



Laois Local Community Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 28th June 2023 in County Hall and via County MS Teams at 11.30am

Members in attendance:

Public Sector representatives:

Mr. Joe Thompson, LOETB (Chairperson)
Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council
Cllr. John King, Laois County Council
Mr. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council
Mr. Kevin Geoghegan, DSP
Ms. Paula Phelan, HSE

Private Sector representatives:

Ms. Caroline Lydon, Laois Partnership Company
Ms. Nina Horan, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Harry Lalor, Farming Sector (I.F.A)
Mr. John Oxley, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network

Apologies:

Cllr. Conor Bergin, Laois County Council
Mr. Martin Crowley, Business Sector (Vice Chairperson)
Mr. Mark Clancy, Laois Local Enterprise Office
Ms. Joan Bolger, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Clive Davis, Youth Sector (Youth Work Ireland Laois)
Mr. Naeem Iqbal, Laois Public Participation Network

In Attendance:

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer
Ms. Anne Marie Kirrane, A/Administrative Officer, LCC
Ms. Orla Fitzpatrick, A/Senior Staff Officer, LCC
Ms. Danielle Keane, Clerical Officer, LCC

Ms. Danielle Keane LCC registered all members present on the meeting attendance sheet.

Mr. Joe Thompson, Chairperson, opened the meeting welcoming all present especially two newly ratified members Caroline Lydon, CEO, Laois Partnership Company and Mr. Harry Lalor, Irish Farmers Association. Mr. Thompson proceeded to congratulate Cllr Paschal McEvoy on his recent appointment as Cathlaoireach of Laois County Council.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 31st May 2023

The minutes were adopted following a *proposal from Cllr. Paschal McEvoy seconded by Cllr. John King*

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Correspondence

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised of an email received on Wednesday 14th June titled “LECP Update” noting that this item would be discussed further under Agenda Item 5 – LECP.

4. SICAP

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer noted that the SICAP sub-committee convened on Wednesday 14th June to:

- a) consider the 2023 Case Study,
- b) review the Local Government Audit Services audit of the SICAP Programme, and
- c) be updated on the 2023 Mid-Year Review process and timelines.

(a) 2023 Case Study

Ms. Tynan noted that the IP, Laois Partnership Company advised members of the sub-committee that the 2023 Case Study will be titled “**Well-being through community gardening and community spaces**”. (**O’Moore Place**). It being a requirement of the case study to focus on those who have engaged with the SICAP programme for a minimum of 5 years.

The 2023 Case Study “**Well-being through community gardening and community spaces**” was well received by members being **proposed by Mr. John Mulholland and seconded by Mr. Ray Harte**

(b) Local Government Audit Service (LGAS) of the SICAP programme

Further to the LGAS report issued to members at the May meeting, the SICAP sub-committee convened to examine said report and to discuss issues raised with LCDC staff and the LDC, with assurances being forthcoming that satisfactory and timely resolutions have been put in place. Notice of the meeting and communication of a satisfactory response has issued to the Local Government Audit Service.

During the Audit, it was noted that a wage payment of €3,895 charged to the programme was inadvertently omitted from the 2021 IP year end returns. The SICAP sub-committee noted same with LCDC staff to contact Pobal on how to rectify same prior to the final Q4 2023 payment.

(c) Mid-Year Review Process

Ms. Tynan informed members of the Mid-Year Review. The purpose of the Mid-Year Review is to review the Local Development Company’s (LDC) performance at the mid-point of the year. It is an opportunity for the LCDC to take stock of the performance of their LDC in delivering SICAP in accordance with the 2023 Annual Plan, SICAP Programme Requirements and the Funding Agreement, prior to the end of year review. It is designed to serve as a catalyst for greater engagement between the LCDC and the LDC and to be a supportive process in the lead up to the end of year review.

As a result of carrying out the mid-year review, Laois LCDC will have a good understanding of how the LDC is performing and will be able to direct support where needed e.g., support meetings between the LCDC and LDC. The review can also highlight areas of good practice and confirm that sufficient progress is being made and the performance of the LDC has been satisfactory or greater.

The Mid-Year Review process commenced with the LDC, Laois Partnership Company uploading all relevant documentation to IRIS by the 15th June deadline. LCDC staff commenced checking the following elements of the programme to-date, all of which are based on Pobal pre-populated checklist:

- Examine 2023 targets achieved to-date,
- Examine adherence to budget parameters,
- Examine Lot Level Performance, and
- Conduct IRIS Data Checks

Reporting Requirements	Deadlines
LDC to upload Fin & Mon Report and move to "Submitted" on IRIS	Thursday 15 th June 2023 (set date)
LCDC Staff to carry out checks, complete LCDC Checklist and revert to IP with any queries	Tuesday 20 th June 2023
IP to respond to queries	Wednesday 21 st June 2023
Meeting papers to issue to SICAP sub committee	Thursday 22 nd June 2023
LCDC Members to be updated at monthly meeting	Wednesday 28 th June 2023 (set date)
SICAP Sub Committee meeting	Thursday 29 th June 2023 (am meeting)
LCDC to provide feedback to Pobal on issues re Checklist	Thursday 29 th June 2023 (set date)
Pobal undertake high level review and provide feedback to LCDC	Wednesday 12 th July 2023 (set date)
Meeting papers to issue to SICAP sub committee	Thursday 13 th July 2023
SICAP Sub Committee to convene to undertake Mid-Year Check and to take into consideration Pobal feedback	Tuesday 25 th July 2023
LCDC approve Mid Year Review and move the plan to approved to "LCDC approved" on IRIS	Wednesday 26 th July 2023 (set date) (Pobal Deadline Friday 28 th July 2023)

SICAP Payment Approvals

SICAP General Allocation – Payment Approval

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer sought members approval to pay the Implementing Partner, Laois Partnership Company the sum of €178,450.90 relating to the 2023 SICAP Programme. Said payment relates to Q3 of the programme with funding successfully drawn down from the Dept.

Payment of the Q3 2023 SICAP allocation in the amount of €178,450.90 was **approved by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, being seconded by Cllr. John King.**

SICAP Ukrainian Allocation – Payment Approval

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer sought members approval to pay the Implementing Partner, Laois Partnership Company the sum of €33,421.75 relating to the 2023 SICAP Programme. Said payment relates to Q3 of the programme with funding successfully drawn down from the Dept.

Payment of the Q3 2023 SICAP Ukrainian allocation in the amount of €33,421.75 **was approved by Mr. John Mulholland, being seconded by Mr. Ray Harte**

5. LECP

MS. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised that when preparing the LECP this time it was noted that there is a change since the last plan. There is a different tone 8 years on. People want social interaction; they want to be able to live well in their communities and have the facilities and capacity to do that. This emphasises the importance of funds like TVRS and Clar to enhance communities. There is definitely a space in this LECP plan to maintain what we have and build on it.

(a) High Level Goals

Ms. Tynan advised that public consultation on the LECP Draft High Level Goals closed on Friday 14th April. A report on the public consultation process was circulated with members meeting papers setting out submissions. 6 submissions were received from 5 different organisations and one individual. The submissions received did not change the proposed High Level Goals. The submissions received will be considered when preparing the Objectives and Outcomes.

The LECP Advisory Steering Group convened on Thursday 22nd June to consider the findings of the report and based on submissions recommended members sign-off on the 10 High Level Goals.

Members welcomed the 10 High Level Goals being **proposed by Mr. John Mulholland and seconded by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy**.

(b) Objectives and Actions

Ms. Tynan noted that stakeholder consultation on the development of objectives and actions has commenced. All stakeholders have been contacted directly and asked for feedback for the development of objectives and actions based on the 10 High Level Goals.

(c) LECP Update

Finally, Ms Tynan added that as per communication set out in Agenda Items 3 – Correspondence received titled “LECP Update” The Dept. Rural & Community Development have requested all LCDC’s to issue an update on the progress of their LECP.

LCDC staff prepared the following response as set out below being welcomed and unanimously agreed by members present.

