

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE AND VIA MICROSOFT  
TEAMS ON THE 16<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2023**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor	John King – In the Chair
Councillor	Ollie Clooney
Councillor	James Kelly
Councillor	Conor Bergin
Councillor	Paddy Bracken
Councillor	Seamus McDonald

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Mr. Edmond Kenny, Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. Orla Fitzpatrick, A/S.O., Community Section & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs.

**(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the October meeting of Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2023**

On the proposition of Councillor Ollie Clooney seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the minutes of the October meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 were confirmed as circulated.

**(2) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Budget meeting of Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2023**

On the proposition of Councillor Ollie Clooney seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the minutes of the budget meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 were confirmed as circulated.

**(3) Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the above meetings.

**(4) Notice of Motions**

**Notice of Motion No: 123/2023**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That Laois County Council address the flooding and drainage issues at Clonard, Mountrath as a matter of priority”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that an Engineer will inspect the existing drainage infrastructure at this location to determine the cause of the flooding and to identify a possible drainage outfall to solve this issue.

**Notice of Motion No: 124/2023**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That Laois County Council address the surface water issues at Spa Hill, Mountrath”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member at the site to examine the area of concern.

**Notice of Motion No: 125/2023**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That Laois County Council install additional kerbing on the L1620 at Pilgrim Hill, Gash, Castletown to enhance drainage measures”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member at the site to examine the drainage issues.

**Notice of Motion No: 126/2023**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That Laois County Council upgrade the amenity area at the catholes, Rosenallis”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that a meeting will be arranged on site with the Councillor to examine potential works and funding sources.

**Notice of Motion No: 127/2023**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That Laois County Council survey the River bank downstream at Clonduff”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that In the New Year, when water levels have rescinded enough, the River Barrow at Clonduff will be inspected.

**Notice of Motion No: 128/2023**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That Laois County Council give an update on progress on the River Barrow bridge at Rearyalley, Rosenallis”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that repairs to the bridge structure and the construction of a fish pass are proposed. Due to the extent of the works proposed and the sensitivities of the river an application to An Bord Pleanala is required. Ecologists have been engaged to prepare a Natura Impact Statement to assess the likely impacts the proposed project will have on the River Barrow Special Area of Conservation. The Natura Impact Statement will be complete in December 2023 with an application to An Bord Pleanala in the Spring of 2024.

**Notice of Motion No: 129/2023**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That this Council through its Active Travel Fund or whatever funding stream available take the necessary actions to install an extension of the existing footpath on the Ballyfin Road Mountrath to the Muiriosa Foundation facility to enhance safe access to the town for their clients and staff”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were Advised that There is no current funding allocation available under the NTA Active Travel Funding for this location. Alternative funding will have to be sourced and secured in order for the works requested to be progressed. Should a source of funding become available the Road Design section in conjunction with the Municipal District office will make the necessary arrangements for same.

**Notice of Motion No: 130/2023**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That this Council install traffic calming measures as a matter of urgency at the L1612/L56 junction Knockaroo Cross in close proximity to Kilcotton GAA grounds and Knockaroo Church”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were Advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member at the site to examine the safety concerns.

**Notice of Motion No: 131/2023**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That this Council through its Business Support Unit, Local Enterprise Office and Laois Leader Partnership offices provide all their supports, grant aids and professional expertise to engage with Mountrath Co-Op Livestock Mart committee to**

**help them with costs associated with reopening the business”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that to-date Laois County Council have been in contact with Mountrath Co-op Livestock Mart Committee advising them on the various supports that might be available through the LEO Office to help them with the re-opening of the businesses. As advised to the committee, Laois County Council’s capital funds are directed towards manufacturing and export orientated businesses which means unfortunately that LEO would not be able to provide funding support for the reopening of the mart. There may be some options at a later stage if they were looking to diversify into something else but at the moment they are only looking at a return to business as per previous operations. We will continue to engage with the committee in terms of soft supports i.e., mentoring/training etc., that they might wish to avail of at a later stage.

**Notice of Motion No: 132/2023**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That this Council put a ramp on the road at the Stores Daybreak, Durrow and consider the possibility of reversing the flow of traffic on this one way street”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that the provision of a ramp at Daybreak can and will be accommodated. The decision to reverse the direction of flow for those using the one-way system will be considered following a period of monitoring traffic movements around the Green.

**Notice of Motion No: 133/2023**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That this Council carry out an inspection on the bridge at Cannonswood, Cullohill”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the bridge will be cleared of vegetation for further inspection. The Elected Member will be updated on the condition of the bridge following the inspection.

**Notice of Motion No: 134/2023**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That this Council extend the path on the Clogh Road, Ballacolla”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will liaise with the National Transport Authority with regard to the provision of footpath facilities on this side of the Village.

**Notice of Motion No: - 135/2023**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That this Council give an update on funding that was approved some years ago for major road works at Middlemount, Rathdowney. This particular stretch of road has taken the lives of young people from the area. This request for works is a matter of serious urgency before more fatalities occur”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were Advised that Laois County will prepare & submit a Specific Improvement Grant application to the Department of Transport for works at Middlemount, Rathdowney.

**Notice of Motion No: 136/2023**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That this Council re-surface the road in Errill village and also repair damaged footpaths outside disused post office”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the Village of Errill will be resurfaced as part of the current 3 year multi-annual roadworks programme. Staff from Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member at the site to inspect the damaged footpaths.

**Notice of Motion No: 137/2023**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That this Council carry out some drainage works under road at Ballybrophy, Borris-in-Ossory to stop flooding occurring at the newly developed glamping site that was opened this year”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were Advised that Trial holes are scheduled to be excavated at the site to identify services which may conflict with the replacement of the existing culvert. The Elected Member will be updated following these works.

**Notice of Motion No: 138/2023**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That this Council replace the broken flashing beacons at Derrylamogue National School, Rosenallis”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were Advised that Laois County Council Road Design section will arrange for the replacement of the flashing warning signs as requested.

**Notice of Motion No: 139/2023**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That this Council carry out traffic calming measures to control the speed at Ballyfin Community Centre ”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design section will assess the current traffic speeds at this location and thereafter considered measures as necessary.

**Notice of Motion No: 140/2023**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That this Council re-locate the current disabled parking bay at St. Joseph’s Church, Sarsfield Street, Mountmellick to make it more user friendly”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members Were advised that the relocation of the disabled parking bay is approved. Works to the footpath to facilitate vulnerable road users will be undertaken in the coming weeks.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

It was noted that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting of the Municipal District.

**5. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next monthly meeting of the Municipal District would be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

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Director of Services

