

**Minutes of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal
District held on Friday, 03 December 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 (A/District Manager), Mr D Hodgins, Mr J McGowan (Senior Engineer), Mr S Aylward (District Engineer), Mr J Malone (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officer), Mr D McDermott (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr B O’Gorman (Administrative Officer), Ms S Martin (Meetings Administrator), Mr S Higgins (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the December meeting.

CL01/1221

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.

CM02/1221

Minutes and Progress Report

The Cathaoirleach noted that an amendment had been circulated to the members and that two slight changes on page 6 of the draft minutes were to be included. The members considered the draft minutes of the monthly Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 05 November 2021 and the amendment, together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Feeney seconded by Councillor Hamilton that the minutes of the monthly Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting to include

the amendments held on Friday, 05 November 2021 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CM03/1221
Matters Arising

CM11/1121

Wheelchair parking spaces outside Scoil An Linbh íosa

Councillor Farrelly queried what were the next steps to provide these parking spaces and asked when would the council contact the schools?

The District Engineer advised that engagement with the schools would be needed to determine the number of spaces required. He also noted that funding would need to be sought for this project and that this could start in late December or early January.

CM17/0921

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road Project

Councillor Feeney asked that this item remain on the progress report.

CM03/1221, CM15/0921

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

Councillor Durkan asked if the correspondence received from the NTA could be circulated.

The District Engineer advised that he would contact the action team for the correspondence received from the NTA.

CM04/1221
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 have continued with general maintenance over the past month

with a strong emphasis on drainage maintenance which included gully cleaning and water cut openings throughout the district.

Councillor Weld asked if the road lining at Ballytreacy Cross could be finished and if a gate could be installed at Ticknevin National School.

The District Engineer confirmed that the road markings had been carried out at this location and advised that a gate could not be installed as it could create a liability. He stated that a step railing could be installed to prevent the children running out onto the road.

Councillor Durkan asked for an update on the footpath from the Rathcoffey GAA to Painstown Cross. The District Engineer advised that no funding had been secured for this footpath so far, but that it could be put in for a low cost safety scheme in 2022.

CM05/1221

LPT Expenditure 2021

The LPT Coordinator advised that a report on the projects for the municipal district had been circulated to the members, which included comments on the status of the projects. He stated that he had worked on the status of the relevant projects with the District Engineer. He highlighted that all projects in green were paid/transferred, that the projects in purple were partial/ongoing and that the projects in red were late/application still awaited. He confirmed that a letter has been issued to those groups who have not submitted anything. Councillor McEvoy said that the carbon sequestration had been targeted at Lullymore. He added that the Heritage Officer and Councillor Wyse could get involved to move this forward. The LPT Coordinator confirm that the LPT funding would rollover to 2022. Councillor Hamilton noted that the Cycle Design Officer position had been delayed and that Mr Hodgins may kickstart the work for this position in early 2022.

CM06/1221

Public Lighting at the entrance of Bond Bridge and Cushalla

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Wyse. That the council liaises with the developer of the new Bond Bridge housing development in Allenwood, to have public lighting installed on the road from the entrance of Bond Bridge and Cushalla estates to Allenwood Cross, and requests that development levies from the same are used to fund the lights if necessary.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that planning permission was granted to the development 'Bond Bridge' in 2017 with conditions attached, including the provision of public lighting necessary to serve the proposed development. Details of the lighting system were submitted and approved by the Public Lighting section prior to commencement of development. The Roads element of Development contribution charges was not ring fenced to the area in which they are collected and were used solely to fund projects identified in the capital programme. The request for additional lighting at the location above, can be place on the KLIPS system and progressed as soon as funding was identified.

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

CM07/1221

Taking in Charge of the Royal Meadows, Kilcock

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Ward. Can the council provide an update on the Taking in Charge of the Royal Meadows estate in Kilcock to include the plan for works that need to be undertaken and the details to when these works will commence?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Development Control Section are still awaiting the release for the bond monies from the Bond provider. Once the monies have been

received the Development Control Section plans on carrying out repairs to underground storm and foul lines. We have also been liaising with the Municipal District Engineer to see where the remaining funds can be best spent. Councillor Ward looked for confirmation regarding the position of the monies involved in the Taking in Charge and when they would be released. He also asked what was causing the delay in the process.

Mr Malone said that he had contacted the bank involved who confirmed that there was a €125,000 bond for the Royal Meadows estate and that there was no exact time for the release of these funds. Mr Malone advised that a SNAG list had been completed with Ms A Burke, Mr J Leahy and the District Engineer. This list had confirmed that the repairs would cost around €200,000 and the bank had also advised that once the repairs exceeded the value of the bond that it could be released. Mr Malone concluded that these works would go out to tender in January 2022.

The report was noted.

CM08/1221

Update on the Meadowbrook Cycle Track Scheme

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr D Hodgins, Senior Engineer from the Traffic and Sustainable Transport.

Mr Hodgins delivered a presentation on the Meadowbrook Cycle Track Scheme to the members highlighting the following points:

- He outlined the structure of the Sustainable Transport section and how it was comprised of preliminary planning/design, detailed design, construction and operations teams. He noted that each team would be responsible for a separate stage in all of the Sustainable Transport projects and this would aid the efficiency of the section.
- He advised that there would be overlap between the Sustainable Transport section, the Public Realm team and the Parks Department with an aim to combine all of the available skills and services that the council has at its disposal.

- He detailed the key ideas of the Sustainable Transport section that were 1) the processing of projects off the Dublin area cycle network, 2) the development of cycle networks, 3) to improve the existing crossings with tactile pavements and 4) linking in with the Local Link services.
- He explained to the members the plan for the Meadowbrook Cycle Track Scheme which included two roads, the Meadowbrook road and the Beaufield Close road.
- He outlined the NTA Project Phase process which was broken down into five phases including 1) scope and purpose, 2) concept development and option selection, 3) preliminary design, 4) statutory process and 5) detailed design and procurement.
- He explained that phase 1) had a strategic plan in place, phase 2) had a multicriteria check which helps with the consultation and queries, phase 3) an assessment is carried out to ascertain could the project be built with respect to road safety audit and an environmental assessment, phase 4) the project was in excess of €127,000 and would have to go through the Part 8 planning process.

The members raised the following points:

- The integrated approach by the new Sustainable Transport section was a positive step.
- Kilcock had not been included in schemes such as these previously.
- The Meadowbrook estate has not taken been in charge and the residents had raised the issues that trees would be lost with this new cycle track scheme. They also raised the issue that there were a number of walls along the road that were in need of repair.
- How would Old Greenfield and Meadowbrook be linked.
- Doctor's Lane had changed from a two way system into a 1 way street, there was lots of potential in this area.
- The previous council had looked at the idea of creating a segregated cycle track system on the Moyglare Road and the NTA did not fund the idea. How has the council now acquired the go ahead for this project.

- Could the slides presented during the presentation of this cycle track scheme be circulated to the members?
- Could this project delay the Maynooth Transport Strategy or would it work in tandem?

Mr Hodgins confirmed the following points:

- This scheme would work in tandem with the Maynooth Transport Strategy.
- Local feedback was to be welcomed.
- The revised Greater Dublin Area cycle network included Kilcock in their plans.
- Old Greenfield had a number of complications but would be linked to the Meadowbrook Road.
- The facilitation of the hierarchy of users would be adhered to on all projects .
- The slides would be circulated to the members after the meeting.

CM09/1221

Public Light at the playground in Timahoe

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

That the council install a public light at the entrance to the playground in Timahoe.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that it was not proposed to install public lighting at this location as the installation of street lighting to illuminate such rural settlements is not economically or environmentally sustainable and would compromise the physical, environmental, natural and heritage resources of the county. The provision of street lighting at this location would have a negative impact on the rural character of the local landscape.

Councillor Weld stated his motion was raised at the request of the residents in the Timahoe area as a result of antisocial behaviour.

Mr McGowan acknowledged that the council had received many requests for lights across the county. He stated that it was not a policy of the council to install lights. He also noted that the traffic volume, cost of installation, the level of criminal activity and the age of the public were all considered before public lighting was considered justifiable.

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

CM10/1221

Car pull-ins on the Clonshambo Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Weld. That the council put in place a number of car pull-ins on the Clonshambo Road to facilitate the high level of stud farm traffic on the road.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the road referred to is the L5034. This road has been examined and there appears to be an adequate number of informal pull ins located along this section of roadway. The provision of additional pull ins would be difficult due to limited verge width and deep drains. The Municipal District Office can meet Councillor Weld on the road to identify any specific location of concern.

Councillor Weld said that he would meet the Municipal District Engineer on site.

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

CM11/1221

The Cathaoirleach asked Councillor Hamilton if he would like to take item 10 and 21 in his name together, as they were on the same topic of speed limit review.

Councillor Hamilton agreed.

Item 10:

Signage and island style traffic calming at Maynooth Football Club

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

That the council examine the feasibility of installing signage and island style traffic calming at the speed limit change at Maynooth Football Club, as residents are still experiencing dangerously fast traffic on the M4 overpass and entering the 50km limit.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there is not the required road width at this location to install traffic islands. There are currently a number of measures installed at this location including 60km speed limit signage, concrete kerbing with a footpath, safety barrier and a reduced road width, 50km speed limit signage and a driver feed back sign just inside the 50km speed limit zone.

The following points were raised by the members:

- There have been a lot of representations on this issue
- The road was signpost as a 50km/h but there has been motorists driving at 70-80km/h if not north of 90km/h.
- Enforcement was badly needed along this stretch of road.
- A lot of young people cycle on this road and they were in danger from the high speed traffic. Some parents were not allowing their children to walk or cycle to the soccer pitches.
- Possibility of the installation of rumble strips should be examined.
- The speed detection van that has been in place on the road has been a deterrent to speeding motorists previously.
- A letter should be sent to the Kilcock Chief Superintendent requesting that a speed detection van be placed on this stretch of road once a month.

The District Engineer advised that the council were limited in what they could do. They had previously narrowed the road to encourage motorists to slow down. They had also installed a speed sign and a table top ramp to deter the public from

speeding along the stretch of road. He encouraged the members to raise the issue with An Garda Síochána as the matter of enforcement was their responsibility.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Feeney and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and the members agreed that a letter be issued to the Kilcock Chief Superintendent regarding the placement of a speed van.

Item 21:

Update on the Speed Limit Review in this Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Hamilton. Can the council provide an update on the status and next steps for the speed limit review in this municipal district – noting the previous plenary motion to progress separately with changes related to Jake’s law implementation if further delay is anticipated in finalising the complete county-wide plan?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the review of the public submissions (290) is continuing and amendments to the associated mapping are ongoing in parallel. It is expected that the reports will be ready for discussion with the elected members in January 2022 with a view to completing the review process in Quarter 1 2022. The tender documents for the purchase and installation of new signage, especially for residential estates, was being actioned in anticipation of the conclusion of the process.

The report was noted.

CM12/1221

Online meeting for a submission to the Greater Dublin Transportation Strategy

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Farrelly. That the Cathaoirleach of this municipal district convenes an online meeting of elected members and council staff for the purpose of making a submission to the Greater Dublin Transportation Strategy consultation, due 17 December, on behalf of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that with the members agreement, a meeting can be arranged with the Sustainable Transport Team via MS Teams.

The following points were raised by the members:

- An agenda should be framed of what could be asked or proposed at this meeting with the Sustainable Transport Team.
- The members asked that a meeting with the Sustainable Transport Team be arranged.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly, seconded by Councillor Hamilton and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and that a meeting be arranged with the Sustainable Transport Team.

CM13/1221

Yellow Lines at Hayfield, Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Durkan. That the council install yellow lines at the left turning filter lane beside Hayfield, Maynooth.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this junction has been observed over the last number of months and the only vehicles observed parked at this location were Dublin Bus vehicles. This practice was illegal where the buses are parking in a live traffic lane and should be raised with An Garda Síochána for enforcement. This issue has been raised previously with Dublin Bus and can be raised again. The installation of double yellow lines will unlikely have any effect on the current practice.

The following points were raised by the members:

- The issue of Dublin Bus parking at this location had been raised on numerous occasions. A letter had been written before to Dublin Bus highlighting the issue of the illegal parking.
- There was plenty of space at the bus terminal for the buses to park.
- If yellow lines were installed then the Gardaí could deal with the issue.
- The location could be assessed in relation to a Section 38.
- Could a letter be issued to the Chief Superintendent in Leixlip regarding the issue of enforcement?

The District Engineer encouraged the members to write to An Garda Síochána and advised the members that he would be having a meeting with Dublin Bus the following week. He also noted that if a Section 38 was put in, that it would not be brought to the members until February or March of the following year.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan, seconded by Councillor Weld and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and that a letter be issued to the Chief Superintendent in Leixlip regarding the issue of enforcement at this location.

CM14/1221

Street lighting at New Road Straffan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Durkan. That the council install street lighting at New Road Straffan from the National School towards Straffan Manor housing estate.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Public Lighting Section will visit the location of the requested new street lights, and it will then be assessed using a priority system within Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS). Lighting schemes will be scored on various factors and placed within KLIPS according to that score. The lighting within KLIPS will be installed as and when funds become available and

depending on where the request sits within KLIPS. Please note there is no funding in the Public Lighting budget to progress any new lighting installations.

Councillor Durkan asked if the council could provide a costing for the installation of these street lights. The District Engineer advised that he would get an estimate costing and send it on.

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

CM15/1221

Resurface the section of the Courtown Road, Kilcock

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ward. That the council resurface the section of the Courtown Road, Kilcock from Shaw Bridge up to the Centra shop.

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 will consider this section of road when developing the restoration improvement programme in 2022. The roads selected will be determined based on available funding, condition rating of the road and traffic volumes. The current Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) rating on this road is 7.

Councillor Ward queried the rating of 7 for this road. He asked this rating meant and when would work take place in the future.

The District Engineer advised that a survey was carried out by the technical staff every two to three years and repair work would not be carried out until the given road had a rating of 6 or less.

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

CM16/1221

Works to Improve the Footpaths along the Courtown Road, Kilcock

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ward.
That the council undertake appropriate works to improve the footpaths along the Courtown Road, Kilcock from Shaw Bridge up to the Centra shop.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office will include this in the list of locations for assessment and possible inclusion in future footpath improvement programmes subject to available resources and funding.

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

CM17/1221

Vehicles on the L2002 Turning onto the R407 near Bodenstown

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McEvoy.
That the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Office engage with the Naas Municipal District Office to address issues for vehicles on the L2002 turning onto the R407 near Bodenstown, where the road levels, sightlines, traffic flows and vehicle speeds have evolved to a point where drivers are reporting concerns from using the junction.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McEvoy 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 will engage with the Naas Municipal District Office and raise the members concerns in relation to this junction. Any works or proposals will be at the discretion of the Naas Municipal District Office.

Councillor McEvoy stated the residents travelling from Millicent were nervous of making the turn to Sallins as they had to cross a median lane to complete the turn and that this manoeuvre had become more difficult with the increase in traffic. He asked if this issue could be relayed to the Naas Municipal District Road Office.

The District Engineer advised that he had spoken with the District Engineer from the Naas office on this topic and that this was only an issue at peak traffic times.

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

CM18/1221

Traffic Audit at the Silken Vale and Moyglare Village estates in Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Feeney. That the council carry out a traffic audit at the Silken Vale and Moyglare Village estates in Maynooth.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that these locations are included on the list for a traffic survey to be undertaken in the coming months.

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

CM19/1221

Alexandra Bridge in Clane

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Fitzpatrick. That the municipal district office investigate the possibility of inserting a walkway to Alexandra Bridge in Clane to increase pedestrian safety at the said location.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Alexandra Bridge is a five span masonry arch structure which was constructed in 1864. Three of the five arches span the River Liffey while the most southern and northern arches are located on the banks and act as both access routes under the structure for pedestrians and livestock as well as acting as flood relief arches. The Bridge is recorded as a protected structure (B14-63) and is listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (11808013).

The section of road referred to, between Clane and Alexandra Bridge, is along a narrow Regional Road (R407) which only has capacity for two lanes of traffic between stone walls on either side. This is a strategic route connecting North and South Kildare.

It was currently not possible to insert a walkway along this section of road.

The following points were raised by the members:

- The members had received many calls over the years in connection with the condition and safety of Alexandra Bridge.
- A walkway on the side of the bridge would increase the safety viability for pedestrians who use the bridge.
- Were there other approaches nearby the bridge that could segregate pedestrians or cyclists.
- The challenge from an engineering standpoint was understood since the bridge's walls were deteriorating.
- This bridge had historically been an issue and the restoration of the bridge should be added to the County Development Plan.

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

CM20/1221

Traffic Calming at Staplestown National School

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Weld.
Can the council confirm if funding can be made available for traffic calming at Staplestown National School?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office currently has no funding for such a scheme but will consider the location when submitting an application for any possible funding streams in the future.

Councillor Weld asked if the funding for this project could be sought and secured under the Low Cost Works scheme? The District Engineer advised that this work would cost €30,000 and that it could be added to the list for consideration.

The report was noted.

