

Minutes of the Celbridge Area Meeting

**Held on Friday 21, February 2014 at 10.00 a.m.
in Áras Chill Dara, Naas.**

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

Apologies: Councillors S Griffin and A Larkin,

Also Present: Ms Ann Crofton (A/Area Director), Mr J. Coppinger, (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr J Deane (Area Engineer), Mr G Duff (Administrative Officer), Ms P Penny (Assistant Staff Officer), Ms A Aspell (A/Meetings Administrator) and Ms S Rice (Area Secretary)

CE 01/1402

Minutes and Progress Report

The committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2014 together with the progress report.

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

CE 02/1402

Matters arising from the Minutes and Progress

Noise Action Plan for the M4

Councillor McGinley stated that the second "Noise Action Plan" was very inaccurate as it had compared the M4 with the M7, he added that the M4 was 20 years old and urgently needed to be upgraded with a noise reduction surface, he stated that the head of the NRA had given a commitment that the upgrade would be done, he asked that Leo Varadkar TD, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport and Junior Minister Alan Kelly be contacted in relation to this. The members asked that a copy of the second Noise Action Plan be circulated to each member as soon as possible.

Widening of the Liffey Bridge at Celbridge

Councillor K Byrne stated that the €30,000 allocated for the works should be used for the works only and not spent on a consultants report and that a report be presented to the members for the March meeting.

North-South Cycle Route Corridor Study for Maynooth

Councillor McGinley asked that the Part VIII of the draft proposals be brought to the area committee prior to public consultation and that a meeting with the senior executive engineer, traffic management would be arranged as requested.

Dublin registered taxis

Councillor Purcell reported that the members requested that the Taxi Regulator be invited to a meeting of the Celbridge Area Committee.

Parking in Oaklawn West Leixlip

It was reported that the Leixlip Pay Parking Bye Laws were adopted by the elected members on 15 June 2012 and came into operation on 2 July 2012. It was advised that the Bye Laws should be given a minimum of four years before any review is carried out, however, this was at the discretion of the elected members. It should be noted that there is no funding currently available to carry out such a review. Councillor T Byrne reported that the residents were extremely unhappy with the current arrangements and asked if anything could be done to make a change to the bye-laws. Councillor Purcell stated that he wanted to see a review of Leixlip Pay Parking Bye-Laws. It was proposed by Councillor Purcell and seconded by Councillor O'Rourke that the bye-laws be "Amended" where necessary.

Exit from Roman Catholic Church car park, Leixlip

It was reported that the area engineer and the chief technician were currently reviewing this issue and a report would be prepared for the next meeting, Councillor Purcell welcomed this and added that it was vital that the exit be modified in order to make exiting from the church safe for all road users.

Overview report on pay parking in Celbridge and Leixlip

The members discussed the findings of the reports and added that the cost of a private company running the service was astronomical, An Cathaoirleach asked why the council were not using direct labour to run the pay parking in Kildare, he added that there would be huge savings for the council, Councillor McGinley asked for a breakdown on the amount tickets issued for "No road Tax", it was proposed by Councillor Purcell and seconded by Councillor O'Rourke that the council should use direct labour to enforce and run the pay parking in Kildare.

Lights with a crossing on Easton Road

It was reported that there was currently no internal/external funding available for this project. However, an application for external funding would be made during the next round of funding applications. Councillor Purcell asked that a design and drawings be prepared by the councils own staff in order to reduce the costs. Councillor T Byrne added that this was a very dangerous junction and a solution was needed urgently, Councillor T Byrne also enquired if funding had been applied for?

To examine the Clane Road\Shakelton Road junction layout

It was reported that the junction was a standard T-type junction with the addition of two left slips and that there was sufficient signage on all approaches informing motorists of traffic signals ahead and there were good sightlines for motorists on all approaches. An Cathaoirleach asked if a flashing amber light could be installed on the right turn coming from the Clane road into Celbridge.

Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant

It was reported that in relation to the request for an alternative route, there was no alternative public route available. The plant had capacity to receive and treat foul waste to a maximum loading of 80,000 PE, and was currently being upgraded to increase the capacity to 150,000 PE. The collection network was designed, in so far as reasonably possible to ensure that surface water did not enter the foul network. The permit process for the construction of the plant and the plant upgrade involved the making of an EIS. Councillor Purcell reported that tankers were parking on the Black Avenue early in the mornings and disrupting the residents, and asked who had given the permission for these tankers to empty their loads at this location.

