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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LISTOWEL HELD IN ÁRAS AN PHIARSAIGH, LISTOWEL ON 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2015**

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE SPEISIALTA DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH LIOS TUATHAIL A THIONÓLADH IN ÁRAS AN PHIARSAIGH, LIOS TUATHAIL, AR AN 14 BEALTAINÉ 2015**

**PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR**

**Councillors/Comhairleoirí**

**Cllr. R Beasley  
Cllr. J Brassil  
Cllr. M Kennelly  
Cllr. J Moloney  
Cllr. D Nolan  
Cllr. L Purtill  
Cllr. A Thornton**

**In attendance/i láthair**

<b>Mr. G O'Brien</b>	<b>Meetings Administrator</b>
<b>Mr. M Scannell</b>	<b>SEO Community Services &amp; Engagement</b>
<b>Mr. J Sheehan</b>	<b>SEE</b>
<b>Ms. J Foley</b>	<b>Listowel MD Officer</b>
<b>Ms. C Fitzgerald</b>	<b>A/SO Corporate Support</b>
<b>Ms. S Broderick</b>	<b>SO Corporate Support</b>

The meeting commenced at 11.42am.

**15.05.14.01: 2015 Community Support Fund for Listowel Municipal District.**

Mr. M Scannell briefed the meeting on the following report which was circulated:

As a recognition of the valuable work undertaken by communities in the county Kerry County Council developed the Community Support Fund to provide flexible financial support to community groups and local organisations to enable them to undertake projects and /or which will assist them to improve the range and/or quality of community services and facilities within their area.

While the size of the overall fund is significant, the scale of individual projects will be limited due to the size of the municipal districts and the range of groups which the fund covers. This is reflective of the level of community & voluntary activity within the county.

The overall total of the fund is " 750,000 divided amongst the municipal districts as follows.

Killarney	" 259,000
Listowel	" 118,000
South & West	" 120,000
Tralee	" 253,000

The total number of applications received amounted to 270.

These applications included total funding requests in excess of " 2.5ml from a variety of projects & programmes. Individual applications for funding ranged from " 250 to " 181,789. The applications submitted cover chambers of commerce, local festivals & events, village enhancement projects, tidy towns, sports capital & equipment, tourist product enhancement & a variety of community & social projects and programmes.

It is clear that the fund has not the capacity to deal with large capital projects and indeed it was never the intention that it would do so. There are alternative funding sources available to meet these capital projects, particularly in relation to the capital sports grants, that become available on a relatively frequent basis and which have significantly enabled capital works to be undertaken in Kerry.

Similarly it is not the intention of the scheme to replace mainstream core funding.

Taking these limitations into consideration it was agreed by **Tourism, Culture, Arts & Recreation SPC** and the **Corporate Policy Group** that the Community Support Fund applications be assessed against the following Principles:

- Capital Projects - Maximum allocation to be considered " 10,000;
- Any Centrally Funded Projects . Excluded;
- Leader Eligible Projects to be co-funded;
- Applications for funding should support %animation+- focus of this fund is animation funding;
- Part of the MD allocation to be retained to have a contingency fund in place within each Municipal District at a minimum level of 10%;
- Take into account the overall costs of the project, and the possible impact of a significantly reduced allocation;

The applications have been thoroughly assessed in accordance with the above principles by relevant Kerry County Staff, from the Community, Tourism, Arts, and Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership sections, with additional consultation with the municipal districts. The assessment has been carried out to ensure compliance with audit, good governance and transparency in relation to the awarding of funding.

Following the consideration of the members on the proposed allocations and the distribution of funds a report will be compiled with recommendations for the members around the structuring of future Community Support Funds. This as the initial year of the fund will provide guidance on the types of applications that have been animated through the process and how the fund can be more strategically

based in the future. The local Economic & Community Plan will be in place for the next round of community funds and this plan can also influence the direction of funding in the county.

For ease of assessment the applications are divided into categories as follows and will presented accordingly at the Municipal District Meetings.

Community Services Capital/Equipment	CSC
Community Services Programme	CSP
Cultural	CUL
Economic Development/chamber of commerce	ED/COC
Enhancement	EN
Sports Capital/Equipment	SPC
Sports Programmes	SPP
Tourism Local festival	T/LF
Tourism Infrastructure	TI
Tidy Towns	TT

#### **Details for Listowel MD CSF**

**Total Allocated Budget** " 119,250

Funding to be retained

Funding provided by  
Listowel Town Council  
Festive Lighting " 25,000

10% for additional applications  
That may require funding/Leader  
co-funding " 12,000

Interpretative signs. Deferred  
pending development " 4,000  
of clear guidelines on  
erection of signage.

**Total to be retained** " 41,000

**Funds for distribution at this time**  
" 77,000

The projects on the attached excel document represent the applications submitted for the Listowel Municipal District. The document details the name of the applicant, the nature of the application, the overall cost, the contribution sought, previous funding granted, and a recommendation in relation to the application.

Funding has been recommended in accordance with the principles set out in the report and where it is considered that a reduced allocation can be of benefit to the applicant and can allow a significant portion of the project to proceed.

**Extract from the Community Support Fund Guidelines issued with the grant application forms**

**The Fund will support projects in these categories:**

“ **Community Projects:** - Examples include programmes to support active ageing in a community or a proposal by a group to enhance and improve their town or village.

“ **Local Economic Development and Promotion:** - A project to develop business units in the community or a project to create a new business in a community.

“ **Local Tourism, Festivals and Events:** - support to a local community to assist with improving or developing an existing festival or creating a local tourism project with full community involvement e.g. enhancing an historic area or site.

“ **Recreation and Amenity Projects:** - The provision of stiles or benches along a walking route or the development of a community park or the planting of hedging and flowers on approach roads to a village.

**INELIGIBLE PROJECTS**

The following exclusions apply under this Scheme:-

“ Business Displacement

“ Mass Participation Events run on a for profit basis

“ General Appeals

“ Activities that can be financed from other sources of funding.

“ Servicing of Debt

“ Developments which are the Responsibility of other Government Departments e.g. Department of Education or Department of Health+

Mr. Scannell said that the Community Support Fund has been developed from Local Property Tax funding in Kerry to support community groups throughout the county. The projects vary in size from small to substantial capital projects.

He referred to page 8 of the table which was circulated and said that it was proposed to allocate “ 4,000 for the provision of interpretative signage but during the course of discussions with the members it was agreed that this allocation would be reduced to “ 2,000 and the remaining “ 2,000 would be redistributed as follows:

L42 Lixnaw Development Association	- allocation	- “ 750
L50 Listowel Tidy Towns	- allocation increase	- “ 250
L51 Asdee Tidy Towns	- allocation increase	- “ 250
L52 Ballybunion Tidy Towns	- allocation increase	- “ 250
L53 Ballyduff in Bloom	- allocation increase	- “ 250
L54 Ballylongford Tidy Towns	- allocation increase	- “ 250

Mr. Scannell advised that " 1,250 would be allocated to Ballyheigue Tidy Towns Committee. This allocation was not included on the table circulated and is recorded at L55 on the amended table.

Please refer to amended table at Appendix 1.

Mr. Scannel referred to applications for large amounts for funding e.g. Traffic Management Plans, which had received only a small funding allocation. He advised that this nominal allocation was for the general support of the community group to acknowledge and support their work within the community. Funding from the Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund and the roads grants could be used to develop these projects.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J Moloney, SECONDED by Cllr. D Nolan it was agreed to approve the allocations as amended from the 2015 Community Support Fund for the Municipal District of Listowel.

Cathaoirleach M Kennelly welcomed the funding provided to Community Groups from the Community Fund and thanked Mr. Scannell and his staff for the work involved in preparing the programme.

Cllr. A Thornton thanked Mr. Scannell and the staff of Community Services and Engagement for their work in allocating the fund.

Cllr. J Moloney asked if groups will be advised as to why their application was unsuccessful.

Mr. Scannell said that a response would issue in the case of all applications.

Mr. Scannell said that LEADER funding may become available later in the year therefore applications for funding that were submitted during the year may be considered for co-funding with LEADER.

A programme for villages to be funded over a number of years could be considered.

**The meeting concluded at 11.55pm.**

Gerard O'Brien  
**Gerard O'Brien**  
**Meetings Administrator**

Cllr. M. Kennelly  
**Cllr. M. Kennelly**  
**Cathaoirleach of Listowel**  
**Municipal District**

