

Man detected driving more than 50km/h over speed limit banned from road

by Sarah Peppard

A MAN detected travelling at 176km/h in a 120km/h zone on a County Kildare road has been disqualified from driving for two years.

Before the Kilcock sitting of Naas District Court on Tuesday, 2nd February was Darragh McEllin, 24, with an address listed in court documents as Nanulla, Castlebar, County Mayo, charged with dangerous driving at Greenfield, Maynooth, M4 on 17th January.

Sarah Connolly, BL, representing the defendant, asked Judge Desmond Zaidan to consider reducing the charge from dangerous to careless driving.

The court heard there was no objection from the State. Judge Zaidan asked for the particulars of the case.

Sgt Jim Kelly told the court that at 10:45pm at the M4 Northbound, gardai were conducting a speed check when they detected the defendant travelling at 176km/h in a 120km/h zone.

When he was stopped by gardai he said he was travelling to work and apologised.

Sgt Kelly said the defendant has no previous convictions, was co-operative and apologetic to gardai.

Sgt Kelly said there was very little traffic on the road and conditions were good.

Ms Connolly said her client is anxious to keep his licence.

She said it was a "momentary lapse in judgement" and that her client was mortified, and she said it was certainly a wake up call for him.

Ms Connolly said her client is in full-time employment and that his licence is vital for this as he works in a plant and machinery facility.

She asked Judge Zaidan to consider reducing the charge to careless because of the manner in which her client has met the offence.

Judge Zaidan said he took on board all the circumstances, including the fact the State was not objecting to a reduction.

However, he said he was satisfied it is within the remit of dangerous driving.

He said 176km/h is a dangerous speed.

He said he wasn't going to impose a custodial sentence, and thankfully there were no incidents but that when speed goes wrong the consequences are catastrophic.

He disqualified Mr McEllin from driving for two years and fined him €650.

Carbury woman charged with public order offences

by Sarah Peppard

A CARBURY woman has appeared in court charged with public order offences.

Rebecca Fox, 24, with an address listed in court documents as 4 Ashbrook, Derrinturn, Carbury appeared before the Kilcock sitting of Naas District Court on Tuesday, 2nd February, charged with intoxication in a public place and threatening, abusive or insulting behaviour in a public place.

Sgt Jim Kelly told the court that on 16th June 2020 at Trinity Crescent, Derrinturn, gardai responded to a public order incident at 10:50pm.

When gardai arrived on the scene, Ms Fox was allegedly highly intoxicated.

She was directed to leave the area by gardai but she allegedly refused to comply.

Sgt Kelly said she was arrested for her own safety and conveyed to Leixlip Garda Station where she spent a number of hours in the cells.

Aisling Murphy, BL, said her client and her partner had got into a row and it spilled into the public domain and it shouldn't have.

Ms Murphy said her client has a problem with alcohol and that she is trying to address it but because of COVID hasn't been able to.

She said her client is willing to accept help.

Ms Murphy said her client is not working but is looking after her sister who has a disability.

Judge Desmond Zaidan asked if she is still with her partner, to which she replied she is.

Ms Murphy said her client has a small sum of cash in court with her but said she could work with the probation services. She said the probation services are taking appointments over the phone.

The case was adjourned until 15th June 2021 for a probation report and sentencing.

Leixlip resident jailed for possession of €0.5 million worth of drugs

by Sonya McLean

A POLISH man who held over half a million euro worth of drugs in his Leixlip home because he was struggling financially has been jailed for six years.

Przemyslaw Goska, aged 33, was also caught with almost €70,000 worth of cocaine in the back of a car he was driving.

He told gardai he had been asked to transport the drugs from "point A to point B".

Goska pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal

Court to possession of MDMA with a value of €506,000 at his then rented accommodation in Louisa Park, Leixlip on 1st August, 2020.

He also pleaded guilty to possession of the cocaine, which had a street value of €68,300 for sale or supply in a car that he had borrowed from a friend on the same date. He has no previous convictions either here or in Poland.

Garda Jason Tone told Fiona McGowan BL, prosecuting that the house Goska was renting a room in at the time was under

surveillance and a warrant was secured.

The house was searched by gardai and the MDMA was found in a bag in a wardrobe in his bedroom.

Goska was not at home at the time so gardai remained at the house until he returned later that afternoon.

Goska and the car he had been driving were searched and the cocaine found on the back seat.

Afraid

Garda Tone said Goska was interviewed 10 times and although he co-oper-

ated in terms of his own involvement, he said he was too afraid to give gardai any further information.

He said he had been promised money for holding the drugs and had also agreed to transport the cocaine from Point A to Point B.

He said he hadn't intended to bring the cocaine into the house but had just returned home to pick up a change of clothes.

Garda Tone accepted that it was someone else in the house who was under sur-

veillance that day and Goska was not on the garda radar.

He agreed with Damien Colgan SC, defending that Goska's motivation was to: "try and make a few bob to send back to his family" in Poland and he felt he was used because of his vulnerable financial circumstances.

Garda Tone accepted that the threat Goska was under was credible and that a letter provided from his former partner acknowledged that he was a good provider for his children.

Mr Colgan said his client had come to Ireland three years ago to make money for his family and had been working in the construction industry.

Judge Melanie Greally said she had taken into account Goska's co-operation with the garda investigation, his pleas of guilty and the hardship his family will be exposed to now as a consequence of his actions.

She also acknowledged that Goska will find his time in prison more difficult because of both the global pandemic and the fact that he has limited English.

Judge Greally imposed a sentence of seven-and-a-half years but suspended the final 18 months of the sentence on condition that he keep the peace and be of good behaviour for 18 months and leave Ireland within 14 days of his release from prison.



Far apart but close friends...

Frances Flanagan (left) and Rosemary Duddy were out for a stroll in St Catherine's Park last Sunday (7th February). Pic: Ian Scully

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RPS MAKING COMPLEX EASY

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road Public Consultation on Route Options

Kildare County Council wishes to invite feedback from members of the public on the Route Corridor Options for the Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road.

Following Government Covid-19 restrictions, all public consultation will be managed online or by submissions in writing to the postal address provided below. Submissions are invited from midday Friday, 12 February 2021 on Kildare County Council's Public Consultation Portal.

The consultation portal will contain links to project information and maps of the Route Corridor Options and is available at:

<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/celbridge-hazelhatch-link-road-public-consultation-scheme-options>

Submissions may be made through the following on or before 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 11 March 2021:

Online: <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/celbridge-hazelhatch-link-road-public-consultation-scheme-options>

Post: Senior Executive Officer, Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department at the address below.

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