

Laois Local Community Development Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 25th May 2022
At 11:30am via Microsoft Teams

Members in attendance:

Public Sector representatives: Cllr. Conor Bergin, Cathaoirleach Laois County Council
Mr. Joe Thompson, Laois Offaly Education & Training Board (Chairperson)
Mr. John Mulholland, CE Laois County Council
Cllr. John King, Laois County Council
Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council
Ms. Ann Sheerin, HSE

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

Apologies: Ms. Honor Deevy, Laois Local Enterprise Office
Mr. Henry Burns, Farming Sector (I.F.A)

In Attendance: Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer
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, both in-person and on-line, on the meeting attendance sheet.

Mr. Joe Thompson, Chairperson, opened the meeting welcoming all present.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 27th April 2022.

The minutes were adopted following a proposal from *Cllr. John King seconded by Ms. Joan Bolger.*

2. Matters Arising

Ms. Catherine Cowap, A/CEO Laois Partnership Company referred to the April minutes updating members in relation to the SICAP recruitment campaign. Ms. Cowap noted that since the last meeting two temporary workers were engaged on a six-month contract to assist with the Ukrainian crisis.

3. Correspondence

None.

4. Healthy Ireland

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer informed members of Minister Frank Feighan's, (Minister of State for Public Health, Well Being and National Drugs Strategy) visit to a number of Healthy Ireland funded initiatives in Laois on

Tuesday, 5th May, full details of which had been circulated. Ms. McNicholl further noted that financial and progress returns for the Healthy Ireland - Round 3 Funding programme were finalised and submitted to Pobal on Friday, 6th May 2022. LCDC members commended the HI programme manager, co-ordinator and the relevant action partners on work undertaken during the course of the HI round 3 programme and welcomed the visit of Minister Feighan. Members also acknowledged the impressive advertising campaign undertaken by the HI team, noting the individual recognition of all action partners.

5. Community Activities Fund

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer advised members that two amounts of current funding under the Community Activities Fund became available for re-distribution to the combined value of €1,280 noting that the amount can only be redistributed to applications for current funding. On re-examining applications with LCDC Chairperson, Mr. Joe Thompson and with the support of the CEP subcommittee it was recommended that the funds are re-disbursed as follows:

- Stradbally Social Services allocation to be increased by €583
- Stradbally SVP allocation to be increased by €697

This was approved unanimously by the LCDC, being proposed by Mr. Clive Davis and seconded by Cllr. John King.


6. AOB

Following a request from the Chair at the April LCDC meeting, the Chief officer drew members attention to the comprehensive update on the Ukrainian crisis circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Ms. McNicholl stressed the confidentiality of all information contained within the report, given the ever-changing landscape of the current crisis. Cllr. John King advised members that Dominic McEvoy, LOETB, will be the main point of contact liaising with all schools in Laois concerning school places for Ukrainian children.

Ms. McNicholl advised members that Mr. Colm Purcell, Dept Social Protection resigned his position as LCDC member on the 12th April noting he was leaving employment with the Dept. A new nomination was sought with Mr. Kevin Geoghegan being nominated to represent the DSP. This nomination will be ratified by council at the May meeting.

Mr. Martin Crowley sought members advice as to how to assist a local lady seeking to establish an innovative social enterprise. A brief discussion ensued with Martin to link in with Joan Bolger and details of the SICAP employment officer, Mr Liam Ramsbottom to be forwarded to him also.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Mr. Joe Thompson
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: Wednesday 27th July 2022.