

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT OF BIRR HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER,
2020 IN BIRR CIVIC OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 4.30 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 Ann Dillon A/Director of Services, Mr John Mitchell SEE, Mr Basil Mannion LAWPRO, Mr Declan Meehan Planning OCC and Ms D Molloy, Meetings Administrator.

Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 14th September, 2020.

On the proposal of Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Clendennen the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 14th September, 2020 were adopted.

Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 14th September, 2020.

On the proposal of Cllr Claffey and seconded by Cllr Dooley the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 14th September, 2020 were adopted.

Camcor River Project:

Mr Basil Mannion, LAWPRO LCO gave a presentation to the Members on the Camcor River Project. He advised that this is a collaboration between a number of groups and is being funded by Offaly LCDC, with match funding being provided by Birr 20:20 Vision Group who are the vehicle drivers for the project. The Members welcomed the project, thanked him for his presentation and raised the following:

- Acknowledged the asset that the river is to the area and welcomed the prospect of being able to harness some of the potential for the enjoyment of both locals and tourists.
- Has regeneration of the River Walk area been considered within the Birr Destination Town Project and could some elements of the report be funded through this?
- Acknowledged that comprehensive public consultation was carried out and enquired if any disability groups were approached for their input in relation to accessibility.
- Expressed concern in relation to lands flooding along the course of the river and feel it is essential that farmlands are not affected by any works carried out.

2021 General Municipal Allocations

Ms Ann Dillon presented the proposed 2021 General Municipal Allocation to the Members and it was noted that the proposed allocation was a significant reduction on the 2020 allocation. The Members while acknowledging the challenging times we are in unanimously agreed not to accept this proposal at present and to wait to hear the details of Budget 2021 before making a decision. It was agreed to defer same to a later date.

Briefing in relation to Part 8 Grand Canal Greenway from Turraun to Shannon Harbour

Mr Declan Meehan, Planner OCC gave a presentation to the Members in relation to the proposed Grand Canal Greenway from Turraun to Shannon Harbour, he advised the Members that the Part 8 would be coming before the OCC meeting in November for decision. He advised that a number of submissions had been received and were being addressed. The Members thanked Mr Meehan for his briefing, welcomed the proposal and raised the following:

- Some residents have issues in relation to gates being left open by people who have the keys and not locking them.
- Essential to provide toilet facilities for the route and also adequate signage.

Birr Destination Town Update:

The Members were advised that the Project Team had attended a workshop with Failte Ireland in August and are currently awaiting a baseline audit report on visitor experience from them which can be shared with the Members when it is received. After the report it is hoped for a meeting with Failte Ireland and that consultation with stakeholders and the business community can begin. The draft Public Realm report is also due in the coming week. Mr Mitchell advised that in relation to the TVR works at The Green in Birr that he has recently met with the residents and businesses on the street and is close to finalising the design and moving towards procurement stage. The Members thanked him for his update and raised the following:

- What is the proposed timeframe for the project and when is it likely to be completed? It would be ideal to get work completed while so many businesses are closed, can a timeline be presented to the Members? The Members were advised that completion in 2022 was anticipated.
- Have all stakeholders been engaged with or been made aware of the project?
- Expressed disappointment that the work in Green St is taking so long to commence.

Any Other Business

1. The Members welcomed the surfacing of the N62 but advised that the right turn for Brosna needs to be relooked at. Also raised issues in relation to the junction at Riverstown that needs to be revised, they were advised that Road Design were made aware of the issues and these are being looked at.
2. The DOS advised the Members that a response had been received from the ESB in relation to Shannonbridge and that they had agreed to meet the OCC members to discuss same. No response has been received from the HSE or Bord na Mona to date.
3. Cllr Dooley advised the Members that an issued had arisen within the Ferbane Heritage Centre. He advised that the Centre had been closed since Covid 19 and had recently undergone an inspection which showed that in order to be able to reopen the Centre again works would have to be carried out which would cost in the region of €40000. He advised that it would be possible to make an application to OLDC for funding but the Committee would need to

have match funding. He requested that a sum of €10,000 be made available from the Community Grants Scheme to assist with same. The Members unanimously agreed to support same and on the proposal of Cllr Ormond and seconded by Cllr Clendennen it was agreed to grant the sum of €10,000 to Ferbane Heritage Centre.

The Meeting then concluded.

SIGNED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: