



**Minutes of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Meeting
held on Friday, 05 January 2024 at 10.00 a.m.
in the Council Chamber**

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

Remote Attendance: Councillor P Ward

Officials Present: Ms. M Higgins (District Manager), Mr. C Buggie (Municipal District Engineer), Mr. A Hickey (Assistant Engineer), Mr. J McGowan (Senior Engineer), Mr. D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Mr. J. Hennessy (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms. L Kennedy (Administrative Officer), Ms. E McGrath (A/Administrative Officer), Mr. S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscape Officer), Mr. K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Mr. D Wyrer (Environmental Awareness Officer), Mr. J Hannigan (A/Administrative Officer), Ms. S Martin (Meetings Administrator), Ms. D Egan (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

Councillor Durkan welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2024 and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

CM01/0124

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.



CM02/0124

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting held on 01 December 2023 together with the progress report.

Councillor Durkan asked if the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland Report (NIFTI) relating to the Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme had been issued to the National Transport Authority (NTA).

Mr. D Hodgins informed the members that it was expected to issue to the NTA for comment by the end of January 2024.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Hamilton and agreed by the members that the minutes of the monthly Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting held on 01 December 2023 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CM03/0124

To receive an update on the municipal district road works programme.

LPT Funding

The Municipal District Office is progressing the agreed LPT programme for 2022 and 2023. Funding for 2024 to be agreed by the members. Once agreed it can be scheduled into the works programme.

General Works

General maintenance has been continuing since the last meeting. Gully cleaning and drainage maintenance is currently being carried out with the crews. Funding from the Department of Transport for 2024 has not yet been announced. It is hoped to have the schedule of road works for RI and RM available for the next meeting.

Restoration Improvement Schemes 2023				
Road Class	Road No.	Road Name and Townland Name	Length Road (m)	Status
R	403	Brockagh	1,000	Completed
R	403	Prosperous Road Clane	750	Completed



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R	415	Kilmeague	900	Completed
R	407	Sallins Road Clane	530	Completed
R	415	Allen	500	Completed
L	7081	Healys Bridge	900	Completed
L	70733	Bluetown	800	Completed
L	70761	Green Lane	800	Completed
R	402	Johnstownbridge	1,000	Completed
R	401	Ballygibbon	500	Completed
L	5012	Kilmurray, Kilshanroe	1,000	Completed
L	1003	Martinstown	1,000	Completed
L	1002	Tandargee	750	Completed
L	1002	Broadford	600	Completed
L	1013	Old Dunboyne Road	500	Completed
L	5039	Laragh Courtown (changed to Kilcock)	700	Completed
L:	1017	Derryvarroge	1,500	Complete

Restoration Maintenance Schemes 2023 Surface Dressing

Road Class	Road No.	Road Name and Townland Name	Length Road (m)	Status
R	R414	Barnaran	1,250	Completed
L	L41400	Drumsru	960	Completed
L	L1005	Knoccurr	1,800	Completed
L	L5015	Kinnafad	1,800	Completed
L	L5021	Island Road	2,000	Completed
L	L5008	Derryart	1,000	Completed
L	L5025	Drehid	1,000	Completed
R	R405	Celbridge Road	1,000	Deferred
L	L5035	Painstown	850	Completed
L	L5039	Clonfert	1,000	Completed
L	L5041	Ballycurraghan	1,250	Deferred
L	L5054	Ballygoran	2,000	Completed
L	L5053	Railpark	1,200	Completed
L	L5074	Ballynafagh	2,000	Completed
L	L1019	Corduff	1,320	Completed
L	L50131	Killyon	700	Completed
L	L5013	Dunfieth	1,100	Completed
L	L89994	Clonagh	1,180	Completed
L	L5028	Ballycaghan	1,550	Completed
L	L5031	Ballycannon	1,150	Deferred
L	L1019	Blackwood	1,000	Completed



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L	L1007	Ballyvoneen	1,050	Completed
L	L1010	Loughtown	1,250	Completed
L	L5070	Hodgestown	1,200	Completed

Climate Action Schemes 2023

Road Class	Road No.	Road Name and Townland Name	Length Road (m)	Status
L	1017	Derryvarouge	3,500	Completed
L	5025	Timahoe West	1,000	Completed
L	5051	Rahan to Edenderry	1,000	Completed

Former National Road Schemes 2023

Road Class	Road No.	Road Name and Townland Name	Length Road (m)	Status
R	148	Killeighter	1,500	Completed

Safety Improvement Schemes 2023

Road Class	Road No.	Road Name and Townland Name	Length Road (m)	Status
R	148	Killeighter Cross	NA	Completed
R	407	Baltreacy Cross	NA	Completed
L	5025	Drehid Cross	NA	Completed

Footpath Works Completed in 2023

- R157 Dunboyne Road Maynooth
- Bridge Street Kilcock
- Abbeyfields Estate Kilcock
- Highfield Estate Kilcock
- Cluain Aoibhinn/College Green Maynooth
- R148 Church Street Kilcock
- Footpath Repairs Coill Dubh

Contract 1

- Central Park Avenue, Clane
- Central Park Way, Clane
- Churchfield, Clane
- Ardnagappagh, Clane



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- Hillview, Clane
- College Grove, Clane
- Collegewood Park, Clane

Contract 2

- Lios An Rí, Clogherinka
- Ashgrove, Derrinturn
- Ashmount, Derrinturn
- Graces Pk, Derrinturn

Contract 3

- An Crochan, Clane - Footpaths
- Clonwood Heights, Clane - Footpaths
- Meadow Court Estate, Clane - Footpaths
- The Cloisters, Clane - Footpaths
- Collegewood Manor, Clane – Footpaths

Contract 4 2023

- Oatfield Park, Clane - Footpaths
- Otommy, Clane – Footpaths
- Oak lawns, Kilmeague - Footpaths
- Butterstream, Clane - Footpaths
- Killybegs Manor, Prosperous - Footpaths
- Maple Toft Close, Prosperous– Footpaths

Footpath works completed in September/October

- R403, Clane - Footpath
- Clonwood Heights - Footpath
- Painstown cross - Footpath
- R148, Carton Maynooth – Footpath
- R407, Baltreacy Cross - Improvement to sight lines

Road works completed in November

- Aughamore entrance on R407
- R403 at Tesco
- Junction of the L5040 with R407
- Entrance to Fr Murphy Park, Robertstown

The District Engineer wished everyone a Happy New Year. He informed the members that work was continuing on LPT Projects. The Road Works Programme for 2024 would be available in mid-January and would be reported to the members at the next monthly meeting on Friday 02 February 2024.

The report was noted.



CM04/0223

LPT Schedule of Works 2024

To agree and approve the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2024.

It was agreed by all the members that the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Local Property Tax (LPT) allocation for 2024 be adjourned until the February meeting.

Councillor McEvoy requested the members support on a time-sensitive issue, to allocate €5,000 from LPT to the Community Department, Kildare County Council to take in charge/ownership of a community building in Clane.

It was agreed by the members that €5,000 LPT be allocated to the Community Department, Kildare County Council to take in charge/ownership of a community building in Clane.

CM05/0124

Faded road markings in Straffan

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

That the council update the faded road markings at the main junctions and side roads in Straffan.

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

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer will arrange for the road marking contractor to renew these lines over the coming months once weather conditions are favourable.

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



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It was agreed by the member that Item 6 and Item 7 be taken together.

CM06/0124

Road name signs and street lighting in Beaufield Estate, Maynooth

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

That the council repair the damaged road name signs in Beaufield Estate, Maynooth.

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

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

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

That the council repair the cul-de-sac signs and street lighting in Beaufield Estate, Maynooth.

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

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing the members that the Transport Mobility and Open Spaces Department will identify the specific location of the street lighting from Councillor Durkan and will schedule for repair.

The members raised the following:

- 8 cul-de-sacs.
- 5 signs missing.
- 3 signs in a bad state of repair.
- An old estate and visitors to the estate have had to knock on doors to find their destination.
- Signs to be brought up to date for the benefit of the residents of the estate.



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- Position of trees and trees which have grown substantially, blocking street lighting, if these could be trimmed back or removed, in particular at the Zebra Crossing at the shops.

The District Engineer informed the members that he would discuss this matter with Mr. S Wallace. In relation to Place Name Signs he advised the members that this would be a matter for the Residents Associations and that there were Grants that could be applied for and also LPT Funding could be utilised. He also advised he could help if any assistance was needed.

Mr. S Wallace informed the members that it was not possible to trim all trees. If a tree was too close to a light it could be removed, but it was not like years ago where trees were just removed.

Councillor Durkan advised that the important location for attention was at the Zebra Crossing and if the tree could be pruned there and see what was the effect after that and what the residents report.

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

CM07/0124

Remove parking spaces at O'Brien's coffee shop, Prosperous Road, Clane

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

That the council remove the parking spaces outside O'Brien's coffee shop on the Prosperous Road, Clane to reduce the build-up of traffic turning left onto Main Street.

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

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Team informing the members that in built up areas, National and Regional Policy seeks not to



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increase traffic capacity at signalised junctions which will increase the risk to vulnerable road users. There are plans to upgrade the junction by rationalising the approach from the Prosperous Road and reduce the crossing width for pedestrians at the junction, however, funding for this improvement has not been secured to date.

Councillor Fitzpatrick advised of the congestion at this junction in Clane and particularly at school times. Vehicles came out on the left then block vehicles turning right. There were two parking spaces at the old hairdressers and the dog groomers and if removed, these could be a feeder lane onto the main street. He also acknowledged the points of view of cyclists in the area. He noted that the report had outlined there was no funding, and that this could be an alternative solution.

Councillor McEvoy informed the members that vehicles turning left, including large buses and lorries, were over riding the footpath at O'Brien's and that he would appreciate a solution to increase the flow at this location. He also added that the flow of vehicles on the main street was over saturated and that vehicles needed to be facilitated so as not to have to go through the town of Clane.

Mr. D Hodgins advised that there was a balance to be struck here between traffic management and sustainable transport, on the one hand increasing vehicle capacity at this junction while also reducing emissions. He advised that it was Government Policy to re-allocate road space based on the hierarchy of users. If it was a situation involving the re-allocation of road space in favour of vulnerable road users, then there was an obligation to do this. A holistic view on how to improve mobility movements at this location could be examined.

Councillor Fitzpatrick advised that when traffic was at peak levels that it was a village to avoid and this had been flagged for a long time. This issue is causing driver anxiety and this was the time when accidents happen. That in the short term lines needed to be defined.

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



CM08/0124

Safety/sight line issues at junction at Brockagh Cross, Robertstown

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

That the council investigate the junction at Brockagh Cross, Robertstown and deliver an assessment of any safety/sight line issues at same.

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

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer will carry out an assessment of this junction.

Councillor Farrelly thanked the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces for the report and enquired if an engineering solution could first be identified in relation to speed and other issues at that junction.

Councillor Wyse informed the members that he supported the motion and added issues with the locations of Firmount, Drehid and Windmill Cross. He advised that people are playing on their phones, driving through junctions and that also line of sight may be an issue.

The District Engineer informed the members that there were good sightlines at the location and approach and advised that he would see what could be done.

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



CM09/0124

Pedestrian and cycling permeability of 'The Block' in Prosperous

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

That the council provide an assessment of 'The Block' in Prosperous with regard to pedestrian and cycling permeability.

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

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer will meet with Councillor Farrelly at this location to discuss the matter.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly, seconded by Councillor Wyse and agreed by the members that the report be noted and that the District Engineer would meet Councillor Farrelly at the location.

CM10/0124

Improvement to barriers on Newtown Road Maynooth

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

Can the council suggest options and approximate costs for an improvement to the barriers in place at the desire line adjacent to the pedestrian crossing on Newtown Road at the Castle Dawson Estate, Maynooth to improve road safety?

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer will meet with Councillor Hamilton at this location to discuss options.

The report was noted.



CM11/0124

EV charging points in council car park, Maynooth

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

Can the council inform members when the new EV charging points in the council car park in Maynooth will be activated?

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing the members that the EV chargers are installed, and all paperwork has been submitted to ESB Networks for the connection to be made live. Once ESB Networks energise this location the EV chargers will be activated immediately.

Councillor Feeney thanked the Transport Department for the report saying it was great news and that this infrastructure was needed. She enquired if there was any timeline on connection.

The District Engineer advised that hopefully the EV Charging point would be activated soon and it lay now with ESB Networks. He also added that when operational that these would be 2 x 75kw chargers.

The report was noted.

CM12/0124

Zebra crossing adjacent to Girls National School, Maynooth

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

Can the council outline what measures can be implemented to reduce the number of drivers breaking the lights at the zebra crossing adjacent to Presentation Girls National School, Maynooth?

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer will assess this zebra crossing and if any additional warning can be given to drivers. The Municipal District Engineer will also engage with An Garda Síochána Community Garda and see if they are aware of this issue and if they can



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be of any assistance. This zebra crossing has the required road markings, and it also has black and white poles with flashing orange lights. This crossing is also located on a ramp.

The District Engineer informed the members that resurfacing had taken place in August and marking carried out 4/5 months ago. He advised that he was aware of the difficulties and that he found it strange that in addition to other measures that there was a raised ramp and questioned how could this be missed.

The report was noted.

CM13/0124

Resurface the Straffan Road, Maynooth

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

Can the council confirm what plans are in place to resurface the Straffan Road, Maynooth from Maxol to the M4 Motorway?

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing the members that there are currently no plans to resurface the Straffan Road in Maynooth from Maxol to M4 motorway.

The District Engineer informed the members that this was a Hot Rolled Asphalt (HRA) surface installed 25/30 years ago and would not have included a reduction in noise factor. He would like to be able to carry out the works requested but that he had a large district and unfortunately there were more pressing issues requiring funding.

The report was noted.

CM14/0124

Sightlines at Kilkeaskin Junction, Carbury

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to improve the sightlines at Kilkeaskin Junction, Carbury?



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A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing the members that there are no current plans to carry out works at Kilkeaskin Junction.

The report was noted.

CM15/0124

Trees on Carton Avenue

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

Can the council provide an update on the tree maintenance and replacement strategy for the trees on Carton Avenue?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the removal of suckers from the base of the trees on the Avenue is included in the tree works programme which is planned to be completed Q1. Replacements will only be planted where a tree has died. There are two locations which require replanting and these will be replanted Q1.

Councillor Feeney advised that she had received a number of queries in relation to trees not being maintained. In Maynooth College trees were labelled. In some cases she appreciated that there may be a preservation order which restricted works. There was also overgrowth and briars and trees on the avenue needed to be properly maintained. Her information was that trees were taken down to facilitate a developer gaining access. Maintenance on these trees needed to be commenced as soon as possible.

Mr. S Wallace informed the members that the trees had been maintained and that where trees had died that it was due to decay and not lack of maintenance. He also advised briars and trees were cut back. It was not accurate to say that trees were removed to facilitate access for a developer. He also added that the trees were all the same species and therefore not as much information was needed as in Maynooth University. He advised that the briars would be cut back.

The report was noted.



CM16/0124

Communication Boards in Prosperous Town Park

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

Can the council provide an update on an expected installation date for Communication Boards in Prosperous Town Park?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the communications board has been installed in the playground at the park.

Councillor Farrelly thanked Mr. S Wallace and his team for all the work from design/concept stage and urged everyone to visit Prosperous to see this dynamic infrastructure. He also referred to the value of LPT and being able to push this forward.

The report was noted.

CM17/0124

Serviced sites in Clogherinkoe

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

Can the council confirm when the serviced sites in Clogherinkoe will be ready for sale?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that following site clearance works, it is anticipated that the serviced sites in Clogherinkoe will be advertised for sale in Q1, 2024. The members will be updated through the monthly Chief Executives Report.

Councillor Fitzpatrick said that as could be seen in the report, sites would be advertised in Q1, January/February/March 2024 and he enquired if these sites would be serviced at that time in particular roads and other service works.

Ms. E McGrath confirmed that yes, these services would be in place.

The report was noted.



CM18/0124

Delivery Social Housing Units in Municipal District 2024

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

Can the council provide an update on its expected delivery of social housing units (including number and location) in this municipal district in 2024?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing members of the following:

10 Kildare County Council built units in Coill Dubh will be delivered in Q1 2024.

28 units approved for delivery in 2024 by the AHB's.

8 Part V units to be delivered in 2024 (4 in Prosperous and 4 in Derrinturn).

4 Turnkey units will be delivered in Clane in 2024.

The Housing Acquisitions team will continue to source further Part V and Turnkey units and expect to acquire further units in 2024. The Tenant In Situ Scheme will continue in 2024.

The vacant homes team will continue to address Vacancy and Dereliction and will acquire properties through the Buy and Renew scheme and Compulsory Acquisition.

The report was noted.

CM19/0124

Friary Ruins, Clane

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

That the council summarise and shares the report detailing the completed conservation efforts on the Friary Ruins in Clane, partially funded by Local Property Tax allocations.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that Kildare County Council received funding from both the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Community Monuments Fund 2023 and Kildare



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County Council's 'Local Property Tax' fund to carry out conservation work to Clane Friary (CMF23-I-KD003). The project was overseen by David Kelly Partnership with Stonecraft Restoration Ltd. undertaking the onsite works.

The following works were carried out;

North Wall

Removed vegetation;

Repointed walls;

Packed open joints at rotated foundation stones;

Consolidated reveals of windows;

Rebuilt missing face work as core masonry;

Pinned unsupported masonry with stainless steel pins in epoxy resin;

Consolidated wall ends;

Lifted and reset wall tops with a rough raked finish;

Consolidated reinstated facework;

East Wall

Removed vegetation both faces;

Repointed walls;

Lifted and reset wall top to a rough rack finish.

During works further funding was secured from Kildare County Council and further works were then priced and undertaken. The following additional works were carried out:

South Wall, Eastern End

Removed vegetation both faces;

Repointed walls;

Lifted and reset wall top to a rough rack finish;

Stitch the broken headstone inside the eastern wall.



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To ensure the future of Clane Friary, the consultants also prepared a maintenance strategy for same which is set out below;

1. The wall should be inspected visually on a monthly basis, by a member of the local community group, to identify any sudden changes, vandalism, loss of masonry;
2. The wall should be weeded by hand annually to prevent ivy and vegetation re-establishing itself on the wall;
3. The condition of the wall should be reviewed prior to commencement of any further conservation works to the monument and at least every five years by a conservation professional experienced in the assessment of historic masonry walls.

Councillor McEvoy requested that the document from the Consultants be circulated to the members.

Ms. S Martin conveyed apologies from the Planning Department that due to illness it was not possible for staff to attend the meeting, but she would pass on the request to the Planning Department.

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

CM20/0124

Meadowbrook Estate, Maynooth upgrade and improvement works

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

Can the council provide an update on the next steps in the Meadowbrook Estate, Maynooth upgrade and improvement works?

A report was received from Building and Development Control informing the members that remedial works to the surface and foul water network were complete in July 2023. A public consultation process on tree removal and replanting was complete in Q3 2023. A tree removal and replanting schedule has been established and went to Tender in December 2023. Works are due to be complete by March 2024. A surface defect schedule has been



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established for each section of Meadowbrook. It is intended that this will go to Request For Quotation (RFQ) in Q1 2024. Subject to the quotations received a priority list for commissioning works will then be established.

Councillor McEvoy said this was a positive report, as this issue went back 30 years due to the position of the developer. He added that the proposed continued support through LPT this year would continue the positive work.

Councillor Durkan advised that as the meeting had run ahead of scheduled time that Mr. J Hennessy would link in with Councillor Hamilton after the meeting.

The report was noted.

CM21/0124

Deputation from Maynooth Community Council

The members considered the following joint motion in the names of Councillor Durkan and Councillor Hamilton.

That the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District agree to receive a deputation from Maynooth Community Council in relation to the provision of an amenity centre for Maynooth.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that if the members are in agreement an invitation will issue.

Councillor Hamilton and Councillor Durkan highlighted the following:

- Need to keep up the momentum in relation to the provision of an amenity centre for Maynooth as this is an important amenity for the community.
- Mixed use concept to include areas such as Health, Library and the Arts.
- Local Area Plan had defined a Sports/Social Facility in its plan.
- The Community Council had been working for over 20 years.



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- Population of over 17 thousand and destined to grow.
- Substantial landbank in excess of 30 acres.
- Could not be just housing, the infrastructure was also needed.

Councillor Ó Cearúil said that in his opinion the community council representation was not needed. Works were already underway by Kildare County Council and its Executive and he did not see any warrant for any invite. He referred to Councillor Hamilton's comments and enquired as to what expertise the Community Council would be bringing and what was the purpose of the deputation.

Councillor Durkan advised that the idea was that they be invited to put forward their ideas. It was incumbent on Councillors to listen to Community Groups in a democratic forum.

Councillor Feeney said that this was a positive move and made reference to the Celbridge Road and how engagement then was positive. Discussion and debate was needed before this information was put forward formally.

Councillor McEvoy said that should be building support and consensus and that it would be worth hearing from the Community Council in Maynooth.

The District Manager said that it was good to listen. She also referred to the relevance of the Local Area Plan and also the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP). She added that as Councillor Ó Cearúil had mentioned there had been substantial executive engagement with a number of projects in that area and Maynooth Community Council should engage with the Statutory Process also.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan and Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members that an invitation would issue to Maynooth Community Council.



CM22/0124

Preparatory works and achievements 2023 Work Programme

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

That the council prepare a presentation(s) highlighting the preparatory works and achievements of the 2023 work programme by the various departments serving the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Director of Services, Community, Climate, Environment and Water informing the members that she would undertake the co-ordination and presentations which would highlight the preparatory works and achievements of the 2023 Work Programme.

Councillor McEvoy said that he had referenced this back a few years ago, where if there were a reminder of items which may have faded from memory that these could then be reflected on in all departments across the municipal district and some problems could be solved. The Local Authority were key to organising solutions in disadvantaged areas and what the council did was not always headline news. He welcomed the District Managers commitment to facilitate this and suggested that a 10 or 15 minute meeting would be welcomed.

The District Manager informed the members that a meeting was held in December 2023, internally with all Departments which fed into the Municipal District. That it was important to know what was happening in relation to each Department such as Housing, Environment, Community and others and that it was very impressive. She added that there were many steps to get from A to B, that a lot had been delivered and a lot was in progress. She welcomed the opportunity to engage with the raft of services in the council that were delivering services across the Municipal District.



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Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Weld and agreed by the members that the report be noted. The District Manager would undertake the co-ordination of presentations which would highlight the preparatory works and achievements of the 2023 Work Programme.

CM23/0124

Footpaths and driveways in Broadford Cemetery

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

That the council upgrade the footpaths and driveways in Broadford Cemetery as a matter of urgency.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the council will organise an inspection of the paths in Broadford and get an approximate cost of works. Depending on availability of funding, we can initially look at works to the pathway inside the entrance. Priority works for cemeteries in the Clane Maynooth Municipal District for 2024 include major drainage and resurfacing works at Kilcock (Boycetown), and accessibility works at Clane (Mainham).

Councillor Fitzpatrick said that the footpaths needed upgrading and that initially he had thought only inside the graveyard but that also the driveway had fallen into disrepair.

Mr. K. Kavanagh advised Councillor Fitzpatrick that he would arrange to meet him at the site to discuss what works were required.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Wyse and agreed by the members that the report be noted and that Mr. K Kavanagh would meet Councillor Fitzpatrick onsite.



CM24/0124

Waste levels recovered in 2023

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

Can the council update the Municipal District Committee on waste levels recovered in 2023 from public areas, particularly in support of initiatives like the Green Mile and other community clean-ups?

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing the members that there a report will be given at the meeting by the Municipal District Engineer.

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that Kildare County Council's Environment Section collected 22.5 tonnes of waste from cleanups in 2023. These cleanups were undertaken by Green Kilometre participants as well as Tidy Towns groups and residents associations, so the collections covered towns, villages and rural areas. In order to improve the Green Kilometre Scheme, participants were surveyed in December to establish how many cleanups were conducted over the course of the year. While the figures are still being collated as participants respond, one clear trend emerging is that many participants engage in ongoing mini cleanups and use their own bins to dispose of the litter, so the above figure is less than the actual amount of litter being removed. It also points to the need to continue to support the individuals and groups engaged in cleanups.

Councillor McEvoy said people were now vigilant, thinking beyond their own area, looking outside their own environs and periphery and also contacting Kildare County Council pointing out that Mr. D Wyer had a good association with various groups. He advised that a certain amount of waste was public and not private and that 22.5 tonnes waste collected from clean-ups was substantial. He added that the River Liffey was no longer a place for fish and that fish being caught by anglers had reduced significantly. There was an important need now to call on people in the community to reach out to Mr. D Wyer the Environmental Awareness Officer.



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Mr. D Wyer said that he did not disagree with Councillor McEvoy's comments and informed the members that the Green Mile had held steady in relation to maintaining an informal network adding that Councillor McEvoy was a participant. He said he could not decide if 22.5 tonnes of waste collected from clean-ups was good news or depressing. He also outlined an initiative as part of the Green Mile whereby a native sapling was the reward for participation and this was an important bio-diversity aspect. He would like the advertising to be more proactive and to start mapping the areas as in Maynooth Streets and Roads, perhaps this could be looked into. Also, the addition of the deposit and return scheme for bottles and cans should show some visible results. Finally, he advised in relation to the potential monetary value associated with black bag dumping, and that it was not now just discarding black bags out of the windows of cars.

The report was noted.

CM25/0124

Election Posters

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

That the council prepare a central point for election posters and guidelines for election postering in our towns, villages and communities in this municipal district to support visual amenity and reduce littering associated with the election process, and candidates reach an agreement to adhere to guidelines and use nominated spaces exclusively for all town centre postering.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that the requirements for election posters are set out under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009. The Road Traffic Acts also contain requirements in relation to maintaining clear lines of sight for road users which may impact on where posters can be placed, e.g., not on road signs, at traffic junctions or on roundabouts where they may cause road safety risks.



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Election Posters may only be erected for a certain specified time period before an election. This time period is either (a) 30 days before the poll date or (b) from the date the polling day order for the election has been made, whichever provides the shorter period of time. Posters must be removed within 7 days of polling day.

While the idea of providing a central point for display of election posters has merits it can currently only happen on a voluntary basis unless there are legislative changes before the election. Things to be considered, if this could be implemented, are the locations of the central points and the position of each candidates poster on the central points. It should be noted that if a location could be found and agreed this would be an “informal” agreement among candidates, the council could not enforce this informal agreement. It should also be noted that there may be candidates who are not current councillors who may or may not comply with the suggested proposal. In addition the costs of providing such a display area will need to be considered and funding provided.

Councillor Hamilton thanked Corporate Services for the report. This was a timely reminder of the objective in relation to waste and the reputational damage for all. Legislation was progressing in relation to a central point, not for 2024 but maybe for 2025. That here was a good faith agreement across the county and he would like all to remember that and pay particular attention to it. The visible manifestation of posters could cause a dilemma and a lot of people could become involved. He then advised to two possible scenarios:

1. For the council to begin Central Points with the posters each member had as of the date of the meeting.
2. For all members to agree on areas of high amenity – then the council put forward to motion.

Councillor Ó Cearúil said that posters were part of the democratic process and were important for candidates to be seen. He did not support central location and advised that he would continue to fight the election as he had done on the past two occasions.

Councillor McEvoy said that posters were a contaminant, both new and existing, and not good for the environment. That there was a 45% to 46% engagement in local elections,



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resulting in under half the population of the county making the decision on behalf of the whole county. Tidy Towns had come forward and aspects from that discussion were now with the Protocol Committee. That Municipal Districts should discuss with towns to identify a limit for poster production so as to have a fair playing field.

Councillor Weld said that he understood what Councillor McEvoy was saying and that the voter turnout can sometimes be 50% to 52% but seldom 60%. He said that posters generated interest, particularly in rural areas. It may not affect.

established Councillors but that the central point would really affect new candidates in trying to get their name and their face out there. He added that democracy was very important particularly in the world we live in today. He did not agree with involving the Area Engineer or officials in this matter as this would compromise staff in the council and would not be fair, that officials needed to be kept out of this. He said he would encourage group elected members to get people to engage more. He added that he agreed with Councillor Ó Cearúil regarding the need to be careful about what was being proposed here.

Councillor Feeney said that in 2019 posters helped her campaign, adding that people would even enquire as to why was there no poster on their road. She would prefer though if posters were kept outside towns, at the speed limit and agreed with the recycling and reusing of posters. A discussion should take place and there was an onus to move with the times.

Councillor Wyse advised caution as posters were part of the democratic process. If there were to be a total ban then that would be no problem. He did not agree with the motion or that officials be involved.

Councillor Fitzpatrick said that he concurred with Councillor Wyse, Councillor Weld and Councillor Ó Cearúil. He informed the members that he recently had a flyer delivered through his door by An Post, from Senator Vincent P. Martin. He requested that the process be left as is and for the people to decide.



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Councillor Durkan said that he recycled all his posters from the first election to the second and then the third along with removing all cable ties. He said it was important to respect the opinion of the Tidy Towns Groups and for all in the chamber to abide by any requests they had.

Mr. J Hannigan informed the members of the need to comply with current legislation. If there were a Central Point there could be 9 Candidate posters on one board and this in itself would create challenges. This board may need to be digital, which could change each day. He also added that along with the Tidy Towns requests, this had been discussed by the Protocol Committee and at Corporate Policy Group (CPG). He advised if a member were to come up with an alternative plan for posters that the council would have no means to enforce the alternative plan. If the central location were to be implemented there would also be infrastructure matters to be considered.

Councillor Hamilton concluded that he had deliberately brought this motion to raise awareness and spark a debate. That there were effective ways of getting a message out in the campaign, adding that some candidates would have advantages. That this was now a digital world and candidates could not keep campaigning in this way. Plastic posters were subject to the elements and could leech micro plastics into the environment.

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

The meeting concluded.