



**Laois Public Participation Network  
Minutes of Meeting of PPN Secretariat  
Wednesday, 13th March 2019, at 8:00pm  
Laois PPN Office, Lyster Square, Portlaoise, Co. Laois**

Present: Mr. Mick Dowling - Chair  
Mr. Robbie Quinn  
Mr. Brian Maher  
Mr. Bolaji Adeyanju  
Mr. Michael Cobbe  
Mr. Donal O'Shea

Apologies: Mr. Paddy Buggy  
Mr. PJ Campbell

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

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The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 were proposed by Michael Cobbe, seconded by Donal O'Shea, confirmed and signed.

- **Funding & Resources Workshop**  
Our Funding & Resources Workshop is to take place on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March in the Midlands Park Hotel from 5:00pm – 9:00pm. It was agreed that an e-mail be sent to all members of the secretariat to help out on the night. In previous years this was done on a shift basis. A comprehensive list of those hosting a stand is to be sent to all PPN member organisations beforehand in order to attract attendance. It was once again agreed that a funding workshop should be delivered throughout the county.
- **Disability "Access for All" Community Workshop**  
It is now nearly one month on from our event and at this stage the Draft Report is nearly ready for the secretariat to edit. It was agreed that the format of the report should be kept simple and distributed to all those who attended the event, as well on line. It was suggested that the report should be launched at our funding and resources workshop. This is possible but will depend on editing/printing timeframe.

How do we progress this?

Laois Co Co should have an "Accessibility Officer" in place, who would take charge of the Laois Disability Forum. This would be a good news story for all involved.

Cllr James Kelly is submitting a notice of motion to the March monthly meeting that each SPC should have a seat designated to an individual with a disability. This meeting will take place on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

- **Re-Registration**  
All members groups that registered pre 2019 will be asked to re-register their details in the coming weeks. For those who have provided e-mail addresses this will be a very simple process as they can re-register on-line. Otherwise Laois PPN will write to all other member organisation asking them to re-register via post, phone or in the Laois PPN Offices. This is to ensure that we have correct contact details while also ensuring we are GDPR compliant.
- **Vision on Community Wellbeing**  
It was decided to wait until Laois PPN election were completed before completing this task, as this could get pushed to the side while elections are taking place. It was said that it would be a struggle to get groups to attend and this could be considered a duplication of work. Could this be merged as one large piece of work? Need to take into consideration that those attending are volunteers. We are not receiving adequate resources backup. Instead of Social Justice Ireland offering financial support they should offer the support of a facilitator.
- **Elections 2019**  
The secretariat agreed that Laois PPN elections would take place in September 2019. The elections are to run separately to Local/European elections. Those who were newly elected in 2018/2019 will retain their seats. It was agreed that a PR company should come on board with the promotion of the election campaign. You Tube/ and social media should be utilised, need to get more young people involved. Presentation should be made to youth groups to get them involved.
- It was requested that Laois PPN write to Laois County Council seeking a copy of all Elected Members monthly meetings.
- The issue of Tidy Towns Groups not being given the opportunity to join the environmental pillar of the PPN was raised. This is a problem as it is being encountered nationally and needs to be addressed. It is getting to the point that vacant environmental seats will have to be filled by other organisations if necessary.
- Midlands Region PPN (MRPPN) is giving the Midlands PPN groups a great sense of cohesion.
- It was agreed that Laois PPN should send out an expression of interest to Laois PPN member organisation only offering 10 groups the opportunity to train one member in each group sign language. This would be considered a capacity building exercise and would ensure that Laois PPN are providing the opportunity for groups to be inclusive of all.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_