



**Minutes of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Meeting  
held on Friday 07 February 2025 at 10.00 a.m.  
in the Council Chamber**

**Members Present:** Councillors D Fitzpatrick (Cathaoirleach), T Durkan, W Durkan, P Melrose, P McEvoy, P Mulroe, D Phelan, P Ward, B Wyse. and Councillor A Feeney.

**Officials Present:** Ms. M Higgins (District Manager), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer) Mr C Buggie (Municipal District Engineer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Mr L McNeela (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms A Burke (Executive Engineer), Ms S Walsh (Executive Engineer), Mr J Healy (Strategic Projects and Public Realm), Ms G Allen (County Librarian), Ms E McGrath (Administrative Officer) Ms S Martin (Meetings Administrator), Mr A Foran (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

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**CM01/0225**

**Declaration of Pecuniary or Beneficial Interests**

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

**CM02/0225**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of monthly Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting held on 10 January 2025, the special planning meeting held on 21 October 2024 and to note the progress report.



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**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy and seconded by Councillor W Durkan and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the monthly Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting held on 10 January 2024 and the minutes of the special planning meeting held on 21 October 2024 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

### CM03/0225

### Municipal District Road Works Programme

#### General Works

The crews have been extremely busy clearing up after storm Eowyn. Although County Kildare was not hit as badly as some other counties, there were still a number of trees down which took time to clear. The crews are also carrying out patch repairs on the roads in the district. New speed limit poles have been installed across the district ahead of the introduction of the 60km/h speed limit on local roads today.

#### LPT Funding

The Municipal District Office is progressing the agreed LPT programme for 2023 and 2024.

#### Roads Programme 2025

The announcement of funding from the Department of Transport for 2025 is expected in late January or early February 2025.

Members noted the following:

- A lot of work done by Kildare County Council in clearing up after the storm
- Thank you to Clocha Rince GAA, who had opened the club to those affected by the storm.
- Some parts of the Northwest of the county were still without electricity

The report was noted.



**CM04/0225**

To agree and approve the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2025. The members agreed to defer the approval of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2025 until the March meeting.

**CM05/0225**

**Election of the Leas Cathaoirleach**

The Cathaoirleach proposed Councillor Donna Phelan as Leas Cathaoirleach. This was seconded by Councillor McEvoy. As there were no further nominations Councillor Phelan was deemed elected.

**CM06/0225**

**To receive an update from Coillte on Donadea Forest Park and ongoing works.**

Members received a PowerPoint presentation from Coillte on Donadea Forest Park and ongoing works. Attendees on behalf of Coillte were Daithí De Forge - Head of Coillte Recreation, Ken Sweeney – Forest Operations Lead for the Southeast and Mary Clifford-Estate Manager Southeast and Project Manager for Donadea.

Members submitted the following questions:

1. Were there any plans to examine the condition of the boundary wall in Donadea Forest park, with a view to making significant repairs.
2. With regards to Donadea Forest Park, could Coillte outline its plan to maintain and preserve the aesthetic, character, and heritage of the natural attraction?
3. Could Coillte make comment on initiatives such as The Giant's Garden in Merrion Square Park and its suitability for Donadea Forest Park?



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Members noted the following:

- Impressive presentation
- Useful to understand works that were planned and ongoing in the park
- Good to see perimeter walls being fixed and appreciated wall update
- Great to see Zipit in Donadea
- Great Resource for the community
- Consultation in relation to accessibility should be explored more
- Good to see the Just Transition Scheme working here
- Would a press release with information about the park be helpful
- Biodiversity and Natural Play good for the area

Coillte answered members questions and informed that in relation to Zipit, an Bord Pleanála granted permission 17 January. Zipit adventure parks offer a mix of challenging obstacles, from hanging ropes and climbing walls to zip lines and balancing beams. It will be a 4ha site, Donadea is 242ha property and will include a 40 sq/m Hut, reception and storage area. Access to the park will not be limited to Zipit customers.

Storm Darragh & Eowyn caused significant damage and the Park closed for a week after both storms. Cleanup is slow due to extent of damage, trails and access clean up prioritized and wider clearing will run into the summer. €15k euro spent in Storm cleanup in the property to date with Health and Safety prioritised.

In relation to the Demesne Walls Preventative works started in 2024 -1km of Trail at wall, cut back vegetation and overhanging branches enabled access to wall for repair works and also limited further degradation. Going forward the aim was that the Demesne Walls and their restoration would form part of the larger Master Forest Park Plan. Conservation/ Restoration of built heritage was flagged as high priority on Coillte when drawing up the service delivery plan.

Just Transition Fund scheme offers grant-aid to relevant State Agencies within the EU Just Transition Territory to deliver improved tourism infrastructure, facilities and visitor experiences, including those that could be leveraged by the private and community sectors. The projects within this scheme will focus on the areas of Visitor Experience Improvement, Digital Transformation, Digital User Experience, Accessibility and Sustainability and



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Regenerative Tourism. Coillte noted that in considering initiatives such as The Giant's Garden in Merrion Square was a long way off but would make a note of discussions and suggestions at today's meeting. Coillte informed that the aim of the Strategic Design Plan was to develop and enhance this Forest Park as a high-quality, sustainable amenity for the benefit of the local community and visitors alike. A key aspect of this Strategic Design Plan would be identifying an appropriate vision for Donadea Forest Park that appropriately respected and showcased the park's features, history and users both visitors and natural flora and fauna.

Ms Marian Higgins, District Manager thanked Coillte for their presentation and for updating members and Kildare County Council on ongoing works in Donadea and noted that this was a great resource for both the local community and the county and looked forward to working with Coillte in the future.

### **CM07/0225**

To receive an update from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Directorate on Roads Capital Projects.

Members agreed that the update be deferred until the next meeting.

Members Agreed to take Motion(s) 8 and 9 together.

### **CM08/0225**

#### **Taghadoe Cross Junction**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Phelan. That the council considers including Taghadoe Cross Junction on the Staffan Road in the low cost safety improvement scheme as the volume and speed of traffic makes it impossible for residents, business owners and other users of the L5037 to exit onto the R406 travelling in either direction to Maynooth / Clane and Straffan or if this is not an option can the council advise on what improvement works can be done.



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

That the council installs traffic calming measures at Taghadoo Cross, Maynooth

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Taghadoo cross-roads were upgraded as part of the Barberstown to Windgates scheme ahead of the Ryder Cup in 2006. This included the installation of right turning lanes and improved signage. Low-cost safety improvement funding is for signage and road markings. The existing road markings and signage do not require upgrading. The main issue observed at the junction is the volume of traffic passing on the main regional road means there are very few breaks in traffic to allow traffic exiting the L5037 to turn right towards Straffan.

Members noted the following:

- There was a serious concern with the volume of traffic here
- Near misses were common and was taking a long time for people to exit
- Regular contact from people on this issue
- Speed camera or speed bumps may help
- Traffic volume was rising generally, gaps between cars therefore were shortening
- Renewal or addition of road markings and signage may help

Mr C Buggie (Municipal District Engineer) noted that this issue had arisen frequently, the R406 right turn had to cross three lanes of traffic and was a busy local road. Lines and signage already in place and additional would have minimal affect. Capital team would investigate this cross.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Phelan, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick and agreed by all members that the report be noted



**CM09/0225**

**Footpath Works Maynooth**

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

That the council reviews footpaths in older estates in Maynooth with a view to inclusion in planned works for the year ahead.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing members that the Municipal District office will carry out a review of footpaths once funding has been allocated. Due to the demands on the existing resources in the Municipal District, only funded works can be considered in 2025.

Members noted the following:

- Footpaths in older estates were in bad condition
- Trees had been planted in close proximity to footpaths, with roots causing damaging.
- Older demographics with reduced mobility need to be safe when travelling around estates
- Trips and falls were more dangerous for older people
- Priority needed to be given to these footpaths

Mr C Buggie, Municipal District Engineer that funding would be required before footpaths could be reviewed.

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



**CM10/0225**

**Signage/Road marking Straffan**

That the council considers warning signage and/or road markings in respect of pedestrians and bus stops along the R403 at Baybush, Straffan (between Friel's Pub and New Road Junction).

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

A report was received the Transport Department informing the members that the R403 is a main regional road linking Clane with Celbridge and Maynooth. The existing signage is in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual.

Members noted the following:

- Concerns as people were walking to the bus stops between Friel's Pub and New Road Junction
- Increasing traffic and populations in rural areas was leading to extra bus pedestrians
- Use of public transport must be encouraged
- Bus users and pedestrians must feel safe when using this section of road
- People were alighting and boarding the bus on a road with increasing traffic

Mr C Buggie Municipal District Engineer informed Councillors that this was a busy regional road and that the Traffic Signs Manual must be complied with.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Melrose, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by all members that the report be noted





**CM11/0225**

**Cross County Working Group**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Melrose that this council considers the creation of a cross-county working group between the Maynooth LEA and the Ratoath LEA for the purposes of collaborating on issues that affect both sides of the county borders.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer currently liaises with their counterpart in Meath in relation to roads operational issues.

Members noted the following:

- Maynooth LEA and Ratoath LEA could do with increased connectivity and interaction in areas of planning, roads and other.
- Increased input from Councillors on issues in both these areas would be a benefit
- Was there scope for a committee to be formed

Ms M Higgins, District Manager noted that there were a number of structures in place for consultation with Ratoath LEA and would advocate that these structures be used to talk to Councillors in Ratoath. Existing structures should be used. Regarding the criteria needed for the formation of a committee Councillors should contact corporate section for guidance if they wish.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Melrose, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by all members that the report be noted



**CM12/0225**

**Pedestrian crossing in Broadford Village**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor W. Durkan  
That the council identifies the most suitable design/location for a pedestrian crossing in Broadford Village to connect the car park with the school and church and provides a costing estimate for same.

The motion was proposed by Councillor W. Durkan and seconded by Councillor Wyse.

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the request has been added to a list of similar requests in the County and shall be examined when staff resources are available.

Members noted the following:

- Detailed costing would be needed
- Currently no crossing here and issues arise frequently
- Works would not be extensive as good traffic measures in place already

Mr D Hodgins, Senior Engineer, Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management noted that Kildare County Council support increases in facilities for vulnerable road users. Currently one member of staff looks after designs for all of Kildare. The estimated cost would be €50,000.

Councillor W Durkan thanked Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management for the report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Durkan, seconded by Councillor Wyse and agreed by all members that the report be noted



**CM13/0225**

**Road safety R409-R403 junction**

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

That the council conducts a review of 'Nan Brennan's' Junction on the L1002 near Calfstown in order to improve road safety in the area.

The motion was proposed by Councillor W. Durkan and seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick.

A report was received from the Transport Department informing members that Kildare County Council is currently progressing a junction improvement project that is looking at ten junctions across the county. This project focuses on locations of interest identified in the Collision Analysis for Regional Road Network work completed by the Department of Transport Support Office.

This location is not identified in this collision analysis, nor has it been included in the low-cost safety improvement schemes that are to be delivered in 2025. Kildare County Council does not have the funding or resources to review junctions that fall outside of these criteria.

Members noted the following:

- This junction needed investigation
- This junction should be a priority
- Motorists encountering this bend for the first time may have issues
- Minor road markings at this junction could have a big impact on drivers

Mr C Buggie Municipal District Engineer informed members that this junction could be looked at to see if signs and lines could be of help here.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor W.Durkan, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick and agreed by all members that the report be noted



**CM14/0225**

**Parking Chorra Choill Estate, Prosperous**

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

That the council approves the designation of ten parking spaces this year at Chorra Choill Estate in Prosperous subject to funding.

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

A report was received from Transport Department informing members that there currently is no funding allocated to this proposal. Due to the demands on the existing resources in the Municipal District, only funded works can be considered in 2025.

Members noted the following:

- This was an ongoing issue in this estate with no parking for residents.
- Difficult to navigate the estate with parked cars and would be difficult for emergency vehicles to gain access.
- Could a costing be provided for LPT
- Older estates should be supported
- Space was available on a green space within the estate for parking spaces

Mr C Buggie Municipal District Engineer informed members that there were lots of demands and if funding was available this could be looked at. Costings for this could be looked at.

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



**CM15/0225**

**Speed Survey The Downings in Prosperous**

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

That the council carries out a speed survey this year at The Downings in Prosperous and confirms if digital speed signs can offer the dual function of providing speed survey results and act as a deterrent to speeding.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Mulroe and seconded by Councillor T Durkan.

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office will arrange for a speed survey to be carried out. The current driver feedback signs installed in the Municipal District have the facility to record traffic data.

Councillor Mulroe thanked the Transport Department for the report noting that cars were speeding in this area, there was lots of congestion and a date for the speed survey would be appreciated.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Mulroe, seconded by Councillor T. Durkan and agreed by all members that the report be noted.

**CM16/0225**

**Improvement works between St Bridget's Terrace and Oatfield Park, Clane**

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

That the council investigates the pedestrian and cyclist connection between St Bridget's Terrace and Oatfield Park, Clane for opportunities to improve the sightlines, street lighting and the tarmac surface.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer will carry out an assessment of this area.



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

### **CM17/0225**

#### **Additional Road markings and Signage L-5023 Carbury**

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

That the council places appropriate road markings and additional signage in the vicinity of the narrow bridge at the bend on the L-5023 between Derrinturn and Carbury GFC to warn traffic of the reduction in road width and the necessity to slow down, particularly on the approach from the east.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing members that the Municipal District Engineer will assess this location and arrange for additional road markings and warning signs to be installed once the weather is appropriate for road markings.

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

### **CM18/0225**

#### **Ladenstown Works**

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

That the council engages with residents on a Cul De Sac in Landenstown with a view to resurfacing, cutting hedges and addressing the visibility at the entrance to the lane.

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

A report was received from Transport, Department informing the members that this lane will be considered for inclusion in the roadworks programme subject to assessment. Boundary hedges are the responsibility of the landowner to maintain. Visibility at the junction of the cul de sac is monitored during the year and the vegetation is cut back as required for safety reasons.



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

### CM19/0225

#### Bus Shelter Ticknevin

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Fitzpatrick.  
That the council installs a bus shelter at Ticknevin Bridge to facilitate students who are collected at the bridge every morning.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing members that there are over 500 existing bus stop locations in County Kildare and Kildare County Council is working with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to review and prioritise improvements to bus stop infrastructure. When this review is complete a list of potential bus shelter locations will be circulated to elected members.

Councillor Wyse enquired if the new person in place who oversees this area.

Mr D Hodgins, Senior Engineer, Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management informed members that there was a €500,000 allocation from the NTA in relation to bus shelters and a list of potential bus shelter locations would be circulated to elected members when review is complete.

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

### CM20/0225

#### Traffic Light Sequencing, Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T. Durkan  
That the council looks at revising the traffic light sequencing at the Meadowbrook Link Road, Maynooth.



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The motion was proposed by Councillor T. Durkan and seconded by Councillor W Durkan.

A report was received from the Transport Department informing members that Kildare County Council traffic management section staff shall contact Councillor Durkan directly to ascertain what issues are being experienced at the junction to warrant a revision of the signal sequencing.

Members noted the following:

- Filter light was taking a long time to turn green
- Cars were using the other lane to avoid filter light and drive to the petrol station
- The petrol station was not a roundabout

Mr D Hodgins, Senior Engineer, Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management informed Councillor T Durkan that they will investigate the issue.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor T. Durkan, seconded by Councillor W Durkan and agreed by all members that the report be noted.

### **CM21/0225**

#### **Bicycle Repair Stations, Kilcock and Maynooth**

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

That council gives an update on the provision of bicycle repair stations on the Royal Canal Greenway between Maynooth and Kilcock.

The motion was proposed by Councillor T. Durkan and seconded by Councillor W Durkan.

A report was received from the Transport Department informing members that this issue was referred to the Transport SPC for consideration. It falls under the provision of ancillary infrastructure relating to Active Travel modes. Whilst a formal policy has not been drafted,





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the provision of bicycle repair stations across County Kildare would be impractical and expensive and would not be a service area that should fall under the local authority remit.

Members noted the following:

- Greenways encourage walking and cycling and investment in rural areas
- Repair stations would ensure that cyclists had a way to repair their bikes if needed
- Other areas were serviced better
- Cycling helps Active Travel

Mr D Hodgins, Senior Engineer, Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management informed members that the difficulty with a repair station was ongoing maintenance and vandalism and it was an ongoing cost, not a fixed cost.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor T. Durkan, seconded by Councillor W Durkan and agreed by all members that the report be noted.

Members Agreed to take Motion(s) 23 and 24 together.

### **CM22/0225**

#### **Remedial Works Cadamstown and Cappagh**

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

That the council undertakes remedial works at Cadamstown Nation School to improve the car parking facilities at the school.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing members that the Municipal District Engineer will meet with Councillor Ward on site to discuss the issues and see if any assistance can be given.



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

That the council undertakes road /pothole repairs at Elizabeth's Way, Cappagh.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing members that this request has been passed to the road maintenance crew to carry out repairs along this road.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by all members that the report(s) be noted.

### CM230225

#### Leixlip/Maynooth Greenway

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

Can the council confirm when the greenway between Leixlip and Maynooth will be completed?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing members that Glas Civil Engineering Ltd are continuing works on the Royal Canal Greenway scheme from Louisa Bridge, Leixlip to Maynooth Harbour.

As part of this scheme, the following works are ongoing:

- Section of the towpath/greenway from Maynooth Harbour to the R406 Straffan Road, Maynooth has reopened to the public. A number of minor snag items remain outstanding.
- Section of the towpath/greenway from R406 Straffan Road, Maynooth to Pike Bridge remains closed for upgrade works. This section of greenway is now due to reopen in April 2025.
- The completion and reopening of this section of the greenway has been delayed because of outstanding ESB works that needs to be completed prior to completion of all civil works associated with the greenway.



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- Upgrade works are continuing along the R148 Road between Pike Bridge and Deey Bridge. Various traffic management layouts and a road works speed limit reduction (from 80km/hr to 50km/hr) are in place for these works. Works along the R148 are due to be completed in March/April 2025.
- Section of the towpath/greenway between Pike Bridge and Deey Bridge remains closed for upgrade works. This section of the greenway is due to be reopened in April/May 2025.
- Section of the towpath/greenway from Deey Bridge to Louisa Bridge, Leixlip has reopened to the public. A number of minor snag items remain outstanding.

Construction works on the full extent of the project including snag items are due to be completed by June 2025.

The report was noted.

### **CM24/0225**

#### **LED roll-out**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Feeney.  
Can the council confirm if public lighting in older estates and on approach roads in the municipal district will be included in the council's LED roll-out?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing members that Kildare County Council are currently undertaking a Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP), which involves the survey, design and retrofitting all old high energy lanterns with energy efficient LED lights, under the control of Kildare County Council. This will include the public lighting in older housing estates and on approach roads in Kildare that are in the control of Kildare County Council.

The report was noted.

### **CM25/0225**

#### **Basketball Court Kilcock**

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



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That the council considers providing an outdoor basketball court adjacent to the new community centre in Kilcock.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing members that there is no objection in principle to providing a basketball court in the Bawnogues. The new playground is going to occupy the land surrounding the community centre. Therefore, other locations within the lands will have to be examined to see where a court could fit. This will be examined as part of our works programme for 2025. Any progression to constructing a facility will require funding to be identified and will be subject to the completion of existing commitments within the Municipal District first.

The report was noted.

### **CM26/0225**

#### **Junction Improvement Project**

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

Can the council provide an update on the Junction Improvement Project in this Municipal District including a list of potential locations not currently included in the initial two phases?

A report was received from the Transport Department noting that an update on all Roads Capital Projects will be provided at the March Municipal District meeting. Future iterations of the junction improvement project will focus on locations of interest identified in the Collision Analysis for Regional Road Network for Kildare. Eight locations of interest have been identified in the most recent analysis in the Clane Maynooth Municipal District in the following townlands: Killeigher, Cloncurry, Clonard, Firmount, Clonuff, Millicent, Staplestown and Downings. Not all these locations are junctions and may not fall within the remit of a future phase of the junction improvement project.

Councillor Melrose informed that locations would be of interest and asked what the criteria were.



The report was noted.

**CM27/0225**

**Speed Limit Review**

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

Can the council outline an expected timeline for the completion of all stages of the ongoing speed limit review within the municipal district?

A Report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing members that during 2024 Kildare County Council (KCC) undertook a public consultation process for the review of speed limits on rural local roads. This review arose from recent legislation (Road Traffic Act 2024) which provides for the phased lowering of default speed limits in Ireland.

The phased lowering will include:

- Phase 1 – Reduction in Rural Local Road Speed Limit to 60km/h
- Phase 2 - Reduction in Urban and National Road Speed Limits

The commencement date for the 60km/h default speed limit for rural local roads is **07 February 2025**. Signage associated with the implementation of the reduced local rural road speed limits is currently being erected.

In accordance with the Department of Transport, the current review of rural local roads excludes:

- All regional road and national roads
- All public roads within the boundaries of former town council
- All public roads with a current special speed limit of 50km/h.
- All public roads with a current special speed limit of 30km/h.



The above categories of roads are to be addressed in subsequent phases of the Speed Limit Review. It is intended that these phases will be progressed in the latter part of 2025 subject to confirmation from the Department of Transport.

Separately it is Kildare County Councils intention to commence a public consultation process in relation to the implementation of a 30km/h speed limit (Jakes Law) in all housing estates taken in charge by Kildare County Council in the coming months.

The report was noted.

### **CM28/0225**

#### **Safe Routes to School, Clane**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McEvoy.  
With the National Transport Authority announcement of funding allocation towards the Safe Routes to School at Scoil Bhride and Scoil Phadraig, Clane, can the council update the committee on works planned for 2025?

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing Councillors that the proposed Safe Routes to School Scheme for Scoil Bhride and Scoil Phadraig, Clane is being progressed in parallel with liaison meetings with the schools and sport clubs to determine the optimum scheme proposal for progression in 2025.

The report was noted.



**CM29/0225**

**Traffic calming and Pedestrian crossing Rathcoffey National School**

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

Can the council provide an update on the traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossing at Rathcoffey National School?

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing Councillors that the pedestrian crossing and public lighting installed on the Newtown Road, Rathcoffey require ESB connection. Kildare County Council have been liaising with ESB but no connection date has been provided by ESB.

Councillor Durkan noted that two lights were not working in this location.

The report was noted.

**CM30/0225**

**New Playground in Kilcock**

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

Can the council provide an update on the provision of the new playground in Kilcock?

A report was received from Parks and Landscaping informing members that we are currently completing the appointment of the winning tenderer to construct the playground and to agree a start date for the works. A further update on a commencement date will be issued to the members once this is agreed.



The report was noted

**CM31/0225**

**Housing Old Greenfield, Maynooth**

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

That the council provides full clarity on the terms of the lease agreement between the council and the private owner of (details provided) and addresses the serious concerns of Old Greenfield residents in relation to ongoing disturbances while ensuring the council continues to meet its obligations to those in need of emergency housing.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing members that placements of clients by the Housing Department's Homeless Team in accommodation are subject to terms and conditions. While it is not possible to comment on an individual case, any complaint is taken seriously and thoroughly investigated by the Homeless Team.

Individuals and families are provided with additional housing supports as part of such placements to enable them to transfer to social housing options – including accommodation under the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP and Homeless HAP) and social housing allocations by the Council and Approved Housing Bodies.

The Housing Support Officers engage proactively with clients to support their transition from emergency accommodation options.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Phelan, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick and agreed by all members that the report be noted





**CM32/0225**

**Serviced Sites In Clane Maynooth Municipal District**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor W. Durkan. Can the council outline the number of potential 'serviced site' schemes that may be advanced within the municipal district over the coming years, and what conditions are needed to progress same.

A report was received from Forward Planning informing members that the Serviced Sites Scheme for County Kildare which sets out the terms and conditions for compliance with the scheme is available on the Council website. Volume 2 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 identifies all sites designated "Serviced Sites" across the county.

The Council are currently running a serviced sites pilot scheme in Clogherinkoe, in the Clane – Maynooth Municipal District. Further pilots will be determined on completion on the current project in Clogherinkoe and subject to resources.

Councillor W Durkan noted that there was more clarity needed on this, what was a successful scheme and how may sites would be progressed. It is a good scheme, and the council needed to look at eligibility also.

Ms. E McGrath, Administrative Officer noted that a review regarding items such as terms and eligibility criteria would take place after completion of the project.

The report was noted.



**CM33/0225**

**Upgrading Harbour Field Maynooth**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T Durkan.  
Can the council provide an update on the upgrading of the Harbour Field, Maynooth?

A report was received from Strategic Projects and Public Realm informing members that the proposed upgrade to the Harbourfield Park is currently at detailed design stage with the objective of bringing the approved Part 8 planning permission to tender stage. It is expected that the tender package will be complete towards the end of Q1 which will be tendered for construction at a future date subject to available funding.

Councillor T Durkan noted that local groups would like to feed into the process. Community garden, Sensory Park, Skateboard Park could be looked at, this would be a great amenity.

The report was noted.

**CM34/0225**

**Communication Uisce Éireann**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Wyse.  
That this municipal district writes to Uisce Éireann (UE) requesting that elected members are provided with direct and regular communications at times of emergency response including specific details around the provision of tankers and locations of same, and that UE liaise with the municipal district and its members as part of its emergency response plan.

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

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



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Members noted the following:

- No lines of Communication between Uisce Éireann and members
- Up to three months for a reply to a question sent to them
- No communication with local people about water tankers
- Water tankers arrived haphazardly in a location and then disappear again
- When tankers arrived they have boil water notices on them
- There should be quarterly meeting with them, which would be a good opportunity to ask questions and disseminate information
- People with no electricity expected to access Wi-Fi and a website with water issues
- Vulnerable people had acute needs and weren't being thought about
- Uisce Éireann needed to come in to meet to discuss openly and with transparency a way forward

Ms M Higgins, District Manager noted that members are not being communicated with in a timely manner. Intend to talk to Uisce Éireann to Co-ordinate for Local Authorities and to reinforce that communication to members needs to be done in a timely manner so as members can circulate information. Also noted is there are a lot of learnings to be taken from this recent storm. Kildare County Council had emergency meetings before, during and after the storm, and members are reassured that any functions within the control of Kildare County Council were worked on.

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

### **CM35/0225**

#### **New Library Clane**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McEvoy.  
Can the council update the committee on the progress towards delivering the new library in Clane?



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A report was received from Kildare Library Service informing members that the detailed design for the capital project and the tender documents are now complete. The next step will be to tender for a main contractor.

The report was noted.

### **CM35/0225**

#### **Taking in Charge Cushalla, Allenwood**

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

Can the council provide an update on the specific work necessary to bring Cushalla Estate in Allenwood up to taking in charge standard?

A report was received from Building and Development Control informing members that the Development Control Legacy team are actively working on a site resolution plan in an effort to progress the taking in charge process. A surface defect investigation was complete in Q4 2024. Additional investigative surveys are required to determine the full scope of works. Subject to available funding, Development Control intend to tender these surveys in Q1 2025.

Councillor Wyse inquired as to what was covered in the surface defect investigation

Ms S Walsh, Building and Development Control informed members that surface issues, kerbs and footpaths were part of the survey. Additional investigative surveys would be required to determine the full scope of works and subject to available funding.

The report was noted.

### **CM36/0225**

#### **Completion of Mullen Park Estate and Griffin Rath/Mullen Park Link Road.**

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

Can the council seek or provide an update on the completion date of the Mullen Park Estate including the Griffin Rath/Mullen Park link road?