<p>Please specify what stage of the LECP process you are currently at (see fig.6 on pg.22 of LECP Guidelines 2021 for guidance if required).</p>	<p>Stage 2: Revision of HLG/Statement and consultation report completed based on feedback, which is awaiting sign off by the LCDC at the next monthly meeting.</p> <p>Stage 3: Currently developing objectives and actions based on the 10 x HLG's and seeking input from stakeholders.</p>
<p>Consultation – please confirm that your LCDC and LECP Advisory Group has utilise the recently published ‘A Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making’, when engaging with your community on the development of your new LECP (or will do so if consultation has not yet commenced).</p>	<p>Laois LCDC facilitated 7 consultations (6 in person & 1 on-line) throughout Laois in addition to hosting an on-line survey for our citizens. During the consultation planning process, Laois LCDC members attended “Engagement in Local Planning & Decision Making” training session which was useful. Laois LCDC were then able to utilise the training and publication to ensure the nine main principles of public engagement were considered and adhered to. This is very much evident in our consultation process where we strategically combined the LECP, LDS and LACAP consultations in order to avoid consultation fatigue and to ensure all plans are aligned, giving a more meaningful and effective consultation process.</p>
<p>Estimated completion/launch date</p>	<p>November/December 2023</p>
<p>Any other relevant information</p>	<p>n/a</p>

6. AOB

(a) Vacant Seats

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised members that one position on each of the following committees had become vacant:

- Community Enhancement Programme Sub-Committee
- SICAP Sub-Committee

Ms. Tynan called members present to nominate a fellow member to the committees.

- Community Enhancement Programme Sub-Committee
 - Nominee: Mr. Harry Lalor
 - Proposed: Cllr. John King
 - Seconded: Cllr. Paschal McEvoy

- SICAP Sub-Committee
Nominee: Ms. Caroline Lydon
Proposed: Cllr. Paschal McEvoy
Seconded: Mr. John Mulholland

(b) Community Support Fund

Members were advised of the recent announcement by Minister Humphreys and Joe O'Brien in relation to the Community Support Fund allocation for Laois. €276,912 was awarded under the Community Support Fund for 132 local projects in Laois. Details of projects awarded are set out hereunder and were circulated to members

LCDC	Group / Organisation	Name of Town/ Village area	Amount awarded by LCDC
Laois	2nd Laois(Rathdowney) Scout Group	Rathdowney	€1,000.00
Laois	3rd Laois Durrow Scouts	Durrow	€1,000.00
Laois	4th Laois Scout Group	Portarlington	€1,200.00
Laois	Abbeyleix Bog Project	Abbeyleix	€475.00
Laois	Abbeyleix AFC Juvenile Soccer Club	Abbeyleix	€5,000.00
Laois	Abbeyleix Community Garden	Abbeyleix	€500.00
Laois	Abbeyleix Heritage Company	Abbeyleix	€3,435.00
Laois	Abbeyleix Parish Hall Committee	Abbeyleix	€950.00
Laois	Abbeyleix Tidy Towns	Abbeyleix	€1,000.00
Laois	Acquired Brian Injury Ireland	Portlaoise	€1,368.00
Laois	Arles Killeen GAA	Arles	€6,995.00
Laois	Ballacolla Tidy Towns	Ballacolla	€2,453.00
Laois	Ballybrittas Tidy Towns	Ballybrittas	€376.00
Laois	Ballyfin Community Alert	Ballyfin	€300.00
Laois	Ballyfin Community Development Association	Ballyfin	€600.00
Laois	Ballylinan Community Council	Ballylinan	€449.00
Laois	Ballypickas Grounds Amenity for All (GAA)	Ballypickas	€1,500.00
Laois	Ballyroan Bluestars Basketball Club	Ballyroan	€3,920.00
Laois	Ballyroan Community Hall	Ballyroan	€2,305.00
Laois	Barrowhouse Community Association	Barrowhouse	€1,000.00
Laois	Barrowhouse GAA	Barrowhouse	€1,000.00
Laois	Borris Innovation Centre CLG	Borris	€2,845.00
Laois	Borris-in-Ossory Community Development	Borris-in-Ossory	€995.00
Laois	Borris-in-Ossory Men's Shed	Borris-in-Ossory	€950.00
Laois	Borris-in-Ossory Tidy Towns	Borris-in-Ossory	€633.00
Laois	Camross GAA Club	Camross	€1,500.00
Laois	Camross Tidy Towns Group	Camross	€995.00
Laois	Castletown Community Centre	Castletown	€1,013.00
Laois	Castletown Community Field Development Committee	Castletown	€1,049.00
Laois	Clonad Juvenile Club	Clonad	€2,006.00
Laois	Clonanny Development Association	Portarlington	€424.00
Laois	Clough Tidy Towns	Ballacolla	€1,377.00
Laois	Clough/Ballacolla Camogie Club	Ballacolla	€2,282.00
Laois	Clover United FC	Rathdowney	€4,000.00
Laois	CoderDojo	Portarlington	€878.00
Laois	Colt GAA	Raheen	€743.00
Laois	Community Hall Vicarstown	Vicarstown	€2,185.00
Laois	Corrán Na Nóir Residents Association	Abbeyleix	€300.00
Laois	Crettyard Ladies Gaelic Football Club	Crettyard	€2,530.00
Laois	Cullohill Community Centre	Cullohill	€4,000.00
Laois	Cullohill Handball Club	Cullohill	€964.00
Laois	Derrywood Residents Association	Durrow	€928.00

