

Swap right of way on Portlaoise main street

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The right of way for traffic all along Main Street in a Laois town could be reinstated, if a councillor's request is approved.

Drivers on the one way street in Portlaoise currently have to stop and give way to traffic entering from Church Avenue, at the town's new library.

The mystery of why this happens was explained by Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald, as she calls for it to be reversed.

"It used to always be given

to Main Street traffic. The reason it was changed was because of the primary schools on Church Avenue, to allow children to be collected.

"I am aware it will slow traffic a bit, but some people drive right through anyway and don't take heed of the stop sign," she said.

She has tabled a motion to the April meeting of the Portlaoise Municipal District asking Laois County Council to consider moving the Stop sign back to Church Avenue, and give Main Street traffic the right of way.



Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald

Cllr Fitzgerald adds that road safety however be given priority.

Cllr Barry Walsh seconds her motion.

"Every time I drive on Main Street I wonder why it hasn't the right of way," he

said.

Cllr Willie Aird meanwhile urged the council to "hurry up and take down the barrier" around the almost finished new library.

"People have suffered a lot," he said.

Laois County Council in reply said they are "amenable to the request" and will give further details in coming months.

It is six years since three town centre schools vacated buildings on Church Avenue and the Borris Road to the new Holy Family campus in Aghnaharna in 2017.



Pictures of recent dumping at the rear of St Fintan's Terrace, Fr O'Connor Crescent and Rushall housing estates in Mountrath

'Criminal dumping' at Mountrath estates

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An area of unused land in Mountrath is being used as a domestic dumping ground with sofas, beds, toys and also sorts of rubbish being fly-tipped over a wall at the boundaries of three housing estates.

The situation was highlighted by Cllr James Kelly, who didn't mince his words when calling out what is going on as 'criminal'.

The Independent representative provided pictures to the Leinster

Express/Laois Live which are proof of the problem which he said has been made worse by the waste being set on fire.

Furniture is mixed in with rubbish in big piles after apparently being pegged over a wall at the rear of St Fintan's Terrace / Fr O'Connor Crescent and Rushall housing estates in the town.

"I've asked for the area to be fenced off to prevent cars and trailers dumping rubbish. Hopefully when the site is cleared the fencing can go up," he said.

Cllr Kelly was annoyed that such a step had to be

taken.

"That we have to stop people from using this lovely green area is terrible, it's a disgrace," he insisted.

Cllr John King, Fine Gael, backed his colleague. He said boundary roles should be walls rather than wooden fences adding that this should be a condition of houses being built.

Cllr Ollie Glooney, Independent, also supported Cllr Kelly. He felt that the problem could be solved easily if bureaucracy is overcome.

"It will be solved if we cut

out the red tape and bring in (CCTV) cameras.

"There could be only a small number of people doing this but we have to know who they are and deal with it. This is a blight on everybody," he said.

In a written reply, Mr Trevor Hennessy, A/Senior Engineer, Housing, said his section would investigate the matter with the housing section to ascertain the issue.

The matter was raised at the April Borris-in-Ossory Moutmellick Municipal District meeting.



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SECTION 11 ROADS ACT, 1993 DECLARATION OF PUBLIC ROADS (TAKING IN CHARGE) AT CILL AN OIR, GRAIGUECULLEN AND DROUGHILL LAWNS, PORTARLINGTON ESTATES IN COUNTY LAOIS

In accordance with the provisions of Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended), Laois County Council hereby gives notice of its intention to the making of a declaration that the following roads be public roads;

- Cill an Oir, Graiguecullen, Co. Laois
- Droughill Lawns, Portarlinton, Co. Laois

Maps showing the various sections of road the subject of this Notice may be inspected at the offices of Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise during normal opening hours (9.00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday) from Tuesday 25th April 2023 to Friday 26th May 2023.

Objections or representations regarding the proposed declaration may be made in writing to the Administrative Officer, Roads Department, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois or via email to roadsadmin@laoiscoco.ie. The latest date for receipt of any objections or representations is 4.00 p.m. on Friday 9th June 2023.

Simon Walton, Director of Services.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA FOR APPROVAL

DREDGING AND REMOVAL OF SILT AND VEGETATION FROM A MAN-MADE SHALLOW LAKE 'GLENDDOWNS', IN PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.

Pursuant to section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the requirements of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), notice is hereby given that Laois County Council proposes to make an application for approval to an Bord Pleanála for the following development:

Dredging and removal of silt and vegetation from the shallow lake using an excavator and pruning of light timber for access in a publicly accessible area, wood-chipping of brash, processing of timber and removal of all arisings.

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared in respect of the proposed development.

The Board may, in relation to an application for approval under section 177AE, of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, may give approval to the application for development with or without conditions or may refuse the application for development.

The Plans and Particulars and NIS will be available for inspection free of charge, or may be purchased on payment of a small fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such a copy) during normal office 9.30pm to 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays), except where stated otherwise below, during the period from Monday 1st May 2023 to Monday 12th June 2023 inclusive, at the following locations;

- The offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1
- At Planning Office, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, JFL Avenue, Portlaoise.
- The Natura Impact Statement, including the plans and particulars for the proposed development, will also be available for viewing online at <https://consult.laois.ie> from Monday 1st May 2023 to Monday 12th June 2023 inclusive.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development may be made in writing to An Bord Pleanála in relation to

- the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development;
- the likely consequences for the proper planning and sustainable development in the area in which it is proposed to situate the said development of such development, and
- the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European Site, if carried out.

Submissions or observations should be made in writing to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 on or before 5.00pm on Monday 12th June 2023.

Simon Walton, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES.

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