

Celbridge Area Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Friday 18 November 2011, held at 10.00 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 P. Minnock (Director of Services) Mr D. Hodgins (Senior Executive Engineer) Ms S. Kavanagh (A/D.O.S.) Mr. L. Dunne, (S.E.O.) Sweeney (S.E.P.) Ms A. Aspell, (Meetings Administrator), Ms P. Penny (A.S.O.) Ms S Rice (Area Secretary)

CE 01/1111

Minutes and Progress Report

The committee considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 21 October 2011 together with the progress report.

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

Matters arising from the Progress Report

Undergrounding of wires in Main Street, Celbridge

Councillor Griffin reported that he had spoken to Leader and confirmed that they had monies to spend on projects such as the undergrounding of wires in Main Street, Celbridge. Mr Minnock agreed to contact Leader regarding this and he would return to the members with an update on this matter.

Replacement of globe on public light, The Square, Maynooth

An Cathaoirleach asked again that the missing globes be replaced as soon as possible before the lights get weather damaged.

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Repair of public lighting, Grove Estate, Celbridge

Councillor O'Rourke and other members asked that this issue be rectified as soon as possible as areas with no public lighting working was a serious public safety issue and that the local people were very unhappy with the situation.

Safety issues at entrance to Carton Court, Maynooth

Councillor Griffin reported that there was serious road safety issue at this location with motorists doing u-turns at the entrance to this estate, he asked that the roads department contact the Gardai and request that they investigate this matter as soon as possible.

Repair of speed ramp, Straffan

It was acknowledged by the roads department that the ramp was badly damaged and did indeed need repairing, however there was no funding available to carry out the repairs, Councillor Griffin said that it was in a deplorable state and asked again that the council tarmac it immediately, Councillor O'Rourke asked for a costing for the necessary works.

Repair of road surface, entrance to Crodaun Forest Park

Councillor Purcell acknowledged the works done at this location and thanked the area engineer and area office staff for the excellent work done.

Conditions for hours of construction

Councillor O'Rourke asked that the council implement hours of construction to those people who apply and are granted planning permission for any development, as the council do have control over developments that are not exempt from planning permissions.

U.D Leinster Park

It was reported at the meeting that a meeting had taken place with the legal advisors of the planning department and the opinion of counsel is awaited. Members asked that the planning department pursue this matter urgently and return to the members at the Decmebr meeting with a reply from the legal advisers as this matter had been going on for too long a time period.

Safety Improvements Parson Street, Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McGinley
That the following safety improvements be carried out at Parson Street, Maynooth:

- That the road be resurfaced
- That the footpath at the residential side be reconstructed
- That the double yellow lines on the college side be re-painted

A report was received from the roads department dated on the 20 of October stating that this section of road was in the Road Works Programme for 2012. Unfortunately there was no funding for the footpath and also the levels of the doorways were too low for the construction of a path here. The double yellow lines would be restored after the road was resurfaced. An Cathaoirleach reported that cars were parking on the footpath, therefore blocking the footpath for pedestrians and forcing people to walk on the public road, Ms Kavanagh said that this could be addressed under Leixlip Pay Parking bye laws and suggested that it be discussed at a separate meeting, Councillor Griffin asked that the meeting be held in a closed session prior to the next meeting of Kildare County Council.

Resolved: that a meeting take place to discuss Leixlip pay parking bye laws before 19 December 2011.

CE03/1111

New footpath from Celbridge Road to Laurence Avenue, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McGinley
That a footpath be constructed from the Celbridge Road to Laurence Avenue at the junction in order to make in safer for the school children attending the Gael Scoil.

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that there was no source of funding for this work in 2011 budgets. At present, the traffic management section staff were concentrating on completing schemes which had funding allocations confirmed.

However, the proposal could be evaluated in December to determine if the council was satisfied to include it on the list of potential schemes seeking NTA funding in 2012. It should be noted that it was expected that the NTA allocation available to Kildare County Council in 2012 would be noticeably less than in 2011. An Cathaoirleach reported that the length of footpath required was approximately nine metres, which should not be too expensive to complete and suggested that the council apply to the National Transport Authority for funding as this these works are required for the safety of school children.

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Resolved: An Cathoirleach reported that the length of footpath required was approximately nine metres, which should not be too expensive to complete and suggested that the council apply to the National Transport Authority for funding as this these works are required for the safety of school children.

