

Kilcock traffic lights still causing problems

by Kate Donoghue

RECENTLY installed traffic lights in Kilcock are unnecessary and are causing absolute mayhem, a meeting of Maynooth Municipal District heard on Wednesday, 8th March.

The lights, which were installed as part of the Dublin to Galway Greenway project, have been blamed for recent delays and congestion in the town.

Sensors were installed in the lights on 15th February to allow for changes in traffic flow and although some improvement has been noted, councillors say it's not enough.

Cllrs Paul Ward (FF), Brendan Weld (FG) and Tim Durkan (FG) each put forward motions at last week's meeting that problems relating to the newly provisioned lights be addressed.

Cllr Ward said since the lights were put in place he has been asked numerous times "are they fit for purpose?"

He called for a comprehensive review of the situation prior to the next meeting.

"What we need to do with that review is find out exactly what is the problem?"

"I can see a problem occurring daily on the road between school times where it's been backed up as far as the Court-town roundabout - I've never seen it like that before."

Cllr Durkan said the lights are "causing absolute mayhem in the town of Kilcock and will continue to do so".

"Since the traffic lights went in in Kilcock I've heard nothing but complaints to be quite honest.

He reported delays stretching to the North Kildare Club on one side of the town and right out to the motorway on the opposite side.

"What information or problems have the people who installed the lights and are managing the lights come up with?" asked Cllr Durkan.

Cllr Pádraig McEvoy (Ind) said the point had been raised with him that there might be a lack of signage to direct traffic around the town instead of through it:

"There's perhaps an opportunity to sign inbound traffic from the Clane road around through the motorway junction and on to Summerhill.

"There's no information or maybe a lack of signage indicating that's a preferred route for traffic that shouldn't otherwise go through the town."

'No need'

Cllr Réada Cronin (SF) said she doesn't think anyone in Kilcock has a problem with pedestrian lights; "the problem is that they felt there was no need for traffic lights".

"Somebody was telling me in Celbridge when the lights were put on the bridge that they were painted with black tar.

"The people, the residents of Celbridge just didn't want traffic lights and they were eventually taken away.

"I certainly wouldn't recommend that, of course pedestrians have a right to cross the road, but could we not change them to pedestrian lights please?"

Cllr John McGinley (Lab) acknowledged that pedestrian crossings had been agreed as part of the Greenway project but there had been no mention of traffic signals:

"I don't know when or who changed it but that certainly wasn't conveyed to councillors."

Area engineer John Deane said that the original drawings showed "toucan crossings".

"A toucan crossing is defined as a crossing where pedestrians and cyclists can cross, so two-can cross at the same time.

"That's what the plan was and we haven't deviated from that plan."

He argued that their analysis showed that tailbacks routinely occurred on that road on Friday evenings and on any given evening between 6pm and 7pm.

"So there was always congestion coming in on that road that people seem to have forgotten."

Mr Deane added that there has been "substantial improvement" since sensors were added to the lights last month.

He explained that there are usually teething problems when a new system is installed and said that some patience is needed while issues are being resolved.

"I do accept that there has been particular times of abnormal traffic congestion and we regret that and we apologise to people for that but we feel that the situation is going to improve."

It was agreed to leave the lights on the agenda and review the situation more thoroughly over the coming month prior to April's meeting.

Celbridge woman is motivation behind 24 marathons in 24 days fundraising bid

by Andrew Smullen

THE cousin of a Celbridge woman is to run 24 marathons in 24 days this summer, starting in Donegal on 22nd June.

Shane Finn, a Kerry-based gym instructor is aiming to raise €100,000 for people living with Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus.

And the motivation for this is his cousin in Celbridge, 35-year-old Mary Evans who has both Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.

The mothers of Mary and Shane are sisters.

"We complain about small things like being tired or being sore and not having the things we want," said Shane, who is aged 24.

"But, our daily problems and complaints are insignificant when compared with the challenge faced by lots of people living with these conditions," added Shane.

"When I visit my cousin Mary, I am aware that for her it is every day that she lives with Spina Bifida (and Hydrocephalus)."

Shane ran 12 marathons in 12 days back in 2014 for Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland (SBHI) and raised €36,000.

"When thinking about what I could do to follow on from 12 Marathons, 12 Days I imagined how many people could be helped if I raised €100,000," said Shane.

"I came up with the number 24 not because it is double of 12, or because I turned 24, but because there are 24 hours in a day and 24 hours a day can often be difficult for someone with Spina Bifida and their families."

Dingle

Shane will set off from Donegal on 22nd June and he will run a marathon in each of 24 counties, the 24th being in his home town of Dingle on Sunday, 15th July.

On Tuesday, 4th July, he will run his 13th marathon into Newbridge, County Kildare along the N80/R445 from Portlaoise.

Celbridge GAA Club's Junior Disco is 20 years old

by Bairbre Ní Bhraonáin

BELIEVE it or not, Celbridge GAA Club's Junior Disco is 20 years old this year.

Many of the original club members who got involved in the disco back in the day, are still assisting with the running of it today.

To celebrate the 20 year anniversary, there will be many new music features together with fabulous additional lighting to showcase the disco's ultra modern marquee.

Organisers also give the teenagers themselves a very important role as they get to choose the play list for the disco.

This is done via their Facebook page (Celbridge GAA Disco) or via twitter.

Celbridge Junior Disco is one of the longest running discos held in any GAA club.

The disco has provided a social hotspot for teens in the area over the last two decades.

This success comes down to corporate responsibility and the parents involvement of the kids who attend the disco. The entry is by membership card only, this way organisers know who exactly is on the premises and have contact details should there ever be an emergency or just someone not feeling well on the night.

A strong relationship with the local gardai has always been important to the club disco.

The disco caters for first, second and thirds year secondary students.

The next disco is on Friday (24th March) from 8.30pm to 11.30pm.



Mary Evans (Celbridge) with her cousins Shane (on right) and Mark Finn. Shane is running 24 marathons in 24 days in the hope of raising €100,000 for people with Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus, starting on 22nd June.

Between now and 22nd June Shane has to raise the money he so dearly wants to go to people with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus via the support organisation, SBHI.

The national organisation supports the more than 2,000 people living with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus in Ireland through its professional support services, its team of Family Support Workers, a Youth and Respite

team, its education training and through its Resource Centre in Clonsaugh.

The organisation's CEO, Tom Scott said: "We would love to welcome as many people as possible on board through this epic 24 marathons, 24 Days challenge."

SBHI wants to put in place 24 corporate sponsors, one for each day, of the 24 marathon run, sponsors, donors and volunteers.

"We also need, either through direct provision or sponsorship, accommodation, food and drink, vehicles,

equipment, merchandise and printing."

With approximately 40 babies born with Spina Bifida each year, Ireland has one of the highest incidence rates in the world.

One in 1,000 pregnancies yearly are affected by Hydrocephalus, but it can also develop later in life as a result of head injuries.

Spina Bifida causes incomplete development of the spinal cord while Hydrocephalus is a condition that impacts on the brain.

The former causes mobility issues, continence problems,

pressure sores and social challenges of isolation and loneliness.

And issues arising from the latter include intellectual difficulties, behavioural problems, memory issues and challenges to cognitive processing.

In Ireland 64% of people living with Spina Bifida also have Hydrocephalus. Both are life-long conditions that have no cure.

You can donate on www.24marathons24days.ie. To run with Shane or to give sponsorship, just email asutton@sbhi.ie.

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