



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Shligigh
Sligo Local Community Development
Committee

Sligo.

Sligo Local Community Development Committee 2024 Annual Report



Sligo County Council
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh

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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 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 professionalism, integrity, and commitment 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 Local Enhancement Programme, and other community funds, alongside the Healthy Ireland Programme fund and the Sligo PEACEPLUS Programme.

As Chairperson of the LCDC, I wish to acknowledge the ongoing commitment and work of all members of the LCDC and Support Staff during 2024.

I would also like to congratulate Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services on her retirement from Sligo County Council and therefore her role as Chief Officer of Sligo LCDC. Under her guidance the work of Sligo LCDC had a positive impact on the communities of Co. Sligo.

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 2025 in making Sligo a better place in which to Live, Invest, Visit and work.



Cllr Donal Gilroy, Chairperson Sligo LCDC

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A Statement by the Chief Officer, Sligo LCDC

We are pleased to present the Annual report for the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for 2024. This report outlines progress in respect of the various LCDC functions over 2024 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 2024. Under the leadership of Cllr Dara Mulvey, former Chairperson and current Chairperson Cllr Donal Gilroy, the LCDC continued to embark upon an ambitious work programme which included the oversight of many funding programmes.

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 a/Chief Officer, and on behalf of retired Chief Officer Dorothy Clarke also, I wish to thank all members for their valuable contribution and commitment to the LCDC and welcome the new Members who joined the Committee, during 2024.

The Transitional LEADER Programme concluded in June 2024 and the work of the LEADER 2023-2027 programme got underway which continued to work with and support community activity during 2024 with a number of projects being approved by year end.

The development and implementation of the Healthy Ireland Programme under Round 4 Funding advanced in 2024.

During 2024 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.



Dorothy Clarke, Chief Officer (& A/Chief Officer, Donal Tinney)

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

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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 2024 – meetings were held virtually/hybrid arrangement.

Attendance of Sectors represented on Sligo LCDC at meetings during 2024							
Sector Represented	22 nd Feb	4 th April	23 rd May	17 th July	19 th Sept	23 rd Oct	11 th Dec
Elected Member	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Elected Member	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Elected Member	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Local Authority Official	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Local Authority Official	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State Agency – DEASP	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
State Agency – HSE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
State Agency – MSLETB	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Local Development Company	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trade Union	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Business	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Farming	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PPN – Environment	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Yes	Yes	Yes
PPN - Community & Voluntary	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
PPN - Community & Voluntary	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PPN - Social Inclusion	Query	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
PPN - Social Inclusion	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

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Sligo LCDC Membership 2024

Name	Sector	Organisation
Cllr Dara Mulvey (Chairperson)-January to June Cllr Donal Gilroy (Chairperson) – July to December (post Local Elections)	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Cllr Joe Queenan – January to June Cllr Fergal Nealon – July – December (post Local Elections)	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Cllr Tom Fox – (Vice Chairperson) January to July 2024 Cllr. Nessa Cosgrove (July 2024 to February 2025)	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Mr. Martin Lydon – (Chief Executive)	Local Government	Sligo County Council
Mr. Liam Kiely	Local Government / Local Enterprise Office	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Kennedy	State Agency	Dept. Of Employment Affairs & Social Protection (DEASP)
Ms. Cara O'Neill	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
Mr Amro Hamid – September 2024 to date	Environmental Interests	Environment Pillar (PPN)
Ms. Bernadette Maughan	Social Inclusion	PPN
Ms. Noelle O'Gara	Social Inclusion	PPN
Mr. Pat Benson	Community & Voluntary	PPN
Mr. Billy Gallagher	Community & Voluntary	PPN

2. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)



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

SICAP 2024

The 2018 – 2023 SICAP Programme concluded on 31st December 2023. The tender for the new 2024 -2028 SICAP Programme was awarded to Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG. SICAP provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion at local level through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.



The 2024 budget for delivery of SICAP in Sligo was €736,008 and the New Arrivals allocation was €209,299. In August 2024 the New Arrivals allocation was increased by €22,098.00, thereby increasing the allocation to €231,397.00.

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.

Local Priority Target Group

In SICAP 2024-2028 there is a renewed focus on reaching those who are most disadvantaged in Irish society. The Local Priority Target Group (LPTG) for Sligo is People living in Disadvantaged Communities. In delivering SICAP, Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG, are required to prioritise supports to the LPTG in Sligo so that a certain percentage of the overall number of individuals engaged come from this group. During 2024, 143 people from disadvantaged communities were supported under this target group.

