

**MINUTES OF JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL  
DISTRICT OF BIRR HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2023 IN BIRR  
CIVIC OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 4.00 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 Anna-Marie Delaney, Chief Executive, OCC,  
Ms Ann Dillon, DOS, Mr J Mitchell, SEE Birr  
MD, Ms O Cummins AO Town Regeneration  
Officer, Planning OCC & Ms L Smyth, Meetings  
Administrator**

**Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> November,  
2022.**

On the proposal of Cllr Dooley and seconded by Cllr Clendennen the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 were adopted.

**Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2022.**

On the proposal of Cllr Ormond and seconded by Cllr Dooley the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 were adopted.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes of the November 2022 meeting:**

There were no matters arising.

**Regeneration Projects Update – Olwen Cummins, OCC**

Ms Olwen Cummins, Town Regeneration Officer, Planning Section, OCC delivered an update to the Members on the progress with the Regeneration Projects. The Members thanked her for her report and raised the following:

- The Members welcomed the Banagher Painting Scheme for residential and commercial buildings as it was very successful and would like to see it rolled out to other areas also. The members enquired about derelict buildings in Shinrone and if there is any assistance from OCC with regards improving them or putting them to use. Members were advised that a new derelict site policy and procedure was going through the SPC shortly and all property owners will be made aware of funding opportunities for development of derelict/vacant properties. Offaly County Council will also avail of any such funding opportunities. Croí Conaithe scheme currently is an example of such a scheme.
- The Members enquired if the council had a section that reviewed buildings usage and maintenance. The Members were advised that there is a property management section in the Roads Section in Offaly County Council. With regards the maintenance of the buildings if the building is leased to a community group they maintain it, the building is self-sustained funded through a nominal fee for rent.
- The Members enquired about the hotel in Banagher and what the plans are for this premises. The Members were advised that it is envisaged that the Hotel in

Banagher will be redeveloped as a library, and multipurpose community space with potential for social enterprise space e.g. community café. The tender process for this development will begin in Q1 2023.

- The Members enquired what the criteria was for choosing how a community group can apply for TVR projects? The Members were advised that expression of interests are advertised from community groups through local newspaper and social media platforms, it is advertised in the local newspapers and Offaly Local Development Company also assist groups with these EOIs. The evaluation process is undertaken following the Department guidelines and criteria for any given year and the Department selects the final successful projects.
- The members enquired about an update for Ferbane Convent tender for design team. The members were advised that the tender will close on 20<sup>th</sup> January. It is also proposed that a public consultation open day in the Convent will be held for the local community as soon as it is safe to do so

Ms Ann Dillon, DOS thanked the members for their input into all the regeneration funding streams and thanked the Municipal District of Birr for their project delivery to date.

### **Birr MD 2022 Year in Review – John Mitchell, SEE**

Mr John Mitchell, SEE, Municipal District of Birr delivered a review to the Members on the Municipal District of Birr for 2022. Mr Mitchell thanked the members for supporting projects that required additional funding. The Members thanked him for his review of Birr MD 2022 and raised the following:

- The Members thanked the outdoor staff and the supervisors for their work over 2022.
- The Members enquired about the old Landfill site in Ferbane Business Park, the Ferbane Board Walk update and also Ferbane Boys National School traffic issues if access could be moved off the main road. The Members were advised that with regards to Ferbane Boys National School discussions will be required between the Gardai and the TII. Mr. Mitchell advised the members that he had contacted the National Parks & Wildlife and offered a meeting to discuss how OCC could assist in expediting the opening of the walk. He also said that the MD would consider all possible options for making use of/ restoring the old Landfill site.
- The Members complimented the staff for the high quality of work completed at Broughal National School.
- The Members enquired about the lifespan of the road strengthening. Mr. Mitchell advised the Members that the life span was 15 to 20 years depending on the weather, but that severe weather will impact on the legacy network annually.
- The Members enquired about safety issues at the zebra crossing at Apple Green at the GAA pitch in Birr, speed in villages regardless of kerbs and additional calming measures and if Bus Stop locations could be identified.
- The Members asked if the backlog of applications for the Local Improvements Scheme be cleared before any new application would be received. The members were advised that this would be reviewed.

- The Members enquired about more details about roads closure and work to be updated on social media. Mr John Mitchell advised Members that he would look to advise members through the use of social media and VMS signs.
- The Members requested if road signage cleaning could happen simultaneously in all 3 Municipal Districts. Mr Mitchell noted this request and advised Members the Municipal District would communicate with the other areas concerning this.
- Ms Anna-Marie Delaney, Chief Executive, OCC complimented the Municipal District for the huge volume of works completed during COVID and 2022 between projects completed and currently in progress. The Chief Executive thanked the Members for their support during 2022 and to John Mitchell and staff in the Municipal District.

**Local Area Plan Birr update**

The Members were advised the Council meeting to approve the Draft Local Area Plan for Birr would take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> January in Council Chamber, Offaly County Council.

**Any Other Business:**

MIDOC – The Members requested a meeting with HSE over the closure of the MIDOC service for Offaly. The Members agreed that if a meeting with the HSE did not occur at full Council level that they would like to arrange a meeting in the Birr Municipal District.

The Meeting then concluded.

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

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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**MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATE:**