Laois	Donaghmore Workhouse & Agricultural Museum	Donaghmore	€2,000.00
Laois	Down Syndrome Ireland -Laois Branch	Abbeyleix	€2,512.00
Laois	Durrow Development Forum	Durrow	€1,000.00
Laois	Durrow Hall	Durrow	€1,049.00
Laois	Durrow Meals on Wheels	Durrow	€2,850.00
Laois	Durrow Tidy Towns	Durrow	€867.00
Laois	Emo Celtic Soccer Club	Emo	€4,020.00
Laois	Emo GAA Club	Emo	€9,500.00
Laois	Emo Gun Club	Emo	€1,000.00
Laois	Emo Rangers	Emo	€2,101.00
Laois	Emo Sports Field	Emo	€1,000.00
Laois	Errill Christmas Lights	Errill	€960.00
Laois	Errill Snooker Hall	Errill	€1,000.00
Laois	Errill Tidy Towns Group	Errill	€714.00
Laois	Esker Hills Residents Association	Portlaoise	€698.00
Laois	Foróige Old Bank Youth Centre	Portlaoise	€2,804.00
Laois	Fourth Wall Laois Theatre Group	Portlaoise	€999.00
Laois	Golden Years Club	Mountrath	€1,000.00
Laois	Graigavern Lodge Residents Association	Ballybrittas	€929.00
Laois	Graigue Cemetery Committee	Graiguecullen	€1,325.00
Laois	Happy Hearts Club Portarlinton	Portarlinton	€1,000.00
Laois	Harps GAA Club	Durrow	€3,000.00
Laois	Jelly Tots Community Crèche & Playground	Abbeyleix	€1,000.00
Laois	Killeen Community Group	Killeen	€664.00
Laois	Killeshin Community First Responders	Killeshin	€2,957.00
Laois	Kilminchy Retirement Village Management Company	Portlaoise	€698.00
Laois	Kyle GAA	Ballaghmore	€2,000.00
Laois	Labras - Laois Brazilian Support Association	Portlaoise	€525.00
Laois	Laois Arch Club	Portlaoise	€1,615.00
Laois	Laois Cricket Club	Stradbally	€799.00
Laois	Laois Friends (Laois Friends, Special Needs, Social & Recreational Committee)	Portlaoise	€856.00
Laois	Laois PPN	Portlaoise	€7,318.00
Laois	Laois Traveller Action Group	Portlaoise	€2,850.00
Laois	Lions AFC	Durrow	€1,095.00
Laois	Makeport Makerspace	Portarlinton	€660.00
Laois	Mountmellick Christmas Tree Committee	Mountmellick	€904.00
Laois	Mountmellick Community Arts Centre	Mountmellick	€3,836.00
Laois	Mountmellick Community Sport Complex	Mountmellick	€3,000.00
Laois	Mountmellick Men's Shed	Mountmellick	€1,599.00
Laois	Mountmellick Yarn Bombing	Mountmellick	€834.00
Laois	Mountrath Scout Group	Mountrath	€1,000.00
Laois	Mountrath Tidy Towns	Mountrath	€2,000.00
Laois	Mountrath Youth Theatre	Mountrath	€580.00

Laois	Park/Ratheniska GAA Club	Ratheniska	€5,172.00
Laois	Portarlinton Art Collective	Portarlinton	€754.00
Laois	Portarlinton Community Centre	Portarlinton	€2,954.00
Laois	Portarlinton Concert Band	Portarlinton	€2,373.00
Laois	Portarlinton GAA Club	Portarlinton	€4,000.00
Laois	Portarlinton Lawn Tennis Group	Portarlinton	€1,000.00
Laois	Portarlinton Social Services	Portarlinton	€3,135.00
Laois	Portarlinton Women's Shed	Portarlinton	€2,915.00
Laois	Portlaoise AFC (Soccer Club)	Portlaoise	€3,000.00
Laois	Portlaoise Men's Shed	Portlaoise	€914.00
Laois	Portlaoise Sports Hall	Portlaoise	€10,000.00
Laois	Rath Ballybrittas Development Association	Ballybrittas	€1,154.00
Laois	Rathdowney Community Centre CLG	Rathdowney	€7,180.00
Laois	Rathdowney Men's Shed	Rathdowney	€1,650.00
Laois	Rathdowney Vision Group	Rathdowney	€1,619.00
Laois	Ratheniska Community Hall, St. Aongus Club	Ratheniska	€2,744.00
Laois	Rosenallis Community Centre	Rosenallis	€2,000.00
Laois	Shanahoe Community Hall	Shanahoe	€2,382.00
Laois	Shanahoe National School Parents Association	Shanahoe	€3,950.00
Laois	SOSAD Ireland Laois Branch	Portlaoise	€4,115.00
Laois	South Laois Beekeepers' Association	Abbeyleix	€900.00
Laois	Spink Community Development Association	Spink	€1,013.00
Laois	St. Abban's AC	Crettyard	€2,000.00
Laois	St. Aengus FC	Mountrath	€3,000.00
Laois	St. Brigid's Place Residents Association	Portlaoise	€900.00
Laois	St. Fintan's Parish Hall	Mountrath	€1,820.00
Laois	Stradbally Community Allotments	Stradbally	€900.00
Laois	Stradbally GAA Club	Stradbally	€6,915.00
Laois	Stradbally Social Services Council	Stradbally	€5,000.00
Laois	Stradbally St.Vincent de Paul	Stradbally	€4,000.00
Laois	SVT Activity & Wellness Hub	Stradbally	€450.00
Laois	The Fairways Estate Abbeyleix Residents Committee	Abbeyleix	€947.00
Laois	The Heath GAA Club	The Heath	€850.00
Laois	The Hermitage Residents Association	Portlaoise	€368.00
Laois	The Port Project	Portarlinton	€2,219.00
Laois	The Rock GAA	Mountmellick	€796.00
Laois	The Swan Development Committee	The Swan	€979.00
Laois	The Swan Ladies Club	The Swan	€858.00
Laois	The Swan National School Parents Association	The Swan	€999.00
Laois	The Thomas Hayes Trust CLG	Stradbally	€7,980.00
Laois	Tigh Mochua Le Chéile	Timahoe	€4,000.00
Laois	Timahoe National School Parents Association	Timahoe	€5,467.00
Laois	Treo Nua Resource Centre	Portlaoise	€1,595.00
Laois	Triogue Hub-Rehab Care	Portlaoise	€1,715.00

Laois	Trumera Community Hall	Trumera	€1,652.00
Laois	Vicarstown Old Community Centre	Vicarstown	€3,037.00
Laois	White Horse Indoor Bowls Club	Mountrath	€5,000.00

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Martin Crowley

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DATE: Wednesday 26th July 2023.

Mr. Martin Crowley

VICE CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC