**Laois Local Community Development Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Held on Tuesday, 16th February 2016, 3.00pm at Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise**

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

Mr. John Mulholland, Laois County Council

Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council

Cllr. Jerry Lodge, Laois County Council

Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois LEO

Ms. Mary Delaney, HSE

Ms. Anne Goodwin, Laois Partnership Company

Mr. Michael Bergin, Farming Pillar

Mr. PJ Campbell, Laois PPN

Ms. Mary White, Laois PPN

Mr. Robbie Quinn, Laois PPN

Mr. Joe Thompson, Youth Sector

Mr. Dave Hackett, Dept. Of Social Protection

Mr. Dave Fingleton, Laois PPN

**Apologies:** Cllr. John King, Ms. Linda Tynan

**In attendance:** Mr. Ian McCormack, Chief Officer, Ms. Georgina Ireland, Administrative Officer

*Mr. Paddy Buggy opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.*

**Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on Thursday, 28th January 2016**

Upon the proposal of Ms. Anne Goodwin and seconded by Mr. Robbie Quinn, the minutes of LCDC meeting held on Thursday, 28th January 2016 were confirmed.

**Correspondence**

The members noted email correspondence from the Dept of Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to the development of a national logo for Local Community Development Committees. It was agreed that this Committee would await the development of this logo for use by Laois LCDC both online and on documentation.

**SICAP Annual Planning 2016 & End of Year Review 2015**

Mr. Ian McCormack reiterated the role of the LCDC in the approval process for the SICAP Plans and gave an overview in respect of the SICAP subcommittee’s deliberations on the End of Year 2015 report and the Annual Plan 2016. Subcommittee members, Mr. Joe Thompson and Ms. Evelyn Reddin also commented on a number of elements in the Annual Plan 2016.

Ms. Anne Goodwin thanked the SICAP subcommittee for their deliberations and noted their comments in relation to targeting rural youth and strengthening links with the travelling community. She also commented in relation to the difficulties that Laois Partnership encounters in achieving certain targets, i.e., self employment and social enterprise targets. She highlighted also that rural youth issues would also be addressed in the Local Development Strategy.

It was noted that the SICAP programme is a staff intensive one with a moderate budget and that a remedy in respect of targeting more potential clients needs to be found, given the narrow parameters which underpin the programme. Mr. John Mulholland commented that much more resources are required in this area and recommended that this Committee work together to find such resources.

It was also noted that SICAP Action XII – ‘Social Enterprise Supports’ should avoid duplication in terms of the work of Laois Local Enterprise Office. Ms. Anne Goodwin confirmed the good working relationship between the two offices and appropriate client referral in that regard.

*To allow a vote to proceed, Ms. Anne Goodwin and members of the Laois Partnership Board left the meeting. Cllr. Paschal McEvoy assumed the Chair temporarily for this purpose.*

Upon the proposal of Mr. John Mulholland and seconded by Ms. Evelyn Reddin, the SICAP 2015 End of Year Review was unanimously approved. Upon the proposal of Mr. Joe Thompson and seconded by Mr. John Mulholland, the SICAP Annual Plan 2016 was unanimously approved.

**Rural Development Programme / Local Development Strategy Update**

Mr. Ian McCormack and Ms. Anne Goodwin advised that the Laois Local Development Strategy had been approved in December 2015 by the Dept of Environment, Community & Local Government, subject to a number of small changes to be made on foot of feedback. They advised that a date had not yet been given in respect of funding draw down. The members thanked Ms. Goodwin and her team for their work in preparing the Local Development Strategy on behalf of the Local Action Group.

**Training for LCDC Members**

The members noted that the Dept of Environment, Community & Local Government would be making training available to Community and Sectoral interest members of the LCDC on 4th April 2016. Ms. Georgina Ireland advised that members would be contacted with details and to assess availability of members when the DECLG advised of same.

**Any Other Business**

Mr. Dave Fingleton raised a number of questions in relation to the Draft Laois Local Economic & Community Plan. It was agreed that the questions would be forwarded to Laois County Council by email for response.

**Time and Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on ***Tuesday, 5th April 2016 at 11.30am in County Hall***.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed: Date:**

**LCDC Chairperson**