**MINUTES OF JUNE MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIRR HELD ON MONDAY 12TH JUNE, 2023 IN BIRR CIVIC OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 4.15 P.M..**

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| **MEMBERS PRESENT:** | **Cllrs E Dooley, P Ormond, J Carroll**  **J Clendennen, C Claffey and J Leahy** |
| **IN ATTENDANCE:** | **Ms A Dillon, DOS, Mr J Mitchell, SEE, Ms Lourda Giles A/SEO Community & Culture Section OCC, & Ms D Molloy, Meetings Administrator** |

**Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 8th May, 2023.**

On the proposal of Cllr Dooley and seconded by Cllr Leahy the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 8th May, 2023 were adopted.

**Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 8th May, 2023.**

On the proposal of Cllr Ormond and seconded by Cllr Carroll the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 8th May, 2023 were adopted.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes of the May 2023 meeting:**

There were no matters arising.

**Community & Culture Update**

Ms Lourda Giles A/SEO Community and Culture Section OCC presented a report to the Members outlining the activities of the Section and the actions that they support. The Members thanked her for her comprehensive report and complimented the great work being carried out by the Community and Culture Section and raised the following:

* The Members acknowledged the large volume of funding that is being secured by the LCDC in the county and acknowledged the benefit of this funding being seen in every town and village in the county. They acknowledged the large amount of resources that are needed to complete the funding applications and see them through to fruition.
* The Members enquired about the amount of accommodation both occupied and pledged by the Ukrainian community in the MD. They were advised that a team to co-ordinate this effort had been set up in the Housing Section and that two calls had already been made to the public to pledge accommodation. There was some take up on shared accommodation but did not have the exact figures to hand and these would be circulated to the Members at a later date.
* The Members enquired about the animation programme and if any consideration had been given to using rooms in the Birr Courthouse to progress same, the DOS advised that this could be looked in to.
* The lack of a lifeguard at the outdoor swimming pool in Banagher and if this was a matter for the Community Section. The DOS advised that Water Safety falls within the remit of Corporate Services and that they would be asked to engage again with Galway County Council to progress the matter of provision of a lifeguard for the summer season.
* Enquired about the Pride of Place competition and where groups would find application forms to apply for same?
* The Members recognised the large number of groups registered with the PPN and enquired if there are many more groups that OCC are aware of that are not registered?
* The Members enquired about the selection process to see who would be responsible for administering the new LEADER Programme 2023-2027. They were advised that both OLDC and LCDC would make submissions before the 14th July and that a decision would be made by DRCD as to who would administer the new LEADER programme.

**Roads Progress Report:**

Mr John Mitchell SEE, presented a report to the Members outlining funding that had been secured and works currently being carried out, the Members thanked him for his report and raised the following:

* The Members welcomed the funding secured for the Birr North Distributor Road and felt that this was needed as a priority in the town. They enquired if a plan would be shown to the Members before it is submitted to the Dept., Mr Mitchell advised that once a plan is developed it will be presented to the Members, the plan will have to incorporate a cross section to accommodate cyclists, pedestrians, motorists and HGVs. The Members also enquired about the Southern Distributor Road and when the Primary Care Centre is completed would it provide some of this road, Mr Mitchell advised that we have applied to the Department of Transport to seek funding to commence the route selection process.
* The Members enquired about the LIS allocation and if this would help to complete the current list and when would a new scheme be advertised. Mr Mitchell advised that the objective was to clear the current list before advertising again and that additional funding was being applied for in order to try and complete more schemes
* The Members raised concerns in relation to safety concerns at Boolinarrig junction, Mr Mitchell advised that he would talk to the Roads section in OCC about this but that the funding allocated is solely for pavement surfacing.
* The Members raised the need for a footpath to be provided from Kilcormac to the Faithful Fields playing facility, Mr Mitchell advised that a plan has been prepared but funding needs to be secured from the TII to progress this scheme.
* The Members raised concerns about the road network at Lough Boora as it is deteriorating a lot and also raised concerns in relation to Gallen Bridge and the need for lights to be installed on the bridge for safety. The issue of poor visibility at Lumcloon Cross from overgrown verges and the need for signage, Mr Mitchell advised that the visibility issue would be addressed. The Members enquired if speed surveys had been carried out in these areas were complete and if had indicated any speeding issues. Mr Mitchell agreed to review same.
* The issue of the road at the Ferbane Business Park to Ballycumber was raised and the need to improve same as it is a peat based road, and the Members also raised the issue of the funding received for works on peat based roads and when this money would be spent on the roads in BMD area to improve them.
* The Members welcomed the works to be carried out near Cloghan GAA pitch and were advised that no detailed plan has been drawn up yet to identify the exact location of the pedestrian crossing. They also welcomed the Safe Routes to School programme in Banagher.
* The Members welcomed the N62 pavement scheme and enquired if the large volume of traffic and large vehicles from the windfarm site would impact same.
* The Members enquired about the Greenway from Gallen to Belmont and is there a plan to link this to Ferbane town and to Clonmacnoise, Mr Mitchell advised that he would check with the Roads section in OCC in relation to this and revert to the Members.

The Meeting then concluded.

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

**CATHAOIRLEACH MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATE:**