



Laois Public Participation Network

Minutes of Meeting of PPN Secretariat
Tuesday, 14th December 2021, 7.00pm
via Microsoft Teams

Present: Mr. Paddy Buggy - Chair
Mr. Michael J. Cobbe
Mr. John Oxley
Mr. Donal O' Shea
Ms. Ann Fleming
Mr. Vincent Booth

Apologies: Mr. Bolaji Adeyanju

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th November were proposed by John Oxley, seconded by Ann Fleming, confirmed and signed.

Municipal District Plenaries and County Plenary

Laois PPN held its 3 Municipal District Plenaries in December. The Plenaries were held online. Thanks to John Oxley, Donal O'Shea and Paddy Buggy for chairing their respective MD Plenaries.

Laois PPN are required to hold two County Plenaries a year. The Second County Plenary will take the place online on 16th December. Thanks to Paddy Buggy for agreeing to chair the County Plenary.

At each Plenary, Dan Bergin, Laois PPN Resource Worker gave a detailed Power Point presentation highlighting the wide variety of work of Laois PPN in 2021. Laois PPN achieved its 3 key functions as outlined by the Department in 2021:

1. Facilitate participation and representation
2. Capacity Building of Member Groups
3. Serve as a networking and information hub

The Secretariat agreed that it was an excellent presentation that showcased the wide variety of work of Laois PPN in 2021. The Secretariat thanked Dan for his work on the presentation.

To end the year on a positive and to support business in our local communities, a raffle was held at the end of each Plenary for Laois Gift Cards.

Dan informed the Secretariat that the feedback from attendees at the Plenaries was overwhelmingly positive and in praise of the work of Laois PPN in 2021. This was warmly welcomed by the Members of the Laois PPN Secretariat.

PPN Funding by the DRCD

There will be no change to the funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development for PPNs in 2022, this includes ring-fenced Support Worker funding. Laois PPN were informed by email from the DRCD on 9th December 2021.

Therefore the total funding per PPN from the DRCD will remain at €75,700 (incl. of €25,700 ring-fenced for the Support Worker).

PPN Annual Report

The Department of Rural and Community Development has advised at the recent National Resource Workers Meeting that the PPN Annual Report for 2020 will be published by the Department before year end 2021. The Report will highlight the activities of each of the 31 PPN's across the Country.

PPN Structural Review

Dan updated the Secretariat on the PPN Structural Review. Mazars have now completed the Draft of the PPN Structural Review. The Draft is to be submitted to the DRCD. There is no date confirmed for publication.

Social Inclusion Week

Laois PPN had planned to hold a Social Inclusion Week from the 6th to 12th December. Laois PPN had a number of in-person events planned for this week. Social Inclusion Week has been deferred due the significant increase in Covid19 case numbers over the last 3 weeks and public health guidance.

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Support Worker

After two and half years, Ailish Keane will be leaving Laois PPN. The Secretariat and Dan thanked Ailish for all her work and support on behalf of Laois PPN and wished her every success in her new role.

National Secretariat Update

Donal O'Shea updated the Secretariat following the November Meeting of the National Secretariat. Donal highlighted a suggestion from a member of the Irish Environmental

Network via the National Secretariat - with a view to sharing proposals with a view to standardizing best practice, uniformity of approach, cohesion etc.

Paddy Buggy noted that Laois PPN had the opportunity to work collaboratively with the other Midlands PPN's as part of the MRPPN.

A.O.B.

- **Chairperson** – Ann Fleming was proposed by Paddy Buggy and seconded by Michael J. Cobbe. The Secretariat wished Ann the best in the role and thanked the outgoing Chairperson Paddy Buggy.
- **Community Centres** – Michael J. Cobbe has received the list of Community Centres and Halls in Laois from Ailish. Michael would like Treo Nua, Portlaoise and Portarlinton Centre to be given the opportunity to join the proposed Laois Federation of Community Centres. Michael and John to meet in early 2022 to progress the proposed Laois Federation of Community Centres.
- **Laois PPN Gift Cards** - Dan Bergin updated the Laois PPN Secretariat Members regarding the Laois PPN Budget. It was noted that there is a small underspend. It was proposed by Peggy Buggy and seconded by Michael J. Cobbe that any outstanding unspent balance should be used to purchase Laois Gift Cards as a thank you to PPN Member Groups who had assisted with PPN Projects.
- **Portlaoise Tidy Towns** – Vincent Booth thanked Laois PPN for the positive news coverage of Portlaoise Tidy Towns on Social Media and the monthly PPN Newsletter. The Secretariat commended all involved in Portlaoise Tidy Towns on their recent achievements at a national level.
- **Community & Voluntary Awards 2021** – Due to take place online in January 2022. Ann Fleming as Chairperson will represent Laois PPN.

The next secretariat meeting will take place in January.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: 
Chairperson

Date: 25 /01 /2022