



**Laois Public Participation Network
Minutes of Meeting of PPN Secretariat
Monday, 12th November, 2018, at 8:00pm
PPN Office, Lyster Square, Portlaoise, Co Laois**

Present: Mr. Donal O'Shea
Mr. Mick Dowling Snr
Mr. Paddy Buggy
Mr. Michael Cobbe - Chair

Apologies: Mr. PJ Campbell
Mr. Eugene O'Brien
Mr. Bolaji Adeyanju
Mr. Aidan Mullally
Mr. Robbie Quinn

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th October, 2018 were proposed by Paddy Buggy, seconded by Mick Dowling Snr, confirmed and signed.

- Michael Cobbe agreed to chair the meeting.
- Groups should be required to take active involvement in Laois PPN in order to qualify to apply for grants. It shouldn't be a tick a box. Groups need to attend meetings on order to obtain grants. Laois PPN logo should be added to documents for grants. Again it was reiterated that groups should be required to attend at least 1 plenary in order to draw down funding.
- LCDC – money there to be spent, do not want to see money going back to the Dept. It was suggested by Paddy that the next PPN plenary should focus on funding available to groups especially LEADER funding.
- National Conference – Donal advised that there should have been a greater sense of inclusion which would have been achieved if group were divided into relevant pillars. Paddy extended his apologies as he was unable to attend same. The events were well attended but not enough time allocated.

- The establishment of a National Secretariat Network was discussed. The idea was to nominate one secretariat member from each county plus one alternative. At present we are waiting clarification on this.
- Succession plan – need to get results/achievements and commitment.
- Lack of attendance at secretariat meetings/plenary etc. It was noted that this is the same in all groups – all getting smaller and attended by the same people. People need to feel involved.
- Mick Dowling noted that registration for future event should have two registration tables to prevent a backlog.
- Michael Cobbe mentioned carbon monoxide alarms and the importance of the community hall.

Carbon Monoxide: It was agreed that Carbon Monoxide Alarms would be discussed at length at the next monthly meeting. A draft letter is to be prepared for the CEO of Laois Co Co, Mr. John Mulholland stating that the fire alarm initiative should be run in line with the carbon monoxide initiative.

Community Halls: Laois PPN should prepare a questionnaire as to what community centres need to do in their area. Need to be careful of match funding requirements.

- CCTV – Some communities are facing financial issues. Could Laois PPN contribute to a salary for a Data Protection Officer?
- Disability Workshop will be based on the four SPC's of Laois Co Co. Donal expressed his ambition for the workshop and his involvement. What sort of meeting will this be and who will be invited? Donal to follow up with the Disability Federation of Ireland.

AOB:

- Suzanne informed the group of the resignation of Judy Ryan (Graiguecullen/Portarlinton – Community/Voluntary). The group expressed their thanks to Judy for all involvement in Laois PPN since its conception.

- Paddy, Donal and Michael agreed to have an active role in the Community and Voluntary Awards.
- The Draft 2019 work plan was presented to the secretariat.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: ____/____/____