



**Laois Public Participation Network
Minutes of Meeting of PPN Secretariat
Tuesday, 9th July, 2018, at 8:00pm
PPN Office, Lyster Square, Portlaoise, Co Laois**

Present: Mr. Michael Cobbe
Mr. Donal O'Shea
Mr. Mick Dowling Snr
Mr. PJ Campbell
Mr. Paddy Buggy
Mr. Eugene O'Brien

Apologies: Ms. Robbie Quinn
Mr. Bolaji Adeyanju

In Attendance: Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, A/PPN Co-Ordinator.

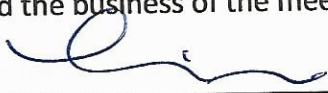
The minutes of the meeting held on 6th June, 2018 were proposed by Donal O'Shea, seconded by Michael Cobbe and confirmed and signed.

- Eugene O'Brien will facilitate the next three meetings. This was proposed by JP Campbell and Seconded by Michael Cobbe.
- Secretariat Training 25th June in the Killeshin Hotel was very beneficial as we tackled a topic from start to finish. It gave us a sense of cohesion on how to deal with topics and bring them to plenary. In order to proceed with a topic an element of homework and research needs to be done beforehand. Overall the training was very helpful and made us more confident as a result.
- Guideline for the "Poster Free Zone" debate was discussed. Donal O'Shea agreed to chair the debate and give a quick introduction to proceedings on the night. Each speaker would be allotted a time of 5 minutes to propose/oppose the debate. It would then be open on the floor for debate where groups could also voice concerns re other topics that could be brought to plenary. It was agreed that a full set of guidelines be put in place for night and distributed beforehand.
- Training for Elected Members and Laois Local Authority staff was discussed and deemed a good idea. This will show that as we all working together striving to achieve the best of the people and communities of Laois.

- Michael Cobbe summarised the Housing SPC report to the secretariat. It was very informative and gave a good overview of the housing situation in Laois. It also gave a sense of cohesion between the PPN and SPC's. It was agreed that a copy of the report be obtained and placed on the Laois PPN website to be viewed by our member organisations. It was also identified that people who own property for rent don't know what grants are available to them.
- The Age Friendly Event is to be held on the 25th September 2018 in the Midlands Park Hotel. Suzanne asked if a member/s of the secretariat could attend the event to host the PPN stand. Michael Cobbe, Mick Dowling and Paddy Buggy agreed to attend.
- Plenary:
 - Groups invited to get involved
 - Re-registration on the same night?
 - Guest speaker – mental health
 - GDPR
 - Topic for discussion – send out topic sheets and invite groups to submit topics for discussion.
 - PPN document to be ratified on the night.
- Donal mentioned the response received from Finian McGrath. It is important to iron out a sense of engagement between the Local Authority and the State. PPN can play a more progressive role and keep the topic alive.
- Laois LCDC have now only 14 members due to a recent resignation. Nomination form we sent out to all environmental groups but to no avail.
- During AOB Suzanne advised the group of the PPN National Conference taking place on the 11th and 12th of October. A maximum of 4 Secretariat members will be invited to attend along with the Chief Executive, PPN Staff, Council Official (x1), elected member (x1) and LCDC Chief Officer. Westmeath will issue official invite. It was also agreed that Mounmellick Development Association would facilitate a site visit on the 11th where they will showcase their Community Kitchens and Digital Hub. Also the idea of sending each member organisation an A4 sheet where concerns they have in their area can be highlighted. This would involve getting elected members on board and making a submission to them at the Municipal Budget Allocation stage.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:



 Chairperson

Date:

10 / 09 / 18