

Celbridge Area Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Friday 21 October 2011, held at 10.30 a.m.

in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.

Members Present: Councillors J McGinley, S Griffin, A. Larkin, F. O'Rourke, K Byrne, C Purcell.

Apologies: Councillor J. Neville.

Also Present: Mr J. Lahart (Director of Services) Ms B.Gleeson A/(Director of Services) Ms S. Kavanagh (S.E.O.), Ms Anne Rowan, (S.E.O.) Mr. L.Dunne, Mr G.Perry (S.E.O.) Ms. A. Sweeney (S.E.P.)Ms L. Hanratty (E. Architect), Mr J.P. Holligan (Project Manager) Ms A. Aspell, (Meetings Administrator),Ms P. Penny (A.S.O.) Ms S Rice (Area Secretary)

CE 01/0911

Minutes and Progress Report

The committee considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 16 September 2011 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Purcell and seconded by Councillor Larkin that the minutes be confirmed and taken as read.

Matters arising from the Progress Report

Undergrounding of wires in Main Street, Celbridge

A report from the roads department stated that there was no progress in terms of funding. However, the members asked that the roads department could write to Eircom asking if they could they tidy the overhanging phone lines, a letter had been sent and the members asked that they be informed of any progress on this matter.

Traffic signals

The members asked that the traffic signals at Lidl in Celbridge be synchronised.

Relocation of bus stops at NUI Maynooth, Kilcock road, Maynooth

It was reported that planning compliance had not yet been confirmed in respect of the works, which remained incomplete, undertaken on behalf of NUIM. Alterations to the locations of the bus stops could not be progressed in the absence of substantial progress in the compliance procedure. The members asked that the planning department continue to pursue this matter. It was also reported that cars were parking along the main road outside the college, the members asked that the yellow lines that were in place prior to the upgrade of the road be re-instated along this road.

Works at Ryevale Lawns/ Cedar Park, Leixlip and new Diagonal pedestrian crossing

Councillor Griffin reported that the broken white line on this new crossing was not very clear and asked that it be reviewed and re-painted.

Replacement of globe on public light, The Square, Maynooth

It was reported that this fault did not pose a traffic safety hazard risk, the repair was not a priority. However, the public lighting section was examining options to remove the light fittings as they were being targeted by vandals. An Cathaoirleach reported that the globe had been stolen and not vandalised as reported by the roads department, he said the globe could be replaced by a local electrician and that discretionary funds could be used to cover the costs, Councillor Griffin agreed with An Cathaoirleach suggestions.

Repair of public lighting, Grove Estate, Celbridge

The roads department reported that due to higher energy charges and a significant rise the amount of maintenance work needed to keep as many lanterns in working order as possible, the council could not complete repairs to all lanterns. As a result, the section committed to examining all reports of lanterns not lighting in order to evaluate the risk to traffic safety. Any faults not repaired immediately were placed on a list for repairs. This practice was expected to be a temporary arrangement pending the clarification of increased maintenance energy supply costs, especially given that the budgets had been reduced over the past number of years. Councillor O'Rourke was very disappointed with the report and stated that it was vital that public lighting needed to be working in order to protect the welfare and safety of people out during hours of darkness.

Repainting of road markings, junction of Avondale/Newtown Park

Councillor Larkin asked that a “Stop” be installed at this location if this could not be done then new road markings would be sufficient, Councillor Purcell agreed with the councillors suggestion.

CE02/1011

Re-painting of yellow box, Thornhill Meadows

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne:

That the yellow box at the entrance to Thornhill Meadows on the Aghards Road be repainted and if funding is available in the 2012 budget that the box be extended to both sides of the entrance.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that there was no funding in the current budget for this work. This could be reconsidered in the context of the 2012 budget. Councillor Byrne asked that his discretionary funds for 2012 be used to complete the required works.

Resolved: That the yellow box at the entrance to Thornhill Meadows on the Aghards Road be repainted using part of Councillor Byrnes discretionary funds for 2012.

CE03/1011

Road markings, Lidl on Maynooth Road, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne:

That appropriate road markings including yellow boxes at entrances be provided near and on either side of the entrance to the new Lidl store on the Maynooth Road, Celbridge.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that it was the roads departments understanding that the road markings referred to were a condition of planning permission. If there was a concern that planning conditions were not being complied with, this matter could be referred to the planning department for investigation.

Resolved: That the planning department investigate whether the planning conditions were being complied with regarding the road markings at the new Lidl store on the Maynooth Road, Celbridge.

CE04/1011

Under grounding of wires on Main Street, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Griffin:

That we examine ways and means of funding under the Leader Programme in order to underground the cables in Celbridge.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that this matter had been discussed in some detail at earlier meetings. It was suggested that the area manager could facilitate a meeting with Leader and the area committee members to discuss the options available to Kildare County Council. Councillor griffin reported that the Leader programme had €12 million of funding for such projects, he asked that a meeting be arranged with Leader to discuss the under grounding of wires on Main Street, Celbridge.

Resolved: that a meeting be arranged with Leader to discuss the under grounding of wires on Main Street, Celbridge.

CE05/1011

Safety issues at entrance to Carton Court, Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Griffin:

That in view of the ongoing danger being created by drivers doing a u turn at the entrance to Carton Court, Straffan Road, Maynooth, the council road design engineers examine how best to make this junction safer for pedestrians, cyclists and residents.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that staff in the traffic management section were prioritising projects that had confirmed funding. Therefore, no action could be taken on this issue at present, in the absence of a confirmed funding source. Councillor Griffin reported that vehicles were coming of the Meadowbrook link road and turning at Carton Court, which was very dangerous, Councillor O'Rourke also reported that vehicles coming off M4 from east bound direction that wish to turn right, were turning left and then doing a u turn.

Resolved: That the roads department investigate and resolve the safety issues at the entrance to Carton Court, Maynooth.

CE06/1011

Report on new traffic signals, Ryevale, Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Larkin:

That we are furnished with a report on the new traffic signal arrangements at Ryevale, what they cost, who initiated the project and how they will function at their optimum.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that there was a full report done for the September meeting. Since that meeting works had been completed and the junction was working significantly better than prior to construction. All issues seemed to have been resolved at this stage. Councillor Larkin reported that the crossing did not seem to be working effectively and that it was causing a lot of traffic congestion, he queried the final cost of all the works, Ms Kavanagh said that if members of the public were experiencing problems with traffic signals they should send it to traffic@kildarecoco.ie.

Resolved: That the roads department investigate Councillor Larkins remarks regarding the pedestrian crossing and that a report be prepared for the following meeting in relation to the overall costs of the works.

CE07/1011

Junction of Glen Easton and Easton Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Larkin:

That we arrange for the transportation department to inspect the junction at the junction of Glen Easton and Easton Road near the Spar Shop and make recommendations including costings and how safety at this location can be improved, that consideration should be given for a mini-roundabout here and that the recommendations include possible funding streams.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that whilst working closely with the National Transport Authority, the transportation department was developing improved pedestrian and cyclist facilities in the county. It was expected that a county-wide Pedestrian/Cycling Strategic Network would be developed in early 2012 and the design of the network would be in accordance with the National Cycle Manual and other recent design guidelines.

The network would prioritise pedestrian crossing facilities at all junctions and each junction on the network would be examined and proposals discussed with the NTA, who would ultimately fund the work. Councillor Larkin asked that a design be done for this location, as a remedy to the current problem was urgently needed. Councillor Griffin reported that the main problem was exiting from Glen Easton, Councillor Purcell agreed with both councillors remarks.

Resolved: that a design be done for improving the road safety at junction of Glen Easton and Easton Road, Leixlip.

CE08/1011

Wall at Farrells Bridge (Castle side) Parson Street, Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McGinley:

That the wall at Farrells Bridge (Castle side) Parson Street, Maynooth, be examined in the interest of public safety as it appears to be in a state of collapse.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that there was a large slab that needed to be fixed at this location. The wall was not in imminent danger and the area office would repair it as soon as possible.

Report was noted.

CE09/1011

Banning of HGV through Straffan Village

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McGinley:

That a report be given to the October area meeting on the progress made in banning through traffic HGV's from Straffan.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that a written response from the Gardai was awaited. Another reminder had been sent.

Report was noted.

CE10/1011

Safety railing/barrier at footpath, Shackleton Road with Church Road/Oldtown Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke:

That the council install safety railing/barrier at the edge of the footpath at the junction of Shackleton Road with Church Road/Oldtown Road to assist with safety for the pupils accessing Scoil Na Mainstreacht.

