

**Minutes of Local Community and Development Committee Meeting held
Monday 21st July, 2025 at 10.00 a.m. via Teams**

Present:

Public Sector: Cllr. John Carroll, Chair (TCC), Anthony Fitzgerald (TCC), Stephanie O'Callaghan (CYPSC), Cllr. Annemarie Ryan (Shiner)(TCC), Derval Howley (HSE), Cllr. Marie Murphy (TCC), Sinead Carr (Chief Executive) (TCC), Colin Cummins (TETB)

Private Sector: Michael Murray (NTDC), Isabel Cambie (STDC), John O'Shaughnessy (Business Pillar), Mike Geary (PPN), Mike Edwards, Vice Chair (PPN), Meadhbh Gordon (PPN), Pat Carroll (Agricultural Pillar), (TCC),

Apologies: Derry O'Donnell (PPN), Katie Frazer (Teagasc), Elaine Baker (PPN)

In Attendance: Brian Beck (Director of Services) (TCC), Sheevaun Thompson (TCC), Mairead Ryan (TCC), Elaine O'Driscoll (TCC), Valerie Kavanagh (TCC), Catriona Crowe (TCC), Fiona Crotty (TCC)

<p><u>Pre-Meeting Requirements and Conflict of Interest</u></p> <p>(a) Quorum The Quorum was reached.</p> <p>(b) Decision-Making Requirements to include LEADER Written Decisions None.</p> <p>(c) Ethics Documents All Ethics documents have been returned.</p>
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1. Approval of Draft Agenda

The Draft Agenda was agreed.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Tipperary LCDC Meeting dated the 16th June, 2025 & Matters Arising (Decision)

The minutes of the Tipperary LCDC meeting held on the 16th June, 2025 LCDC Meeting were agreed on the proposal of Stephanie O'Callaghan and seconded by John O'Shaughnessy.

3. LEADER 2023-2027

3.1 NTDC CEO Report (Decision)

Michael Murray updated the members on the CEO Report.

Michael Murray outlined the details of the following NTDC projects to the members:

Paul Bourke T/A Irish Fishing Tours

Project Code:	IE30NTP102233
Project Promoter Code:	
Promoters Name:	Paul Bourke T/A Irish Fishing Tours
Description:	The purchase of two new boats that will be custom designed to meet the needs and demands of tourists visiting the lake. In addition to this, Irish Fishing Tours will develop an all-inclusive model even though fishing remains the core offering. It will provide different packages that will appeal to different groupings such as families, corporate groups and other diverse groups of people.
Theme:	Economic Development & Job Creation
Sub Theme:	Rural Tourism & Recreation
Outline the LAG's consideration on each of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deadweight	The project will not proceed without funding at present.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Displacement:	Existing competitors are Black Bay Lodge and Predator Guiding. These existing providers focus on the Italian & French market providing Italian and French speaking guides and only provide for pike fishing. IFT accommodates visitors from around the world but mainly the USA, UK, Netherlands, Germany and Sweden and

	provide multi-species fishing trips including pike, perch, trout and roach. This development does not compete with local tourist facilities already in place but rather it provides an additional service with an additional offering to help sustain their business. Given the fact that none of the current suppliers can meet the level of demand, it will not affect their business
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation 	Irish Fishing Tours will provide for diversity and choice within the tourism sector and offer a niche product and will help support other tourism sectors through spin off benefits.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonableness of costs: 	The procurement rules as per the RDP OR 16.3 were followed.
In house projects: are there other providers that can deliver the project more cost effectively?	This is not an in-house project.
Recommendation of Evaluation Committee	Grant aid of €100,415.97
Rationale of Evaluation Committee if recommendation is rejected:	N/A
Where rejecting an Evaluation Committee recommendation to reject a proposal, insert the revised score	N/A
Rationale for grant aid, having regard to the LDS:	It is envisaged that the current 2 part-time positions will become closer to full-time over the next few years as tourism continues to recover from International Events. Creating tourism bundles with other tourism providers under the Destination Lough Derg initiative will assist in the creation of indirect seasonal/parttime employment in the area.
Added value – How will the added value of LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?	The promoter will have enhanced results and impacts of the business strategy and the LDS.
% level of aid & ceiling:	75%

Proposed by:	John O Shaughnessy
Seconded by:	Derval Howley
Absenters:	No
Agreed by Board	Yes
Has Quorum requirements been met:	Yes

Sinead Carr asked if issues such as State Aid threshold was addressed and Michael Murray said it had.

Thurles Lions Club (C/O John McCormack) (Project Deferred)

Project Code:	IE30NTP102615
Project Promoter Code:	
Promoters Name:	Thurles Lions Club (C/O John McCormack)
Description:	The need for a Thurles Heritage Trail has long been identified. However, it was during the recent restoration of the Stanwix Home and out engagement with its history that Thurles Lions Club determined that the building and its environs should be a logical stop on a heritage trail around the town of Thurles. The project now has three elements as follows: (they are looking for LEADER funding for the design elements outlined in numbers 1 & 2) - 1. The design of heritage trail walking route, design of twelve (12) associated signs and signage content in dual language 2. The design of a digital/online element where all 12 signs will be linked to a QR code that facilitates the walker to access further, more detailed information that needs to be collated/presented in both document and video format. The intention is that the host website will be Thurles.ie an existing 'one-stopshop' site for all services, attractions etc related to the town. The proposal is that once the design and content, as outlines, has been procured and delivered, they will then proceed to the procurement of the manufacture and fitting of the signage as designed with a Local Authority grant facilitating this element.
Theme:	Economic Development & Job Creation
Sub Theme:	Rural Tourism & Recreation

Outline the LAG's consideration on each of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadweight 	The project will not proceed without funding at present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displacement: 	No, tourism is underdeveloped in Thurles. This proposal will assist in developing the tourism offering for the Mid Tipperary area and to do so in synergy with other towns and villages in the wider hinterland and complimenting what these towns have to offer the visitor.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation 	The Thurles Heritage Trail will be the first such project for the town that will draw together all aspects of the unique and rich history, culture and heritage that the town has to offer and present these as one unified offering for local and visitors alike.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonableness of costs: 	The procurement rules as per the RDP OR 16.3 were followed.
In house projects: are there other providers that can deliver the project more cost effectively?	N/A
Recommendation of Evaluation Committee	€29,657.93
Rationale of Evaluation Committee if recommendation is rejected:	N/A
Where rejecting an Evaluation Committee recommendation to reject a proposal, insert the revised score	N/A
Rationale for grant aid, having regard to the LDS:	Community Tourism Project
Added Value- How will the added value of the LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?	The promoter will improve social capital and have enhanced results and impacts of the business strategy and the LDS.
% level of aid & ceiling:	75%

Proposed by:	-
Seconded by:	-
Absenters:	No
Agreed by Board	Yes
Has Quorum requirements been met:	Yes

Sinead Carr asked if a similar Heritage Trail project had been done previously in Thurles and who would manage the website when it was up and running. Michael Murray stated there was a booklet produced previously and this website would digitize that booklet. He stated that he didn't know who would manage the website but that he would enquire and revert back. Cllr. Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) asked how the costs of the website would be funded going forward. It was agreed to defer the project until these questions could be answered.

Derg Lake Tours

Project Code:	IE30NTP102687
Project Promoter Code:	
Promoters Name:	Derg Lake Tours
Description:	To deliver unforgettable, scenic, and personalized boat tour experiences on Lough Derg, allowing guests to explore the lake's beauty and cultural heritage while positively impacting the local economy and tourism sector. Private charters will also be offered, in addition to teaming up with local business to enhance the packages provided in the area. Derg Lake Tours, based in Terryglass,
Theme:	Economic Development & Job Creation
Sub Theme:	Rural Tourism & Recreation
Outline the LAG's consideration on each of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadweight 	The project will not proceed without funding at this time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displacement: 	This business will have no direct competitors in the North of Lough Derg i.e. Mountshannon, Garrykennedy, Dromineer, Portumna or Terryglass. This will be a completely unique offering in the area. This business will not cause any displacement; it will instead benefit all local businesses.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation 	First of its kind on North Lough Derg, distinctive tour format combined with scenic

	and educational value. Self-drive hire boats in Terryglass will offer couples and small groups a relaxed and independent way to explore the beauty of Lough Derg, perfect for 1.5-hour outings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonableness of costs: 	The procurement rules as per the RDP OR 16.3 were followed.
In house projects: are there other providers that can deliver the project more cost effectively?	This is not an in-house project
Recommendation of Evaluation Committee	€36,385.97
Rationale of Evaluation Committee if recommendation is rejected:	N/A
Where rejecting an Evaluation Committee recommendation to reject a proposal, insert the revised score	N/A
Rationale for grant aid, having regard to the LDS:	It is envisaged that the current 2 seasonal positions will become closer to full-time over the next few years as tourism continues to recover from international events and extending the shoulder season growth. Creating tourism bundles with other tourism providers under the Destination Lough Derg initiative will assist in the creation of indirect seasonal/part-time employment in the area.
Added Value- How will the added value of the LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?	The promoter will have enhanced results and impacts of the business strategy and the LDS.
% level of aid & ceiling:	75%
Proposed by:	John O Shaughnessy
Seconded by:	Cllr. Marie Murphy
Absenters: Agreed by Board Has Quorum requirements been met:	No Yes Yes

Meadhbh Gordon asked if the boats were electric and Michael confirmed that they were. She also asked who would be liable for insurance and Michael confirmed that the company (Derg Lake Tours) would be liable.

Cross Fabrication Limited

Project Code:	IE30NTP102690
Project Promoter Code:	
Promoters Name:	Cross Fabrication Limited
Description:	The Company wishes to purchase the following equipment to facilitate growth. From experience in pricing different jobs and losing out on them because the pricing was too high Paudie decided to investigate what was leading him to losing out on these contracts. What was driving up the costs for him and not for others. He realised that he was outsourcing a huge part of the job to other companies (in other countries) and the cost of not only this but transporting the goods was a major part in the increased cost of the job. He saw that if he could purchase this equipment not only would he be more competitive, but he would also create more jobs locally. In buying these machines he would need a larger work force to work them. He would now be able to supply his product that was produced in this workshop to his customers - Glanua Ltd., Irish Meats, Glenveagh Irish Homes.
Theme:	Economic Development & Job Creation
Sub Theme:	Enterprise Development
Outline the LAG's consideration on each of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadweight 	This project will not proceed without funding at present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displacement: 	The Company has no direct competitors in the County offering the proposed expansion production facilities and so there is no displacement issue. The nearest direct competitors are Shortt's Stainless Steel in Limerick and then Dairy Tube Engineering in Kells, Co. Meath.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation 	The machinery purchased will facilitate greater efficiency in work practices at the

	factory thus generating economies of scale and allowing the Company to compete successfully regarding tendering. They are the only company in the area that will offer this service. As it is they must travel to Limerick for this service. By purchasing this equipment, they will be creating jobs locally and keeping business within the rural area of Borrisoleigh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonableness of costs: 	The procurement rules as per the RDP OR 16.3 were followed.
In house projects: are there other providers that can deliver the project more cost effectively?	This is not an in-house project
Recommendation of Evaluation Committee	€112,906.58
Rationale of Evaluation Committee if recommendation is rejected:	N/A
Where rejecting an Evaluation Committee recommendation to reject a proposal, insert the revised score	N/A
Rationale for grant aid, having regard to the LDS:	Sustaining the current 11 fulltime and 2 parttime positions and adding 4 fulltime and 3 seasonal positions to the workforce in this rural based business. Sales Targeted to double over a 5-year period due to the increased tendering success, production efficiencies, and new business gained due to the impact of the proposed machines.
Added Value- How will the added value of the LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?	The promoter is a successful manufacturing business and securing this LEADER grant will provide added value through enhanced results and impacts of programme/strategy implementation.
% level of aid & ceiling:	64.858%
Proposed by:	Anthony Fitzgerald
Seconded by:	Pat Carroll
Absenters:	No
Agreed by Board	Yes

Has Quorum requirements been met:	Yes
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Sinead Carr asked if funding from the LEO had been sought. Michael Murray confirmed the LEO don't fund capital projects that do not have an export element to them.

