

Minutes of Meeting of Cavan Local Community Development Committee

Date: 25th March 2026

Time: 3pm

**Location: Online via Microsoft Teams & Council Chamber, Cavan County
Council , Courthouse, Cavan**

Present:

Statutory

Mr. Brendan Jennings (Cavan County Council), Cllr. TP O'Reilly (Elected Member), Mr. Conor Craven (Local Enterprise Office), Dr. Fiona McGrath (CMETB), Ms. Ruth Woods (H.S.E.).

Private Sector Interests

Mr. Jim Maguire (Chairperson) (Cavan County Local Development), Ms. Aisling Traynor (Youth Issues), Ms. Connie Whelan (Cootehill Chamber), Mr. Paddy Denning (Agricultural and Farming Interests), Mr. Seamus Quinn (Older People's Interests),

Apologies:

Cllr Val Smith (Elected Member), Ms. Carmel Denning (Department of Social Protection), Ms. Beth McEntee (Community & Voluntary Interests), Mr. Barry Kavanagh (Environmental Interests), Ms. Gayathri Devi Soman (Social Inclusion Interests), Ms Maryam Temile (Women's Issues)

In attendance:

Ms Angela Fitzpatrick (Chief Officer), Mr Terry Hyland (Cavan County Local Development), Ms Deirdre Donnelly (Cavan County Council), Ms Deborah Leahy (Cavan County Council), Ms Aoife McCormick (Cavan County Council), Mr John Donohoe (Cavan County Council), Ms Nadine McCormilla (Cavan County Council)

Mr Jim Maguire, Chairperson, opened the meeting and apologies were noted. He welcomed Mr John Donohoe, Senior Executive Officer, Cavan County Council and Ms Nadine McCormilla, Co-ordinator, Cavan Sports Partnership.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes from the meeting 25th February 2026 were circulated to the members by email in advance of this meeting. The minutes were proposed by Mr. Paddy Denning and seconded by Cllr T.P O'Reilly.

2. Matters arising

The Chief Officer Ms Angela Fitzpatrick informed the meeting that the Department of Rural and Community Development & the Gaeltacht have agreed to refund the amount of €5,354.62 which was deducted from SICAP funding in 2025 due to an overstatement of the underspend coming forward from 2024 arising from an error identified during the Cavan County Council internal audit of SICAP. This amount will be included in the SICAP Q3 2026 drawdown request when it is being submitted to DRCDG.

3. Conflicts of Interest

The Chair reminded members of their conflict of interest's responsibilities.

4. Local Enhancement Programme 2026.

The Chief Officer Ms Angela Fitzpatrick informed the members that Cavan County Council has received an allocated amount of **€164,165.44** in respect of the Local Enhancement Programme 2026 from the Department of Rural and Community Development & the Gaeltacht.

The Chief Officer asked Mr John Donohoe, Senior Executive Officer, to present the list of grant applications with a recommendation arising from an internal assessment of the applications – this was shared on screen. Mr Donohoe stated that there were 136 individual grant applications on this occasion and acknowledged Mr Trevor Harte and Ms Kimberly Tweedie in the Rural Development and Tourism team, for their work in the process.

He advised that these grants are small scale capital grants and are administered in every Local Authority, with a strong emphasis on social inclusion and disadvantaged areas. The allocation given to each local authority depends on population. He stated

that Cavan's allocation of €164,165.44 for 2026 came with a remit of 30% of funding being allocated to small scale grants less than €1,000.00 which ensures that the distribution is evenly widespread.

The Chair noted that the scheme provided some great opportunities for groups, he thanked Mr Donohoe and acknowledged his team for their work in processing the grant applications. The Chair then invited questions from the members.

Dr Fiona McGrath asked if there was any group who applied for funding but did not receive it. Mr Donohoe replied that 42 applications were not approved for funding and he briefly touched on some of the reasons e.g. a small number of applications sought too high of funding and so were not eligible and also that these grants do not fund mainstream sport which also eliminated a number of applications.

Mr Brendan Jennings asked what the Geographical spread of the successful grants was. Mr Donohoe stated that funding was allocated per Municipal District based on population: Cavan/Belturbet was €61,376.00. Ballyjamesduff was €53,070.00 and Bailieborough/Cootehill was €49,900.00.