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A report was received from Housing and Planning departments informing members that the Developer of the Mullen Park estate hopes to have their section of the link road completed by the end of Q1 2025. In relation to the housing estate, it is envisaged that all houses will hopefully be completed and occupied by the end of Q3.

The wearing course will be completed once all CCTV surveys of underground services are showing lines to be at a taking in charge standard. Development Control are liaising with Roads, the Clane/Maynooth MD engineer and the developer with a view to progressing any outstanding issues relating to the completion and opening of the link road.

Councillor Melrose enquired if it is envisaged end of Q3 that CCTV complete and taking in charge will be done in tandem.

Ms. A Burke, Building & Development Control informed members that yes, best practice is that the wearing course will be completed once all CCTV surveys of underground services are showing lines to be at a taking in charge standard.

The report was noted.

### **CM37/0225**

#### **Taking in Charge Cois na Mona Cooleragh**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wyse.  
Can the council provide a timeline for the taking in charge of Cois na Mona Estate in Cooleragh?

A report was received from Building Control informing members that the development Control Legacy team are actively working on a site resolution plan in an effort to progress the taking in charge process. A priority works schedule has been identified. It is intended that these works will be tendered in Q1/2 2025 subject to available funding.

Councillor Wyse observed that the notice was issued on 17 December and enquired if the notice was issued prematurely.



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Ms S Walsh informed that it has to be advertised and during this six-week period issues are looked at and can be progressed.

The report was noted.

### **CM38/0225**

#### **Taking in Charge Straffan Gate Estate**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Paul Ward.  
Can the council provide an update on the taking in charge of Straffan Gate Estate in Straffan?

A report was received from Building Control informing members that Straffan Gate forms part of the Development Control Legacy team portfolio. A taking in charge request was received from the Developer in 2013. Despite continuous engagement over the past 11 years by Development Control with the Developer, the Developer has failed to date to submit the required supporting taking in charge documentation.

The report was noted.

### **CM39/0225**

#### **Reduce Waste In This Municipal District,**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McEvoy  
That the council examines opportunities to reduce waste in this municipal district, as part of the review of the Litter Management Plan 2020 - 2023, to brief municipal district members on national and regional policies and actions relating to the circular and regenerative economy.

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

A report was received from Community and Enterprise informing members that the Council's Litter Management Plan will be reviewed during the course of the year by the



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Environment and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee who will take notice of and consider the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy in its deliberations. Ireland is moving away from the traditional linear ‘take-make-use-dispose’ model towards a ‘circular economy’ regenerative growth model where resources are reused or recycled as much as possible, and the generation of waste is minimised.

The transition to a circular economy is essential to reduce pressure on natural resources, aid in achieving climate targets, support sustainable development goals and create sustainable growth and jobs.

This transition to a circular economy requires a collaborative national response across all sectors of the economy through the lifecycle of products and materials.

The National WMP for a Circular Economy covers the period 2024-2030 and was adopted by the 31 Local Authorities in February 2024.

It includes specific targets, policies and actions to enable the waste and resource sector to meet the circularity challenge and accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

A number of **national** targets have been developed as outlined below:



The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy and the Circular Economy Act propose a range of policy interventions that will contribute to the prevention of waste and the increase



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of recycling rates. Key measures include incentivised charging for commercial waste, new or increased levies on single use items, waste recovery activities and landfill.

Full details of the plan including an executive summary are available on Ireland's official guide to managing waste at <https://mywaste.ie/>

Members noted the following:

- Could workshops or engagement on how to reduce waste at Municipal District level be evaluated
- Groups could tackle waste creation from houses
- Thank you for the report

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

### CM40/0225

#### College Swimming Pool

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Angela Feeney  
Can the council provide an update on the status of discussions with Maynooth University on the upgrade of the College swimming pool for joint community use?

A report was received from Community and Enterprise informing members that Kildare County Council is continuing discussions with Maynooth University, St Patricks College, Swim Ireland and other bodies with a view to advancing a swimming facility for North Kildare.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.



