

Laois Local Community Development Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 30th November 2022

Laois County Council & via MS Teams at 11.30am



Members in attendance:

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

Private Sector representatives: Mr. Martin Crowley, Business Sector (Vice Chairperson)
Ms. Peter O'Neill, CEO Laois Partnership Company
Mr. Clive Davis, Youth Sector (Youth Work Ireland Laois)
Mr. Henry Burns, Farming Sector (I.F.A)
Mr. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Nina Horan, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. Naeem Iqbal, Laois Public Participation Network

Apologies: Mr. Kevin Geoghegan, DSP
Ms. Joan Bolger, Laois Public Participation Network
Mr. John Oxley, Laois Public Participation Network

In Attendance: Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/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 registered all members present on the meeting attendance sheet.

Mr. Joe Thompson, Chairperson, opened the meeting welcoming all present and in particular two newly ratified members, Ms. Paula Phelan representing the HSE and Mr. Peter O'Neill representing Laois Partnership Company.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 26th October 2022.

The minutes were adopted following a proposal from **Cllr. Paschal McEvoy** seconded by **Cllr. John King**.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Correspondence

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer referred to correspondence received:

- **Email received Thursday 27th October 2022 titled: “Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys announces details of new €180 million LEADER Programme”**

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has announced the details of the €180 million LEADER Programme for 2023-2027, with Laois to receive an allocation of €5.7 million. The major investment will support locally-led rural development and enterprise projects over the next five years.

The selection process will be conducted over two stages; the first stage is an ‘**Expression of Interest**’ by eligible groups followed by a more detailed stage which will see them develop their LEADER strategies.

- **Email received 15th November titled “Budget Increase for SICAP”**

This email confirmed that each lot will receive an increased allocation of 3% on their 2022 allocation, with the Dept to revert back to the LCDC in regard to the Ukrainian Response Allocation.

More details will be discussed under the next item on the agenda

4. SICAP

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised members that the 2023 Annual Plan Process is underway following confirmation from the Department that the 2023 budget allocation has been increase from €694,860 to €715,706, representing a 3% increase on the 2022 budget allocation.

The 2023 Ukrainian Response allocations is yet to be finalised. Once these are confirmed, Pobal will look at extending the deadline for the submission of Annual Plans 2023 from the current deadline of Friday 18th November. Pobal will update

5. Community Support Fund

On the 18th November Minister Heather Humphreys announced a €10 million fund to support parish halls and community centres with energy bills, with Laois receiving an allocation of €291,487

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief officer notes that the Community Support Fund will provide small grants to a wide and diverse range of local community groups to assist with their running costs.

Funding will be available to support Parish Halls, Community Centres, Local Development Associations, Social Clubs, ICA Groups, Senior Citizen Groups, Men’s Sheds, Women’s Sheds and much more.

The new scheme has been devised to support groups with their energy costs who may **not** have been deemed eligible under previous Government schemes.

These include groups that operate from parish halls and who need support with running costs such as energy or insurance bills.

Groups can also use the funding to carry out small upgrade works and to purchase equipment to support their activities such as laptops and printers, lawnmowers, training equipment, etc

Ms. Tynan further noted that application process will open on Thursday 1st Decembers with a closing date of Tuesday 31st January 2023. The approval recommendations of the sub-committee will be put forward to members at March 2023 meeting.

Laois Allocation: €291,487

This total amount comprises:

- €142,828 Current funding (Non-Pay) for use towards energy running/operating costs
- €145,743 Capital funding for use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.
- €2,915 ring-fenced for Women's sheds.
- €14,574 maximum administration fee (5%) allowed based on total allocation.

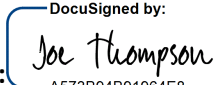
6. LEADER 2022-2027

Ms. Pamela Tynan, A/Chief Officer advised members that staff will proceed to prepare and expression of interest on behalf of Laois LCDC

7. AOB

Members extended their sympathy to Mr. John Oxley on the passing of his mother Ann. May She Rest in Pease.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: 
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Mr. Joe Thompson
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: Wednesday 14th December 2022.