

**Minutes of the Celbridge Area Meeting
held on Friday, 25 January 2013 at 10.00 a.m.
in Áras Chill Dara, Naas.**

Members Present: Councillors C Purcell (Cathaoirleach); Councillors K Byrne, S Griffin, A Larkin, J McGinley and F O'Rourke

Also Present: Mr P Minnock (Area Director), Ms S Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Ms A Aspell (Meetings Administrator), Ms P Penny (Assistant Staff Officer), Mr J Deans (Area Engineer), Mr T McLoughlin (Graduate Engineer) and Ms C Loughlin (Area Secretary)

Vote of Sympathy

An Cathaoirleach and the members of the Celbridge area committee commenced the meeting by extending their sympathies to Kevin O'Sullivan who was an employee of Kildare County Council. Mr Minnock also extended his sympathies to the family and work colleagues of Kevin. Proposed by Councillor Purcell and second by Councillor McGinley that the committee held a one minute silence and adjourned the meeting for a five minute period as a mark of respect to the late Kevin O'Sullivan.

CE 01/1301

Minutes and Progress Report

The committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2012 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal as Councillor Byrne and seconded by Councillor Griffin that the minutes be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CE 02/1301

Matters arising from the Minutes and Progress Report

Signage projects

The members agreed that it should be possible for the area office to speak to the members regarding regional road signposting programme. The members requested that the area engineer work closely with the members.

Bus route 66

Councillor McGinley requested clarification as to who is holding up the extension of Bus route 66 and asked that an update on this issue be available for the next committee meeting.

Traffic problems at the bridge in Celbridge

Propose by Councillor Byrne and second by Councillor Purcell that the bridge in Celbridge be widened and this project be included in the capital programme for 2013.

CE 03/1301

National Roads Authority

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

That the National Roads Authority (NRA) be advised that we are totally opposed to the replacement of the M4 motorway junction on the Straffan Road with a new junction west of Maynooth

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 confirming that the NRA has stated that they have no plans to replace this junction.

Councillor McGinley referred to the Maynooth local area plan. He stated that there had been an objective in the local area plan that a new junction west of Maynooth should be constructed. He said that he asked for this objective to be removed from the Plan. Councillor McGinley requested clarification as to who raised the issue initially and if there is correspondence from the NRA in relation to this matter he would like a copy. Councillor Griffin agreed with Councillor McGinley and stated that a solution would be a roundabout at the Maynooth side of the interchange.

Resolved: Councillor McGinley would like to ask the planning department (a) Why the objective was included in the LAP (b) Who asked that the objective be included and (c) Is there any correspondence, particularly from the NRA, in relation to this matter and if so that he receives a copy.

CE 04/1301

13th Lock Lane in Ardclough

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

That 13th Lock Lane in Ardclough be prioritised for repair and surfacing under the local improvements scheme or another funding stream as it was submitted to the council in 2005.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013. No local improvement schemes were funded by central government in 2011 or 2012 and the allocation for 2013 has not yet been announced. Councillor O'Rourke requested that this work be prioritised if funding should come available.

Resolved: That the 13th Lock Lane in Ardclough be prioritised if funding becomes available.

CE 05/1301

Lishandra to Wheatfield Lower

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

That a footpath extension from Lishandra to Wheatfield Lower (13th Lock Road approx.) in Ardclough be included in the list of projects for submission to the N.T.A. for funding in 2013. A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that this scheme was submitted to the NTA for funding and it was expected that the grant allocation from the NTA would be announced in the near future.

The report was noted.

CE 06/1301

Sign poles near Castletown Gates in Celbridge

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

That the council inspect the number of sign poles that exist near Castletown Gates in Celbridge and remove what is no longer required in order to improve the appearance at this location.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that the area office was currently considering how best to consolidate the number of signs at this junction and hope to complete this work in the coming weeks. Councillor O'Rourke requested that a meeting be organised with the area engineer on site to discuss a solution to consolidate the number of signs at the junction.

Resolved: That the area engineer meet Councillor O'Rourke on site to discuss a solution to consolidate the number of signs at the junction.

CE 07/1301

Bus shelter Clane Road, Celbridge

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

That the council contact the provider of the bus shelter on the Clane Road in Celbridge and request them to replace the glass\perspex in the gable of same.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that these shelters are owned and maintained by the Council, however there was no maintenance contract currently in place. This issue would have to be addressed in the coming weeks. Councillor O'Rourke stated that the bus shelter is without the sheets of glass/perspex and requested that this be reinstated as a matter of urgency.

Resolved: That the area office reinstate the sheets of glass/perspex at the bus shelter as a matter of urgency.

CE 08/1301

Safety improvements Convent Lane, Maynooth

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

That an update be given on the revised design scheme for the approved €60,000 for safety improvements outside the Girl's School, Convent Lane, Maynooth.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that the allocation in 2012 was subject to completion of consultation and the design process. As these processes were not completed in 2012 the funding for this scheme was lost and must be reapplied for in 2013. Councillor McGinley stated that he was very annoyed that the council had lost the funding for the scheme, that the council had eight months to design safety improvements outside the Girl's School, Convent Lane, Maynooth. Ms Kavanagh explained that all the schemes that were approved were notified at the same time and designs had to be prepared for all the schemes simultaneously. There were particular issues with the design for this area. An application will be made for this funding in 2013. The report was noted.

CE 09/1301

Public light at the Square, Maynooth

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

That the top covers on the triple public light at The Square, Maynooth, be replaced before irreparable damage is caused to the unit and that the two faulty "runway" lights be repaired.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 confirming that these issues would be investigated and the Council's public lighting maintenance contractor, Airtricity, would repair the fault as soon as possible. Councillor McGinley stated that the top covers were removed by vandals and need to be replaced, also the runway lights be repaired as soon as possible.

Resolved: That the area office source top covers that need to be replaced and repair the runway lights.

CE 10/1301

Speed ramp at Easton Road

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

As a matter of urgency that we have a speed ramp installed along Easton Road as part of overall safety measures required.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that this issue has been referred to road design. It should be noted that no work can be progressed in the absence of confirmed funding. Councillor Larkin requested road design to prepare a design, when funding would come available from the NTA the area office could be ready to install the ramp.

Resolved: That road design prepare a design for the ramp at Easton Road.

CE 11/1301

Overhead wires Main Street, Celbridge

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

That the council now receive an up-to-date report on the application by the council to the National Roads Authority and the Leader Programme for funding to put the overhead wires in Main Street, Celbridge underground, being mindful of the motions tabled on this matter by myself and Councillor Griffin.

Mr Minnock updated the members on the current situation regarding the project, confirming that an application for Leader Funding is being finalised for submission. He stated that 75% of the funding will come from the Leader Programme with the other 25% to be contributed by the council and the local community. As soon as a positive decision is made, advances can be made on this project. Mr Minnock will update the members as soon as a decision is reached on funding.

The report was noted.

CE 12/1301

Drainage on the walkway from Barberstown Cross to Windgates

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

That surface water drainage be installed on the walkway from Barberstown Cross to Windgates to relieve flooding at the worst points on the walkway

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 confirming that the area office would have to examine this issue further as considerable construction work would be required to divert the surface water away from this section of

footpath. While Councillor Byrne was happy with the report he would like the area office to examine and reach a solution on the flooding on the walkway.

Resolved: That the area office to examine and reach a solution on the flooding on the walkway.

CE 13/1301

Pot holes in the Maynooth area

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

Can the pot holes on the Maynooth Road from the Castletown Gates to Colourtrend and in the footpath outside the Bank of Ireland in Celbridge be repaired?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that this section of road was scheduled for a road improvement grant in 2014. In the meantime localised potholes would be filled in the coming weeks. Councillor O'Rourke requested that this section of road be included in the road works programme 2013.

Resolved: That the area office include this section of road in the road works programme 2013.

CE 14/1301

Clean up on Aghards from Thornhill Heights towards Shackleton Road

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

Can the footpath together with the grass margin\planting on Aghards from Thornhill Heights towards Shackleton Road be cleaned up and swept?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that the area office would endeavour to do this work in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

CE 15/1301

Footpath on Church Road to be cleaned

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

Can the footpath on Church Road from Scoil Na Mainstreach to St Patrick's Park be cleaned and swept?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that the area office will endeavour to do this work in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

CE 16/1301

Directional arrow bollard on the Shackleton Road

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

Can the council replace the directional arrow bollard on the Shackleton Road island beside Tesco?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that the area office would examine this issue and revert to the members with a solution.

Resolved: That the area office examines this issue and revert to the members with a solution.

CE 17/1301

Traffic lights upgrade at Captains Hill

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

Can we have an update on the traffic lights upgrade at Captains Hill, Main Street, Leixlip?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that the work on upgrading the signals at Captain's Hill was halted due to the revision of Health and Safety procedures. The work was due to be completed by the end of January and the operation of the MOVA technology at the junction would be validated by the end of February 2013.

The report was noted.

