



# Laois Public Participation Network

Minutes of Meeting of PPN Secretariat

Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 7.00pm

Via Microsoft Teams.

- Present: Ms. Ann Fleming - Chair  
Mr. Paddy Buggy  
Mr. John Oxley  
Mr. Michael J. Cobbe  
Mr. Donal O' Shea  
Mr. Vincent Booth
- Apologies: Mr. Bolaji Adeyanju  
Ms. Ailish Keane, PPN Support Worker
- In Attendance: Mr. Dan Bergin, PPN Resource Worker

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The minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were proposed by Paddy Buggy and seconded by Michael J. Cobbe.

## **Draft Laois PPN Workplan 2021**

The Draft Laois PPN Workplan 2021 had been circulated to the Members of the Secretariat prior to the Monthly Meeting. Dan gave the Secretariat Members an update on the Draft Workplan.

Dan advised the Secretariat that Laois PPN are required by the Department to have approved Workplan, Budget and MOU in place to secure funding for Laois PPN. Paddy Buggy complimented Dan Bergin on the preparation of the Draft Workplan 2021, Draft Budget 2021 and MOU.

The Draft Laois PPN Workplan 2021 was proposed by Paddy Buggy and seconded by Michael J. Cobbe.

The Draft Laois PPN Workplan 2021 is to go forward for ratification at the 1<sup>st</sup> County Plenary.

## **Draft Laois PPN Budget 2021**

The Draft Laois PPN Budget 2021 had been circulated to the Members of the Secretariat prior to the Monthly Meeting. Dan gave the Secretariat Members an update on the Draft

Budget. The Draft Budget has taken into account the Financial Controls Document issued by the Dept. in quarter 4 of 2020. This Financial Controls Document has been circulated to the Secretariat.

The Draft Laois Budget 2021 was proposed by Paddy Buggy and seconded by Michael J. Cobbe.

The Draft Laois Budget 2021 is to go forward for ratification at the 1<sup>st</sup> County Plenary.

### **Draft MOU 2021**

The Draft MOU 2021 had been circulated to the Members of the Secretariat prior to the Monthly Meeting. The MOU is the agreement between Laois PPN and Laois County Council.

The Draft MOU 2021 was proposed by Paddy Buggy and seconded by Ann Fleming.

### **County Plenary**

The 1<sup>st</sup> County Plenary is scheduled for Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm via Microsoft Teams rather than 25<sup>th</sup> February. This will allow time to promote the Plenary. As a positive gesture to PPN Member Groups, to advertise and promote the County Plenary and support local business in Laois there will be a raffle for 3 x €50 Laois Gift Cards for attendees on the night.

### **Calendar of Meetings**

The Secretariat agreed that the Monthly Meeting of the Laois PPN Secretariat would take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month (except August) for 2021.

Dan advised the Secretariat that the Dept have expressed an interest to attend a Monthly Secretariat Meeting across the 31 PPN's to observe and better understand the day to day workings of the PPN. The Secretariat Members welcomed the opportunity to show the Department the volume and variety of work achieved by Laois PPN.

### **Funding Opportunities**

Laois PPN recognises the challenging year it has been for Community Groups in relation to fundraising. So many Community Groups have traditionally relied on club lotto, raffles, fund raising days, bag packing and local events to raise money and many of these routes have been taken away. With this in mind, Laois PPN have been providing regular updates on potential fundraising opportunities through grants and funds as they become available. Laois PPN Member Groups have welcomed the info and opportunity to apply.

To assist Member Groups Laois PPN will be running a Grant Writing Tips & Tricks Workshop in March.

Donal O'Shea welcomed the funding opportunities being circulated by Laois PPN. He informed the Meeting that he would like the Government to provide more funding opportunities to Social Inclusion Groups in the future.

### **MRPPN April Meeting - Laois PPN Agenda Item "Rebuilding"**

The next Meeting of MRPPN is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April. The Laois PPN item will be "Rebuilding" which had been put forward by Paddy Buggy and agreed by the Secretariat. Paddy informed the meeting that "Rebuilding" could explore how we rebuild here in Laois. The "Rebuilding" theme was discussed by the Members of the Secretariat. Laois PPN will host and Chair the MRPPN Meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

### **LCDC Election**

Naeem Iqbal has been elected as the Laois PPN Social Inclusion Rep to the LCDC. This is to be ratified at the Council Meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Paddy Buggy congratulated Naeem on his successful election and wished him well in his role as Laois PPN Social Inclusion Rep to the LCDC. The other Members of the Secretariat echoed this sentiment.

Dan informed the Secretariat that this had been Laois PPN's first ever online election and that online election had worked successfully in filling the vacancy. This was welcomed by Members of the Secretariat.

### **Longford PPN**

Longford PPN expressed an interest join the MRPPN. The current Members of the MRPPN are Laois, Offaly, Kildare, Meath & Westmeath. The Secretariat were all in agreement of Longford PPN in joining the MRPPN.

### **Any Other Business:**

- **Training** - Vincent Booth raised the matter of training for Secretariat Members and Reps. John Oxley and Ann Fleming would also be interested in this training. Dan to check into this and update the Members at the next Meeting.
- **Digital Signage** - Vincent Booth advised the Members that the Laois Federation of Tidy Towns are looking into Digital Display Signs. Vincent queried re possible funding options for this. Paddy Buggy advised Vincent to check with Laois Partnership re LEADER funding for this initiative.
- **Chair** - Michael J. Cobbe and Paddy Buggy complimented Ann Fleming on her first meeting as Chair.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Ann Fleming

Chairperson

Date:

16 / 03 / 2021