

# **Presentation by Michael Ward**

**WPPN Rep to WCC's Economic Development, Enterprise, Agriculture, Tourism SPC**

**Delivered to WPPN Linkage Group 11 Sept 2025**



***Working for the people of Mullingar***



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## **WPPN Rep to WCC's Economic Development, Enterprise, Agriculture, Tourism SPC Delivered to WPPN Linkage Group 11 Sept 2025**

Mullingar Employment Action Group (MEAG), with support from Enterprise Ireland of Westmeath Co Co/LEO and Enterprise Ireland are developing proposals for a new food hub, i.e. enterprise centre for food businesses in Mullingar. The project proposes collaboration with other stakeholders including Technical University of the Shannon (TUS, Athlone), Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR, Mullingar) and Longford Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB) to deliver a suite of supports to the industry in the midlands region.

### **Who are Mullingar Employment Action Group?**

MEAG is a community supported 'not for profit' organisation which was formed in 1986 to help tackle unemployment in the region.

Opened Mullingar Community Enterprise Centre, on Bishop Gate Street with 20 units in 1990.

METIC opened in 2009.

MEAG also sponsor and support the development and vocational education and training of individuals through various schemes.



### **Overview of Proposed Food Hub.**

4 units of ready to go, food grade production units - total 1260m<sup>2</sup> of floor space, two stories with office space.

Hub will be located at The Mullingar Enterprise, Technology and Innovation Centre (METIC), Zone C, Mullingar Business Park, Clonmore.

Will include a food innovation lab.

Have requested adjacent unused land from WCC and awaiting decision – potential space for cold storage/freezer unit which is recommended for food hubs.

Food hub will be adjacent to existing centre, some of whose tenants are in the food industry. Partnership with third-level institution and research organisations.

### **Objectives of proposed Food Hub.**

Retention and creation of jobs and industries in Westmeath.

Help deliver on the Midlands Food and Drinks Strategy and Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan ([MidlandsIreland.ie](http://MidlandsIreland.ie))

Hubs in the region include Ferbane, Portlaoise, Tullamore – the food 'Innovator' hub campus in Athenry being a very successful model

Noted that Westmeath loses food-production businesses to other food hubs in the midlands and other regions.



### **Current Status of proposed Food Hub.**

Currently at planning stage - pending response to request for additional land.

Application ongoing for grant support to develop application for EI SREIS (Smart Regional Enterprise Innovation Fund) capital grant – source of funding is EU.

Involves creation of 15 year plan; engagement with stakeholders.

Displayed design plans from More Architects, Mullingar.

First estimate of costings are between €3.5-€4 million. Under terms of funding scheme, close to 100% of capital costs can potentially be claimed. Lots of infrastructure already in place.

Pending grant approval engage consultants to assist with final business, operational and financial plan which will form the basis of a capital ready submission under SREIS, in Q1 2026.

Under terms of SREIS, build and grant drawdown must be complete by December 2028.



# FROM VISION TO REALITY

## A TIMELINE OF INNOVATION, GROWTH, AND IMPACT

1984

FEBRUARY

Public meeting called by concerned citizens led to the creation of Mullingar Action Committee

1988

FEBRUARY

Fully functioning MEAG recruit an Enterprise Co-Ordinator and begin plans to build a new Enterprise Centre.

1992

MAY

The newly constructed Mullingar Enterprise Centre consisting of 19 self contained units opened its doors

2004

APRIL

The Mullingar Enterprise, Technology & Innovation Centre was established to support the growing needs of scaling enterprises entering their next phase of development.

2009

JANUARY

The Mullingar Enterprise, Technology & Innovation Centre opens its doors, with an offering of larger office and light industrial spaces.

2015

OCTOBER

MEAG opens European Projects Office that will have led and partnered on 13 projects with 51 organisations from 23 Countries to-date

2025

JULY

Plans are put in place to develop the Mullingar Food Accelerator, with a target to open its doors in 2027



Members of the Committee with Michael Casey, builder of the Enterprise Centre.



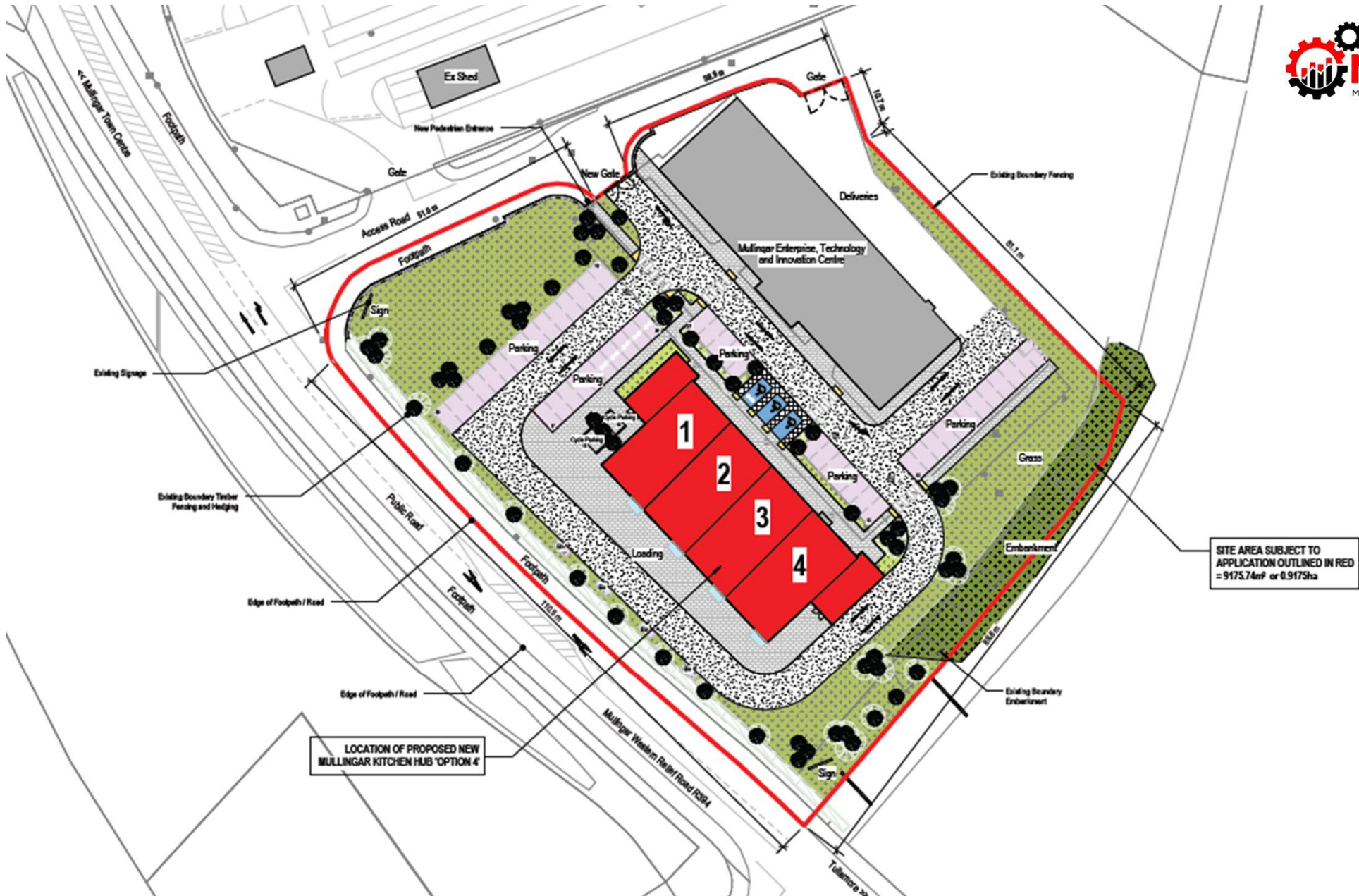
## Enterprise Supports



- The Enterprise Centre opened 1990
  - 20 units of varying size (from 160 to 800 square foot)
- Mullingar Enterprise Technology and Innovative Centre opened in 2009
  - Production and Office space ( 500 - 2000 sq. ft.)







LOCATION OF PROPOSED NEW MULLINGAR KITCHEN HUB 'OPTION 4'

SITE AREA SUBJECT TO APPLICATION OUTLINED IN RED = 9175.74m<sup>2</sup> or 0.9175ha



**2** PROPOSED FRONT ELEVATION (NORTH FACING)  
PP006 1 : 100



**4** PROPOSED SIDE ELEVATION (NORTHWEST FACING)  
PP006 1 : 100

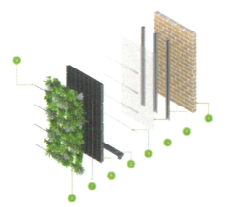


**3** PROPOSED SIDE ELEVATION (SOUTHEAST FACING)  
PP006 1 : 100



**5** PROPOSED REAR ELEVATION (SOUTHWEST FACING)  
PP006 1 : 100

1. Indicative brick or concrete surface
2. Vertical Omega carrier rail
3. Breathable membrane
4. Fixing Rail
5. Squaresline Outer or client specified
6. AND Living Wall Module 250x500x100mm
7. 16mm vertical irrigation pipe
8. Planting
9. Solar/ultra emitter pressure regulated irrigation pipe



Typical 'Livewall' Aluminium Tophat Build-up System



'Livewall' Example

- The Benefits of Living Walls:
- Air Quality
  - Biodiversity
  - Planning and Regulation
  - Temperature Regulation
  - Protective Cladding
  - Acoustics
  - Property Value

Except for Planning purposes, figured dimensions only are to be taken from this drawing.  
All dimensions are in millimeters unless otherwise stated.  
All dimensions shall be checked on site prior to works commencing.  
Any discrepancies shall be reported to architect immediately.  
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**Notes**

The accuracy of dimensions scaled from the drawing are not guaranteed. Check from architect any dimensions required if not given in figures on the drawings (do not calculate from figures on the drawing).  
All design-stage drawings and are subject to detailed design and coordination with specialist consultants, contractors and sub-contractors.  
All structural items to Structural Engineer's survey, design and specification.  
All design-elements to comply with current Building Regulations and standards.  
All existing and proposed ground levels to be checked and confirmed on site.

**SCHEDULE OF AREAS:**

Total Car Parking	52%
Total Bike Parking	30%
Retained Grassed Area	2500.00m <sup>2</sup>
New Section Roof + LiveWall Area	1100.00m <sup>2</sup>

**Schedule of External Finishes:**

**Roof Covering:**  
SLIDE Blue Flat Roof System with sections of Membrane & Sections of Sloped Roof Covering

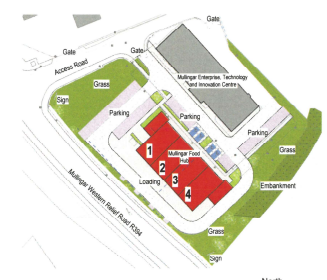
**External Windows and Doors:**  
Aluminium Triple Glazed A Rated Windows + Doors to Selected Colour.

**External Wall Finishes:**  
Pre-cast Wall Panels Finish with Sections of Planted Living Wall System

**Schedule of Floor Areas:**

Ground Floor Unit 1-4	= 186.0m <sup>2</sup>
Hub + Cafe Unit	= 55.0m <sup>2</sup>
Maintenance / Plant Unit	= 55.0m <sup>2</sup>
Optional First Floor Areas 1-4	= 71.0m <sup>2</sup>

Ground Floor Unit 1-4, Hub + Plant	= 912.5m <sup>2</sup>
First Floor 1-4 (Optional)	= 348.0m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total Floor Area:</b>	<b>= 1260.5m<sup>2</sup></b>



**6** KEY LAYOUT PLAN - OPTION 4  
PP006 1 : 1000

**DRAFT**

**OPTION 4**

Rev.	Date	Revised By	Description	UIN
0	27.03.25		PROPOSED ELEVATIONS OPTION 4	

<b>MORE.</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mullingar, Co. Wick</li> <li>• 04-4218222</li> <li>• info@meag.ie</li> <li>• www.meag.ie</li> </ul>			
Project	Mullingar Kitchen Hub Enterprise Centre, Zone C, Mullingar Business Park	date	27.03.25
Drawing title	Proposed Elevations Option 4	drawn by	scale @ A1
status	Concept	DR	ROR
project reference	251001	drawing number	PP006
		revision	0



<b>RIA</b>	Registered Architect	Architect Accredited in Conservation	RSDP Accreditation	Architectural Technologist
2025	G3	P	2025	



Report to: Mullingar Employment Action Group  
 The purpose of this document is to provide a clear and concise overview of the proposed development. It is intended to be used as a reference document for all stakeholders involved in the project. The information contained herein is for informational purposes only and should not be used as a basis for any legal or financial decisions. The design and construction of the development shall be in accordance with the relevant planning and building regulations. The design and construction of the development shall be in accordance with the relevant planning and building regulations. The design and construction of the development shall be in accordance with the relevant planning and building regulations.

**Scale:**  
 All architectural drawings shall be in accordance with the relevant standards and specifications. All design shall be in accordance with the relevant building regulations and standards. All design shall be in accordance with the relevant building regulations and standards. All design shall be in accordance with the relevant building regulations and standards.

**Summary of Areas:**  
 Total Car Parking: 20 No.  
 Total Area: 2000 sqm  
 Total Floor Area: 1100 sqm

**Summary of Floor Areas:**  
 Ground Floor Unit 1-4: 100 sqm  
 First Floor Unit 1-4: 100 sqm  
 Total Floor Area: 200 sqm

**DRAFT**  
**OPTION 4**

Project Name	Mullingar Employment Action Group
Project Number	2025-03
Project Status	Concept
Project Location	Mullingar, Wick, Ireland

**MORE.** [View more information](#)

Project Name	Mullingar Employment Action Group
Project Number	2025-03
Project Status	Concept
Project Location	Mullingar, Wick, Ireland
Project Reference	2025-03
Project Version	0



RIAI	Approved Architect	Architectural Consultant	PEEP Accredited	Architectural Technician
2025	G3	P		2025

## CO-LOCATED CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE



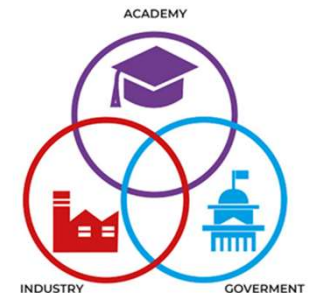


## Objectives

- Address infrastructure and capability gaps for food and drink **start-ups and scale-ups**.
- Advance the goals of the **Midlands Regional Food & Drink Strategy, Smart Regions Initiative, and Food Vision 2030**.
- Collaborate with partners including **IMR, TUS, Enterprise Ireland, Local Enterprise Offices, Education & Training Boards** etc. to deliver optimal outcomes for clients.

## Key Features

- Specialised food **production units, food innovation lab, Cold Store/Freezer**.
- Onsite expertise including **food technologist** and **programme manager**.
- Capacity-building in **commercial skills, market access, and digital technologies**.
- Networking and collaboration support via **B2B networks, mentoring** or **industry buddy** programmes
- Strong emphasis on **export development** and **digitalisation**, aligned with the **European green deal**.



## Expected Impact

- **Retention of businesses and jobs** in Mullingar/Westmeath (Food businesses and jobs recently lost to Westmeath due to lack of facilities - Bia Sol, Mobia, Bon Chocolatiers, Rosaleen's Kitchen).
- Ongoing **job creation and sectoral growth** (MEAG client companies in the sector - Bell Lane Coffee, Food Safety Excellence Ireland, Nana's Bakery, Patisserie 2210, Sugar Plum Sweetery, Lucy's Bakes).
- Strengthened **innovation and competitiveness** through partnerships with IMR, TUS, and others.
- A more **resilient and sustainable food ecosystem** for the midlands, integrating **agri-food, related services, and food tourism**.

## Next Steps

- **Planning application** pending response to request for additional land.
- Application ongoing for grant support to develop application for **EI SREIS (Smart Regional Enterprise Innovation Fund)** capital grant.
- Pending grant approval engage consultants to assist with final **business, operational and financial plan** which will form the basis of a **capital ready submission** under **SREIS** in Q1 2026.
- Under terms of SREIS, Build and grant drawdown must be complete by **December 2028**.