

Laois Local Community Development Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd September, 2020
At 11:30am via Telephone Conferencing



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. Joe Thompson, Laois Offaly Education & Training Board
Ms. Ann Sheerin, HSE

Private Sector representatives:

Ms. Catherine Cowap, A/CEO Laois Partnership Company
Ms. Mary White, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Robbie Quinn, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Clive Davis, Youth Sector
Mr. Henry Burns, Farming Sector
Mr. Kieran Finane, Business Sector

Apologies:

Mr. Colm Purcell, DEASP
Mr. PJ Campbell, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Vincent Booth, Laois Public Participation Network

In Attendance:

Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer
Ms. Carmel McNicholl, SEO Laois County Council
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 new members.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 22nd July 2020.

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

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Correspondence

None

4. LCDC Membership

(A) Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Chairperson, welcomed new members of the LCDC as follows:

- Mr. Vincent Booth, Laois Public Participation Network
- Mr. Clive Davis, Youth Work Ireland
- Mr. Henry Burns, Irish Farmers Association
- Mr. Joe Thompson, Laois/Offaly Education & Training Board

New members were ratified by Elected Members on 31st August at the LA monthly meeting. Members were also ratified by LCDC members being *proposed by Cllr. John King and seconded by Mr. Robbie Quinn.*

(B) Election of Vice Chairperson

Cllr. Paschal McEvoy invited members to nominate a member to the position of Vice Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson will be appointed for a maximum period of 3 years, in order to allow rotation of members. A member may not serve two consecutive terms as Vice Chairperson. *Ms. Mary White proposed Mr. Joe Thompson, which was seconded by Cllr. John King.* Mr. Joe Thompson acknowledged the nomination and accepted the position of Vice Chairperson.

5. SICAP

(A) Mid Year Check

Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer, noted that members of the SICAP sub-committee met on 9th September with the Local Development Company (Laois Partnership) to review the Mid Year Check in order to approve the Mid Year Check in line with Pobal timelines.

Feedback from Meeting:

It was noted the manner in which the IP responded positively to a change in circumstances due to COVID-19, coming up with innovative ideas and working in partnership with other agencies. The strength of partnership working/interagency work throughout the county with the LDC adapting to meet needs of those in need.

Concerns were noted in relation to under spend in the areas of training and this would be as a direct result to COVID restrictions. It was noted that the LDC have already flagged this concern with Pobal in the Mid Year Update and we would have a greater insight into budget spend in October and the possibility to carry over any under spend to 2021 as per previous years.

The Sub Committee discussed in general the challenges faced by the LDC, but at present have no concerns that need to be flagged with the LCDC, LDC or Pobal. The LCDC will continue their engagement with the LDC and keep the current under spend under review.

(B) SICAP Mid Year VAT Payment

Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer, sought approval of the SICAP VAT payment to the Implementing Partner, Laois Partnership for period 1st January -30th June 2020 in the amount of €2,265.91. This amount was identified as part of the Mid Year Check. *This was proposed by Cllr. John King and seconded by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy.*

(C) SICAP Sub Committee

Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer, invited members to nominate a member to the SICAP sub-committee. *Cllr. Paschal McEvoy proposed Mr. Clive Davis which was seconded by Mr. Joe Thompson.* Mr. Clive Davis acknowledged the nomination and accepted the position on the SICAP sub-committee.

(D) SICAP Case Study

Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer, informed members that the Implementing Partner, Laois Partnership are required to submit a Case Study, the purpose of which is a research methodology that provides a comprehensive picture or story of individuals, groups, projects, organisations or events. It provides qualitative information and context about a particular project, way of working, or individual client/group story

Ms. Catherine Cowap, A/CEO Laois Partnership Company, advised members the 2020 Case Study will be based on the Hope for Laois Project. This project was operated during COVID with three projects workers assigned giving time and support, with fantastic outcomes.

Deadline for submission – 4th October 2020.

(E) ESF Financial Claim Process

Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer, referred to correspondence received from the Dept. of Rural and Community Development on Friday 18th September titled SICAP ESF Financial Claims Process. Mr. Brennan noted that a request has issued to Laois Partnership to complete relevant data sheets and upload audit trail documents by Friday 2nd October. The LCDC will be required to make a financial declaration in respect to SICAP for 2018 and 2019 by Friday 9th October. It was noted that correspondence was received too late in order to include as an Agenda Item.

6. Healthy Ireland

(A) Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator

Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer, advised members that Ms. Julie Scully has been appointed effective from 27th August as Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator

(B) Community Mental Health Fund

Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer, drew member's attention to the proposed CMHF (Community Mental Health Fund) of €30,000 which has been secured from the Dept of Health (Mental Health Unit) under the Healthy Ireland Fund 2019-2021. The purpose of the fund is to deliver a small grant scheme for local community, voluntary and sporting organisations to support them in the delivery of initiatives which will address "mental health" priority themes contained within Healthy Ireland, a Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2015.

Total Fund:	€30,000
Minimum Grant:	€2,000
Maximum Grant:	€5,000
Opening Date:	Monday 12 th October

Closing Date: Friday 30th October 2020.
Drawdown: 75% upfront and 25% on completion (with reports submitted). Funds not drawn down by 30th April 2021 will be de-committed.

Mr. Joe Thompspon enquired if applicants are required to be a member of Laois Public Participation Network in order to make an application. Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer noted that the proposed application stated "Applicants must be a member of Laois PPN or undertake to join Laois PPN if the application is successful". Therefore, at the time of application applicants are not required to be a member of the PPN.

Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer sought approval from member to proceed with the fund as outlined. *This matter was proposed by Ms. Mary White and seconded by Cllr. John King.*

(C) Healthy Ireland Sub-Committee

Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer, invited members to nominate a member to the Healthy Ireland sub-committee. *Cllr. John King voluntary put himself forward for the position. This was proposed by Joe Thompson and seconded by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy.*

(D) Healthy Ireland Fund Addendum

Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer, noted correspondence received from Pobal on the 8th September titled URN 73040C_1 Laois County Council HIF 3 Addendum, which was required to be signed and returned to Pobal by Tuesday 22nd September. The addendum noted small changes in the Healthy Ireland fund which arose mainly due to COVID, copies of which were furnished to members as part of their meeting pack. Both Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Chairperson and Mr. Donal Brennan, Chief Officer signed the document, and now require same to be proposed and seconded retrospectively. *Proposed Ms. Mary White and seconded Cllr. John King.*

7. Community Enhancement Programme 2020 & Community Enhancement Programme Community Centres & Buildings 2020.

Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Chairperson, drew member's attention to the updated CEP recommended approvals which were circulated to members via email.

Mr. Donla Brennan, Chief Officer, informed members that the CEP sub committee met on 9th and again on the 17th September in order to appraise CEP application under both rounds (i.e. CEP & CEP Community Centres and Buildings). Member of the Sub Committee were as follows:

- Cllr. Paschal McEvoy
- Mr. Paddy Buggy
- Ms. Mary White
- Mr. Joe Thompson
- Mr. PJ Campbell
- Ms. Evelyn Reddin
- Ms. Ann Sheerin

Community Enhancement Programme 2020 Approvals

Municipal District	Organisation Name	Amount Awarded	Totals
Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick	Rock GAA	€1,300.00	
	Castletown ICA	€318.00	
	Mountrath Youth Theatre	€1,000.00	
	Borris in Ossory Defibrillator Group	€1,000.00	
	Ballyfin Community Alert	€300.00	
	Castecuff National School Parents Association	€1,000.00	
	Ballacolla Tidy Towns	€1,000.00	
	Mountmellick Community Childcare	€1,000.00	
	Mountmellick Community Arts Centre	€908.00	
	Rosenallis Development Association	€800.00	
	Ballacolla Before & After School Den	€940.00	
	Mountmellick Tidy Towns	€6,543.00	
	Graigie Cemetery Committee	€2,000.00	
	Borris in Ossory Tidy Towns	€1,195.00	
	Durrow Tidy Towns	€1,230.00	€ 20,534.00
Graiguecullen / Portarlinton	The Swan Development Association	€795.52	
	The Swan NS Parents Association	€998.00	
	Port Project	€920.00	
	The Glen Residents Association	€400.00	
	Ballybrittas Tidy Towns	€1,500.00	
	Timahoe Parents Association	€4,788.00	
	SVT Canoeing & Kayaking Club	€2,700.00	
	T & S United	€5,412.00	€ 17,513.52
Portlaoise	Abbeyleix Junior Hockey Club	€950.00	
	Knock National School Parents Association	€926.48	
	Corran na Noir Residents Association	€598.00	
	The Block GYDP Portlaoise	€710.00	
	Spink Comhaltas	€1,000.00	
	The Heath GAA Club	€856.00	
	Clonad GAA Club	€825.00	
	Ratheniska CCE	€900.00	
	Rath Gailline Residents Association	€500.00	
	The Cuisle Centre	€2,050.00	
	Portlaoise Family Resource Centre	€1,730.00	
	Abbeyleix Park Development Forum	€5,000.00	
	Ballinakill Indoor Bowls Club	€1,200.00	
	Knock Vintage Club	€3,004.00	€ 20,249.48
Total CEP Allocation			€ 58,297.00

Community Enhancement Programme 2020 – Community Centres and Buildings Approvals

Municipal District	Organisation Name	Amount Awarded	Totals
Borris in Ossory / Mountmellick	Mountrath Scout Group	€ 875.00	
	Errill Snooker Club	€ 1,000.00	
	Knockaroo Community Centre	€ 2,682.00	
	Rathdowney Vision Group	€ 3,580.00	
	Mountrath Development Association	€ 5,000.00	
	Clonaslee Community Development Association Ltd	€ 1,671.00	
	Durrow Tidy Towns	€ 10,000.00	
	Rosenallis Community Centre	€ 15,350.00	€ 40,158.00
Graiguecullen / Portarlinton	Barrowhouse Community Association Ltd	€ 711.00	
	Portarlinton Social Services	€ 2,606.00	
	Ballylinan Community Council	€ 5,467.00	
	Stradbally Playground Committee	€ 3,883.00	
	Timahoe Community Hall	€ 3,575.00	€ 16,242.00
Portlaoise	Shanahoe Parish Community Hall	€ 3,885.00	
	Abbeyleix Parish Community Hall Committee	€ 3,324.00	
	(St Aongus Club) Ratheniska Community Hall	€ 4,500.00	
	Portlaoise Panthers BC	€ 19,840.00	
	Spink Community Development Association	€ 3,000.00	
	Abbeyleix Heritage House	€ 12,746.00	
	Suaimhneas Community Childcare	€ 24,500.00	€ 71,795.00

Total CEP Allocation
(Community Centres and Buildings)

€
128,195.00

Both schemes (CEP & CEP Community Centres and Buildings) were proposed by Robbie Quinn and seconded by Mr. Kieran Finane.

8. Any Other Business

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Laois Co Co, sought approval of the SICAP Q4 payment to the Implementing Partner, Laois Partnership in the amount of €151,056.50. This was proposed by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Mr. Clive Davis.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: Paschal McEvoy
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: 21st October 2020.