itself and how it is delivered. These were followed by Co-design facilitated events in each of the Sligo Municipal Districts at the beginning of May at times chosen to optimise engagement.

Date	Time	Venue
Tues. 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Cliffoney Community Hall, Cliffoney
Wed. 3 <sup>rd</sup> May,	11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Council Chamber, City Hall, Sligo
Wed. 3 <sup>rd</sup> May,	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Teach Laighne, Tubbercurry
Thurs. 4 <sup>th</sup> May,	11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Council Chamber, City Hall, Sligo
Thurs. 4 <sup>th</sup> May,	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Northside Community Centre, Sligo

These were advertised in local press and radio and promoted through the Sligo County Council and Public Participation Network social media channels. Targeted email invitations were sent to over 1000 addresses including elected members, Sligo County Council Staff, LCDC, PEACEPLUS Partnership, Sligo PPN members, identified stakeholders, and other interested parties. The co-design events were supplemented with an online survey through Consult Sligo and advertised facility for receipt of written submissions.

Over 160 people, many representing wider communities and groups, took part in the Co-design process, one-to-one meetings, online survey, and written submissions with good engagement and ideas generation throughout.

The Call for **Investment Area 1.1 – Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plan** was issued from SEUPB on Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup> with a closing date for submissions of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023.



All project proposals were collated and assessed against the socio-economic analysis for Sligo, local and national policy documents, and the PEACEPLUS themes to produce a long list of projects that was subsequently considered and refined by the Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership into a shortlist of ideas for further development. This development process involved detailed consideration of each proposal, the delivery mechanisms involved, the estimated costs, its alignment PEACEPLUS criteria, who benefits and how, etc.

At the Partnership's meeting of October 2023, the development process led to merging of suitable projects and further removal of proposals that could now be seen to be unworkable due to scale or duplication of existing projects. The process was on target for application submission by December 2023 and an additional meeting was scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> November to receive detailed overview of projects in development with estimated budgets.

The Funding body, SEUPB, issued correspondence on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to all local authorities developing Programme Investment Area 1.1, Along with providing clarification points regarding application content required, a new and additional deadline for submission of application on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 was provided to allow "additional time to achieve state of readiness for capital projects". Following careful deliberation, it was agreed to avail of this later submission date.

### 8. Healthy Ireland Round 4

Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013–2025, is the

national Framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone living in Ireland.



The LCDC has primary responsible for the implementation of the Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4 and implementation of the Healthy Sligo Strategy. The LCDC established the Healthy Sligo Sub Committee to support and make recommendations to it in relation to the Programme.

Following extensive consultation and research a 3-year Healthy Ireland Fund Strategy for Sligo was developed for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. In the development of the strategy Sligo County Council adopted an inclusive, collaborative process to ensure the active involvement of statutory bodies, community & voluntary organisations, and individuals from the county to inform the preparation of the strategy.

The indicators identified are as follows:

#### **Mental Health**

Providing programmes that support families and young people with their mental health through the Ballymote Family Resource Centre recognises the need for such supports in the County by the LCDC. Healthy Ireland will be engaging young people and older teenagers through the Community Training workshop for participation in The Mindfulness program developed under the Programme.

#### **Stronger for Longer.**

Targeting men and women over the age of 50, the Programme helps to build strength and fitness in a fun, professionally supported programme. It aims to increase physical activity and encourages participation in strength and conditioning based exercise continually in addition

## Sligo Local Community Development Committee 2023 Annual Report

to the weekly programme. The Healthy Club Programme has hosted and supported Stronger for Longer in partnership with SSRP with the venue being St. Brigid's Hall, Tubbercurry.

- **Increase in % of adults & children meeting physical activity guidelines.**
  - Older people
  - Disadvantaged communities
  - Young people and children
- **Increase in individual's level of positive mental health as per Energy and Vitality Index**
  - Young people and children

In June 2023 the Sligo Programme was approved by Pobal and the following are some of the projects that took place:



Launch of the Activator Poles Programme with LDCD Members.

of the



Men at work in St Brigid's Hall Tubbercurry.

**Sligo Playground passport launch** with Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Cllr Gerard Mullaney in Doorly Park. Sligo Passport to Map activities: fun and creativity, connecting community to free outdoor spaces and activities including the Library Services in County Sligo.



### **9. Funding Opportunities - Community Support Fund**

In late 2022 the DRCD announced the launch of a new scheme called The Community Support Fund (CSF). The aim of the Community Support Fund (CSF) will be to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their running costs such as utility or insurance bills, as well as with minor improvements to their facilities. The allocation to Sligo LCDC under the scheme €282,702. To assist in administering this scheme, a new hybrid application process was developed in-house which contained an initial online registration element. Of the groups who registered 126 subsequently proceeded to complete a full application. by the stipulated closing date of 10th March 2023. On June 7th, Minister of State, Mr. Joe O'Brien issued a statement, approving the recommendation of funding made by the LCDC towards the 126 applications to the scheme. Grants ranged from €500 to €6,000 with the median sum being €2,000.

