



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE
LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL
Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
Tel: 057 8664000 Fax: 057 8622313
corpaffairs@laoiscoco.ie www.laois.ie

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) (S.179) AND PART 8 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED)

PART 8 - LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

PORTARLINGTON PERMEABILITY SCHEMES 2023

SCHEME 01 - BALLYMORRIS ROAD TO CANAL ROAD, PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS.

In accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and Part VII article 80 and 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended, notice is hereby given that Laois County Council propose to develop permeability improvements from Ballymorris Road to Canal Road, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.

The proposed development will include the following:

- Segregated pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure in Clannalire Close, Whitefields, Canal Court, Ballymorris Court, Castlegate, Corrig Glen Apartments and access road adjacent Lidl supermarket.
- Removal of existing boundaries to create pedestrian/cycle linkages between:
 - Ballymorris Court and Canal Court
 - Clannalire Close and Whitefields
 - Whitefields and Castlegate
 - Corrig Glen apartments and Lidl supermarket
- Road junction improvements at Station Road/Whitefields/Corrig Glen junction and Canal Road/Lidl access road junction.

Laois County Council has prepared an AA and EIA Screening Report in accordance with the requirement of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) within which it has been determined that there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment. (Article 120 of Planning and Development Regulations, amended 2018).

Plans and particulars of the above proposed development are available for viewing on our online consultation portal at <https://consult.laois.ie> from 31st October to 28th November 2023 inclusive. Plans and particulars are also available for inspection at the offices of Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, JFL Avenue, Portlaoise from 31st October to 28th November 2023 inclusive.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and the sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made online at <https://consult.laois.ie> before 5.00 p.m. on 13th December 2023.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and the sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may also be made in writing to: Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois to be received not later than 5.00 p.m. on 13th December 2023. Submissions should be clearly marked: Portarlinton Permeability Schemes 2023, Scheme 01- Ballymorris Road to Canal Road Part VIII.

Note: Only submissions made in the above manner will be considered as valid submissions for the purposes of the Chief Executive's Report that will be presented to Council.

The Council is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. If you consider that any of the information supplied by you is either commercially sensitive or confidential in nature, this should be highlighted and the reasons for its sensitivity specified. In such cases, the relevant material will, in response to FOI requests, be examined in light of exemptions provided for in the FOI Act.

Mr. Gerry Murphy,
Head of Finance.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) (S.179) AND PART 8 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED)

PART 8 - LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

PORTARLINGTON PERMEABILITY SCHEMES 2023

SCHEME 02 - BRACKLONE STREET TO CANAL ROAD, PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS

In accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and Part VII article 80 and 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended, notice is hereby given that Laois County Council propose to develop permeability improvements from Bracklone Street to Canal Road, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.

The proposed development will include the following:

- Segregated pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure in St. Brigid's Square and Arlington Estate through the provision of:
 - Reduced carriageway widths
 - Formalised car parking bays
 - Traffic calming measures
- Formalisation of existing pedestrian/cycle link from Arlington Estate to Canal Road (adjacent AVON lands)
- Road junction improvements at Bracklone Street/St Brigid's Square junction.

Laois County Council has prepared an AA and EIA Screening Report in accordance with the requirement of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) within which it has been determined that there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment. (Article 120 of Planning and Development Regulations, amended 2018).

Plans and particulars of the above proposed development are available for viewing on our online consultation portal at <https://consult.laois.ie> from 31st October to 28th November 2023 inclusive. Plans and particulars are also available for inspection at the offices of Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, JFL Avenue, Portlaoise from 31st October to 28th November 2023 inclusive.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and the sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made online at <https://consult.laois.ie> before 5.00 p.m. on 13th December 2023.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and the sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may also be made in writing to: Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois to be received not later than 5.00 p.m. on 13th December 2023. Submissions should be clearly marked: Portarlinton Permeability Schemes 2023, Scheme 02 - Bracklone Street to Canal Road Part VIII.

Note: Only submissions made in the above manner will be considered as valid submissions for the purposes of the Chief Executive's Report that will be presented to Council.

The Council is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. If you consider that any of the information supplied by you is either commercially sensitive or confidential in nature, this should be highlighted and the reasons for its sensitivity specified. In such cases, the relevant material will, in response to FOI requests, be examined in light of exemptions provided for in the FOI Act.

Mr. Gerry Murphy,
Head of Finance.

LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL
"IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY"

'Discrimination' claimed over bus shelters but more on way



One of five new bus shelter promised is being built at Kilminchey in Portlaoise

Conor Ganly
news@leinsterexpress.ie

The installation of new bus shelters in Laois at a cost of €220,000 reflects 'discrimination' against rural areas according to a Laois councillor.

However, a senior council manager insists that more shelters will be installed outside the bigger towns and is 'confident' that extra money will come on stream to allow the council to do so.

Cllr Ollie Clooney, Independent, raised the issue of bus shelters at a meeting with Laois County Council officials against the backdrop of five new shelters being erected in Portlaoise and elsewhere. Funding for the five was confirmed nearly two years ago by the National Transport Authority.

"Bus shelters are not expensive. Where there is a bus stop there must be a bus shelter. We want them in rural areas," he said.

Cllr Clooney said he 'feels for' people, including children and the elderly, are being forced to stand waiting for buses in the rain.

"It is not rocket science to put up a bus shelter. There are some going up but we could call it a bit of discrimination because some people have them and some people haven't. It's not a level playing field and I want the pitch levelled out," he said.

He called for more shelters. He suggested that those with the power to have more shelters installed to see from themselves what it is like to wait for a bus.

"I want to send a clear message to the people in charge that they have to do better. They should stand out in the rain and wait and feel the wet," he said.

He said people are talking 'pie in the sky' about climate change instead of installing bus shelters that would encourage the public to use public buses.

He concluded by saying that he is not proud of himself as a public representative to see people standing in the rain waiting for buses.

Cllr John King, Fine Gael, backed his colleague.

"It is terribly unfair to see people standing on the side of the road," he said. "We're putting up covers for bicycle racks but nothing for people standing waiting for buses," he said.

Cllr James Kelly, Independent, also had a view. He said the National Transport Authority must play its part. He said he counted 22 people waiting at a bus stop in heavy rain without a shelter in Mountrath recently. He argued that people are being told to use public transport over cars.

"Why can't there be twenty new bus stops in Laois this year," he said.

Cllr Seamus McDonald, Fianna Fáil, added his voice to the argument.

"We've a great bus service now but women and children have to stand out in the rain every day getting wet to the skin," he said.

The issue was raised at the Borris-in-Ossory Mountmellick Municipal District meeting. There was no official reply to the points raised. The Leinster Express/Laois Live asked the local authority about future plans and the cost of the shelters.

Simon Walton, Director of Services, replied in writing.

"Further to a funding allocation from the National Transport Authority, LCC has a contract in place to deliver five bus stops, complete with bus shelters (Ballybrittas one, Dublin Road, Portlaoise two and Shannon Street, Mountrath two).

"The combined costs of the civil works, for these five stops, is €220,000. The shelters are provided separately, directly by National Transport Authority, delivered to the site and dropped into position.

"It is our intention to pursue further opportunities with NTA to expand the roll-out of bus shelters in County Laois, to enhance bus stops etc. I am confident that additional funds will emerge to support this," he said.

The NTA has so far not replied to the Leinster Express / Laois Live with a comment.