Target groups supported under SICAP 2024 - 2028 are as follows.

People living in disadvantaged communities	People impacted by educational disadvantage
People living in jobless households or households where primary income source is low-paid and/or precarious	People who are long term unemployed
People with a criminal history	Refugees

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International Protection Applicants	Disabled people / people with disabilities
Heads of One-parent Families	Travellers
Roma	Island Residents

Progress under SICAP 2024

Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG played a crucial role in responding to the diverse needs of SICAP beneficiaries in 2024, particularly focusing on individuals, community organisations, children and families and New Arrivals. A broad range of programmes and supports to address employment, integration, health, education and wellbeing.

2024 Supports / Initiatives

- Migrant Women's Support Programme – designed in partnership with Diversity Sligo and the Aremoja Women's Group. This aimed to expand membership of the group, foster peer support among migrant women and to support social interaction and cultural celebration.
- Men's and Women's Sheds – providing one to one support for both new and existing sheds where groups are facilitated to share ideas, develop joint activities and learn from each other in a social and educational environment.
- Young People in Disadvantaged Communities – a number of youth work activities took place during 2024 over the Easter, Summer and Halloween breaks in Dromore West, Screen, Tubbercurry and Cranmore / Sligo East City.
- Jobs Expo – a collaboration between SLPC, MSLETB and DSP to bring employers in Sligo together to meet prospective jobseekers and those interested in changing careers. This event provided SICAP clients with the opportunity to explore jobs in various sectors in an unthreatening and accessible way.

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Chair of Sligo LCDC Cllr. Dara Mulvey with SICAP support staff, and representatives from SLP CLG, MSLETB, DSP at the Jobs Expo 2024.

In accordance with the Programme Requirements for SICAP, continued funding is subject to positive findings from Mid-Year and Annual Performance Review by the LCDC and the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets being achieved. Progress under annual targets, as of 31st December 2024 for SICAP Goal 1 and Goal 2 is outlined in the table below.

Ref	Key Performance Indicator	Annual Target	Actuals as at 31/12/2024	% Achieved
KPI 1	Total number of local community groups engaged under SICAP (in receipt of at least 2 interventions)	50	55	110%
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)	431	618	143%
	Percentage of Individuals supported under KPI 2 living in disadvantaged areas	18%	21.84%	

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 2024 were as follows:

1. Cllr Dara Mulvey (Chair to June 2024) / Cllr. Donal Gilroy (Chair July 2024 onwards)

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2. Mr. John Kennedy (DEASP rep on LCDC)
3. Mr. Peter Egan (MSLETB rep on LCDC)
4. Ms. Bernadette Maughan (PPN Social Inclusion rep on LCDC)
5. Mr. Billy Gallagher (PPN Community & Voluntary rep on LCDC)
6. Mr. Amro Hamid (September 2024 - PPN Environment rep on LCDC)
7. Ms. Patricia Garland (HSE Rep on LCDC)
8. Ms. Dorothy Clarke (Chief Officer)

3. 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 2024 include the following:

Sligo Age Friendly Programme

The Sligo Age Friendly Programme is overseen by the Sligo Age Friendly Alliance which is an Interagency group. It includes the following agencies: Sligo County Council, Local Link, Muintir na Tire, Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership, Citizens Information Centre, ATU Sligo, An Garda Síochana and MSLETB.



Many successful activities took place throughout 2024 in line with The Sligo Age Friendly Strategy 2023 -2026. The Sligo OPC AGM 2024 was held on the 07th of May 2024 in the Sligo Southern Hotel with over 60 people in attendance and opened by the Cathaoirleach Cllr Gerard Mullaney. Attendees heard about SEAI grants for the home and ways to reduce energy along with information of the Fair Deal Scheme and the Age Friendly Healthy Homes Programme. The event received positive feedback from members of the Sligo Older Peoples Council.



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Sligo Walkability Audit.

A Sligo Town Walkability Audit took place on the 07th of June 2024 facilitated by the Age Friendly Programme Manager including OPC Members, Area Engineers, LEO Office and HSE Disability Services. The route chosen by the OPC was from Sligo Glass House to AIB Bank and return encompassing both sides of the street. The Audit included an assessment of some of the buildings participating in the WC Sligo Public Toilet initiative. The National Age Friendly Walkability Survey template captured feedback from participants to inform further consideration by the Roads Department.