Approval was proposed by Mr Conor Craven and seconded by Dr Fiona McGrath.

5. "Cavan Sports Campus" Ms Nadine McCormilla, Co-Ordinator, Cavan Sports Partnership.

The Chair invited Ms Nadine McCormilla to deliver her presentation.

Ms McCormilla briefly introduced herself and explained she would give a broad overview of the Regional Sports Campus, speaking through a short slideshow presentation that was shown on screen.

With a national context in mind, she explained that a feasibility study was carried out. The baseline to the project was the knowledge that Cavan did not have one place for all sports across all fields.

Ms McCormilla went on to explain how the campus needed to be multipurpose and moved through the key points of what the requirements were - a campus that put Cavan on the map, an ideal space that would act as a regional hub, not only for

sport, but community too. Athletes will be coming from all around Ireland, and there were lots of conversations with other bodies on how to achieve this - If you come to Cavan – what do you want?. Ms McCormilla emphasised the fact that this facility will provide both male and female athletes equal opportunity in sport in Cavan. Barriers involved were noted, one significant one being transport. Cavan Town itself was a prime location, and a lot of hard work went into this.

Ms McCormilla showed an image onscreen of the plans involved and what the works would look like over the next two years for phase one of the project. This phase will receive funding of €34m (over €15m from PEACEPLUS). Cavan is the only county in Ireland not to have a full-sized track to hold competitions. Phase 1 will largely consist of the construction of the covered multisport arena. Outdoor sports are massively held up because of weather conditions, and this will allow our underage activities valuable space.

Under the PEACEPLUS programme, there is a requirement to produce an Animation programme between March 2028 and July 2029 to include programmes such as minority sports, youth engagement and those based in schools.

The next steps are consultation and idea generation. This will be guided under the remit of two forums which will be established:

- a) Stakeholder forum: this forum will lead the way on co-designing programmes, community engagement, cross-border and peace building.
- b) User forum: this forum will guide the use of the facility, represent user needs and ensure fair access.

The Chair thanked Ms McCormilla for a very informative presentation and invited questions from the members.

Cllr T.P. O Reilly also congratulated Ms McCormilla on the impressive work of the Sports Partnership on this project, including their collaboration across the board with so many bodies. He acknowledged her enthusiasm for the project and the amount of work involved in getting a project of this scale across the line. He stated that the establishment of the two forums was an excellent idea also.

Mr Seamus Quinn congratulated everyone involved and asked about the accessibility to the campus and if any thought had been put into the extra traffic on roads into the town causing bottleneck situations. In reply to this, Mr Brendan Jennings, stated that for a project of this scale that planning and research is a huge part of the process and that the project will be a huge economic driver for our county. There was a lot of work in the early days of the project on traffic management, and the work is ongoing to alleviate these issues. He briefly spoke on the benefits of having the amenity so close to the town and pointed out how local public transport will benefit greatly. Mr Jennings acknowledged the significant financial contribution which will be given by Cavan County Council and thanked the Elected Members for their support.

Mr Quinn then asked about the impact on parking in and around Cavan Town for people visiting. Mr Jennings stated that there was a large site for parking at the facility. For people who might be working or travelling to Cavan, there will be emphasis on options such as public transport, walking, cycling, park and ride etc.

Ms Aisling Traynor asked how the project will work alongside the Abbeylands project – impacts with construction traffic etc. Mr Jennings answered that both projects will coincide together and both are planned to start at the same time. Cavan County Council will be dealing with any issues as best as possible should they arise.

Mr John Donohoe added that the facility was great news for sport in Cavan with everything contained on the one site. He acknowledged the work of the County Council Engineers who have spent a huge amount of time preparing and planning for this project.

The Chief Officer thanked Ms McCormilla for her presentation and acknowledged her enthusiasm and passion for the work stating that it was very exciting to see the project coming to fruition, making an excellent facility for everyone.

Mr Jennings suggested that a progress update on the project be provided to the LCDC in one year. This was agreed.

Mr Conor Craven enquired if the economic benefit to the whole town had been researched as part of the funding process. i.e. a business case prepared. Mr Jennings confirmed that such a plan had been prepared and stated that this step is

key to the funding process and this will have to be reviewed consistently over the years to ensure that funding remains economically viable. Mr Jennings went on to discuss the positive impact the campus will have on the economy for the county, with particular emphasis on the need for additional accommodation in the hospitality sector. He mentioned briefly the availability of accommodation locally and it is planned that when the entire project is complete, accommodation will be available onsite as an option also. Mr Jennings noted that the Minister had highlighted the project as a shared project across sport. He finished by thanking the Cavan County Board and The Royal School for their input and involvement in the entire process.

The Chair congratulated all involved with the project.

6. PEACEPLUS

The Chief Officer gave the following update:

The PEACEPLUS Partnership meeting was held on Thursday 19th March 2026. Items on the agenda included: Project performance targets, Monies received from SEUPB, PEACEPLUS partnership membership. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 16th April – in person.

7. Cavan Participation Network update.

The Chief Officer read through the update from the Cavan Participation Network.

Publication of 4 x ENews editions - An average ENews contains (e.g. March 6th) 40 items. 10 Funding streams, 6 training opportunities, 3 open consultations and 21 news/events.

Conducting of 'New Communities' Meitheal Interview in Stradone - Meitheals usually have 10-30 in attendance (e.g. January in Gowna with 18) but this had 1 outside of staff/secretariat/council (6). It was therefore decided to film the interview with the guest speaker and the decision to reschedule will be referred to the Secretariat.

Membership of PPN now at 557 (from 523 on 1st Jan 2026) - The annual target is 10%, therefore well on track to meet this.

The PPN Co-hosted a National Economic & Social Council Social Cohesion Workshop held as part of research being conducted for a paper for the Department of the Taoiseach. It was well attended with great inputs.

The 2025 Finance Report for DRCDG has been completed.

Upcoming Events/Initiatives include: hosting of National Joint Liaison Committee for PPN Networks, Promotion of PPN at Geopark and Older Persons Events, Hosting of PPN Secretariat (April 14th) and Facilitation of Swanlinbar Meitheal on May 7th with Muintir na Tíre as guest speakers/interviewees.

8. Member Updates.

The Chair asked the members if there were any updates to share.

Mr Conor Craven advised that CMETB were holding an Employment and training Expo tomorrow, 26th March, at the Hotel Kilmore.

There were no other member updates.

9. Local Economic & Community Implementation Plan Review

The Chief Officer stated that March marks two years since the LECP was launched. The LECP provides a framework over six years and within this term, there will be three, 2-year implementation plans developed. Over the coming weeks emails will be issued to agencies looking for updates as part of the process of reviewing the first implementation plan. The LECP advisory steering group will be re-established to support the creation of the next two-year implementation plan and ensure it remains in line with the high-level goals set out in this six-year plan.

There will be a report at the end of the review and prioritised actions set out for the next two years. There will also be direction given for anything that may need to be added or removed from the plan moving forward.

Dr Fiona McGrath asked how long people will have to complete the forms. The Chief Officer advised that it is hoped to have the process completed within three weeks from the emails being issued.

10. AOB

- **Approval of SICAP Service Providers and Subcontractors**

The Chair asked Ms Deirdre Donnelly to share details of Service Providers and Subcontractors engaged by Cavan County Local Development Company on screen. Mr Terry Hyland outlined the three new additions to the list. This information was circulated to members by email in advance of the meeting.

The additions to the SICAP Service Providers and Subcontractors were proposed by Ms Connie Whelan and seconded by Mr Seamus Quinn.

- **Public consultation on the new Healthy Ireland Framework**

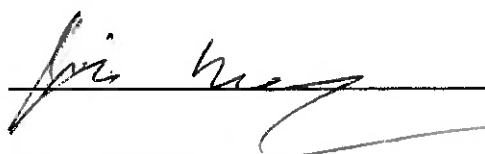
The Chief Officer informed the members that the Department of Health is currently undertaking a public consultation on the new Healthy Ireland Framework. They are inviting organisations and their networks to share their views and help shape the future direction of health and wellbeing policy in Ireland. The new framework will help guide national policy and action to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities over the coming years. Ensuring diverse input at this stage is critical to its success. The consultation is open until 22nd April 2026 and submissions can be made online. The link will be circulated to all members after the meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the LCDC will take place on Wednesday 29th April at 3pm in the Council Chamber.

The meeting ended

Signed: _____



Chairperson

Date: _____

29-4-26