

Laois Local Community Development Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Friday 1st November, 2019
At 2.30pm in Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise



Members in attendance:

Public Sector representatives:

1. Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council (Chairperson LCDC)
2. John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Laois County Council
3. Cllr. John King, Laois County Council
4. Cllr. Conor Bergin, Laois County Council
5. Evelyn Reddin, Laois Local Enterprise Office
6. Pdraig Boland, Laois Offaly Education & Training Board
7. Ann Sheerin, HSE
8. Colm Purcell, DEASP

Private Sector representatives:

1. PJ Campbell, Laois Public Participation Network
2. Paddy Buggy, Laois Public Participation Network
3. Theresa McEvoy, Laois Partnership Company
4. Michael Bergin, Farming Sector
5. Robbie Quinn, Laois Public Participation Network
6. Kieran Finane, Business Sector

Apologies:

1. Mary White, Laois Public Participation Network
2. Joe Thompson, Youth Sector
3. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network

In Attendance:

Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer, Ms. Orla Barrett, A/SEO
Ms. Claire McIntyre, A/Senior Staff Officer, Ms. Carmel McNicholl, SEO

Chairman Cllr Paschal McEvoy opened the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 25th September 2019

The minutes were adopted following a proposal from Cllr. J King and seconded by Mr. P. Buggy. The Chair welcomed Ms. Theresa McEvoy as a new member to the committee, whose nomination was ratified at Laois County Council meeting on 21st October 2019.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Correspondence

Minister Ring announces €1 million fund Small Capital Grants Scheme for Social Enterprises to support over 100 Social Enterprises throughout the country. The scheme, funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund, will provide grants of between €2,000 and 15,000 for equipment, repairs or refurbishments which will enable social enterprises to improve their service. The scheme will be administered through the Local Development Companies.

Minister Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development has correspondence regarding the announcement of Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, Category 1, Funding Announcements (Second Call) on Wednesday 6th November 2019.

4. Healthy Ireland Funding

Mr. D. Brennan noted that the application for Healthy Ireland Strand 1, Round 3 as presented at the last LCDC meeting on 25th September 2019 has been submitted. Laois County Council are awaiting approval of same.

5. SICAP

Mr. D Brennan noted the SICAP 2018 audit has commenced. As part of this, the SICAP subcommittee have approved the attendance of the Internal Auditor at future subcommittee meetings in an observer capacity only. Regarding the 2017 audit, Mr. Brennan noted final responses from Laois LCDC and Laois Partnership were submitted to Pobal on 31st October 2019.

The meeting heard Pobal were satisfied with the ongoing SICAP program following the annual update meeting on 22nd October 2019.

The Draft Annual plan for 2020 is open to the Subcommittee for feedback following a presentation by Catherine Cowap of Laois Partnership. The LCDC must review the Annual Plan and provide feedback to Pobal on any issues identified by 31st January 2020. Pobal will then carry out a high-level review to ensure compliance with the Programme requirements by 5th February 2020 with final approval by 28th February 2020. It was proposed to identify 'Educational Disadvantage' as the emerging needs group.

The Department is intending to seek an overall increase to the SICAP funding allocation for 2020. While this will not be confirmed until December, additional detail has been added to the plan to allow for this. The draft plan with Indicative budget was approved in principle by the SICAP subcommittee. This will be submitted to Pobal by 15th November 2019 and will be amended if additional funding is made available. The LCDC approved the SICAP Draft Plan 2020 based on the recommendation of the subcommittee, following a proposal by Mr. P. Boland and seconded by Ms. T. McEvoy.

Laois Partnership submitted a Case Study to Pobal on 4th October 2019. The case study titled "*The Birth of a Vibrant Community Collaborative Community Engagement to Foster Local Empowerment*" presents

a study of how successful engagement with the local community, using a collaborative approach, leads to a more confident, healthier and happier environment. This case study is a direct success from the SICAP 2019 Plan, building on predevelopment work from 2018 with a focus on community engagement in targeted estates.

Mr. D Brennan reminded the group of the LCDC Networking Event scheduled for 9th November 2019.

6. Any Other Business

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: *Paschal 7th Emy*
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: 28th November 2019