CE04/1111

Replacement of ramps, Moyglare Road

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

That the ramps on Moyglare Road be replaced, if so when, was finance included for this in the project on Kilcock Road and if so how much.

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

That a footpath be constructed from the Celbridge Road to Laurence Avenue at the junction in order to make in safer for the school children attending the Gael Scoil.

A report was received from the roads department dated o the 20 of October stating that there was no source of funding for this work in 2011 budgets. At present, the traffic management section staff were concentrating on completing schemes which had funding allocations confirmed. As Dublin Bus had not, to date, been in a position to confirm the extension of their bus routes in Maynooth, the provisional funding for this work would not be approved until a decision was made on the bus routes. Councillors Griffin and Larkin both agreed that the ramp in question urgently needed to be reinstated and asked that the roads department reinvestigate this matter further.

Resolved: that the ramp in question urgently needed to be reinstated and asked that the roads department reinvestigate this matter further.

CE05/1111

Safety review, three national schools at Greenlane, Leixlip

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

That we have a safety review on the road outside the three primary schools at Greenlane, Leixlip.

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that

there was no source of funding for this work in 2011 budgets. At present, the traffic management section staff were concentrating on completing schemes which had funding allocations confirmed.

However, the proposal could be evaluated in December to determine if the council was satisfied to include it on the list of potential schemes seeking NTA funding in 2012. It should be noted that it was expected that the NTA allocation available to Kildare County Council in 2012 would be noticeably less than in 2011. Councillor Larkin reported that the main problem was the sheer volume of traffic on this road and that it was getting worse every day. Mr Hodgins reported that this location had been on a suggested list of funding from the National Transport Authority.

The report was noted.

CE06/1111

Road safety at junction of canal bank and Straffan/Kill road at Baronrath Bridge

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

That the junction of the Canal Bank road and the Straffan/Kill road at Baronrath Bridge be examined to see if the extreme danger exiting from the Canal Bank can be eased or reduced.

A report was received from the Clane area engineer of the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that this issue arose and was carefully considered when the road was upgraded back in 2006. The issue was inspected by the regional road safety engineer. The Ardclough road which exits on the south bank of the canal, and the private road which exits on the north bank had no sightline whatsoever. The area office considered making the private road left turn only and closing the exit from the Ardclough road to the Kill Straffan road but the local residents did not like that idea. Consideration was given to vehicle actuated lights but the costs were around €30,000 and unsustainable for the volume of car usage. In the end, it was decided to install signage and road markings which were put in place in 2006 and refreshed in 2008. The area office could re-examine the use of vehicle actuated lights as with the advance of LED technology, these systems had become slightly cheaper. However, there was no obvious source of finance available for these works.

The report was noted.

CE07/1111

Repair of footpath, Saint Patrick Park, Celbridge

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

That the footpath from house (details supplied), Saint Patrick Park, Celbridge be repaired or replaced.

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that there was no funding available for this work.

The report was noted.

CE08/1111

Road works programme 2012

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne, McGinley and Purcell: That the works that were subject of passed or agreed motions at the Celbridge Area Committee during 2011, be given first priority when drawing up the works programme for 2012.

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that in relation to the area office's work programme for 2012 works were prioritised according to the urgency of which they need to be undertaken. In relation to NTA projects, the procedure for seeking NTA funding for 2012 would commence shortly. In the first instance, the council was required to evaluate each proposal to determine if the council was satisfied to include it on the list of potential schemes seeking NTA funding in 2012.

It should be noted that it was expected that the NTA allocation available to Kildare County Council would be noticeably less than in 2011. An Cathaoirleach said that he hoped to see works for Celbridge electoral area on the list when the roadworks programme for 2012 is published in January, Councillor Griffin said that the committee would then need to prioritise any items listed on the roadworks programme.

The report was noted.

CE09/1111

Raising of kerb at Call-a-Cab on English Row, Celbridge

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

That the kerb height in front of Call-a-Cab on English Row, Celbridge be increased to the same height that exists on either side to assist with preventing surface water and waste water from entering their premises at times of heavy rain fall and the drainage etc also be considered in this area.

