



## Co. Longford Public Participation Network Feedback Form from **Placemaking SPC**

Public Participation Network Community Representative: **Louise Lovett**

Date: Monday July 27<sup>th</sup> @ 15:00

### *Meeting Agenda*

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 27th January 2020 - copy enclosed.
2. Matters arising from Minutes.
3. Declaration of Interests.
4. Update on Just Transition - Sarah Morgan, Planning Policy & Research Officer Laois | Longford | Offaly | Westmeath.
5. Local Enterprise Office – COVID-19 Response and Supports for Business.
6. Notice of Motion referred from Longford Municipal District Meeting held on the 22nd January 2020  
Business Improvement District  
The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Martin Monaghan -  
“That Longford Municipal District consider introducing a Business Improvement District (BID) in the retail core of Longford Town.”  
It was agreed that Councillor Butler’s Motion be referred to the Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.
7. Regeneration Programme – URDF (Urban Regeneration Development Fund) and RRDF (Rural Regeneration Development Fund) projects and application.
8. Creative Ireland – Longford Programme.
9. Community Development – LEADER programme, Community Support Grants and Community Enhancement Programme.
10. Date of next Meeting

**PRESIDING:**

Councillor Gerard Farrell, Chairperson.

**PRESENT:**

Councillors – Martin Monaghan, Colm Murray, Paul Ross and P.J. Reilly. Ms. Louise Lovett, Ms. Niamh Donlon and Mr. Matt Farrell.

**APOLOGIES**

Ms. Breda Murphy

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services, Mr. Michael Nevin, Head of Enterprise, Ms. Mary Carleton-Reynolds, County Librarian. Ms. Nora O’Farrell, Senior Executive Officer. Mr. Ciaran Murphy, Senior Executive Officer.

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR:**

Anne Lee.

**Presentations: Yes / No**

Agenda item	Member	Discussion	Actions / Who
<p><b><u>Items 1, 2 &amp; 3</u></b>  <b>Minutes of the previous meeting , held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Matters arising &amp; Declarations of Interest</b></p>	<p>Chair</p>	<p>The January minutes were approved – (attached)  Matters arising - None  Declarations of Interest - None</p>	
<p><b><u>Item 4</u></b>  <b>Update on Just Transition</b></p>	<p>Sarah Morgan,  Planning Policy &amp; Research Officer,  Laois, Longford, Offaly &amp; Westmeath</p>	<p>Presentation attached.</p> <p>Points of discussion:</p> <p>Counsellor Paul Ross</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asked if applications for Just Transition projects could come from the wider Longford area not just those directly impacted. Sarah said that projects could come from any area, group, person who could demonstrate that they had been impacted by the closure. Projects must support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Education &amp; Training/Research</li> <li>○ Employment generation &amp; Employment Continuity Pathways</li> <li>○ Community Assistance Programmes/ Social Enterprises Interventions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Said many people had not been aware of the stage 1 application process and the need to have engaged at stage 1 to be able to progress to stage 2 funding applications. Sarah said that there may be an additional fund in 2021 which they could apply for</li> <li>• As in the context of Just Transition the Midlands area has been redefined as the Wider Midlands area to incorporate other impacted communities in adjoining regions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ West Region –Roscommon &amp; Galway (East Galway)</li> <li>○ Mid-East Region –Kildare</li> <li>○ Mid-West Region -Tipperary (Littleton)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Offaly and Longford have been impacted by much more than other areas and it should follow that funding be allocated proportionately to impact</p>	

<p><b>Item 5</b> <b>SICAP</b> <b>Local Enterprise Office – COVID-19 Response and Supports for Business.</b></p>	<p>M. Nevin</p>	<p>Before giving the Covid-19 update Micky referred to positive news on the employment front with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The takeover of Longford Tool and Plastic by and American multi-national</li> <li>• Another company is taking the old B3 factory with the creation of 60 jobs</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>The Local Enterprise team continued to support local businesses during lockdown and business restart with initiatives such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing information and advice on funding supports including Restart Grant</li> <li>• Promotion of online courses to assist businesses and providing mentors</li> <li>• Business supports including Business Continuity Vouchers and assistance with COVID-19 business loans from MicroFinance Ireland</li> <li>• Supporting the tourism industry including development of a new website,</li> <li>• Approved 51 Trading on Line vouchers,</li> <li>• Built a small platform on the LEO website to highlight all the local businesses that currently have an e-platform to try and encourage Longford citizens to buy locally. The platform can be accessed <a href="#">here</a></li> <li>• Recently launched a Regional Going Green programme that will provide grant aid for 32 businesses in the Midlands to adopt new green technologies.</li> <li>• Continued to implement the Business Incentive and Shopfront schemes</li> </ul> <p>Points of discussion: Query re: the increase in the restart grant scheme announced in the July stimulus. Do companies who already applied have to reapply for top-up. B. Heslin said they were awaiting new operating guidelines</p>	
<p><b>Item 6</b> <b>Notice of Motion</b></p>	<p>Chair</p>	<p><b>Notice of Motion referred from Longford Municipal District Meeting held on the 22nd January 2020</b> <b><u>Business Improvement District</u></b> <b>The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Seamus Butler and seconded by Councillor Martin Monaghan –</b></p> <p><b>“That Longford Municipal District consider introducing a Business Improvement District (BID) in the retail core of Longford Town.”</b></p> <p><b>It was agreed that Councillor Butler’s Motion be referred to the Placemaking</b></p>	

		<p><b>Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.</b></p> <p>No decision was taken other than to find out more about the feasibility/practicality of setting up a BID setup taking account of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible duplication of the work of the regeneration team</li> <li>• Practicality of an additional levy of 3.5% of rateable value on businesses in the town at this time</li> <li>• Practicality of whether there are enough local business to make the BID worthwhile</li> </ul>	
<b>Item 7</b> <b>Regeneration Programme</b>		Carried forward to next meeting	
<b>Item 8</b> <b>Creative Longford</b>	M. Reynolds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots of creative activity ongoing during lockdown although participation and delivery had to take account of Covid-19 restrictions</li> <li>• Bealtaine Festival engages people from across the county to foster and inspire creativity among older people and to promote the skills, experiences and exposure that can lead to a rich creative life. This year the majority of the festival took place virtually with people participating from their kitchens, sittings etc., reading poetry, singing songs etc. The main event was facilitated by Ballymahon Nursing Home, with a garden tea dance taking place in their grounds. Social media had in excess of 2.5k likes for this event</li> <li>• Cruinniú na nÓg took place on 13/06/2020 with events right across the county. There are videos available on the Creative Longford Website</li> <li>• Still Voices Short Film Festival 2020 - August 13th to 16th - International Short Film Festival located in the heart of Ireland</li> <li>• Midlands Busking Festival is will take place on Saturday August 15th. For the last number of years, the festival has attracted 100's of musicians of all ages from every corner of the country</li> <li>• July Stimulus allocated €50k to County Longford to support artists and creators during the pandemic</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Item 9</b>  <b>Community Development – LEADER programme, Community Support Grants and Community Enhancement Programme.</b></p>	<p>Ciaran  Murphy</p>	<p>Ciaran gave an overview of the following grant schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leader 2014 -2020 allocation of €7.6m to Longford. 1.1m left to distribute. Projects to the value of €400 under consideration leaving €700k left to be applied for. Interested parties should contact LCRL</li> <li>• Community Support Grants – fully funded by Local Authority. Scheme advertised in February and allocations approved by each municipal district. Closed now for 2020</li> <li>• Community Enhancement. Funded by Department of Housing for community capital projects. Closing date was 23/07/2020. The fund is heavily oversubscribed given an allocation for 2020 is €55,000 compared to €132,385 for 2019.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Item 10</b>  <b>Date of Next meeting</b></p>		<p>October 19<sup>th</sup> at 15:00</p>	