**Laois Local Community Development Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Held on Friday, 17th June, 2016 at 11.30am in County Hall, Portlaoise**

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

Mr. John Mulholland, Laois County Council

Cllr. Jerry Lodge, Laois County Council

Cllr. John King, Laois County Council

Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council

Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois Local Enterprise Office

Ms. Mary Delaney, HSE

Ms. Linda Tynan, Laois/Offaly ETB

Ms. Anne Goodwin, Laois Partnership

Mr. Michael Bergin, Farming Sector

Mr. Joe Thompson, Youth Sector

Ms. Mary White, Laois PPN (Social Inclusion Pillar)

Mr. PJ Campbell, Laois PPN (Community/Voluntary Pillar)

Mr. Kieran Finane, Business Sector

**Apologies:** Mr. Dave Hackett, Mr. Dave Fingleton, Mr. Robbie Quinn

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

*Mr. Paddy Buggy opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. He introduced to a new member to the Committee representing the business sector, Mr. Kieran Finane, whom the members warmly welcomed.*

**Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 17th May 2016**

Upon the proposal of Mr. Michael Bergin and seconded by Ms. Mary Delaney, the minutes of LCDC meeting held on Tuesday, 17th May 2016 were confirmed.

**Local Economic & Community Plan Update**

Mr. Ian McCormack circulated a document to the members, showing progress to date of actions outlined in the LECP 2016 Implementation Plan. *(Copy attached)* He asked that the members peruse the document and pledged to answer any questions they might have regarding same, explaining the colour codes in respect of action progress. He advised that a review of the progress of actions by the LCDC would take place quarterly, the next review being September 2016.

Mr. John Mulholland also advised the Committee that each action in the 2016 implementation plan related directly or indirectly to the achievement of the objectives in the larger 6-year LECP and were referenced through the numbering system on both plans. He stated that in the event that an action was overtaken by current events or changes in the local community/economic sectors, it would be open to this Committee to make appropriate alterations to actions in the LECP to reflect those changes.

**SICAP**

Mr. Ian McCormack outlined the process necessary for the Mid Year Review of the SICAP Programme in Laois. He advised that Laois Partnership, as Programme Implementer would be required to have all data entered by 15th July, for reports to be circulated to the SICAP subcommittee for review the following week. He also advised that a parallel review would be undertaken by POBAL in respect of the programme. It was agreed that to facilitate the timely payment of Quarter 3 funding to the Programme Implementer, the SICAP subcommittee would convene before the end of July to review the target reports and the LCDC would meet on 5th August 2016 to give its final approval for payment.

Ms. Anne Goodwin raised the issue of the Programme Implementers difficulty in obtaining clients for employment supports since the recent opening of the Jobspath office in Portlaoise, explaining the protocol around Jobspath being given priority by the Dept of Social Protection in their referrals of job seekers. It was agreed to raise the matter at national level with the Dept and that Laois Partnership would meet locally with the Dept of Social Protection in an effort to resolve the issue. Ms. Goodwin also advised that Laois Partnership were also exploring other avenues in relation to client referrals, i.e., those not on the live register.

It was suggested by members that maybe at national level, in light of DSP protocols, that there should be a review of the SICAP programme in general, as it wouldn’t make sense to duplicate services to job seekers in this way, when resources could be used for other purposes. It was agreed to examine this matter and possible target changes in planning in Laois for 2017.

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

Mr. Ian McCormack advised the members that there was no update on a date for signing a funding agreement with the Dept in respect of the LEADER programme 2014-2020.

Ms. Anne Goodwin highlighted the importance of this Committee setting its priorities in respect of delivery of Local Development Strategy actions in 2016. She also advised that from January 2017, at least 40% would be open calls for proposals as prescribed in the operating rules of the Programme.

It was agreed that Laois Partnership, as Programme Implementer, would examine the Local Development Strategy actions and make a recommendation, for agreement by this Committee at its next meeting, as to what actions could be delivered by the end of 2016.

Mr. John Mulholland stated that the development of a new Tourism Strategy for the county should be a priority in 2016 in light of the imminent opening of Fáilte Ireland funding streams. He urged the Committee to consider this as a particular priority when agreeing actions for 2016. This was agreed by the members.

**Any Other Business**

Ms. Georgina Ireland circulated copies of the recently launched Laois Age Friendly County Strategy 2016 – 2021 and advised in relation to the newly formed Older Persons Forum, whose work would feed back in some way to this Committee, most likely through PPN representation.

Cllr. John King advised that the ‘Inspire Rathdowney’ project was progressing well, with 27 participants attending a recent event held in respect of the project. He thanked all the agencies and organisations involved for their support.

**Time and Date of Next Meeting**

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

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed: Date:**

**LCDC Chairperson**