CE 03/1402

Illegal parking, Maynooth

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

That this council asks traffic wardens to patrol Maynooth on a regular basis in order to put a stop to illegal parking and that the council asks the Garda Traffic Corps Division in Naas to also deal with this and the very serious issue of vehicles breaking red lights.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that Kildare County Council's staff traffic wardens had, on a number of occasions,

been instructed to patrol Maynooth on a regular basis and to take enforcement action in respect of illegal parking. The roads department would again instruct traffic wardens to undertake such patrols and enforcement. The roads department would also write to the traffic corps of Naas Gardai in relation to the issue of drivers ignoring red lights. Councillor McGinley welcomed the report, he asked that the Gardai be written to and that a letter also be sent to the Garda Inspector in Leixlip.

Resolved: that a letter be sent to Naas traffic Corp and the Garda Inspector in Leixlip asking them to patrol Maynooth on a regular basis.

CE 04/1402

Road markings, Main Street, Maynooth

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

That signage be painted on the Straffan Road as it joins Main Street, Maynooth to indicate that the right lane is also for straight ahead into Fagan's Lane and that the left lane is for left turning traffic only.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that this location was a controlled signalised junction. Road markings should give advance warning and guidance to road users of the controlled movements ahead. The movement into Fagan's Lane was not a controlled movement i.e. drivers carry it out at their own discretion. Any additional road markings which would indicate an uncontrolled movement not provided for by the traffic signals may cause confusion to road users. The report was noted.

CE 05/1402

Removal of litter, slip road onto M4

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

That the NRA be asked to remove the dumped drink cartons and other rubbish at the slip road from the Straffan Road into Dublin on the M4 and that they erect signs advising motorists that it is a criminal offence to litter.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that if the committee was in agreement then the roads department would write to the National Roads Authority in this regard. Councillor McGinley welcomed the report and asked that the roads department write to the NRA in relation to the above.

Resolved: that a letter be sent to the NRA asking them to erect "No Dumping" signs and clean up the slip road onto the M4 from Straffan road.

CE 06/1402

Grass Margin, River Forest Shopping Centre, Leixlip

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

That the area engineer look at the green verge on the left side past the side entrance to River Forest Shopping Centre, and that section of the grass verge be removed and tarmac put there instead. Leixlip Town Council has reinstated that area a number of times. This area is in a terrible mess, as it is used by people driving their children to school and a large number of delivery trucks use that entrance

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 confirming that the area office acknowledged that the section of verge in question was unsightly, especially during a wet winter. The area office would be willing to consult with Tidy Towns to see if it could assist them in carrying out improvements when resources allow. Councillor T Byrne requested that the Town Council be consulted in relation to this.

Resolved: Councillor T Byrne requested that the Town Council be consulted in relation to this.

CE 07/1402

Entrance to River Forest, Leixlip

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

That the area engineer reviews the entrance to River Forest estate down to the pedestrian lights. There was a plan for that area when the public library and the youth centre were built and a huge volume of traffic enters the estate, an average of 1500 vehicles per day, and this road serves the shopping centre, Confey College, Newtown Campus and public transport. It is a very busy area used by all ages and there had been a number of minor accidents around that entrance. Re-marking is proposed to help but it needs a review.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that the area office was not in a position to commit to carrying out improvements at this junction except for road marking which would be done in the coming weeks. Councillor T Byrne stated that road markings alone would not be sufficient at this entrance. Councillor Purcell agreed with this and they asked that the area office review the plans.

Resolved: that the area office review this location with the intention of further works being done to improve the safety of the motorists.

CE 08/1402

Height restriction barrier, Celbridge

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

That the council install a height restriction barrier at their public car park on the Clane Road in Celbridge.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 informing the members that this carpark was privately owned but leased to Kildare County Council. The area office was in discussion with the owners to try to introduce measures to prevent illegal overnight encampments. As no surplus monies were being generated from Celbridge pay parking at present there was no funding currently available for the installation of a height restriction at this car park. An Cathaoirelach stated that it would be more cost effective for a barrier to be installed as apposed to cleaning up the area each time dumping occurred, he asked if the council could contact St John of Gods to see if they would be willing to assist, Councillor T Byrne asked why vehicles in this carpark were not being ticketed.

Resolved: that the council could contact St John of Gods to see if they would be willing to assist, and inquire as to why vehicles in this carpark were not being ticketed.

