

Kilkenny PPN Representative Report

Date: 28 th March 2025	Time: 10:30am	Venue: Council Chamber
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Reporting Representatives Name: Paul O'Rahilly

Committee: Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Were you in attendance at the last Committee Meeting? Yes

Did you consult with the wider PPN / Linkage Group before this meeting? Yes

Please outline the key issues discussed at the meeting:

- Chair Mary Mescal open the meeting and after approval of minutes, etc, next item on agenda was the LECP Implementation Plan (IP) 2025-26.
- **Oversight and implementation of the Local and Economic Community Plan (LECP)**
 - Anne-Marie pointed out that the IP is not a statutory document and that other documents are statutory. She mentioned an incorrect link that had been put into the feedback section for Goal 1, Section C on waste and the circular economy. She said that considerable work had taken place in this area and that the Environment Section had suggested making a presentation to the LECP at a future date to outline the actions which had taken place in 2024, and to set out the plans for 2025-26.
 - She mentioned as well that other counties had reported difficulties in providing feedback, and that a number had arranged to present to the LECP and possibly the SPC on their actions and plans. She suggested that this could be done at our LCDC with the waste management the first presentation. It could be similar to a presentation given to the Council on the Climate Action Plan.
 - Following questions to the floor, Martin mentioned that he had been the person who had raised points about waste and the circular economy. He welcomed the suggestion of a presentation on the waste management issue and also said that he would like to see more definite targets in the KPIs of the IP.
 - Martin also mentioned that the point about Just Transition, which is defined by CARO (Climate Action Regional Office) as Climate Action + Social Inclusion, but the points in the IP only cover Climate Action.
 - Regarding timing, Martin mentioned that he had left the joint LCDC/SPC meeting expecting to receive the feedback on the previous IP within a number of days, which would have enabled us to raise points on the IP based on the feedback. He was surprised to receive the "final draft" of the IP before receiving the feedback on the previous plan.

- Martin welcomed private correspondence that he had received from Aileen about moves within the Council to tackle the issue of disposable coffee cups and other food containers at festivals and other events.
 - Aileen responded pointing out that the first action in Goal 1 is the implementation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP). She had spoken with the Climate Action Officer, who had suggested a presentation on the CAP to the LCDC, and had assured her the Just Transition was an overarching principle of the CAP. There's a Strategic Action (Goal 4), community resilience in transition which is targeted at this area, and that as the CAP is embedded in the IP, it covers Just Transition. Aileen said that the KPI could be amended to include the term Social Inclusion, but that it was being covered by KCC in the CAP.
 - Aileen apologised for the delay getting the feedback circulated and explained that there was a delay in getting some information back from the agencies.
 - Mary Mescal mentioned the considerable amount of work which had gone into the new IP and thanked all those involved in the work, Aileen, Anne Marie and others.
 - Anne Marie then gave background to the production of the LECP and the first IP, as well as the preparatory work for the second IP.
 - Angela Hayes thanked those who had done the work on the IP and welcomed the suggestion to have presentations from lead agencies, which would be much more informative than simply reading about it in a report.
 - The IP for 2025-26 was then proposed, seconded, and declared adopted.
- **Citizen Engagement and promotion of Social Inclusion**
 - The PPN Report was read out by Angela Hayes.
- **Local Enhancement Programme 2025**
 - Anne Marie presented details on this after those from organisations who had applied for grants had excused themselves from the meeting and a list of grants for Current and Capital funding which had been approved was handed around. A total of €24,360 had been approved for Current funding and €146,159 for Capital funding.
 - Anne Marie informed that the information on individual grants was confidential and shouldn't be circulated outside the committee.

Were any decisions made at the meeting?

Items for discussion and decision

- **LCDC Annual Report 2024**
 - Anne Marie gave an overview of the LCDC Annual Report which had been circulated previously.
 - Paul O'Rahilly mentioned that he had noticed that there were no recommendations or conclusions in the report and asked if that was normal for a report of this type.

- Anne Marie responded that the requirement for such a report was to cover activities of the previous year and that it would not be normal to include recommendations or conclusions.
- The report was proposed and seconded.

Items for Information and Information Sharing

- **Community Grants**

- Anne Marie spoke about grants for community and voluntary groups. CCFCS (Community Culture and Facilities Capital Scheme) covering community and recreation facilities open to not-for-profit groups. Grants are in the range €10,000 to €50,000 with a total fund of €250,000 per year and matched funding has been reduced to 10%. Closing date is 30 April 2025.
- The Town and Village Scheme has recently been announced by DRCD with a focus on town- and village-centre revitalisation.
- Paul O'Rahilly asked if the Town and Village was the same as the scheme which had been presented before Christmas for John St. in which the Council was to apply to Government for funding. Anne Marie advised that they were separate schemes with separate funding sources. Regarding Part 8 planning requirements, she said the requirement would depend on the type of development.
- Anne Marie advised that in the Town and Village schemes, there would be one larger project for the county of €500,000 and 2-3 smaller projects of €300,000, and that matched funding would be 20-25%.

Are there any actions to be taken as a result of this meeting? Who by?

- Follow up on actions above relating to the LECP IP

Did you or another PPN representative make any contributions to this meeting?

- Yes – noted above

Do you require feedback from the wider PPN Network / Linkage Group on any issues raised? (specify issue)

- No

Are there any issues / difficulties for you as a representative of the PPN arising from this meeting?

- No

Any other comments?

- None

Date of next meeting: Friday, 30 th May 2025
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