

**MINUTES OF MARCH MONTHLY MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
OF BIRR HELD ON MONDAY 20TH MARCH, 2023 IN BIRR CIVIC
OFFICES, WILMER ROAD, BIRR AT 5.00 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 A Dillon, DOS, OCC, Mr J Mitchell, SEE, Mr
Niall Hogan, EE Birr MD, & Ms D Molloy,
Meetings Administrator

**Adoption of Minutes of Meeting in Committee held on 13th February,
2023.**

On the proposal of Cllr Leahy and seconded by Cllr Dooley the Minutes of the Meeting in Committee of Birr MD held on 13th February, 2023 were adopted.

Adoption of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 13th February, 2023.

On the proposal of Cllr Claffey and seconded by Cllr Ormond the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Birr MD held on 13th February, 2023 were adopted.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the February 2023 meeting:

The Members asked that a letter be sent to the Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment to seek a meeting with a delegation to discuss the recent and pending job losses in the Municipal District.

Roads Programme 2023

Mr John Mitchell welcomed Mr Niall Hogan EE Birr MD to the meeting and advised that Niall had put a lot of work into preparing the report to present to the Members, Mr Mitchell then proceeded to present the proposed Road Programme for 2023 to the Members. The Members thanked Mr Mitchell for all the work carried out in the MD in delivering the 2022 programme and works currently being carried out and raised the following:

- The Members welcomed the funding secured for work on footpaths in the MD, also welcomed the €100000 allocated to the Northern Distributor Road and €50000 allocated to the Southern Distributor Road, both of these projects will really help to alleviate the traffic congestion issues in the town and enquired if there were any alternative funding routes that could be applied for to try and expedite the process. They also welcomed the allocation of funding at Church St, Banagher.
- Enquired as to the when the Speed Limit Review would be carried out and were advised that this would happen later in the year.
- The Members also raised the issue of resurfacing on rural roads, can the public be notified as far in advance as possible when this is being done. Mr Mitchell advised that the MD are in contact with the Communications Officer in OCC to advertise closures on social media and in the press where possible and VMS signage is also used.
- The waiting list for LIS in Birr MD, can this matter be referred to the SPC for further consideration as it doesn't seem fair that applicants in the Birr MD area

have to wait longer for their work to be carried out than in the other MDs in the county and perhaps the allocation of funding should be based on ratio of applications and road areas within the MDs.

- Enquired about the Eden Rd and Wilmer Rd junctions in Birr and if any consideration had been given to safety funding at these locations, Mr Mitchell advised that these areas were being considered under the Local Transport Plan to try and make them safer, but no funding had been allocated to this yet.
- Raised the issue of the funding for reconstruction of peat based roads as opposed to repair and wondered when this work would commence in this MD. The Members further enquired about Energy Companies that are developing facilities on cut away bogs and if there is a way that a condition could be attached to their planning permission to include the reconstruction of roads once the development is complete. They were advised that An Bord Pleanála deal with permissions for this kind of development and it could be brought to the Planning SPC for discussion in relation to same.
- Enquired about the possibility of lights being installed on the canal bridge at Gallen and were advised that a safety scheme application would be made for this area.
- Enquired about safety elements at various locations under the N62 pavement scheme, e.g. Boolinarrig, football field on the Birr Rd in Cloghan, Hill Rd Cloghan, they were advised that Hill Rd was not included in this funding and the safety element of the other areas were being looked at.
- Welcomed the funding allocated to the Greenways.

Any Other Business:

1. The Members enquired about Capital Grant funding that was available to apply for from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for Local Authorities for the refurbishment and development of playgrounds and play areas, and noted that no application was received under this scheme for Offaly and wondered the reason for this as playgrounds in the MD particularly Ferbane and Birr were in need of work. They were informed that a Playground Policy had now been adopted in OCC and that funding had been acquired for playgrounds under Community Enhancement Schemes and work had been carried out in a number of areas. The Members urged the Executive to make an application to the the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for funding for playgrounds in the current year.
2. It was noted that the next MD meeting was due to be held on April 10th which is Easter Monday so it was agreed by the Members to hold the April MD meeting on Tuesday April 11th, 2023.

The Meeting then concluded.

SIGNED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: