

**Minutes of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal
District held on Friday, 03 September 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
On Microsoft Teams**

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

Officials Present: Ms M Higgins (District Manager), Mr J McGowan (Senior Engineer), Mr S Aylward (District Engineer), Mr J Malone (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officer), Ms V Cooke (Administrative Officer), Mr C Sweeney (Programme Manager), Ms S Martin (Meetings Administrator), Mr S Higgins (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the September meeting and welcomed the new acting Director of Services Marian Higgins and wished the best of luck to former Director of Services Sonya Kavanagh in her new role as interim Chief Executive. The Cathaoirleach suggested that with the members agreement that a break at 11:30 be taken due to the three Strategic Housing Developments to be heard and this was agreed by the members present. The Cathaoirleach also suggested that with the members agreement that the Strategic Housing Developments be taken at the end of the meeting and this too was agreed by the members present.

CL01/0921

Bereavements

The Cathaoirleach remembered the father of Councillor Bill Clear and also Liz Dunne Development Officer for Maynooth University who both had recently passed away, the members offered their sympathies and condolences to Councillor Clear, his family and friends.

The members also offered their sympathies and condolences to the family of Liz Dunne on their recent bereavement.

A minute's silence was observed.

CM02/0921

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.

CM03/0921

Minutes and Progress Report

The Cathaoirleach noted that an amendment had been circulated to the members and that two slight changes to a question on page 26 and a title on page 27 of the drafts minutes were to be included. The members considered the minutes of the monthly Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting and minutes of the annual meeting held on Friday, 02 July 2021 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wyse seconded by Councillor Ward that the minutes of the monthly Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting with the circulated amendment and mentioned changes be taken as read and minutes of the annual meeting held on Friday, 02 July 2021 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CM04/0921

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 are 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 have also commenced the preparatory works on the remaining Restoration Maintenance schemes including patching, cleaning and opening inlets.

Councillor Fitzpatrick enquired about the condition of Ballyteague Road and if his LPT funding could be ring fenced for this road.

The District Engineer said that he would follow up on this matter with the councillor.

CM05/0921

Update on LPT Expenditure 2021

The Cathaoirleach noted that a updated list of all LPT Roads projects had been circulated to the members by the District Engineer. The report was noted.

CM06/0921

Taking in charge of Newtown Hall and Castledawson

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Ó Cearúil. Can the council confirm what stage are the taking in charge of Newtown Hall and Castledawson estates at?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a valid Section 180 request to take in charge was received from the home owners of Castledawson on 30/01/2015. However, the pumping station which serves Castledawson estate was in the control of the developer of Newtown Hall.

When Newtown Hall was complete, and if a request was received to take Newtown Hall in charge, both estates may be progressed to TIC together.

The following points were raised by Councillor Ó Cearúil:

- The report states that this request dates back to 2015. Couldan the council be proactive?
- The bulbs in the public lighting need to be replaced.
- There have been a number of burgarlies reported in the area.
- It's important that the council engages with the residents associations.

Mr Malone noted that the pumping station for Castledawson estate is in Newtown Hall and this prevents the council taking Castledawson in charge unless Newtown Hall is also taken in charge. He also noted that the council has never received a request from the developer or the residents of Newtown Hall for the estate to be taken in charge. He stated that the council got the developer of Castledawson to

renew the tarmacadam. The developer never completed the ramps which he said he would have done by the end of June and that the council will use bond money for these if they were not completed in the near future.

The report was noted.

CM07/0921

Taking in charge of Royal Meadows Estate, Kilcock

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

Can the council provide an update and expected timeframe for the completion of the taking in charge of Royal Meadows Estate in Kilcock?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a valid Section 180 request to take in charge was received from the homeowners of Royal Meadows in April 2021.

Development Control is working with the bond provider to have the bond released to Kildare County Council, to cover the cost of some of the remedial works required.

As the available funding falls far short of the estimated cost of the remedial works required, the works will have to be progressed in an incremental fashion as funding becomes available.

Councillor Ward said that he would follow this up with Mr Malone.

Mr Malone stated that the council are actively pursuing the bond and that the request had gone in for the release of the bond which is expected to be around €180,000 to €200,000.

The report was noted.

CM08/0921

Maintenance Plan for Shared Access Road

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

That given the additional housing developments on the road serving Collegewood Manor, the council considers a maintenance plan for the shared access road.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office maintains this roadway as part of the road network. This maintenance involved the repair of the road surface and lining, maintenance and cleaning of the surface water network and occasional sweeping of the roadway. There were no plans or resources to alter this service.

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that there are two recent housing developments on Collegewood Manor road. The grass verges along Collegewood Manor road are currently cut by residents. It is the view of the Parks Section that this should continue and residents should come together to ensure continuation.

The Parks Section recommend a 6 week mowing regime be implemented to benefit biodiversity. If required, the Parks Section can provide a 6 week mowing regime schedule and associated map, for residents information and use.

Councillor McEvoy noted that there is no policy currently in place and that he might discuss with the Parks Department about putting a plan in place.

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

CM09/0921

Alleviation of Flooding at Coill Dubh National School

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

That the flooding at Coill Dubh national school be alleviated as a matter of urgency due to children returning to school.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the provision of additional drainage measures was recently tendered and the works were completed on 20 August 2021.

He asked the District Engineer to keep the Coill Dubh national school in mind and also mentioned that he knew that this work was going to tender.

The District Engineer confirmed that additional gullies and drainage had already been completed in this area.

Councillor Weld asked that this be left on the progress report to check that the remedial works carried out at Coill Dubh national school have addressed the flooding issues.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Weld, seconded by Councillor Wyse and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and that it be added to the progress report.

CM10/0921

Strategic Review of Junctions in this Municipal District

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Farrelly. That the council initiate a strategic review of junctions in this municipal district requiring works, including Firmount Cross, Dag Welds Cross and Allenwood Cross, detailing the works required and the national funding programmes available to which it can apply.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council will consider carrying out such a strategic review subject to the availability of resources and funding and the delivery of other projects that are currently being completed across the entire county.

The following points were raised by the members:

- The members have been waiting on news on this matter for 12 to 18 months.
- There doesn't seem to be a plan B from the council.
- This report was a repeat of the previous report given for a similar motion.
- Could a review be carried out when the funding becomes available?

- The members need to be able to provide clarity to the public on this matter and this report sheds no light on the situation.
- More transparency of the council's process is required.
- The Downings Crossroad is a positive example of the good work the council has done previously.
- Can the District Engineer work alongside An Gardaí Síochána on this matter?
- The slow down signs which are in place seem to work.
- There had been a report on crossroads completed by the council in response to the last Drehid application.
- The locals at Dagwelds met with An Gardaí Síochána in response to speeding in their area before that crossroads was reviewed.
- Speeding is a major problem from Allenwood to Prosperous. Could digital speed signs be introduced?

The Senior Engineer had since spoken with the Roads Design team about the possibility of carrying out a review of these junctions. He is unaware of any specific funding for this kind of review but that shouldn't stop any assessments being carried out. He said that the council plan to get a consultant to carry out the work, this could include assessing land in the areas for acquisition and redesign. He also stated that this would be kept to the fore with the Roads Design team and would be taken up with the Director of Services. He advised that traffic signals would not be a complete solution to the issue of speeding, pedestrian facilities would also need to be considered.

Councillor McEvoy asked could the transportation report received in response to the last Drehid application be circulated to the members?

The District Engineer said that he would look for a further update and issue it to the members.

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

CM11/0921

Road Safety Review of Painstown Cross

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Farrelly. That the council conduct a road safety review of Painstown Cross, to include a request issuing to An Gardaí Siochána to provide a report detailing road traffic collision statistics, in the vicinity of this junction.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council will consider carrying out such a review subject to the availability of resources and funding and the delivery of other projects that are currently being completed across the entire county.

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

CM12/0921

Signage on the South Side of Bond Bridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Wyse. That the council install signage on the south side of Bond Bridge in Allenwood warning drivers approaching the village that there may be walkers on the road on the other side of the bridge accessing the Grand Canal.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Wyse 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 will examine the route to determine the volume of pedestrians utilising this route. If merited and subject to available funding, the Municipal District Office would install the signage.

The following points were raised by the members:

- The installation of signage at Bond Bridge is merited as it is the only real amenity in the area is the Grand Canal.

- Drivers of all vehicles need to be made aware of pedestrians walking on the road.
- There is pedestrian signage near to the Church of Ireland in Straffan which could be used as an example.

The District Engineer advised that the signage mentioned was unauthorised signage but that he would look into signage for this area.

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

CM13/0921

Traffic Safety at the Bridge on the L5023

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Wyse. That the council provide a report on the potential for improving traffic safety at the bridge on the L5023 just north of Derrinturn where the road narrows and in the interim, repaint the black and yellow markings on the bridge.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the design of the improvement works at the school in Derrinturn is being finalised and will be issued for public consultation as soon as possible. This will introduce measures on the southern side of this bridge. This will also involve a new road surface and road lining which will be extended passed the bridge. In regard to painting the bridge, this is no longer carried out by the local authority. There is signage installed here but this can be reviewed and if necessary replaced.

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

CM14/0921

Update of Traffic Lights, the Inner Relief Road and Segregated Cycle/footpaths

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

That the council provide a full update on the activation of traffic lights, opening of the inner relief road and segregated cycle/footpaths, which were previously raised issues on the Moyglare Road, Maynooth.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the new traffic lights on the Moyglare Road are scheduled to be switched on when the new link road between the Moyglare Road and the Dunboyne Road is opened to traffic by the developer which we understand should happen in Quarter 3 2021 (by the end of September 2021). Kildare County Council Roads Planning Section are in regular contact with the developer and will continue to work with the developer on this issue

The issue of segregated cycle/footpath has been discussed with the NTA and it was agreed that with the return of students to second and third level education in Autumn 2021, the Council will monitor the arrangements along Moyglare Road then and review the layout with the NTA.

The following points were raised by the members:

- Good news to see road opening and lights being switched on.
- The NTA was previously written to regarding the segregation of paths in the area.
- Legislation was on the way for scooters which can get up speeds of 25km/hr and will be used on cycle lanes. Due to this the segregation of pedestrians and cyclists/scooters was very important.
- When would lines be painted on the paths along the Moyglare Road?

The District Engineer advised that that the footpath width was insufficient to provide segregated lanes and that he would also bring this item back to the Sustainable Traffic Team for a report that would be issued to the members.

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

CM15/0921

Request to NTA to attend a Municipal District meeting to Discuss Dart Plus

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Durkan. That this council write to the NTA requesting them to attend the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting to discuss Dart plus and the provision of a dual Dart line for Kilcock.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Dart+ is an Irish Rail Project so they are the correct organisation to invite to any meetings. The Transportation Department will issue an invite to Irish Rail subject to members agreement, however, the Department will not be issuing correspondence to NTA in relation to this project.

The following points were raised by the members:

- Clarification is needed on whether the NTA or Iarnród Éireann are leading this project.
- Can the council bring in the NTA to discuss the matter?
- The town of Kilcock has a population of circa 9,000 and this service would hugely benefit the town.
- The members previously met with the Minister for Transport and advised him that by not including Kilcock would add significant costs later.
- The junctions on the M4 for Leixlip and Celbridge originally were priced at €4 million and the final figure was much closer to €42 million.
- There is 600 to 700 metres of track to be completed. The original Dart+ land requirement was around 75 acres.

- GoAhead had been previously invited to a municipal district and NTA had advised that it was more appropriate for them to attend.
- There would be universal support from local businesses for this service.
- There has been a lot of people using Jackson Bridge in absence of a west Maynooth ring road.
- This service was an essential part of the climate action response.
- Within the Transport Strategy under Section 5.2.2 there was specific European funding for such a project.

The Senior Engineer advised that the NTA would administer the funding and that Iarnród Éireann carrying out the works for this service. He then asked if the NTA do not currently have the funding for this service then would a meeting on this topic help? He stated that Kildare County Council have been promoting this service. He also advised that he would bring this back to the Director of Service for their attention.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan, seconded by Councillor Ó Cearúil and agreed by the members present that an invitation be issued to the NTA to attend a municipal district meeting and the report be noted.

CM16/0921

Request to resurface the R148 Church Street Kilcock

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ward. That the council resurfaces the R148 Church Street Kilcock along the section of the Kilcock Cemetery road to Musgraves.

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 are a number of developments to be undertaken in this location in the near future. These developments will involve excavation of road for the provision of services. The resurfacing of the roadway prior to these works would be premature. This road is on the list for consideration in future restoration improvement programmes, but not until all anticipated excavations are completed.

The District Engineer agreed to carry out interim works along the mentioned section of the road.

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

CM17/0921

Update on the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Feeney. That the council provide an update on the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road project.

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 the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road forms one section of the Maynooth Outer Orbital Route from the R148 Dublin Road to the R405 Celbridge Road. The Maynooth Eastern Ring Road is currently at detailed design stage. The project will next progress to the Statutory Process Stage including the compulsory acquisition of lands (CPO stage), subject to approvals. Construction works will be predicated on the successful conclusion of the CPO process and subsequent approvals from the relevant authorities.

The following points were raised by the members:

- A comprehensive report was given at the Transportation SPC.
- Add this as an item on the progress report so that it needn't reappear as an agenda motion or question.
- This project has been sitting on the shelf, the funding was secured in 2016 and we're still awaiting the start of the works.
- The current estimated cost of over €14 million will more than likely be doubled.
- This ring road will service circa 1,000 houses of people in the area.
- In the previous term of this municipal district the work of rezoning the land and designing the road was carried out. What was the point of all this work if no progress is being made?

- An amendment to the Maynooth LAP may be required.
- No more development should happen in this area if the ring road was not progressed and completed. This project should be a priority for the county. Maynooth should be seen as a key growth town.
- This ring road is an absolutely critical piece of infrastructure.
- Maynooth will become further congested with the increase in population and traffic.
- Can the District Manager ask the Director of Service for Transportation to give an update?
- The Director of Service Transportation was well aware of this project
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The District Manager said that they would talk to the Director of Service regarding the timeline.

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

CM18/0921

Review of the Disabled Car Parking Spaces in Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Feeney. That the council carries out a review of the disabled car parking spaces in Maynooth.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this will be carried out as part of the Pay Parking Bye Law review.

Councillor Feeney noted that the current spaces were not fit for purpose and hoped that the review would be carried out in a timely manner.

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

CM19/0921

Repair Damage to the Alexandra Bridge, Clane and Assessment of Impact

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McEvoy. Can the council confirm what approach it will take to repairing damage to the Alexandra Bridge, Clane (B14-63, NIAH: 11808013) and assessing the impact of increased vehicular traffic levels, including large vehicles, on the protection, maintenance and safe shared use of the bridge by vulnerable road users?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Alexandra Bridge was due to be inspected in 2022, however, following the recent damage to the bridge, this inspection has been expediated. Kildare County Council Bridge Consultants are due to carry out the inspection of Alexandra Bridge this week. Following the inspection, the consultants report will determine the approach to be undertaken by Kildare County Council in relation to this location.

The report was noted.

CM20/0921

Updates on Traffic Calming at Robertstown National School

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Weld. Can the council provide an update on traffic calming at Robertstown national school?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the design of the improvement works at the school in Robertstown is being finalised and will be issued for public consultation as soon as possible.

The report was noted.

CM21/0921

Update on Progress of the New Traffic Light System in Allenwood

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Farrelly. Can the council update members on the progress of the new traffic light system to be implemented in Allenwood following a report from the Technical Advisory and Assessment Group (TAAG)?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a report was previously carried out to determine whether traffic signals were required at Allenwood Cross based on traffic and pedestrian demands and in accordance with Traffic Management Guidelines. In brief the report concluded that “ The facilities currently provided in Allenwood are considered reasonable and generally comply with traffic management recommendations , however the provision of a signalised junction is recommended in the medium to long term for the village”. No funding has been identified or any technical resources have been allocated to advance this project.

Councillor Farrelly raised the following points:

- There seems to be a contradiction in the report given.
- More information and clarification is needed. Can the council confirm if there will there be traffic signals, a traffic crossing, the position of this in the queue of works and address the point on funding this system.

The Senior Engineer stated that there were a number of complex issues to be considered in Allenwood regarding traffic and that a full review will need to be carried out. Work seems to have been delayed as the TAAG team is no longer in place. He advised that this issue would be brought back to the Roads Design team. He hoped to have a proposal to put in front of the members in six months.

The District Engineer said that one of the junctions in Allenwood would have its road lines repainted.

The report was noted.

CM22/0921

Update on the footpath repairs in Corra Choill Park and Churchview Lawns

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wyse.
Can the council provide an update on the footpath repairs carried out in Corra Choill Park and Churchview Lawns estates in Prosperous?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that these estates were identified as requiring substantial

footpath repairs and included on the list of locations to be targeted utilising the LPT funding allocation. The works were tendered and the successful contractor is currently on site in Chuchview Lawns and will be proceeding to Corra Choill Park. The report was noted.

CM23/0921

Update on the Drainage Works in Coill Dubh village

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wyse. Can the council provide an update on the drainage works carried out in Coill Dubh village?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the provision of additional drainage measures was recently tendered and the works were completed on 20 August 2021. The report was noted.

CM24/0921

Update on Improvement Works to the Footpaths on Maynooth Main Street

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Ó Cearúil. Can the council confirm what progress has been made on improvement works to the footpaths on Maynooth Main Street?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the municipal district office is engaging with the public realm team to progress the project which received Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) funding earlier this year. The terms and conditions associated with this funding has only recently been forwarded to Kildare County Council and it is expected to progress the development of the masterplan for Maynooth in Quarter 4 2021. In the interim the municipal district office is regularly inspecting the footpaths and arranging any necessary maintenance. The report was noted.

CM25/0921

Road Repairs will be Carried Out at Ballycannon, Kilcock

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Durkan.
Can the council confirm when road repairs will be carried out at Ballycannon, Kilcock given the number of cars recently damaged?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office has inspected the location and is unaware of any issues at this location. If the Councillor can provide additional details it can be further investigated.

Councillor Durkan said that he would meet the District Engineer regarding this in the coming months.

The report was noted.

CM26/0921

Update on the Current Status of the Sustainable Transport Projects

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Hamilton.
Can the council provide an update on the current status of the sustainable transport projects in the municipal district, including the Maynooth Mill Street upgrade, the Meadowbrook Road plan and the designs for the Celbridge and Kilcock roads?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that an update on the Sustainable Transport Measures Grants (STMG) projects funded by the NTA in the area is set out below, setting out the current stage of the works.

- Maynooth North-South Corridor (Mill Street) – Current Phase 5 (Detailed Design and Tender) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 6 : Construction (2022);
- Meadowbrook Road Cycletrack Scheme - Current Phase 3 (Preliminary Design) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 4 : Planning and Statutory Approvals (2022);
- Celbridge Road Cycletrack Scheme - Current Phase 3 (Preliminary Design) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 4 : Planning and Statutory Approvals (2022);
- Kilcock Road Cycletrack Scheme - Current Phase 3 (Preliminary Design) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 4 : Planning and Statutory Approvals (2022);

- Royal Canal Greenway Scheme – Current Phase 5 (Detailed Design and Tender) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 6 : Construction (Quarter 4 2021);. The report was noted.

CM27/0921

Update on the Construction of the Royal Canal Greenway

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

Can the council provide an update on the construction of the Royal Canal Greenway between Maynooth and Leixlip with the expected timelines for construction and completion of this section?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the construction of the Royal Canal Greenway is being tendered for construction and it is hoped that works will commence before the end of 2021. Design options to widen sections of the route are being examined in parallel. The report was noted.

CM28/0921

Update on Progress on Joining Up the Cycle Lanes in Maynooth

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

Can the council update the members as to the progress on joining up the cycle lanes in Maynooth?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that an update on the STMG projects funded by the NTA in the area is set out below setting out the current stage of the works.

- Maynooth North-South Corridor (Mill Street) – Current Phase 5 (Detailed Design and Tender) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 6 : Construction (2022);
- Meadowbrook Road Cycletrack Scheme - Current Phase 3 (Preliminary Design) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 4 : Planning and Statutory Approvals (2022);
- Celbridge Road Cycletrack Scheme - Current Phase 3 (Preliminary Design) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 4 : Planning and Statutory Approvals (2022);

- Kilcock Road Cycletrack Scheme - Current Phase 3 (Preliminary Design) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 4 : Planning and Statutory Approvals (2022);
- Royal Canal Greenway Scheme – Current Phase 5 (Detailed Design and Tender) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 6 : Construction (Quarter 4 2021);.

The report was noted.

CM29/0921

Update on support an increase of outdoor socialising

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Hamilton. Can the council provide an update on any preparations and planning to support an anticipated increase of outdoor socialising in Maynooth and other towns in the municipal district as the schools and universities return in September and October, including waste management, hygiene and the provision of toilets?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Transportation Department issued a questionnaire and request for quotation to provide temporary toilet facilities at Harbour field, Maynooth. An assessment is currently being carried out to finalise the contract details for this 3 month pilot.

Councillor Hamilton sought clarity on whether collections were remaining the same?

The District Engineer advised that the Sunday cleaning will be extended to the end of September. He also advised that it is the responsibility of the Environment Department to provide the funding regarding the waste management.

The report was noted.

CM30/0921

The Cathaoirleach requested that item 40 on the agenda be taken next. All the members agreed.

Item 40:

Chambers Ireland Sustainable Development Goals

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McEvoy. That the council examine the Chambers Ireland Sustainable Development Goals Toolkit for Business, as collaborators with the County Kildare Chamber, for opportunities to engage with businesses in the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District on Climate Action, in particular, under the headings of Active Travel and Public Realm projects, including site visits to engage with businesses that have supported and embraced sustainable transport initiatives. ([Weblink](#)).

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 Sustainable Transport Section will examine the document and investigate opportunities, with other relevant Departments, in the context of the statutory public consultation for our Programme of Works.

The following points were raised by the members:

- The council should investigate how the public will react
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has said recently that this matter is more urgent than ever.
- Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has already worked with local businesses in this regard.
- Chambers Ireland are an influencer and they can research, identify and implement some of the initiatives with businesses with respect to sustainable transport.
- There needs to be an integrated approach to these goals and initiatives.
- This idea will be raised at the Climate Action SPC and the Transport SPC should consider it also.
- Following discussion on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by all members that this motion should be referred to Full Council to discuss it further to encourage members to partake in a field trip to Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to see how they have progressed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by the members present this item be referred to Full Council for further discussion.

The Cathaoirleach said that with the members agreement that a break would be had and the meeting would resume in 5 minutes time. All members agreed.

CM31/0921

Civic Memorial Policy

The members considered the application received under the Civic Memorial Policy from the Teresa Brayton Heritage Group.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó Cearúil, seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by the members present that the application be accepted.

CM32/0921

Delay in Payment of Housing Grants to Contractors

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

That the payment to contractors who carry out work under the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability scheme be paid within 14 days of receiving documentation, given there are concerns regarding the amount of time contractors are waiting for same.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that it is accepted that there was a slight delay with payments recently, but this issue had now been resolved and payments are being processed as promptly as possible.

The following points were raised by the members:

- There were contractors waiting up to three months for their payment.
- Small builders cannot afford to wait and start new jobs in the meantime due to the rising costs of materials. Some of these builders could have three or four jobs awaiting payment.

- If the turnaround time could be accelerated to between 14 days and a month that would be sufficient.
- The delay affects not only the contractors but the public who are waiting and in need of works to their homes.

Ms V Cooke advised that staffing issues that were affecting the processing of payments have been addressed and that all outstanding payments are aimed to be dealt with promptly. She asked that if the councillors knew of any specific cases in need of addressing that they could speak with her offline.

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

CM33/0921

Public Realm Update

Ms M Hunt informed the members that a report on all projects had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting and that the Grand Canal Greenway project had been excluded in this report but would be included next time. She advised that an online process had been carried out for Kilcock and that work will commence by late September or early October. She also noted that Prosperous and Clane have gone to tender.

The following queries were raised by the members:

- How long since the money for Prosperous was allocated? The healthcheck was completed but not progressed fast enough.
- Have the council applied for funding in other towns?
- Could LPT money be used to progress some of the projects?
- Will the delay with the Part 8 for Harbourfield in Maynooth affect it going forward?
- Has the council applied for any additional funding for towns that have had healthchecks?

Ms Hunt responded to the members with the following points:

- The Part 8 for Harbourfield is ready to be published.

- The Public Realm team works alongside all the respective municipal district offices.
- Maynooth Town branding was completed in 2019.
- Significant funding was available as a result of the pandemic and the council has 65 projects on hand with some at the construction stage.
- The Public Realm team had acquired a Clerk of Works who will aid the processing and progressing of projects.
- The Public Realm team work in conjunction with Kildare Fáilte, the NTA, the Sustainable Transport team. There is a multidisciplinary approach being taken to the projects.
- The Public Realm team could not apply for any additional funding and LPT would be greatly appreciated.

The District Manager advised the members that money streams came across from a variety of areas and some tenders did not happen as expected so they then had to be retendered.

The report was noted.

CM34/0921

The Cathaoirleach requested that items 33, 34 and 35 on the agenda be taken at the end of the meeting. All the members agreed.

Item 37:

Public Realm Funding for Prosperous and Kilcock

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Weld.
Can the council outline when the monies allocated under the Public Realm scheme in Prosperous and Kilcock, are going to be spent?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department informing the members that the Public Realm team has been successful in obtaining sanction for an additional resource. Once this person takes up duty, the Kilcock project will commence. It is envisaged that the project will take approximately 12 months to complete as public consultation will be required to inform the design of the town gateways.

Public consultation has already taken place in respect of the Prosperous project; however the response rate was poor. Additional public consultation will be organised in co-ordination with the Kilcock and indeed Clane town gateway projects. The report was noted.

CM35/0921

Update on Public Realm Plans for Prosperous

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Farrelly. Can the council provide an update on the Public Realm plans for Prosperous?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department informing the members that public consultation on the Prosperous town gateway project has already taken place; however the response rate was poor. Additional public consultation on the Prosperous project will be organised in co-ordination with the Kilcock and indeed Clane town gateway projects. The report was noted.

CM36/0921

Grant Allocations for Tidy Towns Groups for 2021

The members considered the grant allocations for Tidy Towns Groups for 2021.

Tidy Towns Grants Allocation 2021						
Clane- Maynooth MD	TT Group (12)	Population Category (from TT report)	Proposed Budget Allocation		Proposed LPT Allocation	Total
		Maynooth	G (15,001 to 25,000)	€ 6,484		€ 4,951
	Clane	E (5,001 to 10,000)	€ 2,748		€ 3,890	€ 6,638
	Kilcock	E (5,001 to 10,000)	€ 2,748		€ 3,890	€ 6,638
	Straffan	C (1,001 to 2,500)	€ 1,078		€ 2,358	€ 3,436
	Prosperous	C (1,001 to 2,500)	€ 1,078		€ 2,358	€ 3,436
	Coill Dubh	C (1,001 to 2,500)	€ 1,078		€ 2,358	€ 3,436
	Newtown	B (201 to 1,000)	€ 305		€ 943	€ 1,248
	Broadford	B (201 to 1,000)	€ 305		€ 943	€ 1,248
	Allenwood	B (201 to 1,000)	€ 305		€ 943	€ 1,248
	Robertstown	B (201 to 1,000)	€ 305		€ 943	€ 1,248
	Kilmeague	B (201 to 1,000)	€ 305		€ 943	€ 1,248
	Carbury	A (up to 200)	€ 232		€ 480	€ 712
	Total		€ 16,971		€ 25,000	€ 41,971

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Feeney and agreed by the members present that the grant allocations for Tidy Town Groups for 2021 be approved.

CM37/0921

Private Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McEvoy. Can the council confirm what are the general rates of compliance with the appropriate operation, maintenance and desludging of private domestic wastewater treatment systems, as inspected under the National Inspection Plan in support of efforts to protect the receiving waters, the environment and public health?

A report was received from the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that The EPA is responsible for the development of the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTS) and for the co-ordination and reporting on the implementation of the plan by the Local Authorities. Local Authorities are responsible for the implementation of the National Inspection Plan at a local level which involves the carrying out of risk-based inspections. Kildare County Council, in accordance with the National Inspection Plan, is required to carry out a minimum of 34 inspections per annum. The National Inspection Plan is running since mid-2013 and to date 292 inspections have been carried out in Kildare. The number of compliant DWWTS was 191 (65%) while the number of non-compliant was 101 (35%). The rates of compliance can vary from year to year as illustrated in the following table. The compliance rates in Kildare are broadly in line with those at a national level.

Year	Non-Compliant
2021	45%
2020	53%
2019	42%
2018	26%
2017	56%
2016	27%

2015	17%
2014	12%
2013	33%

The reasons for DWWTS failures fall into two categories.

- De-sludging and maintenance failures (55%);

Structural defects causing illegal discharges to ditches/streams, leaks, ponding, and rainwater ingress (45%).

Councillor McEvoy said that concern has arisen from the quantity of potential waste on lands next to organisations such as Teagasc. There is a varying response of compliance with respect to waste management and there is worry related to the traceability of the waste.

The report was noted.

CM38/0921

Extension in Allen Graveyard

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

Can the council confirm if the new extension in Allen Graveyard is a lawn cemetery or will kerbing be allowed?

A report was received from the Water Services, Environment and Climate Action Department informing the members that the new extension in Allen Graveyard is intended to be a lawn cemetery (similar to other recent cemetery extensions elsewhere in the county).

The report was noted.

CM39/0921

Swimming Pool in Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ó Cearúil. That the council submits another application with Maynooth University, for a swimming pool in Maynooth.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that Kildare County Council applied (in 2019) to the Dept of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in respect of an application from the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund to provide for a swimming pool in North Kildare (at Maynooth University). The application was not successful.

An appeal was submitted in respect of the decision in February 2020.

In June 2021, a further update in relation to the appeal was requested by Kildare County Council. The update request stated that both Kildare County Council and Maynooth University remain committed to this project and that all parties involved are anxious to know the status of the appeal.

Kildare County Council awaits a response to this request for an update on the appeal.

The following points were raised by the members:

- The swimming pool was planned to be in Maynooth and was to be done with Maynooth University due to costs. This partnership of the council and Maynooth University would seem strong. The University would be happy to have this facility.
- The last application was previously submitted in 2019. Why was it not accepted?
- Were there any other funding opportunities and streams available for this project?
- After the last application was unsuccessful an appeal was put in but no response was received. The delay in a response is worrying.
- A new application needed to be made.
- A review from the Planning Department regarding the increase in population should be carried out ahead of the next application being submitted. This should include the student population of the town.
- The file on this should be maintained and kept up to date for the next round of potential funding.

- Maynooth was one of the largest towns in the north of the county and should have a swimming pool facility.
- Could the last application be made available to the members?
- Could this item be kept on the progress report? Don't want to have to wait until the next census before this is revisited.

My L Dunne noted all the comments raised by the members. He stated that no response had been received on the last application which was made in 2019. He shared the councillors concern that there was no response to the appeal which was sent. He also said he would look into circulating the previous application that was submitted for the swimming pool.

The District Manager agreed that the revised data regarding population should be incorporated into the next application when it is compiled.

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

CM40/0921

Notice on Carton Avenue and the Harbour field

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ó Cearúil. That the council places a notice on Carton Avenue and the Harbour field asking dog-owners to keep their dog's on a lead and that muzzles are used for restricted breeds.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the Control of Dogs Act states that the person in charge of a dog must keep it under 'effective control'. As such the council is reliant upon responsible dog ownership. Members of the public are expected to abide by the Act by keeping their dogs under 'effective control' and to use muzzles for restricted breeds.

The Parks Section would look at placing notices at these locations asking that members of the public keep their dogs on a lead and to use muzzles for restricted breeds.

The following points were raised by the members:

- There have been various incidences of people being bitten while walking on Carton Avenue and in Harbourfield.
- Castletown has an information board where the muzzling of restricted breeds is mentioned. A similar type of board is required in council controlled areas.
- A system of temporary signage to a similar effect could be moved every three weeks between locations to raise the public's awareness and make them more conscious of the issue.
- That the Communications team use social media to inform members of the public.

Mr L Dunne acknowledged that the information board in Castletown was a good idea. He said that he would discuss with the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent about this suggestion. He also said that he would relay the idea of running a promotional campaign to the Communications team.

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

CM41/0921

Update on Provision of a Business Incubator Hub

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Durkan. Can the council provide an update on the audit of commercially zoned land in Kilcock for the provision of a business incubator hub?

A report was received from the Kildare Local Enterprise Office informing the members that following a tender process, the economic and enterprise unit appointed a consultant, PMG Consult, in July to develop a hub strategy for the county. Given the increased demand for hub spaces across the county, the strategy will adopt an evidence-based approach to hub development and investment in the county. The development of the strategy will include mapping existing and planned

capacity against population/demographic data, identify areas in the county that are not served by a hub, and areas where demand for a hub can be identified in order to provide rationale for future development. This would relate to remote work capability and related commuting data, but also the possibility of locating a specialist sectoral hub. The strategy will also incorporate a hub classification system to recommend the most suitable types of hubs and their locations based on the data available. The final strategy document will provide a rationale for the location of future hubs and investment in same.

Councillor Durkan noted there was 38 acres of land at the cow pastures beside the motorway which would be an ideal location and that there was another option of the land beside Musgraves. He queried whether land that was rezoned for housing could be used commercially to create a positive mix.

Mr C Sweeney advised that the council are currently working on a county strategy. He stated that this strategy is being worked on by the Local Enterprise Office alongside the Planning Department, the Broadband team and the Community Department. He hoped that report from this multidepartmental approach, incorporating CSO data, would be ready for circulation by the end of the year. The report was noted.

CM42/0921

Maintenance Plan for the Trees at Carton Avenue

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Feeney. Can the council update the members on the maintenance plan for the trees at Carton Avenue, Maynooth?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the trees at Carton Avenue are maintained as required. They will be reviewed and any necessary works will be considered for inclusion as part of the forthcoming 2021-'22 Arboricultural Programme.

Councillor Feeney raised the point about a preservation order on trees. She asked if the review be communicated to the councillors when it is completed and she asked could the timeframe for same be clarified.

Ms C O'Grady advised that the Parks Department had plans to engage with a consultant regarding the maintenance of trees at Carton Avenue. These trees are at a historic location. The details will be relayed to the members when they're received. The report was noted.

CM43/0921

The Cathaoirleach requested that items 33, 34 and 35 on the agenda be taken next. All the members agreed.

Item 33:

Strategic Housing Development at Dunboyne Road, Maynooth

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr Lynch to the meeting. Mr Lynch stated that the members were now familiar with their role in the Strategic Housing application and their comments would be noted and forwarded to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) with the Chief Executive's Report.

Mr Lynch gave an overview of the planning application made to An Bord Pleanála on behalf of Cairn Homes in respect of a proposed development at Dunboyne Road, Maynooth, County Kildare for 194 residential units (119 houses, 31 apartments and 36 duplex units and 8 maisonettes), provision of a crèche (303sq.m) and the provision of 19 one and two bed units under Part 5 provision. He stated that the following issues were to be addressed in the application:

- Further details of the pedestrian and cycle facilities along the Dunboyne Road
- A DMURS Audit
- Treatment of the Quarry Area
- Groundwater Monitoring
- A schedule of car and bicycle parking provision..

The following points were raised by the members:

- The opening onto Carton Avenue is of concern. Councillors were promised that any new development that was due to have an access point onto Carton Avenue would be run by the elected members.

- Had Kildare County Council given a letter of permission for this access point?
- The crèche/childcare facilities to be included in the first phase as part of the application.
- The Pebble Hill house was a protected structure and was too close to the four storey apartment block. The block was blocking the view of this historic structure and lacks character.
- The Part 5 housing is congregated into one area, this should be dispersed throughout the development (10% social and 10% affordable). Part 5 should enhance social inclusion. This should be highlighted to An Bord Pleanála.
- The traffic assessment was carried out during COVID-19, a new assessment should be completed to measure the increase in traffic volumes.
- Some of the trees in the area date back 150 years, the local fauna and flora needs to be protected. The road could be realigned to do so.
- Is the quarry pond adequate drainage for this development?
- Were there any breaches in the zoning?
- Has consideration been given to older and quality trees and hedgerows?
- In favour of permeability links.
- Lack of infrastructure and services to support the development.

Mr Lynch clarified the following points:

- Zoning in existing residential area.
- The entrance onto Carton Avenue was part of the planning application and would be for pedestrian and cyclist access.
- There were some significant trees in the area such as scot pines which were valuable to the area especially for biodiversity.
- The fauna and species of the area would be preserved so far as was possible.
- It was a requirement for the applicant to provide a letter of consent for land in the council's ownership as part of a planning application.

The District Manager said she would raise the matter regarding the letter of permission with the Chief Executive.

Item 34:

Strategic Housing Development at Millicent Road, Clane

Mr Lynch gave an overview of the planning application made to An Bord Pleanála on behalf of Debussy Properties in respect of a proposed development at the western side of Millicent road and Southern side of Prosperous Road, Clane, County Kildare for 192 residential units (114 two storey houses and 78 duplex units), provision of a crèche (160sq.m) and the provision of 19 two and three bed units under Part 5 provision. He stated that the proposed development included the provision of a link street through the subject site (including pedestrian and cycle paths) to connect Prosperous Road (R403) to the north with Millicent Road to the east.

The following points were raised by the members:

- This development would exceed the housing limits and density for the site known as KDA5 as set out in the Clane Local Area Plan 2017-2023.
- Local services, particularly schools and public transport, were already at or near full capacity and approving this development without there being adequate services to support a rise in population was unsustainable.
- Three SHDs had already been approved for Clane.
- The fact of two SHDs had been granted on two other sites for a town as small as Clane should have made it more imperative that applications for planning permissions on other KDAs adhered strictly to the maximum densities and dwelling numbers.
- An Bord Pleanála should not have made a decision on the subject SHD application, pending decisions of the High Court as it would have been unfair for ABP to grant permission for a development that was identical to a development on the same site that had been stayed pending the decision of the High Court. It would also have been unreasonable for ABP to have allowed for development given that the number of residential units that were

available for development in Clane under the Kildare County Development Plan had not been entirely exhausted.

- The SHD planning application was submitted without the mandatory pre-application consultation with the local authority and An Bord Pleanála.
- The overarching policy contexts, namely the National Planning Framework, the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Variation No.1 of the County Kildare Development Plan and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage's S28 Guidelines on Housing Demand and Housing Supply Targets, had superseded the Clane Local Area Plan.
- Scoil Mhuire Community School was at maximum capacity with 1200 students and there were no plans to expand beyond that number.
- The SHD application presented no analysis of the current or future capacity on any of these bus routes. The current experience of residents of Clane was that the public transport routes are close to maximum capacity and that the bus services to Dublin in particular were unable to cater for all passengers at peak times.
- Clane Main Street was subject to some of the worst air pollution due to the heavy traffic at peak times and fires had been lit when people return home from work.
- Childcare must be a first priority and not last, it should be constructed during first phase.
- Would the green space be retained at this development?
- Had the Planning inspector taken into account the rate of growth of the town?

Item 35:

Strategic Housing Development at Boycetown, Kilcock

Mr Lynch gave an overview of the planning application made to An Bord Pleanála on behalf of Teresa Monaghan in respect of a proposed development at Boycetown, Kilcock, County Kildare for 298 residential units (181 houses and 117 apartments), provision of a standalone crèche (560.2sq.m)) and the provision of 30 units – 18 houses and 12 apartments under Part 5 provision. He stated that the proposed development includes the provision of a link street through the subject site.

The following points were raised by the members:

- There was a concern regarding the proportion of open space within the development.
- The quality of the design was not to the highest level.
- The quantity of the car parking explained the lack of transport links.
- The childcare assessment was at odds with the development.
- There had been 16 one bed units struck off for childcare provision.
- There was a high density of 41.1 units per hectare which was in excess of the LAP recommendation.
- This development would be dependent on the current school and education services in the area.
- This development was not envisaged/aligned with the National Planning Framework.
- The dart line was likely to be 10 years down the line.
- The proximity to the motorway means that the development is locked into car dependency which will increase the current pressure and block up the roads.
- There was a huge need for single bed accommodation.
- The rotund shaped building located at the entrance of the development needs careful consideration.
- The development needs links to the town, cycle paths/tracks should be considered.

Mr Lynch advised that all points raised by the members would be submitted as part of the Chief Executive's Report. However he did advise the members that they could make their own submissions outside of the Chief Executive's Report.

The meeting concluded.