

**Minutes of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal
District held on Friday, 01 October 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara, Naas, Co Kildare**

Members Present: Councillor D Fitzpatrick (Cathaoirleach), Councillors T Durkan, A Farrelly, A Feeney, P Hamilton, P McEvoy, N Ó Cearúil and P Ward.

Apologies: Councillors B Weld and B Wyse

Officials Present: Ms M Higgins (District Manager), Mr J McGowan (Senior Engineer), Mr S Aylward (District Engineer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms A M Burke (Executive Engineer), Mr B O’Gorman, Ms M McCarthy (Administrative Officer), Ms S Martin (Meetings Administrator), Mr S Higgins (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach sought the members approval for Mr J Hannigan to join the municipal district meeting via Microsoft Teams, as a pilot test on using the Hub screen system. All members agreed.

CL01/1021

Declaration of Pecuniary or Beneficial Interests

There were no declarations from the members of pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended.

CM02/1021
Matters Arising

CM15/0921

Request to write to the NTA requesting them to attend the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting

Councillor Durkan asked whether there had been any update received from the NTA yet in relation to the correspondence that was issued. The District Engineer confirmed that that no response had been received to date.

CM03/1021

Minutes and Progress Report

The Cathaoirleach noted that an amendment had been circulated to the members which was to be included. The members considered the minutes of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 03 September 2021 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor Feeney that the minutes of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting with the circulated amendment held on Friday, 03 September 2021 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CM04/1021

Municipal District Road Works

The District Engineer stated a report had been circulated to the members detailing a summary of essential works which had been undertaken in the past month. He confirmed that crews were currently undertaking routine maintenance including opening inlets, clearing drains and gullies, patching and sign clearance. The verge cutting at strategic junctions and locations throughout the municipal district has commenced and is ongoing. They had also commenced the preparatory works on the remaining Restoration Maintenance schemes including patching, cleaning and opening inlets.

Councillor Hamilton queried who was responsible for the clearance of the Meadowbrook stream. The District Engineer advised that this work does not fall under the remit of the Municipal District Office but that he would look into this and revert to the member.

CM05/1021

Update on LPT Expenditure

The LPT Coordinator advised that a report on the projects for the municipal district had been circulated to the members and that this included the progress of all current projects. He stated that any Roads Department transfers had been arranged with the District Engineer. He also noted that all relevant departments had received the requested projects information and that the onus was now on each department to complete the projects. He advised members that they could contact him for any further projects.

The report was noted.

CM06/1021

Finance Committee Annual Report

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that a report in relation to Finance Committee Annual Report had been circulated to members in advance of the monthly meeting.

The report was noted.

CM07/1021

The Cathaoirleach requested that item 6 on the agenda be taken later in the meeting on the arrival of Councillor Farrelly. All the members agreed.

Item 7:

Integrated Approach for the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Hamilton. That in support of the Maynooth Decarbonised Zone status an integrated approach is taken to the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road(MERR) planning and the plans for nature spaces at Carton Avenue to create a positive connected green environment supporting biodiversity, maximum carbon sequestration and active transport, by

joining up very positive green spaces and an environment supporting pedestrians and cycling connecting to the Royal Canal Greenway and ultimately to the town and the Harbour Field development.

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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that the Maynooth projects will be developed and delivered in a co-ordinated way, with initial joint meetings between projects teams already convened by Kildare County Council Climate Action Office. A Maynooth project oversight steering group consisting of representatives from all relevant sections (including Forward Planning, Public Realm, Climate Action Office, Sustainable Transport and Road Design) will be set up once final approval has been received in respect of the Decarbonization Zone project and the URDF funded public realm project.

Councillor Hamilton raised following points:

- The Public Realm team have carried out visionary work.
- That there was an opportunity to complete a collection of work to potentially develop a city park.
- Plans for the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road (MERR) should be agreed similar to the plans for Carton Avenue and the Naas Relief Road. The MERR has plenty of potential that could link in with the Harbourfield.
- Maynooth has been recommended to become a decarbonised zone and this project would link in with that identity.

The District Engineer noted that the Municipal District Office would be happy to work alongside in supporting this project.

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

CM08/1021

Sustainable Transport Measures Grants

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Hamilton. That the council prepares additional proposals for 2022 NTA Sustainable Transport Measures Grants (STMG) to complete connection of cycleways in Maynooth and Kilcock including the initial concept designs at Beaufield, Greenfield and Newtown Road and upgrades to Bridge Street/R125 in Kilcock.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the National Transport Authority is currently updating its 5-year implementation plan for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Strategic Cycle Track Network.

In the 2013 Report, a number of urban routes in Maynooth are identified and the Sustainable Transport Team is progressing with the design and implementation of these, subject to NTA funding. No urban routes were identified in Kilcock Town for inclusion.

The Transportation Department takes all opportunities, when they arise, to promote and install cycle facilities in areas not on the Strategic Cycle Track Network.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Ó Cearúil and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

CM09/1021

Traffic Management Review on Parson Street, Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Feeney. That the council carry out a traffic management review on Parson Street, Maynooth.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council have recently commenced work on the Maynooth Transport Strategy. This strategy will include a review of Parsons

Street.

The following points were raised by the members:

- The current traffic situation on Parson Street was dangerous and posed a risk to pedestrians and cyclists.
- The Maynooth Transport Strategy was a long term plan but a review of this plan was needed sooner to address the current issues around traffic.
- A motion was brought 6 or 7 years ago to realign the street.
- The removal of parking on this street could prevent some of the issues. The review of parking at the bottom of the Western Relief road was also needed.
- Adequate space for a footpath and a cycle lane should be considered.
- The hierarchy of pedestrians, cyclists and then motor vehicles was not being adhered to.
- A plan that incorporates sustainable and active travel should be looked at during the review.

The District Engineer advised that the Transport Strategy had looked at the whole town of Maynooth. He noted that it would be premature to do anything at this stage as two schemes were currently looking at Parson Street and that they had received a lot of opposition to one method of resolving the traffic issues on the street. He acknowledged that the pinch point need to be looked at and addressed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Ward and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

CM10/1021

The Cathaoirleach requested that item 10 on the agenda be taken later in the meeting on the arrival of Councillor Farrelly. All the members agreed.

Item 11:

Footpaths in College Green and Cluain Aoibhinn, Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ó Cearúil. That the council carry out remedial works to the footpaths in College Green and Cluain Aoibhinn, Maynooth.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office is currently undertaking an extensive footpath repair programme across the entire municipal district. Funding in excess of €800,000 has been allocated to agreed projects to date in 2021. The council will be assessing additional locations in Quarter 4 2021, with the intention of progressing the repair programme in 2022 subject to available funding and resources. These estates will be included in the list for assessment and consideration.

Councillor Ó Cearúil raised the following points:

- The two estates mentioned were both mature estates that were in need of remedial works on their footpaths and potholes.
- The demographic of these estates were predominantly elderly people and students and the footpaths were heavily used.
- The use of LPT funding could be considered for this work.

The District Engineer advised that these footpaths were part of the survey being carried out by the Municipal District Office. He also noted that a significant amount had been spent on footpaths in 2021 and that 2022 funding would be required.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó Cearúil, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

CM11/1021

The Cathaoirleach requested that items 6 and 10 on the agenda now be taken upon the arrival of Councillor Farrelly. All the members agreed.

Item 6:

Taking in charge of Cois Na Mona, Cooleragh

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

Can the council update members on the taking in charge process in Cois Na Mona, Cooleragh?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there is currently no request to take the Cois na Móna estate in charge. Development Control has written to the developer on a number of occasions asking him to engage with the taking in charge process. No response has been received to date. Development Control are monitoring the situation with the foul sewer in the interim.

Councillor Farrelly sought clarification in relation to correspondence that had been received last October in connection with this request but a year later it is still not listed and could clarity be provided on this.

The report was noted.

Item 10:

Traffic Counts on the R407

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Farrelly. That, following the opening of the Sallins Bypass, the council conducts traffic counts on the R407 inbound and outbound to Clane from Sallins and the R407 inbound and outbound to Clane from Kilcock, and provides a timeline for completion.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that traffic counts were completed along R407 in May 2021 following the opening of Sallins Bypass. An additional traffic count can be carried out following completion of the Regional Road traffic count programme. It is anticipated that the additional traffic count can be completed along R407 in Quarter 4, 2021.

The following points were raised by the members:

- Can the current numbers of the traffic counts be provided and can a comparison of previous counts be included?

- Lorries driving through Clane have created an intimidating experience for road users .
- A new road connection to the back of the secondary school in Clane would reduce by up to 42% the number of students travelling via the main street.
- Any options to move away from car dependency should be considered.

The Senior Engineer acknowledged the members concerns. He advised that the Sallins bypass should make a difference to the traffic in Clane. He stated that no noticeable or sizeable increase has been recorded since the opening of the Sallins bypass. He said that he would revert to the members with the numbers requested.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

CM12/1021

Pedestrian Entrance and Zebra Crossing at Maynooth Education Campus

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Durkan. That the council provide an additional pedestrian entrance and zebra crossing at Maynooth Education Campus connecting directly to the GAA pitches on the Moyglare Road, in the interests of pedestrian safety.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a signal controlled pedestrian crossing (with push button unit) is provided at the signal controlled junction of the Moyglare Road and the main campus access road on the western side of the educational campus. A raised zebra crossing is provided on the eastern side of the educational campus. Both crossings facilitate access to the GAA pitches and are located within 200m of each other. It is considered that an additional crossing point is not warranted or advised at this location. A possible solution is to create an additional pedestrian entrance to the GAA pitches which could suitably alter the pedestrian desire line – the provision of this would be a matter for the GAA/Parks Department.

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the Parks Section will assist with any boundary alterations that have to be carried out to facilitate an entrance into the GAA pitches.

The following points were raised by the members:

- Requests have been received from both principals for additional entrances.
- Buses currently cannot make a turn without crossing both lanes of the road due to the placement of the concrete islands.
- There could be up to 2,000 students making use of these pedestrian crossings on any given day and the current layout was unsafe for this amount of footfall. Young people cross the road at the path of least resistance.
- How quickly could an entrance be opened at the GAA? this option had been discussed with the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent at the community council.
- A request was made to leave this item on the progress report.

The District Engineer advised that the design of the road including the two pedestrian crossings was deemed to be safe. The distance between the bus stop and the junction was measured during the design stage of the road. There was no adequate space to facilitate the installation of another crossing along the road. The entrance at the GAA may be the option to be pursued.

Mr Wallace agreed that the entrance onto the GAA could be looked at and that if the funding could be found that this could be arranged.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan, seconded by Councillor Feeney and agreed by the members present that this item be added to the progress report and that the report be noted.

CM13/1021

Resurfacing Roads in Cooltrim South and Cooltrim North, Donadea

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

That the council resurface the roads in Cooltrim South and Cooltrim North, Donadea.

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 the Municipal District Office resurfaces roads on an annual basis as part of the restoration improvement programme. This programme is determined in Quarter 1 each year and the roads are selected based on available funding, condition rating of the roads and traffic volumes. These roads will be included in the list for consideration in 2022 and subsequent road programmes. Councillor Ward said that the roads in this area were in very bad shape and that he welcomed the opportunity to carry out a site visit with the District Engineer.

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

CM14/1021

Broken street signs in and around the town of Kilcock

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ward. That the council repair the broken street signs in and around the town of Kilcock.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office has identified signs throughout the entire municipal district which requiring replacing. In excess of 400 signs have been procured in 2021 and these are being replaced on an ongoing basis as resources allow. This programme will continue throughout Quarter 4 2021. A meeting can be arrange with the Councillor in Kilcock to ensure all signs were identified and included in this ongoing programme and replaced when resources allow.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Ó Cearúil and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

CM15/1021

Query on usage of Glyphosate

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Hamilton. Can the council provide an update on plans by the Roads Department for reduced spraying and alternative maintenance approaches across the municipal district to support the reduction and ultimate elimination of glyphosate?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office does not use glyphosate. Councillor Hamilton said that the intent of this question was to ask about the council's contractors and their spraying.

The District Engineer advised that the council do not use glyphosate. He stated that the council use synero as the herbicide when they carry out spraying. The District Manager also noted that the Parks Department have eliminated the use of glyphosate.

The report was noted.

CM16/1021

Works Schedule for Hedge Cutting in the municipal district

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Feeney. Can the council provide the works schedule for hedge cutting in the municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office undertakes routine hedge cutting on strategic junctions to ensure sight lines for road safety. The council do not have a schedule but undertake the works as part of routine maintenance as needs dictate and resources allow. It should be noted that under Section 70 of the Roads Act, 1993 the owner or occupier of land shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation on the land is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road. Kildare County Council has recently published notices in a number of local and national newspapers outlining these obligations. The council will also be inspecting locations throughout

the municipal district and liaising with landowners as necessary to remind them of their obligations.

The report was noted.

CM17/1021

Location for the Development of a 'Changing Places' Facility

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Farrelly. Can the council inform members if a suitable location for the development of a 'Changing Places' facility has been identified in the municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the council currently does not have any building in Clane or Maynooth that would be able to accommodate a Changing Places facility.

Changing Places facilities are a real improvement on standard accessible toilets as they provide a larger floor area of 12m² and additional equipment such as a height-adjustable adult-sized changing bench, a full room coverage ceiling track hoist system, a centrally located toilet bowl with space either side for transfers/assistants and a safe and clean environment. Changing Places must have a minimum floor area of 12m² (3m x 4m) with a ceiling height of 2.4m in order to meet the criteria for full registration. This is to ensure that any facility advertised as a Changing Places toilet meets the needs and expectations of the people who use them.

The council did review the existing library in Maynooth and the proposed new library in Clane as potential possibilities but unfortunately the council does not have the required space in either.

Councillor Farrelly sought clarification on whether a prioritization could be made for this kind of facility in the municipal district and was there no way that the council could provide this in the library in Clane?

The District Manager advised that Kildare County Council will be the first local authority to include a 'Changing Places' facility in the headquarters in Naas and also in the county library. She advised that the council could review the plans for the library in Clane but noted that the logistics are more challenging for this kind of

facility in comparison to a standard toilet. She stated that the council aims to put accessibility at the forefront of its plans.

The report was noted.

CM18/1021

Ramps on Maynooth North-South Corridor

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Ó Cearúil. Can the council confirm why the ramps, which were due to be installed as part of the Maynooth North-South Corridor upgrade, have not been installed on the Moyglare Road and when will they be installed?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Flat top ramps were considered at the preliminary design stage of the Maynooth North-South corridor (Moyglare Road) project, as a traffic management measure. The frequency of these ramps, however, was significantly reduced during the detailed design stage to reduce the negative impact that ramps can have on emergency services and in terms of increased noise levels. A range of alternative traffic management measures were introduced at the detailed design stage and have since been delivered, to include the following;

- 1 Narrower carriageway width;
- 2 Signalised junction at the Moyglare Hall junction;
- 3 Signalised pedestrian crossing at Moyglare Abbey;
- 4 Signalised junction at Lyreen Avenue;
- 5 In line bus stops; and
- 6 A flat top ramp and toucan crossing at St Mary's Boys School.

Councillor Ó Cearúil sought clarification on whether traffic calming measures could be looked at?

The District Engineer advised that it would be brought back to the Roads Design team. He also noted that there was limited speeding on the road during peak times. Speed surveys are planned to be undertaken in the new year.

The report was noted.

CM19/1021

Footpath at the Junction of the R403 and the L5078 at Capdoo, Clane

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McEvoy.
Can the council provide an update on progress to improve the footpath at the junction of the R403 and the L5078 at Capdoo, Clane?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this location is included in the list of projects for examination when resources allow. It is envisaged that this project will be examined in 2022 subject to available resources.

The report was noted.

CM20/1021

Assessment of speeding vehicles on the R407 Clane-Kilcock Road

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McEvoy.
Can the council provide an update on plans to assess the speed of vehicles using the R407 Clane-Kilcock Road near Aughamore and the need for traffic calming?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that due to COVID-19 there is a backlog of these surveys to be undertaken. The Municipal District Office is catching up on these surveys and it is hoped to have this one completed in the coming month. This will determine the extent of the issue and if traffic calming measures should be considered in line with Kildare County Council guidelines.

