

**Laois Local Community Development Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 31st July, 2019
At 4.30pm 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. Pdraig Boland, Laois Offaly Education & Training Board

Private Sector representatives:

1. Anne Goodwin, Laois Partnership Company
2. Michael Bergin, Farming Sector
3. Joe Thompson, Youth Sector
4. PJ Campbell, Laois Public Participation Network
5. Robbie Quinn, Laois Public Participation Network
6. Mary White, Laois Public Participation Network
7. Paddy Buggy, Laois Public Participation Network
8. Ray Harte, Laois Public Participation Network

Apologies:

1. Ann Sheerin, HSE
2. Colm Purcell, DEASP
3. Kieran Finane, Business Sector

In Attendance:

Ms. Orla Barrett, Chief Officer, Ms. Brenda Corbet, A/Senior Staff Officer
Ms. Georgina Ireland

Chairman Cllr Paschal McEvoy opened the meeting.

On the proposition of Cllr P McEvoy, the Members unanimously extended a vote of sympathy to Mr. Michael Bergin on the death of his mother, Ms. Annie Bergin, Cromogue, Mountrath, Co.Laois.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 22nd May 2019

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

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Correspondence

Press Release - €500,000 fund to benefit up to 400 Men's Sheds

Ms. G. Ireland referred to Minister Ring's press release announcing €500,000 fund to benefit up to 400 Men's and Women's Sheds around the Country, this equates to approx €1,300 per shed. This capital funding will enable individual Men's and Women's Sheds to purchase equipment or to carry out minor works to improve their premises through the provision of small grants. Applying for this ring-fenced funding does not make the applicant ineligible from the main stream CEP funding. They can apply to both. Applications distributed to the 7 Men's Sheds via Laois Partnership. Closing date for applications Friday 30th August 2019 at 5.00 pm.

4. Community Enhancement Programme

G. Ireland outlined in total 137 applications were received under the 2019 CEP. The total budget for 2019 CEP is €136,524. The Department requests that LCDCs ring-fence 30% of its funding for grants of €1,000 or less.

Subcommittee

The role of the subcommittee will be to adjudicate on applications with specific focus on areas of disadvantage and in line with the LECP. Mr. PJ Campbell was nominated to join the subcommittee which was proposed by Ms. A Goodwin and seconded by Mr. R Quinn.

The Committee now comprises of the following:

1. Mr. Joe Thompson
2. Mr. Paddy Buggy
3. Cllr. Paschal McEvoy
4. Mr. PJ Campbell

Date for Subcommittee

The initial date for the subcommittee is Wednesday 7th August at 9.30 am in the MDA Mountmellick.

5. SICAP

Approval of Mid Year Review

G. Ireland gave a brief overview of the SICAP subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee is broadly satisfied with the expenditure and presentation of rationale by the PI in regard to queries raised.

Approval of the Mid Year Review was proposed by Mr. P Buggy and seconded by Cllr. J King.

2019 Case Study

Ms. A Goodwin suggested the subject of Traveller Men for the 2019 Case Study which was proposed by Mr. J Thompson and seconded by Ms. E Reddin.

Subcommittee

Ms. Ann Sheerin has recently joined the LCDC as the HSE Representative, it would be appropriated that Ann also join the SICAP Subcommittee. This was proposed by Mr. P Buggy and seconded by Ms. A Goodwin.

Healthy Ireland Fund

Overview of applications received

Ms. B Corbet outlined The Department of Health has approved a third round of funding funder the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF). Laois LCDC have been allocated €184,000 to implement a programme of work under HIF during the 2 year period.

This consists of €107,000 in Year 1 and a further €77,000 in Year 2. Of the overall Budget Laois County Council must employ a Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator and must promote a Community Engagement Programme in Year 1. Up to €30,000 can be used for the purpose of the Community Engagement Programme, including a maximum of €10,000 on merchandising and up to €37,500 to be used for a HI Coordinator. The minimum budget for each action is €7,500 and the maximum number of actions that can be delivered is five. Ms. B Corbet further outlined 11 applications have been received from the Lead Partners of the Healthy Ireland Strategy to the value of €201,675.24.

On the recommendation of the Healthy Ireland Subcommittee the Members of the LCDC were presented with a proposal of the following 5 Actions to be submitted to Pobal for funding under Round 3 Healthy Ireland Fund 2019.

Lead Partner	Action	Awarded Budget
Laois Sports & Leisure	Wellness Garden	€22,500.00
Health Service Executive	Fearless Programme	€10,000.00
Youth Work Ireland	Positive Laois	€27,000.00
Laois Sports Partnership Ltd	Activating Our Communities	€40,000.00
Laois Partnership Company	Healthy Communities, New communities	€20,000.00
	Total	€119,500.00
Community Engagement Programme		
Health Service Executive	We're Breastfeeding Friendly	€6,000.00
Health Service Executive	Smoke Free Playgrounds	€6,000.00
CYPSC	LGBTI	€5,000.00
Merchandising		€10,000.00
	Total	€27,000.00

The LCDC Committee were largely satisfied with the recommendation of the Subcommittee, however concerns were raised regarding the locations and future maintenance of the Wellness Garden. The LCDC discussed the other applications submitted by Laois Sports and Leisure.

The following 5 Actions totalling €119,500 and Community Engagement Programme totalling €27,000 were agreed with the subcommittee and approved by the Members on the proposal of Mr. J Mulholland and seconded by Mr. PJ Campbell.

No.	Action co-coordinator	Title	Description	Budget
1.	Laois Sports & Leisure	Swimability Parkactivity	1. Partnership with Portlaoise & Portarlington Leisure Centre to grow the number of people who swim in Co. Laois on a weekly basis. This programme is for lapsed swimmers or swimmers who would like to set themselves a challenge, as long as they can swim 25m of a pool comfortably. 2. Deliver 4 x 9 week programmes of instructor led physical activities in Portlaoise, Portarlington, Mountrath & Mountmellick Parks targeted at inactive adults (lunch time programme) & families (adults and children).	€22,500
2.	Health Service Executive	Fear less programme	Provision of the Fear less programme on supporting children with anxiety to participate in education, sporting and extracurricular activities, for Teachers, Home School Liaison Officers, Special Needs Assistants, School Staff, Youth Workers Coaches, Family Support Workers and Trainers. This is a joint initiative with Healthy Offaly.	€10,000
3.	Youth Work Ireland Laois	Positive - Laois	POSITIVE LAOIS is a project comprised of various programmes which are based on the seven dimensions of wellness and also meet the five National Outcomes for children and young people. The aim of Positive Laois project is to provide various programmes on a needs basis which are designed to offer a holistic approach to self-care and wellbeing for young people in Co. Laois.	€27,000
4.	Laois Sports Partnership	Activating our Communities	Activate various categories of society via 5 various initiatives.	€40,000
5.	Laois Partnership	Healthy Communities New Communities	1. Work with the most marginalised communities in Portlaoise, Abbeyleix and Mountrath to provide them with the supports to improve their physical and mental health. Focusing on Single Parents, Travelling Community and Long Term Unemployed as well as young people at risk. 2. Provide a Play Programme for children of Asylum Seekers/Refugees living in the Direct Provision and Emergency Accommodation Centres in County Laois	€20,000
			Total	€119,500

Community Engagement Programme

1.	Health Service Executive	We're Breastfeeding Friendly	The We're Breastfeeding Friendly (WBFF) initiative encourage managers of facilities including public services and private enterprises including cafes/ restaurants to support breastfeeding women, to sign up to the initiative and to display We're Breastfeeding Friendly stickers.	€6,000
2.	Health Service Executive	Smoke Free Playground	Designate playgrounds in Co. Laois as 'Smoke Free', through provision of signage and public awareness. Promote smoke cessation supports.	€6,000
3.	CYPSC	LGBTI	Contribution towards an LGBTI+ worker from the LCDC to CYPSC in order to get the Healthy Ireland message out through a target group.	€5,000
4.	Laois County Council	Merchandising	Laois LCDC must promote Community Engagement in Healthy Ireland Initiatives in Year 1. Up to €30,000 can be used for this purpose, including a maximum of €10,000 on merchandising.	€10,000
			Total	€27,000

Review of Subcommittee

As Ms. Ann Sheerin is now the HSE Representative on the LCDC, it would be appropriated that Ann also join the Healthy Ireland Subcommittee. This was proposed by Mr. P Buggy and seconded by Ms. A Goodwin.

The Health Ireland subcommittee is currently made up of the following:

- Mr. Paddy Buggy, Chairperson LCDC
- Clr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council
- Ms. Siobhan Hourigan, HSE (Associate Member)
- Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois Enterprise Office
- Ms. Ann Sheerin, HSE

6. Any Other Business

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: 
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: 25th September 2019