Age Friendly Ireland's, National Age Friendly Achievement Awards 2024 took place in Dublin on 7th November, 2024. The ATU's Intergenerational project "Creative Generations Intergenerational Learning at ATU" was shortlisted in the category of ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING AWARD. The project was shortlisted along with 4 others out of a total of 87 applications. This project is an action in the Sligo Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2026

Sligo Comhairle na nÓg

Work continues on the development of Sligo Comhairle na nÓg as the forum for structured input into decision-making by children and young people in the development of local services and policies in the county. The Comhairle has had a bumper year in 2024 with Sligo County Council winning the Best Mental Health Initiative at the Local Authority All Ireland Community and Council Awards 2024 for the Sligo Comhairle na nÓg LGBTI+ animation "Here for You" at the Awards ceremony in Dublin on 17th February 2024. These awards, hosted by the Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) celebrate community and councils working together and provide the opportunity to highlight and celebrate the work done within our communities.

"Here for You", led by Sligo Comhairle na nÓg, is a short animation designed by young people and targeted at young people within the LGBTI+ community in Sligo aged 12-17 to create awareness of supports available in Sligo and online for the LGBTI+ community.

The initiative is a collaboration between Sligo County Council, its Comhairle na nÓg and Foróige with creative animation provided by Studio Meala. The Initiative was funded by the Department of Rural Community Development under the 2021 Dormant Accounts Funding for LGBTI+ organisations. The Comhairle na nÓg, Programme continues following its successful Sligo Annual Youth Conference which was held in was held on 6th November, 2024. This saw some new members join the Comhairle na nÓg. Work has also commenced on the development of the annual funding application under the Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund for submission to Pobal by 13th January 2025. The fund is provided by the Department of Equality Disability Integration and Youth.

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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 2024

Africa Day was celebrated on the 25th of May 2024. Funding by the Department of Foreign Affairs was awarded to The Model who submitted a proposal to design and deliver Sligo Africa day. There were a number of events running right through the day including several activities for children along with parades, dance, hair braiding etc. Food was served by Sligo Global Kitchen and Aremoja women's group performed



Photo shows participants at the Sligo Africa Day Celebrations 2024

4. Rural Development Programme/LEADER

During 2024 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 31st December 2024, 213 projects had been approved by the LCDC/LAG to the value of over €7.9m. These projects covered 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. All claims in relation to the Rural Development Programme 2014-2022 were also processed.

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The commencement of the new LEADER Programme 2023-2027 was marked at City Hall, Quay Street, Sligo on Thursday 30th May 2024 with members of the LCDC, staff of Sligo County Council and Sligo LEADER Partnership attending. Sligo's LEADER Programme 2023-2027 is open to accept 'Expressions of Interests'. Community groups, private individuals and new or existing businesses are invited to find out more about Sligo LEADER Programme 2023-2027 funding and its application process.



Members of Sligo LCDC, Sligo LEADER Partnership, LCDC Support Staff marking the commencement of the new Programme

Sligo have secured funding of €6,054,309 million to support and facilitate the continued development of rural communities all over Sligo County to include programme funding and administration and animation costs.

The LEADER fund can offer grant aid and support to projects aiming to promote the quality of life and economic opportunities for Sligo County within the structure of the approved 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

5. Public Participation Network (PPN)



Public
Participation
Network
Sligo

Submissions & Engagement

- Sligo PPN Secretariat made a submission to the Sligo SPC scheme, based on feedback from members of the network. This followed a series of online sessions in the North West region.
- On 18th September, PPN staff from across the country were invited to present at Leinster House on the growth of the network and the need for additional resources and specifically an increase in wages for PPN staff. At the subsequent National PPN conference in Limerick on 17th and 18th October, Minister O'Brien announced a €14,300 increase for all PPNs in the 2025 budget.
- Sligo PPN Secretariat engaged with Crowe with regard to the new Sligo County Council Corporate Plan and the Secretariat and staff attended online meetings.
- Sligo PPN secretariat made an approach to the new chair of the Sligo Community Safety Partnership with regard to PPN representation on the new committee and await feedback.

Elections and Representatives

- Dr John Williams and Gregory O'Brien were elected to the Sligo Independent Evaluation Committee.
- The Nomination process for community representatives to go forward for the board of Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership closed in October. The 2 elected PPN representatives were Geraldine Delorey and Paul O'Sullivan.

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- Michael Bell was nominated to the new Biodiversity working group
- Sligo PPN filled the environment seat vacancy on Sligo LCDC with Amro Hamid, nominated by Medbh’s dragon warriors taking up the seat.
- The nomination process for the PPN SPC seats opened in early November and closed on the 29th November 2024. The nomination process saw all 8 available seats filled. The following individuals are now representing the PPN colleges across the 4 committees:

2024 Sligo PPN SPC Nominations				
	SPC1	SPC2	SPC3	SPC4
Community & Voluntary	Gene O’Carroll (Benbulbin Clay Target Club)			
Community & Voluntary		Kathryn Branley (Drumcliffe Rathcormac Tidy Towns)		
Community & Voluntary			Steven Barker (Cliffoney Community Forum)	
Community & Voluntary				Sheila Scanlon (CADRA)
Environment		Alan Spencer (Sligo River Bay Catchment Rivers Trust)		
Environment				Joan Swift (Sligo Cycling Campaign)
Social Inclusion			Ruth Flood (Sligo DPO)	
Social Inclusion	Cheryl McGinley (Sligo Traveller Support Group)			

PROJECTS

Local

- Sligo PPN partnered with Sligo Family Resource Centre and EU direct to host an event profiling the 2024 elections. The aim of the event was to encourage people to register to vote and ensure they use their voice. Key speakers included Senator Eileen Flynn, Cllr Uruemu Adejinme.
- On 20th February, Sligo PPN launched The Dream for Fodhla, an artistic interpretation of what a sustainable and health Sligo would look like. The video can be watched at <https://www.sligoppn.com/the-dream-of-fodhla-towards-a-sustainable-and-inclusive-sligo/>



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- On 14th March Sligo PPN hosted the Fair Seas Sligo event, a celebration of the local marine environment.
- The disability and inclusion training with Sligo DPO began in the summer of 2024. In 2025 the DPO members will be looking to deliver this training out in the community and to local organisations.
- 27 community spaces engaged with our Community Inventory project, outlining available community space across the whole county. The document will be officially launched in early 2025.
- The Sensory trail at the Radisson Blu hotel supported by Sligo PPN and Autism Friendly Sligo was officially launched on 30th April.
- On 18th September the Housing Thematic Network launched their 5 paper series on key community housing issues. This project was developed in partnership with Social Justice Ireland and aimed to highlight the key issues for the local community with regard to local housing and future development in the county.
- Sligo PPN has just launched its interactive map plotting all community group members across the whole county. Groups can be searched by location or interest.



Contact Us: ppn@sligoppn.ie / 011 93 14430



<https://www.sligoppn.com/membership-groups/membership-map/>

Regional and National

- Sligo PPN has been working on a regional basis with other PPNs in the North West to better equip our representatives for their roles on the SPCs.
- Sligo PPN are part of the ongoing national initiative with DRCD to explore the barriers to public participation in Ireland.

Website and Communication

- The PPN have added a new funding round up page to the website which details all the national and international funds for community group.
- There are also 2 new map pages within the site showing the location and purpose of all our member groups as well as registered community centres.

Power to Change

Under the Power to Change initiative <https://www.sligoppn.com/the-power-to-change/> a number of initiatives have taken place.

- 5 schools have completed the pilot programme around the Sustainable Development Goals and 5th class students have been part of a co-design process to refine the workbook before it is made available nationally to all National Schools. <https://www.sligoppn.com/climate-education-clubs/>

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- On 7th March the Sligo Tree Trail was launched in partnership with Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership.
- On 22nd April, ATU students presented their sustainable tourism research to the ATU network.
- On 30th April a woodland creation session was held for all community groups interested in native woodland planting
- A rainwater harvesting pilot project partnered CADRA with ATU students to develop an innovative prototype for rainwater harvesting in local communities.
- On the 4th May the programme held a water awareness day along the banks of the Garavogue.
- Sligo PPN in partnership with ATU Sligo began a new free Training and Mentor Programme to member groups on the use of social marketing to address emerging issues in the community sector.
- Climate Education Club participants Sligo Grammer School have produced a video outlining what young people can do to take positive climate action <https://www.sligoppn.com/climate-education-clubs/>



6. 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.

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has awarded funding of €3,603,788 to Sligo County Council to deliver its Co-designed Local Community PEACE Action Plan.

The funding will support a wide range of diverse projects aimed at addressing local challenges and promoting peace and prosperity across County Sligo and involving cross-border participation from now until the end of 2027. The Programme has three thematic areas namely:

- 1.1.1 Local community regeneration and transformation
- 1.1.2 Thriving and peaceful communities
- 1.1.3 Celebrating culture and diversity

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The Sligo Programme was developed after extensive consultation using the co-design process to address needs within the Sligo County Council area. This resulted in the development of 15 projects across the thematic areas comprising of 4 capital investment projects, 8 capacity-building initiatives and 3 cultural and social inclusion programmes. These projects support peaceful and thriving communities and seek to enhance community integration and cohesion within the three themes.



Members of the Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership

The Letter of Offer for the Sligo PEACEPLUS Co-Design Local Community Peace Action Plan project was received on the 17th December, 2024. Preparatory work to support project activation commenced upon approval of the Plan.

Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership

The development and implementation of the Sligo Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plan is overseen by the Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership which is a sub-committee of and reports to Sligo Local Community Development Committee.

As a result of the local elections, the elected membership of the Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership has changed. The table below represents the current membership.

Pillar 1 - Elected Members	Pillar 2 - Relevant Statutory Bodies
Cllr. Dónal Gilroy, Sligo-Drumcliff Cllr. Nessa Cosgrove, Borough District of Sligo Cllr. Thomas Healy, Sligo-Drumcliff Cllr. Gerard Mullaney, Ballymote-Tubbercurry	Patricia Garland, Health Service Executive Trevor Sweetman, Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education Training Board Maeve Whittington, TUSLA/CYPSC (Youth & Social Services) Brian Flynn, Sligo County Council Executive
Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership	

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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 /Community) Tara Dolan Mbongue, Aremoja Women's Group (Migrant Women/ Community) Trish Fallon, Havin a Laugh (Mental Health/Community)

Further detail on the specific projects is available at www.sligococo.ie/peace.

1.3 Partner Application with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

An application was submitted for funding consideration under Investment Area 1.3, Building Positive Relations, by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council with Sligo County Council as Partner organisation. The application focuses on activities on cross-border cooperation between Carrickfergus and Sligo in relation to tourism, heritage and disadvantage. If successful, Sligo's will receive €346 k to implement approved actions.

7. Healthy Ireland Round 4



Healthy Ireland Programme

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.

where “everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility”.

The Sligo Healthy Ireland Programme and Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2025 continued to be rolled out in 2024 delivering activities contributing to significant developments in the areas of increasing physical activity and mental health in County Sligo.

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These 2 indicators were derived from the inclusive, collaborative process which was undertaken in 2022 in developing the Healthy Sligo Strategic Plan 2023-2025. In summary they are:

- ***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*

The LCDC has primary responsibility for the implementation of the Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4 and implementation of the Healthy Sligo Strategy and have put in place a Healthy Sligo Sub Committee who have contributed significantly to the shaping and support of the programme.

Good health and wellbeing involves many factors and covers all aspects of life, from how you eat to where you live, access to services transport, education and work.

Key to the success of the Healthy Sligo programme is a collaborative approach Partnership has been the cornerstone of Healthy Sligo. It has highlighted the importance of bringing together key players and stakeholders, to work together to a common goal.

Activities delivered in 2024 include junior and adult park runs in the County, Activator poles, Decider Skills training, Caltragh community wellbeing, Nutrition and mindfulness programmes in rural and urban communities. Ballymote Family resource Centre and Sligo Travellers Support Group are facilitating play therapy for young children with the resident play therapist and demand is high. A Year in Nature workshops delivered through Sligo Woodland school with the residents in Caltragh encouraged creatively exploring nature through a range of outdoor activities, with great success. Working with Sligo Cycling promoting safe cycling and fun in the outdoors.

Activator Poles group in Doorly Park

In particular, the Stronger for longer Programme was put forward as a case study to the National Programme to showcase a collaborative approach to delivering on Health and Wellbeing and Increasing physical activity.



Participants in the Activator Poles programme in Doorly Park

Stronger for Longer Programme

This is an 8-week strength and power-based exercise programme for participants aged 50 years plus. Developed by the SSRP and hosted initially by Tubbercurry GAA Healthy Club Committee. Three phases of the programme were delivered with the support of SSRP.

In the Healthy Sligo consultation process the need to develop a holistic approach to wellbeing and nutrition was highlighted. As a result, and in collaboration with a nutritionist and mindfulness facilitators a holistic approach to health and wellbeing has been developed, providing additional optional workshops for all participants throughout each term. This holistic collaboration has enhanced and increased the numbers participating in the programme with a reach of two hundred people. This is the first time this collaborative approach to increasing physical activity alongside nutrition and mindfulness has occurred and is bespoke to Sligo.



Participants on the Stronger for Longer Programme, Tubbercurry.

8. Funding Opportunities - Local Enhancement Programme

In late 2023, the DRCD announced the launch of the Local Enhancement Programme for 2024. The aim of the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) was to support community groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with minor improvements to their facilities, as well as the purchase of equipment. The 2024 allocation to Sligo LCDC for such applications was €118,327.

Additionally, special emphasis was placed on Women's Groups, with the DRCD ring-fencing €23,665 to Sligo LCDC for funding to support works of a capital nature to groups that support the ethos of women's sheds, and other such groups or projects aimed at providing social networks for women.

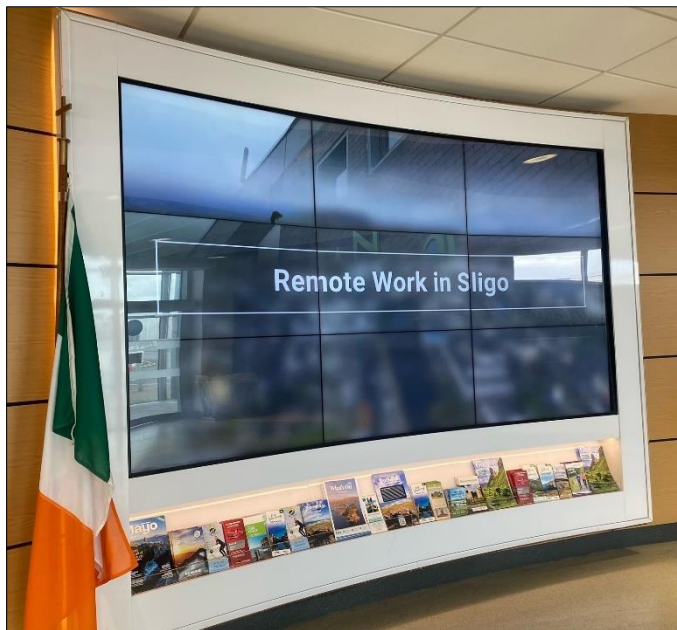
Sligo LCDC recommended to the DRCD funding 19 such applications to Women's Groups with grants ranging from €1000 to €1825. A further 107 applications were recommended under the general scheme to community and voluntary groups with grants ranging from €500 to €3500.

Total combined allocation to Sligo LCDC from the DRCD was €141,992. In May, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD, approved the recommendation of funding made by the LCDC towards a total of 126 applications to the scheme.

9. Other Community focused & Tourism projects

Remote Working Hubs Marketing Campaign

This campaign aimed to connect with potential remote workers, both locally and internationally, by showcasing Sligo's amenities, vibrant communities, and robust connectivity and infrastructure. Our goal is to attract talent and foster employment in County Sligo while maximizing the use of remote working resources and investments.



Sligo For Everyone – Video Production and launch

A video entitled 'Sligo for Everyone' was released at the meeting of Sligo County Council on Monday 9th September 2024. This short film commissioned by the Council showcases positively the liveability, accessibility and inclusiveness of Sligo, featuring its community, services, and beautiful landscape. It demonstrates what Sligo means to the diverse population who live here.



The title "Sligo is for Everyone" emanated from the voices of Sligo people themselves as they were engaged with in the making of the video. They communicated their feelings on various aspects of living and participating in what Sligo offers across services, creativity, business and landscape, which all collectively communicates a Sligo for everyone.

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Members and staff of Sligo County Council at the release of "Sligo for Everyone"

An Economic Vision for the Sligo to Enniskillen Greenway (SLNCR)

This report has identified potential opportunities for business and job creation, communities, tourism, and economic potential of the proposed route corridor of the Sligo Leitrim and Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) greenway. A final version of the Report which incorporates the Sligo branding has been designed. This initiative is funded through an allocation from the Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund. Sligo County Council led this cross-border cooperation project with partners in Leitrim County Council, Cavan County Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

Place Branding: Sligo: Live, Invest, Visit

- Annual Calendar 2025: This was designed, printed and circulated in Q4, 2024.
- The "Sligo 2030 - One Year On" Newsletter: A printed copy and digital version were circulated in Q4, providing an overview of the progress made in the first year of the Sligo 2030 strategy. This publication highlights the key achievements and sets the stage for initiatives to come
- Online Campaign: An online campaign was published across the Sligo: Live Invest Visit social media platforms, aiming to amplify the reach of the "Sligo 2030 – One Year On" Newsletter, engaging with the community and stakeholders to foster a sense of involvement and awareness about the ongoing developments in Sligo. By keeping the community and stakeholders informed and engaged, we seek to build a strong foundation for the future growth and success of Sligo.

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Festivals and Events

Fáilte Ireland St Patrick's Day Regional Programme

In 2023 Sligo was one of six counties to successfully qualify for Fáilte Ireland's new scheme to support the development of St. Patrick's Day regional festivals for 2024-2026 providing an investment of up to €50,000 per year to Sligo. 2025 will see the second round of this funding which is part matched by Sligo County Council & Sligo BID.

Regional Festivals and Events Fund for County Sligo

2024 was the first year the Regional Festivals and Events Fund for County Sligo was introduced. This is a combined Regional Festival & Event Fund with funding streams from Fáilte Ireland's Regional Festival and Participative Event Funding scheme (€23,500) and funding from Sligo County Council's Arts department which was moved to the Festival & Event coordinator to support Commercial/Tourism/Community Festivals (€30,000). The total sum of funding administered by Sligo County Council in 2024 was **€53,500**. The Regional Festival and Participative Events Programme is aimed at supporting festivals and participative events that have a regional reach that will drive the local economy, contribute to the tourism experience of the county & align with the **Fáilte Ireland** DEDP.

The Regional Festivals and Events Fund Grant application moved to online Portal operated from the Sligo Co Council website which was a welcome improvement in achieving a more efficient and secure process for applicants, this is also aligns with Sligo County Councils strive towards a more sustainable workplace.



Cairde Arts Festival July 2024



Queen Maeve Festival 'Gavin James' May 2024

The Official Opening of Queen Maeve Square/Queen Maeve Festival

The hugely successful Queen Maeve Festival took place over the May Bank Holiday weekend, 3rd –5th May 2024, to mark the official opening of the newly redeveloped public space, Queen Maeve Square, which was opened by Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Catherine Martin TD, in the company of Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Councillor Gerard Mullaney, following an investment of over €4million by Sligo County Council, Fáilte Ireland, and the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

The exciting and varied programme of events was provided free of charge for attendees with headline acts including Gavin James, Moncrieff and Téada & Niamh Farrell. Support acts included Shane Beirne & friends, The Rosecaps, The Hit Machine Drummers and a Battle of The Bands event. Family friendly fun day events were delivered by Cairde and Comhaltas had their congress and lectures. The programme included both a historical walk of Sligo town and Knocknarea, as well as ceilís and pub sessions.

The Festival & Event Strategy

In early 2020, as Sligo County Council was finalising developing a new strategy to support Sligo's festivals & events as key drivers for tourism, Covid-19 came along. In May 2024 Sligo County Council engaged the services of Tourism Consultants Bane Mullarkey once again, Bane Mullarkey worked on the strategy in 2019 – 2020. The consultants worked alongside the Festival & Event Coordinator & held 34 one-to-one meetings with 23 festivals & 11 stakeholders taking part. In addition there was an online survey completed by 27 festivals & an evening workshop hosted by Bane Mullarkey and Sligo County Council for festivals & stakeholders. This has given Bane Mullarkey insight & scope for developing supports & fostering the festivals in County Sligo. The Draft Festival & Event Strategy will be delivered to Sligo County Council for review on February 10th.

10. Conclusion

The LCDC has achieved another successful year in 2024 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 challenges, and successes for Sligo in the years ahead and in particular in continuing its commitment with the new Sligo 2030 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.

