

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL  
DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE LEO MEETING ROOM, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE AND VIA  
MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THE 9<sup>th</sup> OF OCTOBER 2024**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor	Seamus McDonald – In the Chair
Councillor	James Kelly
Councillor	Conor Bergin
Councillor	Paddy Bracken
Councillor	John King
Councillor	Ollie Clooney

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. Pat Grassick, A/Director of Services, Mr. Rory O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Engineer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs.

**(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the September meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2024**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the minutes of the September held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 were confirmed as circulated.

**(2) Matters Arising**

Councillor John King sought details on additional car charging points at the Square in Rathdowney. Mr. Rory O’ Callaghan, S.E.E. advised that an additional two to three charging points will be made available by the end of October 2024.

Councillor James Kelly referred to Notice of Motion No: 105/2024 as follows which was proposed and seconded at the September Meeting of the MD and enquired whether or not funding would be made available in the 2025 budget for same:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the provision of the car park on their lands adjacent to Mountrath Cemetery and the Community School”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that funding for future development of this car park will be considered as part of the overall capital budgetary process - both the Revenue budget and the 3-year indicative forward capital programme. In addition, the Council will examine potential external funding opportunities as they may arise.

Councillor Paddy Bracken referred to Notice of Motion No: 112/2024 as follows which was proposed and seconded at the September Meeting of the MD as follows:-

***“That this Council in conjunction with the HSE address the serious parking and safety issues at the Health Centre on the Birr Road, Clonaslee on the R422”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that there is no space available for on street parking outside the Health Centre, Laois County Council can request the HSE to provide additional parking within their boundary.

In addition, the Members were advised that the following correspondence was received in relation to same from the County Manager of Laois Primary Care:-

"Capital & Estates will review the title on the Clonaslee Health Centre and if in order will consider the provision of additional parking subject to the availability of funding and statutory compliances."

### 3. Notice of Motions

<b>Notice of Motion No: 115/2024</b>
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Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-
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<b><i>“That Laois County Council give an update on the provision of Bus Stops in Castletown Village”</i></b>
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This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that a Road Safety Audit has been completed for the new bus stops in Castletown. Consent will now be sought from the NTA to proceed with the scheme ahead of completing procurement and appointing a contractor.
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<b>Notice of Motion No: 116/2024</b>
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Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion
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<b><i>“That Laois County Council carry out road and footpath remedial safety works at the Shannon Street/Shannon Road Junction, Mountrath in the interest of road safety for all”</i></b>
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This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the remedial works requires the setback of an existing Council house boundary wall. Consent has been given by the Housing Department to survey the property and prepare a design for their review and comment prior to works being carried out. These works have been included in the 2025 Safety Improvement Works in Regional and Local Roads Applications.
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<b>Notice of Motion No: 117/2024</b>
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Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***"That Laois County Council send correspondence to the HSE as a matter of urgency seeking an update on the provision of new Primary Care Centres at Mountrath, Rathdowney and Borris in Ossory as the existing Health Centres are not fit for purpose for both patients and staff"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that a letter will issue to the HSE to request an update. It was further indicated that ramps are required at the Mountrath Primary Care Centre and that Durrow also be included in the Notice of Motion.

**Notice of Motion No: 118/2024**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council erect 'Children at Play' signs at Cush, Clonaslee"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that this house is located on the L-20064, a local tertiary road at Brockagh. The house is located on a well secured site where children can play safely. It is not proposed to provide 'Children at Play' signs at this location.

**Notice of Motion No: 119/2024**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That this Council replace danger signs at the Church of Ireland, Rosenallis"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that The Western Area Office will remove the painted black and amber signs. They will be replaced in the new year with either wall mounted or pole mounted modern reflective signs.

**Notice of Motion No: 120/2024**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council erect signs for Church of Ireland at Garryhinch"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that the provision of directional signs for the church will be considered. A road survey will be carried out to determine appropriate safe locations for the signs.

**Notice of Motion No: 121/2024**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That this Council install a ramp at the school in Ballacolla"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design Department will carry out a site inspection and speed survey at the school in Ballacolla, additionally safety measures have recently been installed at the school.

**Notice of Motion No: 122/2024**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That this Council alleviate flooding at Tubberboe, Durrow"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that an on-site meeting has been arranged to inspect and discuss the issue.

**Notice of Motion No: 123/2024**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council create a maintenance plan for recently cleaned rivers in the district”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the Area Office will develop a River Cleaning Maintenance/Inspection Plan for the Municipal District.

Councillor Ollie Cooney indicated that this is an urgent matter. Mr. Rory O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that screening reports are done.

**Notice of Motion No: 124/2024**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council address the very poor condition of the R422 Road from the junction of Glanbia to Connolly Street junction, Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that It is proposed to include this section of roadway in the 2025 Annual Road Works Programme. This is dependent on Uisce Eireann carrying out watermain infrastructural works on Parnell Street & Sarsfield Street

**Notice of Motion No: 125/2024**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council carry out a survey and a programme of tree trimming in the various housing estates in Mountmellick for example, College Avenue, Esker Gate”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that the Area Office will carry out a tree survey and will develop a tree maintenance programme for housing estates that have been taken-in-charge in Mountmellick.

**Notice of Motion No: 126/2024**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council in the interest of pedestrian safety provide bollards at the entrance to Ashgrove and Grangehall Housing Estates in Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that flexible pedestrian safety bollards will be provided at the entrance to these estates.

**Notice of Motion No: 127/2024**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That the Roads Section of Laois County Council give a start date regarding the town and village project for Rathdowney”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the anticipated completion date for this scheme is September 2025. The Western Area will be carrying out some of the street enhancement works. The works also include for the upgrade of the public lighting in the Main Square. The Western Area will arrange a site meeting with the Roads Department and the Design Consultant Engineer to develop a works programme. Following this meeting, a start date for the works will be made.

**Notice of Motion No: 128/2024**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council install two public lights and cut back hedgerow as a matter of urgency at the entrance to St Kieran’s Park school road, Errill”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will visit the site to get a quotation for the proposed public lighting.

**Notice of Motion No: 129/2024**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council repair damaged wall and install cautionary signs at the Conoboro Bridge, Rathdowney as this junction is now becoming a black spot for accidents”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that this bridge repair is included in this year's Programme of Works for the Area and will be carried out within the next 6-7 weeks. The provision of signage will be considered.

**Notice of Motion No: 130/2024**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council apply to the Department of Transport for funding under the annual allocation for ‘safety improvement works on local and regional roads’ to address the severe road safety issues at the junction of L5611 and L1612 at Grangemore, Ballybrophy”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that this roadway has been included in the application to the Department of Transport for funding under the annual allocation for ‘Safety Improvement Works on Local & Regional Roads’

**Notice of Motion No: 131/2024**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council remove the grass verge and replace with gravel at the entrance to Kilcotton GAA grounds in Knockaroo, Borris-In-Ossory”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald.

The Members were advised that this work will be included in this years Programme of Works for the Area.

**Notice of Motion No: 132/2024**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:

*“That Laois County Council address the speeding issues on the L16523 road at Shanahoe National School coming from the Church and Graveyard as a matter of priority”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design Staff will undertake a speed survey in Shanahoe to ascertain the extent of the speeding problem identified.

**4. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS**

The Members congratulated Borris-Kilcotton who have recently been crowned Laois PIHC champions over Ballinakill.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Members were given an update on the Local Improvement Schemes and the current LIS List was advised to Members.

<b>Western Area LIS Applications on file</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>No.</b>
2021	1
2022	1
2023	27
2024	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>

Councillor John King proposed that additional funding be sought to deal with some of the schemes on hand – this was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin.

Councillor Paddy Bracken made enquiries regarding the Mountmellick Flood Relief Scheme. Mr. Rory O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Engineer indicated that an application will be lodged with An Bord Pleanala.

**5. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick MD would take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathairleach**

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**Director of Services**

