

**Minutes of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal
District held on Friday, 08 January 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
On Microsoft Teams**

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

Officials Present: Mr L Dunne (A/District Manager), Mr S Aylward (District Engineer), Mr E Lynch (Senior Executive Planner), Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officer), Ms AM Burke (Executive Engineer), Ms C Moran (A/Senior Staff Officer), Ms O Talbot (Meetings Administrator), Ms N Smullen (Meetings Secretary) and others.

CM01/0121

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 04 December 2020 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor Ó Cearúil that the minutes of the monthly Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 04 December 2020 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CM02/0121

Matters Arising

CM06/1020 Review of Parking Bye-Laws for Maynooth

Councillor Ó Cearúil raised the following points in relation to the review of Parking Bye-Laws for Maynooth:

- The progress report stated that there were a number of Parking Bye-Laws to be reviewed prior to the review of the Maynooth Parking Bye-Laws.

- The members had been previously informed that the preparation work for review of the byelaws was to be completed in late 2020 followed by the necessary progress work in 2021.
- What was the timeframe for the review of the Parking Bye-Laws for Maynooth?
- It was requested that the members be provided with the answers directly either via email or a meeting with the members.

The District Engineer stated that he would convey Councillor Ó Cearúil's concerns to the Pay Parking Section and ask if they could confirm a timeline for the review of Parking Bye-Laws for Maynooth to the members directly either via email or a meeting with the members.

CM31/1020, CM03/1220 Briefing on the Maynooth Local Area Plan (LAP)

Councillors Ó Cearúil and Durkan asked when the briefing to the members for the Maynooth Local Area Plan (LAP) would take place. Ms Hunt stated that she would revert to the members directly by email with confirmation of a date for the briefing.

CM03/1020 CM07/0920 CM12/0720 CM16/0720

Design of Footpath and Cycle Lanes - Celbridge Road

Councillor Durkan asked if there was any update in relation to the design of a footpath and cycle lanes for the Celbridge Road. The District Engineer stated that the works for the Celbridge Road were listed on the agenda of works for 2021 and the Traffic and Sustainable Transport Team were awaiting funding for same.

CM25/1120

Lights Between McCormack's and the GAA Grounds, Prosperous

Councillors Fitzpatrick and Feeney noted that the footpath works and lighting works from McCormack's Garage to the GAA grounds in Prosperous had been completed. They both conveyed their appreciation to the District Engineer and the Municipal District Office staff for the completion of these works.

CM13/1220, CM03/0220, CM36/1219

Improvements at Junctions Along Haul Routes -Traffic Lights at Allenwood Cross

Councillor Fitzpatrick asked in light of the fact that the Drehid planning application was unsuccessful if the Municipal District Office could try to secure another source of funding for the installation of traffic lights at Allenwood Cross.

The District Engineer stated that the Municipal District Office would be actively working with the Roads Design Team to secure funding in 2021 for works along the haul routes.

CM03/0121

Municipal District Road Works

The District Engineer stated that a report had been circulated to the members providing an update on works which had been undertaken prior to and since their December meeting and also details of future planned works. The members thanked the District Engineer and his team for all the work they had completed in 2020 given the difficult circumstances.

The following points were raised by the members:

- Surfacing work had been done on the R414 which did not appear to be as hard wearing as the usual surfacing dressing was there a reason for this?
- Would works be carried out on the barrier at Derrymullen Bridge, Allenwood?
- It was asked which remit the works for Alexandra Bridge fell under.
- It was asked if gritting salt for the winter period was fully stocked.

The District Engineer confirmed the following points:

- The works done on the R414 were recycling works which was not as hard wearing as complete surface dressing works and this location was listed for surface dressing in 2021.

- Works on the barrier at Derrymullen Bridge would be subject to funding being available and a design being completed. This would be looked into.
- Works for Alexandra Bridge fell between the Municipal District Engineer and the Bridge Engineer and the District Engineer would investigate further.
- Gritting salt for the winter period was managed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). The council was currently fully stocked and once a new delivery was requested by them it was received within 24 hours.

CM04/0121

LPT Schedule of Works 2021

It was proposed by Councillor Feeney and seconded by Councillor McEvoy that the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Local Property Tax (LPT) allocation for 2021 should be carried forward and listed as an item on the February agenda.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by all members present that the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Local Property Tax (LPT) allocation for 2021 be carried forward and listed as an item on the February agenda.

CM05/0121

The Cathaoirleach requested that item 5 on the agenda be taken next. All the members agreed.

Access and Egress to St Mary's Church, Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Durkan. That the council address the issue of safe pedestrian and vehicular access and egress to St Mary's Church, Maynooth within the design of the planned upgrades to Mill Street Maynooth.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that under the Sustainable Transport Measures Grant

(STMG) Programme, projects for next year were issued to the Cathaoirleach and elected members in a report on 20 November 2020. This included plans to progress the detailed design of the Maynooth North-South Corridor Phase 5 Project. As part of this project the team would investigate issues identified in the motion as part of this design process.

Councillor Durkan raised the following points:

- Vehicular access and egress to St Mary's Church had been an ongoing issue.
- There was a blind spot when exiting the church and longer sight lines were needed.
- St Mary's Church were agreeable to stepping back the wall to widen the footpath.

The District Engineer stated that he had discussed the matter with the Traffic and Sustainable Transport Team and the widening of the footpath and stepping back the wall were both on their agenda.

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

CM06/0121

Yellow Box on the Straffan Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Feeney. That the council upgrades the existing yellow box on the Straffan Road, Maynooth at the Celbridge Road Junction, outside the Maxol Service Station.

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 in accordance with Kildare County Council's Criteria for Implementation of Statutory Signing and Lining Measures, the provision of yellow boxes was reserved for road junctions where static traffic at the junction was

affecting efficient cross flow of traffic. A yellow box was not appropriate for an individual entrance. The location the Councillor referred to was for allowing egress from the service station and as such was not allowed for under this policy. The Municipal District Office had none the less observed this location on numerous times to monitor the traffic flows and there was very limited restriction of flows from the garage, no restriction to through flow at the junction and the renewal of the markings was unwarranted.

The following points were raised by the members:

- The reason the traffic was flowing was because there was bare visibility of a yellow box so could the yellow box either be reinstated or removed as it was causing confusion to drivers?
- Proper markings were required on this part of the road.
- It was accepted that policy needed to be adhered to and suggested that the matter might be revisited once the yellow box had faded completely.

The District Engineer confirmed the following points:

- Burning markings off the road deteriorated the road surface and the best option was to leave the faded box there as it would fade completely over time.
- There were limited issues where drivers had difficulty exiting the garage and the purpose of a yellow box was to prevent traffic from backing up on a main road, not to facilitate access to houses or individual estates.

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

CM07/0121

Stop Sign Line in Laurence Avenue

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Feeney. That the council installs a stop sign line for traffic coming into Laurence Avenue from the Celbridge Road, Maynooth. The motion was proposed by Councillor Feeney and seconded by Councillor Farrelly.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that in accordance with Kildare County Councils criteria for implementation of statutory signing and lining measures, the introduction of stop lining/signage was not generally used in estates. If a substantial accident history was recorded at a junction in an estate their introduction might be considered. The Municipal District Office was not aware of any accident history at this location and as such the installation of a stop line was unwarranted.

Councillor Feeney stated that a stop sign was warranted and asked if a yield sign or a slow down sign could be installed to facilitate traffic coming into Laurence Avenue from the Celbridge Road, Maynooth. The District Engineer stated that road lining was not installed in estates generally but he would monitor the situation.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Farrelly that the report be noted and the District Engineer monitor the traffic flow.

CM08/0121

Planting on Nancy's Lane

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McEvoy. Can the council update the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee on plans to restore the planting on Nancy's Lane, Clane?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office had appointed a landscape contractor to undertake planting of additional native plants along the lane. The report was noted.

CM09/0121

Public Street Lighting

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McEvoy. Can the council update the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee on plans to install public street lighting in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that public lighting installations had commenced in Clane and Straffan and had been completed in Prosperous. These would require an ESB connection and the installations should be completed in Quarter 1, 2021 but the council could not give a definite time frame as the energising of the lights required actions from the ESB and the connections would be a matter for them to schedule into their works programme. Any new installations within the municipal district would have to be assessed under the Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS) criteria and would be subject to funding being identified to progress same.

Councillor McEvoy stated that when the planning permission was granted for Nancy's Lane part of the condition was that motion limited lighting was to be installed. The District Engineer stated that he would convey Councillor McEvoy's comments to the Public Lighting Section and ask them to revert to him.

The report was noted.

CM10/0121

Resources for Cycle Design Projects

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Hamilton. Can the council provide an update on the new resources assigned in the Transport Department to support the cycle design projects proposed for the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Sustainable Transport Team currently consisted of an A/Senior Engineer, an Executive Engineer and an A/Assistant Engineer. The council could confirm that the appointment of a Senior Executive Engineer was

imminent. The appointment of additional staff to the team would require the completion of a recruitment process which would be carried out by the Human Resources (HR) Department.

The report was noted.

CM11/0121

National Transport Authority (NTA) Town and Village Active Transport Programme

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Hamilton. Can the council confirm when the process of planning and securing of funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA) Town and Village Active Transport Programme will commence for the new cycleway projects which were proposed for Maynooth and Kilcock during 2020?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that if the funding referred to was the “€50 million Walking and Cycling Fund announced for towns and villages” by the National Transport Authority (NTA,) this funding was for local authorities outside of the Greater Dublin Area. Under the Sustainable Transport Measures Grant (STMG) Programme, projects for 2021 were issued to the Cathaoirleach and elected members in a report on 20 November 2020. Under the Covid Active Travel Funding, an application for cycle infrastructure improvements in Maynooth was recently submitted to the NTA and the team was awaiting a response.

Councillor Hamilton stated that Kilcock projects needed to be focused on and stated significant LPT monies had been allocated to this item the previous year which had not yet been used. He stated he would be making a further allocation this year and asked the members to also contribute. The District Engineer stated that he would liaise with the Traffic and Sustainable Transport Team and revert to Councillor Hamilton the following week in relation to progressing projects.

The report was noted.

CM12/0121

Public Lights from the Bond Bridge Side to the Harbour in Maynooth

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Feeney. Can the council confirm when the public lights installed three years ago along the Canal in Maynooth from the Bond Bridge side to the Harbour will be turned on in the interest of public safety?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Public Lighting Section were currently waiting on the ESB to connect the lights. Once connected, the lights would be energised.

Councillor Feeney stated that she had been following this matter up since October and asked what needed to be done to get the lights connected. The District Engineer stated that the electrical certificate had been out of date and a new one had now been completed. He stated that he would follow the matter up with the Public Lighting Section.

The report was noted.

CM13/0121

The Cathaoirleach requested that item 4 on the agenda be taken next. All the members agreed.

Update on Estates

Ms Burke stated that a report had been circulated to the members providing an update on estates throughout the municipal district.

The following points were raised by the members:

- Appreciation was conveyed from the members to Ms Burke and her team for all the hard work which had been invested in progressing estates.
- It was noted that Castledawson and Newtown Hall estates had yet to be taken in charge.

- A quote of €55,000 had been received to remove the traffic lights in Brooklands Estate, could this be progressed?
- There was still sewage issues in Cois na Mona Estate and the last letter sent to the developer was February 2020, could the developer be contacted again?
- Could developers be given a timeframe to finish wearing courses in estates and if not completed within the given timeframe could the bond be used by the council to complete the work.
- Site works remained incomplete at Limetree Hall.

Ms Burke clarified the following points with the members:

- A CCTV survey had been carried out on the tanks in Newtown Hall in December.
- Funding to progress Meadowbrook Estate to taking in charge status had yet to be identified.
- Ms Burke had spoken to the developer in relation to Moyglare Hall and it was hoped he would be able to progress with works in January. This would be dependent on Level 5 restrictions.
- Brooklands Estate would be reviewed and Ms Burke would revert to the members.
- An update on Cois na Mona Estate would be sought from the developer.
- In relation to timeframes for wearing courses, each estate was case specific and would have to be looked at on a case by case basis.
- Road markings for Limetree Hall would be done (weather dependent), landscaping would be finished off by the developer. The developer had also agreed to install bollards and this would be followed up with him.

The report was noted.

CM14/0121

Public Realm Projects

Ms Hunt informed the members that the funding application for Main Street and Abbey Community Centre, Clane had been successful. She stated that a report on all projects had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting and asked if anyone had questions.

The following queries were raised by the members:

- Was there a shortage of funding for Main Street and Abbey Community Centre, Clane?
- When would the consultation process for branding and signage for Prosperous be advertised?
- It was disappointing that funding for Robertstown had not been granted, were there any other options for funding?

Ms Hunt clarified the following points with the members:

- €45,000 out of the €50,000 applied for Main Street and Abbey Community Centre, Clane had been granted and the council would provide match funding of €5,000. The total cost of works to be done on the Main Street was €200,000.
- The branding and signage for Prosperous - consultation would be done via an online survey and a draft survey would be launched by the end of January.
- Feedback would be sought as to why the application for Robertstown was unsuccessful and an application would be resubmitted in 2021.

CM15/0121

Strategic Housing Development (SHD) at Capdoo and Abbeylands, Clane

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

Mr Lynch stated that the application had been previously before the members in December 2019 and had not been granted by ABP. He gave an overview of the current planning application (ABP- 20/308943) made to ABP on behalf of Westar Investments Ltd in respect of a proposed development at Capdoo and Abbeylands, Celbridge Road, Clane for 333 residential units (37 one bed roomed, 166 two bed roomed, 110 three bed roomed and 20 four bed roomed units) comprising 20 maisonette type units, 48 duplexes and 144 apartments, a crèche and a community/public building. Mr Lynch stated that pre-planning meetings between the applicant and Kildare County Council had been held via teams in April 2020, a tri-partite pre-planning meeting between the applicant, Kildare County Council and ABP was held on 08 October 2020 relating to 313 units. The opinion Issued by ABP on 28 October 2020 indicated that the proposal was a reasonable basis for an application and listed the following issues to be addressed in the application:

- Justify height.
- Design, layout and unit mix.
- Elevational treatment/finishes.
- Justify car parking provision.

The deadline for public submissions was 01 February, the Chief Executive's report was due to ABP by 19 February and a decision from ABP was due on 19 April 2021.

The following points were raised by the members:

- The context of Clane Town had changed since the previous application in relation to core strategy figures and was that factor going to be highlighted in the Chief Executive's Report to ABP?

- There were two separate current planning applications for the site – what was the process for submissions in such a scenario?
- The carbon effect on the climate and lack of public transport facilities was a major concern.
- The bus service in Clane did not have the capacity to serve Dublin.
- The highest density apartment blocks were located furthest from the town centre (point where public transport could be availed of) meaning residents in these units would add high levels of additional traffic to an already congested area.
- Large traffic volumes would use the Alexandra Estate route to get onto the Naas Road – how would this be addressed by the developer?
- The council's report including the member's comments was never commented on by ABP.
- The crèche would attract additional traffic from other housing estates.
- It was felt the members needed to make their own submissions to ABP separately.
- An application for a specific part of the site had already been granted on a separate planning application.
- The KDA of 26 units per hectare had now increased to over 40 and this was concerning.
- In relation to permeability, the Alexandra, Brooklands and Knockmore estates would be hugely impacted with traffic.
- Did the council feel the developer had met the rational for the refusal of the first SHD application?
- What was the figure for childcare spaces and in what phase of the development was the childcare provision being delivered?
- The school's capacity assessment was poor - any flexibility in enrollment in Scoil Mhuire was strongly challenged. Scoil Mhuire Community School had a very wide catchment area and its admissions policy had criteria which currently included students from rural primary schools such as Coill Dubh, Allenwood and Robertstown and the school had considered limiting its admissions to students from Clane and Rathcoffey schools only, as a result of oversubscription.

- The developer, in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), had indicated that the section of land where Blocks A and B were to be built was scrub and was of low value to the county, but some of this land appeared to be woodland. The woodland had been removed in the height of the growing season and woodland areas needed to be protected in future Local Area Plans (LAP's).
- Did the material contravention mentioned relate to core strategy.
- In relation to the linear park – were there flooding issues on that section of land?
- Healthcare and GP facilities were not adequate to facilitate the increase in population.
- A train station was needed in Clane to assist with public transport.
- The rate of population growth for this application goes against the County Development Plan (CDP).

Mr Lynch clarified the following points:

- A separate planning application had been granted to the developer for a specific part of the site and the council had considered that application separately. It was not ideal that there were two concurrent applications for the same site, but the developer was not excluded from doing this.
- This was the first SHD application since the change in core strategy figures and core strategy should not be limited on suitable lands.
- The developer had made changes to address the Board's concerns for the refusal of the first application, but it was not for the council to comment on this.
- The Chief Executive's Report would seek confirmation of childcare spaces and confirmation of what phase it would be delivered.
- Scrub was a reasonable description for the section of land where Blocks A and B were to be built.
- The material contravention mentioned did relate to core strategy and it was mentioned on the website.
- A flood risk assessment had been submitted in relation to the linear park.

- The material contravention plan would be looked at when submitting the Chief Executive's Report.

Mr Lynch thanked the members for their time.

CM16/0121

Climate Action Update

Ms Moran from the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO), in collaboration with the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) delivered a presentation to the members highlighting the following points:

- It was aimed at encouraging elected members to lead local climate action initiatives at municipal district level.
- It demonstrated examples of local climate action initiatives already piloted/undertaken, namely the Climate Camp pilot held in Kildare Town.
- These examples included the Community Training Programme which resulted from a LEADER/CARO partnership and the development of Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC'S), with a focus on the Maynooth SEC, which was chaired by Councillor Hamilton.
- It focused on the importance of partnerships for community development and local climate action, such as the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, between the GAA and local Government, which would see the development of Sustainable Club Workshops and toolkits under the Green Clubs Programme.
- It recognised the leadership role played by the elected members in communities and within municipal districts, as well as the untapped expertise which existed at local level.
- It explored how one might connect with their communities and looked at the framework provided by the Climate Action Charter.
- Some of the key actions it contained included the building of a sustained localised citizen engagement model and the importance of connecting with young citizens.

The following points were raised by the members:

- Ideas illustrated amongst Tidy Towns Groups was commended.
- Where could further information be accessed in relation to pollinator programmes and community training?
- LPT for 2021 would be allocated to fund a Biodiversity Action Plan – Maynooth, Clane, Carbury and Allenwood had already prepared their action plans.
- Would further training be available for the elected members, staff and members of the public?
- €20,000 LPT had been allocated by the members in 2020 to help with bioiversity.

Ms Moran responded by confirming:

- All information could be obtained from the CARO and also Ms Loughlin, the Biodiversity Officer.
- Additional training would depend on the demand for it and further information could be obtained from Mr Deegan in the CARO.

The meeting concluded.