

**MINUTES OF THE PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> OF APRIL 2024 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE**

**PRESENT:** Ms. Catherine Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)  
Mr. Barry Walsh, M.C.C.  
Ms. Caroline Dwane Stanley, M.C.C.  
Mr. John Joe Fennelly, M.C.C.  
Ms. Marie Tuohy, M.C.C.  
Ms. Thomasina Connell, M.C.C.  
Mr. Willie Aird, M.C.C.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services  
Mr. Wes Wilkinson, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

**1. VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

On the proposition of Councillor Marie Tuohy and seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell, it was unanimously agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the Walsh Family, Esker Hills, Portlaoise on the recent death of Mr. Mark Walsh.

**2. MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH 2024**

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Willie Aird, the minutes of the March meeting of Portlaoise Municipal District held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 were confirmed as circulated.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MARCH MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH 2024**

A map of the various areas in Broomville and Kylebrook, previously taken in charge and to be taken in charge, was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting. This followed on from a discussion on Notice of Motion No: 49/2024 at the March Meeting, as follows:

***“That this Council give an update on the taking in charge of Broomville Close, Portlaoise”***

If no concerns are expressed, it was agreed to give notice of the intention to take in charge remaining areas in Broomville/Kylebrook. Public Notice to be published in early May.

Councillor Thomasina Connell raised Notice of Motion No: 40/2024 which was considered at the March meeting of the MD:-

*"That the Portlaoise Municipal District carry out maintenance at the Portlaoise Leisure Centre Playground to include fence repairs, re-surfacing under the swings, slides and other equipment and carry out maintenance on the grass edges as required"*

The Members were advised that The Sport & Leisure Section have scheduled annual maintenance and repairs for all playgrounds from Feb to July 2024. Subject to weather conditions, Portlaoise Leisure Centre's maintenance and repair programme is scheduled for the week of 15th April 2024. The work will include surfacing and fencing works. Councillor Connell enquired as to when these works would commence.

#### **4. TRAFFIC SURVEY FOR BALLYROAN**

Mr. Wes Wilkinson, Senior Executive Engineer delivered a presentation on the recent traffic surveys, undertaken in Ballyroan, summarizing key findings and recommendations. The presentation included details on the Road Safety Inspection held in June 2023 and the Automatic Traffic Speed Counts and Junction Turning Counts at priority locations in Ballyroan, carried out in January 2024. The recommendations were discussed and it was noted that some have already been progressed. It was acknowledged that the survey/presentation provided an appropriate basis for follow-on funding applications and for the prioritisation of required works.

#### **5. Notice of Motions**

##### **Notice of Motion No: 57/2024**

Councillor Thomasina Connell proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*"That Laois County Council Roads Section undertake an assessment of pedestrian crossing facilities at the Dublin Road, Portlaoise with a view to addressing the needs of pedestrians travelling to and from Downey's, Kilminchy Retail Area, Dun Masc, Dunamaise View and from either side of the newly installed bus stops"*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design Department will carry out a review of the pedestrian crossing facilities on the Dublin road.

**Notice of Motion No: 58/2024**

Councillor Thomasina Connell proposed the following Notice of Motion: \_

***"That the Portlaoise Municipal District provide an update on the Outdoor Performance Space currently under construction at the Laois School of Music"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that works on the Outdoor Performance and Event Space are progressing and the venue is likely to be fully completed and available for use by June 2024.

**Notice of Motion No: 59/2024**

Councillor Thomasina Connell proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That the Portlaoise Municipal District install yellow lines at Ratheven Heights in order to ensure safe parking of vehicles"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. The Members were advised that the Portlaoise MD will make arrangements to install double yellow lines opposite House No. 12, Ratheven Heights in the direction towards the nearby apartment block.

**Notice of Motion No: 60/2024**

Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That this Council give an update on the delay with the deep retrofitting programme for St Brigid's Place and include Balladine Heights and Balladine Drive, Abbeyleix in the programme for next year"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh. The Members were advised that retrofitting works on the houses in St. Brigid's Place are being delivered in 3 phases. Surveys of the houses in Phase 1(15 units) has commenced and retrofitting works will commence in Q. 3 of 2024. Surveys of the remaining houses in Phase 2 & 3 will commence in Q 4 2024 with retrofitting works to commence on Phase 2 in 2025. Balladine Heights and Balladine Drive

can be considered for inclusion in future retrofitting programmes subject to appropriate funding being approved.

**Notice of Motion No: 61/2024**

Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That this Council carry out road repairs and drainage works to Cromague Lane"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that Mr. Wes Wilkinson, Senior Executive Engineer will make myself available to meet Councillor Stanley at the location to examine the

**Notice of Motion No: 62/2024**

Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That this Council install a yellow box at the entrance to Colliers View, Colliers Wood and Colliers Court and ensure a Bus Stop is erected at the estate for the roll out of the new town bus"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. The Members were advised that the Portlaoise MD Office will make arrangements to install a yellow box on the L-6137 Colliers Lane at the entrance to Colliers View, Colliers Wood & Colliers Court. Bus stops will be provided in accordance with the design set out by the National Transport Authority.

**Notice of Motion No: 63/2024**

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Portlaoise Municipal District calls Laois County Council to facilitate the removal of clay from the housing development at Rockview Housing Estate"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has no direct role regarding the removal of the material. Notwithstanding that, Laois County Council has met with the developer and has advised and supported the means by which the material can be removed from the site.

**The following two Notice of Motions were taken together:-**

**Notice of Motion No: 64/2024 proposed by Councillor Willie Aird**

*"That Portlaoise Municipal District calls on Laois County Council to make safe the entrances to Cherrygarth and Kylebrook Housing Estates following the re-alignment of the Abbeyleix Road"*

**Notice of Motion No: 67/2024 proposed by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald**

*"That this Council review all the exits on the Abbeyleix Road with a view to making them safer for residents and businesses and that additional signage be included coming out of the estates for crossings, footpaths, cycle lanes, etc., in particular at Cherrygarth and Kylebrook housing estates"*

The Notice of Motions were seconded by Councillor Marie Tuohy. The Members were advised that revisions to the entrances at Cherrygrath and Kylebrook will commence shortly.

**Notice of Motion No: 65/2024**

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*"That Laois County Council provide a speed radar sign in the vicinity of the entrance to St. Fintan's Hospital and the entrance to the Down's on the Stradbally Road, Portlaoise"*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet with Councillor Aird to discuss the proposed location of a speed radar sign.

**Notice of Motion No: 66/2024**

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*"That this Council remove the wide bank in Ballymacken to improve safety on the road L6770"*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that Mr. Wes Wilkinson, Senior Executive Engineer will make himself available to meet Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald on site to examine the issues.

**Notice of Motion No: 68/2024**

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*"That this Council install danger signs on both sides of Rathnamanagh Bridge"*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that Mr. Wes Wilkinson, Senior Executive Engineer will examine the road in the vicinity of the Railway Bridge on the L-6136, Rathnamanagh and will make arrangements to install warning signs as appropriate.

**Notice of Motion No: 69/2024**

Councillor Barry Walsh proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council install a speed radar sign and create better sight lines for houses at the bottom of Spink Hill on the R430"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that Mr. Wes Wilkinson, Senior Executive Engineer will meet Councillor Walsh on site to examine the issue and also that Mr. James Dowling, Senior Executive Engineer will meet with Councillor Walsh to discuss the proposed location of a speed radar sign.

**Notice of Motion No: 70/2024**

Councillor Barry Walsh proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council include road -L659 near the Nore Bridge, Cloncough, Shanahoe in the Roads Programme for 2025"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that the Road L-1659 will be noted for consideration in the Roads Programme for 2025.

**Notice of Motion No: 71/2024**

Councillor Barry Walsh proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council clean out roadside drainage on the road between Doon Bridge and Roskelton, Raheen which has become overgrown and is also full of dumped white goods and rubbish"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that Mr. Rory O' Callaghan, Senior Executive Engineer will liaise with the Municipal District Office and arrange for the disposal of any waste materials and Mr. Wes Wilkinson, Senior Executive Engineer will make arrangements to examine the location with a view to carry out drain cleaning works.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 72/2024**

Councillor John Joe Fennelly proposed the following Notice of Motion

*"That this Council remove the ditch at the Abbeyleix side of Derrykearn Cross and replace it with timber and wire fencing"*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that Mr. Wes Wilkinson, Senior Executive Engineer will meet Councillor Fennelly on site with a view to examining the location and including the junction as an application for safety improvement works for 2025.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 73/2024**

Councillor John Joe Fennelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*"That this Council install a pull in bay on the road at Graiguenahown, Spink as only one car can pass safely on this road"*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh. The Members were advised that Mr. Wes Wilkinson, Senior Executive Engineer will meet Councillor Fennelly on site with a view to examining the road in question, agree the location and carry out works as appropriate.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 74/2024**

**Councillor John Joe Fennelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

*"That this Council ensure that all junctions on all roads are clear from grass and vegetation growth in the interest of safety"*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that The Portlaoise MD Office will commence it's verge trimming works on regional road junctions and priority junctions on local roads in early Summer.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 75/2024**

Councillor Marie Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*"That this Council re-mark the roundabout at Esker Hills and the 2 ramps between there and Green Mill Lane"*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell. The Members were advised that We will make arrangements to re-mark these locations to refresh road markings at these locations.

**Notice of Motion No: 76/2024**

Councillor Marie Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That this Council give an update on the progress on the Dog Park in the Linear Park”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell. The Members were advised that it is intended that works will commence on the Dog Park in Q. 2 of this year subject to weather and ground conditions being suitable.

**6. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence received since the last meeting of the Municipal District.

**7. Fix Date for Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2024.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

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Director of Services