**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ARAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 23RD OF JUNE TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 – 2018 AND 2ND MANAGERS REPORT (SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED) ON THE DRAFT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 - 2018**

**PRESENT: Councillors** James Deegan In the Chair

Rotimi Adebari William Aird

John Bonham Pat Bowe

Patrick Bracken Ben Brennan

James Daly John Joe Fennelly

Catherine Fitzgerald Padraig Fleming

David Goodwin Alan Hand Michael Lalor John King

Seamus McDonald Paul Mitchell

John Moran Tom Mulhall

Kathleen O’ Brien Brendan Phelan

Martin Phelan Mary Sweeney

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Ray Cribbin Jerry Lodge

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messers Peter Carey, County Manager, John Daly, Director of Services, Michael O’ Hora, Senior Engineer, Donal Kiely, Senior Executive Planner, Stan Cullen, Executive Engineer, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services, Ms. Irene Delaney, A/Senior Executive Officer, Ms. Angela McEvoy, A/Senior Planner, Ms. Gormla O’ Chorrain, Executive Planner & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary

**79. WELCOME**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor James Deegan welcomed those present to the Special Meeting and expressed his thanks to the Members for their co-operation in this process to date. He also welcomed to the meeting:-

* Ms. Elizabeth Russel, JBA Consulting – Flood Risk Assessment
* Mr. Richard Nairn, Natura Consultants – Appropriate Assessment

**PART 15 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001**

Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services drew the Members attention to the requirement of Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001 in relation to Disclosure of Interest. Any member or any connected person who has a pecuniary or other beneficial interest on any item in the subject matter before the members today must disclose the nature of that interest and then withdraw fully from the meeting for as long as the matter is being discussed or considered.

**INTRODUCTION – COUNTY MANAGER**

The County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey indicated to the Members that this is one of the most important functions of the Elected Members. This has been a very intensive and participative consultation process. He indicated the key objectives as follows:-

* Economic Development & Growth
* Sustainable Community Development
* Environmental Resource Management

At this stage, Mr. Peter Carey, County Manager informed the Elected Members that they are required to consider all of the following:-

* The Draft Laois CDP and associated documents
* The Draft Record of Protected Structures
* The Environmental Report (SEA)
* The Manager’s Recommendations contained in this report

The Draft County Development Plan is about facilitating a creative and sustainable County and to promote the well being of the community in Laois.

**INTRODUCTION – MS. ANGELA MCEVOY, A/SENIOR PLANNER**

Ms. Angela McEvoy, A/Senior Planner informed the Members of their role in this process as Elected Members as follows:-

Deciding whether to adopt or to propose amendments to the Draft Plan is a function reserved for the Elected Members of Laois County Council. On foot of the submissions received and on review of the content of the Draft CDP & Draft RPS, the Manager has recommended a number of material alterations to the draft. If the Members decide that these, or other material alterations should be made to the Draft Plan, the proposed amendments must go on public display for a period of four weeks

Ms. Angela McEvoy, A/Senior Planner outlined progress to date. She indicated that the Draft County Development Plan was on public display from the 10th of November 2010 until the 11th of February 2011. The Managers report was then prepared. During the public consultation period 1199 submissions were received, the majority of these were in relation to the siting of the Eirgrid Substation

It was also outlined that Section 12 of the Planning Act as amended in 2010 requires that the Managers Report to “(ii) summarise the following from the submissions or observations made under this section:

(I) issues raised by the Minister; and

(II) thereafter, issues raised by other bodies or persons,”,

The report shall summarise the issues raised and recommendations made by the relevant regional authority in its written submission prepared in accordance with section 27B (inserted by *section 18* of the *Act of 2010*) and outline the recommendations of the manager in relation to the manner in which those issues and recommendations should be addressed in the development plan.”,

Following consideration of the draft plan and the report of the manager under paragraph (*a*) where a planning authority, after considering a submission of, or observation or recommendation from the Minister made to the authority under this section or from a regional authority made to the authority under section 27B, decides not to comply with any recommendation made in the draft plan and report, it shall so inform the Minister or regional authority, as the case may be, as soon as practicable by notice in writing which notice shall contain reasons for the decision.”

**SUBMISSIONS**

The submissions were dealt with as laid out in the Managers Report submitted to the Councillors on the 27th April 2011.

**SUBMISSION NO. 51 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Core Strategy**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Town Centre Development**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor James Daly

AND AGREED

To include the following policy in chapter 3

‘In accordance with the principles of the Core Strategy, the town centre/ village centre zoning is the preferred choice for residential development, however there are limiting factors which may impact on town and village centre development e.g. the historic formation of many of the main towns in County Laois, flooding implications (as identified in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)), inadequate access, limited and fragmented land holdings and the requirement to facilitate retail development in these locations in accordance with the sequential test under the Retail Planning Guidelines 2005”.

**Rural Housing**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Education**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Unfinished Estates**

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Phelan

Seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor

AND AGREED

To include the following policy in chapter 4

‘It is the Planning Authority’s policy in dealing with such developments to implement the DELG Guidance Manual on “Managing and Resolving Housing Developments”. This will include maintaining a dedicated Unfinished Estates Team and continuing to maintain an up to date Register of all Unfinished Estates in County Laois. It also recommends the use of statutory powers available to the Local Authority as a means of resolving outstanding issues. The Planning Authority will promote the development of “Site Resolution Plans” involving all stakeholders such as developers, financial institutions, receivers, bond companies, HSA and most importantly the residents of the estates.

**Retailing**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor John Bonham

AND AGREED

*EC7/P… – ‘That it is the policy of the Council to actively seek out opportunities to assemble sites itself or in conjunction with local landowners and developers to facilitate town and village redevelopment’*

**Extractive Industries**

Proposed by Councillor Paul Mitchell

Seconded by Councillor Martin Phelan

AND AGREED

*‘That the planning authority includes a map of County Laois indicating the main extractive industries and sand and gravel aggregates and other mineral bearing rocks’*

**Flood Risk Assessment**

Proposed by Councillor Paul Mitchell

Seconded by Councillor William Aird

AND AGREED

*‘That in relation to the S.F.R.A. the Department advised that a number of settlements be reviewed particularly where residential land was within flood zones. Zoning in each of the settlements was reviewed and the recommendations of the Manager were as follows:-*

*“That zoning for each of the settlements be reviewed as follows:-*

**Abbeyleix**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor John King

AND AGREED

*‘That the area of the proposed industrial zoning to the west of Abbeyleix is retracted to fall within Flood Zone C. ’*

**Ballyroan**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Sweeney

Seconded by Councillor William Aird

AND AGREED

*‘That residential development is highly vulnerable to flooding and all residential zoning within Flood Zones A and B is removed.*

**Borris-in-Ossory**

Proposed by Councillor John Bonham

Seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan

It was unanimously agreed that no revisions are considered necessary at this stage of the plan process.

**Camross**

It was unanimously agreed that no revisions are considered necessary at this stage of the plan process.

**Clonaslee**

It was unanimously agreed that no revisions are considered necessary at this stage of the plan process

**Durrow**

It was unanimously agreed that no revisions are considered necessary at this stage of the plan process

**Killeen**

It was unanimously agreed that no revisions are considered necessary at this stage of the plan process

**Killeshin**

In relation to Killeshin, the flood zones issue was queried and re-examined by the Consultants, JBA. A walk over was carried out which was warranted a change to the boundaries of the flood zones and a map was circulated to Members in this regard.

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fleming

Seconded by Councillor

AND AMENDED

*‘That the flood zones in Killeshin be reduced in line with the map prepared by JBA Consultants and that some of the institutional lands beside the new school site be removed’*.

**Mountrath**

It was unanimously agreed that no revisions are considered necessary at this stage of the plan process

**Rathdowney**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor John King

AND AGREED

*‘That the Industrial area, to the north of the town, is developed sequentially, with priority given to the areas of the site located within Flood Zone C and that a small area of Residential 2 zoning to the north-west of Rathdowney be dezoned’*.

**Rosenallis**

It was unanimously agreed that no revisions are considered necessary at this stage of the plan process.

**Stradbally**

It was unanimously agreed that no revisions are considered necessary at this stage of the plan process.

**The Swan**

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fleming

Seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan

AND AGREED

*‘that the flood zones be reduced in line with recommendation from JBA Consultants and a small area of Strategic Reserve land lies within Flood Zone A be removed.’*

**Timahoe**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken

AND AGREED

To include the following sections:-

*The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP):*

The Record of Monument and Places (RMP) is a statutory audit of archaeological monuments provided for in the National Monuments Acts. It consists of a County by County set of marked-up Ordnance Survey maps and a manual listing basic information in relation to each monument or area included in the RMP. Monuments in the RMP are protected under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. The RMP is revised periodically.

*Historic Towns and Town Defences:*

Historic Towns which have been identified by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for general protection are towns which were first identified in the Urban Archaeological Survey of Laois and which have been included in the RMP. Within Laois these historic towns include the following list – Ballinakill, Castletown, Dunamase, Killaban, Portarlington and Portlaoise.

The guideline boundaries for these towns are illustrated within the RMP. The areas within the historic boundaries are known as Zones of Archaeological Potential, and are areas where intense archaeology is present.

Many of our historic villages, towns and cities comprise a series of streets bounded by town walls, embankments and ditches with town gates marking the entrance to and exit from the urban area. The town defences are amongst the most important monuments in any medieval town.

These fortifications marked out the area of jurisdiction of the town’s authority. In some examples additional protective features, like bastions and star-shaped fortifications were built alongside or outside the original town bulwarks.

In a few rare examples, the modern urban centre has not yet fully developed within the area enclosed by the ambitious town walls. However, in most examples, lengths of town wall, gateways and in some cases town banks and ditches lie within or under the modern urban fabric. The survival of these town defences can vary. Some are relatively intact, although pierced through by modern roads and bridges, others lie buried beneath a palimpsest of later building. Protection of the town’s heritage includes the retention of existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.

(Details of monuments within Zones of Archaeological Potential are shown on maps accompanying the Urban Archaeological Survey, which Laois County Council has been furnished with.)

The Department would like to draw your attention to the *Bruges Resolution on the Conservation of Smaller Historic Towns, (1975),* which was adopted by the 4th ICOMOS General Assembly, which outlines the importance of preserving the features of historic towns, while allowing for the necessity of development.

