

**Laois Local Community Development Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020**  
**At 11:30am via Microsoft Teams**



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**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  
Cllr. Conor Bergin, Laois County Council  
Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois Local Enterprise Office  
Mr. Colm Purcell, DEASP  
Ms. Ann Sheerin, HSE  
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  
Mr. Henry Burns, Farming Sector  
Ms. Mary White, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. Robbie Quinn, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. PJ Campbell, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. Martin Crowley, Business Sector

**Apologies:**

Mr. Vincent Booth, Laois Public Participation Network  
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network

**In Attendance:**

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer  
Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, A/Senior Staff Officer  
Ms. Jenny Collier, Laois Partnership Company

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 and welcomed those present including Ms. Carmel McNicholl whom has been appointed Chief Officer effective 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020.**

The minutes were adopted following a proposal from *Mr. Joe Thompson* was seconded by *Ms. Mary White*.

**2. Matters Arising**

None

### 3. Correspondence

None

### 4. SICAP

#### (A) Pobal Engagement Meeting

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer advised members that the SICAP sub-committee meet with Pobal and Laois Partnership on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October as part of the annual engagement meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to engage with the SICAP sub-committee members on the LCDC oversight role of SICAP 2018-2022, and discuss the overall progress of SICAP at local level and planning for 2021. A key component of the meeting was to strengthen the social inclusion focus of the programme with Pobal providing updated Social Inclusion Analysis (SIA) data for each Lot which will be based on CSO, Pobal and IRIS data. Laois Partnership attended the Social Inclusion Analysis section of the meeting. This will enable a collaborative approach to social inclusion issues in the Lot that involves SICAP and other programmes and agencies and therefore lessen dependency on SICAP.

#### (B) Cash In Hand

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer drew members attention to correspondence received via e-mail from Dept of Rural and Community Development on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Ms. McNicholl noted that Under the existing rules for the SICAP, all funding that is unspent at the end of each year is returned to the Department (or deducted from the following years funding allocation).

- Last year, the Department decided that underspends of up to a maximum of 5% in a given year be allowed to be carried forward into the following year.
- Having considered the matter and the effects that COVID-19 has had on the Programme the Department is prepared to allow a once off **10% Cash in Hand for 2020 only**.
- Any underspends carried forward into the following year can only be spent on action costs (both salary and non-salary action costs). Therefore the maximum threshold for Administration Costs remains at 25% of the annual allocation amount as per Schedule A of the funding agreement.
- There will be no change in the KPIs for 2020 as a result of this exercise, again, this is a once off in response to the COVID -19 emergency to allow Companies some leeway – the carryover rate will revert to 5% from 2021 onwards. **There can be no cumulative carryover**. Any queries regarding the planning process and/or this new approach can be addressed to your Pobal Development Coordinator.
- Targets for 2021 are currently under consideration and a separate communication will issue shortly

Ms. McNicholl noted that the 2020 SICAP budget was €604,226 with the amount of €28,888.40 cash in hand carried over from 2019.

Ms. Catherine Cowap, A/CEO Laois Partnership Company added she found the meeting very useful with statistics provided showing Laois compared very favorably nationally and are particularly strong on social inclusion focus. The 10% carry over is welcomed considering much of the planned work could not proceed due to COVID-19. Laois

Partnership are proceeding with other work and have received grants for training, with many training providers turning to on-line resources. Individual SICAP clients and local community groups have been in receipt of training grants. Laois Partnership are currently working on the SICAP Annual Plan 2021 which is due to be uploaded to IRIS by Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November. All officers are working as normal and delivering greeting packs courtesy of the LOETB which includes the option to contact the tutor for support if required. At present there are 120 people in receipts of supports opposed to 60 in previous years.

#### 5. Community Enhancement Programme

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer noted the CEP re-allocation of €4806 which was carried over from 2018/2019 programme allocation. This amount relates to monies that were unused by groups in the 2018/2019 programme. To redistribute this, the CEP sub-committee was convened on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November and have recommended the reallocation of funds to unsuccessful applicants from the 2020 process as follows:

Name of Group	Project Cost	Grant Amount	LCDC Grant Amount Rewarded
The Clodiagh Players	€ 1,000.00	€ 989.00	€ 989.00
Portlaoise Men's Shed	€ 375.00	€ 158.00	€ 158.00
Portarlinton Rugby Football Club	€ 5,000.00	€ 3,500.00	€ 1,499.00
St Abban's National School Parents Association	€ 6,305.00	€ 6,305.00	€ 1,160.00
Shanahoe National School Parents Association	€ 3,400.00	€ 3,400.00	€ 1,000.00
			€ 4,806.00

This was proposed by Mr. Clive Davis and seconded by Ms. Ann Sheerin.

#### 6. Healthy Ireland

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer noted that the allocation of €30,000 related to HI Community Mental Health Fund and informed members the HI sub-committee was convened on the 6<sup>th</sup> November to consider 16 applications that were received under the scheme. The total value of applications received was €55,905 with 12 applications being put forward for approval on the recommendation of the sub-committee to the LCDC.

Approval to the recommendation submitted were proposed by Ms. Catherine Cowap and seconded by Mr. Clive Davis.

Grant allocation details as follows:

Name of Group	Brief Description of Project	Project Cost	Requested Grant Amount	Grant Amount Awarded
Laois Traveller Action Group	A mental health and wellbeing project for traveller women	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	€3,000.00
The Rock GAA Club	Sports Education for children and Young adults with disabilities and mental health issues	€3,082.00	€3,082.00	€3,082.00
The Cuisle Cancer Support Centre	Run an Aqua Jog Programme for Cancer Survivors in Portarlinton Swimming Pool	€2,070.00	€2,070.00	€2,070.00
Dignity Partnership	To share cultural traditions through the exchange of knowledge, skills and experience. Hold 5 online Karaoke Nights, Online Christmas Carols for Children, Online Craft Sessions.	€3,681.00	€3,681.00	€3,681.00
Laois Age Friendly Older Peoples Council	Host a radio programme on Midlands 103 targeted at older people for 6 weeks.	€6,000.00	€2,000.00	€2,000.00
Abbeyleix Hibernian Support Group	Hold a day long festival for residents in the Hibernian Hotel in Spring 21	€3,600.00	€3,600.00	€3,200.00
La Leche League Portlaoise	Provide support to breastfeeding mother over zoom, provide non-contact care packages to breastfeeding mothers.	€2,029.64	€2,030.00	€2,029.64
Portlaoise Panthers Inclusive Team	Provide equipment of members to facilitate home based training and zoom sessions for the disability basketball team	€2,399.00	€2,399.00	€2,399.00
Mountrath Youth Theatre	Develop a Wellness Garden with an outdoor performance space for Young People at Mountrath Youth Theatres Base.	€6,750.00	€5,000.00	€2,500.00
Make Port	To run classes to show students how to use tools such as scratch- a fantastic visual programming tool, raspberry Pi computer boards - which allow students to interact with the environment by using add-on components and also introduction to python programming language.	€4,043.00	€4,043.00	€2,000.00
LSP & Respond	Run a one day Ride Leader Course (through Cycle Ireland) to train 8 local people to become Ride Leaders with a certificate to deliver a 6 week "Bike for Life" programme in their community. They will then deliver a 6 week programme in disadvantaged communities. Benefits will be based on the fact that cycling improves your physical and mental wellbeing.	€5,000.00	€5,000.00	€2,000.00
Respond in partnership with HSE/LSP and LPC	Offer supports to marginalised groups in our community to improve both mental and physical health. To provide supports to excluded communities including residents in Direct Provision in accessing opportunities and improving outcomes. We will run cookery classes with Laois Partnership followed by the HSE Food and Health Programme.	€5,000.00	€5,000.00	€2,038.36
			€40,905.00	€30,000.00

7. Any Other Business

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: Paschal ne Gray  
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

