



Laois Local Community Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 29th March 2023 Laois County Council & via MS Teams at 11.30am

Members in attendance:

Public Sector representatives:

Mr. Joe Thompson, LOETB (Chairperson)
Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council
Cllr. Conor Bergin, Laois County Council
Mr. Kevin Geoghegan, DSP
Ms. Mark Clancy, Laois Local Enterprise Office
Ms. Paula Phelan, HSE

Private Sector representatives:

Mr. Martin Crowley, Business Sector (Vice Chairperson)
Ms. Peter O'Neill, Laois Partnership Company
Ms. Joan Bolger, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Clive Davis, Youth Sector (Youth Work Ireland Laois)
Mr. Nina Horan, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Naeem Iqbal, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. John Oxley, Laois Public Participation Network

Apologies:

Cllr. John King, Laois County Council
Mr. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council
Mr. Henry Burns, Farming Sector (I.F.A)

In Attendance:

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer
Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, A/Senior Staff Officer, L
Ms. Danielle Keane, Clerical Officer, LCC
Ms. Jenny Collier, Laois Partnership Company

Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, Laois Co Co registered all members present on the meeting attendance sheet.

Mr. Joe Thompson, Chairperson, opened the meeting welcoming all present, and sympathising with Mr. John Oxley on the recent passing of his mother Ann.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 22nd February 2023

The minutes were adopted following a *proposal from Mr. Clive Davis seconded by Ms. Paula Phelan.*

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Correspondence

None

4. SICAP

SICAP Internal Audit

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer noted that the Dept had requested that each Chief Executive arrange at Local Authority level to audit SICAP annually effective from 2018. Accordingly, the CE instructed that SICAP be included in the Internal Audit Plan and an audit of both financial and non-financial records be carried out to give independent assurance to the LCDC that the Programme Implementer, Laois Partnership Company, is in compliance with all requirements of the programme.

Laois County Council Internal Audit carried out a SICAP audit for 2021 on behalf of the LCDC and completed same in 2023.

In addition, Ms. Tynan further noted that the 2021 Annual budget was €604,226 with an actual budget spend of €596,675.61. An underspend of €65,563.25 was identified, with the amount of €33,111.94 being the allowable carryover into 2022. The excess of €32,451.31 was deducted from 2022 payments.

The 2021 Audit highlighted 3 findings, 2 of which are high priority and one of medium priority.

- Finding 1 (high) – The financial management system is not being fully utilised for SICAP.
- Finding 2 (high)- Discrepancy in Cash in Hand at year end
- Finding 3 (medium)- Weakness in some of the PI's Financial Administration

Q2 2023 Tranche Payment – General SICAP Allocation

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer sought approval to pay the IP, Laois Partnership Company the amount of €178,926.80. This represents Q2 2023 tranche payment

Payment in the amount of €178,926.80 was *approved by members being proposed by Mr. John Oxley, being seconded by Ms. Paula Phelan.*

Q2 2023 Tranche Payment – Ukrainian Allocation

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer sought approval to pay the IP, Laois Partnership Company the amount of €33,421.75. This represents Q2 2023 tranche payment

Payment in the amount of €33,421.75 was *approved by members being proposed by Ms. Joan Bolger, being seconded by Mr. John Oxley.*

5. Community Support Fund

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer noted that the CEP subcommittee convened on Wednesday 8th March to appraise applications received under the Community Support Fund. This year Laois received an allocation of €291,487 less and administration budget of €14,574, which is to be split equally between the capital and current allocation. The revised funding allocation therefore reads:

Capital Allocation: €145,743 - €7,287 = €138,456
 Current Allocation: €142,828 - €7,287 = €135,541
 Women's Shed Allocation: €2,915
 Administration Allocation: €14,574

In total 176 applications were received seeking funding in the amount of €804,443 of which €677,241 was deemed eligible.

MD	Number of Approvals	Capital Funding Approved	Current Funding Approval	Total Funding Approved
Borris-in-Ossory Mountmellick	53	€39,983	€49,193	€89,176
Graigucullen/Portarlinton	46	€62,286	€37,272	€99,558
Portlaoise	38	€36,189	€49,076	€85,263
Women's Shed Allocation	1			€2,915
Total Project	138	€138,456	€135,541	€276,912
Administration Allocation				€14,574
Overall				€291,486

Members congratulated staff on compiling application information and their method of presenting same to the subcommittee.

The CSF 2022 subcommittee recommendations were welcomed by LCDC members being proposed by Mr. Peter O'Neill, being seconded by Ms. Paula Phelan.

Grants Awarded Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick MD – Under €1,000

	Name of Group	Capital Amount Awarded	Current Amount Awarded	Total Amount Awarded
1	Errill Snooker Hall	€ 1,000.00	€ -	€ 1,000.00
2	The Rock GAA	€ 796.00	€ -	€ 796.00
3	3rd Laois Durrow Scouts	€ -	€ 1,000.00	€ 1,000.00
4	Borris in Ossory Men's Shed	€ -	€ 950.00	€ 950.00
5	Camross Tidy Towns Group	€ 995.00	€ -	€ 995.00
6	2nd Laois (Rathdowney) Scout Group	€ 1,000.00	€ -	€ 1,000.00
7	Rosenallis Community Centre	€ -	€ 1,000.00	€ 1,000.00
8	Rosenallis Community Centre	€ 1,000.00	€ -	€ 1,000.00
9	Golden Years Club	€ -	€ 1,000.00	€ 1,000.00
10	Cullohill Handball Club	€ 964.00	€ -	€ 964.00
11	Ballyfin Community Dev Assoc	€ -	€ 600.00	€ 600.00
12	Borris in Ossory Community Development	€ 995.00	€ -	€ 995.00
13	Colt GAA	€ -	€ 743.00	€ 743.00
14	Derrywood Residents Assoc	€ 928.00	€ -	€ 928.00
15	Mountrath Scout Group	€ -	€ 1,000.00	€ 1,000.00
16	Durrow Tidy Towns	€ -	€ 867.00	€ 867.00

17	Errill Christmas Lights	€ 960.00	€ -	€ 960.00
18	Mountmellick Yarnbombing	€ 399.00	€ 435.00	€ 834.00
19	Durrow Development Forum	€ -	€ 1,000.00	€ 1,000.00
20	Ballyfin Community Alert	€ 300.00	€ -	€ 300.00
		€ 9,337.00	€ 8,595.00	€ 17,932.00

Grants Awarded Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick MD – Over €1,000

	Name of Group	Capital Amount Awarded	Current Amount Awarded	Total Amount Awarded
1	Ballacolla Tidy Towns	€ 1,589.00	€ 864.00	€ 2,453.00
2	Clough Tidy Towns	€ 1,377.00	€ -	€ 1,377.00
3	St Aengus FC	€ 3,000.00	€ -	€ 3,000.00
4	Mountrath Tidy Towns	€ 2,000.00	€ -	€ 2,000.00
5	Lions AFC	€ 1,095.00	€ -	€ 1,095.00
6	Mountmellick Community Arts Centre	€ 836.00	€ -	€ 836.00
7	Clough/Ballacolla Camogie Club	€ 2,282.00	€ -	€ 2,282.00
8	Castletown Community Field Development Committee	€ 1,049.00	€ -	€ 1,049.00
9	Errill Tidy Towns	€ 275.00	€ 439.00	€ 714.00

10	Durrow Meals on Wheels	€ -	€ 2,850.00	€ 2,850.00
11	Clover United FC	€ 4,000.00	€ -	€ 4,000.00
12	Mountrath Youth Theatre	€ -	€ 580.00	€ 580.00
13	Durrow Hall	€ -	€ 1,049.00	€ 1,049.00
14	Borris Innovation Centre CLG	€ -	€ 2,845.00	€ 2,845.00
15	The Port Project	€ 2,219.00	€ -	€ 2,219.00
16	Mountmellick Men's Shed	€ 1,599.00	€ -	€ 1,599.00
17	Graigue Cemetery Committee	€ 1,325.00	€ -	€ 1,325.00
18	Cullohill Community Centre	€ -	€ 4,000.00	€ 4,000.00
19	Castletown Community Centre	€ -	€ 1,013.00	€ 1,013.00
20	Kyle GAA	€ -	€ 2,000.00	€ 2,000.00
21	Harps GAA Club	€ 3,000.00	€ -	€ 3,000.00
22	Donaghmore Workhouse & Agricultural Museum	€ -	€ 2,000.00	€ 2,000.00
23	Rathdowney Community Centre CLG	€ -	€ 7,180.00	€ 7,180.00
24	Borris in Ossory Tidy Towns	€ -	€ 633.00	€ 633.00
25	Mountmellick Community Sports Complex	€ -	€ 3,000.00	€ 3,000.00
26	Mountmellick Christmas Tree Committee	€ -	€ 904.00	€ 904.00
27	Rathdowney Men's Shed	€ -	€ 1,650.00	€ 1,650.00

28	St Fintan's Parish Hall	€ -	€ 1,820.00	€ 1,820.00
29	Trumera Community Hall	€ -	€ 1,652.00	€ 1,652.00
30	Rathdowney Vision Group	€ -	€ 1,619.00	€ 1,619.00
31	Camross GAA Club	€ -	€ 1,500.00	€ 1,500.00
32	White Horse Indoor Bowls Club Mountrath	€ 5,000.00	€ -	€ 5,000.00
33	Mountmellick Community Arts Centre	€ -	€ 3,000.00	€ 3,000.00
		€ 30,646.00	€ 40,598.00	€ 72,149.00

Grants Awarded Graiguecullen/Portarlington MD – Under €1,000

	Name of Group	Capital Amount Awarded	Current Amount Awarded	Total Amount Awarded
1	Emo Gun Club	€ -	€ 1,000.00	€ 1,000.00
2	Portarlington Community Centre	€ 954.00	€ -	€ 954.00
3	Emo Rangers (1)	€ 129.00	€ 249.00	€ 378.00
4	Emo Rangers (2)	€ -	€ 650.00	€ 650.00
5	The Swan Ladies Club	€ 478.00	€ 380.00	€ 858.00
6	Graigavern Lodge Residents Assoc	€ -	€ 929.00	€ 929.00
7	Laois Cricket Club	€ 799.00	€ -	€ 799.00
8	Ballybrittas Tidy Towns	€ -	€ 376.00	€ 376.00
9	Makeport Makerspace Portarlington	€ 660.00	€ -	€ 660.00
10	Portarlington Art Collective	€ 754.00	€ -	€ 754.00
11	The Swan Development Committee	€ 979.00	€ -	€ 979.00
12	Coder Dojo	€ 128.00	€ 750.00	€ 878.00
13	Killeen Community Group	€ -	€ 664.00	€ 664.00
14	Ballylinan Community Council	€ 449.00	€ -	€ 449.00
15	The Swan NS Parents Assoc	€ 999.00	€ -	€ 999.00
16	Emo Sports Field	€ -	€ 1,000.00	€ 1,000.00
		€ 6,329.00	€ 5,998.00	€ 12,327.00

Grants Awarded Graiguecullen/Portarlington MD – Over €1,000

	Name of Group	Capital Amount Awarded	Current Amount Awarded	Total Amount Awarded
1	Portarlington Social Services	€ -	€ 3,135.00	€ 3,135.00
2	Stradbally GAA	€ 6,915.00	€ -	€ 6,915.00
3	Parents Association Timahoe NS	€ 5,467.00	€ -	€ 5,467.00
4	Clonanny Development Assoc	€ 424.00	€ -	€ 424.00
5	Emo GAA Club	€ 9,500.00	€ -	€ 9,500.00
6	Rath Ballybrittas Development Association	€ 1,154.00	€ -	€ 1,154.00
7	Killeshin Community First Responders	€ 2,957.00	€ -	€ 2,957.00
8	Park/Ratheniska GAA Club	€ 5,172.00	€ -	€ 5,172.00
9	Portarlington Concert Band	€ 2,373.00	€ -	€ 2,373.00
10	SVT Activity & Wellness Hub	€ 450.00	€ -	€ 450.00
11	Emo Celtic Soccer Club	€ 4,020.00	€ -	€ 4,020.00
12	Ratheniska Community Hall, St Aongus Club	€ -	€ 2,744.00	€ 2,744.00
13	Portarlington GAA	€ 4,000.00	€ -	€ 4,000.00
14	Crettyard Ladies Gaelic FC	€ 2,530.00	€ -	€ 2,530.00
15	Arles Killeen GAA	€ 6,995.00	€ -	€ 6,995.00
16	4th Laois Scout Group Portarlington	€ -	€ 1,200.00	€ 1,200.00
17	Barrowhouse GAA	€ -	€ 1,000.00	€ 1,000.00
18	Portarlington Community Centre	€ -	€ 2,000.00	€ 2,000.00

19	St Abbans AC	€ -	€ 2,000.00	€ 2,000.00
20	Stradbally Social Services Council Ltd	€ -	€ 5,000.00	€ 5,000.00
21	Stradbally St Vincent de Paul	€ -	€ 4,000.00	€ 4,000.00
22	Emo Rangers (3)	€ -	€ 1,073.00	€ 1,073.00
23	Barrowhouse Community Association Ltd	€ -	€ 1,000.00	€ 1,000.00
24	Old Community Centre Vicarstown	€ -	€ 1,537.00	€ 1,537.00
25	Community Hall, Vicarstown	€ -	€ 2,185.00	€ 2,185.00
26	Stradbally Community Allotments	€ -	€ 900.00	€ 900.00
27	Happy Hearts Club Portarlinton	€ -	€ 1,000.00	€ 1,000.00
28	Tigh Mochua le Cheile	€ 4,000.00	€ -	€ 4,000.00
29	Old Community Centre Vicarstown	€ -	€ 1,500.00	€ 1,500.00
30	Portarlinton Lawn Tennis Group	€ -	€ 1,000.00	€ 1,000.00
		€ 55,957.00	€ 31,274.00	€ 87,231.00

Grants Awarded Portlaoise MD – Under €1,000

	Name of Group	Capital Amount Awarded	Current Amount Awarded	Total Amount Awarded
1	Labras - Laois Brazilian Support Association	€ -	€ 525.00	€ 525.00
2	South Laois Beekeepers Association	€ 900.00	€ -	€ 900.00
3	Abbeyleix Tidy Towns	€ 1,000.00	€ -	€ 1,000.00
4	The Hermitage Residents Assoc	€ 368.00	€ -	€ 368.00
5	Portlaoise Men's Shed	€ -	€ 914.00	€ 914.00
6	Esker Hills Residents	€ 698.00	€ -	€ 698.00
7	St Brigid's Place Residents Assoc	€ 900.00	€ -	€ 900.00
8	Kilminchy Retirement Village Management Co	€ 698.00	€ -	€ 698.00
9	The Heath GAA Club	€ -	€ 850.00	€ 850.00
10	Abbeyleix Community Garden	€ 500.00	€ -	€ 500.00
11	Abbeyleix Parish Hall Committee	€ 950.00	€ -	€ 950.00
12	Curran na nÓir Residents Association	€ -	€ 300.00	€ 300.00
13	Fourth Wall Laois Theatre Group	€ -	€ 999.00	€ 999.00
14	Abbeyleix Bog Project	€ -	€ 475.00	€ 475.00
15	Jelly Tots Community Creche & Playground	€ 1000.00	€ -	€ 1,000.00

16	The Fairways Estate Abbeyleix Residents Committee	€ -	€ 947.00	€ 947.00
17	Laois Friends (Laois Friends, Special Needs, Social & Recreational Committee)	€ -	€ 856.00	€ 856.00
		€ 7,014.00	€ 5,866.00	€ 12,880.00

Grants Awarded Portlaoise MD – Over €1,000

	Name of Group	Capital Amount Awarded	Current Amount Awarded	Total Amount Awarded
1	Down Syndrome Laois	€ 2,512.00	€ -	€ 2,512.00
2	Laois Arch Club	€ 500.00	€ 1,115.00	€ 1,615.00
3	Shanahoe NS Parents Association	€ 3,950.00	€ -	€ 3,950.00
4	Triogue Hub - Rehab Care Portlaoise	€ 1,715.00	€ -	€ 1,715.00
5	Clonad Juvenile Club	€ 2,006.00	€ -	€ 2,006.00
6	Acquired Brian Injury Ireland	€ 1,368.00	€ -	€ 1,368.00
7	Foroige - Old Bank Youth Centre	€ 2,804.00	€ -	€ 2,804.00
8	Portlaoise Soccer Club	€ 2,000.00	€ 1,000.00	€ 3,000.00

9	Shanahoe Community Hall	€ -	€ 2,382.00	€ 2,382.00
10	The Thomas Hayes Trust CLG	€ -	€ 7,980.00	€ 7,980.00
11	Ballyroan Community Hall	€ -	€ 2,305.00	€ 2,305.00
12	Ballyroan Bluestars Basketball Club	€ -	€ 3,920.00	€ 3,920.00
13	Ballypickas Grounds Amenity for All (GAA)	€ -	€ 1,500.00	€ 1,500.00
14	Abbeyleix Heritage Co	€ -	€ 3,435.00	€ 3,435.00
15	Spink Community Development Assoc	€ -	€ 1,013.00	€ 1,013.00
16	Laois Traveller Action Group	€ -	€ 2,850.00	€ 2,850.00
17	Portlaoise Sports Hall	€ -	€ 10,000.00	€ 10,000.00
18	SOSAD Ireland Laois Branch	€ -	€ 4,115.00	€ 4,115.00
19	Laois PPN	€ 7,318.00	€ -	€ 7,318.00
20	Abbeyleix AFC Juvenile Soccer Club	€ 5,000.00	€ -	€ 5,000.00
21	Treo Nua Resource Centre	€ -	€ 1,595.00	€ 1,595.00
		€ 29,173.00	€ 43,210.00	€ 72,383.00

Women's Shed Allocation

Name of Group	Total Amount Awarded
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1	Portarlinton Women's Shed	€2,915
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Community Activities Fund Carryover in the amount of €7,967 (capital €2,128, current €5,839)

Name of Group	Capital Amount Awarded	Current Amount Awarded	Total Amount Awarded
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1	Camross Community Association	€ 2,128 -	€2,128
2	Treo Nua Resource Centre		€5,839

DE committals €14,565.92

Name of Group	Capital Amount Awarded	Current Amount Awarded	Total Amount Awarded
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1	Treo Nua Resource Centre		€14,565.92
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6. LECP 2023-2028

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised member that the LECP commenced public consultation on the 10 draft high level goals. This will give the public and stakeholders an opportunity to have their say on the goals and their development

To stimulate debate and encourage participation, Laois LCDC has prepared the following:

- **LECP High Level Goals Consultation Document,**
- **Appendix A: Socio economic Statement,**
- **Appendix B: Socio Economic Profile of Laois**

which can be viewed on the Councils website at <https://consult.laois.ie/> and viewed during normal opening hours (excluding public holidays) at: Laois County Council, James Fintan Lalor Ave, Portlaoise, County Laois

Council staff will also be available to answer general queries and provide guidance on the Consultation via email lhcp@laoiscoco.ie or via phone on 057-86 64169.

Should any member of the public wish to make a specific appointment, they can do so by phoning **057-86 64169** or by email to: lhcp@laoiscoco.ie

Submissions

Submissions and observations in relation to the proposed LECP 2023-2028 High level Goals Consultation are invited from members of the public and other interested parties/stakeholders. Children, or groups or associations representing the interests of children, can also make submissions or observations.

Submissions and observations can be made as follows:

(i) through the relevant consultation portal: <https://consult.laois.ie/>

[ii] by email to: lhcp@laoiscoco.ie

[iii] in writing marked "LECP – High Level Goals Consultation" and sent to the following relevant address:

Laois County Council, A/Chief Officer, Laois Local Community Development Committee, Community Dept, James Fintan Lalor Ave, Portlaoise, County. Laois.

7. AOB

Local Development Strategy

Before discussions pertaining to the LDS commenced Mr. Peter O'Neill and Ms. Jenny Collier, Laois Partnership Company abstained from the meeting due to conflicts of interests arising.

Ms. Pamela Tynan proceeded to inform members that Laois LCDC are in the process of tendering for a suitably qualified person to deliver a Local Development Strategy (LDS). Nominations were then sought from within the membership of the LCDC to establish an LDS subcommittee.

The LEADER programme is designed to engage, resource and enable local communities to manage local development in their areas. Central to this process is the LDS. The LDS is a community-led plan designed in partnership with the local community to achieve a collective vision and support the sustainable development of the LDS area.

Ms. Tynan sought five nominations from the LCDC membership to the LDS subcommittee.

Nominee 1: Mr. Joe Thompson, LCDC Chairperson

Nominee 2: Ms. Joan Bolger

Nominee 3: Mr. Clive Davis


Nominee 4: Ms. Paula Phelan

Nominee 5: Mr. John Oxley

Proposed By: Cllr. Paschal McEvoy

Seconded By: Mr. Martin Crowley

This concluded the business of the meeting.

DocuSigned by:

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SIGNED: _____ **DATE:** Wednesday 26th April 2023.

Mr. Joe Thompson
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC