

**Laois Local Community Development Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**  
**At 2.30pm in Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise**



**Members in attendance:**

**Public Sector representatives:**

1. Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council (Chairperson LCDC)
2. John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Laois County Council
3. Cllr. John King, Laois County Council
4. Cllr. Conor Bergin, Laois County Council
5. Evelyn Reddin, Laois Local Enterprise Office
6. Padraig Boland, Laois Offaly Education & Training Board
7. Ann Sheerin, HSE

**Private Sector representatives:**

1. PJ Campbell, Laois Public Participation Network
2. Mary White, Laois Public Participation Network
3. Paddy Buggy, Laois Public Participation Network
4. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network
5. Kieran Finane, Business Sector

**Apologies:**

1. Anne Goodwin, Laois Partnership Company
2. Michael Bergin, Farming Sector
3. Robbie Quinn, Laois Public Participation Network
4. Joe Thompson, Youth Sector
5. Colm Purcell, DEASP

**In Attendance:** Ms. Orla Barrett, Chief Officer, Ms. Claire McIntyre, Staff Officer  
Mr. Donal Brennan

Chairman Cllr Paschal McEvoy opened the meeting.

**1. Nomination of New LCDC Member**

Ms. Barrett informed the meeting that she had received a letter from Mr. Peter O'Neill noting Ms A. Goodwin is temporarily resigning her position as Laois Partnership representative on the board of the LCDC. Mr. O'Neill nominated Ms. Theresa McEvoy as her temporary replacement on the board until further notice. Ms. Barrett recommended acceptance of nomination, which was proposed by Mr. P Buggy and seconded by Cllr. J King.

**2. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019**

The minutes were adopted following a proposal from Mr. J Mulholland which was seconded by Cllr. J. King.

**3. Matters Arising**

None

**4. Correspondence**

No correspondence received.

**5. Community Enhancement Programme**

Ms. Orla Barrett advised that the Community Enhancement Programme, which is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, has made available a total of €136,524 of capital grant funding to community groups in County Laois in 2019, to enhance facilities available to communities.

The subcommittee of LCDC noted that a total of 137 applications were received in total. As the project was significantly oversubscribed the subcommittee agreed that for assessment purposes the following criteria was used to assess applications:

<u>Pass/Fail</u>	<u>Points taken into consideration</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Capital Project</li> <li>2. Target Vulnerable Group               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travelers</li> <li>• Foreign Nationals</li> <li>• People with Disabilities</li> <li>• One-Parent Families</li> <li>• Older People (65 &amp; over)</li> <li>• Young People</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Project suitable for part funding               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund one element of application.</li> <li>• Evidence of own resources to fund shortfall.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Fulfilled Procurement requirement</li> <li>5. Limited to members only</li> <li>6. Applications over €10k</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous funding received</li> <li>• Maintenance v capital works</li> <li>• Can funding be sought elsewhere</li> <li>• Community enhancement - will it benefit future generations</li> <li>• LECP</li> <li>• Deprived areas</li> <li>• Biodiversity/Environment</li> <li>• Not funding Fencing/CCTV/jerseys/kits</li> </ul>

Members of the subcommittee that had an interest in particular projects abstained from the decision in relation to the particular project. In the interest of transparency and accountability the subcommittee identified one group from each Municipal District which will be required to submit the following:

- Minutes of last meeting
- Evidence of bank account

The Department requests that LCDCs ring-fence 30% of its funding to grants of €1,000 or less. The remaining balance was divided as follows to facilitate 85 groups throughout the County (see appendix).

Ms. Orla Barrett advised that in additional €9,162 was also provided to support the work of Men’s and Women’s Sheds through the Community Enhancement Programme. 7 Men’s Shed groups in Laois were notified of the grant via Laois Partnership Company. The subcommittee of LCDC noted that a total of 5 applications were received. Ms. O Barrett gave details of the subcommittee’s recommendation. (See Appendix 1).

Chairman Cllr. Paschal Mc Evoy thanked the subcommittee for their work in processing the grant application forms, noting Laois LCDC received half the amount of funding than previously received in 2018.

The recommendation of the CEP subcommittee was proposed by Mr. P Buggy and seconded by Mr. J Mulholland with no amendments.

## 6. SICAP

Ms O Barrett informed the Committee Ms. Kim Kinsella, Internal Auditor has commenced an audit of the SICAP program as required by Pobal. Training for auditors is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

## 7. Healthy Ireland

Ms. C McIntyre outlined Healthy Ireland Strand 1 Round 3 funding approved in at LCDC meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. She noted that additional funding of €32,050 for Community Mental Health Fund and €30,000 for a Small Grant Scheme had been made available since the July meeting. The Healthy Ireland Sub-Committee reviewed funding and recommended the amendments to funding proposal as per table below.

<i>Revised Proposed Spend</i>			
Description	Proposed Spend	Agreed July	Amendment
Coordinator €37,500 (Full-time across 2 years)	€75,000	€37,500	Plus €37,500
<b>Action 1:</b> Laois Sports Partnership - Activating Our Communities	€36,500	€40,000	Less €3,500
<b>Action 2:</b> Laois Partnership - Healthy Communities, New communities	€20,000	€20,000	No change
<b>Action 3:</b> Laois Sports & Leisure - Swinnability Parkactivity	€22,500	€22,500	No change
Mental Health Action: Positive Laois	€32,050	€27,000	Allocated new fund of €32,050 for CMHF
Small Grants Scheme	€30,000	----	New Funds
Community Engagement Programme	€30,000	€27,000	Plus €3,000
	<b>€246,050</b>		
<i>Breakdown of Community Engagement Programme</i>			
HSE We're Breastfeeding Friendly	€4,000	€6,000	Less €2,000
HSE Smoke Free Playgrounds	€4,000	€6,000	Less €2,000
CYPSC LGBTI	€5,000	€5,000	No change
Merchandising	€10,000	€10,000	No change
LCC Led - Mental Health- Suicide Awareness	€7,000	-----	New
<b>Total</b>	<b>€30,000</b>		
HSE Fearless Programme removed €10,000			

Ms. McIntyre also outlined that the terms of the Fund allows for an allocation of between €2,000 and €5,000 to each project, resulting in 6 to 15 projects under the scheme. Laois County Council will be responsible for administration of the small grants scheme.

Approval of the sub-committee funding recommendation was proposed by Cllr. J King and seconded by Mr. J Mulholland.

**8. Any Other Business**

Ms. O Barrett proposed rescheduling the October LCDC meeting to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 9.30am due to PPN Elections on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: Paschal McEury  
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019