

Maynooth Community Council Notes – March Meeting

by Una Phillips PRO

The March meeting of Maynooth Community Council took place on Monday March 12th, 2018.

CO-OPTION

The following new members were co-opted:

Mark Quinn representing Moyglare Road was proposed by Réada Cronin and seconded by Angela Feeney

Sandra Byrne representing Maynooth Students' Union was proposed by Paddy Holmes and seconded by Teresa Murray

HARBOUR FIELD AND TOWN CENTRE HEALTHCHECK

Teresa Murray explained that the Harbour field has been discussed at Kildare County Council meetings and outlined the proposal for temporary surface parking for cars and bicycles, for people taking the train, on the rough area at the edge of the field where the circus and fun fair set up. She emphasised that nothing would be agreed without public consultation. Réada Cronin elaborated further that parents of children with disabilities along with the elderly might welcome disability parking spaces adjacent to the playground but that the Harbour field is not going to be torn up.

Teresa went on to state that the Municipal District is funding public realm designs (i.e. town centre health checks) for Maynooth, Clane, Kilcock and Prosperous. This will include full public consultation workshops at the outset to gain insights into uses and improvements that might be used as inputs into the design. The possible feasibility of use of the Harbour Field will be included in this plan with full public consultation. It is hoped that this will place these towns in the running to gain urban renewal grants from national schemes in the coming years.

Several members voiced the general opposition to a car park in the Harbour Field, including concerns about how vehicles would gain access and also that there were adequate parking spaces in the town. The new road to the Harbour Field has opened up the area and it would make a great location for a summer festival.

LOCAL SNOW HEROES

There was overwhelming support for Anne Birchall's proposal to honour our snow heroes. Anne commented that it was important that we recognised those members of our community who had demonstrated extraordinary community spirit during the recent poor weather. Una will put up a post on the MCC Facebook page calling for people to nominate their snow heroes.

FUNDING

The Executive reminded members that MCC has no funds and that we would have to engage in fundraising or seek sponsorship. Anne will apply to Tesco for the Blue Token community fund on behalf of MCC. Miriam O'Keeffe-Ahern advised members that the Executive had applied to KCC for interim funding, not only for pre-development work but also for the following community initiatives:

- (1) Civic reception to honour local snow heroes who delivered for the community during the recent severe weather conditions.
- (2) "Ask for Angela" This is a code word campaign that supports people who feel unsafe or

intimidated on a night out.

(3) Training of personnel in the use of defibrillators across Maynooth will be developed to support first responders in emergency medicine.

(4) Development of a network using social media to promote positive action and respond to identified Community needs.

Conor Dempsey paid tribute to the work done on the MCC Facebook page. The Facebook page had played a critical role in harnessing community support and was a great information resource for people during the adverse weather conditions.

ICA

The ICA craft classes are making Easter wreaths and ask our support for Daffodil day on March 23rd in aid of the Irish cancer Society. They will be selling daffodils outside Aldi, Dunnes, Tesco and Supervalu.

TIDY TOWNS MAYNOOTH

The March 10th clean-up was postponed due to the adverse weather conditions. The WEEE recycling event is on March 24th 10am to 4pm in the Tesco carpark

COMHALTAS

The Kildare Fleadh is on April 19th to 22nd in Clane with events including a coffee morning as Gaeilge, a Céilí, a “Singers and Storytellers” night and many sessions. Details at Kildare Comhaltas or from Craobh Mhaigh Nuad.

2018 has been designated as Bliain na nÓg. In recognition of this special year, medallions and certificates will be presented to three young people under the age of 25 who have given exceptional service or assistance to their community. This is an opportunity for the community to highlight and acknowledge the contribution of young people to Comhaltas, Irish culture and community service. Recipients can be from Comhaltas, and the broader community. Attributes can include culture, community, sport, charity etc. Nominations are invited from all local clubs, schools. etc. to be sent to eolas@ccemhaighnuad.com

Unfortunately, the branch will not be participating in the parade this year as their insurance has no provision for the use of floats. The chairman of the parade committee was asked if the organisers had insurance in place to cover participants, but the email had not been answered to date. In the absence of suitable insurance cover, the branch had decided in the interest of health and safety of their young members they could not take part. They will, however, be playing in the local GAA club.

MAYNOOTH 10K

The Maynooth 10k and 5k races are on Sunday 20th May at 10.30am. The 10k Times is in active production, seeking articles and selling advertising. This is the MEC PTA's biggest fundraiser with proceeds going to the new school campus and playing fields.

MEC PTA

The inaugural MEC PTA Spring Luncheon is on April 13th. Tickets cost €35 and include a three-course lunch, make up demonstration and guest speakers. The event is open to all current parents and guardians, past parents, past pupils and friends of the school.

MAYNOOTH STUDENTS' UNION

The Maynooth Students' Union Community Week is on April 16th to 20th in compliment with Maynooth University's Inaugural "Maynooth Week". The Community Week is designed to promote and strengthen the bond between the students and the community. On April 16th and 17th the students will be hosting a Water Zorbing event in the Harbour area, with all proceeds going to Jigsaw.

MAYNOOTH SAFETY GROUP

The scheduled meeting did not take place due to the adverse weather conditions but Teresa hopes to arrange a review with Sgt Paul Kealy and Sgt Wall to gauge feedback on how the Small Area Policing initiative is progressing. KCC is reviewing the heavy vehicles byelaws and signage.

CFR - CARDIAC FIRST RESPONDERS

Réada Cronin announced a public meeting provisionally on Wednesday 18th April to set up a CFR group in Maynooth. She said she was happy to work on this initiative with MCC Executive and members and stated that she could supply; Training Equipment, Training Instructors, Certification, Spokespersons from CFR and possibly the National Ambulance Service.

AOB

Mattie asked if enquiries could be made about the hoarding on the shop (formerly Xtra-Vision) in Greenfield shopping centre.

Conor informed the meeting that the principals of Scoil Uí Fhiaich and Educate Together were to meet regarding the traffic congestion and parking issues around both schools.

The PRO advised that the Notes of the MCC meetings would be posted on the Website and Facebook page. Notes from the AGM were submitted to the Maynooth Newsletter but were not published which was very disappointing as the Newsletter is a publicly funded open access publication for the community.

NEXT MEETING

Monday April 16th at 8:00 pm in the Glenroyal Hotel.

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.

two representatives.