**Underwater Archaeology**

Under the National Monuments Acts 1930-1994 all shipwrecks over one hundred years old, underwater archaeological structures, features and objects are protected. The quantification of the underwater archaeological resource is at a preliminary stage with the National Shipwreck Inventory currently being compiled. This source indicates areas of high archaeological potential within marine environments. The Record of Monuments and Places does not include all underwater archaeological sites. As a result, the potential exists for development to impact negatively on our underwater cultural resource. Development Plans should therefore take account of any development and constructional impacts on riverine, lacustrine, intertidal and sub-tidal environments.

**Monument or sites included in the Record of Monument and Places (RMP) located within the land holding of development proposals.**

It is recommended that the following section be included in an appropriate area of the Development Plan (possibly in the section relating to open spaces or to residential developments):

*Where a proposed development (excluding individual residential home units) includes a monument or site included in the Record Monument and Places within the landholding we recommend that*

* *The developer shall commission an archaeological assessment to establish the extent of archaeological material associated with the monument or site. This assessment shall also define the buffer area or area contiguous with the monument which will preserve the setting and visual amenity of the site.*
* *The area of the monument and buffer should not be included as part of the open space requirement demanded of a specific development but should be additional to the required open spaces.*
* *If a monument or place included in the Record of Monument and Places lies within the open space, a conservation plan for that monument should be requested as part of the landscape plan for that proposed open space.*

* *Should a monument or site included in the Record of Monument and Places be incorporated into a development the monument and attendant buffer area should be ceded to Local Authority Ownership once the development and associated landscaping works are complete so that the future protection of the monument can be assured.*

**Specific Operational Development Control Section on ‘Archaeological Heritage’**

The Department recommends that the following section would be included in Chapter of the Development Plan dealing with “Development Control”

* *It is the policy of Planning Authority that proposed developments that may (due to their location, size, or nature) have implications for the archaeological heritage should be subject to archaeological assessment. Such developments include those that are located at or close to archaeological monuments or site, those that are extensive in terms of area (ground disturbance of 1/2 hectare or more) or length (1 kilometre or more) and developments that require an Environmental Impact Statement*
* *The applicant may be formally requested, as part of the planning process to have a report prepared by an archaeologist on the archaeological implications, if any, of the proposed development. The applicant shall commission this assessment report. These archaeological assessment reports shall be submitted to the Planning Authority, and to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for their consideration prior to the planning decision*
* *All planning permissions and other development applications, which are in or might affect sites and features of historical and archaeological interest, shall be referred to the Minister through the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for comment.*
* *Referrals shall be made in adequate time to allow for the applications to be assessed, for field inspections to be completed and for comments/observations to be returned to the Planning Authority*
* *The Ministerial recommendations will be fully considered by the Planning Authority in reaching their decision*
* *Conditions which the Planning Authority may place on developments within the zone of archaeological potential and within close proximity to Recorded Monuments and sites may include the funding by the applicant of archaeological assessment, monitoring, testing or excavation within the area covered by the permission, either prior to the planning decision or prior to any development works proceeding on the site following the grant of planning permission. The preservation of all or part of the archaeological remains in the area covered by the permission may also be considered by the Planning Authority as a condition on such developments. Each planning application for development within the Area of Archaeological Potential and within close proximity to recorded archaeological sites shall be assessed on its own merits*
* *The Planning Authority will advise developers that they should, during the stages of consideration of a development project that may have a potential impact on the archaeological heritage, consult to identify all relevant issues with a view to discussing any possible difficulties*

**ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken

AND AGREED

That the following be included :-

Amend 14.1 para 2, While change and growth are necessary and bring considerable benefits , it is also necessary and desirable to preserve special elements of our heritage that contribute to our identity and understanding of the past.

*Amend 14.5.1 Repairs to Protected Structures.*

Amend 14.5.2 SECTION 57 DECLARATIONS ON PROTECETD STRUCUTRES

Section 57 allows an owner or occupier of a protected structure to make a written request to the Planning Authority to issue a declaration as to the type of works which it considers would or would not materially affect the character” of a protected structure. Works that materially affect the character of a protected structure require planning permission.

*delete sub-heading 14.5.3 Demolition of a Protected Structure*

BH14 /P01 Ensure a careful balance is achieved between the retention of the special character of a Protected Structure and proposals to alter or extend it to ensure its utility as a structure, thereby conserving its special interest. It is well recognized that any structure that has no viable use is unlikely to have a viable future. In response, the function and usage of all structures evolve over time. “*Modern*” living standards in terms of utility, water, sanitary and telecommunications services will be accommodated, in addition to transport requirements and evolving spatial standards. However, it is important to ensure that the special interest of a protected structure is not gradually eroded by minor alterations.

Amend CORE AIM To protect monuments, special buildings and special groups of buildings that tell us about our history, the development of society, shape our identity and contribute to a recognizable sense of place.

contribute to our identity and understanding of the past. The conservation of our built heritage also connects us with our past and built heritage assets collectively form part of familiar and valued townscapes and wider landscapes. The built heritage of County Laois has a very considerable contribution to make to the identity of the County itself and also to the wider region. There are some outstanding and very exceptional structures within County Laois, including:

* The round tower in Timahoe
* Romanesque doorway in Killeshin
* Monastic settlement in Aghaboe
* Fort Protector in Portlaoise
* Donaghmore workhouse
* Heywood Gardens
* Coolbanagher Church
* Midland Regional Hospital
* Emo Court and Gardens
* Ballyfin Demene
* Castledurrow Demesne
* Abbeyleix Demesne
* Stradbally Hall
* Roundwood Demesne

In addition there are many fine groups of buildings including historic and village town centres such as:

* Abbeyleix
* Ballinakill
* Castletown
* Durrow
* Portlaoise
* Timahoe

Other townscapes of significant and special architectural interest include

* O’Connor Square Mountmellick
* Market Square Mountrath
* Portarlington Market Square and French Church Street
* Stradbally Main Street

BH 14/P04 Encourage owners awareness of the legal implications of owning a Protected Structure and support owners of Protected Structures by providing advice and guidance in relation to development proposals

BH 14/P06 Protect Protected Structures from works that would adversely affect or erode their special character and where proposals are made to extend a protected structure or to site new buildings within the curtilage of a Protected Structure, ensure protected structure status is used as a stimulus to the imaginative and considered design of new elements

14.6 …character of the building, relaxation of **development management standards** on unit sizes…

Appendix 1, section 1.4 Recommend delete *An owner may request that the local authority provide a declaration as to what is exempted development in each individual case* and replace with An owner or occupier may make a written request to the Planning Authority to issue a declaration, free of charge, as to the type of works which it considers would or would not materially affect the character of a protected structure.

BH14/001 recommend delete **built**, substitute with **architectural**

delete *appendix 1, 2.0 Where can one obtain legislation in relation to a protected structure* and replace with *2.0 Where can I find additional information about Protected Structures and How do I Navigate the RPS*

insert reference to **2001 Draft Heritage Protection Guidelines** in 14.2

**SUBMISSION BY THE MIDLAND REGIONAL AUTHORITY**

**Southern Development Area**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission.

**Eastern Development Area**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission.

**Core Strategy**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission.

**Vacancy Rates**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Flood Risk**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Economic Development**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Sweeny

Seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan

AND AGREED

To include the following policy in chapter 7

*‘EC 7/ P… Contribute to the preparation of a sustainable Holistic Management Plan for the future use of the industrialised Peatlands’*

*‘EC 7/ P…. Develop a regional brand to capitalise on the central geographical location of the region in its entirety and complete the branding strategy for the region in partnership with the Midland Regional Authority*

**Transport**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers recommendations in relation to the submission.

**Tourism**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers recommendations in relation to the submission

**CHAPTER 3 - DEVELOPMENT PLAN STRATEGY**

**Submission No, 24 – Geraldine Cawley on behalf of Community of Rossmore/Killeshin**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendation in relation to this submission

**Submission No. 13 – Laois Heritage Society**

Proposed by Councillor Kathleen Brien

Seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald

AND AGREED

*‘That the Fort of Maryborough be included in the historic towns and cultural attractions section’*

**Submission No. 29 – E.P.A.**

Proposed by Councillor Kathleen O’Brien

Seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald

AND AGREED

That the following amendments be made to the Draft Plan

To provide for the sustainable growth of County Laois towards a target population of up to 77,059 by 2018 distributed in line with the settlement strategy as indicated in the midland regional planning guidelines focusing the bulk of growth in the principal town of Portlaoise, measured growth in the service towns, local service towns and villages of population not exceeding 800 and the consolidation of the key service town of Portarlington whilst maintaining the viability of rural communities in the hinterlands of these towns and villages.

“County Laois will be a cohesive and sustainable community of people enjoying distinct but interrelated urban and rural environments, where the natural environment is protected *and where possible enhanced*, cultural and built heritage is safeguarded, where opportunities for existing residents and future generations abound to live, work, visit and enjoy safely and as equals, without compromising the environmental integrity of our County”.

Provide for the sustainable growth of County Laois towards a target population of up to 77,059 by 2018, this to be structured in a balanced manner between the Principal Town of Portlaoise (up to 18,106) and the County Balance (up to 58,963), encompassing the measured growth of:

* + The 5 Service Towns [Abbeyleix, Graiguecullen, Mountrath, Mountmellick, Stradbally], 2 Local Service Towns [Durrow, Rathdowney], and villages of population not exceeding 800,
  + The consolidation of the one Key Service Town of Portarlington and
  + The maintenance of viable rural communities in the hinterlands of these towns and villages;

Promote the balanced and sustainable development of the urban and rural areas of the County for a range of residential, services amenities and employment opportunities.

### **Extractive Industries**

Many quarry areas emerged during the last plan period. These now are nearing the end of their lifespan. Reuse of quarry areas for new employment uses will be considered, however this will be guided by environmental considerations given the sensitive nature of the use and in the interests of maintaining safety and capacity on the national road network, the development must be consistent with policies included in Chapter 10.

Restoration plans must be provided in all cases.