CE 09/1402

Repairs to cobble locking, English Row, Celbridge

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

That the council carry out the necessary repairs to the cobble lock footpath on English Row in front of the entrance to the Mucky Duck car park in the interest of pedestrian welfare.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 confirming that the area office was not in a position to repair this entrance at the moment but would list it for future attention, An Cathaoirleach stated that it was in very bad condition and would appreciate if it could be listed for repair.

The report was noted.

CE 10/1402

Repair of Speed ramps, Celbridge

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

That the council repair the speed ramps in Callenders Mill and Simmonstown Manor estates, Celbridge given the fact that they are crumbling and causing major damage to car tyres, suspensions and bodywork

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 confirming that the ramps on the “in charge” section of this road would be replaced during the summer works programme. Councillor Byrne reported that some of the bond should be used to repair these ramps, and noted that ramp repairs also required on Aghards road and Church Road.

Resolved: that the bond be used to repair the ramps.

CE 11/1402

Crash barrier for Clane Road

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

That a crash barrier be erected to prevent cars crashing into the very deep ditch at address on the left side of the Clane Road on the Clane side of the junction of Clane Road and Ardrass Road.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that the area office would be carrying out some low cost safety work on these bends later on in the year.

The report was noted.

CE 12/1402

Yellow box at Celbridge house junction

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

Due to the effect of the new traffic signals at Maynooth Road, Celbridge the exit from the shops there and the side entrance to the Celbridge House public house are constantly blocked and yellow boxes are urgently required at both locations.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 confirming that the area office would be attending to this work in the coming week.

The report was noted.

CE 13/1402

Repositioning of Post box, Youngs Cross, Leixlip

As Councillor Larkin was not present it was agreed that he would receive reports on the items in his name on the agenda and he would be at liberty to re-enter if he so wished.

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

That an urgent review of the position of the post box on the Leixlip approach at Young's Cross be carried out as there have been a couple of accidents and near misses at this location.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that the area office would investigate this issue further.

The report was noted.

CE14/1402

Review of signage for pay parking

As Councillor Larkin was not present it was agreed that he would receive reports on the items in his name on the agenda and he would be at liberty to re-enter if he so wished.

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

That all signage in relation to pay parking in Celbridge and Leixlip be reviewed and in particular their size, design and location.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that the size and design of the pay parking signs in public areas were in accordance with the traffic signs manual of the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport. The times indicated on the pay parking signs must be in accordance with the Pay Parking Bye Laws as adopted by the elected members. The current enforcement times were a temporary arrangement agreed with the elected members.

The report was noted.

CE15/1402

Controlled crossing, Beech Park to Castletown estate entrance

As Councillor Larkin was not present it was agreed that he would receive reports on the items in his name on the agenda and he would be at liberty to re-enter if he so wished.

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

That in the absence of a controlled crossing on the dangerous Leixlip West approach from Beech Park to Castletown estate entrance, which has well over one thousand residential units and serves over six thousand people, the following be implemented immediately and these will be of great assistance to the controlled crossing;

- traffic speed limits reduced
- electronic speed warning signs
- traffic calming measures i.e. speed ramps, road narrowing, etc

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that the the area office was awaiting a decision on the consensus of the Leixlip Town Council on safety measures to be carried out along this section of road. The area office would be willing to meet the Councillor to discuss this issue in more detail.

The report was noted.

CE 16/1402

Invitation to Dublin Bus

As Councillor Griffin was not present it was agreed that he would receive reports on the items in his name on the agenda and he would be at liberty to re-enter if he so wished.

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

That Dublin Bus be requested to attend this area meeting with a view to relocating the bus turning point on the Newtown/Rathcoffey Road.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 confirming that it was explained that the usual procedure would be for the motion to be considered at the next area committee meeting and for the area committee to agree that course of action before an invitation issued. Councillor McGinley endorsed Councillor Griffin's request. Councillor Griffin was informed that contact would be made with Dublin Bus in this instance to see if they could attend the meeting - this was on the understanding that this course of action was approved by the Chair of the Committee - Councillor Frank O'Rourke. Dublin Bus was contacted and their representative indicated that he could not make the meeting this Friday but if questions were submitted to him then he would reply in writing. Councillor Griffin was so informed (as the request came from him). Councillor Griffin submitted the following question: I want Dublin Bus to give some logical reason for the refusal of Dublin Bus to avail of the turning bay at the proposed nursing home site. This would eliminate the hassle that has arisen at Parsons Hall site. I believe that this is a safer place for the bus turning point. Council should look at the planning file where council decided that the then proposed entrance to Parsons Hall be moved for safety reasons to Ashleigh Grove. Council cited that the new location for the turning bay was too close to the motorway bridge and could create problems for traffic emerging from the estate.