### 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 its main focus in 2023 was the oversight and launch of the new Local Economic & Community Plan – “Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision”.

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 new Local Economic & Community Plan – “Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision” was launched in Sligo City Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023, attended by elected members, TDs, business, community and social interests across Sligo, including guests from Government Departments, Minister Joe O’Brien, Minister of State for Community Development, Integration and Charities.

The Development of Sligo 2030 ‘One Voice One Vision’ is the collaboration of the work of the Council, all the Agencies delivering services in the county, and of course the Sligo Community. The Plan sets out the vision for Sligo, the vision behind the Sligo brand, which is for a smart, sustainable, and socially inclusive Sligo; one that cherishes its vibrant communities, protects and celebrates its unique environment and rich culture, and is a champion of innovative growth and development.

#### **Sligo: Live Invest Visit Brand**

##### **LAMA Awards 2023**

The **Sligo: Live Invest Visit** Branding Initiative was shortlisted in the “Best Communications Initiative/ Innovation” category. First and foremost, **Sligo: Live Invest Visit** is a communications tool, secondly it emanated from collaboration with the Sligo Economic Forum members and the community, and thirdly its implementation demonstrates leadership, investment in and commitment to the Sligo community living at home and away.

# Sligo Local Community Development Committee 2023 Annual Report

## Calendar

A new 2023 calendar was produced that features stunning photography for each month from locations around County Sligo. The calendar was produced in accordance with the **Sligo: Live Invest Visit** brand guidelines and received a positive response.



## Diaspora

The Sligo Business Network held a reception to support and acknowledge the Sligo Diaspora living in London and to celebrate Yeats Day at the Irish Embassy in London on Tuesday 13th June 2023.

Guests travelled from Sligo and joined with the diaspora of The Sligo Business Network at the Embassy of Ireland. Ambassador Martin Fraser welcomed all and commended the Sligo Business Network (SBN) for continuing to promote business and social links between the diaspora and the institutions back home in Sligo.

Andy Rogers, chair of Sligo Business Network introduced the theme of 'Connections' and encouraged all members to connect/network with one another and to keep up to date with the many good developments going on back home.



Members from Sligo County Council, Sligo Chamber of Commerce, ATU Sligo, (pictured above) all travelled to London for the event. Tara Rodgers on behalf of the Chamber launched a new video directly aimed at encouraging diaspora to move back and avail of both excellent work opportunities and lifestyles in Sligo.

## Tourism Development

### Holiday World Show 2023

As part of the ongoing **Visit Sligo** marketing campaign promoting Sligo as an ideal place to visit all year round, Sligo County Council facilitated a Visit Sligo stand at the Holiday World Show 2023 at the RDS Dublin over the weekend 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January. The Visit Sligo stand showcased all that Sligo has to offer visitors to the county and included tastings of local food, music. The event was hugely successful in giving a post-covid and new year boost to the Sligo Business sector. 14 local businesses exhibited on the Visit Sligo: Diamond Coast Hotel, Eala Bhán, Hooked, Irish Seaweed Kitchen, Northwest Adventures Tours, Ocean Sands Hotel,



## Sligo Local Community Development Committee 2023 Annual Report

Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Seashore B&B, Sligo Oyster Experience, Sligo Park Hotel, Taste of Sligo Tours, The Glasshouse, WB's Coffee House and Your Wellbeing Warrior.

The Visit Sligo stand was organised and funded by Sligo County Council and supported by Sligo BID and County Sligo LEADER Partnership.

The “**Visit Sligo**” stand proved to be extremely popular and received wide praise and compliments from both public and trade. Over 32,000 people attended the Holiday World Show over the 3 days.



### Canadian Ambassador to Ireland Nancy Smyth at the Visit Sligo Stand at the Holiday World Show 2023

### Visit Sligo Brochure

A new high quality **Visit Sligo** brochure has been produced. The brochure has been produced to reflect the visit pillar of **Sligo: Live Invest Visit** and features spectacular high-resolution imagery from around the County including Mullaghmore, Lough Gill, Aughris and Portavade.



New Visit Sligo brochure



iRadio with Dave & Fionnuala in Quayside Shopping Centre

### iRadio Broadcast from Quayside as part of Visit Sligo campaign

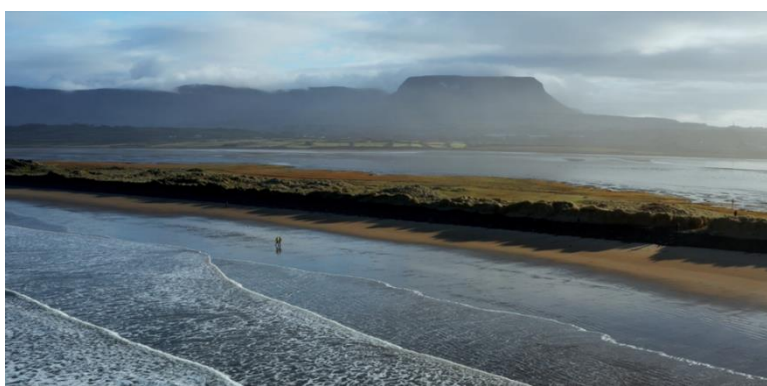
As part of the Visit Sligo campaign, from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, iRadio broadcast the Dave & Fionnuala Show each day from 3pm to 6pm from the Quayside Shopping Centre. Each day the iRadio team took part in an exciting activity that demonstrates the diverse range of visitor attractions in County Sligo. Each day was based around a different theme and the iRadio show ran competitions with great prizes encouraging people to visit Sligo.

## Sligo Local Community Development Committee 2023 Annual Report

- **Monday: Highlighting Enniscrone and south Sligo as a great location for families and couples looking for adventure, luxury accommodation, fine food and wild Atlantic way wellness.**
- **Tuesday: Enjoy Sligo's unique wild Atlantic way seafood experience – Sligo, the ultimate foodie destination.**
- **Wednesday: North Sligo – Enjoy Sligo's wide open spaces in a fun way for all the family. The iRadio team will visit Streedagh and the Atlantic Sheepdogs.**
- **Thursday: Culture and Arts – A visit to the Model, home to one of the most notable public art collections in Ireland.**
- **Friday: Adventure Sligo – Sligo has it all when it comes to adventure. The iRadio team visit the Coolaney Mountain Bike Centre.**

### Visit Sligo Online Video

The Visit Sligo online video has become the most popular video released to date as part of the **Sligo: Live Invest Visit** brand campaign. The video features stunning imagery from around County Sligo and has been receiving an extremely positive response.



To date the video has received over 90,000 views online.

### Fáilte Ireland St Patrick's Festival

Fáilte Ireland approved funding of €25,000 for the 2023 Sligo St Patrick's Festival has allowed continued collaboration between the Sligo St Patrick's Festival Committee, Sligo County Council, Sligo Bid and Fáilte Ireland, in the implementation of a Development Plan for a St. Patrick's Festival that develops



a 3-day cultural programme in Sligo and building partnerships and international connections. The parade was also streamed online to audiences worldwide.

### Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Participative Event Scheme

The 2023 Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Participative Events Scheme was advertised on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023 with a closing date of 10<sup>th</sup> March. The scheme provides funding to festivals taking place in County Sligo throughout the year.

## Sligo Local Community Development Committee 2023 Annual Report

### **Development of an Economic Visioning Study to identify potential opportunities for business and job creation arising from the future Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) Greenway Project**

Sligo County Council leads this cross-border cooperation project with partners in Leitrim County Council, Cavan County Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. The appointed consultant, Urban Foresight, submitted the final draft of the study at the end of November 2023 which has identified potential opportunities for business and job creation opportunities, tourism, and economic potential of the proposed route corridor of the Sligo Leitrim and Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) greenway. The Report has been submitted to the Department of An Taoiseach. A final version of the Report which incorporates the Sligo branding is currently being designed by the Consultant. This initiative is funded through an allocation from the Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund.

### **Hubs Marketing Campaign**

A production company was appointed to develop and deliver a marketing campaign in Sligo highlighting flexible and remote working opportunities, world class facilities, inclusive communities, advanced infrastructure, and promoting the social, economic, and environmental benefits. Collaboration with various stakeholders will be taking place to determine themes and content. This initiative is funded through an allocation from the Town & Village Renewal Scheme.

**Northwest in the City** Sligo County Council participated in the IDA lead Northwest in the City which took place on 9th Feb 2023, in, Dublin. It was a very successful collaborative endeavor to promote Sligo and the NW Region. The 'Northwest in the City' event focused on the NW Region (Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim) to promote the profile of the region, showcase the companies in it and highlight the global career opportunities available here and was well attended by companies and guest potential talent alike.



**Picture shows representatives from Sligo County Council, Leitrim County Council and Donegal County Council, at the Northwest in the City event, held in Dublin.**

### 11. Conclusion

The LCDC has achieved another successful year in 2023 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 delivering the LECP – Sligo 2030: One Voice One Vision 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.

