

**Minutes of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal
District Meeting held on Friday, 01 November 2019 at 10:00 am
in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara, Naas, Co Kildare**

Members Present: Councillor B Weld (Cathaoirleach), Councillors T Durkan, A Feeney, A Farrelly, P Hamilton, P McEvoy, N O’Cearúil, P Ward, and B Wyse.

Apologises: Councillor D Fitzpatrick

Officials Present: Ms S Kavanagh (District Manager), Mr S Aylward (District Engineer), Ms E Wright, Mr G Halton, Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officers), Ms S Fitzpatrick, Mr B O’Gorman (Administrative Officers), Ms P Penny (Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Office), Mr G Mackey (Clerical Officer), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms R O’Connell (Meetings Secretary).

CM01/1119

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District held on Friday, 04 October 2019 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Feeney seconded by Councillor Ward that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District held on Friday, 04 October 2019 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CM02/1119

Matters Arising

CM02/1019, CM15/0719 – Part 8 process for cycle lane and footpath on the Celbridge Road, Maynooth

Councillor Durkan asked for an update on this item.

Ms E Wright informed the members that this has been sent to Director of Services and discussions were undertaken with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to include this

project in their 2020 programme of works to move towards completing the statutory part 8 process.

CM03/0919 – Taking in charge of Estates

Councillor Durkan stated that in September he asked for an update on all the estates that needed to be taken in charge and had given the council two months for this update and still had no report. He stated that there was a motion last May on this item by Councillor O’Cearúil and asked could he have this updated report for the December Municipal District meeting and that he would put in on the December agenda.

Mr Halton informed the members that they received the May 2018 report of Taking in Charge of Estates. He stated that he would have an updated report for the December 2019 meeting.

MY0201/18, MY36/1117, MY10/1702, and MY25/0717 – Outreach centre in North Kildare

Councillor McEvoy stated that the above item could be removed from the progress report as the family hub was open.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Councillor McEvoy asked for clarification on the health checks for the projects on the Town and Renewal Scheme and in particular to Johnstown Bridge, Derrinturn and Straffan. He stated that a lot of people had asked about the health check for Clane and if the council could pilot something for Clane.

The District Manager informed the members that four projects had been approved for the scheme which was Kilcock, Prosperous, Athy and Kildangan. She stated that Derrinturn previously got funding. The council has gone out to engage with consultants and would be starting public consultation shortly. She stated that she would consult with the Public Realm team and would update the members.

The Cathaoirleach congratulated the council on Prosperous and Maynooth and stated that all the other towns would benefit in the next number of years.

CM03/1119

The Cathaoireach requested to take **item 6** next and all the members agreed as Councillor Feeney had to leave the meeting early.

Bend on the Dunboyne Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Feeney.
That the council now use the development contributions of €3.6 million derived from the Mariavilla Development to remove the dangerous bend on the Dunboyne Road near Pebble Hill House and provide a footpath from Castlepark housing estate to the roundabout on the Blacklion Road.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Feeney and seconded by Councillor Durkan.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Public infrastructure and facilities identified in the Capital Programme were considered to be those projects which could be progressed with the estimated funding from the Development Contribution Scheme. Condition 29 of the An Bord Pleanála's decision (ref 301230-18) in relation to the Mariavilla Development outlined a Special Contribution of €300,000 towards a high quality pedestrian connection bridge over the Lyreen River from the applicant's site to Pound Park in accordance with the policies of the Maynooth Local Area Plan (LAP) 2013-2019 including policy AR11. This bridge would be delivered by Kildare County Council in the future when adequate funds were in place. There was no condition for a special contribution to fund improvement works on the Dunboyne Road.

Councillor Feeney informed the members that this bend was very dangerous and flooding was an issue there as well. There was no clear white line on the road, and this needed to be looked at as a matter of urgency. She outlined the following issues that the council needed to do in this area:

- Drainage to be done to remove the flooding.
- Public lighting needed to be installed.
- Adequate warning signs needed to be erected.
- Rumble strips needed to be installed

Councillor Durkan stated that this issue had been raised before about this dangerous bend. It was a sharp bend and drivers were moving over to the opposite side of the road to avoid the floods. He stated that some sort of mechanism to alleviate the issues was needed before any development commenced there as the land was zoned for residential development.

Councillor Hamilton stated that a long term improvement plan was needed.

The Cathaoireach asked that this item be put on the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Durkan that the report be noted.

CM04/1119

Municipal District Road Works

The District Engineer informed the members that:

Restoration Improvement:

All four contracts have been completed and all costs were currently being reviewed.

Restoration Maintenance

All works has been completed and all costs were currently being reviewed.

LPT Funding

No further works were undertaken in the past month. Final costs were currently being reviewed. Crews were currently undertaking drainage and general maintenance works including opening inlets, clearing drains and gullies, patching and sign clearance.

CM05/1119

Deputation

The members considered receipt of a deputation from parents representing the two schools on the Celbridge Road, Maynooth.

A report was received from the Corporate Services department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Durkan stated that the two schools had approached him about the issues they have with parents bringing their children to the schools.

Councillor Wyse stated the parents could protest outside the full council meeting or invite them to the Municipal District meeting as Councillor Durkan had asked. The council needed to look at the safety of the children attending the schools.

Councillor McEvoy stated that the council needed to restrict vehicles going to the school, look at cycle lanes and at the local link services. He stated that the council should start a process using LPT funding and look at a three year rolling programme to achieve this.

The Cathaoireach stated that traffic congestion at schools was a problem throughout the whole county and it was all about funding and suggested that the members have a meeting among themselves on the matter.

Councillor Durkan stated that there was no Part 8 prepared. Parents had contacted him and asked for the deputation and he requested that the members support this request.

Ms Wright stated that there was an outline plan. She would speak to the National Transport Authority (NTA) to include this project for analysis on their 2020 programme of work and if they were in agreement, she would look for funding.

The District Manager stated that she had no issue with the delegation coming in but felt that it was not necessary as the members make representations on their behalf.

The Cathaoireach stated that it was up to the members to decide but that they should not raise parent expectations as funding was required.

The Meetings Administrator stated that he would get the contact details from Councillor Durkan after the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan, seconded by Councillor Wyse and agreed by all members that an invitation issue to parents representing the two schools on the Celbridge Road, Maynooth inviting them to make a deputation to the members at the December meeting.

CM06/1119

Castle Dawson and Meadowbrook Estates

The members considered the following question in the name Councillor Hamilton.
Can the council give an update on the taking in charge of the Castle Dawson and Meadowbrook estates and in particular the most up-to-date information on the challenges with drainage in Castle Dawson and the plans to resolve this?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the pump station which serves the Castledawson Estate was in the control of the developer of the Newtown Hall Estate. Both the Newtown Hall and Castledawson Estates must be taken in charge simultaneously. The Newtown Hall Estate was not yet at a taking in charge standard and the Development Control Section were working with the developer of the Newtown Hall Estate in order to have this estate completed satisfactorily.

If the “drainage issues” referred to the ponding on the spine road the gulleys had been cleared. However, if there were other drainage issues please supply details to the Development Control Section for investigation. The Development Control Section had appointed a CCTV contractor to survey the foul and storm lines in both the Meadowbrook and Castledawson Estates. This survey was due to commence next week. Once the survey had been completed the Development Control Section would review the footage and a site resolution plan must be agreed with Irish Water if there were any defects highlighted.

Councillor Hamilton asked if the council could take Newtown Hall Estate in charge.

Mr Halton stated that the pump station was in Newtown Hall. He stated the Development Control Section had appointed a CCTV contractor to survey the foul and storm lines in both the Meadowbrook and Castledawson Estates. When this survey has been completed the

Development Control Section would review the footage and a site resolution plan would have to be agreed with Irish Water if there were any defects highlighted.

Mr Aylward informed the members that plugs were left in the drainage system which had caused the flooding issues.

The report was noted.

CM07/1119

Christmas Pay Parking Arrangements

The members considered the pay parking arrangements for the Christmas period.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree on. To note, there was no suspension of Pay Parking in Maynooth in 2018. Normal parking enforcement continued over the Christmas period.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Weld, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by all members present that pay parking arrangements not be suspended in the Maynooth Municipal District over the Christmas period for 2019 and normal parking arrangements continue.

CM08/1119

ESB cables in Prosperous Village

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Weld.

That the council look at the suitability of undergrounding all the ESB cables in Prosperous Village due to its unique heritage.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Weld and seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that due to limited resources, the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Office was not in a position to develop designs, plans and costings for undergrounding ESB cables. For information and context, Kildare County Council recently spent in excess of €300,000 completing a 100 metre length of undergrounding of cables in Naas.

Councillor Weld asked that a plan including costing be put in place to have this done in the next number of years and that a report be ready by February or March 2020. He asked that this be put on the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Weld, seconded by Councillor McEvoy that the report be noted.

CM09/1119

Roads Servicing the Drehid Site

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Farrelly. That the council reviews all roads servicing the Drehid site within this municipal district and carry out remedial works to repair any damage including potholes and speed ramps.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Farrelly and seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department was continuously reviewing the situation and routine maintenance was undertaken as and when required including filling of potholes. There were currently no plans to install any ramps in the area. The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department had made a submission to An Bord Pleanála with regard to roads/junctions on the impact of the proposed haul routes of the Drehid Strategic Infrastructure Development proposal. The outcome of the Board's Oral Hearing was awaited.

Councillor Durkan stated that trucks were coming through and damaging the speed ramps. He asked if there was a schedule of works for that area.

Mr Aylward stated that the overseer's has been driving the roads on a daily basis and were putting a list together of all the issues including these raised by the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly, seconded by Councillor McEvoy that the report be noted.

CM10/1119

Celbridge Road, Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ó Cearúil.

That the council commences the Part 8 planning process in respect of proposed works to the Celbridge Road, Maynooth.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Ó Cearúil and seconded by Councillor Durkan.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that due to limited resources, the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District was not in a position at this time to progress the statutory process required. Discussions were underway with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to include this project for analysis on their 2020 programme of work to move towards completing the statutory Part 8 process required.

Councillor Ó Cearúil stated that this had been debated last April and that the Part 8 was to be progressed that September.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó Cearúil, seconded by Councillor Durkan that the report be noted.

CM11/1119

Parked Vehicles on the R403 Prosperous Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McEvoy.

That the council examine opportunities to prevent parked vehicles from obscuring sightlines and pedestrian road use on the R403 Prosperous Road, Clane at the junction opposite Scoil Phádraig, Boys National School.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McEvoy and seconded by Councillor Weld.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Engineer would meet Councillor McEvoy to examine the area and discuss concerns arising.

Councillor McEvoy stated that he would go out and meet Municipal District Engineer to examine the area and discuss his issues with him.

Councillor Wyse stated that his concern was that the emergency services might be blocked if they needed to get to this area.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Weld that the report be noted.

CM12/1119

Traffic Calming Measures on Main Street, Clane

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McEvoy.

That the council examine a technical solution to reduce vehicles driving/sweeping at speed from Main Street, Clane onto the L1023 Ballinagappa Road, Clane.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McEvoy and seconded by Councillor Weld.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this issue would require examination by the Technical Assessment Advisory Group (TAAG) in consultation with the Municipal District Engineer. The provision of a pedestrian crossing at this location was currently under examination by the Traffic Management Section.

Councillor McEvoy stated that he looked forward to the report from TAAG.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Weld that the report be noted.

CM13/1119

Transport Plan for Kilcock and Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Hamilton.

That the council updates the transport plan for Kilcock and Maynooth to plan more express bus routes to Dublin and other key commuter centres, working with public and private operators.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the licensing and provision of public transport bus services was within the remit of the National Transport Authority (NTA). The Director of Services for Roads, Transportation and Public Safety had previously raised concerns regarding bus and rail services (particularly peak hour services) to Kilcock and Maynooth with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Irish Rail. Kildare County Council noted the commencement of a second consultation phase on the NTA's Bus Connects proposal, which would provide a further opportunity for the members to engage directly with the NTA on future public transport services in County Kildare.

Councillor Hamilton asked that the council writes a letter to the NTA seeking information on the licensing of private buses.

Councillor Ó Cearúil stated that Bus Connect services was limited to the Maynooth area and expansion of the services had been proposed. He stated that the members were trying to encourage students to use public transport.

Ms Wright stated that Roads, Transportation and Public Safety had been in contact with the NTA. The council do not have control of the licensing and provision of public transport bus services. If the members were in agreement there was a further opportunity for the members to speak directly with the NTA during the second consultation phase of the Bus Connects proposal.

Councillor Ward stated that he supported the motion and that the council should

write to NTA.

Councillor McEvoy asked who was responsible in futhering the expansion of public transport. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by all the members present that the report be noted and the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety section write to the NTA and to the Minister of Transport seeking the expansion of the Public Transport Services in Kilcock and Maynooth areas.

CM14/1119

The Cathaoireach requested to take **items 13 and 21** together and all the members agreed.

Road Safety Concerns at the Meadowbrook Junction

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Hamilton. That the investigation into the road safety concerns at the Meadowbrook junction on the Straffan Road Maynooth is completed as quickly as possible, that plans are made to urgently put in place additional and more visible traffic signals at this junction and the upgrade of the light at the Lidl junction is addressed as an urgent priority with the developer involved.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that new traffic lights had been installed at the Meadowbrook Link Road/ Straffan Road Junction which had improved safety for all road users. A road safety audit stage 3 was being carried out on the completed works. The Clane-Maynooth Municipal District was reviewing the junction and was in discussion with all parties involved. A traffic sign had been removed which should increase visibility of the lights.

Councillor Hamilton stated that he had met with Municipal District Engineer on this issue. There were still an issue with the light in Meadowbrook, the adjacent light at Lidl was the developers responsibility. He stated that his concern was that the Lidl light was out of sync and this needed to be resolved. He also stated that the visibility could be improved at this junction.

Councillor Durkan stated that the lights were causing confusion. He stated that the filter lane was an arrow light and a full light was for the main road. There was two lamp stands obscuring the visibility. He suggested that the lenses in the lights be changed and the change to the arrow lights were required.

Councillor Ó Cearúil stated that people were breaking the lights and there has been numerous videos and photographs of this. He stated that the lights needed to be looked at as this was a health and safety concern.

Mr Alyward stated that he was trying to get a resolution and that he was working with the National Roads Design office (NRDO). He stated that stage 3 needed to be completed. When the lights went in first, they were disk type and as there was some confusion the type had to be changed. He stated that Lidl lights were in sync with the other lights.

Ms Wright stated that she convey their comments to the Roads Design section.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor McEvoy that the report be noted.

Meadowbrook Link Road

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Ó Cearúil.
Can the council confirm what works have been carried out to improve the safety of the Meadowbrook Link Road?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that new traffic lights had been installed at the Meadowbrook Link Road/Straffan Road Junction which had improved safety for all road users. A road safety audit stage 3 was being carried out on the completed works. The Clane-Maynooth Municipal District was reviewing the junction and in discussion with all parties involved. A traffic sign had been removed which should increase visibility of the lights.

The report was noted.

CM15/1119

Children at Play signs in Courtown Estate, Kilcock

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ward.

That the council install Children at Play signs in Courtown Estate in Kilcock.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Ward and seconded by Councillor Durkan.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was a sign (WK142) at the entrance to the estate to indicate children crossing. The Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Engineer could meet with Councillor Ward to review the area if required.

Councillor Ward stated that he would meet with Mr Alyward.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Durkan that the report be noted.

CM16/1119

Landscaped Areas Around the Kilcock Park and Ride

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ward.

That the landscaped areas around the Kilcock Park and Ride be cleaned up and made good as the area is currently in a poor condition.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Ward and seconded by Councillor Weld.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office would examine the car park in consultation with the Pay Parking Section.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Weld that the report be noted.

CM17/1119

Traffic Calming Measures Robertstown National School

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Weld.
Can the council confirm the cost of the design of the traffic calming measures in the vicinity of Robertstown National School and when it will be brought forward to the members?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the design and cost of traffic calming would be examined and progressed through the Technical Assessment Advisory Group (TAAG) in 2020.
The report was noted.

CM18/1119

Pedestrian Crossing in the Village of Johnstownbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Weld.
Can the council confirm if it has plans to provide a pedestrian crossing in the village of Johnstownbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was an existing controlled pedestrian crossing (push button units) in Johnstownbridge located in the centre of the village in the vicinity of the school, church etc. There were currently no plans to provide any additional controlled pedestrian crossing points. The issue could be examined in 2020 in consultation with the Municipal District Engineer, the Traffic Management Centre and the Disability/Accessibility Officer.

Councillor Weld stated that he was not happy with the report as there was two elderly people living in the estate who used wheelchairs. He asked that a traffic count and assessment report be done at Johnstownbridge.

The report was noted.

CM19/1119

Road Outside Mapletoft Close

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Farrelly.

Can the council confirm if the width of road outside Mapletoft Close, Prosperous is suitable for two lanes of traffic?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Engineer inspected the road on 25 October and could confirm the road width was appropriate for two-way traffic. The report was noted.

CM20/1119

Walkway from the Balinagappa Road

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Farrelly.

Can the council confirm if it has plans to investigate the possibility of developing a walkway from the Balinagappa Road, Clane to the three major schools in the village?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department was examining the possibility of developing a route for students walking to and from the three schools on the Prosperous Road, via the Ballinagappa Road, Clane. Meetings had taken place with school principals and a further meeting was planned. The members would be kept informed of progress.

The report was noted.

CM21/1119

Irish Water and the ESB Guidelines

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Ó Cearúil.

