**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER BIRR M.D. MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2024 IN CHARLEVILLE ROOM, ARAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE 4.30 P.M.**

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| **MEMBERS PRESENT:** | **Cllrs P Ormond, J Clendennen, J Leahy, A Hennessy – Kennedy, H Egan, S Maher,** |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** | **Ms A Dillon, DOS, Mr J Mitchell SEE, Mr B Lennon SE Roads OCC, Mr D Egan, Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator; Ms. D Molloy Meetings Administrator** |

1. **Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 14th October, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr Clendennen and seconded by Cllr Hennessy-Kennedy the Minutes of Meeting in Committee of Birr MD on the 14th October, 2024 were adopted.

1. **Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 14th October, 2024**

On the proposal of Cllr Maher and seconded by Cllr Egan the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD on the 14th October, 2024 were adopted.

1. **Matters arising from October meeting.**

There are no matters arising from the October meeting.

1. **Roads Update – Mr Barry Lennon S.E.**

Mr Barry Lennon, S.E. Roads Section OCC presented an update to the Members in relation to the status of the Roads Program 2024 for Birr MD. He advised that the implementation of the default Speed Limits to 60 km on local roads had been pushed out to February 2025, but work had already started on the ground in preparation for same. Mr Lennon further advised that the tender for the Birr Northern Distributor Road had been awarded and the Contract would be signed in the next few weeks and the Contractor should be on the ground to commence works early in 2025. The Members thanked Mr Lennon for his presentation and raised the following:

* The Members welcomed the commencement of the Northern Distributor Road and enquired if traffic lights would be used to control the junctions. They also welcomed the Active Travel Works from Birr North to Pound St link which would benefit the school and residents in the area greatly.
* The Members raised issues in relation to speeding and traffic calming in the MD, Mr Lennon advised that OCC’s Traffic Calming Strategy will be reviewed in the coming months. The Members enquired if a meeting of the full Council could be organised and invite all stakeholders e.g. Gardai, TII to discuss the issues of speeding, traffic calming measures and road safety.
* The Members asked that the issue of bus stops and bus shelters be looked at and suitable locations for same need to be identified clearly for the public. The Members were advised that this was being looked at in conjunction with the Local Link service to identify the optimum locations for bus stops and it was intended to roll this out over the next six months.
* The Members raised the issue of signage deteriorating in the MD and some signs need to be repaired or replaced, they were advised that some signs will be replaced under the new Speed Limit scheme.
* Welcomed the work carried out at Kilcormac school and congratulated the staff on the excellent calibre of the work carried out. Also acknowledged the funding contributed towards the works and the community garden. The members welcomed the work carried out in Cloghan and advised that the residents are very happy with same.
* The Members raised the issue of the junction at Railway Road from the Scurragh housing estate on to the Roscrea Road as being very dangerous, and also the pedestrian crossing at this location is causing concern. They also mentioned the traffic build up at the Tesco roundabout and enquired what can be done to improve the movement of traffic from Emmett Sq to the Roscrea Road

**5. Healthy Ireland Fund Programme – Dermot Egan, Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator**

Mr Dermot Egan, Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator gave a presentation to the Members in relation to the Healthy Ireland Fund Programme. The Members thanked him for his presentation and commended the great work being carried out. The Members then raised the following:

* The Members enquired if the projects for the current year carry into the following year or are new projects looked for, Mr Egan advised that depending on budgets available they try to carry forward projects.
* The Members commended the Social Farming Project as an excellent initiative,
* The Members enquired if a project could be looked at for the outdoor gym in the park in Birr in order to utilise the equipment to its full potential, they were advised that a group in the community would need to come forward with a desire to implement the project.

1. **Any Other Business**
2. The Members congratulated Birr Tidy Towns on their recent award in the National Tidy Towns Competition.
3. The Members were advised that Mr John Mitchell S.E.E. would be leaving Birr MD in the New Year to take up a position in Tullamore and that his replacement had not yet been appointed. The Members thanked Mr Mitchell for the great work he had carried out in Birr during his time here and their appreciation for the co-operation he had afforded to the Members and Community Groups alike.

The Meeting then concluded.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CATHAOIRLEACH MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATE:**