

Maynooth Community Council Notes – April Meeting

by Una Phillips PRO

The April meeting of Maynooth Community Council took place on Monday April 16th, 2018.

CO-OPTIONS

The following new members were co-opted:

Laurina Teevan, representing Castle Park Residents Association, proposed by Paddy Holmes and seconded by Una Phillips.

NEWTOWN HALL

Seán O’Broin reported to the meeting on issues Newtown Hall are experiencing with the management company and with getting taken in charge by KCC.

NEW 139 BUS

Seán also raised a number of points regarding the new 139 bus route. Members would like the service to also go to Blanchardstown Hospital but this is unlikely to be offered as there are several buses connecting Blanchardstown to the hospital. Most advertising for the new service is on Facebook, for those not on Facebook more advertising is needed e.g. in Maynooth Newsletter, also flyers and posters in public places such as the post office. Although there is a list of bus stop locations the bus stops are not marked. Teresa Murray agreed to email the NTA (National Transport Authority) for better identification of bus stops and posters to let people know about the new service. OAP and Leap cards are accepted but not Tax-saver.

TOWN CENTRE HEALTHCHECK

On Wednesday, April 11th the PPN held a meeting in Clane to explain what these Health checks are. The PPN is the Public Participation Network and it is a network of representatives drawn from voluntary groups across the municipal district for the purpose of facilitating public consultation with Kildare County Council.

At the PPN meeting we learned that KCC has engaged architect Cathal O’Meara to study 4 towns in Kildare: Maynooth, Kilcock, Clane and Prosperous and to consult with people in those towns to come up with a list of projects that would improve the town centre. The consultation will consist of 2 workshops to gather ideas and a final meeting to feed back the results.

Mr O’Meara showed a video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-GuiZ2bd9g>) on how towns in Ireland have evolved over the centuries and some of the challenges that presents. He then presented some examples of before and after photographs of towns that have gone through a similar process. These included Westport town centre, Waterford Viking square and Clonakilty which was named Best Town in the UK and Ireland at the 2017 Urbanism Awards Ceremony.

At the meeting a few maps of the town centre were distributed. For Maynooth this includes Main St stretching from the College gates to about half way down Carton Avenue, up as far as the church in the north and down as far as the train station to the south.

MCC members are asked to participate in the workshops themselves and also to spread the word and bring along as many people as possible. The objective is to have as diverse a group as possible including old and young people, people who are motorists, cyclists or pedestrians and people from different countries and backgrounds.

The process does not guarantee funding but the objective is to come up with a prioritized list of projects which can be tackled when funding comes along. One of the presenters at the PPN meeting emphasized cohesion and that it is much more effective if the community can come together with a strong voice behind a small number of ideas.

INTEL GRANT & CAAP

The Maynooth Community Action on Alcohol Program (CAAP) is a newly established group supported by the South Western Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force. The group comprises of representatives from Maynooth Community Council, Maynooth University, Gardaí, Foróige Drug Prevention Education Initiative, Maynooth Tidy Towns, Teresa Murray Ind elected representative. The group has applied jointly with MCC for an Intel Pride of Place grant of €5,000 to fund qualitative research by 3 methods. The first method is to have 3 focus groups of participants; young people, older adults and service providers. The second method is to interview 12 people on a face to face basis. The third method is a survey. The results of this research will then be published.

GALWAY CYCLE

Steve McCarthy updated the meeting on the great success of the Galway cycle this year which has so far raised over €100,000 for Friends of the Coombe.

CONSTITUTION AND POLICIES

Mike Ahern reported that the constitution subcommittee is progressing well with regular meetings and working through the various sections of the constitution.

COMHALTAS

The Kildare Fleadh is on April 19th to 22nd in Clane with a full programme of events including a junior session on Saturday night in the GAA, competitions in the primary school and a Céilí on the Friday night.

ICA

Thank you for your support on Daffodil day which raised €4,800. Craft making continues on Mondays at 8pm with Quilting on every second Wednesday. The Dignity packs were much

appreciated by the Simon Community. New members are always welcome, meetings are on the first Thursday of the month.

MAYNOOTH 10K

The Maynooth 10k and 5k run will take place on Sunday May 20th at 10.30am. The 10k Times will be out about 2 weeks before the race. The committee are currently recruiting stewards if anyone can spare about 2 hours on the morning of the 20th.

MEC PTA

Parents, teachers and friends of MEC enjoyed a very excellent Spring Luncheon on Friday 13th April which included a Make-up demonstration and a very successful raffle. Pat Doyle from the Peter McVerry Trust gave a very informative and moving talk on homelessness and we learned a lot about their work in Kildare.

MSU

Leon Diop President of Maynooth Students' Union reminded us about Community Engagement week April 16th to 20th and that there was Zorbing on the canal today (April 16th) and again 11am-6pm tomorrow 17th in aid of Jigsaw.

There will be student cleanups around town three times per week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for the rest of the year. The Summer Ball will take place on campus on May 1st.

Arising from Maynooth Week, the MSU are making a promotional video as part of the "This is Maynooth" campaign and would like to extend this to community groups so at the end of the meeting the students took a photo of all the participants.

KINGSBRY

Mary Molloy shared their experience of applying for the KCC grant for private estates which now requires PPN membership and bank account statements. Kingsbry have about 5 acres of grass to cut costing in the region of €5,000 per year but the grant is now down to around €700. Several other residents' associations have a similar experience. Railpark had their grant cut in half as they are a "mature estate" despite the amount of grass they have to cut.

RAILPARK

Mattie report a serious problem with dog fouling, finding up to 50 bags left behind. Several other estates reported the same problem and also along the Maynooth to Kilcock Geenway. People complain that bins are too far away. Teresa Murray will ask KCC for more bins on the Celbridge road. Wardens do come out to police it but they would need to "catch them in the act".

AOB

MSU reported on the initiative they had taken to discontinue the students' Christmas day event. Despite significant opposition and backlash the MSU had acted for the safety of the students and

reducing the effect on the town. They took away the branding for the event and kept the doors open for longer on campus thus preventing the event spilling out into the town. They also organised a cleanup the next day. The meeting agreed that the initiative was successful with much less impact on the town this year.

It was agreed that the meeting notes can be published after each meeting rather than waiting until the minutes are approved at the subsequent meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Monday May 14th at 8:00 pm in the Glenroyal

CONTACT US

Email address: maynoothcommunitycouncilexec@gmail.com

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/maynoothcommunitycouncil>

Website: <http://maynoothcommunitycouncil.ie/>

New members are always welcome and we would like to remind residents' associations that they are entitled to one representative per 50 houses and each community group, club or organisation is entitled to two representatives.