Soul Form Furniture Studio Limited

Project Code:	IE30NTP102748
Project Promoter Code:	
Promoters Name:	Soul Form Furniture Studio Limited
Description:	At Soul Form Furniture Studio, we create bespoke timber furniture, and art installations. One-off designs made using only the best materials and a state-of-the-art craftsmanship. We are exclusive and made in Ireland; They are timber specialist, and their creations are both artistic and functional; they utilise natural timbers, local renewable sources and recycled materials to create beautiful, handcrafted furniture. At Soul Form they create custom furniture for every space and need; From Luxurious dining tables to unique bathroom vanities, custom benches and chairs as well as bespoke desks; we also create wooden coffee tables, fireplace mantles, among many others. They specialise in both indoor designs as well as outdoor creations. They are seeking funding for a range of production and marketing equipment.
Theme:	Economic Development & Job Creation
Sub Theme:	Enterprise Development
Outline the LAG's consideration on each of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadweight 	The project will not proceed without funding at present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displacement: 	The Company has no direct competitors in the County offering high end bespoke timber furniture production and there is no displacement issue. The nearest slightly similar competitor is Modet in Cork and Klimmeeck in Dublin, but both these offer a very different artistic output.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation 	The Promoters have returned to Tipperary from New Zealand and have set up a new business in a rural area – their products are unique crafted pieces.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonableness of costs: 	The procurement rules as per the RDP OR 16.3 were followed with the lowest price selected.
In house projects: are there other providers that can deliver the project more cost effectively?	N/A
Recommendation of Evaluation Committee	80,292.02
Rationale of Evaluation Committee if recommendation is rejected:	N/A
Where rejecting an Evaluation Committee recommendation to reject a proposal, insert the revised score	N/A
Rationale for grant aid, having regard to the LDS:	Sustaining the current 1 fulltime and 1 part-time positions and growing to 5 fulltime positions
Added Value- How will the added value of the LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project	The Promoters are a successful manufacturing entrepreneur and securing LEADER funding will provide added value through enhanced results and impacts of programme/strategy implementation.
% level of aid & ceiling:	75%
Proposed by:	John O Shaughnessy
Seconded by:	Anthony Fitzgerald
Absenters: Agreed by Board Has Quorum requirements been met:	No Yes Yes

Four NTDC Projects were agreed and approved and a decision on one NTDC Project was deferred.

3.2 STDC CEO Report (Decision)

Isabel Cambie updated the members on the CEO Report.

There were no new projects to present to this month's LCDC, however, modifications were made to two projects which had been provisionally approved at the June LCDC meeting.

30LDRSTP102370: Solar Panels: Millenium Family Resource Centre Clg:
A Section 5 Planning exemption has now been received for the Millenium Family Resource Centre Clg project which was provisionally approved at the June LCDC meeting. Full approval of the project was proposed by Mike Edwards and seconded by Stephanie O Callaghan

30LDRSTP102368: Sustainable Energy: Place4U:

The Place4U project which was provisionally approved at the June LCDC meeting subject to planning confirmation for the solar panel element of the project. The Promoter does not wish to proceed with the solar panel element so the cost is reduced from €37,570.44 to €18,175.44 and grant aid from €28,177.83 to €13,631.58

Approval for LED Lighting only was agreed on the proposal of Derval Howley and seconded by Mike Edwards.

Approval of the new project cost was proposed by Stephanie O Callaghan and seconded by Cllr. Marie Murphy.

3.3 Budget Report

As the Thurles Lyons Club project has been deferred, Val Kavanagh advised that the budget figures would have to be amended.