Kildare County Council

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that it was not current Kildare County Council policy to install pedestrian barriers on footpaths in the county, except at exceptional specific areas of concern. The footpath was sufficiently wide to facilitate pedestrians safely. Recommended improvements for the safety for pupils in this area would be a reduction in traffic speeds (by increased enforcement), reduction in the number of pupils driven to school and a reduction in the amount of indiscriminate parking by parents at school opening/closing times. Councillor O'Rourke reported that cars were actually mounting the footpath and grass margin in order to get through the narrow junction and asked that the roads department investigate this.

Resolved: that the roads department install a barrier at this location in order to stop cars mounting the footpath and grass margin.

CE11/1011

Dishing of footpath, Thornhill Heights, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke:

That the council dish the footpath at the entrance to Thornhill Heights in the interest of safety for pedestrians crossing.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that it was working closely with the National Transport Authority, the transportation department was developing improved pedestrian and cyclist facilities in the county. It was expected that a county-wide Pedestrian/Cycling Strategic Network would be developed in early 2012 and the design of the network would be in accordance with the National Cycle Manual and other recent design guidelines. Options being examined by the council for improved pedestrian crossing facilities currently include the use "crossovers" whereby the height of the footpath was continued across a side road (rather than dishing the kerbs) to facilitate optimum movement for vulnerable road users. Each junction on the network would be examined and proposals discussed with the NTA, who would ultimately fund the work.

The report was noted.

CE12/1011

Widening of Cope Bridge, Confey, Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Purcell:

That we ask Iarnrod Eireann what plans it has currently or for the future to widen Cope Bridge, Confey, Leixlip.

Kildare County Council

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that if the committee wished a letter could be sent to Iarnród Éireann, Councillor Purcell asked that a further report be prepared for the November meeting.

Resolved: that the members receive an update on this matter for the November meeting.

CE13/1011

Preparations for severe weather conditions

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Purcell:

That the council outlines how it proposes to inform the public in the matter of gritting of roads, provision of water from tankers and other such matters with the onset of bad weather.

Further that the council state how much information is transmitted to members of the public who do not have access to computer technology.

A report was received from the water services department dated on the 15 of September stating that as with any interruption (minor or major) to the water supply, the council's webpage was updated with any information water services had relating to the issue. All such alerts were now being transmitted to Kildare County Council's Twitter and on Facebook accounts thus reaching more people. The waterworks and water services department was contactable on the telephone for updates for those members of the public with no internet access. For major incidents (e.g. countywide water interruptions/restrictions due to bad weather) KFM radio was notified for transmission of tanker information, updates on restrictions etc. Again, this was of use to those members of the public with no internet access.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that as members were aware there would be a special briefing for full Council next Monday 24 October 2011. It was suggested that Councillor Purcell's question could be fully answered at the briefing session as the focus of the briefing is Kildare County Council's preparedness in the event of an extreme weather event.

The report was noted.

CE14/1011

Car parking line markings, Captains Hill, Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Purcell:

That we seek to alter the car parking lines outside Bank of Ireland, Captains Hill, Leixlip to an angle that allows vehicles to reverse in safety.

Kildare County Council

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that it was not current Kildare County Council policy to install angular and perpendicular parking, given the severe road safety problems these pose for cyclists and other vulnerable road users. Should the existing layout be amended then the parking would need to be parallel to the kerbline. Councillors Purcell and Griffin both reported that the current parking was perpendicular, and that angular parking would be much safer.

Resolved: That the road design section investigate the parking problems and line markings outside Bank of Ireland, Leixlip.

CE15/1011

Flashing warning lights, Straffan National School

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne:

That finance be provided for flashing warning lights with a 30 KPH speed limit and required signage at Straffan National School. Provision for this project to be included in the estimates for 2012.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that there was no source of funding for this project, either internal or external. It was a matter for the members if they wished to consider this further in the context of the 2012 budget.

Councillor Byrne proposed that this item be considered under Budget 2012, this was seconded by Councillor Purcell.

Resolved: that this item be considered under Budget 2012, this was seconded by Councillor Purcell.

CE16/1011

Removal of Ivy, Tea Lane Graveyard, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne:

To ask that ivy that is overgrowing the sign for Tea Lane Graveyard on Church Road, Celbridge be cut back and removed as far as possible.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that the area office staff would attend to this as soon as possible.

The report was noted.

CE17/1011

Speeding at Kilwogan Lane, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne:

To ask the council that Kilwogan Lane Celbridge be surveyed to see if remedial action can be taken to reduce excessive speeding at this location.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that a traffic count would be carried out at this location which would determine the level of traffic using the road and the speed at which it was travelling.