CM21/1221

Update on the Speed Limit Review in this Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Hamilton. Can the council provide an update on the status and next steps for the speed limit review in this municipal district – noting the previous plenary motion to progress separately with changes related to Jake’s law implementation if further delay is anticipated in finalising the complete county-wide plan?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the review of the public submissions (290) is continuing and amendments to the associated mapping are ongoing in parallel. It is expected that the reports will be ready for discussion with the elected members in January 2022 with a view to completing the review process in Q1 2022. The tender documents for the purchase and installation of new signage, especially for residential estates, is being actioned in anticipation of the conclusion of the process.

The report was noted.

CM22/1221

Traffic Calming on the Rathcoffey Road entering Maynooth

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Hamilton. Can the council provide an update on possible measures to improve traffic calming on the Rathcoffey Road entering Maynooth?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there are currently a number of measures installed at this location including 60km speed limit signage, concrete kerbing with a footpath, safety barrier and a reduced road width, 50km speed limit signage and a driver feedback sign just inside the 50km speed limit zone. Further along inside the 50km zone there is reduced road widths, a signalled pedestrian crossing and a raised table top ramp with the junction of the Beaufield Road.

Councillor Hamilton sought clarification on how the traffic in this area could have become an issue after the installation of the lights? The District Engineer confirmed that the traffic loop system had been damaged, but was now repaired and that this may have been the source of the issue.

The report was noted.

CM23/1221

Traffic Analysis can be carried out in Kilcock

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Durkan. Can the council confirm if and when a traffic analysis can be carried out in Kilcock given the long delays experienced on a regular basis?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Traffic Management staff shall contact the member directly to get more details as to times/locations when these issues are being experienced – the council can then investigate further. All traffic signal infrastructure is checked/monitored on a daily basis for faults and the junctions are reviewed regularly to ensure that they are operating to their maximum capacity. It should be noted that during am/pm peaks at some junctions, the volume of traffic exceeds the capacity of the junction resulting in queuing for a period during these peak times. The report was noted.

CM24/1221

Relocation of the Fire Service in Maynooth

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

Can the council provide an update in relation to the relocation of the fire service in Maynooth?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council has purchased a site for a new Fire Station in Maynooth. The site is located off the Straffan Road adjacent to the entrance to the Mullen Park development. The construction costs for the station were included in the 2021- 2025 Fire Services Capital Programme announced by Minister O'Brien in December 2020. Funding for the project is due to commence in 2022. In anticipation of this funding, the Fire Service has prepared a tender document for design services which will be advertised in December 2021. It is hoped that the new station will progress through the Part 8 planning process in 2022 and that construction will commence in 2023.

The report was noted.

CM25/1221

Update of Restoration Landscaping

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Feeney. Can the council provide an update as to when restoration landscaping will take place at the section of green space at the old Dublin Road entrance to Maynooth from Leixlip, between the Garden Centre and Carton Retail Park?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the landscape works are scheduled to be undertaken in Quarter 1 2022.

The report was noted.

CM26/1221

Sweeping Schedule Adjustment for the Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Feeney. Can the council inform the members if the council's road sweeping schedule is being adjusted to clear pathways with heavy leaf fall in the municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the road sweeping schedule is undertaken as per the litter management plan and as per the weekly roster. The municipal district office on occasion assigns additional resources to clear heavily trafficked footpaths in advance of the sweeper when resources allow. If the sweeper gets through the schedule ahead of time it is assigned to other areas as needs arise.

The report was noted.

CM27/1221

Traffic Management Plan at Robertstown National School

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

Can the council provide an update on the Traffic Management Plan at Robertstown National School?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office has received the final report and proposals from the consultants. This is currently being examined and it is hoped to bring the proposals to the members in January 2022.

Councillor Fitzpatrick sought clarification on the process for the work to be carried out at the Robertstown National School? The District Engineer advised that the Section 38 would issue in the next week or two. The plan was to tighten up the kerb, install extra road lines and signage and include a pedestrian crossing at this location. He stated that after the Section 38 was approved the funding would be identified and that the work would then be carried out on a phased basis. It was hoped that the works would be completed in July or August 2022.

The report was noted.

CM28/1221

Choice Based Letting

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

That the Housing section provides a report on the number of units advertised on Choice Based Letting in 2021 and planned for 2022 in the Municipal District, to include for 2021 - their general location, the number of expressions of interest for same and how selections are made.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Thirty-nine (39) properties have been advertised via the Choice Based Letting system (to date in 2021) within the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District. Members are notified each time the Housing Department advertise on CBL and give the general location.

The Council does not retain statistics on the numbers of expressions of interest received for each property advertised. The adopted Housing Allocations Policy is used to allocate a property which has been advertised on the system.

Properties have been advertised in Clane, Prosperous, Kilcock and Allenwood during 2021. The Housing Department does not have any figures for planned advertisements next year.

Housing applicants can access the system online at:

[https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/AllServices/Housing/ChoiceBasedLettings/..](https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/AllServices/Housing/ChoiceBasedLettings/)

The following points were raised by the members:

- Applicants were not aware of the outcome of their applications unless they were approved. This created a disincentive to the public if there was no communication.
- Could applicants be notified when their application has been unsuccessful.
- The introduction of the extra 13 staff was welcomed.

Mr O’Gorman advised that the properties were allocated according to the policy. He confirmed that the system was updated and that applicants were able to view the status of their application even if it was not successful.

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

CM29/1221

Letter re GP services in Maynooth and an update of a Primary Care Centre

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Feeney. That this council writes to the HSE and the Department of Health regarding the lack of GP services in Maynooth and requesting an update of the provision of a Primary Care Centre for the town.

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

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

The following points were raised by the members:

- The access to GP services had become a serious matter due to the shortages of GPs in Maynooth. This service was a basic necessity for the public.
- The members have previously contacted the HSE and the Department of Health individually but a joint effort to contact them as a collective would add more weight to the appeal.
- The letter needed to include the following questions:
- What measures were being taken to address the issue regarding lack of GP services in Maynooth?
- What updates can be provided in relation to the provision of a primary care centre?
- The letter should be drafted and then circulated to the members of the municipal district to be endorsed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Hamilton and agreed by the members present that the report was noted and that a letter be issued to the HSE regarding the GP services in Maynooth and an update of a Primary Care Centre in the town.

CM30/1221

Homes Identified as Vacant in this Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Farrelly. Can the council provide a report outlining how many homes have been identified as vacant in the lifetime of the Kildare County Council Vacant Homes Action Plan 2018-2021 in this municipal district, the current base vacancy rate and the overall success of achieving the objectives outlined in the Action Plan?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Vacant Homes Officer (Housing) carries out tasks that support the implementation of the Vacant Homes Action Plan. These include:

- Undertake initial vacant assessment exercise.
- Carry out visual inspections/assessment of residential properties with a view to identifying possible vacant recoverable homes.
- Identify the registered owners of the properties deemed to be vacant from inspection and contact the owners on the options available to assist in bringing their properties back into use for private or social housing purposes.
- Serve as a contact point for dissemination to members of the public [including landlords] of advice, assistance and information on residential vacancy and the schemes available to reintroduce their homes into the usable housing stock and also information on the potential consequences of leaving their properties idle and not putting them to beneficial use [i.e. CPO].
- Serve as the first point of contact for the arrangement of initial consultations/engagements with parties interested in developing vacant buildings for residential purposes.

Over four hundred (400) inspections have been carried out in relation to individual properties in the county, of these one hundred and thirty-five (135) were recorded as potentially vacant and further searches were carried out to establish ownership and contact owners where possible. Properties are not recorded by Municipal District but approximately fifteen (15) were recorded as vacant in this Municipal District area (only properties that are considered suitable for social housing are investigated further). Four (4) of these units have been refurbished, one unit was a commercial

unit, contact was made with owners and/or financial institutions in relation to the remaining properties and they are at various stages of the repossession/ legal processes.

GeoDirectory's Quarter 2 – 2021 Report recorded a national average vacancy rate of 4.5%. Kildare's vacancy rate is recorded at 2% (this figure is not broken down by Municipal District). A base vacancy rate of 6% is normally expected within a properly functioning housing market to allow for renovations, changing ownership or tenants, etc.

The report was noted.

CM31/1221

Update on Public Realm Projects

Ms M Hunt informed the members that a report on all projects had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting and that she would be happy to respond to any questions that the members had.

The following queries were raised by the members:

- The footpaths in the Square in Maynooth look to be scheduled for December 2023 – January 2024. Why was it to be delayed by another two years?
- Additional funding and staff resources would be needed to help clear the projects.
- Some projects have had the funding available for a number of years, what was the delay in progressing these projects?
- There was meant to be a town branding/signage in Kilcock. What would happen if there was a low number of responses again.

