

Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae on the 17th April 2019 at 11:00 am

Present: Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C. Chairperson

Caroline Dwane Stanley, M.C.C. Willie Aird, M.C.C., John Joe Fennelly, M.C.C., Noel Tuohy, M.C.C., Pauline Madigan, M.C.C. Mary Sweeney, M.C.C.

In attendance: Michael Rainey, A/Director of Services, Wes Wilkinson Senior Executive Engineer, Angela Marshall, Staff Officer.

1) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 3RD OF APRIL 2019

On the proposal of Councillor Dwane Stanley and seconded by Councillor Sweeney the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd April 2019 were confirmed and circulated.

2) MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Sweeney mentioned a letter received from Minister Flanagan in relation to Bondra Lane. The Chairperson, Cllr. Fitzgerald, advised that there was also a Notice of Motion in relation to the same subject and it would be more appropriate to discuss at that stage.

3) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

61/2019 – Councillor Mary Sweeney	Mr. Michael Rainey, A/D.O.S.,
“That Laois County Council provide an update on the provision of additional car parking facilities at Portlaoise Railway Station”	The Council has secured URDF funding for this project and is currently engaged with the landowner and an Approved Housing Body on the overall design and contract.
	Seconded by Cllr. John Joe Fennelly
62/2019 – Councillor Mary Sweeney	Ms. Kim Kinsella, A.O., Roads
“That the Department of Rural and Community Development be requested to extend the designated area in the Clár Programme to include the rural townlands including Ballyroan, Ballinakill, Abbeyleix and Portlaoise to allow community groups and organisations to apply for much needed funding”	A letter will issue to the Department requesting this extension of the Clár designated area to include Ballyroan, Ballinakill, Abbeyleix and Portlaoise.
	Seconded by Cllr. John Joe Fennelly
	Cllr. Fitzgerald requested that The Rock be included in this letter.

<p>63/2019 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</p>	<p>Ms. Ann Marie Kelly, Environmental Awareness Officer</p>
<p>“That Laois County Council engages with the Clonkeen and District Community Group to assist in the development and funding of a Greenway/Cycle way on the disused Bord na Mona train line at Coolnacarten/Coolnamona”</p>	<p>I have already been in discussion with Clonkeen and District Community regarding their project and offered advice (over 2 weeks ago). They are in the process of contacting the land owner to discuss further and I have advised them to keep Laois County Council active in the discussion so we can offer them support and guidance as required.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. John Joe Fennelly</p>
<p>64/2019 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</p>	<p>Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.</p>
<p>“That this Council give an update on the plan and outline the funding for the upgrade of the Roundabout at Rockview Estate”</p>	<p>Laois County Council has completed the Part 8 planning process for the roundabout and all of the lands required for the construction of the roundabout are in the possession of Laois County Council. The proposed layout was assessed by way of an independent Road Safety Audit and all of the recommendations of the Road Safety Audit have now been incorporated into the design of the roundabout. Due to delay in approval in Part 8, initially approved funding was not available in 2018. Subsequently Laois County Council submitted a Specific Improvement Grant application for funding to the Department in November 2018 for a 2019 scheme. This has not been approved by Department for a 2019 scheme. Laois County Council will again apply to the Department for funding.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Noel Tuohy</p> <p>Wes Wilkinson advised that he will be carrying out some works on appearance of roundabout and signage which was welcomed.</p>

65/2019 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD Office
“That this Council replace the boundary fence that has fallen down in Higgins Park/ Carmody Way Fairgreen Estate”	The Portlaoise MD Office will examine this location and seek funding to carry out repairs to the boundary fencing at this location – this work will cost approximately €5k. Seconded by Cllr. Noel Tuohy
66/2019 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD Office
“That this Council request the utility Company that dug up the footpaths in Lakeglen to reinstate them properly”	The Portlaoise MD Office has liaised with the relevant utility company regarding this matter. The permanent reinstatement of the footpaths at this location will be completed this week. Seconded by Cllr. Noel Tuohy
67/2019 – Councillor Pauline Madigan	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD Office
“That this Council provide at least two speed ramps at Greenmill lane off the Mountmellick Road, Portlaoise”	I will make myself available to meet with Councillor Madigan and the residents to discuss the traffic calming measures along Greenmill Lane off the Mountmellick Road, Portlaoise. Seconded by Cllr. Caroline Dwane Stanley
68/2019 – Councillor Pauline Madigan	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD Office
“That this Council reduce the height of the foliage at the roundabouts in Kilminchy in order to ensure traffic can be seen from all angles”	Laois County Council will examine these locations in conjunction with our Horticulturist with a view to improve sightlines at these locations” Seconded by Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald
69/2019 – Councillor Pauline Madigan	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD Office
“That this Council put a pedestrian crossing from the traffic lights in the centre of town to the area outside the side of the Blow Dry Parlour at James Fintan Lalor Avenue, Portlaoise”	The proposed upgrade of Lyster Square includes for an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at this location. An application for funding for the project was submitted under the first call for funding under the Urban Renewal Development Funding

	<p>Scheme. Unfortunately funding was not received at the time. The application for funding will be made under the second call for funding under the Urban Renewal Development Funding Scheme expected later this year.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald</p>
<p>70/2019 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</p>	<p>Ms. Orla Barrett, S.E.E.</p>
<p>“That this Council request Laois County Council to provide more dog litter bins especially in popular walking routes”</p>	<p>Laois County Council continues to support the Green Dog Walker scheme in Laois. The scheme is a positive and proactive way to encourage and support responsible dog ownership. It aims to increase awareness of the problem of dog fouling which is among the most common and anti-social forms of littering. When you sign up to the scheme we will send you a complimentary green dog-walkers vis vest. By signing up you have ‘Taken the Pledge’ to always clean up after your dog, to carry extra doggie bags and to gladly give others a bag for their dog if they ask for one. By wearing the green vest you are indicating that you are a responsible dog-owner participating in and supporting the scheme. This scheme was re-launched on LCC Facebook page as part of Clean up Laois Week reaching over 12,000 individuals. There has been a tremendously positive response so far. And number of communities and members of the public have recently taken the pledge.</p> <p>In addition LCC will be launching doggie bag dispensers in a number of towns in 2019 on a trial basis, consideration can be given to including popular walking routes in the trial.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. John Joe Fennelly</p>

71/2019 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD Office
“That this Council request Laois County Council to make safe the junction at Young’s Farmhouse, Lauragh. Mountmellick / Emo/Portarlington cross as its very difficult and dangerous to see traffic coming from Portarlington”	I will make myself available to meet with Councillor Fitzgerald and the residents to discuss the issues near Young’s farmhouse Lauragh. Seconded by Cllr. Willie Aird
72/2019 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald	Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E., Road Design
“That this Council in the interest of safety raise the road surface and add additional lighting at the pedestrian crossing at the Killeshin Hotel”	This pedestrian crossing will be upgraded. Existing lights will be replaced with LED lantern and additional pole will be installed on central island to improve safety. Seconded by Cllr. Willie Aird
73/2019 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E., Portlaoise MD
“That this Council replace the wall at Parkavilla, Mountrath”	I have examined this location and made arrangements to make it safe in the short term and arrangements will be made to carry out repairs to the wall in the coming weeks. Seconded by Cllr. Mary Sweeney
74/2019 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E., Portlaoise MD
“That this Council widen the road at the Boleybeg/Ballinakill Junction on the main Carlow Road as there is a dangerous bend at this location”	I will arrange to meet Councillor Fennelly on site to discuss the matter. Seconded by Cllr. Mary Sweeney
75/2019 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Ms. Angela McEvoy, Senior Planner
“That this Council give an update on when broadband services will be provided in our villages in the Portlaoise Municipal District”	The provision of broadband services is being rolled out by a number of companies in the country. The majority of the roll out in rural areas is being done by wireless providers, eg Imagine, Premier, Aptus, Digiweb, etc. In addition to this, Eir are rolling out fibre to the home under the “350K project”.

	<p>At present the Laois Rural Fibre network is continuing to be rolled out by Eir throughout the County and is due to be completed this year. Laois will have over 6,000 rural premises connected under this project. Within the Portlaoise MD, currently there are 599 premises connected in Abbeyleix, 248 in Ballinakill, 345 in Portlaoise and Shanahoe has yet to be completed. Portlaoise and urban areas are being facilitated by private providers such as SIRO, SKY, etc.</p> <p>The National Broadband plan is yet to be announced.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Mary Sweeney.</p> <p>Unanimously agreed by all Councillors that recently announced roll out delay is unacceptable and request that Council send letter to Minister and 3 local T.Ds</p>
<p>76/2019 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</p> <p>“That Laois County Council through the offices of its excellent Heritage Officer liaise with the Irish Prison Service to establish the location, provenance and condition of the historic stained glass window which was removed into storage from the old chapel at Portlaoise Prison, so that it can be properly preserved and put on public display”</p>	<p>Ms. Catherine Casey, Heritage Officer</p> <p>The Heritage Officer will contact the Irish Prison Service to establish the location and condition of the historic stained glass window. A report will be done thereafter as to explain how best to proceed with the matter.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Pauline Madigan</p>
<p>77/2019 – Councillor William Aird</p> <p>“That the Portlaoise Municipal District call on TII to reinstate the white line and Signs at Bondra Lane on the Abbeyleix Road to indicate no overtaking”</p>	<p>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</p> <p>Road marking on National routes are managed by TII. Road Design Section will refer this issue to TII.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald</p>

78/2019 – Councillor William Aird	Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E., Portlaoise MD
“That the Portlaoise Municipal District call on Laois County Council to make safe the Stradbally Road at the junction to Annebrook”	Double yellow lines have been installed on the Portlaoise town side (left hand side) of the junction with Annebrook on the N80 Stradbally Road. As such the sightlines at the junction have been greatly improved. Seconded by Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald
79/2019 – Councillor William Aird	Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E., Portlaoise MD
“That the Portlaoise Municipal District call on Laois County Council to look at the high level green area in Rossvale with a view to making the area less attractive for anti-social behaviour”	The Portlaoise MD Staff & the Horticulturist will investigate the situation at this location. Seconded by Cllr. Caroline Dwane Stanley.

4. Report on Public Lighting by Mr. Farhan Nasiem.

Report circulated to Members and presented by Wes Wilkinson.

5. Correspondence

6. A.O.B.

5. FIX TIME, DATE & VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is to be held on the 15th May 2019 at 11.00 a.m. in the Council Chamber of Áras an Chontae.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

Certified: _____

DIRECTOR OF SERVICE

