**Laois Local Community Development Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Held on Tuesday, 20th October 2015, 11.30am in Portlaoise Parish Centre**

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

 Mr. John Mulholland, Laois County Council

 Cllr. John King, Laois County Council

 Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, Laois County Council

 Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois LEO

 Mr. Joe Ruane, HSE

 Ms. Linda Tynan, Laois/Offaly ETB

 Ms. Anne Goodwin, Laois Partnership Company

 Mr. Michael Bergin, Farming Pillar

 Mr. Dave Fingleton, Laois PPN

 Mr. PJ Campbell, Laois PPN

 Mr. Robbie Quinn, Laois PPN

 Mr. Joe Thompson, Youth Work Ireland Laois

**Apologies:** Ms. Mary White, Cllr. Jerry Lodge, Ms. Olivia Clarke.

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

*Mr. Paddy Buggy opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Buggy thanked Cllr. John King for chairing the LCDC to date.*

*Cllr. John King thanked the Committee for their assistance from the establishment of the LCDC to date and wished Mr. Paddy Buggy well in his role as Chairperson going forward.*

**Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC meeting held on Tuesday, 6th October, 2015**

Mr. Joe Thompson requested that the minutes of the meeting of 6th October 2015 be amended to reflect the actual position in respect of the youth percentage of the population of Laois, i.e., 29%.

Upon the proposal of Cllr. John King and seconded by Mr. PJ Campbell, the amended minutes of LCDC meeting held on Tuesday, 6th October 2015 were confirmed.

**Matters Arising**

Mr. Joe Ruane advised the Committee in relation to his recent attendance at a national meeting of HSE LCDC representatives, and stated that he would update the Committee in respect of that gathering at the next meeting.

**Draft Local Development Strategy**

Mr. Ian McCormack, Chief Officer outlined for the members the current status, in relation to the Draft Local Development Strategy previously circulated to members. He advised that if this Strategy in its current Draft form was satisfactory to the members, it would be agreed and forwarded to the DECLG.

The following issues were raised and discussed:

1. Why the artisan food sector was particularly highlighted for targeted funding
2. The number of businesses, both existing and start-up to be targeted.
3. Queries regarding the insertion of a monitoring and review section in the Strategy, and the right to update the Strategy should further funds become available at any stage.
4. A 5-year plan which should have some structure but has broad aims in respect of funding to be availed of by this county, and a flexibility to adapt in light of targeted funding.

Following discussion, upon the proposal of Cllr. Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Mr. John Mulholland, the Draft Local Development Strategy for Co. Laois was agreed by the LCDC. It was agreed that a copy of the completed plan would be circulated to the members in due course. It was also agreed that this document in its draft format, should remain confidential, for members’ information only and should not be circulated outside of the Committee until the Strategy is adopted.

**Any Other Business**

Ms. Anne Goodwin raised the importance of the voting balance between sectors on the Committee and asked that a business representative be nominated to the LCDC as a matter of urgency. It was agreed that this would be examined and any suggestions from members should be brought to the Chief Officer in advance of the next meeting.

Ms. Anne Goodwin also raised the matter of daytime meetings, stating that the voting balance for the Committee would be affected if at least some of the meetings are not held after business hours, to accommodate the community representatives on the Committee.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

***Next meeting to be held on Friday, 20th November 2015 at 11.30am in County Hall, Portlaoise.***

***Signed: Date:***

 ***Chairperson Laois LCDC***