

**Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae  
on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 11.00 a.m.**

**Present:** Mary Sweeny, M.C.C. Chairperson ,

Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C., Caroline Dwane Stanley, M.C.C.  
Willie Aird, A.C.C., John Joe Fennelly, M.C.C., Gerry Lodge, M.C.C.,  
Noel Tuohy, M.C.C.

**In attendance:** Kieran Kehoe, D.O.S., Wes Wilkinson, A.S.E., Kim Kinsella,  
A.O., Dermot Leonard, Assistant Engineer

**1) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2017.**

On the proposal of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor  
Noel Tuohy, the minutes of the meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2017 were confirmed and  
circulated.

**2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE AGM MEETING OF THE  
PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2017.**

On the proposal of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor  
Fitzgerald, the minutes of the AGM meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2017 were confirmed  
and circulated.

**3) Matters Arising**

Cllr. Aird sought clarification on the Speed Limit Review. – Kieran Kehoe informed  
that the draft will go to Full Council by November

**4) Community Facilities Scheme 2017**

Scheme explained to Members and recommendations for funding distributed. The  
scheme and awards were discussed by Members and the recommendations were  
agreed and accepted by the Members.

**5) Consideration of amendments to Parking Bye-Laws for Portlaoise**

On the proposal of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor  
Jerry Lodge, draft bye-laws were accepted and adopted with the following variations

Name	Content of Submission	Response from Roads
Laois Shopping Centre	Removal of taxi rank on Kylekeproe Road, and install full width footpath to road edge	<p>This taxi rank is not currently being used enough as a taxi rank to warrant it being left as a taxi rank.</p> <p>It is not being used for Elderly or disabled persons as there is underground and same level parking available nearby.</p> <p>This location is not suitable for perpendicular parking as cars would be reversing out onto oncoming traffic.</p> <p>A loading bay may be considered subject to the outcome of a safe road audit at this location.</p> <p><b>Loading Bay and Taxi rank to be abolished</b></p>
Cllr. Fitzgerald	Request for a Loading bay in Railway street.	<p>A loading bay at this location will result in the loss of 2 spaces. Of the 3 remaining there are 2 permits issued. This would result in 1 parking space at this location.</p> <p>Commercial vehicles can only park for 30mins in a loading bay</p> <p><b>Loading Bay to be installed at this location</b></p>

Additional yellow lines and restrictive parking at Summerhill and Aughnaharna were approved. The bye-Laws were adopted.

#### 6) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Motions 103/2017, 112/2017, 118/2017 and 121/2017 were discussed together.

The Members discussed the issues

- Concern that school warden gone at 3 o'clock. Wes Wilkinson will look into this.
- All members complimented the work of Laois County Council especially Yvonne O'Reilly, Road Safety Officer and the Traffic Wardens.
- Amendments to Bye-Laws welcomed regarding Summerhill and Aughnaharna
- The Members wished Scoil Bhríde well.

<p><b>103/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p>	
<p><i>“That this Council work to get the completion of the section of the Portlaoise Orbital Route between the Timahoe Road and Abbeyleix Road in place as early as possible and in the interim put in place a Traffic Management and Road Safety Plan in the Area of the Schools at Summer Hill”</i></p>	<p><b>Reply: Farhan Nasiem a/ S.E.E. Road Design Section</b>  <i>CPO of this scheme is currently underway. Once CPO process is completed this project will go to tender stage and subsequently construction stage subject to funding approval from Department of Transport (DTTAS).</i></p> <p><b>Reply: Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD</b>  <i>The Road Safety Officer, Traffic Warden and the Portlaoise MD Roads office have worked closely with the Junior &amp; Senior schools in the run up to and since their opening in early September. 2 new zebra crossings have been installed near the entrance to the Holy Family School and with a 3rd zebra crossing due to be completed near the entrance to the Gael Scoil campus in the coming weeks.</i>  <i>There are now 3 full time School Wardens in place on the Southern Circular Route from the Portlaoise Retail Park Roundabout to the roundabout at the entrance to the Holy Family School.</i>  <i>A new section of footpath was also installed to facilitate access to/from the car park adjacent to the Gael Scoil Campus on the Southern Circular Route.</i>  <i>A proposal for additional bollards and road markings on the SCR has been drafted. A funding source has yet to be identified.</i>  <i>The Road Design section has also engaged in discussions with local landowners and submitted an application to the Department in relation to funding for the Blueway from JFL Avenue/Bridge Street, through Pairc an Phobail to the Southern Circular Route in Summerhill.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr Tuohy</b></p>
<p><b>104/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Ann Carroll, A/A.O., Water Services</b></p>
<p><i>“That this Council use its powers under the dangerous site legislation to have the house that was destroyed by fire in Laurel Drive Eskers Hills made safe and to have</i></p>	<p><i>Dangerous Structures Notices have been served by Water Services Section under Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964. The house has been boarded up and the site fenced off</i></p>

