



# **FINE GAEL**

## **WEST KILDARE**

**Report for Councillors - 10th September 2018**

### **1. Playground for Allenwood**

The long stalled project to build a playground for Allenwood is now in progress again. The community have decided to accept an offer from ACDAL to use some land near the Bright Sparks creche to build a playground on.

Some of our branch members are working with Simon Wallace in Kildare County Council and we recently assisted Simon in finding a landscape architect to come up with a high level design for the site at ACDAL. Simon has shared the designs with Brendan Wyse and Brendan then shared them with a panel of interested members of the community and gave positive feedback back to Simon.

Simon has indicated that the next step for the project would be to seek planning permission, after he has shown the design to the councillors.

We ask the councillors present to:

1. Liaise with Simon Wallace to review the high level design.
2. Determine how quickly Simon will be in a position to begin the planning process.
3. Find out where the Allenwood playground lies with regard to priorities, given that several playgrounds are now in progress in the county. We ask the councillors to note the evidence attached at the end of this report which includes, (i) a map showing the absence of any playground in a vast area of Northwest Kildare, (ii) figures showing the number of young children attending schools and creches in the area.

## **2. Road Sweeper Schedule**

Volunteers of Allenwood Tidy Towns, some of whom are branch members, have noted that the verges of the roads in the village are not being swept by the council road sweeper often enough. A request to have a particularly dirty estate was bounced around council departments and it was several weeks before the road sweeper appeared to have cleaned the estate, if at all.

We ask the councillors present to:

1. Liaise with the environmental department of Kildare County Council, and those responsible for scheduling of the road sweeper to determine, (i) if the road sweeper has a schedule to visit certain villages each month or (ii) if the road sweeper must visit the villages on demand and if so what is the expected delay when such a request is made.

## **3. Council Inspection of Contractor Works**

Volunteers of Allenwood Tidy Towns, some of whom are branch members, have noted that following the recent road works by the contractor working on behalf of Irish Water, some kerbs near the Cushalla estate were removed.

This happened near the beginning of the Tidy Towns judging period and the kerbs remain missing. The council have said that the kerbs will be replaced.

We ask the councillors present to:

1. Put the question to the Roads department of Kildare County Council as to why the council is not inspecting the works done by external contractors immediately after they complete road repairs.
2. What is the expected lead time for such repairs and can the repairs be expedited in Tidy Towns areas?

## **4. Acknowledgement of Road Repairs**

We would like to acknowledge the fast response from the Roads department of Kildare County Council to a recent report from one of our members of a deep pothole appearing in the Lullymore Road out of Allenwood South.

The road was repaired just one week after the report was made. We would like to make the councillors aware that the road does appear to be subsiding very gradually and at some stage a complete overhaul of the surface will be required. This should be considered at budget planning.

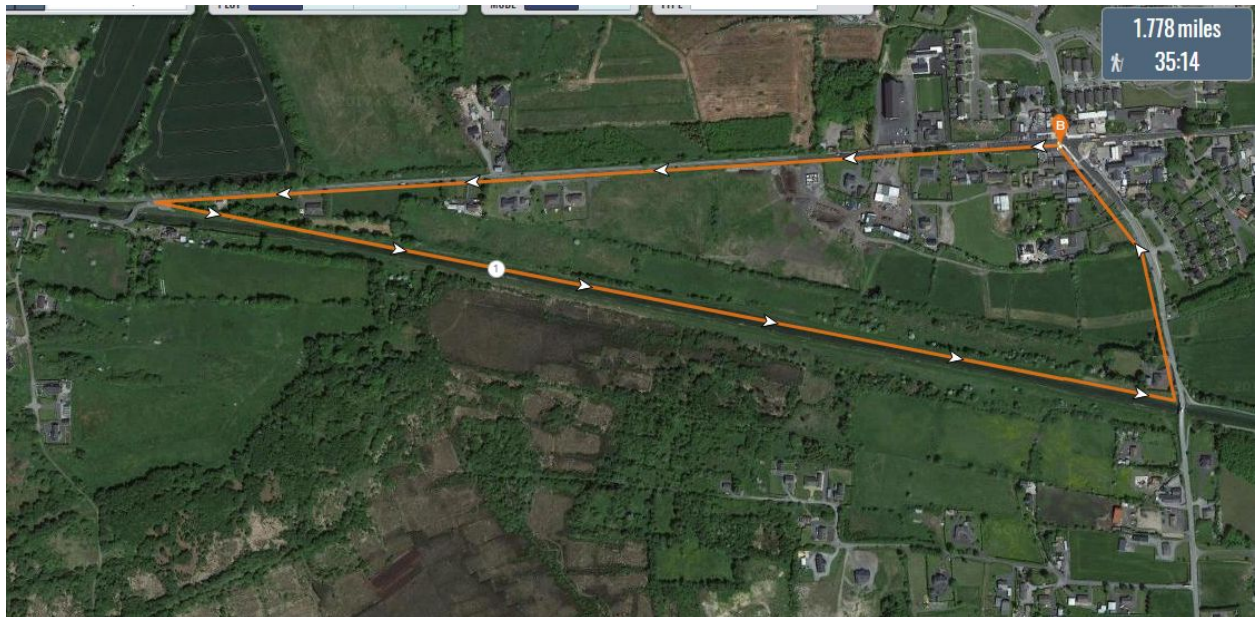
## 5. Canal Walking Route

Allenwood Tidy Towns have plans to engage with Kildare County Council in relation to having a pathway built from Allenwood Cross to the Shee (Skew) Bridge as part of a circular walking route by the canal bank.

The need for this pathway is further increased by the volume of traffic now entering and leaving the Drehid Waste Management facility. We note that the facility is currently seeking to increase its intake of waste and traffic levels will increase further should this happen.

We would like to make the councillors aware of this proposal and ask them to make initial enquiries with the relevant departments in the council in order to garner support for this project.

We note that planning is being sought for new housing developments along some of this proposed route and we believe that if this planning is granted then the provision of a footpath that would support this long term plan should be a condition of same.



## 6. Footpaths in Bluetown

Residents of Bluetown are seeking to improve safety on the road by having footpaths installed where possible. We acknowledge that the narrow road may inhibit this in some parts but we would ask the councilors to seek initial advice from Kildare County Council on the feasibility of this proposal.

## 7. Complete the footpath from Bluetown to Cross

There is still not a complete footpath from the top of Bluetown to Allenwood Cross. There is a resident with a powered wheelchair that needs to traverse the main road in order to reach the shops.

We ask the councillors to liaise with the relevant engineer in Kildare County Council in order to plan to have the footpath completed.

## 8. Derelict House

Allenwood Tidy Towns have raised the issue of the dumping and general misuse of the grounds of the derelict house close to the village on several occasions. The council have assured us that they are contacting the owners but no action is being taken.

Can the councillors please ask the council for a more forceful action to get this property managed properly?



## 9. Canal Tourism Development

We will be supporting Allenwood Tidy Towns with any projects relating to developing the canal for tourism and would like to make the councillors aware that such projects will be forthcoming in the future.

## **10. Sewerage and Water Supplies for New Development**

We note that planning permission is being sought and possibly granted for new housing developments close to the village of Allenwood.

We are informed that the sewerage scheme has been approved for phase 2 and 3 development but that funding has yet to be secured. We would expect that the development levies from the proposed developments would be used to fund the next phases of the scheme.

We ask the councillors to ensure that the sewerage system and water supply network in the village is capable of adequately meeting the demands of these new residences and that measures are taken to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place before any development takes place.

## **11. Revision of Drehid Community Grant Figure**

It is unclear how the figure for the Drehid Community Grant is calculated. It is believed that the grant might be a fixed value per ton of waste intake at the facility annually. If so, this figure would need to be evaluated annually to account for inflation.

Can the councillors please check the method of calculation of the Drehid Community Grant?



Population of local schools and creches

<b>School</b>	<b>Pupils</b>
<b>Allenwood NS</b>	254
<b>Bright Sparks Creche Allenwood</b>	101
<b>Killinagh NS</b>	99
<b>Ticknevin NS</b>	76
<b>Broadford NS</b>	99
<b>Johnstownbridge NS</b>	121
<b>Allen NS</b>	250
<b>Robertstown NS</b>	182
<b>Coill Dubh NS</b>	163
<b>Clogherinkoe NS</b>	150
<b>Cadamstown NS</b>	80
<b>Derrinturn NS</b>	300
<b>Kilshanroe NS</b>	135
	<b>2010</b>