

**MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA  
MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2022**

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Mr. Edmond Kenny, S.E.E. & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs.

**(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the April Meeting of Borris-In-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2022**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John King, the minutes of the April meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2022 were confirmed as circulated.

**(2) Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

**(3) Wooden Bridge Rehabilitation Project**

Mr. Edmond Kenny, S.E.E. delivered a comprehensive presentation to the Members on the Wooden Bridge Rehabilitation Project at Ballyboodin, Ballacolla which included an update on the bridge and the proposals to address the structural and public safety issues at Wooden Bridge which will conserve and protect the uniqueness and heritage value of the bridge. It was noted that the rehabilitation works will increase the load carrying capacity of the bridge to the required 40T. The Members thanked and complimented Mr. Kenny on the presentation and the proposed works.

**(4) Notice of Motions**

**Notice of Motion No: 55/2022**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council provide street lighting on the public road at the entrance to the Glebe housing estate and Clarney Hall, Rathdowney as this area is***

***extremely busy with ongoing traffic both day and night with cattle trucks and other vehicles delivering goods to town on a daily basis”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet the Elected Member at the site to inspect and prepare costings for public lights on this road.

**Notice of Motion No: 56/2022**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council make provision in its road’s budget to install a pedestrian crossing and flashing lights from Erkina Court Estate Rathdowney crossing the Johnston Road to link with the footpath on other side to serve pedestrians and school children carrying out their daily chores”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet the Elected Member at the site to inspect and review the need for a pedestrian crossing at Erkina Court.

**Notice of Motion No: 57/2022**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council improve junction safety at O’ Daly Terrace and Knockiel Estate, Rathdowney by installing set down areas for wheelchair users and pedestrians and also extra road markings”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the footpath configurations will be examined at both junctions to determine the need for mobility improvement works.

**Notice of Motion No: 58/2022**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council apply to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for funding for a new sewerage scheme in Coolrain under the new scheme for un-serviced rural villages recently announced by the Minister”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the scheme in question relates to an advance measure on the Rural Water Programme – the closing date for the submission of applications is September 2022 – in the period to September 2022 Laois County Council will examine various town/villages throughout County Laois without waste water

services all with a view to identifying the most suitable appropriate location to comply with the terms of the grant scheme on offer.

Councillor Ollie Clooney expressed concern in relation this Notice of Motion and indicated that Coolrain is but only one of the rural villages that requires a suitable sewerage scheme.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that this issue be referred back to Water Services.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 59/2022**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council provide a new footpath between St. Mark’s Church, Borris-In-Ossory and the Shanboe roundabout, along with infill lighting to enhance safety for walkers on the Sli na Slainte walking route”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that there is a portion of footpath that is not complete between the entrance to St Canice’s Terrace to the southern side of the railway line. Consultation with Irish Rail will be necessary to further this scheme. The Elected Member will be kept informed of the progress of this scheme.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 60/2022**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council remove the old ‘Ryder Cup Region’ signpost on the R445 at the County boundary at Ballaghmore and replace it with a new sign welcoming people to the Slieve Bloom Midland tourist region”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the old signage will be removed this week.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 61/2022**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council install traffic calming measures on the dangerous bad bend at Woodbrook on the Abbeyleix Road, Mountrath”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Road Design will arrange site meeting with elected member to identify exact location and safety issues and will propose safety calming proposals.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 62/2022**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council carry out remedial works on the footpath at Keegan’s Butchers Main Street Mountrath”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member in Mountrath to inspect the exiting footpaths. Repairs will be undertaken prior to the resurfacing of the Main Street this year.

**Notice of Motion No: 63/2022**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out a survey and cost analysis for a footpath/safe walkway to link Mountrath and Castletown”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that NTA Active Travel Section shall contact and arrange a meeting with the Elected Member to discuss and identify items raised in relation to the proposal for the footpath/safe walkway link.

**Notice of Motion No: 64/2022**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council repair the bridge at Gorrough, Clonaslee (near Ricketts Walk)”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that a bridge inspection will be undertaken to confirm the condition of the structure. The Elected Member will be updated on the condition of the bridge following the inspection.

**Notice of Motion No: 65/2022**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give a progress report on the bridge at Rearyvalley”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that repairs to the structure and river channel are proposed. Due to the extent of the works proposed and the sensitivities of the river an application to An Bord Pleanala will be required. Ecologists have been engaged to undertake

a fish survey to inform the application. This survey will be completed in June. The Elected Member will be kept informed of the progress of this scheme.

**Notice of Motion No: 66/2022**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council erect signs for Clonaghadoo Church at the N80 and Roskeen”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that maintenance crews will upgrade the signage at this junction in the coming weeks.

**Notice of Motion No: 67/2022**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council implement safety measures at the dangerous cross at the T junction at Crooked Wood”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Road Design will arrange site meeting with elected member to identify exact location and safety issues and will propose safety calming proposals.

**Notice of Motion No: 68/2022**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council extend the footpath on the Swan Road, Durrow from the hurling pitch to Knockanoran Lane”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that NTA Active Travel Section shall contact and arrange a meeting with the elected member to discuss and identify items raised in relation to the proposal to extend the footpath on the Swan Road Durrow.

**Notice of Motion No: 69/2022**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council refurbish the footpath at Glanbia, Ballacolla to the old primary school”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that maintenance crews will attend to this path in the coming weeks.

**Notice of Motion No: 70/2022**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council prepare a plan and provide funding for the centre area of O’ Connell Square, Mountmellick. This is necessary to complement the paving works that are currently taking place”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that work on the Mountmellick Local Area Plan will commence shortly and will provide a framework for the development of the town. The Planning Authority will investigate the possibility of preparing a specific more detailed plan for O’ Connell Square, Mountmellick within the Local Area Plan. An issues paper will be prepared and published during the summer with a draft plan ready for Q4 2022. The Planning Authority will then investigate what funding is available in order to carry out works identified within the plan for O’ Connell Square.

**Notice of Motion No: 71/2022**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council carry out safety enhancement works and traffic calming measures at Harbour Street, Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Road Design will arrange site meeting with elected member to identify exact location and safety issues and will propose safety calming proposals.

**Notice of Motion No: 72/2022**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council in conjunction with Irish Water provide a public sewer network for the following areas in Mountmellick – Wolfe Tone Street, New Road, Chapel Street, Garoon, Pond Lane & other areas throughout the town that are not connected to the main sewer”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that the responsibility for new foul water sewerage schemes lies with Irish Water, subject to the normal planning considerations.

Other avenues for new sewers include developer-led sewers and Group Sewerage Schemes, both of which are subject to the Irish Water connection processes.

Councillor Paddy Bracken expressed his dissatisfaction with this response and also previously raised concerns regarding lack of sewerage in Manor Lane, Mountmellick. It was agreed that the matter be brought to the attention of the Director of Services with responsibility for Water Services, Mr. Simon Walton

**(5) Correspondence**

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

Councillor John King sought an update on the recent allocation of €100,000 for Rathdowney under the Town Centre First Scheme. Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services confirmed that Laois County Council have received tenders for Consultants and these will be evaluated over the coming weeks. There will be extensive consultation with all interested parties in the town.

**(6) Fix Date, Time & Venue for Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on the res-scheduled date of the **9<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 at 9.30 a.m.** – venue to be agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

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**Director of Corporate  
Affairs**