<p><i>the owner to either renovate the house or demolish it as soon as possible”</i></p>	<p><i>to prevent unauthorised access. An initial letter sent to registered owner under Derelict Sites Act 1990, which affords the owner/interested party 4 weeks to respond.</i></p> <p><b><i>Cllr. Dwane Stanley stated that there was no date on the Derelict Notice</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Seconded by Cllr. Jerry Lodge</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>105/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Reply: Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD</i></b></p>
<p><i>“That this Council carry out a Road Safety Audit and make safe the junction at Crooked Wood Cross on the Abbeyleix , Ballacolla Road and install signs warning of Deers Crossing between this junction and the Nore Bridge “</i></p>	<p><i>This location will be included as an application for a Road Safety Scheme for the coming year.</i></p> <p><i>The Portlaoise MD Roads Office will erect Deer Crossing Signs in the coming weeks</i></p> <p><b><i>Seconded by Cllr. Jerry Lodge</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>106/2017 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services</i></b></p>
<p><i>“That this Municipal District meeting calls on the General Officer Commanding the Curragh Camp to enter discussions regarding the return of the Crimean War canon to Portlaoise whose Commissioners initially purchased same from the British War Office”</i></p>	<p><i>A letter requesting the return of the Crimean War Cannon has issued to the General Officer Commanding of the Curragh camp</i></p> <p><b><i>Seconded by Cllr. Aird</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>107/2017 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</i></b></p>
<p><i>“That this meeting calls on Laois Co Co to undertake a survey of housing estates to ascertain those areas where the level of public lighting is being reduced by tall trees adjacent to lamp standards and furthermore that the Council survey Portlaoise in order to ensure that tree owners are asked to trim their hedges where they overhang public footpaths and pose a hazard for pedestrians”</i></p>	<p><i>As part of routine public lighting repairs any tree branches around the public lights are removed. Further detailed survey will also be carried out. If there is any particular area where trees need to be trimmed around Public light then please advise Roads Public Lighting section</i></p> <p><b><i>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>108/2017 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services</i></b></p>
<p><i>That this meeting be informed as to when the public toilets in Portlaoise will be re-opened.</i></p>	<p><i>An assessment of costs in relation to addressing the Health &amp; Safety concerns is currently being developed. <b>Seconded Cllr. Tuohy</b></i></p>

<b>109/2017 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, A/S.E.E.</b>
<p><i>“That this Council upgrade all road markings and linings in Abbeyleix and also line the village of Ballinakill especially from Market Square to the Kilkenny Road”</i></p>	<p><i>In relation to Ballinakill, line marking will be carried out in the coming weeks.</i></p> <p><i>In relation to the request to upgrade all road markings and linings in Abbeyleix, the Portlaoise MD Road Office will contact the TII in relation to maintaining/refreshing the line making on the main carriageway of the N77.</i></p> <p><i>The Portlaoise MD Road Office will also survey the remaining line marking along the Main Street that is off the main carriageway of the N77. Once the cost of the works is quantified, the works can be considered for funding in 2018.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded Cllr. Aird</b></p>
<b>110/2017 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>	<b>Ms. Ann Carroll, A/A.O., Water Services</b>
<p><i>“That this Council upgrade the main sewage system to include the houses on the Portlaoise Road and the Island, Abbeyleix”</i></p>	<p><i>Irish Water have received an update advising that they do not have any plans to upgrade the main. If future development requires this, it will be looked at through the new connections application process.</i></p> <p><i>If residents would like to make an application they can do so via our website under the following link</i>  <a href="https://www.water.ie/connections/get-connected/">https://www.water.ie/connections/get-connected/</a>. <i>They can then follow the steps provided on the website, we can process their application.</i></p> <p><b>Cllr. Fennelly not happy with the response. Request to contact IW to revitalise existing plans</b></p> <p><b>Seconded Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b></p>
<b>111/2017 – Councillor Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD</b>
<p><i>“That this Council conduct a safety audit on the Ballacolla Road from Crooked Wood Cross to Clonohill especially at the entrance to local residents”</i></p>	<p><i>This location will considered as an application for a Road Safety Scheme for the coming year.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</b></p>