The report was noted.

CM21/1021

Number of empty houses in Prosperous

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Farrelly.
That the council identifies the number of empty houses in (details provided) Prosperous, and details the length of time these units have been empty, and acts to prioritise the necessary works in order to make them available for allocation.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the members are given a monthly report in an agreed format on vacant houses, which gives statistical information regarding the council's vacant housing units. With effect from November 2021, this monthly report will include new house purchases, as agreed with the Housing SPC. Properties become vacant for a variety of reasons and every effort is made to make such properties available for allocation as quickly as possible, within the constraints of available contractors and finance.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly, seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

CM22/1021

Invitation to Maynooth University

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ó Cearúil. That this council invites Maynooth University to attend a meeting of this municipal district to discuss local matters.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that subject to the members approval, the council can issue an invite to Maynooth University as requested.

The following points were raised by the members:

- The members wished to acknowledge the retirement of Dr Philip Nolan after all his brilliant work at Maynooth University which included bringing the university to international standard.
- The invitation to be extended to Maynooth University would be used to further expand the positive dialogue between Kildare County Council and the university.

- The town and the university were interdependent and due to this they should come together to tackle some current issues of mutual concern. Issues that could be discussed would be those of a lack of accommodation for students in the town and the use of the childcare facility on the campus
- The discussion could include raising points for the town's progression that are laid out in the Maynooth Local Area Plan and the County Development Plan.
- The next Maynooth Local Area Plan could greatly profit from dialogues between Kildare County Council and the university at this stage.
- The members remembered Liz Dunne who worked tirelessly for the university and for Maynooth Town who had sadly passed away recently.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó Cearúil, seconded by Councillor Feeney and agreed by the members present the report was noted and a letter be issued to Maynooth University inviting them to meet the municipal district members.

The Cathaoirleach requested that a moments silence be observed in memory of Ms Dunne. All members agreed.

CM23/1021

Outsourcing Housing Grant Inspections

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Durkan. That the council consider outsourcing housing grant inspections under the Housing Adaptation Grants for older People and People with a Disability Scheme in this municipal district to clear the backlog.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Kildare County Council administers two schemes to facilitate housing adaptations for older people and people with a disability. Both schemes are funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the council. The following details funding in 2021:

- Housing Adaptation Grants for privately owned homes: €3,162, 288.

- Disabled Persons Grants (DPG) for council owned homes: €517,504 .

Applications for each grant type are assessed by the Housing Department.

Housing inspections of approved works on private homes are carried by an engineer/ architect engaged by the home owner directly. Specific information on requirements is provided to applicants at approval stage.

For council properties, works are project managed by the Architects Section and all inspections are carried out by the council. Works on properties were curtailed due to COVID-19, however, these are now being progressed for all approved tenants.

The council does not consider it necessary to make any change to the current arrangements at this time.

The following points were raised by the members:

- Housing grant applicants have been waiting some time.
- An elimination of €200,000 shortfall that would expedite the processing should be considered.
- Staff in the Housing section are working tirelessly on this backlog.
- It would be helpful if the council could provide a timeframe for the duration of the application process, to include the expected completion date.
- €20,000 from each municipal district and a matched €100,000 from the executive could be a solution to this.

Following discussion on the proposal of Councillor Durkan seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by all members that this matter be referred to Full Council asking that each Municipal District Committee can be asked to contribute €20,000 from their LPT allocation to the Housing Adaptation Scheme and that the Council Executive agree to match the funding of €100,000.

Mr B O’Gorman acknowledged that there was an issue last year with inspections and grants. He stated that the architects in the Housing Department have been working to tackle the backlog. He said that the Housing Department would greatly appreciate the extra funding.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and that this matter be referred to Full Council for consideration.

CM24/1021

Number of People on Housing List Classified by Bedroom Units

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Feeney. Can the council confirm how many people are currently on the housing list in Maynooth, Clane and Kilcock classified by one, two, three bedroom units, single person and families?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the table below is the numbers that have listed Maynooth, Clane or Kilcock as an area of choice in their Housing Application.

Area	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed
Maynooth	554	491	283	67
Kilcock	144	178	96	25
Clane	356	244	121	25

Councillor Feeney sought clarification on why the council owned site near her residence was not being used for council housing?

The District Manager said that they would investigate this and revert. The report was noted.

CM25/1021

Update on the Fire Damaged Houses in Kilcock

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Durkan. Can the council provide an update on the fire damaged houses in (details provided) Kilcock?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the contract for the works has been awarded. The initial site meeting with the appointed contractor took place on Tuesday 28 September with works on site to commence within 20 days of this date. The contract duration is expected to be 30 weeks. The report was noted.

CM26/1021

Letter to OPW calling for repairs on Conolly's Folly (The Obelisk)

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

That this council writes to the OPW calling for improvement, repairs and enhancement of Conolly's Folly (The Obelisk).

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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that subject to the members approval, the Senior Executive Officer would write to the OPW calling for improvement, repairs and enhancement of Conolly's Folly (The Obelisk).

The following points were raised by the members:

- This was a key historic monument that was under utilized.
- The maintenance of this monument was seriously below par. There was steel palisade fencing erected in front of the Obelisk which was a shame.
- This monument had links to Carton House and Castletown House.
- If the letter could include a request for a meeting with the members at the site.
- This issue was brought to the OPW privately and nothing was done. Previous requests seem to have fallen on deaf ears.
- The Minister for State Patrick O'Donovan should be included in the letter for more oversight.
- A community heritage grant could be sought for the Obelisk which is open to community groups. Advice from the Heritage Council for a review of the state of the construction could also be of use.

The District Manager agreed that a letter should be issued to the OPW and that the Minister of State be included on the letter.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Ó Cearúil and agreed by the members present that the report was noted and correspondence issue as outlined.

CM27/1021

Briefing on the Maynooth Local Area Plan

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Durkan. Can the council give a briefing on the Maynooth Local Area Plan with particular reference to the route selection of the Maynooth Orbital Road given the possible design amendments which might have to be made at Jackson Bridge to accommodate the proposed design of the Dart Plus works?

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department and the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the members will be aware from a recent briefing to the municipal district that a Strategic Transport Assessment is currently being prepared to inform the review of the Maynooth Local Area Plan. This assessment is a direct response to requirements throughout the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region for a more evidence-based approach to planning, ensuring the best available data, information and knowledge are used to inform plan-making.

It was acknowledged that the town of Maynooth suffers from congestion and that new road infrastructure will be required to assist in the sustainable, economic and social development of Maynooth. The Transport Strategy would be undertaken to provide up-to-date analysis to optimise decisions taken during the land use planning process and will examine current traffic movements and future transport options including the DART + West programme for the town of Maynooth and identified possible options to provide for a more functional overall transport and movement system.

Councillor Durkan sought clarification on whether the Roads and Planning Departments of the council should come together and provide some joined up thinking on the Dart + proposal and could a briefing be provided by the both departments?

Ms McCarthy advised that the Planning Department were assessing the document and that if there was merit in a briefing that they would revert to the councillors with a proposal for one.

The report was noted.

CM28/1021

Update on the Review/Audit of Existing Bins Relevant in the Municipal District

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

Can the council provide an update on the review/audit of existing bins relevant to this municipal district and the timeframes involved in this process?

A report was received from the Climate Action, Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that the physical survey of existing street bins is currently underway and it is hoped to have this completed by the end of the month. The issue was discussed at the recent Environment and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee meeting, and the findings of the survey will be considered by the SPC at its next meeting in early December.

The report was noted.

CM29/1021

Public Seating in the Open Spaces near the Liffey in Clane

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

That the council examine opportunities for installing some public seating in the open spaces near the Liffey in Clane.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the most suitable site for public seating along the Liffey in Clane is the open space along Alexandra Manor. This can be assessed for locations for seating, but a budget will have to be identified to carry out the work.

Councillor McEvoy raised the following points:

- Was there capacity to put seating along the River Liffey?
- Other counties had provided similar seating in their parks.

Mr Wallace said that he had no objection to this suggestion and that it had been discussed with the Maynooth Community Council previously. He advised that the design of the seating should be durable, accessible, vandalism proof and that the position of the seating would need to be considered.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

The meeting concluded.