



Local Community Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 20th March 2024 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. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council
Mr. Martin O'Toole, DSP

Private Sector representatives:

Ms. Joan Bolger, Laois PPN (Vice Chairperson)
Ms. Nina Horan, Laois PPN
Mr. Patrick Whelan, Laois PPN
Ms. Caroline Lydon, CEO Laois Partnership Company
Ms. Caroline Hofman, Business Sector
Mr. Harry Lalor, Farming Sector (I.F.A)
Ms. Rosey Kuene, Youth Sector (Youth Work Ireland Laois)

Apologies:

Cllr John King, Laois County Council
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois PPN
Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois Local Enterprise Office
Ms. Paula Phelan, HSE
Mr. John Oxley, Laois PPN

In Attendance:

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer
Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, Senior Staff Officer, LCC
Ms. Orla Fitzpatrick, A/Senior Staff Officer, LCC
Ms. Danielle Keane, Clerical Officer, LCC

Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, LCC commenced roll call and registered all members present on the meeting attendance sheet.

Mr. Joe Thompson, Chairperson, opened the meeting welcoming new member Mr. Patrick Whelan who is replacing Mr. Naeem Iqbal as the Laois PPN Social Inclusion representative.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 21st February 2024

The minutes were adopted following a *proposal from Mr. John Mulholland seconded by Ms. Caroline Hofman.*

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Correspondence

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer informed members of correspondences received.

- *Email Received 20th February from DRCD titled “Call for organisations and groups to be Sustainable Development Goals Champions”*

Mr. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief officer advised members that as part of the 2024-2025 programme, a number of organisations and groups from across the country will be appointed 'SDG Champions' to help raise awareness of the importance of the SDGs as the cornerstone of a fair, prosperous and sustainable future for all. As Champions, they will show through their own actions that everyone in society can make a contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Applications are sought from all organisations and groups who would like to act as an advocate for the SDGs and a good practice example of how to promote and achieve the goals.

Applications will be accepted in written or video format up to 5:00pm on Monday, 1st April 2024 and information for how to apply are set out in the circular.

- *Email received 22nd February from DRCD titled “Communication re Referendum”*

Ms. Tynan noted that this email set out to underline the requirements that where a body or agency receiving public money is disseminating any information about the Referendum it must ensure such information is equal, fair and impartial and neutral.

- *SICAP Annual Report 2022*

Ms Tynan informed members that the 2023 SICAP Annual Report is a national report which provides and overview of the progress and achievement of the SICAP programme between 01.01.2022 and 31.12.2022

- *Email received 23rd February from DRCD titled “Laois LEADER Local Development Strategy”*

It was noted that this correspondence referred to the appeal submitted by Laois LCDC on the 19th January 2024 in respect of the Laois LEADER Programme 2023-2027. The appeal and supporting documentation was provided to an independent reviewer for her consideration with it being further noted that the appeal was not allowed. It is now considered that the selection process in the Laois sub-regional area is now finished.

- *Letter dated 12th March 2024 from Donal Brennan, Director of Services Laois Co Co, titled "Local Economic and Community Plan Framework Document"*

Mr. Tynan, A/ Chief Officer noted that the Framework document will be discussed under Agenda Item 4 – Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2028

4. Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer noted that the purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014), is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant Local Authority area.

- Laois LECP 2023-2028 contains 10 High Level Goals and 33 Sustainable Objectives
- The LECP is consistent with the objectives of local and regional policy.
- Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment screening determined that full screen was not required. A screening determination has been signed in order to complete the AA & SEA process.

Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, Senior Staff Officer presented members with the framework LECP guiding them through the development of the document and information of importance contained within.

Members of the LCDC commended the LECP team on the work undertaken in developing the document and associated appendices. The framework document was welcomed by members with its adoption being proposed by **Ms. Joan Bolger** been seconded by **Ms. Caroline Lydon**.

5. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme – SICAP

(a) 2024 Annual Plan

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer informed members that on the 5th March the Local Development Company, Laois Partnership Company confirmed that all details relating to the 2024 Annual Plan were uploaded to IRIS. An in-depth review of the 2024 Annual Plan is now being undertaken by LCDC staff, comparing information uploaded to IRIS versus that on the original tender and the best and final offer.

The SICAP subcommittee will convene in the coming days to review same in order to recommend the plans approval at the April meeting.

(b) Implementation Plan

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer noted that as part of the 2022 SICAP Internal Audit a number of high-level findings were identified. When awarding the SICAP 2024-2028 a clause was inserted into the letter of award stating:

“The plan will upon contract signing, form part of the tenderers’ contractual obligations under the SICAP Call-Off Contract and, in line with section 2.1 of the SICAP Call-Off Contract, evidence of its implementation will be a pre-condition for continued programme funding beyond 2024.

It should be noted that failure, refusal or neglect ‘to comply within a reasonable time with any recommendation or report arising from any audit’ constitutes an ‘event of default’ under the SICAP Call-Off Contract (see clause 3.8.2.8) and, as such, grounds for contract termination, without liability for compensation or damages, and/or imposition of any sanction/ remedy by the contracting authority (see clause 3.8.1)”

With this in mind an Implementation Plan delivery timeline has been put in place where quarterly meetings will be conducted to ensure that audit findings are addressed to the satisfaction to the LCDC.

	Period	Proposed Meeting with IP & SICAP Sub Committee	LCDC Meeting Date	Number of findings to be discussed
Q1	Jan - March 2024	17th April 2024	24th April 2024	24
Q2	April - June 2024	17th July	31st July 2024	2
Q3	July - Sept 2024	16th October	30th October 2024	0
Q4	Oct - Dec 2024	15th January 2025	29th January 2025	4

(c) SICAP Payments Q2 2024**SICAP General Allocation**

Approval is sought to pay the IP, Laois Partnership the sum of €176,561.28 representing the Q2 2024 payment. Payment will only be processed once funds are received from the Dept.

The payment of €176,561.28 to the IP was proposed by **Mr. John Mulholland** been seconded by **Ms. Joan Bolger**.

New Arrival Allocation

Approval is sought to pay the IP, Laois Partnership the sum of €35,780.75 representing the full Q2 2024 payment. Payment will only be processed once funds are received from the Dept.

The payment of €35,780.75 to the IP was proposed by **Cllr. Paschal McEvoy** been seconded by **Mr. John Mulholland**.

6. Local Enhancement Programme

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer informed the committee that Laois received an allocation of €153,591.05 under the Local Enhancement programme, which comprise of:

- Capital Allocation: €127,992.54
- Women's Allocation: €25,598.51
- Max Admin Allocation: €7,679.55 (i.e., €153,591.05 x 5%)

In addition, underspend from previous years to be allocated to LEP. An underspend of €5,000 was identified, to be used for Admin costs only as instructed by the Dept.

- Capital Allocation: €127,992.54 - €2,679.55 = €125,312.99
- Women's Allocation: €25,598.51
- Admin Allocation: €7,679.55 (€5,000 from pervious fund meaning the balance of €2,679.55 is to be deducted from the capital allocation)
- Therefore, spend on projects €150,991.50.

Women's Group Allocation

- 23 Applications Received, with 1 application remaining at draft status on submit.ie
- Total Funding Applied for €80,395.41
- Total Eligible for Funding €49,619.32
- Funding Available: €25,598.51

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer stated under the women's allocation 17 of the 23 groups were awarded, 4 from Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick in the amount of €6,720, 5 from Graiguecullen/Portarlinton in the amount of €5,142 and 8 from Portlaoise MD in the amount of €13,736.51.

	Group Name	MD	Amount Awarded
1	O'Moores Camogie Club	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€ 2,989.00
2	Rathdowney Womens Shed	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€ 1,478.00
	Clover United FC Womens & Schoolgirls Teams		
3		Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€ 1,400.00
4	Mountrath Ladies Football Club	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€ 853.00
			€ 6,720.00
1	St Josephs LGFA	Graigucullen/ Portarlinton	€ 894.00
2	The Swan Ladies Club	Graigucullen/ Portarlinton	€ 684.00
3	Crettyard LGFA	Graigucullen/ Portarlinton	€ 1,490.00
4	Banrion Gaels Camogie Club	Graigucullen/ Portarlinton	€ 1,266.00
5	St. Paul's LGFA	Graigucullen/ Portarlinton	€ 808.00
			€ 5,142.00
1	Portlaoise Mothers & Others	Portlaoise	€ 1,295.00
2	Spink ICA	Portlaoise	€ 800.00
3	Timahoe ladies football club	Portlaoise	€ 2,355.00
4	Laois Domestic Abuse Service	Portlaoise	€ 4,448.51
5	Abbeyleix Womens Development	Portlaoise	€ 1,000.00
6	Colt Mothers and Others	Portlaoise	€ 1,490.00
7	Park Ratheniska Ladies LGFA	Portlaoise	€ 1,500.00
8	Portlaoise Women's Shed	Portlaoise	€ 848.00
			€ 13,736.51
17		Total Ring Fenced:	€ 25,598.51

General LEP Allocation

- 137 Applications Received (40 Under €1,000 and 97 Over €1,000),
- Total Funding Applied for €843,746.03
- Total Eligible for Funding €676,591.02
(Under €1,000 = €24,980.49 and over €1,000 = €651,610.53)

MD	Applications Under €1000	Applications Over €1000	Total Number and Value of Applications
Portlaoise	18 (€16,804)	35 (€297,763.03)	53 (€314,567.03)
<u>B.O.I./Mountmellick</u>	11 (€9,634)	32 (€208,520)	43 (€218,154)
<u>Gariguecullen/Portarlinton</u>	11 (€10,636)	30 (€300,389)	41 (€311,025)
	40 (€37,074)	97 (€806,672.03)	137 (€843,746.03)

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer noted under the general allocation a total of 61 groups were awarded funding, 19 from Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick in the amount of €36,669, 21 from Graiguecullen/Portarlinton in the amount of €50,231.99 and 21 from Portlaoise in the amount of €38,412.