Ms Hunt responded to the members with the following points:

- The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) masterplan would kick off in January 2022 and the footpaths in Maynooth Square were hoped to be completed by the dates mentioned.

- The Public Realm team comprised of six technical staff working across 60 projects and they also have a number of consultants who they were working with closely.
- The Sustainable Transport team work together with the Public Realm section and have started looking at overlapping projects.
- There were four responses to the Kilcock town branding/signage which was online. The Public Realm team plan to redo the town branding/signage with help from the Kildare PPN to hopefully create more of a public buy in. The local schools would be contacted too.

The District Manager highlighted the synergies between the Sustainable Transport Team, the Parks Department and the Public Realm section. She noted that it was a priority area for Kildare County Council to increase funding for the Public Realm Section and the Parks Department and she acknowledged the success of the URDF. The report was noted

CM32/1221

Sustainable Management and Maintenance of Ballinafagh Lake

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McEvoy. That the council establish an approach for the sustainable management and maintenance of Ballinafagh Lake (Special Area of Conservation 001387), that takes account of the voluntary local support, the impacts of climate change and visitors to the amenity.

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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that Ballynafagh Lake is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). Activities that occur within the surrounding area that may impact on the European Site must be carefully considered in light of the conservation objectives for the site and following consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The Heritage

Office of Kildare County Council was supportive of the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan for this site, which is in council ownership. This Plan would guide and support the activities and those of any community groups depending on the availability of funding.

Councillor McEvoy stated that this area of conservation needed additional supports and the council needed to take stock of the biodiversity with the NPWS. He added it would be important that the plan mentioned was framed properly to avoid being impacted by European Union laws.

Ms M Hunt stated she would bring back these points to the Forward Planning team.

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

CM33/1221

Update on the extension to Cloncurry Cemetery

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Weld.
Can the council provide an update on the progress for an extension to Cloncurry Cemetery?

A report was received from the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that this forms part of their plans for 2022.

The report was noted.

CM34/1221

Green Kilometre scheme in 2022

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Farrelly.
Can the council outline its plans to promote the Green Kilometre scheme in 2022, including case studies of where this has been successful in the municipal district?

A report was received from the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that the council will continue to promote the Green Kilometre in 2022 using social media, the Kildare PPN network, Tidy Towns network, etc. The scheme is also expanding by word of mouth as participants in rural areas encourage

their neighbours to adopt further Green Kilometres locally. The council have a number of clusters of Green Kilometres already established with extensive areas covered - demonstrated by the increase from 16 kilometres adopted in 2020 to 138 in 2021.

The members' support in promoting this scheme locally was also welcome.

A short promotional video highlighting the work of some of the participants was being prepared and this will be circulated during 2022.

The report was noted.

CM35/1221

Drainage issue in Derrinturn

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

Can the council provide an update regarding the drainage issue which may be causing water pollution and odours in Derrinturn, from the entrance of Carbury Post Office to the drain just south-east of the entrance of Ballyshannon Manor?

A report was received from the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that Environment Staff are actively engaged on this matter and are liaising with Building Control in terms of resolving it.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there is surface water drainage at this location which at times can be slow to drain but is not causing any flooding issues. It is hoped in 2022 to investigate the drainage system to see if any improvements can be made.

The report was noted.

CM36/1221

Extension to Allen Graveyard

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

Can the council bring plans to members on the extension to Allen Graveyard and clarify if it is a lawn cemetery?

A report was received from the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that it is planned to progress this through a Part 8 in Quarter 1 2022.

The report was noted.

CM37/1221

Community Facility Allenwood

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Fitzpatrick. That in light of the increased development and population increase in the village of Allenwood, the council look at the possibility of acquiring or developing a facility around the crossroads for community activity.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that there is currently no provision within the capital program for such a development or acquisition. It should be noted that the Local Authority continues to provide program and administrative support to the ACDL community facility.

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

CM38/1221

Overgrown Tree at Willow Lawns, Kilmeague

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wyse. Can the council provide an estimated timeline for the cutting of the overgrown tree at Willow Lawns, Kilmeague, which is blocking the public street light that makes the footpath to the village safe to use in the dark evenings?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the tree in question is located under an ESB wire and therefore cannot be cut without a power outage. The council have applied to the ESB

for this. An estimated timeframe is not possible until the ESB give us notice of when they can provide the outage.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.