

Laois Local Community Development Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 17th February 2021
At 11:30am via Microsoft Teams



Members in attendance:

Public Sector representatives:

Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council (Chairperson)
Mr. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council
Cllr. John King, Laois County Council
Mr. Colm Purcell, DEASP
Mr. Joe Thompson, Laois Offaly Education & Training Board (Vice Chairperson)

Private Sector representatives:

Ms. Catherine Cowap, A/CEO Laois Partnership Company
Mr. Clive Davis, Youth Sector
Ms. Mary White, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Robbie Quinn, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. PJ Campbell, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Martin Crowley, Business Sector

Apologies:

Cllr. Conor Bergin, Laois County Council
Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois Local Enterprise Office
Ms. Ann Sheerin, HSE
Mr. Henry Burns, Farming Sector

In Attendance:

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer
Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, A/Senior Staff Officer

Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, Laois Co Co took a roll call of all attendees and registered those present on the meeting attendance sheet.

Chairman Cllr. Paschal McEvoy opened the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 20th January 2021.

The minutes were adopted following a proposal from *Cllr. John King*, seconded by *Mr. John Mulholland*.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Correspondence

None

4. SICAP

(A) SICAP Annual Performance Review

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer noted the SICAP sub-committee convened on Thursday 28th January 2021 to undertake an annual performance review based on the 2020 year-end financial and monitoring (Fin & Mon) report and Annual Progress Report. The review allowed the sub-committee to assess the progress of the Local Development Company (Laois Partnership Company) as set out in the Annual Plan and Budget. It also provided a picture of actual achievements in relation to actions and targets set out in the annual plan/budget, while identifying any issues that have arisen during the year (COVID-19). The sub-committee examined and provided comments in a detailed checklist which was completed and returned to Pobal for their feedback.

Pobal feedback received underlined the view of the committee with no data input issues arising, all financial thresholds and targets were met, KPI targets exceeded with no remedies to be applied. One query arose as to “575 clients listed on IRIS who received support in 2018 and 2019 but have not been followed up with and/or have not exited from the programme”. Laois Partnership Company had responded to this query noting that “officers are working on this already as per the email I got from Pobal, it will take some time as some of the clients from 2018/2019 are from staff who have left, luckily it doesn’t effect approval for the plan or report”.

Members of the SICAP sub-committee congratulated the IP on work undertaken in 2020.

Based on the sub-committee’s recommendation the 2020 Annual Performance Review was approved, proposed by *Mr. John Mulholland and seconded by Cllr. John King.*

Mr. John Mulholland, CE, Laois Co Co noted from the SICAP Case Study the reference to “food poverty” and that this should be qualified as an impact of the pandemic. This was borne out by subsequent discussion by members over this growing issue, and its prevalence as a result of COVID-19.

(B) 2021 SICAP Annual Plan

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer informed member that the SICAP sub-committee convened on Tue 8th December to review the 2021 Annual Plan. Queries arose in relation to the underspend that would carry over to 2021, which Catherine Cowap addressed at the December LCDC meeting, Ms. McNicholl informed members that the 2021 Spend will be the set amount of €604,226 plus €58,012.86 which will be carried over from the 2020 Programme.

Based on the sub-committee’s recommendation and following the approval of the 2020 Annual Performance Review, the 2021 Annual Plan was *proposed by Mr. John Mulholland and seconded by Ms. Mary White.*

(C) SICAP VAT Payment

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer advised members that Laois Partnership had a VAT liability of €10,434.19 for the 2020 programme, €2,265.91 of which was already approved and paid to the IP in 2020. An outstanding VAT amount of €8,168.28 remains, which was identified as part of the 2020 Annual Performance Review. The payment of €8,168.28 was *proposed by Cllr. John King and seconded by Mr. Clive Davis.*

(D) SICAP Q1 2021 Payment

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer noted that under the 2021 SICAP Programme the Department issued three months funding in the amount of €151,056.50 with an initial payment of €100,704.32 issued to the IP in Dec 2020 to facilitate the cash flow requirements at the beginning of the year. Following final approval of the 2020 Annual Performance Review and the 2021 Annual Plan Ms. McNicholl advised it is now in order for members to approve the

payment of €50,352.18 to Laois Partnership company representing the final Q1 2021 payment, *which was approved by Cllr. Pascha McEvoy and seconded by Mr. Clive Davis.*

5. Community Enhancement Programme

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer advised members that the CEP sub-committee convened on Wed 3rd February to appraise applications under the Community Enhancement programme – COVID-19 fund, Round 2. The fund will provide grants to community groups to assist them:

- to adapt their services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality. Examples of measures supported could be adapting premises to allow for social distancing; offering on-line activities; providing social supports and friendly calls by phone etc.
- to become more involved in the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign. The grants are aimed at assisting participation in the campaign, in particular with the three themes: staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood.
- The grants may also be provided to support groups (including those involved in the community call) with day to day running costs if needed This is consistent with an action assigned to our Department under the Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19.

Value of Fund €46,811

Value of Grants sought: €125,918.54

Number of applications received: 54

Number of grants awarded: 35

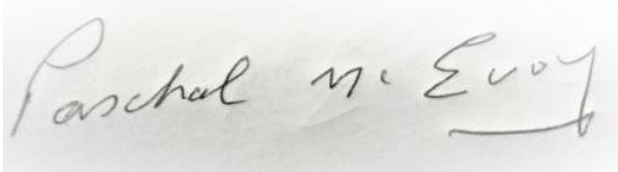
Full details of the recommendation of the sub-committee for the award of grants to the various groups were circulated and the recommendation approved (details hereunder), *proposed by Cllr. John King and seconded by Ms. Catherine Cowap.*

The Sub-Committee members complemented the Council staff members for facilitating and managing a very efficient evaluation process.

name of Group	Municipal District	Town	Grant Awarded
Yarnbombing Mountmellick	Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick	Mountmellick	€1,000.00
Mountmellick Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann	Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick	Mountmellick	€530.00
Mountrath Scout Group	Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick	Mountrath	€140.00
Clonaslee Community Development Association	Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick	Clonaslee	€799.00
Mountrath Youth Theatre	Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick	Mountrath	€1,000.00
Mountrath Tidy Towns Association	Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick	Coolrain	€1,000.00
Durrow Tidy Towns	Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick	Durrow	€2,254.00
The Rock GAA	Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick	Mountmellick	€2,323.00
Camross Parish Development Association	Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick	Camross	€2,403.00
Trumera Community Hall	Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick	Mountrath	€1,800.00
Coolrain Village Restoration Fund/ Community Group	Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick	Coolrain	€747.00
2nd Laois (Rathdowney) Scout Group	Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick	Rathdowney	€1,000.00
			€14,996.00
name of Group	Municipal District	Town	Grant Awarded
Portarlington Community Centre	Graigucullen/ Portarlington	Portarlington	€920.00
Vicarstown Community Alert	Graigucullen/ Portarlington	Vicarstown	€936.00
Emo Active Retirement	Graigucullen/ Portarlington	Emo	€496.00
The Swan Development Group	Graigucullen/ Portarlington	The Swan	€630.00
Vicarstown Old Community Hall	Graigucullen/ Portarlington	Vicarstown	€410.00
Foroige Port Garda Youth Diversion Project	Graigucullen/ Portarlington	Portarlington	€840.00
Annanough GAA	Graigucullen/ Portarlington	Stradbally	€524.00
Killeshin GAA	Graigucullen/ Portarlington	Killeshin	€2,146.00
SVP Stradbally	Graigucullen/ Portarlington	Stradbally	€2,524.00
Arles Kilcruise AFC	Graigucullen/ Portarlington	Arles	€2,480.00
			€11,906.00
name of Group	Municipal District	Town	Grant Awarded
Abbeyleix Heritage Company	Portlaoise	Abbeyleix	€719.00
Suaimhneas Community Childcare	Portlaoise	Portlaoise	€637.00
Labras	Portlaoise	Portlaoise	€903.00
Youth Work Ireland Laois	Portlaoise	Portlaoise	€1,000.00
Portlaoise Community & Family Resource Centre	Portlaoise	Portlaoise	€894.00
Ballyroan Community Hall	Portlaoise	Ballyroan	€450.00
Jelly Tots Community Creche & Playschool	Portlaoise	Abbeyleix	€720.00
Clonad GAA Club	Portlaoise	Portlaoise	€360.00
Abbeyleix Tidy Towns	Portlaoise	Abbeyleix	€3,632.00
Raheen Community Alert	Portlaoise	Raheen	€1,500.00
Cuisle Cancer Support Centre	Portlaoise	Portlaoise	€1,550.00
Path (Portlaoise Action to Homelessness)	Portlaoise	Portlaoise	€5,000.00
La Leche League Portlaoise	Portlaoise	Portlaoise	€2,544.00
			€19,909.00
	Municipal District		Grant Awarded
	Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick (x 12)		€14,996.00
	Graigucullen/ Portarlington (x 10)		€11,906.00
	Portlaoise (x13)		€19,909.00
	Total Amount (35 Groups Received Funding)		€46,811.00

6. AOB
None.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Paschal McEvoy" in a cursive script. The "Mc" is written as "m c" and the "Evoy" is written as "Evoy". There is a horizontal line under the "oy" part of the signature.

SIGNED: _____
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: 24th March 2021.