<p><b>112/2017 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD</b></p>
<p><i>“That this Council congratulate all concerned with the building and opening of the new schools in Portlaoise and continues to work with the schools and residents of adjoining housing estates to ensure the safety of children . That this council provides safety precautions i.e. Ramps, railings and pedestrian crossings and double yellow lines where appropriate in the areas of Aghnaharna, Aghnaharna Court, Summerhill and Beladd and continues to review the traffic management at school start and finish times “</i></p>	<p><i>The Road Safety Officer, Traffic Warden and the Portlaoise MD Roads office have worked closely with the Junior &amp; Senior schools in the run up to and since their opening in early September.</i></p> <p><i>2 new zebra crossings have been installed near the entrance to the Holy Family School and with a 3rd zebra crossing due to be completed near the entrance to the Gael Scoil campus in the coming weeks.</i></p> <p><i>There are now 3 full time School Wardens in place on the Southern Circular Route from the Portlaoise Retail Park Roundabout to the roundabout at the entrance to the Holy Family School.</i></p> <p><i>A new section of footpath was also installed to facilitate access to/from the car park adjacent to the Gael Scoil Campus on the Southern Circular Route.</i></p> <p><i>A proposal for additional bollards and road markings on the SCR has been drafted.</i></p> <p><i>A funding source has yet to be identified.</i></p> <p><i>The Road Design section has also engaged in discussions with local landowners and submitted an application to the Department in relation to funding for the Blueway from JFL Avenue/Bridge Street, through Pairc an Phobail to the Southern Circular Route in Summerhill.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b></p>
<p><b>113/2017 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services</b></p>
<p><i>That this Council provide an update as to the status of the Public Toilets in Lyster Square.</i></p>	<p><i>An assessment of costs in relation to addressing the Health &amp; Safety concerns is currently being developed.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr. Dwane Stanley is seeking further clarification on this matter.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</b></p>

<b>115/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD</b>
<i>“That Laois County Council improve safety at the road at Baunree, Cullenagh”</i>	<i>I have met with the landowner on site in Baunree, Cullenagh and had initial discussions relating to the safety issues at this location. It is intended to put together a brief proposal within the next 2 weeks for works at this location.</i>  <b>Seconded; Cllr. Fitzgerald</b>
<b>116/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD</b>
<i>“That Laois County Council improve visibility at Blandsfort Cross, Dooary Ballyroan”</i>	<i>I will arrange to meet Cllr Sweeney at this location to investigate the issues.</i>  <i>Hedge Cutting Notices may be issued to landowners if required.</i>  <b>Seconded: Cllr. Fennelly</b>
<b>117/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD</b>
<i>That Laois County Council repair footpath at Balladine Abbyleix adjacent to Danny Cass’s house”</i>	<i>Some footpath works have already been carried out in this general area within the last few months. I will arrange to meet Cllr Sweeney at Ballindine to confirm the specific location.</i>  <b>Seconded: Cllr. Fennelly</b>
<b>118/2017 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD</b>
<i>“That this Council engage with the primary schools in Aughnaharna to resolve the traffic issues at the schools”</i>	<i>The Road Safety Officer, Traffic Warden and the Portlaoise MD Roads office have worked closely with the Junior &amp; Senior schools in the run up to and since their opening in early September. 2 new zebra crossings have been installed near the entrance to the Holy Family School and with a 3rd zebra crossing due to be completed near the entrance to the Gael Scoil campus in the coming weeks.</i>  <i>There are now 3 full time School Wardens in place on the Southern Circular Route from the Portlaoise Retail Park Roundabout to the</i>

	<p>roundabout at the entrance to the Holy Family School. A new section of footpath was also installed to facilitate access to/from the car park adjacent to the Gael Scoil Campus on the Southern Circular Route. A proposal for additional bollards and road markings on the SCR has been drafted. A funding source has yet to be identified. The Road Design section has also engaged in discussions with local landowners and submitted an application to the Department in relation to funding for the Blueway from JFL Avenue/Bridge Street, through Pairc an Phobail to the Southern Circular Route in Summerhill.</p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr. Lodge</b></p>
<p><b>119/2017 - Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b></p>
<p><i>"That this Council give an update on the Rockview Roundabout on the Mountrath Road"</i></p>	<p>Road design has agreed with design of the junction but planning application is still in process.</p> <p><b>Seconded Cllr. Aird</b></p>
<p><b>120/2017 - Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson,</b></p>
<p><i>"That the appropriate signage be erected after the Rockview Roundabout to slow down traffic on the approach into Portlaoise on the Mountrath Road/Grattan Street area "</i></p>	<p>The Portlaoise MD Roads Office will carry out a review of the existing signage and road markings along this section of road and we will revert with proposals where appropriate.</p> <p><b>Seconded Cllr. Aird</b></p>
<p><b>121/2017 - Councillor Willie Aird</b></p>	<p><b>Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD</b></p>
<p><i>"That Laois County Council install bollards and line marking and mark crossings on the Southern Circular Route to facilitate people walking to all schools on the route"</i></p>	<p>The Road Safety Officer, Traffic Warden and the Portlaoise MD Roads office have worked closely with the Junior &amp; Senior schools in the run up to and since their opening in early September. 2 new zebra crossings have been installed near the entrance to the Holy Family School and with a 3rd</p>



zebra crossing due to be completed near the entrance to the Gael Scoil campus in the coming weeks. There are now 3 full time School Wardens in place on the Southern Circular Route from the Portlaoise Retail Park Roundabout to the roundabout at the entrance to the Holy Family School. A new section of footpath was also installed to facilitate access to/from the car park adjacent to the Gael Scoil Campus on the Southern Circular Route. A proposal for additional bollards and road markings on the SCR has been drafted. A funding source has yet to be identified. The Road Design section has also engaged in discussions with local landowners and submitted an application to the Department in relation to funding for the Blueway from JFL Avenue/Bridge Street, through Pairc an Phobail to the Southern Circular Route in Summerhill.

**Seconded: Cllr. Fitzgerald**

**122/2017 – Councillor Willie Aird**

**Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD**

*That this Municipal District request a right turning lane into Ballymacken Industrial Estate in the interest of safety for all the people who are working in the estate,*

*The section of the N80 in front of the industrial estate in Ballymacken is not included in the 2017 resurfacing works that are currently underway. However this location is a possible site for resurfacing works in 2018. The LCC Road Design Section have reviewed this section for installation of right turning lane but found that there is not enough width available. If this road is included in the 2018 resurfacing programme with the TII, LCC we will make case to widen the road and install right lane as part of the works. There are no other funding options available with TII at present.*

**Kieran Kehoe clarified that there will be an overall scheme for this location**

**Seconded Cllr. Fennelly**

<p><b>123/2017 – Councillor Willie Aird</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.</b></p>
<p><i>That this Municipal District be afforded the opportunity to visit with the Engineers, the following sites:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. Meelick Junction on the Abbeyleix Road end,</i></li> <li><i>b. Higgs Lane at the entrance to Ballymacken Road</i></li> <li><i>c. Site at Ballymacken Road to the junction on the Dublin Road.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>MEELICK:</b> <i>In relation to the junction where the L-6310-0 at Meelick meets the N77 Abbeyleix Road, the Road Design Section are in discussions with the TII regarding this location. The location has been proposed for a safety improvement scheme and also a pavement improvement scheme for 2018. The Road Design Section will be putting forward a design proposal that will remove the option for vehicles on the L-6310-0 at Meelick to turn right onto the N77 in the direction of Portlaoise. It is hoped that funding for the combined Safety and Pavement improvement schemes will be confirmed in May/June 2018.</i></p> <p><b>HIGGS LANE:</b> <i>Works are due to commence within the next 6 weeks at the junction where the L-6769-0 Higgs Lane meets the R425 at Ballymacken. These works will involve widening the entrance to Higgs Lane to facilitate vehicles turning off the R425 onto Higgs Lane.</i></p> <p><b>RATHBRENNAN/BALLYCLIDER:</b> <i>The Portlaoise MD Roads office will arrange to meet Councilor Aird on site in relation to the junction where the R445 Dublin Road meets the R425 at Rathbrennan/Ballyclider</i></p> <p><b>Cllr. Aird requested a TII representative to attend a Municipal meeting</b></p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr. Fitzgerald</b></p>

**5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Congratulations to Abbeyleix for the Entente Florale silver medal. All Members agreed and praised Cllr. Fennelly's work. The Area Office staff were thanks and a special thanks to Ann- Marie Kelly.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

*None*

**7. FIX TIME, DATE & VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING.**

*The next meeting is to be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 @ 11.00 a.m. in the Council Chamber of Áras an Chontae.*

*This concluded the business of the meeting.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

Certified: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR OF SERVICE.**