Dublin Bus have now replied as follows:

Dublin Bus do not want to use the proposed turning bay at the proposed nursing home site for a number of reasons –

- The additional cost of the dead running time/fuel is not acceptable
- Little or no additional patronage

Dublin Bus was initially asked by local Councillors to relocate to the proposed turning bay (i.e. at Parsons Hall) and had accepted this as a suitable location.

The report was noted.

CE 17/1402

Footpath repair, Moyglare Road

As Councillor Griffin was not present it was agreed that he would receive reports on the items in his name on the agenda and he would be at liberty to re-enter if he so wished.

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

That a clean up/repair of the footpath be carried out between the entrance to the post primary school and the entrance to the college on the Moyglare Road

A report was received from the parks department dated 20 February 2014 confirming that a this work had been organised by the area office.

The report was noted.

CE 18/1402

Realignment of William Bridge, Mill Street, Maynooth

As Councillor Griffin was not present it was agreed that he would receive reports on the items in his name on the agenda and he would be at liberty to re-enter if he so wished.

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

That during the proposed realignment of William Bridge, Mill Street, Maynooth that it be for historical reasons a condition to reinstate the benchmark.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that the area office would agree with this request.

The report was noted.

CE 19/1402

Controlled pedestrian crossing, Eastopn Road

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

Can the area committee be shown the design and costing for putting lights with a crossing on Easton Road, as the suggested resolution from the area engineer?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 confirming that there were currently no resources available to undertake a design or any implementation works in this regard.

The report was noted.

CE 20/1402

Safety of Straffan Road M4 Interchange

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

What steps have been carried out to implement Roads Objective TRO 1 of the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019 i.e. "To carry out a study investigating the safety and capacity of the existing Straffan Road M4 Interchange etc.?"

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that the roads department was currently examining this issue and a report would be available for the next meeting. Councillor McGinley added that this review should be done between the hours of 8-9am.

Resolved: that a report be prepared on this item for the March area meeting and that this review should be done between the hours of 8-9am.

CE 21/1402

Repair of fence, Ardclough

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

Can the council repair the section of fence in Ardclough which runs parallel to the access footpath for the new school which was knocked down due to a falling tree and remove the large timber pole which is leaning over at the school entrance?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that the area office would list this work for attention when resources allow. An Cathaoirleach also requested that the leaning pole also be looked at on this road.

Resolved: that the area office investigate the redundant leaning pole on this road and identify which utility company was responsible for the removal of it.

CE 22/1402

Damaged bollards, Shackleton road

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

Can the council replace the damaged steel bollards in the grass verge on the Shackleton Road (Maynooth Road end) with timber bollards, if resources allow?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 informing the members that the area office would forward this issue to the overseer for attention.

The report was noted.

CE 23/1402

Footpath repairs, The Grove, Celbridge

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

Can the council carry out the necessary repairs to the footpath outside house number (details supplied), The Grove in Celbridge (photo supplied previously)?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 asking that Councillor O'Rourke make contact with the area office as it was unclear as to the location referred to.

The report was noted.

CE 24/1402

Footpath repairs, Priory Square, Saint Raphael Manor

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

Can the footpath at houses (details supplied) Priory Square, Saint Raphael Manor, Celbridge which is broken be repaired as it is dangerous?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February informing the members that the area office would list this work for attention when resources allow.

The report was noted.

CE 25/1402

Consideration of footpath from Lishandra to Tankards Lane, Ardclough

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

Can the possibility of the council providing a footpath from Lishandra to Tankards Lane, Ardclough be considered?

A detail report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that the area office accepts that the completion of this path would facilitate a quality footpath loop between Ardclough and the Grand Canal. The project is very worthy but the area office currently does not have a source of funds for this scheme, Councillor Byrne welcomed the report and asked if the council could apply to the NTA for funding for these works.

CE 26/1402

Repair of pothole, Leixlip Park

As Councillor Larkin was not present it was agreed that he would receive reports on the items in his name on the agenda and he would be at liberty to re-enter if he so wished.

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

Can the pothole outside house number (details supplied) Leixlip Park be repaired as soon as possible?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 informing the members that the area office would forward this issue to the overseer for attention.

The report was noted.

CE 27/1402

Upgrade scheme, Maynooth Road, Celbridge

As Councillor Larkin was not present it was agreed that he would receive reports on the items in his name on the agenda and he would be at liberty to re-enter if he so wished.

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

Can we have an update on the upgrade scheme being carried out on the Maynooth Road, Celbridge and in particular the traffic light signalling at Thornhill Junction?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that the traffic signals were commissioned earlier in the month and, following early teething problems, were now working correctly and were functioning well allowing traffic to enter or exit the side roads safely whilst improving pedestrian facilities.

The report was noted.

CE 28/1402

Invitation to Dublin Bus to attend area meeting

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

Will the council seek the attendance of a representative from Dublin Bus to discuss the extension of the bus service to the Glen Easton area of Leixlip?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that if the committee was in agreement then the roads department would issue a

written request to Dublin Bus in this regard. It was proposed by Councillor Purcell and seconded by Councillor O'Rourke that Dublin Bus be invited to attend the next area committee meeting.

Resolved: that the roads department write to Dublin Bus requesting them to attend the next area meeting.

CE 29/1402

Salt/sand bins, Captains Hill and Confey Bridge, Leixlip

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

Will the council ensure that salt/sand bins are placed on Captains Hill and Confey Bridge, Leixlip?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that the six salt bins had been distributed to various locations in Leixlip and no more were currently planned.

The report was noted.

CE 30/1402

Repair of public lighting

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

Will the council discuss the lead time given to Airtricity to repair public lighting and would the council express its satisfaction or otherwise with the actual time taken to effect repairs?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 20 February 2014 stating that the lead time depended on the workload at any given time and the number of faults generated which, at this time of year, was largely weather dependant eg Airtricity had indicated that the number of faults reported over the past several weeks was one hundred and fifty percent of normal due to the adverse weather conditions. Kildare County Council was satisfied with the service being provided and with the response time vis-a-vis repairs. Councillor Purcell questioned if the council were satisfied with the service, he proposed that Airtricity and ESB Networks be invited to attend a meeting of the area committee, this was seconded by Councillor O'Rourke.

Resolved: that Airtricity and ESB networks be invited to attend a meeting of the area committee.

CE 31/1402

Report on potential flooding in North Kildare

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

In view of recent flooding throughout the county, that the council give an overview of any potential flooding that could occur in the North Kildare area.

A report was received from the water services section dated 20 February 2014 stating that the water services section was aware of the following areas where fluvial flooding (flooding occurring from rivers or streams breaking from their channels) could be a cause of potential concern: Hazelhatch and Celbridge, Townlands along the Slane, Kill, Painstown and Morrell Rivers on the downstream side of the N7 Naas Road, including Castlewarden Junction.

The council was currently investigating the possibility of providing flood alleviation measures in both of these catchments and further progress on this would be reported later in the year. Other areas in North Kildare where flood alleviation works had been completed were as follows: Newtown, Kilcock, Toni River, Celbridge, Confey, Butterstream, Clane, Rye Water and Silleachain Rivers, Leixlip.

It should be noted that the completion of schemes in these areas did not necessarily eliminate flood risk but did provide protection to a design standard of the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability.

Also in progress is the Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS) which would further analysis and propose mitigation and/or management measures for the following towns in the northern part of the Liffey catchment area (noting that the council intend to accelerate Hazelhatch and Killeenmore): Kilcock, Celbridge, Hazelhatch, Killeenmore/Turnings, Maynooth, Clane, Leixlip.

Draft Predictive Flood Mapping was programmed to be produced for each of these areas in July 2014. The above report details areas where fluvial flooding may be of concern, as per the Water Services Flood Alleviation Section's brief. An Cathaoirleach asked if the council could implement a policy document for those people not living in the risk areas and that the council produce letters for these residents for their insurance companies.

Resolved: that the council implement a policy document for those people not were living in the risk areas and that letters be compiled for these residents for their insurance companies.

CE 32/1402

Removal of rubbish on Taghadoe to Oldtown Road, Celbridge

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

Can the high volume of rubbish dumped on the Taghadoe to Oldtown Road, Celbridge be removed and be examined to see if those dumping can be identified?

A report was received from the environmental department dated 20 February 2014 stating that this area was being examined by the litter warden to identify ownership of litter.

Appropriate action would be taken to pursue the offenders.

The report was noted.

CE 33/1402

Stone walls on protected structures

As Councillor Larkin was not present it was agreed that he would receive reports on the items in his name on the agenda and he would be at liberty to re-enter if he so wished.

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

Can stone walls be included on the protected structures list and if so are there any in the area?

A report was received from the planning department dated 20 February 2014 stating the following three approaches may be made in relation to protecting stone walls in the county as noted in the County Development Plan 2011 – 2017, Chapter 12 Architectural and Archaeological Heritage.

1. “To encourage the protection, retention, appreciation and appropriate revitalisation of the vernacular heritage of the county.”

Vernacular Architecture (C.D.P. 12.8.2 VA1)

2. Where a stone wall is included within the curtilage of a structure deemed to be worthy of addition to the Record of Protected Structure.

“To protect and retain important elements of the built heritage including historic gardens, stone walls, landscapes and demesnes, and curtilage features.”

Protected Structures (C.D.P. 12.8.1 PS16)

3. Where the wall is located within an Architectural Conservation Area (ACAs)

“To ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions within an ACA are sited and designed appropriately, and are not detrimental to the character of the structure or to its setting or the general character of the ACA.”

Architectural Conservation Areas (C.D.P. 12.8.3 ACA2)

There are a number of stone walls within the area which were located within the curtilage of a protected structure and therefore the wall would also be protected.

The report was noted.

CE 34/1402

Pruning of hedge, Aghards Road, Celbridge

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

That the council would carry out the necessary works to the hedge row (pruning, planting etc.) which backs onto Oldtown Mill estate along the Aghards Road in Celbridge.

A report was received from the parks department dated 20 February 2014 stating that any required planting along this hedgerow would be carried out before the end of the Spring.

The report was noted.

CE 35/1402

Tree removal on Black Avenue, Leixlip

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

That the parks superintendent attends the area meeting to discuss tree felling in Black Avenue, Leixlip.

Mr Simon Wallace attended the meeting and reported that following an inspection and survey of the trees it was found that some of the trees were diseased and required either maintenance, preservation, pruning or removal in some cases, 13 trees would be removed in total but all trees removed would be replaced with new trees. The members thanked Mr Wallace for this detailed report and his continued hard work in the Celbridge area.

The report was noted.

CE 36/1402

Adult Gym, Leixlip

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

That the council mark out the portion of land in public ownership alongside the Courtyard Hotel, Leixlip and that only adult gym type equipment be installed on the council land in the interest of child safety.

A report was received from the parks department dated 20 February 2014 including a map of the land ownership map indicating the extent of land in public ownership. It was proposed to carry out landscaping works in conjunction with Leixlip Town Council involving the upgrade to the footpath through the area, removal of shrubbery to open a view to the river and installation of a new railing. There was no provision within the budget for this work to install play equipment or gym equipment. In addition there were a number of other limiting factors which needed to be considered.

1. The area available to install exercise and or play equipment was limited due to existing narrowness of the area
2. The need to leave a clear area for emergency access to the Courtyard Hotel.
3. The installation of equipment may lead to the area being excessively cluttered and devalue the amenity of the area.

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4. An exercise area had already been provided within a short distance from this location in St Catherines Park.

Further consideration could be given to the installation of equipment once the landscaping was complete but would have to be cognisant of the factors highlighted above. The members welcomed the report. Councillor Purcell asked that the council consult with the HSA on this should the request for the equipment be approved. Councillor T Byrne supported this motion and asked for a drawing of the proposed plans for the landscaping works.

Resolved: that the council consult with the HSA on this should the request for the equipment be approved, Councillor T Byrne asked for a drawing of the proposed plans for the landscaping works.

CE 37/1402

Council owned lands at Shillachain Lane

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

What is the councils proposal for the land owned by it at the upper part of Shillachain Lane?

This would be an ideal area for sheltered housing for older people and person with disabilities as there are only eight houses allocated on this side of Captains Hill, Leixlip. It's an ideal area, quite and has easy access to all amenities in the Confey area and is in the ownership of the council. It would also prohibit dumping in that area. Recently planning permission has been granted for a number of houses further up. Ms Crofton reported that there were no plans to develop these lands as the area had been zoned for "Amenity" and not housing. Councillor T Byrne stated that sheltered housing for the elderly was badly needed for the area and asked that the Director of Housing report on this for the March meeting. Councillor Purcell added that residents in this area did not want housing on these lands

Resolved: that Peter Minnock attend the March meeting to report on this item further.

The meeting concluded.