

Minutes of Meeting

Laois Local Community Development Committee

Wednesday, 22nd February 2017 at 4.30pm in Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise

Present:

- Mr. Paddy Buggy, Laois PPN (Chairperson)
- Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive, 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. Anne Goodwin, Laois Partnership
- Mr. Michael Bergin, Farming Sector
- Mr. Dave Fingleton, Laois PPN
- Mr. Joe Thompson, Youth Sector
- Mr. Kieran Finane, Business Sector
- Mr. Mary White, Laois PPN
- Mr. PJ Campbell, Laois PPN
- Mr. Robbie Quinn, Laois PPN

Apologies: Mr. David Hackett, Mr. Tony Dalton.

In Attendance: Michael Rainey, Chief Officer, Theresa Bergin, A/Assistant Staff Officer and Pamela Tynan, PPN Coordinator.

Mr. Paddy Buggy opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. He welcomed Ms. Pamela Tynan, PPN Coordinator and in his absence, Mr. Tony Dalton, who was recently ratified as the Laois/Offaly ETB nominee to Laois LCDC.

Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 27th January 2017

Upon the proposal of Cllr Pascal McEvoy and seconded by Cllr John King, the minutes of LCDC meeting held on Friday, 27th January 2017 were confirmed.

Correspondence

The members noted the following:

1. Public consultation on the proposed variation of the Laois County Development Plan 2011-2017. This document was previously circulated via e-mail to the membership of the committee and its contents were noted.

2. Correspondence received from Pobal regarding their parallel review of the SICAP Year End Report 2016 was noted. Mr. Michael Rainey recommended that the balance of Q1 2017 payment in the sum of €47,005.33 be made to Laois Community & Enterprise Development CLG. Upon the proposal of Cllr Jerry Lodge and seconded by Cllr John King the members approved the above payment.
3. The nomination by the Health Services Executive of Ms. Mary Delaney to Laois LCDC was noted. Members also noted that this nomination would be placed on the agenda for ratification at the February Meeting of Laois County Council.

PPN Update

Ms. Pamela Tynan, PPN Co-ordinator gave a presentation on the Laois PPN (Public Participation Network). She outlined the work of the PPN to date and for the year ahead.

Ms. Tynan outlined the following:

- The PPN currently has a network of 329 community groups registered.
- 2016 events organised:
 - o Municipal District public consultations to discuss the Draft Laois County Development Plan;
 - o Information session for the over 50's;
 - o A funding and resource information event for community groups.All of the above resulted in increased registration and interaction from community groups, with positive feedback forthcoming and plans in place to hold further events in 2017.
- Training and capacity building for the PPN representatives is taking place and the development of an online training tool for Reps and Secretariat members which can be accessed through the PPN website is being investigated. An Expression of Interest for LEADER funding has been made in respect of an accredited Community Development course.
- Meeting Space in public libraries is now available to community groups free of charge at appointed times and bookings are made through the PPN Coordinator. Information sessions are scheduled to take place in local libraries over the next number of weeks; this will raise awareness of the PPN in communities.
- The PPN have been invited by An Garda Síochána to assist them with the roll out of a Crime Prevention Advice Campaign in Laois. Workshops will be held throughout the county to target more isolated communities and cooperative work ongoing with Laois County Council in association with the Laois Age Friendly Programme.
- PPN Newsletter issues fortnightly and the PPN Website will go live shortly.

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive complimented the PPN Co-ordinator on the work to date and found the level of attendance at events encouraging. He enquired as to the age profile of those attending events, Ms Tynan advised that the age profile would generally be over 35's and there is work ongoing around targeting the under 35 age group. A discussion took place around the structure of the PPN and it was highlighted that community groups applying for local authority funding are required to be registered with the PPN in order to avail of same. The meeting was advised that groups can register with the PPN at any stage.

Update on Information Session held for Chief Officers and Chairs of LCDC – 8th February 2017

Mr. Michael Rainey gave an overview on the above information session. Issues discussed were staff resources in Local Authorities, SICAP functions, funding of staff resources. It was noted that the Dept of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government had committed to providing 2/3 funding for a Grade VI post to support the administration of Community Development programmes in Local Authorities. The LEADER Programme was not discussed at this information session.

Mr. Rainey also advised that the DHPCLG would issue guidelines to LCDC's in the coming months in respect of the monitoring of each Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP). A review of each county's LECP is unlikely to be scheduled until the National Planning Framework is published in 2018.

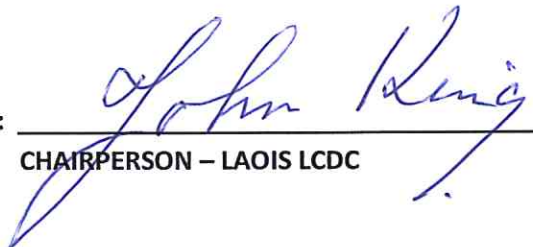
Mr. Paddy Buggy highlighted that the importance of the LECP was emphasised at this information session and that agencies/organisations have a responsibility to take control of their area of interest to insure that targets are being met.

Mr. Joe Thompson highlighted the need for the LECP to be reviewed regularly and also acknowledged the practical difficulties with this. It was agreed that agencies/organisations which have responsibility for actions in the LECP should be invited at intervals, to attend meetings and update the LCDC on their work, giving the committee a real-time update on the status of actions and an opportunity for discussion, resulting in a more meaningful method of review.

Time & Date of next Meeting

The next meeting of Laois LCDC is scheduled for Friday, 31st March 2017 at 11.30am in Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: 
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: 31/03/2017