Can the council confirm what are the rules and guidelines for third parties such as Irish Water and the ESB for carrying out works that impact on public roads and footpaths in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that all parties must apply to Kildare County Council for a road opening licence and comply with the relevant conditions as set out by the Municipal District Office. These conditions were in line with the Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads (Department of Transport Purple Book).

Councillor Ó Cearúil asked could the council refuse permission to carry out works.

Mr Aylward stated the council can refuse a licence application. Any person looking for a licence has to pay an application fee (bond). If they do not have a licence the council would ask them to cease work. If the council was not happy with the repairs, the person would be informed. There was a two year guarantee on the bond.

The report was noted.

CM22/1119

Pedestrian and Cycling Access Ballinagappa Road

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McEvoy.

Can the council update the committee on efforts to deliver pedestrian and cycling access from the Ballinagappa Road to schools on the Prosperous Road, Clane - with a focus on reducing traffic levels?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department was examining the possibility of developing a route for students walking to and from the three schools on the Prosperous Road, via the Ballinagappa Road, Clane. Meetings had taken place with school principals and a further meeting was planned. The members would be kept informed of progress.

Councillor McEvoy stated that this project should be given adequate priority due to the high density of students in the area.

Ms Wright acknowledged that progress was slow and she stated that the Roads Department had assigned resources to this project but needed to assign additional resources.

The report was noted.

CM24/1119

Traffic Calming on the L5078, Capdoo Lane

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McEvoy.

Can the council update the committee on a commitment to implement traffic calming on the L5078 Capdoo Lane between the Clane Motor Factors and the Capdoo Inner Relief Road?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that due to limited resources, the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Office was not in a position at this time to examine and progress the issue.

The report was noted.

CM25/1119

R414 Road from River Road, Allenwood South to Lullymore

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wyse.

Can the council confirm if the section of the R414 road from River Road, Allenwood South to Lullymore is on any planned programme of works for next year or the following years given it is part of the main tourist route to Lullymore Heritage Park and due to its rapid deterioration in recent months?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were no planned works under the 2019 budget at this location. This would fall within the remit of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District for consideration for the 2020 budget.

The report was noted.

Street Lighting

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Hamilton.

Can the council provide an update on the plans and status for upgrading in the municipal district to the most energy efficient LED lights?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council was participating in the Local Authority

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project as part of the ongoing commitment to address climate change. The main aim of the project was to reduce the carbon footprint of the sector by upgrading all non-energy efficient public lighting, currently under the control of the local authority, to a more energy efficient LED-type lighting. It was anticipated that Region 2, which includes Kildare, would go to tender in 2020, with an estimated 2-year installation period for the region.

Following completion of the project, the Road Management Office had estimated that Kildare County Council would be saving approximately 1,900 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year at 50% efficiency but anticipated to get 60%+ efficiency to realise a saving of up to 2,300 tonnes carbon dioxide per year. Further savings may also be realised when dimming and trimming profiles were applied to the public lighting network. Specific project commencement dates and locations for Kildare were not available at present however, the members would be informed once these dates had been confirmed.

Councillor Hamilton asked could this be prioritised as savings would be made from this.

Ms Wright stated this was a national project and that Kilkenny County Council was leading on this. She stated that she would keep the members informed.

The report was noted.

CM27/1119

Royal Canal Greenway

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Ward.

Can this Municipal District Committee receive a comprehensive update on the entire Royal Canal Greenway project including the current position on the Maynooth to the Fingal county border works and the Dublin City Centre to Fingal sections?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Royal Canal Greenway ran along the route of the Royal Canal through counties Longford, Westmeath, Meath, Kildare and Dublin. In relation to the

Kildare specific sections of the route to date works had been substantially completed along the following sections:

- Moyvalley to Blackwater Aqueduct
- Cloncurry to Spin Bridge (Kilcock)
- Spin bridge (Kilcock) to Chambers Bridge (west of Maynooth)
- Chambers Bridge to Maynooth

Substantial works had been undertaken including the removal of overgrown areas, construction of paved areas (cycle track), culvert construction and construction of a ramp structure at Moyvalley Bridge. The only outstanding items on these sections of the route were ancillary items such as signage, benches etc. It was anticipated these would be installed early next year. With reference to the section from Maynooth to Confey, this element was delayed pending finalisation of design changes imposed by the National Transport Authority (NTA). A request had been sent to Dublin City Council for an update on the city section of the Greenway.

Councillor Ward asked would the council have a timeframe when the Maynooth to Confey element would be completed and stated that he appreciated the Dublin City update.