EC 7/ P …. Support the development of sustainable Holistic Management Plan for the future use of the industrialised Peatlands in the Midlands Region

DPS 3 / P002 Encourage housing development to locate in designated towns and villages as indicated in the settlement strategy, where social and infrastructural services exist or will be provided as resources become available and ensure the provision of adequate service such as water supply and wastewater treatment prior to development occurring;

DPS 3/P003 Protect designated areas and high amenity value in the County as important elements of rural character and ensure that any plan or project associated with the provision of new housing which has the potential to significantly affect a Natura 2000 site is appropriately assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the site And EIA legislation as relevant ;

DPS 3 / P011 Facilitate the development of waste water treatment facilities and water supplies in small settlements through co operation with developers and community groups and promote the connection of all urban houses to waste water treatment in order to and resolve septic tank issues The sanitary services small schemes, and group sewage scheme programmes will be used to advance this policy.

*DPS 3 / P026* Encourage the provision of social and community uses within villages > 400 population;

Section 3.24 is proposed to be amended to state

* Environmentally sensitive areas including; – Special Areas of Conservation, Natural Heritage Areas, Special Protection Areas, Scenic Areas , vulnerable aquifers and surface waters (due to the risk of contamination from septic tanks).

*The text in Table 13 has been amended to state*

It is an objective to recognise the individual housing needs of people intrinsic to the rural areas located within the areas defined as ‘rural areas under strong urban influence’. Such needs may be accommodated on lands within the rural area under strong urban influence, subject to the availability of a suitable site and normal proper planning, environmental and sustainable development criteria

**Submission No. 32 – I.F.A.**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No. 69 – An Taisce/Plan Better**

Proposed by Councillor John Bonham

Seconded by Councillor James Daly

AND AGREED

that the following policy statement be included in

*‘It is the policy of the Council to promote nucleated settlements and serviced sites within villages’*

**Submission No: 66 – N.R.A.**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 73 – Caroline Goucher**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 78 - Coillte**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 65 – Laois County Development Board**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 85 – Laois Environmental Network**

Proposed by Councillor Seamus McDonald

Seconded by Councillor John Bonham

AND AGREED

that the following policies be included in the Settlement Strategy Section of Chapter 3 of the Draft Plan

*‘DPS 3 / P0... Investigate the feasibility of waste to energy solutions - anaerobic digestion.*

*DPS 3 / P0... Encourage sustainable local sources of power for all new treatment facilities*

*DPS 3 / P0... Ensure new and upgraded facilities in settlements are as self sustaining as possible, endeavoring to avoid fossil fuel dependence in light of peak oil and climate change’*

**Submission No: 82 – The One Off Ireland Campaign**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Sweeney

Seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

AND AGREED

that the policy on hedgerows be amended to read:-

*‘Implement the Habitats Directive with respect to Natura 2000 sites having regard to the conservation objectives and ensure that all development with a potential impact on a Natura 2000 site must legally be the subject of an Appropriate Assessment process under Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive’*

**CHAPTER 4 – HOUSING STRATEGY**

Submission No: 29 – E.P.A.

Proposed by Councillor Alan Hand

Seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

AND AGREED

that the policy be amended to include reference to EIA legislation as follows:-

*‘Ensure that sufficient and suitable land is zoned in the Development Plan for residential use to meet the requirements of the Housing Strategy and to ensure that a scarcity of such land does not occur at any time during the period of the Development Plan ensure that any plan or project associated with the provision of new housing which has the potential to significantly affect a Natura 2000 site is appropriately assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the site and in compliance with environmental legislation’*

**Submission No: 20 – Portarlington Combined Residents Association**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 85 – Laois Environmental Network**

Proposed by Councillor Rotimi Adebari

Seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald

AND AGREED

that the following policy be included:-

*‘HS 4/PO Raise awareness of the challenges of peak oil, climate change and economic contraction with a view to empowering communities to plan a transition to a lower carbon community*

*HS 4/PO – Encourage and nurture intergenerational and cross cultural relationships through community initiatives such as community gardens/allotments*

*HS 4/PO – Ensure new and refurbished housing is as self sustaining as possible.*

*HS 4/PO – Investigate the feasibility of district heating systems, local energy solutions like solar or anaerobic digestion and natural water treatment.*

*Hs 4/PO12 – encourage the provision of small scale community facilities in new housing developments e.g. meeting room, community storage facility to allow for shared expenses and a reduction in energy use’*

**CHAPTER 5 – SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Submission No: 24 – Geraldine Cawley on behalf of Community of Rossmore/Killeshin**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 43 – Department of Education**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken

AND AGREED

that the following policy be included:-

*‘SIS/P00 – Ensure that existing school sites are protected for educational use and lands adjacent to existing schools are protected for future educational use to allow for expansion of these schools, if required, subject to site suitability and agreement of school management’*

**Submission No: 29 – E.P.A.**

Proposed by Councillor Rotimi Adebari

Seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan

AND AGREED

that the following policy be included:-

S15/ P 003 Ensure that adequate lands and services are zoned and reserved to cater for the establishment, improvement or expansion of primary and post-primary educational facilities in the County. The Council supports the concept of multi-campus educational facilities. Ensure that adequate services such as water supply and wastewater treatment are in place prior to development taking place

S15/ P 004 Co-operate with the County Development Board *within the lifetime of the Plan* in the preparation of an integrated County strategy for education and training provision which will address issues such as social supports and dropout rates.

S15/ P 14 Ensure that adequate lands and services are available for the improvement, establishment and expansion of health services. Ensure that adequate services such as water supply or wastewater treatment are in place prior to development taking place

S15/ P 21 Provide new library facilities in the Principal town of Portlaoise and the Key Service Town of Portarlington in the lifetime of the plan;

**Submission No: 65 – Laois County Development Board**

Proposed by Councillor Rotimi Adebari

Seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken

AND AGREED

that the following be included:-

S15/ P 004 Co-operate with the County Development Board in the preparation of an integrated County strategy for education and training provision **which will address issues such as social supports and dropping out rates**;

S15/ P 001 Facilitate the development of primary, post primary, third level outreach, research, adult and further educational facilities to meet the needs of the County, accessible to all members of the community **including mature adults i.e. back to school in existing educational infrastructure.;**

S15/ P ... Accommodate a Garda Office within Community Facilities , as appropriate;

SI5/P…. Ensure that development proposals adapt “Designing out crime” standards as indicated in Chapter 16

S15/ P .... Co-operation with An Garda Siochana’s Older Person Strategy to ensure contact and safety of elderly and rurally isolated citizens through community alert/ neighbourhood watch schemes.

**Submission No: 46 – Laois County Community Forum**

Proposed by Councillor Paul Mitchell

Seconded by Councillor James Daly

AND AGREED

that a section on the importance of community development in Chapter 5 of the Draft Plan be included under Section 5.2 as follows:-

*‘Laois Community Forum addresses the need for creating sustainable communities within County Laois. The importance of community development and development of facilities for community/voluntary groups to meet and work on their various activities in the areas of arts, sports, economic or community initiatives is essential in improving the quality of life of the residents in our County. This is vital in helping to attract economic investment to a local area, promoting tourism, providing community childcare, care for the elderly and/or the rurally isolated in our community’*

**Submission No: 85 – Laois Environmental Network**

Proposed by Councilllor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor Rotimi Adebari

AND AGREED

that the following policies be included:

*‘S15/PO Ensure new and refurbished buildings are as self sustaining as possible.*

*S15/PO – Collaborate with communities to establish the educational needs as they arise with the adaption to a lower energy society*

*S15/PO – Facilitate new educational needs to stimulate understanding and innovation f natural power sources as a prerequisite essential to facilitating industry*

*S15/PO - That the use of environmentally sound burial sites be explored and also that new and refurbished developments are as self sustaining as possible’*

**CHAPTER 6 – RECREATION & AMENITY**

Submission No: 85 – Laois Environmental Network

Proposed by Councillor Patrick Bracken

Seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

AND AGREED

that the following policy be included:-

‘*RA5 / P0... Encourage community gardening and other use of open space to facilitate lower carbon living education and practice.*

*RA5 / P0... Encourage open space use by community groups, schools and tidy towns to promote inter generational and cross cultural skill sharing on edible landscapes, community composting, rain water harvesting etc.*

*RA5/PO Acknowledge the need of children to play in a natural environment and work with communities to recognise, make safe and utilise these areas’*

**Submission No: 83 – KIO**

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Phelan

Seconded by Councillor Martin Phelan

AND AGREED

that the following policy be included:-

*‘RA6/ P00……Recognize the role played by Natural Amenities as a major resource for visitors and local people and will support, protect and promote public access to mountains, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves rivers, lakes and other natural amenities that have been traditionally used for outdoor recreation and to the countryside generally*

*RA 5/ P0 “Develop walking routes to reflect recreational value and to implement strategic green corridors*

*RA 5 /P0.. “Preserve the major natural amenities of the County (i.e. Slieve Bloom Mountains and River Valleys) and to provide parks and open spaces in association with them along with facilitating walking and cycling routes linking the mountains, river valleys and major parks’*

**Submission No: 69 – An Taisce/Better Plan**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**CHAPTER 7 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Submission No: 24 – Geraldine Cawley on behalf of Community of Rossmore/Killeshin**

Proposed by Councillor John Moran

Seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming

AND AGREED

that Table 16 will be amended to include Killeshin

**Submission No: 29 – E.P.A.**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan

AND AGREED

that the following policy be included:-

To build on the economic strengths of County Laois in a balanced and sustainable manner focusing on the opportunities of its strategic location, infrastructure, **environment**, heritage assets and labour force

EC 7/ O03 Protect existing industry and enterprises and encourage the development of new industry and enterprise in appropriate locations, directing large-scale and labour intensive developments to either appropriately zoned industrial, business or enterprise areas such as the Togher National Enterprise Centre (encompassing Clonminam Business Park IDA Business and Technology Park and additional lands), Kea Lew Business Park, Portarlington Enterprise Centre or to appropriately **and serviced** zoned lands and ensure that any plan or project associated with economic development of lands which has the potential to significantly affect a Natura 2000 site is appropriately assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the site **and environmental legislation**

EC 7/ P38 Support the development of peatlands within County Laois for appropriate alternative uses subject to general Planning and environmental considerations and nature considerations and ensure that any plan or project associated with open space planning or tourism which has the potential to significantly affect a Natura 2000 site is appropriately assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the site **and environmental legislation**

**Submission No: 20 – Portarlington Combined Residents Association**

Proposed by Councillor Tom Mulhall

Seconded by Councillor Paul Mitchell

AND AGREED

that the policy be amended as follows:-

*‘Enforce the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 in relation to derelict sites throughout the County and support the active and full use of town centre buildings and facilitate the redevelopment or reuse of vacant or derelict buildings in town centres as appropriate’*

**Submission No: 32 – I.F.A.**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 69 – An Taisce/Plan Better**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 66 – N.R.A.**

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Phelan

Seconded by Councillor John Moran

AND AGREED

that the policy be amended as follows:-

*‘That economic development be encouraged in the hierarchy of employment centres within existing settlements as indicated in the settlement plans in Volume 2 and referred to in TT10/P20 that are located in proximity to interchanges, such as Portarlington, Ballybrittas, Ballacolla, Mountrath and Borris-in-Ossory, Abbeyleix, Rathdowney and Durrow’*

**Submission No: 77 – Bord Na Mona**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 1199 – Enterprise Ireland**

Proposed by Councillor Rotimi Adebari

Seconded by Councillor Alan Hand

AND AGREED

that the vision and following policy amendments be made:-

County Laois will be a cohesive and sustainable community of people enjoying distinct but interrelated urban and rural environments, with a robust and diverse local economy and good quality infrastructure, where the natural environment is protected, cultural and built heritage…

S15/ P 001 Facilitate the development of primary, post primary, third level outreach,, vocational and lifelong learning facilities and digital capacity for distance learning including fourth level education, lifelong learning and up-skilling generally to meet the needs of the County, accessible to all members of the community including mature adults i.e. back to school in existing educational infrastructure.;

S15/ P 004 Co-operate with the County Development Board *within the lifetime of the Plan* in the preparation of an integrated County strategy for education and training provision which will address issues such as social supports and dropout rates and skills, focusing in particular on strengthening competence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects and developing entrepreneurial skills, innovation skills, leadership skills, sales and marketing skills and language skills to underpin the future economic development of the County.

EC 7/ P15 Develop Togher, as a National Enterprise Park, focused in particular on trade warehousing, distribution, logistics and other uses associated with the transport industry. Other suitable uses include offline motorway services, retail warehousing, offices and conference facilities, leisure uses such as hotels, catering and indoor sporting facilities. Provision is also made within Togher for the development of significant heavy, light and ICT industry uses as well as general enterprise uses In order to deliver the Togher National Enterprise Park, develop an implementation programme including direct marketing campaigns in order to drive economic development.

**Submission No: 78 – Coillte**

Proposed by Councillor John Bonham

Seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken

AND AGREED

that the following policy be incorporated into the plan:-

*‘EC 7/P – support and facilitate the creation of employment in the green economy through the promotion of key sectors such as renewable energy and efficient energy use and management’*

**Submission No: 65 – Laois County Development Board**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 85 – Laois Environmental Network**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councilllor Paddy Bracken

AND AGREED

that the following policies be included:-

*‘EC 7/00... Encourage businesses to have regard to the economic impacts of peak oil and climate change on their business;*

*EC 7/00... Encourage the use of locally sourced materials within the Business community in order to overcome the challenges of peak oil, climate change and economic contraction; EC 7/00... Ensure the infrastructure is available to support new employment uses such as reactionary skills base to include mending, repairs, mechanics, permaculture, beekeeping, food preservation and seed saving.*

*EC 7/00... Support the sustainable agri-food industry to promote local food production’*

**Submission No: 69 – An Taisce/Plan Better**

Proposed by Councillor John Moran

Seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor

AND AGREED

that the following policy be included:-

*EC 7/P…. ‘Encourage community gardens/ allotments as a means to re-skilling residents in the art of growing food, composting, harvesting rainwater, preserving food and seasonal cooking among other things and encourage space for allotments in each new residential/mixed-use’*

**Submission No: 83 – KIO**

Proposed by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald

Seconded by Councillor Rotimi Adbeari

AND AGREED

that the following policy be included:-

*EC7 / P ‘Encourage* ***access to forestry****, including private forestry, in co-operation with Coillte and other agencies for amenity and recreational purposes including the provision of walking routes, mountain trails, bridle paths, nature trails, hiking, orienteering and other non noise-generating activities which is of benefit to local people and tourists.*

*EC7/P Forestry should* ***not obstruct existing rights of way,*** *traditional walking routes and other recreational facilities and should recognize recreational tourism value on the land.*

*EC7/P Recognise and encourage the role of forestry in providing recreational amenities and achieving the social objectives laid out in the plan*

*EC7/P Identify existing rights of way and established walking routes before planting commences.*

*EC7/P Protect* ***access routes*** *to upland walks and rights of way*

*EC7/P Ensure that the development of aggregate extraction, processing and associated concrete production does not significantly impact on…****established rights of way*** *and walking routes’*

**Submission No: 39 – I.C.F., Submission No: 47 – Cemex & Submission No: 75 – Roadstone**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald

AND AGREED

that the following be included:

*EC 7 / P… that i*n considering whether a further permission should be granted, the planning authority should have regard (inter alia) to the following factors:

(a) The extent of the remaining mineral resources and

(b) The extent of existing capital investment in infrastructure, equipment, etc*.*

**CHAPTER 8 – TOURISM**

**Submission No: 20 – Portarlington Combined Residents Association**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 24 – Geraldine Cawley on behalf of Community of Rossmore/Killeshin**

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fleming

Seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan

AND AGREED

That the following be included:-

TM8/ P10 Evaluate the existing sustainable tourism attractions and support new eco-tourism initiatives in the County, particularly in the Slieve Bloom Mountains and for Rosmore to the Barrow via the Slieve Margy Way, including visitor accommodation and supplementary activities such as organic/farmer’s markets, health farms, heritage and nature trails, pony trekking and boating; ensuring that all built elements are appropriately designed and satisfactorily assimilated into the landscape and endeavor to have Laois feature on the Sustainable Tourism Ireland website to attract the growing eco tourism business.

TM 8/P18 Develop the habitats in the Rosmore/ Killeshin Area as a key amenity which could be developed with Oisin Park as the focal point for an interpretative facility. Development of Killeshin waterworks as a recreational amenity for all ages including the incorporation of an angling facility which would cater for the needs of all.

**Submission No: 32 – I.F.A.**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 65 – Laois County Development Board**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 64 – Offaly County Council**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 71 – O.P.W.**

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Phelan

Seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor

AND AGREED

*Policy TM8/P04 be amended to acknowledge OPW as a stakeholder*

**Submission No: 85 – Laois Environmental Network**

Proposed by Councillor John Bonham

Seconded by Councillor Pat Bowe

AND AGREED

that a policy be included in relation to tourist attractions as follows:-

*‘TM8/ P10 Evaluate the existing sustainable tourism attractions and support new eco-tourism initiatives in the County, particularly in the Slieve Bloom Mountains, including visitor accommodation and supplementary activities such as organic/farmer’s markets, health farms, heritage and nature trails, pony trekking and boating; ensuring that all built elements are appropriately designed and satisfactorily assimilated into the landscape and endeavor to have Laois feature on the Sustainable Tourism Ireland website to attract the growing eco tourism business.* [*http://www.sustourism.ie/where.php*](http://www.sustourism.ie/where.php)*’*

**Submission No: 83 – KIO**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor Patrick Bracken

AND AGREED

that ‘Heritage Trails’ be included at Table 17 and also that the following policies be included:-

*‘TM8/ PO5 Protect the natural amenities upon which tourism is based through the enforcement of polices in relation to* ***resource*** *protection; landscape character assessment; architectural conservation areas; water quality; and biodiversity;*

*TM8/P18 Maximize the use of canals and other waterways as* ***tourism amenities.***  *The Council will co-operate with Waterways Ireland, National Park and Wildlife Service and community groups to develop the infrastructure, quality and amenities of these waterways’*

**CHAPTER 9 – ENERGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Submission No: 24 – Geraldine Cawley on behalf of Community of Rossmore/Killeshin**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 29 – E.P.A.**

Proposed by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald

Seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

AND AGREED

that the Core Aim be amended to state the following:

*To identify the energy and telecommunications needs for the County and the manner in which the council can facilitate their development to ensure a secure energy and communications network to support the residents and future development needs of the County while fostering the transition to a lower carbon County.*

**Submission No: 7,8,9,14,25,26,27,28,3,5,36,37,41,60,61,62,8,6,94 & 95 – 1197 inclusive**

Proposed by Councillor James Deegan:-

Seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming

AND AGREED

That the following policy be included

*“that all future 400 Kv lines be put underground in County Laois”*

The County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey indicated that this is not government policy and Laois County Council are obliged to bring this to the attention of the Minister

**Submission No: 20 – Portarlington Combined Residents Association**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 68 – Eirgrid**

Proposed by Councillor James Deegan

Seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming

AND AGREED

That the following policies be included

‘*ET 9 / P15 Only in cases where feasible , require the provision of electricity cables underground, especially in the urban environment, and generally within areas of public open space, in the interest of visual amenity*

*ET 9 / P19: Facilitate the sustainable provision of energy networks in principle provided that it can be demonstrated that:*

* *The development is required in order to facilitate the provision or retention of significant economic or social infrastructure.*
* *The route proposed has been identified with due consideration for social, economic, environmental and cultural impacts.*
* *Where impacts are inevitable mitigation features have been included. Where it can be shown the proposed development is consistent with international best practice.’*

In addition to the policy already agreed in relation to Submission 7,8,9,14,25,26,27,28,3,5,36,37,41,60,61,62,8,6,94 & 95 – 1197 inclusive

*“that all future 400 Kv lines be put underground in County Laois”*

**Submission No: 78 – Coillte**

Proposed by Councillor Rotimi Adebari

Seconded by Councillor Pat Bowe

AND AGREED

*‘ET 9 / O 03 To encourage and facilitate the development of renewable power generation facilities in the County, including the support of* ***non renewable energy developments***  *where it is consistent with the proper Planning and sustainable development of the County and ensure that any plan or project associated with energy generation and supply which has the potential to significantly affect a Natura 2000 site is appropriately assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the site’*

**Submission No: 85 – Laois Environmental Network**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken

AND AGREED

That the following be included:-

*‘To identify the energy needs for the County and the manner in which the council can facilitate their development to ensure a secure energy and communications network to support the residents and future development needs of the County)* ***while fostering the transition to a lower carbon County’***

**ET9/O01** *‘To raise awareness within communities of the need to reverse fossil fuel dependency, to mitigate the effects of peak oil and economic contraction, and drastically reduce carbon emissions, to mitigate the effects of climate change’*

**Submission No: 83 – KIO**

Proposed by Councillor Paul Mitchell

Seconded by Councillor John Moran

AND AGREED

‘ET9/P…. Ensure that the assessment of energy development proposals will have regard to the impacts on public rights of way and walking routes.

*ET 9 / P... to prohibit any telecommunications development that impinges on public rights of way.*

**Submission No: 87 – Fand Cooney**

Proposed by CouncillorTom Mulhall

Seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor

AND AGREED

*‘ET 9 / P23 Require that all new housing developments be phone connected with the best wired technology available i.e. fibre and that multiple services be accommodated in shared strips and that access covers be shared whenever possible.*

*ET 9 / P21 Seek to have the most up to date appropriate modern information technology incorporated into the overall design and layout of all new developments in County Laois , where feasible’*

**CHAPTER 10 – TRANSPORT**

**Submission No: 24 – Geraldine Cawley on behalf of Community of Rossmore/Killeshin**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 29 – E.P.A.**

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Phelan

Seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

AND AGREED

To include the following policies

*‘To have regard to the ecological landscape, archaeological and cultural heritage of the County in the pursuit of objectives relating to the provision of transport infrastructure’*

TT10/ P ..... Carry out detailed flood risk assessment at LAP level for the following towns, Portlaoise, Portarlington, Mountmellick and Graiguecullen as highlighted in the SFRA, and ensure cross-County consultation where appropriate.

**Submission No: 20 – Portarlington Combined Residents Association**

Proposed by Councillor Tom Mulhall

Seconded by Councillor Paul Mitchell

AND AGREED

*‘TT10/008 – supporting the provision of public transport and rural transport schemes’*

**Submission No: 20 & 32 (Portarlington Combined Residents Association & I.F.A.)**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 69 – An Taisce/Plan Better**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 64 – Offaly County Council**

Proposed by Councillor Michael Lalor

Seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken

AND AGREED

*‘TT 10 / P04 Encourage and facilitate investment in the road network at national, regional and local level* ***particularly the N80 which is an important inter region connector*** *and prioritise delivery to maximise the economic benefit to the County and ensure that any plan or project associated with transportation (roads, rail or other forms) which has the potential to significantly affect a Natura 2000 site is appropriately assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the site’*

**Submission No: 66 – N.R.A.**

Proposed by Councillor Michael Lalor

Seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

AND AGREED

That the following policies be amended :-

TT 10 / P13 further examine the potential of the national road interchanges for appropriate uses and zonings in consultation with the National Roads Authority ***and in accordance with the provisions of the Spatial Planning and National Roads (Draft) Guidelines* during the Plan period.**;

TT 10 / P15 Maximise the beneficial return of public investment in the national motorway network by protecting the carrying capacity of the M7/M8, ***including associated junctions****,* through County Laois;

TT 10 / P24 Avoid the creation of additional access points from new development or the generation of increased traffic from existing accesses to national roads to which speed limits greater than 50 kph apply. This prohibition will not necessarily apply to developments of national and regional strategic importance **in accordance with the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines,** which by their nature are most appropriately located outside urban areas, where the locations concerned have specific characteristics that make them particularly suitable for the developments proposed. Exceptions to this policy would only be brought forward in a plan led manner, as indicated in the Spatial Planning and National Roads (Draft) Guidelines and be with the agreement of the National Roads Authority.

**Submission No: 71 – O.P.W.**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 85 – Laois Environmental Network**

Proposed by Councillor John Bonham

Seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

AND AGREED

*‘TT 10 / P01 Encourage coordination by transport providers to promote linked up transport services enabling complete coverage of the County through the creation of integrated transport hubs in the larger towns:*

* + - *by providing bus stations or stops in or around train stations*
    - *by providing cycle parking stands at stations and stops*
    - *by providing good pedestrian facilities*

*TT 10 / P44 Encourage the provision of shared bus stop facilities in appropriate locations in urban centres such as Train Stations as designated in the County Settlement hierarchy to facilitate public and private operators*

*TT10/00... Work with Rural Transport Providers to research and promote sustainable options for rural transport given the increased running costs with the rising cost of fuel’*

*‘TT 10 / P46 Promote and facilitate the development of cycling and walking initiatives such as “walking to school” and facilities in both the urban centres and rural area throughout the County as identified in the Settlement Strategy’*

**Submission No: 83 – KIO**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Sweeney

Seconded by Councillor John King

AND AGREED

*‘TT 10 / P.... Provide, extend and maintain street lighting on the public road/footpath network throughout the County in accordance with best international practice and where funding allows;*

*TT 10 / P48 Ensure that all surfaces used by cyclists are* ***maintained to a high standard and*** *Ensure the provision of new cycle paths as part of development proposals by developers in urban or suburban areas or as part of road development schemes in urban areas by the County. Where possible these cycle lanes should be segregated from vehicular transport corridors and* ***ensure the upgrading of national roads will not impact negatively on the safety and perceived safety of cyclists***

*TT10/P.... Investigate the role of lower speed limits in towns and villages to improve safety for pedestrian and cyclists*

*TT 10 / P..... Develop and implement a County Walking Strategy, in consultation with statutory bodies, walking clubs, community groups and landowners and Support and encourage the continued development of walking routes including Sli na Slanite and co-operate with relevant organisations including walking groups and local communities*

*TT 10/ P….. Promote the expansion of cycle facilities and liaise with Failte Ireland , the Sports Council, the National Transportation Authority and other bodies in the development of cycle touring routes throughout the County and adjoining counties, in particular in areas of high amenity*

*TT 10 / P.... Prohibit the intrusion of development along public walking routes and public rights of way, particularly those in scenic areas and along inland waterways.*

*TT 10 / P.... Protect the integrity of walking routes and potential routes and take the impact of proposed development into account when considering planning applications’*.

**Submission No: 69 – An Taisce Plan Better**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No; 32 – I.F.A.**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**CHAPTER 11 – WATER SERVICES**

**Submission No: 24 – Geraldine Cawley on behalf of Community for Rossmore/Killeshin**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 29 – E.P.A.**

Proposed by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald

Seconded by Councillor Pat Bowe

AND AGREED

*‘WS 11 / P18 Require the provision of wastewater treatment for single houses in line with the EPA Code of Practice 2009 and groundwater protection schemes’*

**Submission No: 20 & 49 (Portarlington Combined Residents Association & Councillor Tom Mulhall**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 32 – I.F.A.**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 69 – An Taisce/Plan Better**

Proposed by Councillor Paddy Bracken

Seconded by Councillor Pat Bowe

AND AGREED

*To include the following*

*‘Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICW) provide a proven and innovative mechanism to address waste-water capacity issues in rural villages, urban centres and for one-off development. Constructing such systems are extremely cost effective (a fraction of conventional systems), have almost neutral ongoing running and energy costs and provide biodiversity and recreational benefits. These systems can provide local solutions to treat wastewater where it arises avoiding the need for significant public investment in physical infrastructure.*

*Constructed wetlands are increasingly been used in water and land management. They address the ever more apparent need for joined-up approaches to land and water management, with this need having International, European and National support i.e. the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and its Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Ramsar 1971 Convention for the protection of wetlands and European Union Directives, particularly that of the Water Framework, Nitrates, Bathing Water, and Ground Water Directives.*

*This robust, sustainable and multi-benefit yield from ICW systems has been successfully applied throughout the country to a range of effluent types in different situations when appropriate assessment, design and construction are conducted’*

*‘WS 11/ P ..... Promote the use of Integrated Constructed Wetlands as an option for the treatment of agricultural runoff and wash waters, industrial runoff and wash waters, e.g. recycling facilities, meat processing facilities, etc, sewage waters for single houses, hotels, guesthouses, schools, villages, towns,housing developments, industrial and commercial developments, of in-stream waters, of storm water, including roads, housing developments, commercial/industrial developments, golf courses; and creation and enhancement of habitats and biodiversity in appropriate locations around the County’*

**Submission No: 77 – Bord Na Mona**

Proposed by Councillor Paul Mitchell

Seconded by Councillor Alan Hand

AND AGREED

*‘WS 11 / PO.. seek to accommodate any expansion required to the reservoir for the Greater Dublin and Midlands Water supply project in County Laois should the need occur and subject to the project being assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to avoid adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites and proper planning and sustainable development’*

**Submission No: 85 – Laois Environmental Network**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Sweeney

Seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

AND AGREED

*‘WS11 / 00... investigate the use of sustainable energy options at new and upgraded water supply facilities ensuring water supply independent of fossil fuel generated power;*

*WS11 / 00... Investigate the possibility of natural water treatment options’*

**CHAPTER 12 – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**Submission No 1 – HAS**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 20 & 32 (Portarlington Combined Residents Association & I.F.A.**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 39 – I.C.F., Submission No: 75, Roadstone, SubmissionNo: 80, Peter Booth & submission No: 75 Cemex**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 87 – Fand Cooney**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 69 – An Taisce/Plan Better**

Proposed by Councillor Paul Mitchell

Seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor

AND AGREED

*To include the following*

*‘ENV 12/ P….. recognise the significant impacts of land use, land use change and sludge generation and treatment in relation to carbon loss/stocks and should also recognise the function of soil assessment and management, carbon sinks, carbon sequestration and restoration of degraded lands in plan led settlement and development strategies’*

**Submission No: 1196 – South East River Basin District**

Proposed by Councillor Pat Bowe

Seconded by Councillor Kathleen O’ Brien

AND AGREED

the following change of wording to reflect the South East River Basin Management Plan:-

*‘Administratively the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan covers the catchments to the river’s Nore, Barrow, Suir, Slaney and a number of smaller rivers around the coast, along with the coastal waters bordering these river catchments. The Shannon catchment is covered by the Shannon International River Basin Management Plan. Both Plans were adopted by Laois County Council in* ***March*** *2010 and approved by the minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in July 2010’*

*‘The chemical and ecological quality of water is resilient once polluting….’*

*‘The Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel, known as Margaritifera durrovensis is found in the River Nore in Laois. This species is unique to the river Nore and is not found anywhere else in the world. It has been critically endangered for some time. The quality of its habitat is failing (evidence of heavy siltation, macrophyte and filamentous green algal growth) and its population demographic profile is weak (insufficient number of juveniles present to provide sustainable replacement of current adults). A sub-basin management Plan for the Nore freshwater pearl mussel* ***is*** *been prepared, which indicates the sensitivity of the species and includes environmental objectives’*

*‘Various sections of the Council will be fundamental to the success of meeting the targets set down in the South Eastern and Shannon International River Basin Management Plans. Important elements in delivering targets include the regime of Planning permissions, waste permits and discharge licenses and enforcement of Planning law, waste management law and water pollution law as well as the provision of municipal waste water treatment and drinking water, municipal landfills, the management of the County road network and related drainage network. Activities outside the remit of the Council such as agricultural and forestry development exempted from Planning permission may have a significant impact on whether targets are met’*

Amend Map 1.12.1 to reflect the drinking water sources and a number of delineated drinking water source catchments/protection areas.

**CHAPTER 13: NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Submission No: 14 – Kate Ramsbottom**

Proposed by Councillor Tom Mulhall

Seconded by Councillor James Daly

AND AGREED

*‘to amend Map 1.13.4. to identify further views and prospects around the Stradbally area.*

**Submission No: 29 – E.P.A.**

Proposed by Councillor Pat Bowe

Seconded by Councillor James Daly

AND AGREED:-

*‘NH 13 / O06 Where the opportunity arises, the Council will seek to create a green network of spaces and corridors in order to provide for richer ecological networks and also amenity areas by linking up existing fragmented green spaces and focusing on linear features such as hedgerows, canal and river banks, railway embankments and walking paths and promote a feasibility study on opportunities for incorporation of green infrastructure’*

**Submission No: 32 – I.F.A.**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 69 – An Taisce**

Proposed by Councillor John Bonham

Seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor

AND AGREED

that the following objective be amended:-

*‘NH 13 / P11 Maximise the amenity and tourist potential of key natural heritage assets and amenity areas in a sustainable manner’*

**Submission No: 94 – Maria Fingleton**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 64 – Offaly County Council**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 76 – Catherine Casey, Heritage Officer**

Proposed by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald

Seconded by Councillor Pat Bowe

AND AGREED

that the following amendments be made to Chapter 13

NH 13/001 *‘To maintain, protect and where possible enhance the conservation value of existing European and national designated sites (NHA, SAC and SPA) in the County and any additional sites that may be proposed for designation during the period of this Plan’*

NH13/P07Implement the Habitats Directive with respect to Natura 2000 sites having regard to their conservation objectives and ensure that all development with a potential to impact on a Natura 2000 Site must legally be the subject of an Appropriate Assessment process under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive

Add the following text

*‘Habitat mapping has been carried out for a number of settlements around the County. Habitat maps where available are included in each Settlement Plan, and policies in relation to management of these habitats are included in the relevant Settlement Plans and in the Development Control Standards’*

NH13/P08 *‘Restrict developments that would be likely, either individually or in combination with other developments, Plans or projects to give rise to significant adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites, and any additional sites that may be proposed for designation during the period of this Plan, having regard to the sites’ conservation objectives’*

*Indicate Site Codes on the following maps*

*Special Areas of Conservation (1.13.1),*

*Special Protection Areas (1.13.2) and*

*Natural Heritage Areas (1.13.3) and*

*Statutory Nature Reserves (1.13.5),*

*Insert a section on Geology as follows*

*Geology is an intrinsic component of the natural heritage of Laois. the Geological Survey of Ireland established the Irish Geological Heritage Programme in 1998. The programme is identifying and selecting the very best national sites for NHA designation, to represent the country's geology. It is also identifying many sites of national or local geological heritage importance, which are classed as County Geological Sites (CGS). These sites will be protected primarily through their inclusion in the County Development Plan.*

*Policy NH 13/P… To protect from inappropriate development of County Geological Sites listed in Table 25.1 as notified by the Geological Survey of Ireland.*

*Policy NH 13/P… To protect geological NHAs as they become designated and notified to the Local Authority, during the lifetime of the Plan.*

*Insert a Table 25.1 identifying the County Geological Sites*

**Submission No: 75 & 80 (Roadstone & Peter Booth)**

Proposed by Councillor Michael Lalor

Seconded by Councillor Paul Mitchell

AND AGREED

*‘NH13/P…. Ensure that the following guidance is taken into account when assessing planning applications for extractive industry - “Notice Nature Biodiversity Guidance for Extractive Developments’*

**Submission No: 83 – KIO**

Proposed by Councillor John Bonham

Seconded by Councillor Patrick Bracken

AND AGREED

That the following be included

*NH13 / O…* ***review the current County Heritage Plan 2007- 2011 and implement*** *the key objectives and associated actions identified in the County Heritage Plan and any revision thereof.*

*It is proposed to delete “ within urban areas” and substitute 15 metres for 10 metres.*

*NH 13 / P22 Require that development along rivers set aside lands for pedestrian routes and cycleways that could link to the broader area and established settlements in the area*

*NH 13/ P.. Ensure that no development* ***including clearance and storage of materials*** *takes place within a minimum distance of 10-15m from each bank of any river, stream or watercourse.*

*NH 13 / P42 Recognise the importance of river corridors for scenic value, ecology, history, culture and for recreational purposes such as walking, cycling and various on-water activities.*

*NH13/ P… In partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Waterways Ireland and other relevant stakeholders facilitate public access to waterway corridors. Maintain and enhance the natural character of rivers, lakes and canals by reserving land to facilitate walking, cycling and other non-noise generating recreational activities.*

*NH13 / P…. encourage new developments in urban/built up areas, to front onto rivers/canals and where possible develop new public walkways along rivers and canals.*

*Nh13/P… Protect and promote Greenways and consider designating them as public rights of way and look favourably upon planning applications which include proposals to improve the condition and appearance of existing rights of way.*

*NH13 / P.. Development will not be permitted where a public right of way will be affected unless the level of amenity is minimised by:*

* + *the footpath/bridleway being diverted by the minimal practical distance;*
  + *the route continuing to be segregated from vehicular traffic and*
  + *Appropriate legal procedures have been undertaken to extinguish the existing right of way and to establish the new right of way to replace it.*

*NH13 /P …… Existing Rights of Way and established walking routes shall be identified prior to any new planting, new infrastructural development and any new energy/telecommunications developments.*

**Submission No 87 – Fand Cooney**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 74 – Mairead Johnson**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission.

**CHAPTER 14 – BUILT HERTIAGE**

**Submission No: 13 – Laois Heritage Society**

Proposed by Councillor Kathleen O’ Brien

Seconded by Councillor Alan Hand

AND AGREED

*‘BH 14 / O0.. Maxmiise the potential as a heritage/cultural and community and tourism site of the Fort of Mary borough, Portlaoise ‘*

**Submission No: 24 – Geraldine Cawley on behalf of Community of Rossmore/Killeshin**

This submission is noted

**Submission No: 69 – An Taisce/Plan Better**

Proposed by Councillor Paddy Bracken

Seconded by Councillor John King

Reference to Architectural Heritage Guidelines included in BH14/P03

*‘Recommend amend reference to landscaped gardens included in paragraph 2 of 14.4 having regard to submission: …Some of these assets comprise individual structures with distinct architectural integrity, groups of buildings, streetscapes, demesne landscapes intrinsically linked to the special interest of country houses, the arrangement of buildings in and around spaces such as in vernacular farmyards and at market squares, the sympathetic evolution of individual structures displaying different architectural trends’*

**Submission No: 71 – O.P.W.**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission.

**Submission No: 74 – Mairead Johnson**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission.

**Submission No: 76 – Catherine Casey, Heritage Officer**

Proposed by Councillor Pat Bowe

Seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

AND AGREED

*that a more up to date table as submitted by the Heritage Officer be included*

**Submission No: 75 & 80 – Roadstone & Peter Booth**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Sweeney

Seconded by Councillor Kathleen O’ Brien

AND AGREED

*‘BH 14/ O…… When considering proposals for extractive Industry , the applicant shall have regard to the Archaeological Code of Practice agreed between Irish Concrete Federation and National Monuments Division’*

**Submission No: 83 – KIO**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Sweeney

Seconded by Councillor John Moran

AND AGREED

*‘BH 14 / O........ Recognise the importance of archaeology and National Monuments as part of our heritage and will provide* ***public access****, subject to reasonable conservational restrictions, to Archaeological sites and National Monuments in state, council or private ownership. Traditional access routes will be designated as public rights of way. In other cases,* ***routes will be acquired*** *either by agreement with landowners or way of compulsory powers. Appropriate signage will be put in place’*

**CHAPTER 15 – GENERAL LOCATION & PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENT**

**Submission No: 29 – E.P.A.**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor Kathleen O’Brien

AND AGREED

*The following objectives for each land in Table 29 will be strengthened with the following additional flooding objectives*

In Areas zoned for industry and warehousing, in areas at risk of flooding as identified on the land use maps, where the development is considered appropriate for wider planning reasons the planning authority should require that

Development management justification test is carried out in accordance with the “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines”2009;

There will be no increase in the number of residential units or households

There will be no adverse impact on the function of the floodplain , watercourse or conveyancing routes;

Residual risk is addressed and reduced where possible, for example through relocation of buildings, and /or flood resilience /resistance measures applied to the site and buildings.

In Areas of Strategic Reserve, in areas at risk of flooding as identified on the land use maps, where the development is considered appropriate for wider planning reasons the planning authority should require that

Development management justification test is carried out in accordance with the “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines”2009;

There will be no increase in the number of residential units or households. There will be no adverse impact on the function of the floodplain , watercourse or conveyancing routes;

Residual risk is addressed and reduced where possible, for example through relocation of buildings, and /or flood resilience /resistance measures applied to the site and buildings.

**CHAPTER 16 – DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

**Submission No: 6 – Councillor Paul Mitchell**

Proposed by Councillor Paul Mitchell

Seconded by Councillor William Aird

AND AGREED

That the Managers Recommendation be amended in relation to this submission to amend the following:-

DCS 24 Roller shutter blinds are not encouraged

DCS 29 Temporary sandwich board style signage poses a hazard for people with visual impairments as well as reducing the width of footpaths for wheelchair users and will not be encouraged

**Submission No: 73**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission.

**Submission No: 76 – Catherine Casey, Heritage Officer**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Cuoncillor Michael Lalor

AND AGREED

*‘DCS 58 (Archaeological Investigations) Reads “Zones of Archaeological potential are shown in Chapter* ***xx -*** *Natural Heritage”. This should read “Zones of Archaeological potential are shown in Section 14.9 - Built Heritage’*

**Submission No: 88 – ECOCEM**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission.

**Submission No: 75 – Peter Booth**

Proposed by Councillor John Moran

Seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor

AND AGREED

*‘All developments must demonstrate that they have considered the embodied CO2 of the materials they have chosen. Examples would be choosing low carbon concrete, or choosing insulation with lower embodied CO2, or choosing timber from sustainable sources (with reduced embodied CO2) or choosing materials that can be easily recycled (which reduces their lifecycle embodied CO2). Those developments that demonstrate a greater commitment to reducing*

*embodied CO2 will receive more favourable consideration during the planning process*’

**Submission No: 83 – KIO**

No suggested changes and the Members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission.

**VOLUME 2 – SETTLEMENT STRATEGY**

**Submission No: 76 & No. 49 – Portarlington Combined Residents Association & Councillor Tom Mulhall**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No. 76 – Catherine Casey, Heritage Officer**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor

AND AGREED

*‘That Under the heading Habitats Policy (Town) (number) Ensure that the habitats detailed in the habitat map for (settlement) are considered in assessing future zoning and development proposals for the town. Detailed guidance for individual habitat types given in the Development Control Standards will be followed in this regard’*

In relation to the 4 urban centres of Portlaoise, Portarlington, Graiguecullen and Mountmellick Anegla McEvoy , A/Senior Planner advised that each of these areas will be reviewed within one year of adoption of the County DevelopmeNT Plan as required under the Plannign and Development Act 2000-2010.

**PORTLAOISE**

**Submission No: 48 – Ken Stanley & Nicola Walsh**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 33 – Damien Costello – Bridgeport Partnership**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**PORTARLINGTON**

**Submission No: 55 – Winnifred Cox**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 64 – Offaly County Council**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**MOUNTMELLICK**

**Submission No: 5 – Thomas Horan**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**MOUNTRATH**

**Submission No: 50 – Madge & Patrick McGovern**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 72 – Liam Byrne**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 70 – Patrick Little on behalf of Liam Linden, Pascal O’ Brien & Augustine Lanham**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 81 – Andrew McBennett on behalf of the Brigidine Sisters, Mountrath**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 43 – Department of Education**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**ABBEYLEIX**

**Submission NO: 29 – EPA**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor John Bonham

AND AGREED

*‘That Mixed-use applications which comprise a housing element will also be accepted within the town centre zoning, though loss of active commercial or retail floorspace to residential use will not be accepted, no further development occurs until appropriate water supply and waste water infrastructural capacity is provided and also*

*Ensure that Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) are implemented in all new developments as appropriate and relevant’*

**Submission No: 66 – N.R.A.**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 22 – Abbeymoyle**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 23 – Charlie Cass**

**Industrial Land on Mountrath Road**

Proposed by Councillor John Bonham

Seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

AND AGREED

*‘That the flood zone on Industrial zoned land on the Mountrath Road be reduced in line with Consultants recommendations’*

**Rathmoyle**

Proposed by Councillor John Bonham

Seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

AND AGREED

*‘that land be zoned for residential 2 at Rathmoyle’*

**Land Adjoining Fr. Breen Park**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Tourism Land**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 84 – Brian Maher**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor John Bonham

AND AGREED

The following amendments are proposed for the Abbeyleix Town Plan

*‘Ab … Promote and implement where relevant to the Planning Authority the actions of the Sustainable Communities / Public Realm Plan’*

**Housing Provision**

*‘Ab 10 Mixed-use applications which comprise a housing element will also be accepted within the town centre zoning, though loss of active commercial or retail floorspace to residential use will not be accepted, no further development occurs until appropriate water supply and waste water infrastructural capacity is provided’*

**Economic Development**

*‘Ab 16 Support local businesses as a way of sustaining local supply chain and local employment.*

*Ab … Provide a Wi-Fi network within the town centre*

*Ab …. Support improved broadband infrastructure coverage and speeds for business users within the town and surrounding areas.*

*Ab …. Promote a local energy market through co-operation between large energy users and through the creation of market for local bio-fuel by farming community.*

*Ab .. assist the community in obtaining land within the development zone of Abbeyleix, to accommodate, amongst others:*

* *Allotments for individual vegetable growing;*
* *A community garden for co-operative vegetable and fruit growing on a bigger scale;*
* *Co-operative animal and poultry production (pigs, chickens, turkey, etc);*
* *Public amenities to facilitate a food fair and/or other similar event;*
* *Training and demonstration facility’*

**Infrastructure**

* *‘Ab 20 Provide and enhance strategic and recreational pedestrian and cycling linkages and associated street lighting as per the indicative objectives map and cycle parking at buildings in community use, especially schools and open up wider cycle and pedestrian linkages to connect with villages nearby, in particular Ballyroan, Ballinakill, Raheen, Shanahoe and Durrow*
* *Ab 21 Enhance Abbeyleix road network as necessary and reserve land and pursue funding for new orbital/relief routes as specified on objectives map and consider the impacts of the by-pass and seek to manage the traffic movement through the town in light of this change*
* *Ab 24 Encourage the intensive use of existing community and sporting facilities and develop outdoor multi-use games areas and seek to expand the existing sports facilities within Fr Breen Park to meet the growing demands of the various clubs sharing the facilities*

*Ab ..Liaise with the relevant authorities to provide Heritage Town signage at the M7/M8 Motorway exits from both the northern and southern approaches to Abbeyleix*

*Ab ….Upgrade and widen the pedestrian approaches on Portlaoise approach and to connect Abbeyleix Bog on Cork Road’*

**Submission No: 45 – Philip Bennett on behalf of Michael & Jacinta Martin**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No’s: 89,90,91 & 92**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor John Bonham

AND AGREED

*‘That the roads objective from the Mountrath Road to the Ballacolla Road be omitted’*

**Submission No: 12 – Dermot McCabe – Supervalue**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 76 – Catherine Casey, Heritage Officer**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor John Bonham

AND AGREED

*‘That the main objectives of the Abbeyleix Sustainable Communities Plan will be proposed as amendments to the Abbeyleix Town Plan in Draft County Development Plan 2012 – 2018’*

**Submission No: 67 – Jason Redmond on behalf of Booth Concrete**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 57**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor Rotimi Adebari

AND AGREED

*Ab .. assist the community in obtaining land within the development zone of Abbeyleix, to accommodate, amongst others:*

* *Allotments for individual vegetable growing;*
* *A community garden for co-operative vegetable and fruit growing on a bigger scale;*
* *Co-operative animal and poultry production (pigs, chickens, turkey, etc);*
* *Public amenities to facilitate a food fair and/or other similar event;*
* *Training and demonstration facility’*

**Submission No: 63 – Irene & Jack Cregan**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly  
Seconded by Councillor Rotimi Adebari

AND AGREED

*‘That Sweetview be zoned as Established Residential’*

**STRADBALLY**

**Submission No: 66 – N.R.A.**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 2 – Stradbally AFC**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 15 – Gavin Owens**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 19 – Adrian Cosby**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 53, 30 & 54 – J Wright, Michael Donlon & Marguerite & Matthew Harrison**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 56 – Daniel Keane on behalf of Robert & Elizabeth Moynan**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 43 – Department of Education/N.R.A.**

Proposed by Councillor James Deegan

Seconded by Councillor Paul Mitchell

To accept the managers Recommendations subject to the following amendments

The school on the vicarstown Road be zoned for town centre use and roads objective as currently indicated (through existing playground on the N80/Carlow Road) be removed and include the following objective stating

St … “relocate entrance to Council lands via the approved access as indicated on the objectives map”.

**RATHDOWNEY**

**Submission No: 43 – Department of Education**

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Phelan

Seconded by Councillor John King

AND AGREED

*‘That all three primary schools be zoned as community/educational’*

**Submission No: 51 – DOEHLG**

This Submission was dealt with under Submission 51.

**DURROW**

**Submission No: 31**

Proposed by Councillor John Bonham

Seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor

AND AGREED that the Durrow Plan *include the following objectives*

*‘Du… Maintain the existing character of the Square area as proposed in Durrow ACA*

*Du… Encourage the use of traditional shopfronts in the Square Area*

*Du… Promote the 18th Century character of the Square Area for tourism gain.*

*Du .. Repair / replace the temporary weir on River Erkina at Old Stone Bridge;*

*Du… Pursue funding for the proposed upgrade of Durrow waste water treatment plant*

*Du….. Promote the environmental tourism potential of Knockanoran woods / Bishop Woods alluvial woodland site’*

**Submission No: 66 – N.R.A.**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**BALLYLINAN**

**Submission No: 66 – N.R.A.**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**BORRIS IN OSSORY**

**Submission No: 17 – N.R.A.**

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Phelan

Seconded by Councillor John Bonham

AND AGREED

*‘That land be re-zoned to enterprise and employment’ and CEI to residential 1’*

**Submission No: 44 – Charles & Theresa Bowe**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**BALLYBRITTAS**

**Submission No: 29 - EPA**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**KILLENARD**

**Submission No: 18 – Michael Cobbe**

Proposed by Councillor Tom Mulhall

Seconded by Councillor William Aird

AND AGREED

*‘That the Objectives map has been amended to incorporate the following objectives in relation to Proposed works on*

1. *Duke street bridge killenard*
2. *Mount Henry Crossroads to Killenard Community Centre*

**BALLYROAN**

**Submission No: 51 – DOEHLG**

This submission was already dealt with under Submission 51

**THE SWAN**

**Submission No: 51 – DOEHLG**

This submission was already dealt with under Submission 51

**TIMAHOE**

**Submission No: 34 – Tony and Mairin Scully**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**CASTLETOWN**

**Submission No: 38 – Sean Dunphy**

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fleming

Seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor

AND AGREED

*‘That lands remain unzoned’*

**EMO**

**Submission No: 10 – Gerald Melia**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**KILLESHIN**

**Submission No: 24 – Geraldine Cawley on behalf of Community of Rossmore/Killeshin**

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fleming

Seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor

AND AGREED

*‘That the following text be included in the Killeshin Village Plan*

*“a community centre exists adjoining the school and a community out of school and crèche facility is located adjacent to the community centre”*

The following objectives are also proposed for inclusion in order to facilitate the development of community infrastructure in the village.

*‘Kn....Facilitate the development of an outdoor all weather area for sports and games, a children’s playground*

*Kn...Encourage the provision of a public garden with allotments for the benefit of the local community*

*Kn ...Facilitate the development of a community facility whereby the local community can drop in for a cup of tea, a chat use the internet/photocopier*

*Kn ....Facilitate the provision of sheltered housing facilities for the elderly*

*Kn…Facilitate an extension and upgrade of THE DEN community childcare facility from a port cabin to a permanent, purpose built structure which will cater for the large numbers attending*

*Kn...The speed limit into Killeshin village from the Abbeyleix side should be moved to begin further back from the village.*

*Kn.......Ensure traffic management measures are put in place for the school*

*Kn....review speed limits in the village of Killeshin*

*Kn.... review car parking provision in conjunction with the community to investigate possibilities for additional spaces*

*Kn ...Wooden fence in the centre of the village at Killeshin cross is unsightly and ugly. Improve this*

*Kn ....Footpath to be provided from Killeshin cross (opposite) school all the way to the church subject to funding becoming available’*

**APPENDIX 4 – DRAFT RETAIL STRATEGY**

**Submission No: 69 – An Taisce/Plan Better**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 93 – DPP on behalf of Tesco Ireland**

Proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded by Councillor John Moran

AND AGREED

*‘TT10/P6.... That Laois County Council prioritise plans for Flood Risk Management in the towns as indicated in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment , in order to mitigate against potential flood risk in consultation with the Statutory Bodies’*

**APPENDIX 5 – WIND ENERGY STRATEGY**

**Submission No: 32 – I.F.A.**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No.: 40 – GEO**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 79 – Irish Wind Energy Association**

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Phelan

Seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming

AND AGREED

That the following paragraph be amended to state

*‘Permitted maximum noise levels at noise sensitive residences shall be in compliance with noise specifications of the DOEHLG ‘Wind Energy Guidelines’.*

**Submission No: 78 – Coillte**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Sweeney

Seconded by Councillor John Bonham

AND AGREED

*‘That areas to remain zoned as ‘preferred areas’ and ‘open for consideration’ as indicated in Draft Wind Energy Strategy’*

**Submission No: 58 – Stephen Brumny and Andrea Woodgate**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 59 – Brian Brennan**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 64 – Offaly County Council**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**APPENDIX 6 – LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**

**Submission No: 11 – Slieve Bloom Association**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 78 – Coillte**

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Phelan

Seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly

AND AGREED

That the wording of last paragraph of general text on page 27 of dLCA to be extended as follows:

*‘The siting and design of wind energy proposals to be in accordance with the DoEHLG Planning Guidelines for Wind Energy Development for Planning Authorities 2006 and the County Wind Energy Strategy’*

**APPENDIX 7: RURAL DESIGN GUIDANCE**

**Submission No: 6 – Councillor Paul Mitchell**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission

**Submission No: 73 – Caroline Goucher**

No suggested changes and the members agreed with the Managers Recommendations in relation to this submission.

**MANAGER’S RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS OR OBSERVATIONS REQUESTING ADDITION OR DELETION FROM RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURE (RPS)**

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fleming

Seconded by Councillor William Aird

AND AGREED

That the following **additions** be made to the Record of Protected Structures as outlined

RPS Number: 963, House, Chapel Lane, Clonaslee, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 964, House, Glenkeen Upper, Clonaslee, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 965, Old College Building, including former Knockbeg House, Knockbeg, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 966, Main College Building including service wing and link, Knockbeg, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 967, St Joseph’s Building of 1965, Knockbeg, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 968, Infirmary Building, Knockbeg, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 969, Limestone single-storey former industrial structure, within Stone Arch compound, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 948, Thatched cottage, Ullard, Portarlington, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 949, Thatched cottage, Brittas, The Rock, Mountmellick, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 950, Detached 3-bay former mortuary, Portlaoise General Hospital, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 952, Outbuilding to former Bank of Ireland, Bank Place, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 953, Former Bank of Ireland, Branch Office, Bank Place, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

RPS. 954 : War Memorial, Millview Memorial Park, Millview, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 955, Former VEC, Tower Hill, Portlaoise.

RPS Number: 956, The Billiard House, Coote Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

RPS: 957: Christian Brothers Monastery, St. Mary’s CBS, Tower Hill, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

RPS. 951: Seven-bay, Two-Storey School, St. Mary’s CBS, Tower Hill, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

RPS. 958: 4-bay, Two-Storey Corner Building, St. Mary’s CBS, Tower Hill, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

RPS: 959: Wall-Mounted Postbox, Tower Hill, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 960, Vent Pipe, Coote Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 961, Wall-Mounted Postbox, Green Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 962, Wall-Mounted Postbox, Station Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

RPS Number: 634, Moneymore Bridge

RPS Number: 633, Quakers Bridge

970\_A Knocknamoe House, West side of entrance to Temperance Street

970\_B East side of entrance to Temperance Street

970\_C The Gatehouse, Temperance Street, Abbeyleix

Proposed by Councillor John Bonham

Seconded by Councillor John King

AND AGREED

That the following also be **added** to the Record of Protected Structures

Dunmore Post Box, Durrow, Co Laois

Killamuck Post box, Abbeyleix, Co Laois

Sweetview Post box, Abbeyleix, Co Laois

Aughmacart Cullahill Postbox, Cullohill, Co Laois

Proposed by Councillor Rotimi Adebari

Seconded by Councillor William Aird

AND AGREED

That the following **deletions** be made to the Record of Protected Structures.

RPS Number:863, Thatched cottage, Cappakeel, Emo

RPS Number:868, Thatched cottage, Moyanna, Vicarstown

RPS Number:274, Former credit union, Shannon Street, Mountrath

RPS Number:784, House, Castle Street, Durrow

RPS Number:393, Mondrehid Castle remains, Coolrain

RPS Number:160, Mary Street, Durrow

RPS Number:726, Old Borris School, Castletown

RPS Number:862, house, Ballintogher

RPS Number **942** Maryborough National School, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise

RPS Number **691** House, Lord Edward Street, Mountmellick

RPS Number **919** Domestic house, Stradbally Road, James Fintan Lawlor Avenue, Portlaoise

RPS Number **926** Domestic House, Downs Road, Portlaoise

RPS Number **930** Curragh Camp Prefab, Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise

Proposed by Councillor Rotimi Adebari

Seconded by Councillor William Aird

AND AGREED

That the following be **retained** on the Record of Protected Structures.

### RPS Number: 634, Moneymore Bridge RPS Number: 633, Quakers Bridge RPS Number:218, Irish Nationwide, Main Street, Portlaoise RPS Number:892, Simmons Mill, Ballylynan RPS Number:143\_A, Portarlington Train Station, Station Road RPS Number:703, MDA Building, Mountmellick RPS Number:890, Flour Mill, Mounteagle, Ballyroan RPS Number:891, Corn Mill, Ballyroan RPS Number:223, Carton Opticians, Main Street, Portlaoise RPS Number:893, Abbeyleix Sawmills, Abbeyleix Demesne RPS Number:925, Portran House, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise RPS Number:678, O Sullivan & Hutchinson Solicitors, Main Street, Portarlington RPS Number:094, An Teach Coiste, Main Street, Portarlington RPS Number:762, Supervalu, Main Street, Abbeyleix RPS Number:102, Matt Dunne Auctioneers, Main Street, Portarlington RPS Number:313, 3-storey, 5-bay commercial property, Ballybrittas RPS Number:58, Abbeyleix Jewellers, Main Street, Abbeyleix RPS Number:60, Cafe Odhran Main Street, Abbeyleix RPS Number:501, Dunmore Demesne gatehouse RPS Number:258A, Portlaoise Road, Mountrath

### RPS Number:924, House, Well Road, Portlaoise RPS Number:566, Bellegrove House, Bellegrove RPS Number:115, Finnegan Racing, The Square, Portarlington RPS Number:940, Grattan Street, Portlaoise RPS Number:915, Bridge Street, Portlaoise RPS Number:418, House, Mondrehid, Coolrain RPS Number:077, Main Street, Abbeyleix RPS Number:160, Mary Street, Durrow RPS Number:900, 901, 899, Presentation Convent Church Avenue, Portlaoise RPS Number:828, railway bridge, Tirhoger RPS Number:471, Footbridge Portlaoise Railway Station RPS Number:070, Main Street, Abbeyleix RPS Number:254, Brigidine Convent, Patrick Street, Mountrath RPS Number:881, house, Raheenleagh, Cullahill RPS Number:870, house, Tomaclavin, Timahoe RPS Number:897, 898, outbuildings to Portleix House, Dublin Road, Portlaoise RPS Number:117, Spa Inn, The Square, Portarlington RPS Number:935, Mountrath Road, Portlaoise RPS Number:604, Ballymanus House, Ballymanus RPS Number:750, Main Street, Stradbally RPS Number:613, Goss Brook House, Goss Brook RPS Number:875, Thatched cottage, Ballyfin RPS Number:731, Market Square, Mountrath RPS Number:917, Bridge Street, Portlaoise

It was noted that all homeowners would be notified of same.

It was also agreed to retain certain protected structures on the Record of Protected Structures despite receiving objections to same.

The County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey expressed thanks to all members for their deliberations on a very dynamic plan and also thanked all the staff involved for a very comprehensive plan

**ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT LAOIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 – 2018 AND THE SECOND MANAGER’S REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED RELATING TO THE LAOIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 – 2018**

Proposed by Councillor Rotimi Adebari

Seconded by Councillor William Aird

AND AGREED

*‘Having considered the Draft Laois County Development Plan, 2012 – 2018 , the draft Record of Protected Structures, the Environmental Report & the County Manager’s recommendations contained in the report and taking account of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the statutory obligations of the local authority and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or of any Minister of the Government that the amendments be made to the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2012 – 2018’. It was noted that the amendments go back out on public display for a period of three weeks’*

*This concluded the business of the meeting.*