



**Minutes of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal
District held on Friday, 03 February 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
In the Council Chamber**

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

Apologies: Councillor D Fitzpatrick (Cathaoirleach)

Officials Present: Ms M Higgins (District Manager), Mr C Buggie (District Engineer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Mr S Cummins (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms A Burke (Executive Engineer), Ms L Kennedy (A/Administrative Officer), Mr O Brady (Administrative Officer), Ms G Allen (Senior Executive Librarian), Ms S Walsh (Executive Engineer), Ms R Jackson (Administrative Officer), Ms S Martin (Meetings Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) Ms D Egan (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Ó Cearúil assumed the chair as Councillor Fitzpatrick had sent his apologies.

CM01/0223

Declaration of Pecuniary or Beneficial Interests

There were no declarations of (a) conflicts of interest or (b) pecuniary or beneficial interests under section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

The Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Ó Cearúil congratulated the Area Engineer, Cyril Buggie on the birth of his son.



CM02/0223

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 06 January 2022 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Feeney seconded by Councillor Ward and agreed by the members, that the minutes of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 06 January 2022 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CM03/0223

Municipal District Works

The District Engineer informed the members that the crews had continued with general maintenance over the past month with a strong emphasis on road repairs and maintaining sightlines at junctions as well as vactoring of road gullies.

LPT Funding

The Municipal District Office is progressing the agreed LPT programme for 2022 and awaiting the 2023 scheme list.

General Works

Routine Maintenance is being carried out by the crews with the gullies in the Municipal District being cleaned and two suction sweepers employed to sweep up leaves.

Hedge cutting is taking place in the Municipal District. Works are being carried out to address flooding issue at Ticknevin road Rathmore. National grant funding for 2023 is still awaited for this Municipal District.

The District Engineer asked the members if there were any other locations requiring assessment to forward the details on to him.

CM04/0223

LPT Schedule of Works 2023

To agree and approve the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2023.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan, seconded by Councillor Hamilton and agreed by all the members present that the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Local Property Tax (LPT) allocation for 2023 be adjourned until the March meeting.

CM05/0223

Mylerstown Community Group

The members considered the receipt of a deputation from the Mylerstown Community Group at the March meeting.

The members raised the following:

- That there was a recent Community meeting in the Mylerstown Area, with a lot of interest from the public and the Gardaí were also in attendance.
- The members felt this is a valid case.

Councillor Ó Cearúil suggested to move onto Item 14 and depending on the outcome of this, to then return to Item 5 for further discussion if necessary.

The members agreed to move to Item 14.

CM06/0223

Mylerstown Weight Restriction Signs

Item 14

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

That the council install weight restriction signs at all junctions of the local roads L5011 and L5017, to prevent HGV traffic from using these single lane roads in Mylerstown as through roads to access the R402 at Carbury Sweep.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there are currently no weight restrictions on the above-mentioned roads. If weight restrictions signs were installed without weight restrictions being in place, they would be unenforceable.

The members raised the following:



- This road looked like a regular large two-lane road with a crossroads at Carbury Sweep, but after the fork it actually split into two single lanes.
- Concerns were raised that Google Maps were directing HGVs onto this route.
- Could Google be contacted to enquire about the possibility of including an alert on the system in relation to this matter.
- There were a lot of bridges that were not constructed for these heavy weights.
- Local people were annoyed and were finding it difficult to access this road, especially in the morning time to take their children to school. Could a meeting be arranged on site?

The District Engineer informed the members that there were two types of signs, Regulatory Signs which need by-laws to enforce, and the other type were Warning Signs. He suggested Warning Signs to be erected at this location which would not require weight restrictions to be in place. A meeting could then be arranged with a deputation should that still be necessary.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wyse, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members present that the report be noted, and that Item 5 be adjourned until the March meeting subject to the outcome of the erection of the Warning Signs.

CM07/0223

Taking in charge of Lowtown View, Robertstown, Co. Kildare

The members considered the taking in charge of Lowtown View, Robertstown, Co. Kildare. A report was previously circulated to the members from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that Lowtown View, Robertstown is a development of 4 units granted planning permission under planning reference 01/399. It is now proposed to take Lowtown View, Robertstown, Co. Kildare in charge on foot of a request by Plebiscite which was received on 30 May 2016. A map outlining the area to be taken in charge is appended to this report. The proposal to take in charge Lowtown View, Robertstown, Co. Kildare, and associated map were on public display from 21 October 2022 to 18 November 2022, inclusive. The end of the statutory period for observations on the proposal was 2 December 2022. No submissions were received.



Kildare County Council

On the 22 December 2022 Kildare County Council received Irish Water approval to proceed the taking in charge process. Under agreement E-KE-131 the potable water and foul network infrastructure will be taken in charge by Irish Water.

The Development Control Section:

- (i) is satisfied that the roads in this development are of general public utility,
- (ii) has considered the financial implication for the authority of the proposed declaration, and
- (iii) confirms that the estate is at a Taking in Charge standard.

Recommendation

Having regard to the above, it is recommended to the Members of the Municipal District, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993, to take in charge those areas of Lowtown View, Robertstown, Co. Kildare outlined on the appended map.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wyse, seconded by Councillor Weld and agreed by all the members present that Lowtown View, Robertstown, Co. Kildare be taken in charge.

CM08/0223

Meadowbrook Estate

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Peter Hamilton. That the council provide a substantial update on the plan to upgrade the Meadowbrook Estate, clearly outlining the first steps planned with the funds available and confirm a new start date.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that Meadowbrook, Maynooth is a development of 240 units granted planning permission under planning reference 89/343, 90/1179, 91/1143, 93/659, 93/114, 94/730, 97/1460. A request to have the estate taken in charge was received by way of Plebiscite on 26 February 2014. The Developer, Lark Development Ltd., are dissolved and there is no



Kildare County Council

financial bond for the development. Meadowbrook, Maynooth is a mature development.

The footpaths, landscaping, carriageway, public lighting, foul infrastructure, storm infrastructure and boundary walls are identified as requiring a level of remediation throughout the development.

To date Kildare County Council, Development Control, have commissioned the following investigative works in order to establish the degree of remediation required to bring Meadowbrook to a taking in charge standard.

- 2020 CCTV survey of foul and storm infrastructure
- 2022 Arborist survey
- 2022 Leak detection survey
- 2020 and 2022 Surface defect survey
- Irish Water TIC application

Remediation works were identified at the following locations. The level of remediation works required varies throughout.

- Meadowbrook Drive
- Meadowbrook Avenue
- Meadowbrook Court
- Meadowbrook Crescent
- Meadowbrook Close
- Meadowbrook Lawn
- Brookfield Avenue
- Brookfield Park

Meadowbrook Avenue and Meadowbrook Drive are identified as presenting the most urgent remediation works due to the condition of the footpaths, maturity of the trees and the gas line identified in the storm sewer.

In 2022 Development Control completed a preliminary costing exercise to determine costs associated with bringing Meadowbrook Avenue and Meadowbrook Drive to a taking in charge standard.

The works identified consisted of the following:

- In line repairs to the foul sewer – approximately 100m
- In line and dig repairs to the storm sewer – approximately 75m



- Removal of 33no. trees including grinding down of stumps
- Pruning of 16no. trees
- Excavation of existing footpaths and provision of new footpaths - approximately 420m
- Excavation of existing and provision of new concrete residential access aprons – approximately 50no.
- Demolition of existing and construction of new brick boundary walls – approximately 100m
- New wearing course including all associated civils – approximately 3000m²

The estimate provided was €348,878 ex. VAT.

It should be noted that a public lighting audit and any associated remediation works were not captured in this estimate. The cost estimate provided is preliminary only and is subject to change.

To Note:

In October 2022 Development Control engaged with Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) in relation to the gas line in the storm sewer. In December 2022, GNI diverted the gas line and repaired the storm sewer.

The boundary walls identified for removal have no foundation. They sit on the back of the footpath. The mature trees have lifted the paths, created multiple trip hazards, and caused localized failure of the boundary walls. Removal of the path will inevitably result in the collapse of the boundary walls. Consultation with the affected homeowners will be required regarding siting of any new walls with particular consideration of land boundaries.

Recommendation

Kildare County Council to undertake a review of funding options. Subject to the identification of funding works are to progress in the following priority:

1. Boundary wall consultation
2. Tree removal
3. Street lighting investigation and repairs
4. Footpath repairs
5. Re-surfacing works

The members raised the following:



- This estate commenced construction in 1999 and had been waiting now for 30 years to be taken in charge.
- The council would need to foot the bill as the developer is now gone and there is no Bond.
- A costing in excess of €350,000 for works in Meadowbrook Avenue and Meadowbrook Drive was needed and to also to keep in mind inflation costs
- There was €50,000 of Local Property Tax (LPT) funding set aside and could providing extra funding be investigated.
- There were complexities in relation to pavements/foundations and boundary walls.
- Trees were previously cut down and stumps remain which were now a trip hazard
- Parks had agreed to put in trees as others were removed. The members were all in favour of planting trees but to be mindful of where they were planted for example not on small grass verges in front of houses as this caused damage to pathways as the tree grew.
- There had now been two reports, one from a number of years ago.
- Could the works be systematically approached. If the Estate was broken down into sections with the works starting in areas of low cost, that way these areas could be taken in charge and then progress to the next area.
- Would there be any Central Government Funds or any unfinished estate fund available.

