**Laois Local Community Development Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Held on Thursday, 28th January 2016, 11.30am at Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise**

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

Mr. John Mulholland, Laois County Council

Cllr. John King, Laois County Council

Cllr. Jerry Lodge, Laois County Council

Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Laois LEO

Ms. Mary Delaney, HSE

Ms. Anne Goodwin, Laois Partnership Company

Mr. Michael Bergin, Farming Pillar

Mr. PJ Campbell, Laois PPN

Ms. Mary White, Laois PPN

Mr. Robbie Quinn, Laois PPN

Mr. Joe Thompson, Youth Sector

Ms. Linda Tynan, Laois/Offaly ETB

Mr. Dave Hackett, Dept. Of Social Protection

**Apologies:** Cllr. Paschal McEvoy, 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 Wednesday, 9th December 2015**

Upon the proposal of Cllr. John King and seconded by Mr. John Mulholland, the minutes of LCDC meeting held on Wednesday, 9th December 2015 were confirmed.

**Matters Arising**

Upon enquiry, Mr. Ian McCormack committed to following up with a number of people who may be in position to represent the Business Sector on the LCDC.

**Correspondence**

The members noted correspondence from the Dept of Social Protection nominating Mr. Dave Hackett, replacing Ms. Olivia Clarke, as the DSP representative on the LCDC. Mr. Paddy Buggy welcomed Mr. Hackett on behalf of the members.

**Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) Update**

Mr. Ian McCormack outlined the current status of the LECP preparation and the LCDC’s role in the process at this meeting.

Ms. Georgina Ireland presented to the members the objectives and actions detailed in the Plan which would have LCDC oversight for delivery. She also outlined the stage of the Plan making process and the referral to the Eastern Midland Regional Assembly as part of the next stages *(copy presentation attached).*

The members thanked Ms. Ireland for her presentation and a number of comments were made as follows:

* Mr. John Mulholland suggested that the period covering the LECP should be outlined in the introduction, so that expectations in relation to short/medium/long term delivery of objectives/actions are adequately managed and so that stakeholders view the implementation of the Plan pragmatically and with some degree of patience.
* Mr. Mullholland also pointed out that this Plan presents a good opportunity for the county to have a collective opinion.
* Mr. Michael Bergin pointed out that in delivering the Plan, this LCDC should be attempting to ensure the achievement of all actions and endeavouring to source the funding to do so.

Following related discussion, upon the proposal of Mr. Michael Bergin and seconded by Cllr. John King, the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan (with detailed objectives and actions) was agreed by the members.

Upon the proposal of Cllr. John King and seconded by Mr. PJ Campbell, the Socio Economic Statement and High Level Goals in respect of the Local Economic and Community Plan were unanimously adopted.

**SICAP Update**

Mr. Ian McCormack gave an update in relation to the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP), and outlined for the members the process through which it was intended to review the 2015 End of Year Reports and appraise the 2016 Annual Plan. He informed the members that a subcommittee had been invited to carry out this exercise and as previously agreed by the LCDC, make a recommendation to the LCDC as to approval. Mr. McCormack advise that this subcommittee comprising the Chief Officer, Mr. Joe Thompson (LCDC), Ms. Evelyn Reddin (LCDC) and Ms. Fionnuala Daly (LCC Senior Social Worker) would carry out this task as required.

The timeline for appraisal was noted by the members and it was agreed to set a meeting date to accommodate this.

**Local Development Strategy Update**

The members noted that the Local Development Strategy, previously submitted to the Dept of Environment, Community & Local Government on behalf of the Laois Local Action Group (LCDC), had not yet been appraised and a response is awaited.

**Training**

The members noted that the Dept of Environment, Community & Local Government would be making training available to Community Sector members of each LCDC in due course, dates to be confirmed.

Mr. Ian McCormack advised that he discussed the possibility of the DECLG giving on-site training to the LCDC members, however this is not possible due to resource issues. He also advised that the Institute of Public Administration do not provide such specific training.

It was noted by the members that Laois Partnership would be in a position to deliver some training around the Rural Development Programme if necessary.

It was agreed that the relevant members would attend the national LCDC training and the matter would be discussed to gauge what is needed following this.

**Any Other Business**

Mr. John Mulholland raised the matter of developing an online LCDC presence, i.e., a web page or website. It was also noted that the Public Participation Network were looking into this for themselves and would certain links to the LCDC and vice versa if necessary. It was agreed to investigate the development of a web presence and a logo for the LCDC.

**Time and Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on ***Tuesday, 16th February 2016 at 11.30am in County Hall*** to facilitate the examination of the SICAP End of Year and Annual Plan 2016.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed: Date:**

**LCDC Chairperson**