**MINUTES OF OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIRR HELD ON MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER, 2023 IN CHARLEVILLE ROOM, ARAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE AT 12.15 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 O Cummins OCC & Ms D Molloy, Meetings Administrator** |

1. **Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 11th September, 2023.**

On the proposal of Cllr Dooley and seconded by Cllr Carroll the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 11th September, 2023 were adopted.

1. **Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 11th September, 2023.**

On the proposal of Cllr Ormond and seconded by Cllr Leahy the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held 11th September, 2023 were adopted.

1. **General Municipal Allocation 2024**

Ms Ann Dillon DOS, presented the proposed 2024 General Municipal Allocation to the Members and it was noted that it remained at €170,000 the same allocation as 2023.

The Members considered the General Municipal Allocation for 2024 in the proposed amount of €170,000 and asked that we would revert to the CE and advise that they are not willing to accept same and seek an increase in the allocation to a minimum of €185,000.

1. **Birr Community Grants Update**

The Members were advised that so far only four groups had drawn the funds that were allocated to them in 2023. They were further advised that an application had been received from Birr Christmas Lights Group for funding for 2023 in the amount of €7900. The Members acknowledged the great work carried out by the Birr Christmas Lights Group and the superb community event that they put on every year for the switching on of the Christmas Lights and agreed unanimously to allocate €7900 in funding to them for 2023.

1. **Provision of Bus Shelters in Birr MD**

The Members had raised the issue of provision of bus shelters at the September meeting

and asked for it to be placed on the Agenda for the October meeting. The Members

welcomed the expansion of the Local Link service but acknowledged that it is causing a problem in towns and villages as there are no set bus stops and the public are unaware of where the bus actually stops and there is no shelter for people to wait for the buses. They urged that consideration would be given to accessibility for wheelchair users and people with children in buggies and also that CCTV be provided to combat anti-social behaviour. Mr Mitchell advised that he is attending a workshop with TII and Local Link in the coming week and he may have more information forthcoming in relation to this issue after that. The Members asked that this item would be placed on the Agenda for review again in January and that a plan would be in place at that time for consideration.

1. **Town & Village Renewal Report**

Ms Olwen Cummins, OCC presented a report to the Members in relation to the process for Regeneration Funding Schemes under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. The Members thanked her for the report and raised the following:

* The Members expressed disappointment that the criteria for applications has changed considerably.
* The Members enquired that if an application is not successful in a particular year has it to be resubmitted or can it be considered the following year, they were advised that older expressions of interest are looked at and a group may also be advised on how to improve their application. Also if a group could qualify for an alternative funding stream they are also advised of that.

1. **Roads Services Report**

Mr John Mitchel, SEE presented a roads services report to the Members. The Members thanks Mr Mitchell and his team for the great work carried out so far and for his report and raised the following:

* The Members acknowledged the great work that was being carried out in the MD and the value that was created by allocation of match funding to certain schemes from the GMA. Highlighted the skilful work carried out by our own staff at Clonlisk and Brosna bridge.
* Enquired about LIS schemes and if this will be opened up for new applications, Mr Mitchell advised that the scheme may be reopened in 2024 but Birr MD have enough applications at present to try to complete.
* The issue of provision of speed ramps to try and slow down traffic in housing estates and other areas was raised but Mr Mitchell advised that raised pedestrian crossings or raised tables are a preferred alternative to speed ramps.
* The Members highlighted the issues with public lighting in the town and the number of reports that are being received and the length of time it is taking to repair the faults, the Members were advised that this is not administered within the MD, we only record the faults and they are repaired by a private company.
* Members highlighted dangerous junctions at Lumcloon Cross and Boolinarrig and stated that both need to be prioritised for safety concerns, Mr Mitchell advised that OCC are continuing to liaise with the TII regarding suitable measures for the Boolanarrig junction and some improvement works were carried out as part of this year’s pavement scheme. Mr Mitchell advised that the sightlines are currently adequate at Lumcloon
* Members welcomed the work to be carried out on the safer routes to school in Banagher, and were advised that the first phase would be at the National School and Cuba Avenue would be part of the secondary phase.
* The Members enquired about the greenways along the canals and if they would be connected, they were advised that connectivity would be very important for the success of the projects.

1. **Any Other Business**

The Members requested that a representative of Uisce Eireann would be asked to attend their November meeting to address issues that are being experienced with water pressure in the Birr MD area.

It was agreed that the next Birr MD meeting would be held on Monday 13th November, 2023 at 4.00 p.m. in Charleville Room, Aras an Chontae, Tullamore.

The Meeting then concluded.

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

**CATHAOIRLEACH MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATE:**