

Laois Local Community Development Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 20th October 2021
At 11:30am via Microsoft Teams



Members in attendance:

Public Sector representatives: Cllr. Conor Bergin, Cathaoirleach Laois County Council
Mr. Joe Thompson, LOETB (Chairperson)
Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council
Mr. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council
Cllr. John King, Laois County Council
Ms. Honor Deevy, Laois Local Enterprise Office
Mr. Colm Purcell, DEASP
Ms. Ann Sheerin, HSE

Private Sector representatives: Mr. Martin Crowley, Business Sector (Vice Chairperson)
Ms. Catherine Cowap, A/CEO Laois Partnership Company
Mr. Henry Burns, Farming Sector (I.F.A)
Mr. Clive Davis, Youth Sector (Youth Work Ireland Laois)
Mr. Nina Horan, Laois Public Participation Network
Ms. Joan Bolger, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. John Oxley, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Naeem Iqbal, Laois Public Participation Network

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/ Chief Officer, Laois County Council
Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, A/Senior Staff Officer, Laois County Council
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.

Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Chairperson opened the meeting welcoming all present noting in his capacity as outgoing Chairperson he will chair Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of minutes, Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising, and Agenda Item 3: Election of LCDC/LAG chairperson after which the newly elected chairperson will assume the position.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 15th September 2021.

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

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Election of LCDC/LAG Chairperson

Election of Chairperson

Before Cllr. McEvoy vacated the position of Chairperson he sincerely thanked members for their continued support over his three-year term. In addition, he thanked the current Chief Officer Carmel McNicholl and former Chief Officers Mr. Michael Rainey, Ms. Georgina Ireland and Mr Donal Brennan for their continued support. Finally, Cllr. McEvoy thanked Suzanne O'Connor, meeting administrator and his fellow members.

Members present expressed their gratitude to Cllr. McEvoy and congratulated him on his outstanding contribution to the committee, his impartiality and the kindness expressed to all members.

Ms. Pamela Tynan noted that Cllr. Paschal McEvoy was appointed chairperson of Laois LCDC/LAG on the 1st October 2018. As per the Standing Orders the Chairperson/Vice Chairperson will be appointed for a maximum period of 3 years, where upon he/she shall retire as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, as the case may be. It was further noted that a member may not serve two consecutive terms as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson.

The Chairperson of the LCDC shall be an ex-officio member of every committee except those where membership is fixed by Statute. Sub committees are as follows:

- SICAP Sub Committee
- Healthy Ireland Sub Committee
- CEP Sub Committee
- Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme Sub Committee

Cllr. Paschal McEvoy nominated Mr. Joe Thompson to assume the position of chairperson effective immediate with the proposal being seconded by Ms. Catherine Cowap.

Members present congratulated Mr. Thompson on his ratification as Chairperson of Laois LCDC/LAG. Mr. Thompson thanked members for the nomination and vowed to do his best in the position of Chairperson.

Election of Vice Chairperson

Ms. Pamela Tynan advised members that as the Vice Chair now assumes the position of Chairperson the committee need to address the vacancy of Vice Chairperson. Ms. Tynan called on members present to nominate a candidate to the position of Vice Chairperson. Cllr. Paschal McEvoy nominated Mr. Martin Crowley being seconded by Mr. John Mulholland

Ms. Pamela Tynan also took the opportunity to welcome Ms. Honor Deevy, A/Head of LEO as a member of Laois LCDC/LAG, which was echoed by members present.

4. Correspondence

None

5. SICAP

SICAP Mid-Year Programme Review

Ms. Pamela Tynan advised members that the SICAP sub-committee convened on Thursday the 30th September in order to carry out a mid-programme review of the current SICAP programme, with minutes forming part of members meeting papers. The purpose of the review was to take stock of where SICAP is at, reflect on where the emphasis should be in the future and consider priorities for the remainder of the programme.

Pobal Engagement Meeting

Ms. Pamela Tynan noted that following on from this the sub-committee meeting and in line with programme rules the SICAP sub-committee met with the Pobal co-ordinator and partook in the annual engagement meeting on Friday 8 October 2021 (minutes formed part of members meeting pack).

Ms. Tynan advised that following the Ministerial announcement of the current SICAP programme it was noted that the emphasis of this year's engagement meetings should specifically focus on what the programme has achieved so far at lot level and what the priorities of the programme should be going forward in each SICAP lot. Therefore, a statement of priorities is to be agreed and submitted with 2022 Annual Plan.

Agreed Statement of Priorities

Ms. Pamela Tynan noted that the sub-committee, following their preliminary meeting and subsequent Pobal engagement meeting propose the following priorities be adopted for 2022/2023:

- New Communities, with a particular focus on those living in direct provision.
- Long Term Unemployed/
- Mental Health

A brief discussion took place amongst the membership with clarifications on the Statement of Priorities being addressed. In turn members agreed with the proposed statement of priorities being proposed by Mr. John Mulholland and seconded by Mr. Martin Crowley

Emerging Needs

Ms. Pamela Tynan informed members that following the SICAP sub-committee meeting and subsequent Pobal engagement, members took the opportunity to identify who the emerging needs group might be for 2022 and the underlying rationale for same.

Group Identified: Children and Families Disadvantages by COVID-19. Approval of LCDC now sought:

Members were in agreement with the proposed emerging needs being proposed by Cllr Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Mr. Ray Harte.

KPI Targets 2021

Ms. Pamela Tynan advised member that at the recent Pobal engagement meeting a discussion took place in relation to KPI targets for 2021 i.e. if a revision was required. It was noted by both the SICAP sub-committee and the IP (Laois Partnership Company) that the programme was on course to meet set targets with no KPI change/revision required.

	2021 Existing Annual Target (as agreed in 2021 Annual Plan)	2021 Proposed revised annual target	Percentage reduction %	Achieved as of 31.05.2021 (Mid-Year Check)
KPI 1 (relates to groups)	28	28	None	18 (64.29%)
KPI 2 (relates to individuals)	310	310	None	183 (59.03%)
KPI2 % Living in Disadvantage	28%	28%	None	21.94%

2021 Case Study

Ms. Pamela Tynan noted that the 2021 SICAP submitted Case study is titled Bringing the Taste of Mexico to Laois! The report focuses on Enterprise Mentoring Support Client; Una Ni Anrachain and provides qualitative information and context about this particular project, way of working, and individual client/group story. As part of the submission the LDC completed a video which was presented to members during the course of the meeting.

Q4 2021 Payment Approval

Ms. Pamela Tynan sought members approval to process payment in the amount of €151,056.50 to Laois Partnership Company, it being the final payment to the IP in relation to the 2021 SICAP programme. The approval of payment in the amount of €151,056.50 to the IP was approved by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy seconded by Mr. Clive Davis.

6. Healthy Ireland

Ms. Pamela Tynan updated members of initiatives currently being undertaken by Healthy Ireland.

We're Breastfeeding Friendly

Laois Local Community and Development Committee (LCDC), supported by Healthy Ireland, launched We're Breastfeeding Friendly Laois campaign on Friday, 1st October. The initiative aims to help improve the health and wellbeing of breastfeeding mothers, babies and their families by encouraging businesses, organisations and community groups, to become 'Breastfeeding Friendly'. As of 13.10.2021 34 businesses/groups have signed up to the initiative.

Leave the Light on Initiative

"Leave a Light on" campaign will launch on Sunday, 24th October and is a collaborative project, funded by Healthy Ireland Laois and commissioned by Dunamais Arts Centre. This initiative stems from the first Healthy Laois Plan 2018-2020. Artists and local secondary school art students will be commissioned to create window designs inspired by the theme of positive mental health.

Along with the Dunamais Arts Centre, a number of businesses are facilitating a window for this initiative (ie Shaws Department Stores, Irish foot & Hand Spa, Nook & Cranny, Gerry Browne Jewellers, Anthem Music, Old Fort Piercing & Tattoo, EBS Main Street, the Office Centre, Tax Assist Accountants, Vimar Digital Marketing. Áras an Chontae will be joining in this initiative with Art installations being installed on Friday 22nd of October. Our Library Service is also supporting this initiative, by channelling Packs and materials to the Schools.

7. Dormant Accounts Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme

Ms. Pamela Tynan noted that Laois LCDC received an allocation of €23,793.59 in order to facilitate the Dormant Accounts Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme. In total 7 applications were received (this figure includes 1 late Application)

The Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme sub-committee convened on Monday the 18th October in order to appraise applications received. Ms. Tynan noted that the recommendation of the LCDC Sub-Committee has been put forward to the Dept for full approval. This is a requirement under the scheme which stipulates “each LCDC will submit to DRCD a list of projects from their area that they recommend for funding. The Minister for Rural and Community Development will approve the successful projects”. Following approval by DRCD the list of successful applicants will be brought to the LCDC for noting.

8. AOB

Ms Pamela Tynan noted that as a result of the recently resigned PPN Reps, three vacancies have arisen on the CEP (Community Enhancement Programme) Sub-Committee. In addition, as Mr. Joe Thompson assumes the position of chairperson he will become an ex-officio member of all sub-committees. As such this will result in an additional vacancy on the CEP subcommittee, and a further vacancy on the SICAP and Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme sub-committees.

CEP Sub-Committee

Ms Tynan called on members present to nominate four members to the CEP sub-committee.

Nominee 1: Cllr. Paschal McEvoy
Proposed: Mr. Joe Thompson
Seconded: Cllr. John King

Nominee 2: Mr. Martin Crowley
Proposed: Cllr. Paschal McEvoy
Seconded: Cllr. John King

Nominee 3: Cllr John King
Proposed: Cllr. Paschal McEvoy
Seconded: Mr. Joe Thompson

Nominee 4: Ms. Catherine Cowap
Proposed: Mr. John Mulholland
Seconded: Cllr. John King

As a result of the above nominations the revised members of the CEP sub-committee will be as follows:

- Mr. Joe Thompson (ex-officio member)
- Cllr. Paschal McEvoy
- Cllr. John King
- Ms. Ann Sheerin
- Ms. Honor Deevy
- Ms. Catherine Cowap
- Mr. Martin Crowley

SICAP Sub-Committee:

Ms. Pamela Tynan called on members present to nominate one LCDC member to the SICAP sub-committee.

Nominee: Mr, John Oxley
Proposed: Cllr. Paschal McEvoy
Seconded: Cllr. John King

As a result of the above nomination the revised members of the SICAP sub-committee will be as follows:

- Mr. Joe Thompson (ex-officio member)
- Mr. Clive Davis
- Ms. Catherine Cowap
- Ms. Ann Sheerin
- Ms. Honor Deevy
- Mr. John Oxley

Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme Sub-Committee:

Ms. Pamela Tynan called on members present to nominate one member to the Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme sub-committee.

Nominee: Ms. Nina Horan
Proposed: Cllr. Paschal McEvoy
Seconded: Cllr. John King

As a result of the above nomination the revised members of the Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme sub-committee will be as follows:

- Mr. Joe Thompson (ex-officio member)
- Cllr. John King
- Ms. Honor Deevy
- Ms. Catherine Cowap
- Ms. Nina Horan
- Ms. Joan Bolger

This concluded the business of the meeting.

DocuSigned by:

Joe Thompson

SIGNED:

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Mr. Joe Thompson
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: Wednesday 17th November 2021.