



Laois Local Community Development Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 21st July 2021
At 11:30am via Microsoft Teams

Members in attendance:

Public Sector representatives: Cllr. Conor Bergin, Cathaoirleach Laois County Council
Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council (Chairperson)
Mr. Joe Thompson, Laois Offaly Education & Training Board (Vice Chairperson)
Mr. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council
Cllr. John King, Laois County Council
Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois Local Enterprise Office
Mr. Colm Purcell, DEASP
Ms. Ann Sheerin, HSE

Private Sector representatives: Mr. Henry Burns, Farming Sector (I.F.A)
Mr. Clive Davis, Youth Sector (Youth Work Ireland Laois)
Mr. Robbie Quinn, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Naeem Iqbal, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Martin Crowley, Business Sector (Chamber of Commerce)

Apologies: Ms. Catherine Cowap, A/CEO Laois Partnership Company
Ms. Mary White, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. PJ Campbell, 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. Sandra O'Neill, Laois Partnership Company
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 opened the meeting welcoming all present.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 23rd June 2021.

The minutes were adopted following a proposal from *Mr. Robbie Quinn* seconded by *Mr. John Mulholland*.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Correspondence

SICAP 2018-2022 Programme Extension

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer advised members of correspondence received from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) via email on Thursday 1st July 2021 in relation to the SICAP 2018-2022 programme extension. The Dept have noted their decision to extend the programme for a period of 12 months up to 31st December 2023.

Ms. McNicholl noted that subject to the agreement of the LCDC the next step is to prepare a communication to the IP (Laois Partnership Company) informing them of the extension which will need to be signed by the IP and returned. Upon receipt of this signed agreement Laois LCDC will update the schedule of funding agreement regarding the proportion of funding that is to be spent on administration for the year of the extension. LCDC agreement was noted *Proposed by John King and seconded by Evelyn Reddin.*

Amendment of Total Action Costs 2020

In addition to the above Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer noted that a further email received Thursday 1st July noted the requirement to comply with Clause 1.1.3 of the Funding Agreement. The SICAP Annual Plan 2020 set a target of 75% of total budget spend on total action costs. Actual spend was 72.08%. LCDC are now required to formally advise Laois Partnership Company that the Total Allowable Action Cost for 2020 is now revised to 72.08%. The amendment of Total Action Costs 2020 was proposed by Mr. Joe Thompson and seconded by Paschal McEvoy.

4. SICAP

SICAP Mid-Year Review

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer informed members that following a comprehensive review Pobal reverted back with their feedback concerning the SICAP 2021 Mid-Year Review. Pobal identified no significant issues of concern. Ms. McNicholl advised members that prudent budgetary management will be exercised for the remainder of 2021. Accordingly, as a result of a very comprehensive review regime Laois LCDC are in a position to complete the review and formally approve the Mid-Year Review. On that basis Ms. McNicholl sought approval of members. The approval for SICAP 2021 Mid-Year Review was proposed by Cllr. John King and seconded by Mr. Martin Crowley.

5. Healthy Ireland

Primary Authorised User

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer acts as Primary Authorised User (PAU) for all HI returns on the Pobal Portal. It is a prudent to assign an additional PAU that will be in a position to act in the absence of the Chief Officer. Accordingly, Ms. McNicholl recommended that Ms. Anne Marie Kirrane, Senior Staff Officer in Community (the newly appointed Healthy Ireland Manager) fill this role. The appointment of Ms. Kirrane as the nominated back up PAU was proposed by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Ms. Ann Sheerin.

6. Community Enhancement Programme 2021

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer informed members that the CEP sub-committee convened on Friday 25th June in order to consider application received under the 2021 programme. 95 applications were received under the current Community Enhancement Programme seeking funding in the amount of €346,487.56, with the amount of €136,524 being available for allocation. The CEP sub-committee carried out a comprehensive exercise in order to appraise applications and determine successful projects and the allocation to be awarded to each. In total 68 applicants were approved with a list of same forming part of members meeting papers together with the amount awarded in each instance. Ms. McNicholl invited any questions in relation to the recommended fund allocation. A query arose in relation to those that were unsuccessful in their application. Ms McNicholl advised members that funds were fairly distributed across the municipal districts with the main reason for projects being unsuccessful in their application being ineligibility in accordance with criteria, or in some cases failure to comply with necessary requirements such as submission of three quotations. Applicants will be notified in the coming days and the Dept will also be notified, as required.

Members were satisfied with the recommendation of the CEP subcommittee with approval of the allocation of funds under the Community Enhancement Programme 2021 as follows, being proposed by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Cllr. John King.

Name of Group	Municipal District	Grant Amount Awarded
Emo Gun Club	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€1,000.00
Portarlington Community Centre	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€950.00
Portarlington Community Centre	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€1,000.00
The Swan NS Parents Association	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€736.00
SVT Activity & Wellness Hub	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€890.00
The Swan Development Association	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€935.00
Ratheniska Community Hall	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€1,000.00
Stradbally Community Allotments	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€1,000.00
Cill an Oir Residents Association	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€615.00
Oughaval Athletic Club	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€1,000.00
Laois Athletics County Board	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€1,000.00
Ballylinan Community Council	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€1,329.00
Commuity Hall Vicarstown	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€4,348.00
Emo Sportfield Committee	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€7,800.00
Killeshin Community First Responders	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€4,088.00
Annanough GAA	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€5,000.00
T & S United	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€912.00
Stradbally GAA	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€1,699.00
Tigh Mochua Le Cheile	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€2,303.00
Romanedque Development Association	Portarlington/ Graiguecullen	€3,481.00
Camross Tidy Towns Group	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€1,000.00
St Johns Coolbanagher	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€899.00
Errill Snooker Club	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€1,000.00
St Brigid's Camogie Club	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€1,000.00
Mountrath Youth Theatre	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€665.00
Donaghmore Workhouse & Agricultural Museum	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€650.00
3rd Laois Durrow Scouts	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€1,000.00
Rosenallis Development Association	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€990.00
Ballyfin Community Alert	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€200.00

St Canices Tce Residents Association	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€920.00
Mountrath Tidy Towns Association	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€1,000.00
Castlecluff NS Parents Association	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€1,000.00
Killasmaestia Tidy Towns	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€1,000.00
St Josephs NS Parents Association	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€2,539.00
Durrow Tidy Towns	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€2,713.00
Mountmellick Men's Shed	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€1,298.00
Borris in Ossory Mens Shed	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€2,136.00
Durrow Development Forum	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€990.00
Kilcotton GAA Club	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€6,653.00
Castletown Community Centre	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€1,350.00
Mountrath Scout Group	Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick	€595.00
The Rock GAA Club	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€2,699.00
Castletown Community Field Development Fund	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€2,500.00
Errill Cemetery Committee	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€1,020.00
Mountrath Development Association	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€2,980.00
Castletown ICA Guild	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€2,313.00
Mountmellick GAA Club	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€3,100.00
Rosenallis Development Association	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€5,629.00
Camross Active Retirement Group	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€3,420.00
Rathdowney Community Centre	Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	€1,304.00
Abbeyleix AFC	Portlaoise	€605.00
Clonad GAA	Portlaoise	€990.00
Abbeyleix Heritage Co	Portlaoise	€640.00
Fourth Wall Laois Theatre Group	Portlaoise	€569.00
Portlaoise Football Association	Portlaoise	€1,000.00
Spink Community Development Association	Portlaoise	€616.00
Sosad Ireland Laois Branch	Portlaoise	€4,324.00
Treo Nua Resource Centre	Portlaoise	€5,800.00
Abbeyleix Tidy Towns	Portlaoise	€1,497.00
Ballinakill Community Development Association CLG	Portlaoise	€3,638.00
Spink Comhaltas	Portlaoise	€1,890.00
Portlaoise Cemetery Committee	Portlaoise	€2,952.00
Abbeyleix Park Development Committee	Portlaoise	€1,702.00

Abbeyleix Women's Development Group CLG	Portlaoise	€2,500.00
Ballyroan Community Development	Portlaoise	€3,837.00
Portlaoise Panthers Basketball Club	Portlaoise	€750.00
Laois Domestic Abuse Services	Portlaoise	€5,696.00
Cuisle Cancer Support Centre	Portlaoise	€1,869.00
MD	Number of Successful Applications	
Portarlinton/Graiguecullen MD	20	€41,086.00
Borris in Ossory/ Mountmellick	30	€54,563.00
Portlaoise	18	€40,875.00
	68	€136,524.00

7. AOB

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer advised members that three longstanding members representing Laois PPN term of office will cease to hold membership on the Saturday 24th July 2021. Ms. Mary White, Mr Robbie Quinn and Mr. PJ Campbell served on Laois LCDC/LAG since its formation in July 2015. Member of the committee extended their sincere thanks to Mary, Robbie and PJ for their service noting their invaluable contribution to Laois LCDC being an essential part of the bedrock of the committee since it was established. All outgoing member were also represented on various sub-committees with their knowledge and views being invaluable over the period of their tenure.

Mr. Robbie Quinn, outgoing member thanks members for their kind sentiments noting his experience as LCDC member was an enjoyable and worthwhile one. Mr. Quinn thanked members for the opportunity to contribute to the Committee adding they are all embedded in their local communities. Mr. Quinn wished all incoming members luck in their term of office.

In the absence of Ms. Mary White an email communication from her was relayed to members noting "As this was my last meeting, I would like to express my thanks to all members who contribute so positively to support worthy initiatives. It was a great privilege for me to serve on the committee. My sincere thanks to the Chairperson Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, members and members of the CEP evaluation committee which was always a difficult task as there are so many worthy projects to be judged. May the great work continue. Mary."

Following consultation with Laois PPN three new representatives have been put forward for ratification at the July Council meeting on Monday 26th July and will attend the September LCDC meeting. Laois PPN nominees are as follows:

- Ms. Joan Bolger, Laois PPN Social Inclusion Rep
- Ms. Nina Horan, Laois PPN Community & Voluntary Rep
- Mr. John Oxley, Laois PPN Community & Voluntary Rep

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Cllr. Paschal McEvoy
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SIGNED: _____
Cllr. Paschal McEvoy
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: Wednesday 15th September 2021.