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A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that the area office would improve the surface water drainage at this location by installing another ACCO drain. The sunken kerbs would also be repaired to their original height, however, they could not be raised as it was a vehicular entrance. If there was a problem with foul water then this matter could be referred to the water services section for investigation. Councillor O'Rourke said that the report did not relate to the area in question and that he was referring to the actual pedestrian entrance into the cab office, he suggested that heavier manholes be installed or current ones be fixed properly to the road and that the gullies on English Row be investigated, Councillor Griffin agreed with all of Councillor O'Rourke remarks and also requested that a second gully be put in place to prevent any further flooding of the shop during periods of heavy rain. The area engineer reported at the meeting that there seemed to be a waste water problem with the foul sewage and that the water services section would be responsible for this. Councillor Byrne reported that he submitted the same motion 12 months ago and that the problem had yet to be rectified.

Resolved: that the kerb be raised outside the cab office on English Row, that heavier manhole covers be put in place, that gullies be inspected and that the water services section investigate the waste water problem at same location.

CE10/1111

Free parking in Celbridge and Leixlip for lead up to Christmas

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

That the days of free parking in the lead up to Christmas be confirmed for Celbridge and Leixlip.

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that the days that had been agreed in Kildare Town were as follows: No pay parking enforcement would take place from 12 noon from Thursday 15th to Saturday 31st December (inclusive). The members recognised the potential for all day parking and that was why they agreed that enforcement should take place in the mornings but that it would finish at 12 noon. Councillor O'Rourke Councillor Purcell asked that the council advertise this in order to encourage people to do their Christmas shopping in their local towns.

Resolved: that the council advertise the agreed no pay parking enforcement that would take place from 12 noon from Thursday 15 to Saturday 31 December in order to encourage people to do their Christmas shopping in their local towns.

CE11/1111

Speeding problem at Pikes Bridge

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

That the council survey Pikes Bridge road to see what measures can be taken or put in place to reduce speeding on this road.

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that the traffic survey could be arranged. An Cathoirleach reported that a survey had been done previously at this location regarding the same problem, Councillor Griffin said that there was an enforcement problem on this road and asked that this matter be referred to the Gardai for monitoring.

Resolved: as there was an enforcement problem on this road Councillor Griffin asked that this matter be referred to the Gardai for monitoring.

CE12/1111

Flooding at English Row, Celbridge

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

That the kerbstone at the taxi office, English Row, Celbridge be raised in order to eliminate the ongoing flooding of the office.

Resolved: See CE09/1111

CE13/1111

Repair of road, Moyglare Road

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

That the road edge on the Moyglare Road, opposite the parochial house be comprehensively repaired. Pedestrians on their way to mass are constantly being splashed at this location.

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that the the area office would endeavour to have this area repaired when manpower was available. The report was noted.

CE14/1111

Traffic calming on Moyglare Road, Maynooth

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

Now that the traffic calming ramp at the girls school Maynooth is repaired, the council should do the same at the Moyglare Road, Maynooth.

Resolved: CE04/1111

CE15/1111

Road markings beside Colaiste Chiarain, Celbridge Road, Leixlip

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

Can we have double yellow lines applied to the section of road just west of the shops beside Colaiste Chiarain, Celbridge Road, Leixlip (on the same side of the road)?

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that this issue appeared to be related to parents dropping off and collecting school children. It was the experience of the roads department that double yellow lines would not prevent parents from doing this. Of course, as the members were aware it is illegal to park on a footpath whether or not there are double yellow lines in place and that perhaps this issue should be referred to the Gardai. Councillor Larkin asked that the roads department investigate the possibility of double yellow lines again.

Resolved: that the roads department re-investigate the possibility of double yellow lines at this location.

CE16/1111

Repainting of road markings at entrance to Riverforest estate, Leixlip

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

Can we have the road markings repainted at the entrance to Riverforest estate, Leixlip?

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that the area engineer would inspect this area and if funding was available the road markings would be carried out.

The report was noted.

CE17/1111

Removal of Ivy from Wall, Tea Lane graveyard

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

While it is much appreciated that the council removed the ivy from the boundary wall at the Tea Lane graveyard which gives much greater vision to the very large volume of traffic that use the road daily, I would like to ask that the enclosed wall be examined to establish if it is in a dangerous condition and a plan be set in place for appropriate action. A report was received from the roads department dated on the 20 of October stating that dangerous structures were under the remit of the environment department and that this matter would be referred to the environment section for investigation. Mr Dunne said the wall would be examined and that a report would be issued to the members

Resolved: that the environment section investigate the wall and report back to the members.

CE18/1111

Erection of signs in housing estates

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

To ask if signage indicating that there are 'children at play' in the area could be provided at Ballyoulster, Celbridge and also that a place name finger sign be provided there also.

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that the area office did not erect signage in housing estates. It was normally carried out by residents associations.

The report was noted.

CE19/1111

Road works in Oakleigh housing estate

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

To ask the council if the roads in Oakleigh housing estate, off the Clane Road, Celbridge could be included in the maintenance works for 2012. It should be noted that this estate is one of the older estates in Celbridge and repair works are now required there.

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that housing estates were not covered by the Restoration Improvement Grants. Funding would need to be identified elsewhere.

The report was noted.

CE20/1111

Road signs on road to new school Ardclough

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

Can the council ensure that the appropriate advance warning signs and lights on the approach road to the new school in Ardclough are put in place before it opens?

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that the compliance, or otherwise, of the school authorities with their planning conditions was a matter that could be referred to the planning department. Councillor O'Rourke asked that the planning department investigate this matter.

Resolved: that the planning department investigate Councillor O'Rourke motion and prepare a report to the next meeting.

CE21/1111

Road safety measures at entrance/exit at Riverforest estate, Leixlip

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

To ask the council to examine the entrance/exit at Riverforest estate, Leixlip with a view to proposing road safety measures at this junction. The council should start by re-marking the road in this area.

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that the area engineer would inspect this area and if funding was available the road markings would be carried out.

The report was noted.

CE22/1111

Road safety problems exiting from Church of Our Ladys Nativity, Leixlip

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

To ask the council to state when will they rectify the design fault at the exit from the Church of Our Ladys Nativity, Leixlip.

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that this was not a design fault. The exit was designed this way to facilitate vulnerable road users using the footpath. If further discussion on this matter was needed then a meeting could be arranged on site with the councillor, roads design and the area office. Any further works would be subject to sufficient funding being made available. Councillor Purcell was dissatisfied with the report but said he would meet with staff on site to discuss this matter further.

Resolved: that a meeting take place on site to discuss this matter further.

CE23/1111

Repair of the lights on Rye Bridge, Leixlip

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

Would the council repair the lights on Rye Bridge, Leixlip?

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that the criteria for the repair of public lighting remained unchanged. Only faults that were considered to contribute to a potential traffic hazard were currently being repaired.

The report was noted.

CE24/1111

Contract for the public light restoration programme

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

Is there any progress on the contract for the public light restoration programme?

A report was received from the roads department dated the 20 of October stating that there had been no appointment made to date for the new public lighting maintenance contract. When an appointment was expected, the elected members would be informed.

The report was noted.

CE25/1111

Odour problems at Rye Bridge Leixlip

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

That this council outlines the final solution to the sewage odour at Rye Bridge, Leixlip stating time frame and cost. Further would the council state the source of funding for this project. In connection with this issue, would the council acknowledge the damage to the environment of allowing a pipe to discharge overflow into the Rye River at Rye Bridge and could the council remove it immediately.

A report was received from the water services department dated on the 20 of October stating that The Lower Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme Advance Contract involved the laying of a new sewer on Old Hill and Pound Street, Leixlip and the installation of two no. vortex units on Old Hill. For a period following completion of that contract in 2009, the long running odour problem in this area was greatly improved.

Subsequently, a number of sewerage flooding events occurred in the vicinity of Leixlip Castle Gate, principally due to surface water ingress to the foul sewerage system. In order to prevent a recurrence of the sewerage flooding it was decided to construct a temporary overflow from the foul sewer to the Rye River. This coincided with a disimprovement in the odour problem in the area due to the presence of the overflow. Kildare County Council were proposing to trap these odours. It was anticipated that this work would be undertaken in quarter 1, 2012. It should be noted that the discharge to the river from the overflow was infrequent and occurs during periods of heavy rainfall only. It was considered necessary that this temporary overflow was maintained in order to prevent sewerage flooding. The Lower Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme was jointly funded by Kildare Council and the Department of Environment Community and Local Government. Councillor Purcell asked when this problem would be finally rectified and also asked how much the council had spent to date on consultants and contractors, he also added that the odour problem had been impacting on tourism in Leixlip, Councillor Larkin reported that the Town Council had a meeting regarding the issue and stated that the whole situation was deplorable and needed to be rectified as soon as possible, he asked that the report from water services also be forwarded to Leixlip Town Council members.

Resolved: that a report be prepared for the December meeting and outlining total costs on works to date and when problem will be rectified, this report should also be circulated to Leixlip Town Council members.

CE26/1111

Derelict site, Cedar Park, Leixlip

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

Can we have an update on what action the council are taking in relation to the derelict house at (details supplied) Cedar Park, Leixlip?

Mr Dunne gave an oral report on this item to the members.

The report was noted.

CE27/1111

Protection of Castletown House and Demesne

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

Following the rejection of the Part 8 proposal at Castletown Estate and Castletown

Demesne, we consider how this land can be managed from both a physical and social

perspective; we do so in such a way that includes the residents of the estates that border the demesne.

A report was received from Mr Minnock, Director of Services of housing, community and cultural services dated the 20 of October stating that the draft Part 8 which was rejected by the council at its meeting on 24 October 2011, sets out the basis for the management of the public open spaces at Castletown and Hawthorn View Housing Estates from both a physical and social perspective.

Questions that arose following rejection of the Part 8 proposal, which would have protected and maintained the open space for the residents include:

- a) As an "A listed" national attraction how should Castletown and the wooded open space be protected?
- b) Should parts or all of Castletown Demesne be fenced and if so, where should the fence line go?
- c) Regarding the wooded open space, who will fund necessary works, including restoration of pathways, watercourses and implement recommendations set out in the Arboricultural assessment?
- d) Even if funding was found for such works, how could such expenditure be justified if no arrangements were in place to protect against vandalism?
- e) What action should be taken regarding those properties adjoining the open space, where unauthorised access points have been created, or where gardens had been extended into the public open space without authorisation?
- f) The backlots, which form part of the open space provision for the Castletown Housing Estate as per the original planning permission, also have anti-social behaviour, management and maintenance issues to be addressed. How could these issues be resolved, in the context of the position adopted relating to the main public open space? .

These were clearly difficult issues that need to be addressed. There were no immediate alternative solutions to those that were envisaged within the Part 8 arrangements.

An Cathaoirleach disagreed that the backlots were part of the Part V111 and stated that they were a total separate issue, the committee all agreed that new discussions should commence with the residents and Office of Public Works so that an agreement could be reached that would satisfy all parties involved. Councillor Larkin asked if the residents could attend an area meeting as a starting point for reaching a new solution. Councillor Griffin agreed that negotiations with residents should re-commence and asked if the funding was still available. Mr Minnock stated that a huge amount of time and effort had been put into the

Part VIII and those staff involved were involved with other projects, and that the OPW were presently doing a review of their funding and was unable to say if funding was available.

Resolved: that negotiations with residents, council and OPW re-commence.

CE28/1111

Boundary extension from Salmon Leap Bridge

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

That the council seek a boundary extension from Salmon Leap Bridge (Leixlip Bridge) to the first roundabout in County Dublin past the Springfield hotel.

A report was received from the corporate affairs department dated on the 20 of October stating that Part V of the Local Government Act 1991 was the relevant legislation relating to Local Authority Boundary Alternation. Under Section 29 of the act a local authority [Proposer] may, by resolution, propose that the boundary of the county be altered. Any such proposal must be specified by reference to a map. A copy of the proposal must be furnished to any local authority whose boundary was affected [Respondent]. Notice of the proposed boundary alteration must be published giving details of the proposal and inviting submissions, within a specified period. A Respondent must reply to the proposal within a period of six months, unless a longer period had been agreed. This response was a reserved function. Once the time period has elapsed a Proposer may apply to the Minister to make an order under Section 31 of the act to alter a boundary. The decision to make such an application was a reserved function.

It must be noted that boundary alterations were a somewhat rare event. The impact of a boundary alteration must be considered having regard to a number of factors including:

Financial Matters

The effect on the finances of both Kildare County Council and South Dublin County Council need to be considered including issues such as outstanding debts and rates, development levies, financial adjustments and property.

Operational Matters

Operational issues relating to service continuity for the delivery of housing, roads, water services, planning, environmental protection etc must be addressed.

Franchise

Any implications for Franchise in both local authorities must be considered, including maintenance of the Register of Electors.

As outlined previously a decision to recommend consideration of a boundary extension, as outlined in the motion, would require a resolution of council in order to proceed. Councillor Purcell reported that the road was in a deplorable state from lack of maintenance and litter problems and asked that a strongly worded letter be sent to South Dublin County Council requesting that a clean up be done as soon as possible.

Resolved: that a letter be sent to South Dublin County Council requesting that a clean up of litter and required works be carried out as soon as possible.

The meeting concluded.