

**Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae  
on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017 at 11.00 a.m.**

**Present:** John Joe Fennelly, M.C.C. Chairperson ,  
Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C., Caroline Dwane Stanley, M.C.C.  
Willie Aird, A.C.C., Mary Sweeney, M.C.C., Gerry Lodge, M.C.C.

**Apologies:** 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 17<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2017.**

On the proposal of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the minutes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 were confirmed and circulated.

**2) MATTERS ARISING**

None

**3) Speed Limit Review**

Mr. Kieran Kehoe informed the members of the process and that there will be a further public consultation stage before it will be brought before Full Council.

Dermot Leonard summarised the speed limit review, locations and the proposed changes. He explained that if the Council and the TII did not agree on a speed limit the default would be the current speed limit.

The Members were not in favour where TII proposed to increase the speed limit.

Kieran Kehoe informed that the Road Safety Working together group were looking at Road Safety around the County and that a Plan will be shortly going before the SPC.

It was agreed that there would be further consultation with the Members after the Public Consultation.

**4) Proposed amendments to the Portlaoise Bye-Laws**

Kieran outlined that Laois County Council had received 4 submissions to the proposed amendments to the Portlaoise Parking Bye-Laws. These submissions were circulated to the members.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Content of Submission</i>	<i>Response from Roads</i>
<i>Laois Shopping Centre</i>	<i>Removal of taxi rank on Kylekeproe Road, and install full width footpath to road edge</i>	<p><i>This taxi rank is not currently being used enough as a taxi rank to warrant it being left as a taxi rank.</i></p> <p><i>It is not being used for Elderly or disabled persons as there is underground and same level parking available nearby.</i></p> <p><i>This location is not suitable for perpendicular parking as cars would be reversing out onto oncoming traffic.</i></p> <p><i>A loading bay may be considered subject to the outcome of a safe road audit at this location.</i></p> <p><b><i>No Decision Await Road Safety Audit</i></b></p>
<i>Midlands Prison</i>	<i>Multiple parking at the entrance to the Prison especially on Saturdays.</i>	<p><i>Along the main kirbline and cycle-lane on the R445 Dublin Road will be in the remit of the bye-laws. From the main road at the splayed entrance towards the prison reception will be the responsibility of the Prison Service. Laois County Council will install a yellow box at this entrance on R445 as requested during a site visit.</i></p> <p><b><i>Decision to install yellow box.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Proposed Cllr. Caroline Dwane Stanley</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Seconded Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald</i></b></p>
<i>Cllr. Fitzgerald</i>	<i>Request for a Loading bay in Railway street.</i>	<p><i>A loading bay at this location will result in the loss of 2 spaces. Of the 3 remaining there are 2 permits issued. This would result in 1 parking space at this location.</i></p> <p><i>Commercial vehicles can only park for 30mins in a loading bay</i></p> <p><b><i>Discuss at next meeting</i></b></p>

Millers Hardware	Request for no parking at Bull Lane	<p>In the proposed amendments to the Bye-Laws it is proposed to move the loading bay to the top of Bull lane. Signage will be addressed. This will alleviate this problem. Removal of all parking and a loading bay is not possible.</p> <p><b>Proposed by Cllr. Dwane Stanley – Seconded Cllr. Sweeney</b></p>
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It was agreed to discuss the request to increase Free Parking from 30 minutes to 45 minutes at the next meeting.

#### 4) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

<p><b>86/2017 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</b></p> <p><i>“That this meeting calls on Laois County Council and Irish Water to give an update on the unacceptable position regarding the sewerage system in Bull Lane as this was highlighted 2 years ago”</i></p>	<p><b>Ms. Ann Carroll, A/A.O., Water Services</b></p> <p><i>Due to delays with the procurement of survey contractors framework, as originally proposed, Irish Water has agreed to fast-track the survey works at Bull Lane and the subsequent construction works required.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr. Lodge -Request to send another letter to IW to deal with this matter as a priority.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</b></p>
<p><b>87/2017 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</b></p> <p><i>“That this meeting calls on Laois County Council to ensure that a reasonable level of water is maintained in the attenuation lake at Esker Hills to ensure wildlife is not adversely affected by a water shortage”</i></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</b></p> <p><i>The “pond” at Esker Hills is designed to attenuate surface water during periods of rainfall and is not specifically designed to retain water during dry periods.</i></p> <p><i>Following recent rain fall water levels have risen again.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded by; Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b></p>
<p><b>88/2017 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</b></p> <p><i>“That this meeting again calls on Laois County Council to prioritise the establishment of a County Museum as a matter of urgency”</i></p>	<p><b>Ms. Catherine Casey, Heritage Officer</b></p> <p><i>It is a an objective of both the Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023 and Portlaoise Local Area Plan 2012-2018 to facilitate the development of a museum within existing heritage buildings in Portlaoise. This has been further explored in the Vision Statement for Portlaoise Town Centre where sites have been identified within the town centre for such a use in combination with other uses such the</i></p>

	<p>Courthouse, the old Convent building and potentially other sites around Fitzmaurice Place, further investigation of these sites in conjunction with the relevant landowners is ongoing.</p> <p><b>Seconded by: Cllr. Fitzgerald</b></p>
<b>89/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b>	<b>Mr. Ian McCormack, S.E.O., Housing</b>
<p><i>“That this Council give an update on the Regeneration Program for O Moore Place including the energy upgrade”</i></p>	<p>Offers to purchase 2 properties have been accepted and repair works will be carried out to a further 2 properties.</p> <p>Contact has also been made with the owners of the adjoining field to determine whether they would be willing to dispose of same to the Council.</p> <p>A proposal is also being considered for the development of community allotments and garden and men’s shed on lands at Aras Eoghan.</p> <p>We are also considering options for energy efficiency measures for energy upgrades to the houses in O Moore Place.</p> <p><b>Cllr. Dwane Stanley requested an update at the next meeting on funding for external insulation.</b></p> <p><b>Seconded by: Cllr. Aird</b></p>
<b>90/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b>	<b>Ms. Angela McEvoy, Senior Planner</b>
<p><i>“That this Council give a progress report on the outstanding works and the taking in charge of Woodgrove and Woodgrove Lawns Estate and any future plans for the vacant site “</i></p>	<p>The Pumping station requires replacement, this matter is being addressed by Water services. Until such time as this issue is dealt with Taking in charge cannot be progressed. Laois County Council continue to try to acquire these lands.</p> <p><b>Cllr. Dwane Stanley requested the Director of Service to follow up on this issue.</b></p> <p><b>Kieran Kehoe will have report for next meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Seconded by: Cllr. Fitzgerald</b></p>

<p><b>91/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</b></p>
<p><i>“That this council give a progress report on the traffic count and audit that was to be carried out for the installation of a pedestrian crossing on Main Street Ballyroan near the junction of chapel street.”</i></p>	<p><i>The traffic count mentioned previously has yet to be carried out in Ballyroan. However an application for funding for a pedestrian crossing at this location is being submitted under the 2017 Towns and Villages Renewal Scheme.</i>  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney who requested that the public would be consulted before the works</b></p>
<p><b>92/2017 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b></p> <p><i>“That this Council install safety measures at Rathmoyle Road, Abbeyleix close to the entrance of Ashbrook Housing estate”</i></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</b></p> <p><i>A meeting will be arranged on site with Councillor Fennelly to investigate the specific issues at this location.</i>  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney</b></p>
<p><b>93/2017 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b></p> <p><i>“That this Council upgrade the road surface at Tullyroe, Abbeyleix from the Ballacolla Road Junction to the new Waste Water Treatment Plant”</i></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</b></p> <p><i>Road repairs have been carried out along this road within the last week. This section of road can be considered for resurfacing as part of the 2018 Roads Programme.</i>  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird</b></p>
<p><b>94/2017 – Councillor Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b></p> <p><i>“That this Council give an up to date timeframe for work at Chapel Street, Ballinkaill and also for the refurbishment of the two water pumps in Ballinakill Village “</i></p>	<p><b>Ms. Fionnuala Daly, Senior Social Worker,</b></p> <p><i>Tender documentation is currently being prepared as this project had to be re-tendered. Closing date for receipt of tenders is mid july.</i>  <b>Seconded by: Cllr. Dwane Stanley who requested a report of what has to be done.</b></p>
<p><b>95/2017 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p> <p><i>“That this Council be given an-up-date when Westlands Estate will be taken in charge”</i></p>	<p><b>Ms. Angela McEvoy, Senior Planner</b></p> <p><i>CCTV survey of underground services is being progressed and As Constructed drawings are being prepared. A timeframe will be advised at a future date for its taking in charge.</i>  <b>Seconded by: Cllr. Aird</b></p>
<p><b>96/2017 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p> <p><i>“That this Council inform members when the resurfacing of Hawthorn Drive will take place”</i></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</b></p> <p><i>Resurfacing works will be carried out in Hawthorn Drive within the next 2 weeks.</i>  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b></p>

<b>98/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</b>
<i>“That Laois County Council replace footpaths from Leinster Express office to James Fintan Lalor office”</i>	<i>Laois County Council have received an application for a Road Opening Licence for works at this location. It is intended that this section of footpath will be replace as part of these works.</i>  <b>Seconded by: Cllr. Lodge</b>
<b>99/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</b>
<i>“That Laois County Council remove large NDP signs adjacent to the Civic Plaza entrance at Laois County Council”</i>	<i>The signs at this location have been removed in the last few days.</i>  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird</b>
<b>100/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</b>
<i>“That Laois County Council install extra safety measures at bridge at junction of Upper Crubbin, Ballyroan, adjacent to new school”</i>	<i>A meeting will be arranged on site with Councillor Sweeney to investigate the issues at this location.</i>  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird</b>
<b>101/2017 – Councillor William Aird</b>	<b>Ms. Kim Kinsella, A.O., Roads</b>
<i>“That this Municipal District request Transport Infrastructure Ireland to attend our next meeting to outline the current position regarding the proposals for the roundabout at the Dublin Road at the junction at Ballyclider and the roundabout on the Abbeyleix Road at the junction to Meelick”</i>	<i>Laois County Council will write to the TII and request that a representative attend the next Portlaoise MD meeting.</i>  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</b>  <b>Kieran Kehoe to check if TII representative available to attend Municipal meeting</b>
<b>102/2017 – Councillor William Aird</b>	<b>Ms. Martina Bracken, A.O., Environment</b>
<i>“That this Municipal District request the Environment Section of Laois County Council to ensure that all rubbish that has been dumped at Knocknagrove at the junction of the Rathnamanagh Road be removed”</i>	<i>This incident was reported to &amp; inspected by the Litter Warden &amp; Waste Enforcement staff. Arrangements are being made for this waste to be removed &amp; checked for evidence on the 15 June 2017.</i>  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</b>

<b>103/2017 – Councillor William Aird</b>	<b>Mr. Ian McCormack, S.E.O., Housing</b>
<i>“That this Municipal District call on the Director of Services for Housing to ensure that in 2018 that Laois County Council are in a position to make an application for funding for the provision of a housing estate similar to the Conniberry Way Project”</i>	<i>The Housing section is considering options in relation to this matter. <b>Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</b></i>

**5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Members informed that CPO for Portlaoise Southern Circular will be published next week

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

*None*

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

*The next meeting is to be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017 @ 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.**