3.4 LEADER Targeted Call 2025 – update

Isabel Cambie updated the members on the Targeted Call 2025. The minimum grant amount will be €10,000 and the maximum amount will be €80,000 and Expressions of interest should be submitted by the 8th September 2025. Cllr. Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) asked if there was wriggle room regarding the maximum grant or is it capped at €80,000. Isabel advised that it was capped at €80,000 but that an applicant could apply under a rolling call if the costs were over €80,000.

3.5 Quarterly update on ineligible EOI's received

Valerie Kavanagh advised that one ineligible EOI had been received between April and June

4. SICAP Mid-Year Review Process Update

Sheevaun Thompson informed the members that both Development Company's presented their Mid-year review to the social Inclusion Sub-Group on the 10th July.

5. Smart Villages Update

Isabel Cambie gave an update on Smart Villages and advised that three projects have now been selected for Phase 1, and are progressing with webinars and in person meetings with the consultants. Broad community consultations will be carried out in each community in the Autumn.

6.

Quality of Life

6.1 Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) 2023-2025

Catriona Crowe updated the members on the Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2025:

- New SLA signed with CAMHS Nenagh/Mid-West Mental Health Services for activities and programmes to support child and adolescent health and wellbeing.
- Clogheen Men's Shed were supported with Healthy Ireland Round 4 funding to improve their community grow garden Clogheen Men's shed were supported with Healthy Ireland Round 4 funding to improve their community grow garden, including amendments to improve accessibility within the garden and growing beds for wheelchair users and those with reduced mobility. Funding was provided for a new Pollytunnel, an irrigation system within, and treated timber to develop new raised beds in the community garden. The men's shed group will undertake the development works with local community members over the coming
- The first cultural companions Tipperary group is in running in Clonmel. Cultural companions is an Age and Opportunity initiative designed to support adults in building social connections through a shared interest in arts & culture. The group in Clonmel had their first social meet up in June, where they planned an upcoming arts and cultural event. During Clonmel's Junction Arts Festival, an event in the STAC Chapel was chosen and attended by the group.

The next town for Tipperary Cultural Companions will be developed in the coming weeks.

6.2 Healthy Communities Clonmel

Catriona Crowe updated the members on Healthy Communities Clonmel.

Substance Use Community Conversations Updates

- Clonmel **Community Conversations about Substance Use** has been entered into the Pride of Place '**Community Wellbeing Initiative**' category. Pride of Place Judging takes place on Tuesday 9th September 2025.

Schools Cohort Subgroup Update

- As part of the Clonmel Community Conversations about Substance Use, the Schools Cohort Subgroup continues to work actively on progressing a Drugs Education Programme aimed at primary and secondary schools within the Clonmel BD. This initiative is a key response to the priority actions identified through research conducted by Dr. Marie Walsh (TUS),

following four thematic community consultation events, including the dedicated Parents and Schools session.

- The programme will be introduced in the 2025/2026 academic year, with plans for roll-out across both primary and secondary schools in Clonmel. Engagement from primary schools to date has been very positive, but the secondary school sector has presented some challenges in securing participation. This collaborative approach will also ensure that the findings from the Clonmel MD Planet Youth Reports are embedded into school engagement strategies and education content.

Parents Cohort Subgroup Update

- Parent Engagement Progress: Continued positive engagement with local parents through the Clonmel Community Conversations on Substance Use initiative.
- Parents have expressed an interest in a Gardening Project involving their children/teenagers.
- The project is seen as a tool to support wellbeing, community connection, and skill development, while offering a positive alternative activity.

Businesses & Hospitality Cohort Subgroup Update

- A meeting of the Business & Hospitality subgroup took place on June 4th as part of the ongoing Clonmel Community Conversations on Substance Use. The meeting focused on key challenges faced by local businesses and hospitality providers and explored potential supports and actions.

Playful Streets

- A successful Playful Streets event took place on Tuesday, 24th June at Glenconnor Hill Estate, Clonmel, bringing the local community together for a day of outdoor play, physical activity, and neighbourly connection.
- In collaboration with Tipperary Sports Partnership, the Council's Housing Community Liaison Officer, Sláintecare Healthy Communities, and Healthy Tipperary, the event transformed the estate into a safe, car-free zone. Families and children enjoyed a wide range of activities including hopscotch, giant games, obstacle courses, and hula hoops.

Follow-up visit scheduled for 22nd July at Glenconnor Hill – an opportunity for families to give feedback on recent Playful Streets event & plan further rollouts.

6.3 Tipperary Age Friendly

Catriona Crowe updated the members on Tipperary Age Friendly.

- HSE & Tipperary Age Friendly hosted a workshop in Fethard on 10th July to consult and engage with the Fethard catchment in relation to the Fethard Primary Care Centre. Walkability will be undertaken nearer completion.
- Working with the National Understand Together office in relation to Tidy Towns planting, showcasing areas of sensory planting and linking to further resources

6.4 Planet Youth

- Continued engagement with RCSI in relation to the targeted County and MD Reports

6.5 Engage in Energy

- Dates agreed for review Meeting in August with TUS On data collected to date
- Dates agreed for agency meeting with Roscrea and Carrick on Suir for September

7.

Funding Updates – Local Enhancement Programme 2025 – approval for payment of grants on purchases made pre-approval.

Val kavanagh informed the members that a small number of purchases were made by some applicants preapproval. She queried the eligibility of this with the Department and they advised her it was a decision for the LCDC.

Val explained that while the LCDC approved the LEP grants at the March meeting, Departmental approval was not given until early June. She explained that less than a handful of groups purchased items prior to approval. She gave the examples of a Tidy Towns group having to purchase a lawnmower sooner rather than later in the Summer. Val asked that approval be given for genuine cases where the purchases had to be made preapproval on a case by case basis.

As there was more Public membership at the meeting, (some members of the group had to leave early), Cllr. Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) stepped away from

the decision-making process to ensure balance as required in favour of the Private.

Approval was agreed on the proposal of Mike Edwards and seconded by Cllr. Marie Murphy.

8. Community Response to Severe Weather Events Sub-Group Meeting 30/06/2025 Update

Sheevaun Thompson informed the members that a Community Response to Severe Weather Events Sub Group meeting was held on the 30th June and approval was sought to change the name of the group to "Community Response to Extreme Emergency Events" as it was felt that an extreme emergency could be more than a weather event.

Approval was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Marie Murphy and seconded by Pat Carroll.

Pat Carroll also asked that pressure be put on Mobile Phone Companies to put generators in place where there was poor/no mobile phone signal. He asked that Councillors come together to put pressure on the phone companies and Cllr. Marie Murphy and Cllr. Annemarie Ryan (Shiner) agreed to look at it. Brian Beck suggested that Simon Howe, Broadband Officer give a presentation to the LCDC to update them on broadband progress and Sheevaun Thompson agreed to contact him re same.

9. "Maximising LEADER funding for the benefit of biodiversity, water quality, climate resilience and local communities".

Dr. Fran Igoe, LAWPRO gave a presentation to the members on the above.

10. Correspondence, Submissions & Consultation

Valerie Kavanagh advised the members that a Stakeholder Consultation on the development of a new strategy to support the community and voluntary sector has commenced.

Valerie Kavanagh advised the members that the 2025 Integration Fund is open for applications and the closing date for same is Thursday 31st July.

Val Kavanagh informed the members that a Circular on CAP (Common Agriculture Policy) post-2027 had been issued by the Department.

11. AOB

None

12. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 15th September in person

10am Site Visit: - Irish Bioeconomy Foundation (IBF) facilitated by Stephen Napier, CEO

Address:

National Bioeconomy Campus (Former Lisheen Mine), Killoran, Lisheen (Moyne), Tipperary E41 R622

The site visit will be followed by LCDC meeting at a venue TBC.

Signed:



Cllr. John Carroll
Chair,

Tipperary Local Community Development Committee

Date:

15/9/2025

Signed:



Brian Beck
Chief Officer,

Tipperary Local Community Development Committee

Date:

15/9/2025