

Minutes of the Celbridge Area Meeting

Held on Friday 21, June 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

in Áras Chill Dara, Naas.

Members Present: Councillors C Purcell (Cathaoirleach); Councillors T. Byrne, K Byrne, S Griffin, A Larkin, J McGinley and F O'Rourke

Also Present: Mr G Perry (Acting/Area Director), Mr J Deane (Area Engineer), Ms S Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Ms P Penny (Assistant Staff Officer), Ms A. Aspell (Meetings Administrator) and Ms S Rice (Area Secretary)

CE 01/1306

Minutes and Progress Report

The committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2013 together with the progress report.

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

Vote of Sympathy

An Cathaoirleach and members extended their sympathies and condolences to Eileen Nolan, Corporate Services on the death of her mother Mrs. Lizzie Ann Nolan, and Mary Foley, Planning section on the recent passing of her mother Mrs. Breda Whelan.

Leixlip Town Council

An Cathaoirleach and members welcomed Councillor Teresa Byrne to the committee following her election as Cathaoirleach of Leixlip Town Council at their recent annual general meeting.

CE 02/1306

Matters arising from the Minutes and Progress Report

Celbridge Trading Bye Laws

Councillor O'Rourke reported that a meeting had taken place with residents and traders and it was suggested that there would be enough space for two stalls at the entrance to Castletown on Main Street, Celbridge, he asked if this could go on public display for the July

meeting, the meetings administrator said she would liaise with the area engineer regarding the location and casual trading bye laws.

CE 03/1306

Upgrade Maynooth Road, Celbridge

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

That the council prepare plans to upgrade the remainder of the Maynooth Road, Celbridge and in particular the area near Scoil Na Mainstreach/Shackleton Road where a dedicated right turning lane is required and to provide traffic calming and ease of access/exit at the junctions up to the Salesian College and that funding be sought from the National Transport Authority for this most important project.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 June 2013 confirming that NTA funding was in place in principle for the improvements on the Aghards Road and it was hoped to do this work later in the summer. The NTA have not yet asked for proposals to be submitted for projects for the 2014 round but would consider the proposals for Scoil na Mainstreach. However, NTA projects largely relate to improvements in pedestrian and cyclist safety rather than the improvement of road efficiency for vehicular use.

The report was noted.

CE 04/1306

Upgrade of road from Ballyoulster to Donacomper Cemetary

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

That the council examine the road from Ballyoulster to Donaghcomper Cemetery where some of the roadway is subsiding and is a danger to cyclist and car users.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 June 2013 confirming that this work was done last week.

The report was noted.

CE 05/1306

Footpath repair in Oakleigh estate

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

That the council repair the footpath at houses (details supplied) and the kerb at house (details supplied) in Oakleigh estate, Clane Road, Celbridge when funding becomes available.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 June 2013 confirming that these footpaths were reviewed and certain sections would be listed for work later in the summer.

The report was noted.

CE 06/1306

Grass verge at NUI, Maynooth

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

That NUI, Maynooth be again asked to cut the grass (hay) on the verges on the Kilcock Road outside their premises and on the roundabout at the entrance to NUI, Maynooth as it is a disgrace at present.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 June 2013 stating that this work appeared to have been done by NUI Maynooth in the last week. Councillor McGinley was pleased to see that the works had been done but added that it should have been done sooner and that cars had started parking on the grass margin again, he hoped that the new parking bye laws would rectify this.

The report was noted.

CE 07/1306

Large gully/open drain at Leinster Street, Maynooth

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

That a report be given to the area committee on what action has been taken by planning or roads sections over the past 18 months to make the large gully/open drain at Leinster Street, Maynooth, safe and not a litter magnet and eyesore. That consideration be given to covering it over with a footpath seeing that this most pedestrianised street in Maynooth does not have a footpath at present.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 June 2013 stating that the consultants (Aecom) had been appointed to review and design a cycling route corridor through Maynooth. As part of this scheme, they were developing proposals for a footpath along Leinster Street on the line of the open drain. When the design for this was completed a report would issued to the area committee.

The report was noted.

CE 08/1306

Footpath on the east side of Celbridge Road, Maynooth

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

That the provision of a footpath on the east side of Celbridge Road, Maynooth, from Rockfield to the Educate Together School, be included in the Sustainable Transport Grants sought for 2014.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 June 2013 stating that the area office would keep this suggestion in mind for when consideration was being given for the 2014 NTA application. Councillor McGinley said that it was a priority that this area be added to the list of works, Councillor Griffin added that the landowner would be happy to co-operate with the roads department in relation to the need of a footpath and part of his lands being used, Mr Deane said he would add the area to the list but added that all areas would be reviewed should any funding become available.

The report was noted.

CE09/1306

Remove concrete plinth Clane Road

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

That the council consider removing the concrete plinth at the entrance to the car park on the Clane Road as it is causing difficulties for motorists entering and exiting, if necessary, that it be replaced with a plastic bollard or road markings.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 June 2013 stating that this car park was on private land, options are limited. The removal of the plinth was not recommended as it was providing a form of traffic calming and speed reduction at the entrance to the car park. Improved line marking and the provision of a "knock down" directional arrow within the car park may be more effective. The area office would contact the car park owners to offer assistance. Mr Deane said he would make contact with St Raphael's to discuss this matter further.

Resolved: That the area engineer contact St Raphael's to discuss the area in question.

CE10/1306

Repairs on the Hazelhatch Road

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

That the council carry out repairs to the road surface on the Hazelhatch Road opposite the shop units.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 June 2013 stating that the problems outlined on the road relate to the reinstatement actions of a private developer. The area office would contact those responsible to try to resolve the issue. The report was noted.

CE 11/1306

Replace stone wall of Rye Bridge

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

That the council would replace the stone wall on each side of Rye Bridge with ornate railing so that the River Rye and the boathouse can be viewed by people as they walk past.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 June 2013 stating that unfortunately, there could be operational difficulties with this proposal as the wall had to be sufficiently strong to retain road vehicles and prevent them from crashing into the river below. Councillor Larkin stated that he was opposed to the removal of the ancient stone wall as it had significant historical value; he suggested that a boardwalk might be a better compromise. Councillor Teresa Byrne supported this motion but also agreed with the suggestion of a boardwalk. Councillor Griffin added that the maintenance and upkeep infrastructure of this kind should be included in Local Area Plans and County Development plans.

The report was noted

CE 12/1306

Erect road sign on the Straffan Road

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

That the council erect a road sign indicating a right hand junction on the Straffan Road leading to Ballygoran Reservoir.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 June 2013

The area office will arrange to erect the requested sign in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

CE 13/1306

Pedestrian link to English Row/ Church Road

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

Can the council examine the possibility of providing a new pedestrian link to English Row/Church Road from the council car park on the Clane Road to make it more accessible for customers to shop in that area of the Main Street as per location map E3369A July 2011? A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 June 2013 stating that there were options regarding the route of this link which the area office needed to review before proposing a definitive solution.

The report was noted.

CE 14 /1306

Extension of a footpath from Lishandra estate

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

Can the council seek funding under the Sustainable Transport Grants for an extension of the footpath from Lishandra estate, Ardclough to Costello's Lane (which leads to the 13th lock)?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 June stating that construction of a footpath along this section of road would require removal of a section of trees and hedgerow as there was insufficient space between the road and tree boundary.

The area office would need to gather information on the likely usage of this footpath before we proceed any further with the design.

The report was noted.

CE 15/1306

Drains on Main Street, Maynooth

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

Will the drains on the footpaths on Main Street, Maynooth, be flushed clean (as they are completely blocked up at present) before the Irish Open Golf?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 June informing the members that this work was ongoing.

The report was noted.

CE 16/1306

Removal of gum on Main street, Maynooth

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

Is the council or the Maynooth Business Association (through a council grant) going to remove the gum on the footpaths on Main Street, Maynooth before the Irish Open Golf and will they be power hosed similar to what was done by the Avenue Cafe?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 June informing the members that this issue would not be addressed prior to the Irish Open. Councillor McGinley reported that a campaign would be launched on the 6 of July in relation to this.

The report was noted.

CE 17/1306

Removal of steel tube, Aghards Road

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

Can the piece of steel tube sticking out of the footpath on Aghards Road beside bus stop number 7079 be removed?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 June informing the members that this issue had been forwarded to the overseer for attention.

The report was noted.

CE 18/1306

Reinstate footpath at Castletown Court, Celbridge

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

Can the section in the footpath between house number (details supplied) in Castletown Court, Celbridge be reinstated as it is a concern for pedestrians?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 June informing the members that this would be addressed in the coming week.

The report was noted.

CE 19/1306

Eliminate ponding of water at Riverdale, Leixlip

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

Will the council examine the work recently carried out at Riverdale, Leixlip to eliminate ponding of water at the entrance? This work was ineffective during recent rainfalls.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 June stating that there was an issue with the downstream pipe that this drainage was connected into. It may have been damaged by services and this obstruction was only now coming to light. The area office would arrange to CCTV the line to identify any specific issues.

The report was noted.

CE 20/1306

Repair pathway at Avondale, Leixlip

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

Will the council repair the pathway close to house number (details supplied) Avondale, Leixlip? This pathway, in the condition it is in, is preventing wheelchair users from using St. Catherines Park as an amenity. (The pathway was tarmacadamed and now has some sections missing).

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 June informing the members that the footpath was in poor condition and repairs are warranted. The area office had previously applied for an NTA grant to repair it but that application was unsuccessful.

The area office would apply again for funding in 2014.

The report was noted.

CE 21/1306

Update on the link road from Moyglare to Moygaddy Road

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

Can we have an update on progress, if any, on the provision of the link road from the education campus at Moyglare to the Moygaddy Road, County Meath?

A report was received from the environment department dated 17 June informing the members that the proposed link road / associated development was at pre-planning stage. Roads design and their counterparts in Meath County Council were due to meet to discuss the proposal and this meeting was in the process of being arranged. Councillor Griffin asked that this matter be prioritised and if a meeting could be arranged with the Dunshaughlin area committee to discuss this further as this item.

Resolved: that this item be prioritised and a meeting be arranged with the Dunshaughlin area committee.

CE 22/1306

Upgrade traffic calming ramp, Moyglare Road

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

Is it possible, for health and safety reasons, to upgrade the current traffic calming ramp on the Moyglare Road (beside St Mary's National School) to a full pedestrian crossing?

A report was received from roads and transport department the dated 17 June informing the members that the roads design section would provide a report on this matter, however, it should be noted that no works could be progressed in the absence of confirmed funding. Councillor Griffin stated that a large number of students from both schools used this crossing and there was a safety issue with the current crossing, he asked if the NTA could provide funding for this, Mr Deane said that he had been in talks with the school regarding this issue and that roads design were currently investigating the possibility of two crossing in this area. The report was noted.

CE 23/1306

Road relining programme

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

Is there an official road relining programme for the area?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 June informing the members that a contractor had been appointed to complete road markings as the need arises. If Councillors have any specific locations that they feel are in need of new road markings they should route their requests through the area office. Councillor Larkin reported that some road markings in estates were barely visible due to wear and tear which was causing a difficulty for motorists.

The report was noted.

CE 24/1306

Pilot project Communal emergency response

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

What are the results of the pilot project communal emergency response which was set up in Celbridge?

A report was received from the community and enterprise section dated 17 June stating that the response has been extremely positive. Over 45 residents associations had signed up to

a text system where by they would receive information should an emergency occur. This system could also be used for disseminating information such as water shortages etc. If any other area would like to set up this system they could contact the community and culture department for further information. Councillor Purcell thanked the Anne Marie Conneely and the community and culture department for the report and their involvement in this.

The report was noted.

CE 25/1306

Library services Leixlip, Maynooth and Celbridge

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

That we seek a report from the Library Services on the opening hours of our community libraries in Leixlip, Maynooth and Celbridge and that we provide longer opening hours with income from the household charge/property tax. The report should also indicate membership increase/decrease since 2009 and the funding increase/decrease for the same period.

A report was received from the library services section dated 17 June stating that library services in Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth Libraries combined showed an increase in the areas of issues, programming and visitor numbers. Kildare Library Service had also increased Library Service Hours available per week in these combined branches (increased by 18.3% since 2009). The statistics indicated a substantial increase in active membership in the period. This was in part due to the 3 year membership implemented in 2007, our extensive collections, committed staff and the development of increased library programming as evidenced by an increase of 84%.

	2009 Combined	2012 Combined	% Increase
Active Membership	9,993	18,687	87
Issues	225,843	248,754	10.1
Programmes	802	1,478	84.3
Number of visits	253,004	270,480	6.9
Library Service Hours Per Week	109.5	129.5	18.3

Library Budget Comparison for period 2009 and 2012

Overall Budget Comparison	2009	2012	Difference	% Decrease
Total Library Budget	4,976,152	4,351,150	625,002	12.6
Book Fund allocation	545,000	369,000	176,000	32

Given ongoing limitations around current staffing resources, Kildare Library and Arts Services had no immediate plans to extend opening hours in the county. Councillor Purcell thanked and commended the library staff on their hard work and their commitment to the communities and the service they delivered within tight budget constraints.

The report was noted.

CE 26/1306

Examination of wall at Avondale, Leixlip

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

Will the council re-examine the wall that divides Avondale from Newtown Park, Leixlip? This wall was constructed under contract by this council and needs to be checked under health and safety rules.

A report was received from the roads department dated 17 June stating that the area engineer needed to review all the correspondence in relation to this matter, before he could compile a report. Councillor Griffin supported this motion and added that the council constructed the wall in question and was therefore responsible for its repair and maintenance; he asked that it be attended to immediately.

Resolved: that the area engineer investigate this matter further and report back to the members at the July meeting.

CE 27/1306

Cutting/removal of trees in estates

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

What is the official council position on the cutting/removal of trees in estates in charge and in general?

A report was received from the parks department dated 13 June stating that the councils position in relation to the pruning and removal of trees was that a request was made to Kildare County Council regarding the concerns of individuals or organisations may have in relation to trees in their area. The action was listed for inclusion in the tree works programme and carried out once there were sufficient resources to implement the work. All work was

carried out by a suitably qualified tree surgeon to meet BS 3998:2010 tree works. Councillor Larkin asked if this report could be forwarded to the Town Council in the effort to stop residents from pruning trees outside their properties.

Resolved: That this report be forwarded to Leixlip Town Council.

CE 28/1306

Removal of Graffiti

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

That this committee write to the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government asking that penalties be substantially increased for graffiti defacement.

A report was received from the environmental section dated 17 June stating that graffiti was classed as criminal damage (not litter or pollution) and may be a matter for the Minister for Justice and Equality rather than the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government. The environment section could write to both departments if agreed by the committee. The members welcomed the report, Councillor Purcell suggested that the penalties be increased for those charged with such crime and also requested that letters be sent to local T.Ds asking them to raise the issue in the Dáil, Councillor O'Rourke supported the motion and reported that various buildings had been defaced in the area recently and the offenders when caught should be forced to remove the graffiti, Councillor Teresa Byrne agreed with all comments on this item and said they had a similar problem in parts of Leixlip.

Resolved: that letters be sent to local T.D's and the Minister for Justice and Equality to include the member's suggestions.

CE 29/1306

Sewerage scheme Barrogstown/Kilmacraddock

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

That the area committee be given an update on the status of the proposed sewerage scheme to serve the residents of Barrogstown/Kilmacraddock.

A report was received from the water services section dated 17 June stating that the proposed Barrogstown/Kilmacraddock Group Sewerage Scheme did not receive funding under the Rural Water Programme 2013. Some pilot group sewerage schemes were being advanced nationally in 2013 to see if they were financially viable at the increased grant aid of €6,500. The proposed group sewerage scheme for Barrogstown/Kilmacraddock would be kept on file and funding would be applied for under the Rural Water Programme 2014.

Councillor Griffin expressed his disappointment with the report and stated that the locals were eager to progress this matter and move forward, he asked that the water services section re-investigate and support the residents, Councillor McGinley supported this motion and added that the residents themselves had a feasibility study conducted and plans had been drawn up.

Resolved: That the water services section investigate this matter further and apply for funding.

CE 30/1306

Pilot scheme for emptying of litter bins in Celbridge

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

That in view of the willingness of a number of traders in Maynooth to assist in emptying some of the over flowing litter bins, we consider a pilot scheme for the Celbridge area and how best the council can provide back up support for those willing participants

A report was received from the environmental section dated 17 June stating that the pilot scheme in Maynooth continued to be progressed with Kildare County Council assisting with arrangements involving traders and the local Tidy Towns group. A pilot scheme for Celbridge Town could also be considered. The success of the Celbridge Town project would depended on the willingness of all parties to work together to coordinate actions to assist in dealing with litter. Councillor Griffin stated that the North of the county was looking extremely well and he thanked the area offices and local community groups for their commitment and hard work, all members were in favour of the pilot scheme and Councillor O'Rourke added that local businesses in Celbridge were particularly eager to liaise and cooperate with the council on this.

Resolved: that a pilot scheme be initiated in Celbridge with the cooperation of traders in to assist in emptying some of the over flowing litter bins,

CE 31/1306

Waterbutts

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

That a short video clip be made and put online to demonstrate the ease of installation of waterbutts.

A report was received from the water services section dated 17 June stating that Installation instructions are provided with water butts supplied by Kildare County Council. There were various videos which could be viewed on the internet,(youtube.com for example), which

could be of assistance. The cost of making such a video clip would be very expensive and difficult to justify. Councillor Larkin disagreed with the report and added that a video could be made at little cost and placed on the council website, he asked that this be re-investigated and that a report be prepared for the July meeting.

Resolved: that this be re-investigated and that a report be prepared for the July meeting.

CE 32/1306

Paul Deering of Barnhall RFC

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

That a letter of congratulations be sent to Paul Deering of Barnhall RFC on his appointment to president of the Leinster branch which is a huge achievement for him and the club.

Councillor Larkin reported to the committee that it was a great honour and privilege for a local man to be appointed to such an esteemed position, he also asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to Leixlip women Emma Byrne, Goalkeeper for Arsenal Ladies and Ireland Senior International Football team on her impending marriage.

Resolved: That letters be sent to both Paul Deering and Emma Byrne.

CE 33/1306

Post box at Tesco Express Celbridge

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

Can the council contact An Post to provide a post box near the Tesco Express store at Primrose Gate, Celbridge following representations from several residents?

A report was received from the parks department dated 17 June stating that a letter would be sent on behalf of the members.

The report was noted.

CE 34/1306

Any Other Business

Bus Shelter on N4, Liffey Valley

Councillor Purcell asked if a letter could be sent to Bus Eireann on behalf of the committee asking that a bus shelter be put at the bus stop at this location for those people travelling to and from County Kildare to Liffey Valley shopping centre.

The meeting concluded.