

Poor road drainage undermining glamping site

Conor Ganly
news@laoisexpress.ie

Drainage is needed at a glamping site in Laois where water is running off the public road onto the property, according to a councillor.

Cllr John King, Fine Gael, made the call at a recent meeting with Laois County Council. He tabled a motion asking for works under road at Ballybrophy, Borris-in-Ossory to stop flooding occurring at the newly developed glamping site that was opened this year.

"They've spent a huge amount of

money trying to make it a tourist area but flooding occurs when water cannot escape from the old part of the site," he said.

Cllr King hoped that the work could be completed before next summer.

"It is terrible to see a lot of money spent and then see the site waterlogged," he said.

Cllr Conor Bergin, Fine Gael, supported saying there has been flooding along the section of road for a number of years. He expected that a significant amount of work would be required such as a new drain.

He believed that the drainage work would help the glamping business grow.

He hoped residents on Station Rd could be consulted.

Mr Edmond Kenny, District Engineer, replied that trial holes were scheduled to be excavated at the site to identify services that may conflict with the replacement of the existing culvert. He said Cllr King would be updated following these works.

The issue was raised at a recent meeting of the Borris-in-Ossory Mountmellick Municipal District.



Councillors claim site is being impacted by public road

Urgent action called for at deadly road

Conor Ganly
news@laoisexpress.ie

A road to Rathdowney where young people have died in car crashes must get a safety overhaul urgently, councillors have insisted.

Cllr John King, Fine Gael, was backed by fellow public representatives when he tabled a motion at a recent meeting in Laois County Council. He called for an update on funding approved some years ago for major road works at Middlemount Rathdowney.

"This particular stretch of road has taken the lives of young people from the area. This request for works is a matter of serious urgency before more fatalities occur," he said.

Cllr King said the road is very busy and varies between wide and very narrow. He singled out the "hilly and narrow" stretch.

"This has to be addressed. If the road was widened it would be very safe we wouldn't have fatalities on it in future," he said.

Cllr King was backed by Cllr Ollie Clooney, Independent.

"Everyone knows how dangerous it is and you can see the crosses on the road. It is very sad," he said.

Cllr Clooney said a lot of money will have to be invested to



Road that serves Rathdowney the location of fatalities

make it safe.

Cllr James Kelly, Independent, also endorsed the appeal made by Cllr King. He said it is sad people impacted by the tragedies on the road must drive it regularly.

"To see that no work has been done is sadder," he said.

He said there should be no obstacle to see it addressed. He outlined the risk.

"You come on a wide road from Manor Stone where everyone is racing and then you come into a very narrow

dangerous road," he said.

Paul McLoughlin, Senior Engineer, Roads Section, replied in writing. It did not refer to past funding commitments claimed to have been made by Cllr King.

"Laois County Council will prepare and submit a specific improvement grant application to the Department of Transport for works Middlemount Rathdowney," he said.

The issue was raised at a recent meeting of the Borris-in-Ossory Mountmellick Municipal District.

Ramp for one way 'mayhem' at Durrow shop

Conor Ganly
news@laoisexpress.ie

A ramp and a reversal of a one way system are needed outside a shop on Durrow's Square according to a Laois councillor.

Cllr Ollie Clooney, Independent, tabled a motion calling on Laois County Council to install a ramp on the road at the Stores Daybreak, Durrow and consider reversing the traffic

flow on the one-way street.

He told council officials and other councillors that cars travel surprisingly fast on the one way street though the oneway system is not always complied with.

"Anything is better than the way it is now," he said.

He said it is 'mayhem' when children are being dropped at the nearby school.

Edmond Kenny, District Engineer, replied in writing.

"The provision of a ramp at

Daybreak can and will be accommodated.

"The decision to reverse the direction of flow for those using the one-way system will be considered following a period of monitoring traffic movements around the Green," he said.

Cllr Clooney welcomed the ramp.

The issue was raised at a recent meeting of the Borris-in-Ossory Mountmellick Municipal District.



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 VIII - LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM HUB, (FORMER) HA'PENNY SCHOOL, CHURCH AVENUE, PORTLAOISE, 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 a tourism hub at the former Ha'Penny School, Chapel Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

The proposed development will include the following:

1. Refurbishment works to the existing former Ha'Penny School building (a Protected Structure, RPS number 900) to provide a tourism space/hub (c.64sqm).
2. The forming a new shopfront opening facing chapel street (c.4m x 2.5m).
3. Installation of new solar panels on the southwest facing roof face
4. Light internal work (reconfiguration of toilet space.
5. Associated refurbishment works.

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the proposed development has been completed and is available for inspection.

Laois County Council has prepared an EIA Screening Report in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). On the basis of this Screening Report, Laois County Council has determined that there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment (Article 120 of Planning and Development Regulations, amended 2018). Accordingly, it has been determined that an EIA is not required in respect of this proposed development.

Any person may, from 5th December 2023 to 10th January 2024 inclusive, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Plans and particulars of the above proposed development are available for viewing on our online consultation portal at <https://consult.laois.ie> from 5th December 2023 to 10th January 2024 inclusive. Plans and particulars are also available for inspection at the offices of Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, JFL Avenue, Portlaoise from 5th December 2023 to 10th January 2024 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 24th January 2024.

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: Angela McEvoy, Director of Services, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois to be received not later than 5.00 p.m. on 24th January 2024. Submissions should be clearly marked: **Tourism Hub at , (Former) Ha'Penny School, Chapel Street Portlaoise, Co. Laois, 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.

All the issues that are raised in submissions and observations to the Council in regard to this development, including the response of the Chief Executive thereto, will form part of the statutory report to be presented to the monthly meeting of Laois County Council. The statutory report will list the persons or bodies who made submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development in accordance with regulations made under Part XI of the Planning and Development Act as amended. The minutes of that meeting including the statutory report will appear on the Council's Website. Details including the names of those making submissions and observations may also be shared with relevant Council Departments and agents working on their behalf.

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.

Angela McEvoy, Director of Services.

LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL
"IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY"