

Dr John Beard,
Director, Department of Ageing and Life Course,
Office 5030,
World Health Organisation,
20, Avenue Appia.
CH – 1211 Geneva 27,
Switzerland.

18th December 2018,

Re: Application for Membership to Global Network for Ageing Friendly Cities and Communities.

Dear Mr Beard,

I write to you on behalf of Westmeath County Council to apply for membership to the Global Network for Ageing Friendly Cities and Communities.

Westmeath Age Friendly Programme are delighted to be part of the National Age Friendly Ireland Programme working with 31 local authority lead age friendly programmes across the country collectively supporting the challenges to our ageing demographic in Ireland and as such Westmeath County Council have played a central role in the development of a Age Friendly Structures and strategies in Westmeath over the last 5 years.

Structures that exist in Westmeath to support the Voice of Older People include; the Westmeath Age Friendly Council, Westmeath Age Friendly Service Providers Forum and Westmeath Age Friendly Alliance. These structures support agencies to work together to make our county a “Better County in which to grow old” whilst also ensuring that older people are consulted and involved in the implementation of the actions.

We in Westmeath have completed our first Age Friendly Strategy which was a huge success and are now in the final stages of developing our second Age Friendly Strategy for the county. We have consulted with Older people across the county, agencies and community structures. This consultation will inform the Strategy and will also inform our annual workplans into the next 5 year strategy timeframe.

The commitment and understanding of agencies regarding the Age Friendly programme has grown from strength to strength in the last number of years. Implementation of actions through a partnership approach has become the norm and proof of this was when Westmeath Age Friendly Council and Programme won an auspicious award for their work at the National All Ireland Pride of Place finals in November 2018 for their Community Wellbeing Initiative.

Westmeath is committed to continuing the Age Friendly work and would be grateful and proud to continue this work as a member of the Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities. We await and look forward to hearing from you in the near future on our application.

Trusting that our application is in order and will be looked upon positively,

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Dolan', is written above a solid black horizontal line.

Clr John Dolan

An Cathaoirleach

Westmeath County Council