The report was noted.

CE18/1011

Repair of speed ramp, Straffan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Griffin:

The raised speed ramp in the centre of Straffan is in a deplorable state, is it possible to carry out some repairs because in it's current state it is extremely dangerous.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that there was no funding in the area office's budget for this work. Councillor Griffin asked that something be done as the ramp in its current state was very dangerous, he asked if the roads department could tarmac over it.

Resolved: that the roads department investigate the ramp again with the view to repairing it.

CE19/1011

Grass cutting, Ardclough

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke:

Can the council include the remainder of the grass verge for cutting and maintaining which is opposite the triangle in Ardclough.

A report was received from the parks department dated on the 15 of September stating that this would be considered for inclusion in next seasons grass maintenance programme.

The report was noted.

CE20/1011

Traffic problem, Mill Lane, Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Purcell:

Could we examine traffic movements in Mill Lane, Leixlip to see if we have adequate signage and road markings in the interest of safety.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that staff in the traffic management section were prioritising projects that had confirmed funding. Therefore, no action could be taken on this issue at present, in the absence of a confirmed funding source.

The report was noted.

CE21/1011

Speeding at Church of Our Lady's Nativity, Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Purcell:

Can we do something to slow down traffic coming from Leixlip Village and Maynooth and passing the Church of Our Lady's Nativity and the new pedestrian crossing in the interest of safety.

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that the enforcement of traffic speeds was a matter for An Garda Síochána. The concerns of the councillor had been referred to them for action. Councillor Purcell was unhappy with the report and asked that the roads department implement traffic calming measures in order to reduce the speed of traffic on this road.

Resolved: that the roads department implement traffic calming measures in order to reduce the speed of traffic on this road.

CE22/1011

Repair of road surface, entrance to Crodaun Forest Park

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Purcell:

Can we do a temporary job at the entrance to Crodaun Forest Park (entrance nearest Salesian College) to remove the shattered surface.

Kildare County Council

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 15 of September stating that the area engineer would examine this location and report back to the committee for next meeting.

Resolved: That a report be prepared for the November meeting.

CE23/1011

Confey, Donaghcumper and Laraghbryan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Larkin:

What spaces remain available in Confey, Donaghcumper and Laraghbryan cemeteries, are there further planned extensions, if not what is the long term plan for cemeteries in North Kildare and what is the estimated time frame?

A report was received from the environment department dated on the 15 of September that the following was the position with regard to grave spaces in the 3 cemeteries-

Confey, Leixlip -sufficient space in existing cemetery to accommodate internments for up to 8 years.

Donaghcumper, Celbridge - new extension being constructed (due to be completed in 2 to 3 weeks) would accommodate internments for up to 10 years.

Laraghbryan, Maynooth -sufficient space in existing cemetery to accommodate internments for up to 8 years.

The long term plan for cemeteries in the north of the county remains under review, one of the options to be considered was the establishment of a regional cemetery to accommodate internments from the three towns.

The report was noted.

CE24/1011

Illegal dumping at The Slip, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke:

Can the council install CCTV at the bottom of the slip in Celbridge to prevent illegal dumping?

A report was received from the environment department dated on the 15 of September that the location was being reviewed to establish how best to position the cctv equipment.

Members would be kept informed of progress.

The report was noted.

CE25/1011

Conditions for hours of construction

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke:

That the council consider extending the condition for hours of construction on mixed use developments to renovation/extension works being carried out in housing estates.

A report was received from the planning department dated on the 15 of September that they had consulted with Councillor O'Rourke on this matter; the planning authority was carrying out an investigation and would issue a report at the next area meeting of the Celbridge Committee. **Resolved:** that a further report be prepared for the November meeting.

CE26/1011

Unauthorised signage in Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne:

To ask the planning enforcement section to examine the large number of unauthorised signs in the Celbridge area with a view to remedial action.

A report was received from the planning department dated on the 15 of September stating that given staffing resources and the prioritization of other projects it was not possible to assign a staff member to examine signage in Celbridge at this time. When particular instances were reported to the planning department they were examined and where it was considered that signage had been erected without planning permission or did not constitute exempted development, enforcement action was initiated and pursued.

The report was noted.

CE27/1011

Taking in charge process

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Larkin:

Can we have an update on estates within the Cellbridge Electoral Area that are due in 2012 to commence the taking in charge process?

A report was received from the planning department dated on the 15 of September stating that the taking in charge process was currently underway for a number of estates at present. The planning department would include any satisfactorily completed estates for which the required taking in charge documentation was received in the taking in charge work

programme for 2012. Building/Development control staff were preparing a report for full council reviewing all of the private residential estates in the county that were monitored by the section to establish the status, type and value of bonds held. The report would also estimate the quantity and cost of works required to complete the infrastructure in each estate, particularly those where the house building was substantially complete. The report was noted.

CE28/1011

Castletown Demesne and Estate

Planning and Development Act 2000, Planning and Development Regulations 2001- Part 8. To consider report on proposed part removal and erection of fencing at Castletown and Hawthorn Housing Estates and Castletown Demesne, Celbridge.

The architects section had circulated a regarding the proposed Part 8 at Castletown and Hawthorn Housing Estates and Castletown Demesne, Celbridge, Ms Letitia Hanratty made a presentation to the committee regarding the Part 8 proposal and the main objectives for erecting the fence. The members all spoke on this matter and outlined the residents fears and their objections to the erection of the fence, the members all agreed that something should be done to protect Castletown House and its surrounding grounds but the removal of the public open space from the residents was not the correct decision. An Cathaoirleach suggested that a new Part 8 be drawn up with a fence to be erected on the grounds of Castletown house. Five members were in favour of rejecting the Part 8 and one member abstained. This item would now be forwarded the next meeting of Kildare County Council for consideration of all members of Kildare County Council.

Resolved: That this item be considered at the next meeting of Kildare County Council.

CE29/1011

Public swimming pool for Celbridge Electoral area

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Larkin:

That we write to Government seeking a re-opening of the swimming pool scheme, in doing so, we highlight the large population in the Celbridge Electoral Area that do not have a public pool available to them, we further highlight the age profile of the population, we draw attention to the availability of the selected site, we consider what further action we can take

to meet this demand. Ms Anne Crofton discussed this matter with the members and reported that the 2002 scheme for swimming pools had since ceased and that only RAPID areas were now considered for funding, the funding available would only cover half the costs and the local authority must fund the other half. An Cathaoirleach stated that if the council could match the required funding that the we should be considered for a pool, Councillor Larkin asked that a letter be sent to Minister Varadkar, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport and request funding. All members agreed with Councillors Larkin's request for a public swimming pool in the Celbridge electoral area. It was agreed that An Cathaoirleach and Councillors Larkin and Purcell would meet with Mr Minnock and Mr Rafferty to discuss this matter further.

Resolved: that a meeting be arranged with An Cathaoirleach and Councillors Larkin and Purcell with Mr Minnock and Mr Rafferty to discuss this matter further.

CE30/1011

The Wonderful Barn

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Griffin:

Can we have an update on the Wonderful Barn, Leixlip.

A report was received from the architects department dated on the 15 of September stating that Kildare County Council retained the services of Conservation Architect Mr. James Howley and the council had submitted their proposal to the Heritage Council for grant assistance to continue with restoration works on the Wonderful Barn.

The council met with Mr. Colm Murray, architect with the Heritage Council and Mr. Howley in the spring time and it was agreed that the €25,000.00 grant awarded, together with council funding of 25% [6,250.00], should be spent re-slating the 4 roof projections at ground level in the construction tradition of 1813, the date over the entrance door.

The slates for these works would come from removing and re-using the residue of slates from Barnhall House. Work commenced on the 17 October and was expected to last 6 weeks. In addition, the council had contracted to demolish the modern extension to the rear of Barnhall House, remove and replace all damaged structural timbers following fires etc. and felt, lath and re-slate Barnhall House to protect the structure while we examined options for a new use for the house. This work would take 8 weeks and work on both elements would run concurrently. The total costs involved would be €80,000.00 approx. The council were currently preparing a submission to the Heritage Council for further grant aid in 2012 to complete the external rendering of the two sections of the Wonderful Barn at 1st and

2nd storey level. This must be submitted in November 2011. If a grant of a minimum of 25,000.00 was provided, plus matching funding, this should complete the essential works to the external facades.

The council had asked James Howley to prepare a master-plan outlining proposals for

- [1] the re-use of the house and court yard,
- [2] the management of traffic, parking, etc.
- [3] the restoration of the walled garden
- [4] to engender debate with interested parties both community and business in financially sustaining ideas for the complex.

The report was noted.

CE31/1011

Other business

U.D Leinster Park

An Cathaoirleach asked for an update on this matter at the next meeting.

The meeting concluded.