CE 18/1301

NRA funding for projects

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

Can this committee make recommendations to the council in respect to NRA funding for projects for 2013?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that it was hoped to get confirmation of funding from the NRA for funding of Restoration schemes in 2013 during the coming month and the members would be informed as soon as this information was received.

The report was noted.

CE 19/1301

Sign at the entrance to Castlevillage Lawns

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

Can the council replace the street name sign at the entrance to Castlevillage Lawns which is broken beyond repair and is required for the information of the emergency services and others?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that it was not common practice for the council to erect street name signs for individual estates. However, the council can erect bilingual directional signs to the estate if this was required. Councillor Byrne confirmed that the sign is broken beyond repair. Mr Jonathan Dean agreed to take a look at the sign.

Resolved: That the area office replace the street name sign at the entrance to Castlevillage Lawns.

CE 20/1301

Road markings in Ballyoulster estate

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

When will the plan for the provision of road markings in Ballyoulster estate be put into practice?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that at total the area office was not aware of this plan and it would not be considered normal procedure to put down lines in private estates. Ms Kavanagh stated that the area office was not aware of any plans for the provision of road markings in Ballyoulster estate. Ms Kavanagh informed Councillor Byrne she would request the area office to review the matter.

Resolved: That the area office reports back to Councillor Byrne on this item at the February committee meeting.

CE 21/1301

Footpaths in Castlevillage estate, Celbridge

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

Can I have a progress report on my motion seeking to have the footpaths in Castlevillage estate, Celbridge dishd to facilitate wheelchair users?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that the area office would examine these proposals and evaluate the need and funding available. Councillor Byrne requested an update on this matter at the next area meeting.

Resolved: That the area office update Councillor Byrne on the proposal to have the footpaths in Castlevillage estate, Celbridge ditched to facilitate wheelchair users.

CE 22/1301

Potholes at the entrance to Ryevale Lawns

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

To ask the council to fill in the potholes at the entrance to Ryevale Lawns.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that these potholes relate to issues around water service manholes. This item has been referred to water services department for report at the February meeting.

Resolved: That the water services department report on the item at the February meeting.

CE 23/1301

Private car park on Captains Hill, Leixlip

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

Will the council ensure that the private car park on Captains Hill, Leixlip operates outside the councils own scheme and notes that 24/7 clamping is in operation?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that there are no regulations regarding signage in relation to private car parks specifically. The council is currently not in a position to negotiate with the owners of this car park for its inclusion under Leixlip Pay Parking Bye Laws 2012 as this would require a full review of Pay Parking Bye Laws.

The report was noted.

CE 24/1301

Grass cutting in the Celbridge/Leixlip area

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

Has the council reached an agreement with the grass cutting contractor to cut back the furze bushes and briars along the footpath between the Celbridge/Leixlip interchange and the Kilmacraddock Roundabout?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 24 January 2013 stating that the area office would enquire into the extent of the existing maintenance landscaping contract and examine the feasibility of maintaining the sections outside this contract. Councillor Griffin expressed his disappointment with the report and explained that the bushes are two to three feet out on the footpath. A simple solution would be to cut the

furze bushes and briars along the footpath as the issue is a danger to the public using the footpath.

Resolved: That the area office cut the furze bushes and briars along the footpath between the Celbridge/Leixlip interchange and the Kilmacraddock Roundabout.

CE 25/1301

Calming ramps on the Dunboyne road

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

That the developer of Carton Square, Maynooth, (details supplied), be asked to repair the two traffic calming ramps that were installed on the Dunboyne Road as a result of condition 32 of planning application 03/2084.

A report was received from the planning department dated 16 January 2013 stating that the building control section confirmed that Carton Square has not been taken in charge by the council and a management company is in place in the estate. Councillor McGinley stated that the ramps on the Dunboyne Road are in a serious condition and he requested the planning department to write to the developer of Carton Square, Maynooth to repair the ramps as soon as possible.

Resolved: That the planning department write to the developer of Carton Square, Maynooth requesting them to repair the ramps on the Dunboyne Road as soon as possible.

CE 26/1301

Unauthorised developments

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

That this committee be informed of any unauthorised developments in our electoral area together with a plan and time frame to deal with the back log.

A report was received from the planning department dated 16 January 2013 stating that the planning authority uses a database system devised by the Local Government Computer Services Board to record and monitor unauthorised development. All files over two years old are currently being examined with a view to determining whether they can be closed or whether they should be re-activated. The aim is to bring unauthorised development under control, remedy the undesirable effect of unauthorised development and, where necessary, take legal action against those who ignore or flout planning legislation. Councillor Purcell questioned how well the council is dealing with the problem of unauthorised development. Ms Aspell and Mr Minnock responded to queries explaining that there are cases pending legal action and that cases have been brought to the courts where people have been fined and imprisoned arising from unauthorised development cases.

That the report be noted.

CE 27/1301

Ramp in Straffan

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

That the council reinstate the finish surfacing on the ramp in Straffan to match the existing after recent repair works that were carried out.

A report was received from the water services department dated 18 January 2013 stating that waterworks has inspected the above site and consider it to be in a safe condition. The request to replace the black tarmac with red tarmac would be considered when the air temperatures improve to facilitate the placing of such material. Councillor O'Rourke stated that no effort was made to match the surface on the ramp that was already in use in Straffan.

Resolved: That the ramps be reinstated to match the existing surface of ramps in the village.

CE 28/1301

Litter bins in Straffan

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

That litter bins be provided near Straffan National School and at the pull-in at the Liffey Bridge in Straffan and which will then be emptied as required by the local tidy towns committee.

A report was received from the environment department dated 23 January 2013 stating that the budget for bin provision was limited to a small number of bins. The requests would be considered but, if provided, it would be necessary for tidy towns groups to empty them. Councillor Byrne confirmed that if the bins are provided the tidy towns group will empty the bins. Councillor Griffin referred to a scheme operated by Galway City Council where by the councillor generate income from sponsors advertising on bins. He requested that the environment department contact Galway City and enquire how they operate the scheme.

Resolved: That the environment department contact Galway City Council and enquire how they operate the scheme whereby sponsors advertise on bins.

CE 29/1301

Graffiti in Leixlip

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

Following another spate of spray can spraying in Leixlip, that the council work more closely with the Gardaí in a concentrated effort to rid the communities of this scourge

A report was received from the environment department dated 23 January 2013 stating that in relation to the graffiti, unless the perpetrator was identified by somebody, it was very difficult to pursue these cases. The matter has been referred to the Joint Policy Committee for consideration. Councillor Purcell stated that there had been attacks on the local train station but thanks to CCTV the perpetrators were caught and the Guards are now involved.

Resolved: That the environment department update the members following consideration by the Joint Policy Committee.

CE 30/1301

Litter and illegal dumping in the county

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

As 2013 is the year of The Gathering, we congratulate the council and local communities in their efforts to rid the county of litter and we call on all members of the public to report all illegal dumping.

A report was received from the environment department dated 23 January 2013 stating that any assistance from the public in reporting illegal dumping was welcome. The public can contact the environment section directly or can use a free phone number- 1800 243 143. Councillor Purcell urged the press to publish the free phone number in the local papers. The report was noted.

CE 31/1301

Food take-aways in maynooth

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

What response has there been from the food take-aways in Maynooth to the letter sent to them as a result of my motion to the November area committee meeting?

A report was received from the environment department dated 23 January 2013 stating that each of the food take-aways were issued with a letter requesting that arrangements be made by them to deal with litter particularly in the early hours . The letter was hand delivered by the litter warden who explained the difficulties facing Kildare County Council and Tidy Towns groups in respect of litter in the town.

The report was noted.

CE 32/1301

Waterways Ireland to remove trees in Celbridge

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

That the council request Waterways Ireland to remove the four fallen trees from the Millrace at Templemills, Celbridge and further that the 30 metre high trees on the island be removed or dramatically reduced in height.

A report was received from the parks department dated 24 January 2013 stating the parks superintendent was unavailable to answer the motion. The motion would be listed on the February agenda.

Resolved: That the parks superintendent report on the item at the February meeting.

CE 33/1301

Waterways Ireland to remove trees in Maynooth

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

That Waterways Ireland be requested to remove the tree from the Lyreen River (beside Pound Park, Maynooth).

A report was received from the parks department dated 24 January 2013 stating the parks superintendent was unavailable to answer the motion. The motion would be listed on the February agenda.

Resolved: That the parks superintendent report on the item at the February meeting.

CE 34/1301

Tree pruning programme for Maynooth

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

That the area committee be given the tree pruning programme for Maynooth.

A report was received from the parks department dated 24 January 2013 stating the parks superintendent was unavailable to answer the motion would be listed on the February agenda.

Resolved: That the parks superintendent report on the item at the February meeting.

CE 35/1301

Christmas Lighting

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

Can this committee congratulate the local committees responsible for Christmas lighting in our towns?

Councillor Purcell thanked the local committees for all their hard work in organising the Christmas lighting.