	Group Name	MD	Amount Awarded
1	St. Canices Residents Association	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 490.00
2	Old Kyle Graveyard Maintenance Committee	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 984.00
3	Borris-in-Ossory Community Development	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 987.00
4	Mountrath Tidy Towns Association	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 1,000.00
5	Happy Days Clough	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 106.00
6	Borris-in-Ossory Mens Shed	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 1,000.00
7	The Rock GAA	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 1,476.00
8	Clough Tidy Towns	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 1,100.00
9	Mountrath Youth Theatre	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 2,750.00
10	Rosenallis NS PA	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 2,310.00
11	Clonaslee Community Development Association	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 2,300.00
12	Clover United FC	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 4,000.00
13	Mountmellick United FC	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 3,178.00
14	Mountmellick Arts Community Centre	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 2,556.00
15	Durrow Tidy Towns	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 2,000.00
16	Kyle GAA	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 2,500.00
17	Killameestia Community Council	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 2,690.00
18	Clough Ballacolla GAA	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 4,000.00
19	Mountmellick Macra	Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 1,242.00
			€ 36,669.00

1	Stradbally Defib Group	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 842.00
2	The Swan NS PA	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 845.00
3	Portarlington Community Centre -App 2	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 974.00
4	Crafty Dreams Studio	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 771.00
5	Stradbally Playground Committee	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 1,000.00
6	Annanough GAA	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 1,000.00
7	Electric Picnic Residents Committee	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 679.00
8	The Swan Development Committee	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 4,000.00
9	SVT Canoeing & Kayaking Club	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 1,986.00
10	Fishermans Bridge Club	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 1,571.00
11	Vicarstown Old Community Centre	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 2,500.00
12	Stradbally Tidy Towns	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 3,000.00
13	Stradbally Social Services Council Ltd	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 2,976.00
14	Killenard Bridge Club	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 2,270.00
15	Emo GAA	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 4,500.00
16	Ratheniska Community Hall - St. Aongus Club	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 1,800.00
17	Annanough GAA	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 4,780.00
18	The Thomas Hayes Trust CLG - Teac Tom	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 4,567.00
19	Emo Sports Field Committee	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 5,000.00
20	Timahoe Community Hall	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 4,412.99
21	Timahoe NS PA	Graigucullen/Portarlington	€ 758.00
			€ 50,231.99

1	Knock NS PA	Portlaoise	€ 659.00
2	Portlaoise GAA	Portlaoise	€ 509.00
3	Ballyroan Bluestars Juvenile Basketball Club	Portlaoise	€ 856.00
4	Laois Labs Flag Football Group	Portlaoise	€ 997.00
5	Esker Hills Residents	Portlaoise	€ 1,000.00
6	Glenbrook Residents Association	Portlaoise	€ 650.00
7	Portlaoise Mens Shed	Portlaoise	€ 870.00
8	Abbeyleix Community Garden	Portlaoise	€ 1,000.00
9	Laois Beekeepers Association	Portlaoise	€ 1,000.00
10	The Heath GAA - Health, Wellness & Active Retirement Section	Portlaoise	€ 1,000.00
11	Laois Water Safety	Portlaoise	€ 2,000.00
12	Ratheniska NS PA	Portlaoise	€ 1,250.00
13	Portlaoise Camera Club	Portlaoise	€ 1,000.00
14	Abbeyleix Bog Project	Portlaoise	€ 2,000.00
15	Embrace FARM	Portlaoise	€ 2,000.00
16	SOSAD Ireland	Portlaoise	€ 3,064.00
17	Gleann Na Glaise	Portlaoise	€ 708.00
18	Portlaoise Sports Hall Ltd	Portlaoise	€ 1,350.00
19	The Heath GAA	Portlaoise	€ 7,000.00
20	Dunamais Beekeepers	Portlaoise	€ 8,000.00
21	Ballyroan Tidy Towns	Portlaoise	€ 1,499.00
			€ 38,412.00

The recommendations of the CEP subcommittee were welcomed by members being proposed by **Mr. John Mulholland** and seconded by **Ms. Joan Bolder**.

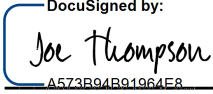
Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised members that this information would now be passed to the Department of Rural and Community Development for their approval, and reminded members that information of the recommended grants was to be treated in the strictest confidence until Departmental approval was received.

7. Any Other Business

Condolences were conveyed on the untimely passing of Mr. Alan Langton, who represented Laois GAA on the COVID-19 Community Response Forum. Ar dheis de go raibh aman.

Members also expressed sympathy of the passing of former Cllr. Tom Mulhall. Ar dheis de go raibh aman.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED:  **Mr. Joe Thompson**
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: Wednesday 24th April 2024.