

**MINUTES OF THE BORRIS IN OSSORY/ MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE
22nd of SEPTEMBER 2017**

PRESENT:

Councillor	John King (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor	David Goodwin
Councillor	Paddy Bracken
Councillor	Seamus McDonald
Councillor	Brendan Phelan
Councillor	James Kelly

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer, & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary, Corporate Affairs.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE July MONTHLY MEETING OF
BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON
THE 20TH OF JULY 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken the Minutes of the June meeting held on the 20th of July 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

3. COMMUNITY FACILITIES SCHEME

The Members were circulated with details of the Community Facilities Scheme for 2017 and advised that the process had been approved by the LCDC. On the proposal of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members of the Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District approved the Community Facilities Scheme 2017 as presented. The Members welcomed the allocation

4. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 119/2017

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide traffic calming measures at Troy’s Cross, Birr Road, Clonaslee”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will examine the location and consult Councillor McDonald in relation to concerns at this location

Notice of Motion No: 120/2017

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide traffic calming measures at the Deadman’s, Ballyfin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor David Goodwin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will examine the location and consult Councillor McDonald in relation to concerns at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 121/2017

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair damaged bridge at Laccamore, Killeigh”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that the bridge in question will be inspected with a view to having it included in a programme for repair as required.

Notice of Motion No: 122/2017

Councillor David Goodwin proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That this Council provide traffic calming at Patterson Estate, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will examine the location and consult Councillor Goodwin in relation to concerns at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 123/2017

Councillor David Goodwin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair the road at Daly’s Hill, Coolagh, Clonaslee”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will carry out repairs to the road at this location.

Councillor McDonald also requested that the flooding issue outside house at Coolagh be resolved.

Notice of Motion No: 124/2017

Councillor David Goodwin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair the road at Campclone, Ballyfin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will carry out repairs to the road at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 125/2017

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council pursue with the Department of Transport the re-introduction of the Local Improvement Scheme for the upgrade and improvement of local private roads”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by David Goodwin. The Members were advised that The Department of Transport have recently requested expressions of interest from Local Authorities relating to Local improvement schemes for 2017. A return based on the applications on file has been submitted to the Department. Members expressed concern in relation to applications for Local Improvement Schemes which are on hand with Laois County Council since the Scheme was discontinued. It was noted that the Department of Transport have been notified with the list of outstanding schemes. It was also noted that an announcement is expected shortly.

Notice of Motion No: 126/2017

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council address the ongoing flooding/sewage overflow problem at Old Borris, Castletown”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that an initial site visit has been undertaken with follow up now required with a number of Departments to establish the situation at this location. Mr. Paul McLoughlin indicated that he would discuss the issues with the Planning Department and Irish Water with a view to addressing the problem at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 127/2017

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install a stop sign at Cullenwood, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the junction in question and make provision for signage as appropriate.

Notice of Motion No: 128/2017

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council develop a strategy to identify and eradicate the spread of Japanese Knotweed in our Municipal area and across the county.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council have prepared A Guidance Document for the Identification, Treatment and Control of Japanese Knotweed which has been approved by the Transportation, Environment & Emergency Services SPC.

It was further noted by the meeting that over 60 locations have been identified in the Municipal District and that treatment has commenced. The IFA have been advised to spread the word and the SPC have been advising the public also. It was noted that the knotweed would spread by hedgecutting. The Members were advised that a notice would be published in the paper with regard to this and that the guidance document would also be available on the Internet for the public to refer to.

Notice of Motion No: 129/2017

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect a safety fence around the grass area at Ard Erin Housing Estate, Camross”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that the open space layout is in keeping with modern practice which makes these areas more inclusive for its users. Laois County Council does not favour fencing green areas.

Councillor James Kelly advised that the location in question was very close to the public road and it was a danger for children playing on the green area. Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer indicated that the matter would be referred back to the housing department in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 130/2017

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide funding for the painting of the exterior of the Old Courthouse in Borris-in-Ossory”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that consideration will be given to this proposal in the context of the Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2018 and the range of funding sources which may be available

The Members requested that Laois County Council would make application to the Department of Heritage for funding for the repair and upgrade of the Courthouse in order to preserve the building.

Notice of Motion No: 131/2017

Councillor Brendan Phelan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide a gully to remove flooding at House at Crab Road, Rathdowney”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the location and improve road drainage as appropriate.

Notice of Motion No: 132/2017

Councillor Brendan Phelan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair potholes on the Ballacolla/ Abbeyleix Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County council will carry out repairs to the road at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 133/2017

Councillor Brendan Phelan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update for the completion of the upgrade of Donaghmore Village”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that A compromised solution has been developed taking into consideration road safety issues, existing access requirements and the enhancement of the area. Works are to commence in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 134/2017

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide advice and support through the Sport & Leisure Office/horticulture and Area Engineer in the development of the open space on the old church site (shrine area) at Main Street, Rathdowney”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council continue to provide support as appropriate to such projects within the resources available to the Local Authority.

The Members advised that the 200th anniversary was coming up. Some discussion in relation to the proposal and the possible impacts on the shrine and parking etc. ensued. Councillor King concluded that he was happy to have the commitment of the Area Engineer. Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer reiterated that the Council would provide support to such projects as appropriate.

Notice of Motion No: 135/2017

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council request funding for bus shelters in Rathdowney/ Borris-in-Ossory and Mountrath in order to provide safety for patrons

using this service”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council have developed a policy for the provision of bus shelters within the County through the SPC. Funding for various locations will be sought from the National Transport Agency the Clar Programme and own resources as appropriate.

Notice of Motion No: 136/2017

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council review speed signs at New Line Road, Mountrath and in all towns & villages in the Mountmellick / Borris in Ossory area in view to extend them to protect people who have built and bought houses outside the speed zone area”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council are currently undertaking the process of a speed limit review for the county. Public Consultation involving a period for submissions and observations from members of the public elected representatives and other stakeholders ended on the 21st of August and submissions received are currently under consideration. The Final Speed limit Byelaws will come before Elected Member for approval later in the year.

5. LOCAL AREA PLAN CONSIDERATION

The Members were advised that The Planning Department are commencing the process of preparing new Local Area Plans for Portlaoise, Mountmellick and Portarlinton. The pre draft preparation process has already commenced with a view to having Draft Plans on display in January/February 2018. It is proposed to carry out a range of consultations in the pre draft stage with all relevant stakeholders including statutory bodies, groups registered on the PPN and the general public. There will be a non statutory, pre draft, public consultation period between the 9th and 27th October 2017. To facilitate this, an issues paper will be published at the start of October to generate discussion and inviting written submissions. A number of events such as meetings, focus groups and an open morning will be held to garner public opinion on the key issues relating to the three towns. Notification of events will be via Laois County Council’s website and by written invitation where appropriate.

The Members requested an update in relation to Local Area Plans for the smaller towns in the area. Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services indicated that he would have an update for the next meeting in relation to this.

5. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District would be held on the 19th of October 2017 at 9.30 a.m. in the Fine Gael Room and that the Budget Meeting would follow.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS**