

**Laois Local Community Development Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022**  
**At 11:30am via Microsoft Teams**

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**Members in attendance:**

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

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

**Apologies:** Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council  
Mr. Colm Purcell, DEASP  
Ms. Catherine Cowap, A/CEO Laois Partnership Company

**In Attendance:** Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Chief Officer  
Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, A/Senior Staff Officer, Laois County Council  
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, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022.**

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

**2. Matters Arising**

None

**3. Correspondence**

None.

**4. Community Activities Fund**

MIS. Carmel IVCNICNOII, CHIEF OFFICER noted that the CEP subcommittee convened on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February and again on the 21<sup>st</sup> March in order to appraise applications received under the Community Activities Fund. A total of 183 applications were received seeking funding in the amount of €838,189. Under the new fund Laois received an allocation of €273,049 being divided into €166,863 current and €106,185 capital spend. Of the 183 application the sub-committee recommended that 131 applicants be awarded funding as follow:

name of Group	Municipal District	CAPITAL FUNDING AWARDED	CURRENT FUNDING AWARDED
Borris in Ossory Mens Shed	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 389.00	€ 581.00
Ballyfin Cemetery Group	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 312.00
Kilcavan GAA Club	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 1,000.00	€ -
Clonaslee Community Development Association	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 1,000.00	€ -
Pike of Rushall Tidy Towns	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 439.00	€ 561.00
2nd Laois (Rathdowney) Scout Group	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 1,000.00	€ -
St Bernadette's Hall Committee	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Rathdowney Active Retirement Association	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 400.00
Borris in Ossory Mens Shed	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 835.00
Ballacolla Tidy Towns	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 500.00
Social Services Borris in Ossory	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Errill Snooker Club	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 500.00
Rathdowney Social Services	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Clover Utd Soccer Club	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Mountrath Mens Shed	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 900.00
Lions AFC	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 3,075.00	€ -
Mountmellick Mens Shed	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 2,610.00	€ -
The Harps Juvenile GAA Club	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 3,053.00	€ -
Ballacolla Tidy Towns	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 3,500.00	€ -
Laois Volunteer Centre	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 3,000.00
Mountmellick Gymnastics Club	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 7,113.00
Camross CCE Branch	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,140.00
Castletown ICA Guild	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,500.00
Borris Innovation Centre CLG	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 4,770.00
Laois Africa Support Group	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 540.00	€ 600.00
Mountrath Development Assoc	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 3,500.00
Borris in Ossory Community Development	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 633.00
Hawthorn Community Development Assoc	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 2,800.00
Mountrath Youth Theatre	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 1,902.00	€ 560.00
Clonaslee Tidy Towns	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 834.00	€ -
Rathdowney Vision Group	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,619.00
Rosenallis Development Association	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 1,144.00	€ -
Rathdowney Men's Shed	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 6,150.00
St Josephs NS Parents Association	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 1,903.00	€ -
Rathdowney Community Centre	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 5,000.00
Rosenallis Community Centre	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,200.00
Donaghmore Famine Workhouse & Agricultural Museum	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 3,900.00
Errill Tidy Towns	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 674.00	€ 395.00
Mountmellick Community Arts Centre	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 4,815.00
Castletown Community Field Development Fund	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ 4,500.00	€ -
St Aengus FC	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Mountmellick Mens Shed	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,200.00
Laois Martial Arts	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Knockaroo Community Centre	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,000.00

Mountrath Scout Group	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Embrace Farm	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 3,000.00
Castletown Community Centre	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 2,000.00
Mountmellick Arts Centre	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,000.00
CYMS Hall Rathdowney	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,100.00
Camross Community Association	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Durrow Meals on Wheels	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 2,500.00
Mountmellick GAA Club	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick	€ -	€ 600.00
		€ 27,563.00	€ 73,684.00

Killeen Community Hall	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Portarlington Community Centre	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 541.00
Portarlington Community Centre	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 448.00
Portarlington Community Centre	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Portarlington Community Centre	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Banríon Gaels Camogie Club	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Portlaoise Lawn Tennis Club	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Ballyroan Blue Stars Juvenile Basketball Club	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 980.00	€ -
Portarlington Art Collective Group	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 779.00	€ -
Ballinakill Indoor Bowls	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 1,000.00	€ -
The Swan Development Committee	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 870.00
Vicarstown Community Alert	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 800.00
Ballybrittas Tidy Towns	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 417.00
Emo Tidy Towns	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 300.00	€ 384.00
Portarlington Business Association Sustainability Group	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 650.00	€ -
Portarlington Business Association Sustainability Group	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 163.00	€ 141.00
St Abban's Athletic Club	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Tigh Mochu le Cheile	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 700.00
The Glen Residents Association	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 1,000.00	€ -
Emo Active Retirement	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 850.00
Stradbally Playground Committee	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 950.00
Portarlington Mens Shed	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 500.00
Portarlington Lawn Tennis Club	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Vicarstown Old Community Centre	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 2,497.00	€ -
Ballinakill Community Development Association	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 5,443.00
Stradbally Community Allotments	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 999.00	€ 758.00
Oughaval Athletic Club	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 1,800.00
Coderdojo	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 858.00	€ 610.00
SVT Canoeing & Kayaking Club	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 1,556.00
Killenard Community Centre	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 5,000.00
St Abbans NS Parents Association	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 1,589.00
Community Hall Vicarstown	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 5,000.00
Laois Barrow Walkway Support Group	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 1,055.00	€ -
Annanough GAA	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 5,000.00	€ -
Parents Association Emo NS	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 5,461.00	€ -
Emo Sports Field	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 6,636.00	€ -
Shanahoe NS Parents Association	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 1,950.00	€ -
Timahoe GAA	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 4,524.00	€ -
Doonane Residents Association	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 3,499.00	€ -
Portarlington GAA Club	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 8,536.00	€ -
The Glen Residents Association	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ 3,750.00	€ -
SVT Activity & Wellness Hub	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Stradbally Social Services Council Ltd	Graigecullen/Portarlington	€ -	€ 5,000.00