Ms Wright informed the members that the procurement process was under discussion and would keep the members informed.

The report was noted.

CM28/1119

Fire Damaged Houses

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Weld.

That the council provide the members with a report explaining why it takes so long to bring fire damaged houses back into the system.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Weld and seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the length of time taken by Housing Maintenance to restore a fire damaged house was dependent upon the severity of the fire upon the structure of the house. The standard chimney fire damage cases and all non-structural fire damage cases were dealt with in a timely and efficient manner, having regard to the requirements of procurement and tendering process, together with the consultation process with the insurance company. Normally these units were restored generally within a 3-4 month timeframe, subject to no difficulties arising with the ESB and the insurance company. Further to the questions raised at the October meeting of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District, Housing Maintenance conducted a full review on the length of time taken to bring a fire damaged house back into the system for the whole county. Metrics since January 2017 in relation to time frames for returning fire damaged houses back into the system were outlined hereunder:

2017 - January to December inclusive:

Total number of fire damage claims: 59

Of these 59 claims, 54 claims consisted of more minor claims such as chimney fire damage, small to medium level of internal house fire damage which would have immediately been acted on with the repairs being completed in full within a 4-8 week timeframe.

Of the remaining 5 more serious fire damage claims:

- 2 of these were claims which dealt with a moderate level of fire damage and the repairs to these units would have started immediately with the repairs being completed in full within a 4-8 week timeframe.

- 1 of these claims involved a seriously fire damage unit, but not structurally damaged, and the repairs to this unit were dealt with internally by Kildare County Council staff, with repairs completed in full within a 12 month period.
- 1 of these claims was a more serious fire damage case involving internal structural damage to the housing unit, the unit was also subject to both H.S.A. and Garda investigation after the incident. The repair of this housing unit was currently underway and is being dealt with internally by Kildare County Council staff, with expected completion of this unit by the end of Quarter 1, 2020.
- 1 of these claims was a more serious fire damage case involving severe structural damage to the housing unit, the repairs to this housing unit were recently assigned in September 2019 as a fire damage repair project to an external consultant. The tender documents were currently being prepared with expected completion of this unit by September 2020.

2018 – January to December inclusive:

Total number of fire damage claims: 38

Of these 38 claims, 35 claims consisted of more minor claims such as chimney fire damage, small to medium level of internal house fire damage which would have immediately been acted on with the repairs being completed in full within a 4-8 week timeframe.

Of the remaining 3 more serious fire damage claims:

- 1 of these claims involved a seriously fire damaged unit, with minimal internal structural damage and the repairs to this unit were dealt with internally by Kildare County Council staff, with repairs completed in full within a 12 month period.
- 1 of these claims involved a seriously fire damaged blockwork shed which was attached to the housing unit, the shed was structurally damaged and the repairs to this unit were dealt with internally by Kildare County Council staff, with repairs completed in full within a 9 month period.
- The remaining claim was a more serious fire damage case involving severe structural damage to the housing unit, the repairs to this housing unit were recently assigned in September 2019 as a fire damage repair project to an external

consultant and the tender documents were currently being prepared with expected completion of this unit by the end of Quarter 3, 2020.

2019 - January to 24 October inclusive:

Total number of fire damage claims: 38

Of these 38 claims, 31 claims consisted of more minor claims such as chimney fire damage, small to medium level of internal house fire damage which would have immediately been acted on with the repairs being completed in full within a 4-8 week timeframe.

Of the remaining 7 more serious fire damage claims:

- 1 of these claims involved serious fire damage to a vacant (new house purchase) unit, but not structurally damaged and the repairs to this unit were being dealt with internally by Kildare County Council staff, with repairs expected to be completed within a 10-12 week time period.
- 2 of these claims were more serious fire damage cases involving severe structural damage to the housing units, the repairs to these two units were recently assigned in September 2019 as a fire damage repair project to an external consultant. The tender documents were currently being prepared with expected completion of these units by the end of Quarter 3, 2020.
- 1 of these claims was a more serious fire damage case involving structural damage to the blockwork shed behind the housing unit which had to be demolished, the housing unit itself was also subject to vandalism and a break in after the incident causing further internal damage. The repairs to this housing unit were currently underway and it was being dealt with internally by Kildare County Council staff, with expected completion of this unit by the end of Quarter 1, 2020.
- 1 of these claims involves damage to 3 housing units as a result of the same fire incident, Kildare County Council was currently engaging with external consultants for the repairs needed to these three units.
- 2 of these claims were only recent claims with the units having suffered fire damage in the last week, the initial surveying of damage on-going.

In conclusion:

Houses which have suffered serious fire damage, damage to the structure and fabric of the building, required Kildare County Council to procure external consultants to carry out a structural assessment, prepare drawings and certify works upon completion. The serious fire damage houses may also require a Garda/Forensic investigation, which also causes a delay in commencing of works. An external consultant had been appointed to work on five of the council's long-term fire damaged houses. The appointment of a consultant for the 3 recent fire damaged houses in Kilcock was underway.

The length of time taken to turn around a fire damaged house was dependent on the following factors:

- The extent of the damage
- Garda/Forensic investigations
- Consultations with the insurance company
- Procuring external consultants
- Tendering process and construction process
- The availability of our own internal resources

Looking at the statistics from January 2017 to December 2018, the length of time taken for 93% of the fire damaged houses which had been completed took between 4 to 8 weeks.

Councillor Weld stated that in a recent case following a fire in one house, a neighbours house suffered fire damage to the roof and this was a council house. A result of the delay in repairing the roof the ceilings were now water damaged and it looked like the whole house would need to be gutted.

Councillor Wyse stated that it was taking 12 months to repair these houses and a developer was able to go out and fix the fire damaged house as it was privately owned.

Councillor Weld stated that the house next door was a private house and the tenants were back living in it. He enquired if insurance was the problem? He further stated the council needed to look at ways of getting these house back into the system as soon as possible.

Ms Fitzpatrick informed the members that the report was adequate to the motion and that she would bring their comments back to the technical department and ask them to speak to the members.

Councillor Durkan asked if the council could be its own insurer.

The District Manager informed the members that the council must keep the insurance cover on these properties. Once a property comes into the council ownership it was added to the premium insurance.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Weld, seconded by Councillor McEvoy that the report be noted.

CM29/1119

Oakwood Park, Derrinturn

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Farrelly. That in light of recent news articles bringing to light structural defects in some houses in Oak Grove, Derrinturn, the council outlines the measures it has taken to ensure the houses recently purchased by the council in Oakwood Park, Derrinturn will be built to a specification which ensures the health and safety of residents - including but not limited to the installation of pillars under roof canopies outside the houses.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Farrelly and seconded by Councillor Weld.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that where the council was purchasing new build units either under Part V or through turnkey acquisitions, it required the developer to submit the safety file for the property. As per the responsibilities of the PSCS set out under Regulation 21 of the "*Safety, Health and Welfare at Work*

Regulations 2013," a completed safety file clearly must be handed over prior to the closing of any new build purchase and must include the Certificate of Compliance – Design, Certificate of Compliance – Completion, Both Assigned Certifier and Builder Ancillary Certificates, Structural Compliance Certificate, Fire Regulation Certificate, Electrical Certificate of

Compliance and Mechanical Certificate of Compliance. In addition, the Housing Capital Clerk of Works undertook several inspections prior to the closing of the properties.

With specific regard to the properties at Oakwood Park, the developer had submitted the completed safety file in respect of the units purchased and the Clerk of Works undertook the required inspections. The canopies for the units at Oakwood Park were of a lightweight redesign and were not the same design as the canopies in Oak Park.

It was the developer's assigned certifier who bore the responsibility to ensure that the units were built in accordance with building regulations which will include the construction of the canopies.

Council Farrelly asked that as the council had bought the remaining 24 houses in Oakwood Park, Derrinturn, were the compliance checks going to be carried out by the council

and how was the council going to certify the houses in Oak Grove, Derrinturn after the collapse of a porch at one of the houses.

Councillor Weld asked that this motion be put on the progress report for a further update.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly, seconded by Councillor Weld that the report be noted and that this motion be put on the progress report for a further update.

CM30/1119

Invite to Maynooth University

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ó Cearúil.

That this council invites a deputation from Maynooth University to a future council meeting to establish ways for the municipal district and the University to work in partnership for the betterment of Maynooth.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Ó Cearúil and seconded by Councillor Durkan.

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree. Councillor Ó Cearúil stated that he was asking

the members to consider a receipt of a deputation from Maynooth University to have a roundtable discussion with the councillors on way to work together.

Councillor Durkan stated that he supported the motion and asked that the council invite them in to the full council meeting.

The District Manager stated that the council could invite them in as the council has a close relationship with them especially with the development of the new Merits building.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó Cearúil, seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by all members that the report be noted, and a meeting be arranged with Maynooth University in January 2020 after the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting in the committee room.

CM31/1119

Standing Order 15

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Wyse.

That the following paragraph be appended to Standing Order 15 in the list of Standing Orders for the Regulation of Business and Proceedings at meetings of this Municipal District:

“The author of a report that has been issued in advance of the meeting, must ensure that a member of staff from their department attends the meeting and is briefed with adequate background information to discuss that report.”

The motion was proposed by Councillor Wyse and seconded by Councillor Weld.

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that The Protocol and Procedures Committee were currently reviewing Standing Orders and the additional text as outlined, could be considered during this process.

Councillor Wyse stated as per ‘Standing Order 28 - Amendment and Duration of Standing Orders when would this be done.

Councillor Ó Cearúil stated that there was a mix up at the October meeting but there had been instants where nobody attended from the section to answer questions about their motion. He stated that this should be sent to the Protocol Committee.

The District Manager stated that it was Protocol that someone from the section attends the meeting. A written report was given and if there was a supplementary question the person attending the meeting may or may not be able to answer it but would inform the member after the meeting.

Councillor McEvoy stated that there was a Protocol meeting last September and the next one would be in December. He stated that Councillor Wyse could come and address his request at this meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wyse, seconded by Councillor Weld that the report be noted and the matter referred to the next meeting of the Protocol and Procedures Committee.

CM32/1119

Standing Order 15

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Wyse.

That the following paragraph be appended to Standing Order 15 in the list of Standing Orders for the Regulation of Business and Proceedings at meetings of this Municipal District: "Any report responding to a request for costing or valuation of a particular project, must provide numeric values in Euro and a breakdown showing how that cost was determined."

The motion was proposed by Councillor Wyse and seconded by Councillor Durkan.

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that the Protocol and Procedures Committee were currently reviewing Standing Orders and the additional text as outlined, could be considered during this process.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wyse, seconded by Councillor Durkan that the report be noted.

CM33/1119

River Slate

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wyse.

Can the council state when the River Slate, being part of the Rathangan Drainage District, was last cleaned in the section where it passes through Ballyteague and Cloncumber?

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department informing the members that following the abolition of the Barrow Drainage Board in December 2014, the council had set up a Drainage Maintenance Crew responsible for maintaining all drainage

districts throughout the county. The crew consisted of two General Operatives (GOs), who were full-time Kildare County Council employees and a General Site Supervisor (GSS), who were shared on a 50-50 basis with Offaly County Council (covered under a Section 85 agreement). The annual budget for works and salaries for 2019 was €238,792.00.

Works were dictated by environmental constraints, such as those laid down by Inland Fisheries Ireland and health and safety considerations. These included a three-month window from July to September for in-stream machine works and a six-month window from September to February for tree cutting. Further constraints included the crayfish plague currently affecting both the River Slate and the River Barrow. The main channel of the River Slate was cleaned between Derrymullen, Allenwood and Rathangan in 2018. Due to the crayfish plague, further cleaning could not be carried out this year. Works were scheduled on a multi-annual basis as ecological reports were required prior to works being carried out. Priority was given to areas where homes were at risk of flooding. Works were proposed on the River Slate north of Robertstown East in 2020, subject to the constraints as outlined.

Councillor Wyse stated that he was happy with the report.

The report was noted.

CM34/1119

Part 8 Kilcock Community Centre

The members considered the Chief Executive's Part 8 report for the proposed Kilcock Community Centre.

Ms Hunt briefed the members on the proposed development for a new two storey community centre in Kilcock.

Councillor Ward asked was there funding for this and was the playground going to be triple the size of the one that was already there.

Councillor Durkan asked if the design plan had the ability to extend as the population was increasing.

Councillor McEvoy stated that at a public meeting the members attended, there was requests for more funding and had the council other resources for funding. He also asked was all the funding available for this.

The District Manager stated that expansion could be done and there had been alot of talk about funding. She stated that it was not dependant on central funding and the council had put aside the funding for this project and that the council could only use the funding that the members had put aside for this project.

Councillor Farrelly asked had an anchor tenant been secured.

The District Manager stated that Kildare Sport Partnership would look at it and then it would be sent for public consultation to let them decide what should go into it e.g. services for the elderly and that Kildare Leisure would be managing it.

Ms Hunt informed the members that the playground was going to be triple the size of the one that was already there.

Councillor Weld stated that it was a great day for Kilcock.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by all members to proceed with the development as recommended in the Chief Executive's Part 8 report for the proposed Kilcock Community Centre.

The meeting concluded.