

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
MEETING HELD IN THE EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE AND VIA  
MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2024**

**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. James Dowling, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. James Dunne, Area Engineer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs.

**(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the April meeting of Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2024**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the minutes of the April meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 were confirmed as circulated.

**(2) Matters Arising**

Councillor James Kelly raised Notice of Motion No: 42/2024 as follows which was considered at the March meeting of the MD :-

**Notice of Motion No: 42/2023**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That Laois County Council carry out the necessary surveys and works to provide a hard shoulder on the R445 from Mountrath to Castletown in the interest of road safety for all”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design will assess the road space available to investigate if a hard shoulder can be accommodated along the R445 from Mountrath to Castletown – Councillor Kelly requested that progress be made on this matter in the coming months.

It was agreed that the matter would be investigated by the Road Design Office.

Councillor Paddy Bracken raised Notice of Motion No: 42/2024 as follows which was considered at the March meeting of the MD :-

**Notice of Motion No: 62/2024**

**Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:**

***“That this Council in conjunction with the T.I.I repair the footpaths that are damaged and dangerous along with the damaged sections of roads on the N80 through Mountmellick town”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design dept. will inspect the site and seek funding from TII for repairs to footpaths and road carriageway along the N80.

Councillor Bracken sought an update on funding for these works and if application had been made to the T.I.I. for the works. Mr. James Dowling, Senior Executive Engineer advised that the works are currently being costed.

***A discussion ensued regarding cemetery maintenance grants – it was noted that an additional fund of €11,000 was available. Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services advised that there will be a second call for applications later in the year.***

**(3) Briefing on the Mountmellick L.A.P.**

Mr. John O’ Hara, Executive Planner briefed the Members on the Mountmellick Local Area Plan and responded to the various queries raised by the Members. Mr. O’ Hara outlined the statutory process for the preparation of the Mountmellick Local Area Plan for the period 2024-2030. The Local Area Plan will set out a land use strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. It will consist of a written statement and maps indicating objectives for purposes such as economic and community development, residential development, heritage and culture, open space and recreation, transportation and infrastructure, urban design, flood risk and environmental protection. However, the current land use zoning was imposed under the County Development Plan process and therefore it is not envisaged that zoning will be altered under this process.

The Local Area Plan process will involve public consultation at three stages:

- **Stage 1:** Pre-Draft,
- **Stage 2:** Draft Plan,
- **Stage 3:** Proposed Amendments.

The first stage of public consultation has been completed. Consultation on the Issues Paper took place over a four-week period from from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 through 5pm on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 inclusive. A total of 11 no. submissions were received by Laois County Council during the consultation period. This report is a summary of those submissions and details the response of the Local Authorities in relation to same. The Members were advised that the making of a Local Area Plan is a reserved function of the Elected Members of Laois County Council.

The formal statutory process has now commenced and the publication of a draft Local Area Plan (6-week public consultation period) is the next step. The statutory Local Area Plan Process takes a minimum of 18 weeks to complete, from the date on which the draft plan is placed, with the following timeline to be adhered to;

- A 6-week minimum period within which the draft Joint Local Area Plan will be on public display,
- A 6-week period within which submissions or observations relating to the draft Local Area Plan may be made,
- On expiry of this 12-week stage, the Chief Executive shall prepare a report for the members consideration on any submissions or observations received during the public display period,
- A 6-week period within which the report of the Chief Executive will be considered by the members.

At the end of this third 6-week period, the draft Local Area Plan will become the formal Mountmellick Local Area Plan 2024-2030 unless the Council amend it by way of formal resolution.

#### (4) Notice of Motions

<b>Notice of Motion No: 64/2024</b>
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<b>Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-</b>
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<b><i>“That Laois County Council as a matter of urgency re-open the public toilets adjacent to the playground, health centre and white horse river in Mountrath”</i></b>
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This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the matter will be reviewed by the Local Authority in consultation with the local community and other interested parties.
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<b>Notice of Motion No: 65/2024</b>
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<b>Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-</b>
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<b><i>“That Laois County Council in the interest of road safety provide extra car park spaces at Old Forge Crescent Housing Estate New Line Road Mountrath”</i></b>
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This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the Laois County Council MD Staff will meet with Councillor Kelly on site to discuss the provision of additional car parking spaces in Old Forge Crescent.
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<b>Notice of Motion No: 66/2024</b>
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<b>Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-</b>
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<b><i>“That Laois County Council as a matter of urgency remove the 3 ft. grass margin at Upper Kiln Lane Mountrath to allow safe road access for fire and ambulance services”</i></b>
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This Notice of Motion was second by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Roads Maintenance crews will attend to this in the coming weeks.
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<b>Notice of Motion No: 67/2024</b>
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<b>Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-</b>
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***“That Laois County Council clear the drain adjacent at Garran, Ballybrophy”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Maintenance crews will attend to this drainage problem in the coming weeks

**Notice of Motion No: 68/2024**

**Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That Laois County Council clean out the drain at the Pike of Rushall between to the Honnor and Condell residences”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Maintenance crews will attend to this drainage problem in the coming weeks.

**Notice of Motion No: 69/2024**

**Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That Laois County Council address the traffic and speeding issues on the L-1612 at Knockaroo and Grange, Borris-In-Ossory”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council MD Engineers will meet Councillor Bergin on site to discuss the traffic and speeding issues on the L1612.

**Notice of Motion No: 70/2024**

**Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That this Council in conjunction with TII treat as a matter of urgency consider the provision of a pedestrian crossing and traffic lights at Smiths Corner on the N80 in Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will liaise with the TII Road Safety Section to assess the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing at Smiths corner on the N80 in Mountmellick.

**Notice of Motion No: 71/2024**

**Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That this Council address the serious road safety issues at the junction of Lord Edward Street/Connolly Street, Mountmellick as a serious accident will occur if this is not addressed”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council have arranged for an external consultant to carry out a Road Safety Inspection.

**Notice of Motion No: 72/2024**

**Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That this Council install ramps to slow down the speeding traffic at Acragar, Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council MD Engineer will meet with Councillor Bracken on site to discuss interventions to slow down traffic on the Acragar Road on the approach to Mountmellick.

**Notice of Motion No: 73/2024**

**Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding problem at Chapel Hill, Rosenallis”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that MD staff will meet with Cllr McDonald on site to inspect this matter and identify a solution.

**Notice of Motion No: 74/2024**

**Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That Laois County Council carry out works to resolve the flooding problem at Garrymore, Geashill”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that MD staff will meet with Cllr McDonald on site to inspect this matter and identify a solution.

**Notice of Motion No: 75/2024**

**Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That Laois County Council make safe the roadside drain at Skerry, Rosenallis”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Maintenance Crews will attend to this roadside drain in the coming weeks to make it safe.

**Notice of Motion No: 76/2024**

**Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That this Council put safety measures at Our Lady’s Meadow Primary School in Durrow”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design Department have carried out a site inspection and are arranging for additional road markings to highlight the presence of the school to traffic travelling through Durrow.

**Notice of Motion No: 77/2024**

**Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That this Council install a pedestrian crossing at the Community Centre in Cullohill”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council’s Road Design Department will review the current pedestrian movements at the community centre and investigate the potential for installing a pedestrian crossing.

**Notice of Motion No: 78/2024**

**Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That this Council install a ramp on the road at the primary school in Shanahoe”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council MD staff will visit the site to identify the need for a ramp at this location.

**Notice of Motion No: 79/2024**

**Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That this Council carry out some drainage works on the Golf Links road Rathdowney to prevent water going on to the golf course and damaging the greens.***

***This golf course is an invaluable asset for the area and it is has a large membership of players”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Maintenance Crews will attend to the drainage problem on the golf links Rathdowney in the coming weeks.

**Notice of Motion No: 80/2024**

**Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That this Council install some serious calming measures such as ramps or rumble strips on the approach road into Rathdowney from Errill. Traffic does not adhere to speed limits already in place”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design Dept. will investigate solutions for the Errill Road, Rathdowney to reduce the speed of traffic on the approach to the town.

**81/2024 – Councillor John King**

***“That this Council following completion of drainage works and road resurfacing on the Ballacolla road close to the GAA grounds and National School, install safety signs/road markings and some bollards in order to make it safe for all who use these facilities”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council are awaiting the completion of the Surface Dressing along this newly resurfaced road following which road markings will be provided along the road.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services wished all the Members every success in their canvass for forthcoming Local Elections. Mr. John King, Cathaoirleach & The Members thanked the officials of Laois County Council & the Members of the Media for their support and well wishes.

## **8. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Borris-in-Ossory would take place after the A.G.M. of Laois County Council – date to be fixed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach

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Director of Service