Emo Sportsfield Committee	Graigucullen/Portarlinton	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Portarlinton Social Services	Graigucullen/Portarlinton	€ -	€ 3,500.00
Barrowhouse Community Association	Graigucullen/Portarlinton	€ -	€ 2,000.00
MakePort Makerspace	Graigucullen/Portarlinton	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Stradbally SVP	Graigucullen/Portarlinton	€ -	€ 3,000.00
Ballyroan Bluestars Basketball Club	Graigucullen/Portarlinton	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Timahoe GAA Club	Graigucullen/Portarlinton	€ -	€ 1,000.00
		€ 49,637.00	€ 53,857.00

Laois Friends (Laois Friends, Special Needs, Social & Recreational Committee)	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 745.00
Knock NS Parents Association	Portlaoise	€ 1,000.00	€ -
Forth Wall Laois Theatre Group	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 999.00
Sosad Ireland Laois Branch	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 943.00
POLaois Support Group	Portlaoise	€ 494.00	€ -
Spink Community Development Assoc. Ltd	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 941.00
Knock Vintage Mens Shed	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Scoil Fionntain Shanahoe Parents Association	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 260.00
Portlaoise Association Football Club	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Abbeyleix Park Development Committee	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 814.00
Treo Nua Resource Centre	Portlaoise	€ 3,149.00	€ -
Portlaoise Community & Family Resource Centre	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 280.00
Portlaoise College Parents Association	Portlaoise	€ 7,500.00	€ -
Youth Work Ireland Laois	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 2,958.00
Laois Marlins Swim Club	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 4,160.00
Portlaoise Mens Shed	Portlaoise	€ 2,232.00	€ 945.00
EcoEd4All	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 5,000.00
Park/Ratheniska GAA Club	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 1,781.00
Ratheniska Community Hall - St Aongus Club	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 2,126.00
Laois Traveller Action Group	Portlaoise	€ 1,537.00	€ -
Scoil Chríost Rí Parents Council	Portlaoise	€ 2,500.00	€ -
Shanahoe Community Hall	Portlaoise	€ 2,083.00	€ -
Abbeyleix AFC	Portlaoise	€ 8,000.00	€ -
Ballyroan Community Hall	Portlaoise	€ 490.00	€ 5,000.00
Laois Arch Club	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 3,662.00
Shanahoe Community Hall	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 1,000.00
Portlaoise Active Retirement	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 2,000.00
PATH, Portlaoise Action to Homelessness	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 3,208.00
Ballinakill GAA	Portlaoise	€ -	€ 500.00
		€ 28,985.00	€ 39,322.00

Totals		€ 106,185.00	€ 166,863.00
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Cllr. John King noted the importance of the fund which will prove invaluable to local community and voluntary groups. Members proceeded to thank the sub-committee for the work undertaken in appraising applications and complimented staff of Laois Co Co for administering the application and evaluation process.

The approval of the recommendation of the CEP subcommittee was proposed by Cllr. John King and seconded by Mr. Martin Crowley with no matters arising.

## 5. AOB

Ms. Carmel McNicholl updated members regarding the local response to the Ukrainian crisis advising that nationally the role of the LCDC has been identified as:


- To support work of the Local Development Company in focussing their services to meet the needs of new arrivals.
- To link in with state bodies that are represented on the LCDC in terms of their response arrangements – Social Protection, ETB's, HSE, Tusla etc.
- To link with other local authorities and initiatives e.g. housing and Community Response For a to identify and address needs on a co-ordinated basis.
- To support provision of services e.g. internet access at public libraries and at Broadband Connection Points (with the support of the broadband officer)

In addition, Ms. McNicholl advised members that the co-ordination of a local response effort is being undertaken and Laois Co Co have established a Laois Ukrainian Community Response Forum, with many of the LCDC member agencies having representation on same. The first meeting of the group convened on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March in order to ascertain the role and capacity of the various agencies and to co-ordinate efforts so not to overlap areas of function. Finally, Ms. McNicholl noted that Laois Co Co are in the process of creating a Ukrainian Information Web page on the Laois County Council website with links to various agencies/ government departments.

An in-depth discussion took place amongst the membership with points of noting:

- FRC's advised from national level they are to act as local contact hubs. Ms. Joan Bolger noted the importance of linking with the Interagency working group.
- Cllr. John King sought clarification on sources of additional funding. Ms. Carmel McNicholl noted that no formal national advice has issued to-date to LCDC's, although it is an evolving situation
- Dept Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth sent information request to all youth services. Youth Work Ireland Laois have families using their services and facilities.
- HSE website [www.hse.ie/ukraine](http://www.hse.ie/ukraine) has all relevant information re medical card applications and COVID vaccinations etc.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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SIGNED:

**Mr. Joe Thompson**  
**CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC**

DATE: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022.