

<b>Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 11.00 a.m.</b>
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**Present:** Mary Sweeny, M.C.C. Chairperson ,

Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C., Caroline Dwane Stanley, M.C.C.  
Willie Aird, A.C.C., John Joe Fennelly, M.C.C., Gerry Lodge, M.C.C.,  
Noel Tuohy, M.C.C.

**In attendance:** Kieran Kehoe, D.O.S., Wes Wilkinson, A.S.E., Kim Kinsella,  
A.O., Dermot Leonard, Assistant Engineer

**1) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017.**

On the proposal of Councillor Aird seconded by Councillor Lodge, the minutes of the meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 were confirmed and circulated

**2) MATTERS ARISING.**

Cllr. John Joe Fennelly queried the building in Ballinakill – Kieran Kehoe informed that legal action was now the next step.

**3) NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

<b>156/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Ms. Angela McEvoy, Senior Planner</b>
“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Cross of Newtown Estate in Ballyroan”	<p>As Constructed drawings have only recently been received (last week) and have been referred to Water Services for comment. If all is in order, it will be put on the Agenda in Q1 of 2018.</p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr. Dwane Stanley and requested that traffic calming measures be put in place when TIC</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. Lodge requested for the next meeting a list of how many estates are waiting to be TIC and that Mr. Pat Delaney be invited to speak at the next meeting</b></p>

<p><b>157/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise Municipal District</b></p>
<p><i>“That Laois County Council repair damage and prevent further flooding at Clontico, Ballyroan”</i></p>	<p><i>Laois County Council staff has met with the property owner on site and works are being carried out this week at this location.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. John Joe Fennelly</b></p>
<p><b>158/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise Municipal District</b></p>
<p><i>“That Laois County Council seek specific funding to upgrade the approach road to Heywood College from Ballypickas Cross – I am seeking a specific improvement scheme for this junction”</i></p>	<p><i>In relation to the upgrade of the approach road to Heywood College (local road L-3777-0), I have investigated the possibility of obtaining funding through a specific improvement scheme from the DTTAS. It is my understanding that this funding mechanism was suspended 4-5 years ago.</i></p> <p><i>In relation to the junction of L-3777-0 and R430 on the Abbeyleix/Carlow Road at Ballypickas Upper, we will refresh the road markings at this location in early 2018 and cut back the verges as part of our verge trimming programme.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b></p>
<p><b>159/2017 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b></p>
<p><i>“That this Council in the interest of safety install better warning signs at pedestrian crossings”</i></p>	<p><i>Road design will review Pedestrian crossing in Portlaoise town and install additional signage as required.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded by: Cllr. Aird</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Kehoe stated that Pedestrian crossings were at National Standards, however as part of the Portlaoise renewal a programme would be developed for same</b></p> <p><b>The Road Safety Plan was coming before the Full Council and this would be highlighted.</b></p>

<p><b>160/2017 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b></p>
<p>“That this Council install bicycle lanes on the Abbeyleix Road”</p>	<p>Laois County Council have made an application to TII for funding for cycle safety improvements between Meelick Junction on N77 and O’ Moore Park Roundabout.  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird</b>  <b>Kieran Kehoe added that an application had been made to the TII</b></p>
<p><b>162/2017 – Councillor Willie Aird</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise Municipal District</b></p>
<p>“That Laois County Council give a report to the Portlaoise municipal district regarding areas affected by recent flooding so that alleviation works can be undertaken to prevent future damage, in the Mountmellick road area especially at Harpurs lane, Liogard, Rossvale and on the Mountrath road area at the junction for Boughlone, Pallas and Coolnamona”</p>	<p>In relation to the rainfall event experienced in late November, the majority of surface water issues in the Portlaoise Municipal District related to the areas on the north-west side of Portlaoise town (the Mountmellick Road area) Roads crews and Fire Service crews attended various locations at that time.  Drains, culverts and pipelines were cleared and jetted where required.  The Portlaoise MD staff regularly monitor and maintain the inlet points to the major surface water culverts and surface water mains in Portlaoise town.  We will be carrying out additional drain cleaning and jetting works in late 2017 and early 2018. Some survey works will also need to be carried out to understand the issues at certain locations  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy who thanked all staff involved</b></p>
<p><b>163/2017 – Councillor Willie Aird</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b></p>
<p>“That Portlaoise Municipal Authority calls on Laois County Council to put ghost islands at the junction of the Stradbally road and Dysart at the sawmills and at Tarletons in Rossleighan”</p>	<p>Turning lane at the sawmills N80 will be considered under proposed resurfacing works in 2018. Installation of turning will be subject to width of road and approval of TII. The issue at Rossleighan will be referred to TII again who have refused this request previously.  <b>Seconded by: Cllr. John Joe Fennelly</b>  <b>Agreed to form a delegation of the 3 Chairs to present the issues to TII</b></p>

<b>164/2017 – Councillor Willie Aird</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise Municipal District</b>
<i>“That Portlaoise Municipal Authority calls on Laois County Council to seek funding to upgrade and make safe the road from the entrance to Heywood Community School to Ballypickas Cross”</i>	<i>In relation to the upgrade of the approach road to Heywood College (local road L-3777-0), I have investigated the possibility of obtaining funding through a specific improvement scheme from the DTTAS. It is my understanding that this funding mechanism was suspended 4-5 years ago.</i> <i>In relation to the junction of L-3777-0 and R430 on the Abbeyleix/Carlow Road at Ballypickas Upper, we will refresh the road markings at this location in early 2018 and cut back the verges as part of our verge trimming programme.</i> <b>Seconded by: Cllr. Sweeney – please consider as part of the Roads Programme</b>
<b>165/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b>	<b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b>
<i>“That this Council install cycle lanes and Traffic Calming Measures on the Ballyfin Road “</i>	<i>A speed camera was installed on the Ballyfin road last year, there are no plans for any other traffic calming measures this year, it can be looked in 2018 subject to funding being available.</i>  <b>Seconded by : Cllr. Tuohy</b>  <b>Request to look at traffic calming measures at this location</b>
<b>166/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b>	<b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b>
<i>“That this Council carry out a Road Safety Review and install extra traffic Calming Measures at the Roundabout at Fieldbrook Estate”</i>	<i>A Road Safety Audit was carried out as part of the capital scheme. Traffic calming measures are in place including speed radar signs and raised pedestrian crossings.</i>  <b>Seconded by : Cllr. Tuohy</b>
<b>167/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise Municipal District</b>
<i>“That this Council carry out drainage works at Dinnys Hill Spink”</i>	<i>I will arrange to meet Cllr Dwane Stanley on site next week to investigate the drainage issue at Dinnys Hill Spink.</i>  <b>Seconded by : Cllr. Fennelly</b>

<b>168/2017 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>	<b>Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise Municipal District</b>
<i>“That this Council grade the edge of the road surface at Crookey Wood Cross, Abbeyleix especially as you go down the Kyle Road”</i>	<i>I will arrange to meet Cllr Fennelly on site to investigate the issues at this location.</i>  <b>Seconded by : Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b>
<b>169/2017 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>	<b>Ms. Ann Carroll, A/A.O. Environment</b>
<i>“That this Council remove the four trees on the left hand side of St. Patrick’s Cemetery in Abbeyleix.</i>	<i>Laois County Council will inspect and if deemed necessary will have trees cut back or removed next year.</i>  <b>Seconded by : Cllr. Sweeney</b>
<b>170/2017 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>	<b>Ms. Kim Kinsella, A.O., Roads</b>
<i>“That this Council seek extra funding from the Department of the Environment under the Clár Roads Programme to complete applications sent to the Department, i.e. Raheen National School etc.”</i>	<i>The Clár application process is not available at the moment and when and if Laois County Council are notified of Clár funding, Laois County Council will make applications under this scheme and will include an application for Raheen National School.</i>  <b>Seconded by : Cllr. Aird</b>
<b>171/2017 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise Municipal District</b>
<i>“That this Council clearly mark with white lines on the surface of the road all pedestrian crossings around the town that need re-doing but especially the one on the Timahoe Road and the Stradbally Road which at this time have no lines ”</i>	<i>Arrangements will be made to refresh road markings at the required locations.</i>  <b>Seconded by : Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b>
<b>172/2017 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise Municipal District</b>
<b>173/2017 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</b>	<b>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services</b>
<i>“That this Municipal District request an update on efforts to return the Crimean cannon confiscated by the Army to Portlaoise”</i>	<i>Laois County Council have furnished further details to the Curragh Camp as requested and are awaiting a final response from them</i> <b>NOT READ</b>

#### 4). A FRAMEWORK FOR TOWN RENEWAL

Kieran Kehoe informed the Members that the Town Team had met for a second time. It was agreed that all Members be on the Town Team.

#### 5). ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- There was a discussion regarding salting outside schools under the Winter Maintenance programme – Kieran Kehoe agreed he would look into a mechanism for a local response
- A letter of sympathy to issue regarding Francis Fitzgibbon and extended to the Kelly family. Members thanked the Council staff at the graveyard
- Sympathy to the family of Jennifer Gill
- All Members congratulated the Gardai who were recently recognised for 1976.
- Kieran Kehoe reflected on the work the Municipal had achieved in 2017, and looked at the year ahead where the Portlaoise Southern Circular will be progressed, the Portlaoise Town Renewal will seek funding from the Urban Regeneration Fund and the Portlaoise Vision Statement can progress.
- Kieran Kehoe spoke about shopping local and informed Members that for the Christmas period parking would be free for the first hour.
- The Members thanked all staff of Laois County Council
- A formal review of 2017 be on the next agenda and that a Press release go to the Media with the details of same.

#### 6. CORRESPONDENCE

*None*

#### 7. FIX TIME, DATE & VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING.

*The next meeting is to be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 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.**