The District Engineer advised that a report was provided by Development Control. The proposal was to start down at Bond Bridge to the cul-de-sac and for that section to be taken in charge initially.

Ms S Walsh advised no funding was available for legacy estates, and not aware of any unfinished estate funds. Boundary walls were always an issue as the council do not take boundary walls in charge. The recommendation was to start works with Meadow Brook Avenue and Meadow Brook Drive as these posed the biggest risk. It was recommended that works should commence with tree felling and consultation with residents followed by measures to reduce trip hazards. Planting was also planned but on the green areas.

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



CM09/0223

Flood alleviation measures

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Weld that the council take measures to alleviate the flooding outside the house at (details provided) as it is causing serious damage to this property.

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

Councillor Weld enquired about a time frame for these works.

The District Engineer informed the members that vectoring was being carried out to identify any blockages. If this did not resolve the issue, they would investigate where the boundary met with the public road.

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

CM10/0223

Active Travel Upgrades in Maynooth

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

That the council investigate and propose low cost and temporary/pilot active travel upgrades in Maynooth, particularly making use of existing infrastructure in the Newtown Road, Old Greenfield and Dublin Road area, to address problem areas not covered by 2023 plans.

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

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport Section informing the members that it is concentrating on the implementation of the agreed 2023 NTA Programme of Active Travel Schemes in County Kildare. The schemes being designed in this Municipal District area include the Meadowbrook Active Travel Scheme and the Maynooth North-South Corridor Project (Mill Street) which are close to being ready for construction. The potential for low-cost options for these two schemes have been considered, however, these are not realistically deliverable.



Feeder routes as suggested could play a role in linking schemes, however, there is a limit to where resources can be deployed, and which schemes can be prioritised.

Councillor Hamilton advised that he had spoken with Mr. D Hodgins who has been extremely helpful noting the Active Travel Allocations had been received. Mr. D. Hodgins outlined that the National Transport Authority are open to low cost remediation and mixed small additions could be carried out without the involvement of a costly Part 8. It is a beautiful estate on the Newtown Road – Flood alleviation and that the National Transport Authority are well disposed to this.

Councillor Ó Cearúil noted that the members knew the projects and the fund but enquired what were the details for funding in the entire district and that a break down would be appreciated.

Mr D Hodgins informed the members that he would update his presentation, noting it was about managing expectations.

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

CM11/0223

Doctor's Lane, Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Feeney that the council write to the businesses in the vicinity of Doctor's Lane, Maynooth regarding bins being placed on footpaths thus making it unsafe for pedestrians.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that under current waste management byelaws, waste containers should be removed from roadways/footpaths no later than 8.00 a.m. on the day after collection and be held within the premises where the waste is generated. The local Community Warden will contact the businesses concerned.

Councillor Feeney outlined that this lane was busy for both pedestrians and vehicles. The footpaths were unsafe for pedestrians, buggies, and wheelchair users and that the bins



were interfering with sightlines for motorists. Could the businesses be contacted under current waste management byelaws.

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

CM12/0223

O'Neill Park in Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Feeney that the council install some pencil bollards at the grass verges near the entrance to O'Neill Park 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 Section informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer will meet with Councillor Feeney onsite to discuss the issue and appropriate action will be taken.

Councillor Feeney noted the fantastic work but was sad to see the damage to grass verges. Councillor Feeney thanked the District Engineer and that she would meet him on site.

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

CM13/0223

Irish Rail

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ward that the council contact Irish Rail to request immediate installation of a safety fence to curtail the open access to the rail line adjacent to the Ledwill Estate in Kilcock.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that at their request that they will write to Irish Rail.



Kildare County Council

The members raised the following:

- There was a stretch of 200 metres where it was now easy to gain access to a live train track. There was a new housing estate nearby with 200 to 300 houses with children living there.
- Would it be helpful for the Council to put up fences as a temporary measure.
- That a letter marked urgent needed to be sent to Irish Rail as soon as possible.
- That anyone building near a railway line must notify Irish Rail and build a boundary wall. The members questioned why this was not the case for Irish Rail themselves?

The District Engineer informed the members that there was no temporary secure fencing available. It was not Kildare County Council's property and that it was a matter for Irish Rail.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Farrelly and agreed by the members present that the report be noted, and a letter be sent to Irish Rail as soon as possible.

CM14/0223

Cairn Homes

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ó Cearúil that the council work with Cairn Homes to progress the opening of the public footpath on the Dunboyne Road at Linden Demesne to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that Cairn Homes are delivering these works as part of their approved planning permissions. Kildare County Council will work with Cairn on these but understand there are some outstanding works required for Irish Water which may cause some delay to the final delivery date.

Councillor Ó Cearúil noted his concerns regarding safety of pedestrians using the footpath from the estate. It was now being used as a walking route. There was a section of 50 meters of footpath yet to be opened. Irish Water were carrying out works this week which



Kildare County Council

Councillor Ó Cearúil believed should now be near completion. He asked for the Council to work with Cairn Homes to expedite the completion of the works.

The District Engineer informed the members that the footpath was now complete but closed due to a rising mains problem, which was awaiting remediation works. Once the works were complete and resurfaced he will ask for the footpath to be opened. He advised he will contact Cairn Homes today.

Councillor Durkan asked the District Engineer to remind Cairn Homes about the pedestrian bridge over the Lyreen River also.

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

CM15/0223

NTA Active Travel Funding

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Wyse that the council prepare designs and apply for NTA Active Travel funding for engineering measures such as bollards and crossing points, to improve safety for pedestrians at Clocha Rince National School in Clogherinkoe, should the Active Travel programme become available this year.

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

A report was received from Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Team informing the members that the National Transport Authority has indicated that the active travel grant allocation for public cycle parking works started in 2022 will not be extended into 2023 for new locations. Funding will be required from a separate source.

The members raised the following:

- Amazing works were carried out last year, 4 schools last year and 2 this year and that was nearly all the schools completed.
- Surprised if National Transport Authority had pulled out of funding as the Scheme was so successful. What funding was now currently available?
- An Garda Síochána had been out to look at the parking situation, the parking was cramped and there was a housing estate opposite causing access problems.



Mr Hodgins advised the members that there were 2 streams

- a) Safe route to school which An Taisce and National Transport Authority funded.
- b) Non safe route to schools and this was what was used for Derrinturn.

There was no funding available for schools that were not already on the Green School Safe School list for 2023.

The other 2 schools come under the Road Improvement Programme. The council were using the same philosophy as for previous schools, using the same design with pencil bollards.

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

CM16/0223

M4 Motorway

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Durkan that the council provide an update and progress report on all proposed upgrade works to the M4 Motorway in this municipal district.

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

A report was given by the National Roads Design Office informing the members that

Maynooth to Leixlip Project

The project held a public consultation on the shortlist of options in September 2022. A further and more detailed assessment is currently underway to identify the emerging preferred option from the shortlisted options presented at the consultation. It is hope that the emerging preferred option will be identified and ready for public display mid-2023.

Full details of the previous consultation and other project information is available on the project website: <https://maynoothleixlip.ie/>

M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measure Pilot project

The M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures Pilot project is current in Part 8 planning. The project has completed its Part 8 public display and submissions period. Following these events, the project is currently preparing the required planning documentation.

Further detail can be found at: <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/part-8-proposed-m4-bus-priority-measures-planning-ref-p8202220>



Maintenance projects:

The section in question is managed by TII Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contracts (MMaRC). Therefore, TII maintenance should be contacted regarding maintenance project queries on this portion of the national road network.

Further details can be found at: <https://www.tii.ie/roads-tolling/operations-and-maintenance/road-maintenance/>

The members raised the following:

- This had been planned for some time and the plan was to
 - add an extra junction
 - put in a bus lane as currently the road was backed up from 0700 hours
 - For this to become a third corridor to Dublin
 - Also resurfacing works
 - To reduce the Maynooth noise triangle
- To promote the importance of the use of public transport in reducing the number of cars on the roads. It was noted a bus could take 50 people and a train 500 people
- This could be a good pilot scheme for the County
- It has been suggested that the new junction goes west of the existing junction and for the current junction to become a fly over. The members suggested moving out towards Jackson Bridge instead. They requested also not to move the interchange ramps as spending money to remove infrastructure was not acceptable.
- Instead of traffic going into the town the proposal was to divert traffic around the town.

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

CM17/0223

Celbridge Road and Kilcock Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Durkan that the council give a full update on the Celbridge Road and Kilcock Road, Maynooth upgrade projects.



Kildare County Council

The motion was proposed by Councillor Durkan and seconded by Councillor Hamilton. A report was received from Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Team informing the members that the designs for the Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme and the Kilcock Road Active Travel Scheme will be ready for NTA approval prior to starting Public Consultation in Q1 2023. A decision on whether to proceed with the consultation process will be taken in light of no confirmed funding for either the detailed design or construction phases of the project for 2023 or subsequent years.

The members raised the following:

- That this project had been on the agenda since 2014
- It was one of the most important projects in Maynooth, it linked 2 schools and linked Maynooth's orbital route also.
- There had been a Deputation received already.
- Councillors needed to understand where this was going and whether they needed to go to a national level to look for funding to make this happen.
- That children were currently having to walk to school along a path which was only 1 metre in width, there had been incidents reported where children had been hit by wing mirrors of passing vehicles.
- There had been €40,000 allocated to this municipal district for Active Travel.
- There was funding currently available from pay parking in Maynooth, this along with Urban Regeneration and Development Fund was for the upgrade of the square. Could it be investigated if these monies could be reallocated to this project as it was fundamental as a road safety issue.
- It was questioned also regarding allocation of €10,000 for the Celbridge Road and Kilcock Road and what future funding could be expected.

