

**MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ARAS AN
CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 13TH OF MAY 2019**

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor	John King	In the Chair
	Councillors	Willie Aird	Paddy Bracken
		Ben Brennan	Caroline Dwane Stanley
		John Joe Fennelly	Padraig Fleming
		David Goodwin	James Kelly
		Paschal McEvoy	John Moran
		Tom Mulhall	Aidan Mullins
		Brendan Phelan	Mary Sweeney
		Noel Tuohy	Seamus McDonald
		Pauline Madigan	Catherine Fitzgerald

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messers John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Mr. Michael Rainey, A/Director of Services, Ms. Irene Delaney, Administrative Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

93. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 29TH OF APRIL 2019

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Pauline Madigan, the Minutes of the April meeting held on the 29th of April 2019 were confirmed as circulated.

94. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 23RD OF APRIL 2019

On the proposition of Councillor Pauline Madigan seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 23rd of April 2019 was confirmed as circulated.

95. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN APRIL 2019

On the proposition of Councillor Pauline Madigan seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed the reports on Municipal District Meetings held in April 2019.

96. DISPOSAL OF SITE NO. 33 COMPRISING 0.1052 HECTARES OF LAND AT CLONASLEE

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of Site No. 33 comprising 0.1052 hectares of land at Clonaslee in the townland of Clonaslee for a consideration of €15,000

97. SECTION 85 AGREEMENT BETWEEN LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL AND CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

On the proposal of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed to the Section 85 Agreement between Laois County Council and Carlow County Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 for the Carlow Relief Road Scheme

98. DRAFT LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY 2019-2024

The Members were presented with the draft Laois County Council Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2024. Ms. Orla Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer briefed the Members on the strategy. On the proposal of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy the Members unanimously agreed to adopt the draft Laois County Council Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024.

Councillor King also confirmed to the members that he would be signing the Covenant of Mayors documents later today following an earlier agreement by the full Council to same.

99. ADOPTION OF LAOIS NOISE ACTION PLAN 2019-2022

On the proposal of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney the Members unanimously agreed to adopt the Laois Noise Action Plan 2019-2022.

100. ASSOCIATED COMPANIES AND COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. John Mulholland briefed the meeting on some upcoming changes in respect of the following companies:-

- Laois Third Level – it is proposed that the Elected Members role in this matter be continued through their nomination as appointees (6 no.) to the LOETB in June 2019
- Laois School of Music – revised governance arrangements in relation to the School of Music were outlined and are being currently being reviewed.

101. CORRESPONDENCE

The Members were circulated with the following correspondence which was received since the last meeting of the Council:-

- (i) Correspondence from the Minister for Finance & Public Expenditure & Reform dated the 30th of April 2019 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 20/2019
- (ii) Correspondence from the Minister for Education & Skills dated the 7th of May 2019 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 38/2019
- (iii) Correspondence from the Office of the Taoiseach dated the 7th of May 2019 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 39/2019
- (iv) Correspondence from the Minister for Health dated the 7th of May 2019 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 37/2019
- (v) Correspondence from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government dated the 8th of May 2019 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 21/2019
- (vi) Correspondence from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the marine dated the 9th of May 2019 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 39/2019
- (vii) Correspondence from the Department of Health dated the 9th of May 2019 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 24/2019

- (viii) Correspondence from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection dated the 9th of May 2019 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 36/2019
- (ix) Correspondence from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government dated the 10th of May 2019 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 30/2019

102. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 40/2019

Councillor Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council engage with the National Biodiversity Data Centre with a view to signing up as partners of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, as a number of other local authorities already have across the Country, in the interest of ensuring best environmental practice and the protection of our vital biodiversity”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that proposals are already in hand to ensure that Laois County Council will sign up at an early date to the national Biodiversity Data Centre

Notice of Motion No: 41/2019

Councillor Pauline Madigan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide an update in relation to illegal dumping throughout the County of Laois, including figures from the last year”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy. The Members were advised that all complaints received by way of all correspondence via phone (including Litter Hotline), email, letter or in person are recorded on the Environmental complaints database, where complaints are categorized under a number of headings such as litter, waste, air, water and noise to name but a few. In 2018 Laois County Council received 967 complaints, 904 were specific to litter and waste enforcement. (To date in 2019 403 complaints have been received, 379 relating to litter and waste enforcement). All complaints are investigated by either the litter wardens and/or the waste enforcement team. Every investigation is managed and evidence collected in anticipation of legal proceedings. At time of investigation where evidence is found litter wardens/waste enforcement officers estimate the cost of clean ups and the council's costs associated with the investigation. Where possible the enforcement teams work with the alleged offenders to ensure a timely clean of the area to give the best environmental outcome and the disposal of the material in the appropriate manner. The alleged offender paying all costs associated with the investigation and clean up. The Council ensures that enforcement is proportionate with the risk posed to human health/ and the environment, damage already caused and the costs of remedial works required. Laois County Council also considers enforcement action where there are persistent regulatory breaches. The number of cases referred for legal proceedings in 2018 was 18 for litter and 5 for waste enforcement. To date in 2019 the Council have 11 cases moving to legal proceedings for litter and a number of active waste enforcement cases, 2 of which court dates have been received.

The penalties that offenders have received vary greatly from case to case in 2018 fines ranged from €100 to €3,000. Clean up costs and legal fees have also been awarded. The legal costs to Laois County Council in relation to illegal dumping in 2018 were Litter €2,215; and Waste Enforcement €6,044.

Notice of Motion No: 42/2019

Councillor Pauline Madigan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That the Council increase the number of play areas in estates in the County”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the Council will support existing residents associations in conjunction with developers in the provision of playground equipment in estates when looking for funding for same under the various funding opportunities currently available.

Notice of Motion No: 43/2019

Councillor Pauline Madigan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That the Council create information guidelines as a framework to keep children safe and support families finding themselves homeless in Laois.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney. The Members were advised that all persons, including families, who present as homeless are assessed and, where appropriate, are allocated housing supports in accordance with Laois County Council's Allocation Scheme. If placed in emergency hostel accommodation the provider is required to appoint a Key Worker and a Care Plan is required within two weeks. The Regional Settlement Service provided by Midlands Simon is available across the four counties of the Midlands Region, including Laois. This service supports individuals to remain in their existing accommodation, work with person(s) at risk of becoming homeless and support those exiting temporary emergency accommodation, ie, hostels and B&B's to return to independent living.

The Laois Homeless Action Team, a multi-disciplinary team, meets on a fortnightly basis to discuss cases of homelessness or those at risk of becoming homeless and care plans are put in place for all persons currently accessing homelessness services. This team ensures that homeless person(s) are prioritized for access to services. The Team is comprised of personnel from the following agencies, Social Protection, HSE Mental Health Services, Addiction Services, Probation, Midlands Simon, HSE Community Liaison Nurse and Laois County Council. The Laois/Offaly After Care Steering Committee meets on a regular basis to plan for children exiting care.

Notice of Motion No: 44/2019

Councillor Mary Sweeney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide an update on funding applications for the Town & Village Renewal Scheme”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2019, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development is specifically targeted at rural towns and villages with populations of less than 10,000. Applications from towns can range from €20,000 to a maximum of €100,000. Funding of up to €200,000 will also be considered for a limited number of projects which can deliver exceptionally strong economic benefit to a town and its outlying areas.

Laois County Council are now accepting expressions of interest from towns and villages in Laois that will focus on projects that enhance and develop their areas socially, economically and culturally. The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 17th May at 4.00pm. Laois County Council will then consider expressions of interest with a view to submitting up to 12 applications to the DRCD by 28th June next.

Groups who wish to discuss details of the scheme or have any questions, can contact Ms. Pamela Tynan on 057 8664060 or ptynan@laoiscoco.ie

103. PRESENTATION TO COUNCILLOR JOHN MORAN

The Cathaoirleach Mr. John King paid tribute and congratulations to Councillor John Moran on his retirement from Laois County Council after almost 28 years of unbroken service serving the Luggacurren Area and more recently the Portarlinton/Graiguecullen Municipal District. The Cathaoirleach and all of the Members of Laois County Council paid tribute to Councillor Moran for his significant contribution to Laois County Council and wished him every success in the future.

Mr. John Mulholland on behalf of the Management and Staff of Laois County Council also joined in the sentiments expressed to Councillor Moran and expressed congratulations to him on his remarkable career with this Council and providing an outstanding service to the people of Laois spanning almost three decades.

Mr. John King, Cathaoirleach proceeded to present Councillor Moran with a presentation piece made by the Men’s Shed in Rathdowney

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS