

## Laois Public Participation Network

Minutes of Meeting of PPN Secretariat

Wednesday, 08<sup>th</sup> April 2020, 7.30pm

Via Zoom.

Present: Mr. Paddy Buggy - Chair  
Ms. Ann Fleming  
Mr. John Oxley  
Mr. Donal O' Shea  
Mr. Bolaji Adeyanju  
Mr. Patrick Blake

Apologies: Mr. Vincent Booth  
Mr. Michael Cobbe

In Attendance: Mr. Dan Bergin, PPN Resource Worker.  
Ms. Ailish Keane, PPN Support Worker.

---

### Community Call

Dan gave the Secretariat a brief update regarding the COVID-19 Community Call Response Forum. This was initiated by the Government and is being led by each local authority. The Laois Community Call Response Forum is being chaired by Laois County Council Chief Executive John Mulholland and the forum is made up of members from state agencies, local authorities, local development companies and community and voluntary groups. The Laois Response forum includes Laois Civil Defence, the HSE, An Garda Siochana, An Post, Laois County Council, Laois GAA, IFA and Laois Public Participation Network to name just a few. Dan Bergin and Paddy Buggy are representing Laois PPN on this forum. The forum holds a twice weekly teleconference

The helpline was launched on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

### Laois Public Participation Network Update

Laois PPN has been busy designing an interactive map to put on our website. We plan to put any member groups offering help and services to the vulnerable and elderly in our communities on the map so people can see if there is help in their area should they need it. We sent out an email to our 550+ member groups asking them if their group wished to be

added to our interactive map. There are 89 groups on the map as of today, which we feel is a huge response from our community and voluntary groups. Laois County Council is using the information from our map as part of the COVID-19 Community Call Response.

We are also sending regular updates to our members about the facts of COVID-19, the response of the Government to COVID-19, information about grants and schemes that are available to them during this pandemic along with guidelines about how to stay safe during this unprecedented time and helpline numbers should they need to call on someone.

#### **Update from Paddy Buggy**

Paddy Buggy is a member of the Community Response Forum, representing Laois PPN, LCDC and Mountmellick Development Association. He has been appointed Community Champion for Laois. Part of being Community Champion is to identify people in isolated areas, vulnerable and elderly people within our communities have someone to check in on them, give them help and support, especially those with no family close by.

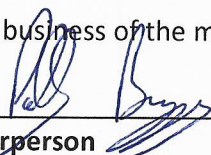
Paddy asked the members of the Secretariat to help him identify any individual in their own area that may need the help and supports being offered by the Response Forum.

#### **Any Other Business:**

- **DSIG (Disability Special Interest Group)** – Donal O’ Shea informed the Secretariat that he had spoken with Mark Clancy of Laois Partnership and the DFI in the hope of progressing works in relation to the DSIG report. The Secretariat feels with everything that is happening at the moment, this could be revisited at a later date.
- **Hope for COVID-19** – Bolaji Adeyanju is part of a new voluntary group called HOPE for COVID-19. This group is sourcing and distributing food, hygiene products and baby products to people in need during the pandemic. They have a hub in Portlaoise where they make up parcels for those most vulnerable in our communities.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Date:

02 / 06 / 2020