**Laois Local Community Development Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Held on Tuesday, 5th April, 11.30am 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

Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois LEO

Mr. David Hackett, Dept of Social Protection

Ms. Mary Delaney, HSE

Ms. Anne Goodwin, Laois Partnership

Mr. Joe Thompson, Youth Sector

Mr. PJ Campbell, Laois PPN

Mr. Robbie Quinn, Laois PPN

**Apologies:** Ms. Linda Tynan, Mr. Michael Bergin, Ms. Mary White, Mr. Dave Fingleton

**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 16th February 2016**

Upon the proposal of Ms. Anne Goodwin and seconded by Ms. Evelyn Reddin, the minutes of LCDC meeting held on Tuesday, 16th February 2016 were confirmed.

**Matters Arising**

In respect of the SICAP Programme 2016, Mr. Joe Thompson reiterated the importance of indentifying areas where young people can be supported through the programme.

**Local Economic & Community Plan Update**

Ms. Georgina Ireland made a presentation to the members in respect of the LCDC’s responsibility in respect of monitoring implementation of the LECP in 2016. (copy attached)

The members thanked Ms. Ireland for her presentation and there was some discussion in relation to best practice in monitoring implementation by this Committee.

It was broadly agreed that each organisation should self-monitor their respective actions in the Plan, particularly the actions in the 2016 Implementation Plan, and that LECP would be a standing item on the LCDC agenda under which organisations would report on their progress at least once a quarter. It was also agreed that a colour coding system would be developed so that overall progress could be viewed by this Committee by visual means.

**SICAP**

Mr. Ian McCormack advised that 2nd quarter funding in the sum of €141,016 had been received from POBAL in respect of the SICAP Programme 2016, and sought the Committee’s approval to pay this funding to the Programme Implementer, Laois Partnership. He reminded the members that the 2016 Annual Plan in respect of SICAP had just recently been approved by this Committee and recommended that the members approve this quarterly payment to allow Laois Partnership to progress the programme. He also advised that a mid-year review would take place in advance of any subsequent payments, at which stage Laois Partnership would be requested to give a progress report to the members.

*(Mr. John Mulholland, Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Mr. Paddy Buggy, Ms. Mary Delaney and Ms. Anne Goodwin left the meeting briefly and were not present for a vote. The meeting was chaired temporarily by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy)*

Upon the proposal of Mr. PJ Campbell and seconded by Mr. Robbie Quinn, the payment of 2nd quarter SICAP funding to Programme Implementer, Laois Partnership, was unanimously approved.

Mr. Ian McCormack also advised the members in relation to a SICAP information event to be hosted by POBAL and DECLG in Dublin on 4th May 2016 and invited 3 LCDC members to attend. Members were asked to register their interest with Ms. Georgina Ireland by 7th April 2016.

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

Mr. Ian McCormack advised the members that he had been advised by the DECLG that Laois’ Local Development Strategy was approved by the Evaluation Committee and had been forwarded to the DECLG for final approval and preparation of contracts for signing by the Local Action Group, a date for which has not yet been advised. Mr. Paddy congratulated all involved in the preparation of the Local Development Strategy.

It was agreed that a meeting dedicated entirely to the Rural Development Programme and Local Development Strategy should take place and a date of 17th May 2016 was agreed.

**LCDC Membership**

Mr Ian McCormack advised the members in relation to the DECLG guidelines on LCDC membership, in terms of members only representing one organisation/sector. He highlighted the importance of maintaining the voting balance of representative sectors /organisations, especially in relation to SICAP and upcoming LEADER programme and he asked that those members affected, who may wish to remain on the LCDC, would examine their membership of organisations, e.g., Local Development Company and advise him of their decision as a matter of urgency, as this doubling up effect would affect quorums/voting balances for this Committee going forward.

**Information Session for LCDC (Community Interest) Members**

Mr. Ian McCormack asked those members representing Community interests, e.g., PPN, Local Development, Youth and Farming Sectors, to register as soon as possible, their interest in attending a DECLG hosted training event in Athlone on 20th May 2016 in respect of the role LCDC members, SICAP and the RDP/LEADER Programmes. It was agreed that a confirmation email should be sent to Ms. Georgina Ireland by those members who wish to attend. Cllr. Paschal McEvoy advised that he had attended a previous event for LCDC members representing state agencies/local authority and found it to be very beneficial.

**Schedule of Meetings for 2016**

It was agreed that as per LCDC Standing Orders previously adopted, meetings would take place on a monthly basis.

**Any Other Business**

Mr. Ian McCormack gave an update to the members with regard to the “Inspire Rathdowney” project funded under the REDZ (Rural Economic Development Zone) programme.

Mr. McCormack also advised that local businessman, Mr. Kieran Finnane of Finline Furniture, had indicated his interest in taking up the business representative position on the LCDC. He advised that he would update the members in relation to this at the next meeting.

Mr. Robbie Quinn raised the issue of all LCDC meetings taking place during the working day, citing difficulties for those volunteers who work outside of the public arena and the necessity to take time off to attend meetings.

Ms. Georgina Ireland advised the members in relation to the Community & Voluntary Awards 2016 and the closing date for nominations across 6 categories of 15th April 2016.

**Time and Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on ***Tuesday, 17th May 2016 at 2.30pm, venue to be advised.***

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed: Date:**

**LCDC Chairperson**