

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT OF BIRR HELD ON MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER, 2022 IN BIRR
CIVIC OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 5.15 P.M.**

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs E Dooley, P Ormond, J Carroll
J Clendennen, Cllr Claffey and J Leahy

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Stephane Duclot, DOS, Mr John Mitchell,
SEE Birr MD, Mr John Cunningham, SE
Housing Services OCC & Deirdre Molloy,
Meetings Administrator

Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 11th July, 2022.
On the proposal of Cllr Dooley and seconded by Cllr Ormond the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 11th July, 2022 were adopted.

Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 11th July, 2022.
On the proposal of Cllr Clendennen and seconded by Cllr Leahy the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 11th July, 2022 were adopted.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the July 2022 meeting:
There were no matters arising from the July meeting

Housing Services Report

Mr John Cunningham, SE, Housing Service OCC presented a Housing Activity Report to the Members. The Members thanked Mr Cunningham for his report and raised the following:

- The Members complimented the staff on work carried out to date on bringing houses to fruition for allocation but wondered what the plan was going forward in to 2023/2024. They also enquired if there was any possibility of the Dept. speeding up the funding process. Mr Cunningham advised that the Housing for All Programme has a target of 463 houses up to 2026 and where a pipeline of 360 houses have already been identified. The LA will be engaging further with AHB.s and acquiring land to attain the full target. The Members also raised concern in relation to the small number of acquisitions but were advised that the Dept. are in favour of building houses instead of buying them.
- The Members raised concerns in relation to the number of people on the housing list, and the number of HAP properties that were now being put up for sale by landlords. They also enquired if they could get a full report on the number of homeless people in the area, and if the Members could have some input in to allocations. Mr Cunningham advised that Members representations were taken in to consideration when houses were being allocated, and that a full housing report would be presented to the full meeting of OCC on October 17th.
- The Members enquired if it was possible for the Tenant Purchase Scheme to be reviewed at SPC level and there were some concerns in relation to selling off houses at a reduced price given the current housing climate. They also enquired

if it was still a stipulation that houses acquired under Part V could not be sold on TPS, Mr Cunningham confirmed that this was still the case.

- The Members enquired about the retrofitting scheme and if there were plans to carry out any more works, as the elderly in particular are concerned about heating their homes at present, they also enquired if there were any funding streams outside of the SEAI that homeowners in private dwellings could tap in to.
- The Members raised concerns in relation to the level of funding for DPGs and with the cost of building increasing they are not viable, they enquired if it was possible to revert to the Dept. to look for extra funding.
- The Members enquired about the number of housing maintenance requests that were being received and also the length of time it is taking to bring void houses back to reletting stage.
- The Members advised that they were looking forward to the Draft Masterplan for the Rectory Lands going out for public consultation and hoped that the public would engage in the process to provide their input.
- Mr Cunningham advised the meeting that the Assessment of Housing Need is currently underway and that it is important for applicants to update their information if it has changed in order to remain on the housing list.

Any Other Business:

1. The Members were advised that the Draft Birr Local Area Plan would be out on display from Sept 15th to Oct 28th and members of the public would be invited to make submissions.
2. The Members raised concerns about the condition of some playgrounds, particularly in Birr where damage to the surfacing and some of the equipment had been reported. Mr Mitchell advised that he was aware of the issue in Birr and that materials had been ordered in July and was due to be delivered in the next couple of weeks. He said he would arrange to have the equipment inspected and arrange any necessary repairs.
3. The Members requested that a letter would issue to the Chief Executive requesting that the remit of the Offaly Community Forum be expanded to include the heating crisis that is facing people this winter, particularly older people in the Community.
4. The Members raised the issue of provision of electric car charging stations in towns and villages. They felt that this should be raised at SPC level and a commitment sought that provision would be made in every town and village in the county.

The Meeting then concluded.

SIGNED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: