

# Minutes of Meeting

## Laois Local Community Development Committee

Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at 11.30am in Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise

**Present:** Cllr. John King, Laois County Council (In the Chair)  
Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Laois County Council  
Cllr. Jerry Lodge, Laois County Council  
Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council  
Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois Local Enterprise Office  
Ms. Mary Delaney, Health Services Executive  
Ms. Anne Goodwin, Laois Partnership  
Mr. Michael Bergin, Farming Sector  
Mr. Joe Thompson, Youth Sector  
Mr. Kieran Finane, Business Sector  
Mr. PJ Campbell, Laois PPN  
Mr. Robbie Quinn, Laois PPN

**Apologies:** Mr. David Hackett, Mr. Tony Dalton, Mr. Paddy Buggy, Ms. Mary White, Mr. Dave Fingleton.

**In Attendance:** Mr. Michael Rainey, Chief Officer, Ms. Georgina Ireland, Administrative Officer and Ms. Theresa Bergin, A/Assistant Staff Officer.

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Cllr. John King opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. He made apologies on behalf of Mr. Paddy Buggy, Chairperson, who was unable to attend this meeting and he welcomed Ms. Mary Delaney, who was recently ratified as the HSE nominee to Laois LCDC.

### ***Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017***

Upon the proposal of Mr. John Mulholland and seconded by Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, the minutes of LCDC meeting held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 were confirmed.

### ***Correspondence***

The members noted an email from Pobal in relation to their commissioning of a research project to explore good practice in relation to working with NEETS (Young People not in Employment, Education or Training) under SICAP. It was noted that Laois Community & Enterprise CLG was chosen as one of the six best performing Programme Implementers to be a case study in this research and the Committee congratulated Laois Community & Enterprise CLG in this regard.

### ***Laois Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)***

#### **a. Presentation by Laois Sports Partnership on 2016 Actions Annual Progress Report**

Ms. Caroline Myers, Coordinator, Laois Sports Partnership presented an update on the progress of their 2016 LECP actions. *(Copy attached)*

The members thanked Ms. Myers for her presentation and comments were made in relation to the following:

- The LECP process and its effect on the planning process for Laois Sports Partnership. Ms Myers advised that the LECP assisted the organisation to become more strategically focused in its planning and in its cooperation with partner agencies.
- Actions in relation to activities for people with disabilities
- The development of walking buses and their importance from a health and environmental perspective. It was noted that difficulties in relation to locating a suitable parking area in Portlaoise restricted uptake on the initiative.

**b. LECP Annual Progress Report 2016**

Mr. Michael Rainey presented the previously circulated LECP Annual Progress Report 2016 for noting by the members. It was unanimously agreed that this report would be forwarded to Laois County Council to be inserted in the local authority Annual Report as prescribed in legislation.

***DHPCLG Community Facilities Scheme 2017***

Mr. Michael Rainey gave an overview on the above scheme, recently forwarded by the Dept. of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government to be administered by each LCDC. He also made members aware of the approval process for applications under this scheme. There was some discussion in relation to the administration and approval process and concerns were raised by members in this regard.

Upon the proposal of Mr. Michael Bergin and seconded by Ms. Anne Goodwin, it was agreed as follows:

- The scheme would be advertised publicly as soon as possible.
- The total fund in the sum of €64,500 would be divided equally between each of the three municipal districts
- If necessary, this Committee would consider applications over the prescribed limit of €1,000, which is at the LCDC's discretion.

Mr. Michael Rainey advised that the deadline for applications in respect of this scheme would be 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and processed applications would likely be presented to the July or September LCDC meeting. Some members highlighted the lack of specific criteria in this scheme, which might mean a large number of applications for processing.

***Any Other Business***

Mr. Michael Rainey sought the approval of the members to pay Laois Community & Enterprise CLG, as SICAP Programme Implementers, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr payment (April – June). Upon the proposal of Cllr. Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Mr. John Mulholland, payment to Laois Community & Enterprise CLG in the sum of €141,016 was approved.

**Time & Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting of Laois LCDC is scheduled for Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 11.30am in Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

  
CHAIRPERSON – LAOIS LCDC

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

28-4-17