



**Laois Public Participation Network
Minutes of Meeting of PPN Secretariat
Monday, 10th September, 2018, at 8:00pm
PPN Office, Lyster Square, Portlaoise, Co Laois**

Present: Mr. Eugene O'Brien (Chair)
Mr. Michael J Cobbe
Mr. Donal O'Shea
Mr. Mick Dowling Snr
Mr. Paddy Buggy

Apologies: Ms. Robbie Quinn
Mr. Brian Maher
Mr. PJ Campbell
Mr. Aidan Mulally
Ms. Judy Ryan

In Attendance: Ms. Suzanne O'Connor, A/PPN Coordinator.

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th July, 2018 were proposed by Michael Cobbe, seconded by Paddy Buggy, confirmed and signed.

- The "Poster Free Zone" debate was discussed and showed real democracy in action. On the night there was a lot of debate with everyone in attendance given the opportunity to speak and voice their opinion. Donal O'Shea, chair of the debate observed that this is exactly what the PPN is about i.e. being inclusive, participatory, independent, accountable, valuing diversity and transparent. The event was also considered as a very good learning experience.
- Concerns in relation to Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Community Halls were raised by member organisations during AOB of recent debate. We now have a mandate to progress these issues. Laois PPN need to show a sense of leadership. It was agreed to work/focus on the two above concerns and progress them by further developing the linkage groups. It was agreed that this would be discussed at length at the next PPN meeting.
- It was noted that member organisation needed to engage. In order to do so Linkage groups need to become more effective in order to hear the concerns of member organisations. We need to get people more involved.

- The question was raised in relation to training for elected members and council staff. Suzanne advised that we write to elected members and get feedback, this should be left until after the annual budgetary process. In relation to LA staff it is up to the LA to provide training for their own staff. It was suggested and agreed that the PPN should write to Laois Co Co suggesting that staff receive optional PPN training ie what the PPN is about.
- Plenary: It was noted that the speaker John Lonergan had confirmed his attendance. The plenary will be used as a networking event giving member organisations the opportunity to meet each other and share information/ideas. PPN documents to be ratified at plenary.
- The annual PPN National conference was discussed in brief with some spaces left for secretariat members to attend. Another reminder will be sent out. The conference is an opportunity to meet other PPN's and learn from each other.
- Suzanne proposed the Laois PPN host a training day for all PPN member organisations where training such as GDPR, governance, CPR would be offered Free of charge. Booking in advance would be essential. November would be an ideal time for the event. Proposed: Paddy Buggy, Seconded: Michael Cobbe.
- **AOB:**
 - Paddy Buggy advised that he was coming to the end of his term as Chair of the LCDC. He expressed that was an honour to fill the set and thanked the PPN and the secretariat for their support.
 - Donal O'Shea expressed concern that money was not being spent under LEADER.
 - Suzanne advised that Laois Co Co are compiling a socio economic profile of the county and are looking for details of all groups registered with Laois PPN. This was discussed in great length and the GDPR implications. It was decided that only the names of the organisation and the municipal district would be provided as this information was already freely available in the public realm. Proposed: Paddy Buggy, Seconded: Michael Cobbe.
 - A brief discussion also took place in relation to the upcoming Over 50's Information Afternoon and the Laois Connects Wellness Workshop.
 - Suzanne noted that Kerry PPN had compiled a workshop report as a result of a Disability Awareness Workshop. This is something that could be replicated by Laois PPN under the disability special interest group.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: / /