Mr Hodgins informed the members that €10 million had been allocated to Kildare for Active Travel but from these funds

- Other schemes from 2022 needed completing including cycle schemes and sports and clubs projects.
- That the process was Consultation, Detailed Design and then Construction. He questioned was it worth starting consultation if there was no guarantee of funding to progress to detailed design.



- When previously discussed with the National Transport Authority they advised to expect similar funding moving forward.
- That currently quick build schemes were a priority as they cost significantly less to get to full construction.
- A further complication was that one of the conditions for approval for funding from the NTA was that drawings were available. But until projects reached detailed design and were approved, there were no drawing available. This was the problem at Mill Street.
- All projects were currently being investigated to see if they could be broken down into quick builds.
- That LPT, Pay Parking and Levies could all be considered as part of funding for these projects.

The members felt that this needed to be brought to a national level and also considered inviting the NTA into the Council Chamber to discuss the issues being faced. This was not a reflection on Kildare County Council.

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

CM18/0223

Footpath in Kilmeague

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Farrelly that the council consider improvement works on the footpath in Kilmeague on the R415.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that this footpath will be assessed and considered as part of the footpath works in 2023.

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



CM19/0223

Millicent Road at Bodenstown

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Farrelly that the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District office works with the Naas Municipal District to consider works at the R407 junction with Millicent Road at Bodenstown.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer will engage with the Naas Municipal District Engineer in relation to this junction.

The members raised the following:

- Questioned what the right procedure is, as this may not be this Municipal District.
- The left junction is difficult to get out of, can ways to facilitate better movement of traffic be investigated.

The District Engineer noted that there were no sightline issues, and he had no safety concerns.

He agreed to speak with the Naas District Engineer regarding this matter.

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

CM20/0223

Bike Parking and Bike Security in Clane

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Hamilton. Can the council outline potential sources of funds from sustainable transport funds, Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), central funds, LPT or other sources to support improved bike parking and bike security measures in Clane to support more cycling in the town?

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Team informing the members that the National Transport Authority has indicated that the active travel grant allocation for public cycle parking works started in 2022 will not be extended into 2023 for new locations. Funding will be required from a separate source.



Councillor Hamilton questioned would it be possible to have visible cycle parking to encourage people to cycle and to then use public transport.

Ms G Allen informed the members that bicycle racks and storage had been included in the design of the Library.

Councillor Feeney informed the members that at the February SPC Meeting bicycle hangers and storage are on the programme of works.

The report was noted.

CM21/0223

Footpath/Roads

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

Can the council outline its procedures for examining the works of the various utility companies that have disturbed roads/footpaths in the municipal district to confirm if their works when completed have restored the footpath/roads to their previous condition?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that a company/person wanting to carry out works on a public road/footpath/verge must apply to Kildare County Council for a road opening licence. This is an online system run by the Road Management Office for most of the Local Authorities in the country. All the details are available in the "Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads" publication by the Department of Transport.

https://www.rmo.ie/uploads/8/2/1/0/821068/guidelines_for_managing_openings_in_public_roads_apr_2017.pdf

Once a road opening is completed the application must submit a T5 notification to the council advising them that the works are completed. All road openings are then inspected by Kildare County Council road opening inspector. If the reinstatement is to the required standard, then the work enters a 2 year guarantee period where the applicant is responsible for the road opening or if the reinstatement works are not to the required standard then the T5 is rejected, and the reinstatement works must be redone and a new T5 submitted. The Municipal District Engineer can explain any further queries.



Kildare County Council

Councillor Ward noted that it was good to see specific procedures were in place. He asked if the Area Engineer could investigate recent works carried out at Kilcock Harbour, where 6 metres of tarmac footpath were removed.

The District Engineer advised that he would investigate this matter.

The report was noted.

CM22/0223

Road Opening

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

Can the council clarify when the road from Mullen Park through Griffin Rath to the Celbridge Road will be opened?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that the projected completion and opening date of the Link Road is the end of November 2023.

Councillor Ó Cearúil questioned the delay and did the road need to be taken in charge first.

The District Engineer advised that the road was still being used by construction traffic.

The report was noted.

CM23/0223

Carton Demesne Maynooth

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

Can the council clarify what the public access and right of way is to Carton Demesne, Maynooth?

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that the Public Rights of Way are established by a number of ways, including through established use or dedication by the owners. Kildare County Council do not have records of any Rights of Way in Carton Demesne, aside from the commitments given and Condition 4 of Planning Reference 91/441, as previously advised. Public Amenity Rights of Way may be confirmed in the County Development Plan through a notification process outlined in the Planning and Development Acts, however Kildare County Council do not have plans to do so. The judgement given in Walsh & Anor -v- Sligo County Council - [2010] IEHC 437, otherwise known as the "Lissadell Case", is informative regarding the legislative and judicial context of Public Rights of Way.

The report was noted.



CM24/0223

Mullin's Turn

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

Can the council outline any actions taken to date, and any further actions that can be taken, to reduce the severe danger caused by icing in winter months at the junction of the L5003 and L1002 local roads south of Broadford, which is known locally as Mullin's Turn?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that Kildare County Council's salting trucks on all routes are running at capacity at present, precluding the Council from adding new roads to the current salting routes without removing the service from another area of the county.

Ten separate routes are now salted during the winter period, resulting in total of 688 km of road being treated by Kildare County Council to ensure safer travel for all road users.

There are no plans at present to add/amend existing salting runs to existing schedule as it would not be possible, allowing for existing resources and availability of drivers and plant.

However, at times of severe weather conditions Municipal District staff, during the working day, may, allowing for resources at their disposal, give priority to other roads, junctions etc at critical locations outside of our standard routes that are in need of treatment.

A countywide review will be carried out at end of current winter maintenance season where the many requests for additional routes to be treated will be considered allowing for resources available to roads maintenance section.

Councillor Wyse noted that a gully was put down on the L5003. There had been a number of fatalities on the road. Would it be possible for an Engineer to visit this location to investigate what was causing the ice to build up. He said that as far as he was aware there were no drains feeding water onto the main bends.

The District Engineer agreed to investigate this further.

The report was noted.

CM25/0223

Laraghbryan West, Maynooth

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



Can the council provide an update on the road realignment works at Laraghbryan West, Maynooth given the numerous accidents at this location?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that there are no current plans to carry out a road realignment scheme at Laraghbryan Maynooth and such a scheme has not been identified on the three year capital programme. Low-Cost safety improvement works were carried out a number of years ago. The senior engineer for roads projects is available to meet on site at the convenience of the member.

Councillor Durkan was not happy with the report, noting that this is a priority project;

- There had been a number of crashes at this location and that sightlines are poor.
- One wall had been rebuilt 6 times in 18 months.
- If the lower bank was levelled off this would give clear sightlines.

The District Engineer agreed to go on site to investigate options.

The report was noted.

CM26/0223

Footpath Repairs

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

Can the council confirm if a programme of footpath repairs is planned across the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District, in 2023?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that it is planned to carry out footpath works in the Municipal District in 2023. If the members have any specific request, they should notify the Municipal District Engineer so they can be assessed and included as appropriate.

The report was noted.

CM27/0223

Firmount Cross Junction

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to enhance road markings or signage at the L2002-R403 junction at Firmount Cross junction in advance of undertaking a more detailed survey for possible upgrade works?



A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that this junction is part of the 10 junctions being assessed by the roads project teams. In the short term the Municipal District Engineer has renewed the stop signs on approach to the junction from Millicent direction. The road lines will also be renewed, and the SLOW text will be boxed in red thermoflex material to help highlight them to the drivers. A high friction (anti-skid) surface will be installed for approximately the last 30 metres as drivers approach the stop line from the Millicent side.

The report was noted.

CM28/0223

Advertisements in Newspapers

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

Can the council outline what the process is for selecting which local newspapers are used by the council in its communication of council consultation matters to residents in the Municipal District?

A report was received from Corporate Services Section informing the members that the placement of newspaper advertising is managed centrally by the Corporate Services Department, upon receipt of requests from each Department. However, the selection of the methods of advertising, including the newspapers to be used and dates of publication is a matter for each Department to set out when the request is submitted. The three local newspapers circulating in the County are The Leinster Leader, The Nationalist and The Liffey Champion. Depending on the statutory function, typically the relevant Act or regulation will set out the minimum number of newspapers to be used in consultation processes. For example, statutory provisions related to making Casual Trading Bye Laws require notice to be published in “....*at least two newspapers circulating in the area to which the proposed bye-laws relate.*” Other statutory provisions may vary, and only require one or more newspapers circulating in the area but for consultation processes generally at least two newspapers tend to be used. Also, occasionally for national initiatives, Government may directly place adverts in national and local media. Newspaper adverts subsequently result in the publication of a related press release on the Council's website as well as related social media content being published on the Council's social media accounts. When preparing newspaper notices for the publication of Local Area Plans [LAP] (to be considered at Municipal District) the Forward Planning Department select the



newspaper which has the widest circulation for the particular settlement. In some instances, this may result in the publication of a notice in more than one paper, for example, the public notice for the pre-draft issues Paper for the Joint Local Area Plan for Maynooth and Environs was published in the Irish Independent, the Liffey Champion and the Meath Chronicle. The newspaper selected for the public notice for LAPs are agreed with the Municipal District members in advance of publication. The Transportation Department use the relevant newspaper circulating in the area i.e. Kildare Nationalist, Leinster Leader and /or Liffey Champion as appropriate depending on the Municipal District. National newspapers are also used on some occasions i.e. Irish Independent.

Councillor Feeney queried why an advertisement did not appear in the Liffey Champion in relation to a CPO at the Maynooth Ring Road and whether this was just an oversight at that time.

The Meetings Administrator noted a high turnover of staff and that he would re-issue guidance to all new staff.

The report was noted.

CM29/0223

Upgrade works to Council Housing Stock

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

Can the council confirm what are the planned upgrade works to the council housing stock in the municipal district?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the Council's Housing Maintenance Team will continue to carry out response maintenance works.

Refurbishment works will be progressed for vacant units (separate monthly report refers).

The Municipal District has been selected for the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program (EERP) in 2023. Details of the location and number of units to be retrofitted will be advised following confirmation of funding from the Department (DHLGH). A number of housing units are also expected to benefit from the forthcoming windows and doors upgrade works as part of the countywide scheme this year (c. 100 homes in the county).

The report was noted.

CM30/0223

Section 38 Prosperous



Kildare County Council

The members considered the Road Traffic Act 1994, Section 38 proposed traffic calming measures at gateways entering Prosperous which forms part of the Prosperous Town Identity and Branding Scheme. A detailed report was previously circulated.

Mr A O'Mullane informed the members that they had received 4 submissions, 3 from the public and one from the council. They were all positive. He recommended that the Section 38 be accepted.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members present that the Section 38 be accepted.

CM31/0223

Donadea Forest Park

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Weld that the members of this municipal district and senior management of the council request a meeting as a matter of urgency with senior management at Coillte to address the serious issue of the deteriorating condition of the wall around Donadea Forest Park.

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

A report was received from Corporate Services Section informing the members that if the members agree, a letter will issue to Coillte.

The members raised the following:

- This had been raised several times, previous meetings with Coillte and people were becoming increasingly frustrated. Public perception was of a sloppy approach. The members were promised quarterly meetings previously, but this hadn't happened.
- Recent application for zip line had been submitted but members were not informed by Coillte.
- It was Coillte responsibility to maintain the park. There are 4 parts where walls had fallen causing serious damage and a tree fell approximately 3-4 years ago and stump still had not been removed.
- Could it be investigated if the wall was a Protected Structure.
- It was suggested a letter be sent from the Chief Executive of Kildare County Council to the Chief Executive of Coillte, Ms. Imelda Hurley of Coillte and to include Minister Heydon also.



The District Manager agreed to check out the current status and to find out if the wall was a protected structure.

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

CM32/0223

Maynooth Local Area Plan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ó Cearúil that the council arrange a meeting with the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District once the Draft Maynooth Local Area Plan (LAP) has been published. The purpose of the meeting would be to ensure that the growth and development of each municipal district is done in consultation and that consideration is given to how the North East of Kildare will develop.

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

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that the details of the public consultation and associated briefings for the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan will be made available to the Elected Members of Kildare County Council on publication of the draft Joint Local Area Plan.

Councillor Ó Cearúil proposed that with the members agreement a letter be sent to Celbridge/Leixlip members to arrange a meeting. This was to ensure that resources were shared across this part of the County in a coordinated fashion, to avoid duplication of efforts and to also benefit residents of bordering towns.

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

CM33/0223

Maynooth Boys National School

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



Can the council confirm what planting requirements and enforcement methods are available to address the planting of invasive bay laurel and non-native red robin, privet hedge, lime and cherry trees at the Maynooth Boys National school?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the development on the site appears to be pursuant to that permitted under Planning Application reference 17/379. Limited information regarding planting was provided by the applicant at the time. From a review of the Planning Application details it does not appear that there are enforcement issues relating to planting.

Councillor Hamilton proposed submitting a plenary motion and requested the support of the members.

The report was noted.

CM34/0223

Kilcock Graveyard

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Ward that the council undertake works to resolve the current difficulties in Kilcock graveyard with the recurring drainage/water table issues.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the council plans carrying out significant drainage improvement works at Boycetown Cemetery during the summer months. It is hoped that this will help improve ongoing drainage difficulties during the wet seasons.

The members raised the following:

- Numerous motions had been submitted since 2019.
- People were annoyed with increased levels of frustration as graves were waterlogged.
- The members looked forward to the report to find out what was causing the issue and how to alleviate this once and for all.



Ms. R. Jackson agreed to respond to the questions raised and to circulate replies after the meeting.

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

CM35/0223

Ballagh Woods

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

Can the council confirm what plans it has to deal with the receiver of the Wastewater Treatment System at Ballagh Woods, Donadea so that progress can be made with the fixing of this plant?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that there is no further update since the report below which was provided in December. The Council has prioritised a number of rural settlements for investigation and attention where the treatment and disposal of waste water from communal waste water treatment plants is of concern. These sites include Ballagh Wood, Donadea and The Close, Tirmoghan. The council is continuing with site inspections and has progressed to completion environmental investigations for the purpose of identifying the specific operational deficiencies with the existing waste water treatment infrastructure servicing the sites. The companies that developed the sites are dissolved or are in receivership and the role of estate management companies in the context of waste water treatment plant operations and licence compliance is to be clarified. The receiver for the company that developed Ballagh Wood has responded to correspondence from the council and the matter is being referred to our legal advisers for consideration. Although the company that developed The Close is dissolved, the waste water treatment plant is located on land which is privately owned. In order to make progress in either of these cases it is necessary to first clarify on whom the responsibility to comply with planning and/or environmental legislation lies. To that end further engagement with the councils' legal advisers is taking place.

The report was noted.

CM36/0223

Sewerage issues at Allenwood

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



Can the council update members on any sewerage issues in Allenwood, and any plans to address same?

A report was received from the Water Services Section informing the members that this is a matter for Irish Water and can be raised via their dedicated email support address at localrepsupport@water.ie or discuss at next dedicated Councillors Clinic, which is due to be held on Monday, 27 February.

The report was noted.

CM37/0223

Business Campus Kilcock

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

Can the council provide a progress report and update on the proposed business campus in Kilcock?

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office informing the members that following a tender process, consultants were appointed by Kildare County Council in January 2023 to carry out a land use feasibility study on lands at Duncreevan in Kilcock to examine their suitability for commercial/industrial use. The economic development unit conducted an initial meeting with the consultants on 26 January to discuss the brief and work schedule for the study. The consultants will carry out a number of tasks as part of a technical examination of the site to assess its suitability. There will also be an opportunity for the relevant stakeholders to engage with the consultants during the study, once a more defined work program timeline is approved we will notify the members.

The report was noted.

CM38/0223

Clane Library

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

Can the council outline the sequence of steps for the development of the new library in Clane that may follow the Part-8 planning process?

A report was received from the Senior Executive Librarian informing the members that following the Part 8 approval the Library Service will work with the Design Team to produce the detailed design and construction tender documents which will take another 4 to 6 weeks. Then a tender for the construction contract will be run through the eTender portal in



line with government procurement and the public spending code. Marking will be completed and letters for the successful and unsuccessful tendering companies will be issued followed by a mandatory 14-day standstill period. An application for approval to acceptance of tender must be submitted to the Library Development Unit, Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) for Stage 3 approval accompanied by the following: Chief Executive's Order providing (subject to Ministerial approval) for acceptance of tender, list of tenders received, relevant technical reports and a cost analysis of the recommended tender, identifying and explaining fully any significant variations between the recommended tender and the Cost Plan and the proposed all-in Budget Estimate.

Construction contracts cannot be signed, and construction cannot begin until the Stage 3 approval has been granted by DRCD. So, to mitigate against any potential delay the Library Service and the Design Team will be ready to submit the Stage 3 documents as soon as the marking of the tender is complete. Once Stage 3 approval is granted and contracts are signed, construction of Clane Library can begin. It is estimated that it could take approximately 10 – 12 months to complete from the commencement date.

Councillor McEvoy noted that it was good to understand the next steps in the process and looks forward to the Part 8 Briefing.

The report was noted.

CM39/0223

Open Space at Liffey in Clane

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to enhance the open space at the Liffey in Clane with maintenance, planting or seating?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the Parks Section is proposing to install some seating along the walkway at Alexandra Manor during the year. Maintenance of the grass along the area will continue as will maintenance of the hedgerow. No other works are planned. Longer term the council would like to develop a masterplan for the open space at Alexandra Manor to improve its biodiversity and amenity value.

Councillor McEvoy noted that it was good to see that Kildare County Council were taking the lead.

The report was noted.



CM40/0223

Communication Boards

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

Can the council provide an update on the progress for the installation of Communication Boards and other accessibility equipment in playgrounds in the municipal district?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the council are currently waiting for a final draft of the template for Communications Boards. It is hoped to have this in the next fortnight and then to order the communications boards for a pilot playground in each Municipal District. Depending on the cost of each board we plan to roll these out to other playgrounds over the next year. There are currently 5 playgrounds in the Municipal District in Timahoe, Bawnogues, Harbour Field Maynooth, Prosperous and Clane. All of these playgrounds have accessible equipment. We are waiting on delivery of a wheelchair swing for Prosperous. The design for the new playground in Allenwood will also include accessible equipment. There are no plans beyond these to provide any more accessible equipment.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.