**Laois Local Community Development Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Held on Friday, 16th December at 11.30am in Portlaoise Heritage Hotel**

**Present:** Mr. Paddy Buggy, Laois PPN (In the Chair)

Cllr. John King, Laois County Council

Mr. David Hackett, Dept of Social Protection

Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois Local Enterprise Office  
Ms. Anne Goodwin, Laois Partnership

Mr. Michael Bergin, Farming Sector

Mr. Dave Fingleton, Laois PPN

Mr. Robbie Quinn, Laois PPN

Mr. PJ Campbell, Laois PPN

Mr. Kieran Finane, Business Sector

**Apologies:** Mr. John Mulholland, Mr. Joe Ruane, Ms. Linda Tynan, Ms. Mary White, Cllr. Jerry Lodge, Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Mr. Joe Thompson.

**In attendance:** Mr. Michael Rainey, Chief Officer, Ms. Georgina Ireland, Administrative Officer and Ms. Theresa Bergin, Clerical Officer

Paddy Buggy opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. It was noted that despite previous advice that a December LCDC was not necessary, subsequent correspondence from Pobal in relation to the approval of SICAP payments made it necessary for this Committee to meet and Mr. Buggy thanked those present for their attendance. Matters relating to the necessity for a quorum for meeting and decision making purposes were also raised and discussed by members.

**Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 30th November 2016**

Upon the proposal of Mr. Dave Fingleton and seconded by Cllr. John King, the minutes of LCDC meeting held on Friday, 30th November 2016 were confirmed.

**Correspondence**

The members noted the following:

1. An announcement by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government in respect of a public consultation on a draft review document of the current Dog Breeding Establishment Guidelines.
2. An information note from the Dept of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government Libraries Development Unit in respect of a newly established Working Group to review the current 5-year library strategy “Opportunities for All – 2013 – 2017”.

**SICAP *(End of Year Review and Approval of 1st Qtr 2017 payment)***

Mr. Michael Rainey outlined the process of reviewing the year 2016 in respect of implementation of the SICAP Programme, referring to communications from the Dept of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government and Pobal in this regard. The members noted that the End of Year Review would commence in early 2017 with a deadline of (a) 16th January 2017 for submission of data online by the Programme Implementer and (b) mid February for approval of the review by the LCDC.   
Mr. Rainey also advised the Committee in relation to a change in the timeframe for the SICAP Mid Year Review 2017 to allow LCDC’s to ensure a quorum for approval of same in early rather than midsummer. He informed the members that a SICAP Consultation process in respect of the 2018 -2020 programme would also be commenced by the Dept in 2017.

Ms. Anne Goodwin raised the issue for the Programme Implementer of the programme becoming overly administrative because of the record keeping and reporting requirements, leaving the staff little time to carry out the community work the programme was set out to achieve in real terms. She requested that this Committee correspond with the Dept in this regard.

Mr. Michael Rainey sought the members’ approval of a payment in respect of the first two months of 2017 in the sum of €94,010.67, to allow for a successful 2016 End of Year review to take place and following approval of the review, a further month would be paid to the Programme Implementer.   
Upon the proposal of Cllr. John King and seconded by Mr. Michael Bergin, the members approved payment in respect of the first two months of 2017 to be made to the Programme Implementer, and the balance of the quarter paid subject to the approval by the LCDC of the 2016 End of Year Review.

**Any Other Business**

None

**Time & Date of next Meeting**

The members noted a draft schedule for LCDC meetings in 2017 and following some suggested changes, agreed that an amended version would be circulated following this meeting, with the first meeting taking place on 27th January 2017 at 11.30am in County Hall, Portlaoise.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC**