

Laois Sports Partnership
Minutes of Annual General Meeting 14th of June 2021 (via ZOOM)

Attendance: E. Smith, G. Luttrell, J. Finn, C. Reilly, W. Wilkinson, K. Phelan & N. Tully

Apologies: L. Brennan, M. O'Boyle, M Condron, D. Hainsworth, E. Donoghue

Chair: E. Smith Staff: C. Myers, R. Lawlor

Ms. Smith opened the AGM and welcomed the board to the annual general meeting of Laois Sports Partnership. Ms. Smith extended sympathies on behalf of Board & Staff to Mr. L. Brennan on the recent death of his brother.

Chairpersons Address:

On behalf of Laois Sports Partnership, we are delighted to welcome the launch of the annual report 2020 in what was a unique year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

LSP business contingency plan and Governance structure allowed minimal disruption to the partnership with the LSP team quickly adapting to the virtual world and delivery face to face when restrictions allowed for return to sport. This unique year proved challenging but it also provided a lot of opportunities to support clubs and communities with additional COVID-19 grant supports from Sport Ireland as well as the LSP providing resources and online initiatives to keep the whole family safe and active during COVID. The LSP is now unique with a blend of online delivery and face to face with online training continuing into the future reducing carbon footprint and precious volunteer time.

We are delighted to report that interagency and stakeholder collaboration is a major factor in the successful delivery of many participation opportunities for all and this year was no different. This report gives a snapshot of these interventions and the many resources created across new LSP social media channels.

With additional support of Dormant Accounts, Healthy Ireland Funding etc Laois Sports Partnership has been able to increase the provision of services to reach wider into communities; working to remove barriers to participation and continuing to showcase the positive impact that sport can have on people's lives. The Partnership has made significant advances and has particularly increased the number of locally delivered programmes through our SVT Community Sports Hub and Rathdowney Erill Activity Hub.

In excess of 25,000 people engaged with our activities online and through social media during the Spring/Summer, Autumn & Christmas lockdowns.

- **71 programmes delivered with 3,987 participants**
- **16 Women in Sport programmes delivered to 438 participants**
- **46 programmes for people with disabilities delivered with 1,059 participants**
- **321 families caring for people with disabilities supported during the lockdown**
- **24 training courses delivered with 379 participants**
- **37 Clubs received funding through Community Hubs, Women in Sport and the LSP Sport & Physical Activity Small Grant Scheme**
- **35 Clubs received funding from the COVID-19 Small Club Grant Scheme**
- **€761,901 funding was received by Laois Sports Partnership to deliver on initiatives and COVID-19 supports**

Target groups focused on during 2020 included children and young people, families, teenage girls/women, disadvantaged communities, men over 45, older adults with integration initiatives, lifestyle intervention programmes and programmes for people with a disability. We will continue to serve the people of Laois with the intention of fulfilling our mission to "Lead, co-ordinate, support, inform and deliver a range of sports and physical activity opportunities for our community". The pandemic highlighted the importance of being active with records of people out walking increasing by 50%. Post COVID-19 we plan to build on our previous success and grow participation levels in Laois. We now in Laois Sports Partnership, want all persons even those who do not take part in sports, easy access to both established and new sports as well as recreation and physical activity. It is also important that we continue to invest and develop our ranges of activities as there are ever increasing lifestyle health issues in Ireland. We work together with our local communities to create an environment that improves activity, health and wellbeing. With the population growth of the county it is key that Laois Sports Partnership continues to grow its strategic capacity and is supported as the lead agency for sports participation in County Laois.

Finally I would like to thank the staff of the LSP for their hard work, innovation and creativity in keeping Laois active throughout the pandemic. To all the Board members for their contribution and support throughout the year. To Sport Ireland, our partner agencies, volunteers, clubs and community voluntary organisations for their ongoing support and commitment to Laois Sports Partnership. I am confident that while the Strategic plan 2017-2021 provides significant challenges as well as the added COVID-19 challenges in 2020 Laois Sports Partnership will remain to continue on in a positive and productive manner to ensure this implementation of the visions and goals of LSP.

Is mise le meas

Eibhlín Smith

On behalf of the Chair & Board, Ms Smith thanked the LSP Team for their hard work and commitment over a very difficult year.

1. Apologies

As above

2. Minutes of AGM on 26/06/20

Proposer: C. Reilly

Seconder: G. Luttrell

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising

4. Correspondence

Quotations from auditors for Audit & Preparation of Financial Statements y/e 31st Dec 2019 / 2020 / 2021 received from Burns Shanahan (on file from 2019 - unchanged)

No other correspondence

5.a Approval of Accounts

Presented to the Board by Mr. Kieran Burns, Burns Shanahan Chartered Accountants.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and to the unprecedented need to hold the AGM online, it was not possible to circulate hard copies of the Financial Statements to Board Members as is usual practise.

No issues arising from audit. Full auditors report included in financial statements.

In summary, Covid did not financially weaken the company – funding increased which was managed excellently by the team. Stable business, no uncertainties and stronger balance sheet. Cash in bank buoyant with only minor liabilities. Congratulated Ms Lawlor, Ms Myers and the team on good management of finances.

No further questions arising.

Ms. Smith thanked Ms Lawlor and Ms Myers for financial management and work done to assist with preparation of year end accounts.

Proposer: W. Wilkinson

Secunder: K. Phelan

5.b Appointment of Auditors

Burns Shanahan Chartered Accountants had appointed for a three-year term at the 2019 AGM. As the Executive Committee were satisfied with the audit process and Financial Statements produced, Burns Shanahan were formally re-appointed as Auditors for year ending 31st of December 2021 by unanimous decision.

5. c Retirement / (Re) Appointment of Directors

L. Brennan, J. Finn, M. O'Boyle and K. Phelan due for Retirement/Re-Election in line with governance policy.

On behalf of the Board Ms. Smith thanked retiring Directors Mr. Brennan and Mr Finn for their long and excellent service LSP and to the Board. Their contribution was amazing and exemplary, from being founding members through to the present day.

Ms Myers echoed this, and on behalf of the staff – both past and present – thanked them for their many years of advice and support, and to her personally when they held the Chairpersons positions.

Mr Finn said it was the end of an era, having been involved with the organisation from inception to its being a household name in the county. On behalf of himself and Mr Brennan, he wished the Board and Team continued success into the future. Mr Finn thanked everyone and reiterated that he would be available to support the LSP whenever called upon.

Ms O'Boyle and Ms Phelan having previously indicated their willingness to stand for re-election were proposed by C. Reilly and seconded by N. Tully.

Ms Smith thanked them both for their continued support.

Election of Officers

Ms Myers: As Mr Brennan was retiring from the Board, Mr Luttrell had given permission for his name to be put forward for election as Company Secretary.

Ms Myers checked terms of office of revised constitution and Ms Smith in a position to remain as Chairperson for one final year.

Proposed by K. Phelan
Seconded by G. Luttrell

Mr Reilly also in a position to remain as Treasurer for one final year.

Proposed by E. Smith
Seconded by K. Phelan

A Finance Audit & Risk Committee to be recruited with external skillset. Chairperson to sit on the committee, and a terms-of-reference has been drafted. Terms-of-reference for the Executive Committee remains unchanged.

Mr Finn: Suggest that for succession planning, when appointing a vice-chair, that they shadow the Chairperson.

Agreed unanimously that the appointment be made outside the AGM with a view to starting in September, allowing time for absent Board members to consider their interest in the role.

Mr Luttrell enquired if any new members would be recruited?

Ms Myers: Yes, an Expression of Interest Form would be circulated to recruit a Community Rep and a Disability Rep. Mr Finn to remain sitting on Disability Sub Committee.

6. Information Items.

LSP Annual Report to be circulated to Board on completion and will be used as part of application for the Governance Awards.

In reviewing the work delivered, Ms Myers said the LSP have worked harder than in any previous year, developing new resources and adapting ways of delivery – especially when reaching out to the most vulnerable groups. Ms Slattery (SIDO) worked tremendously hard to engage with people and families with disabilities. The entire team were to be credited for their resilience, adaptability and the quality and volume of work produced over the year.

Ms Smith: Well done to the team dealing with huge transitions from face-to-face to distanced/online delivery. A blended approach would be continued into the future.

Congratulations to the team echoed by the Board.

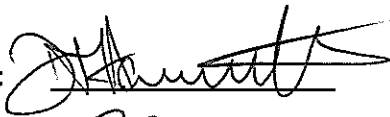
7. AOB

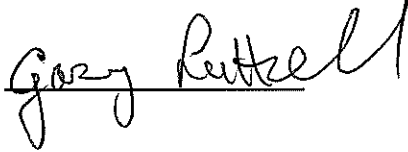
Ms Myers thanked Board member for their participation in online Governance Training.

Mr Reilly thanked Ms Myers, Ms Lawlor, Team & Ms Smith for their work.

Mr Luttrell supported this view and highlighted the particular effort that was needed to adapt and juggle tasks.

Ms. Smith thanked the Board & Staff for their participation, time, and work over the year.
As there was no further business arising, Ms. Smith closed the AGM.

Proposed: 

Seconded: 

Signed: 
Chairperson

Date: 13/06/2022

