

**Minutes of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 September 2017  
in the Council Chamber, Aras Chill Dara**

**Members Present:** Councillors S Power (Mayor), M Aspell, S Doyle, P Kennedy, M Lynch, M McCabe, J Pender, M Stafford.

**Apologies:** Councillor F McLoughlin Healy.

**Officials Present:** Ms A Aspell (A/District Manager), Ms M McIvor, Ms E Wright and Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officers), Mr M McLoughlin (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms S Scully and Mr B Martin (Administrative Officers), Mr D Hughes (Municipal District Engineer), Mr D Creighton (Senior Architect), Ms F Skehan (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary).

**KN01/0917**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the annual Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting on 19 July 2017 and the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 19 July 2017, together with the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor Pender, that the minutes of the annual meeting held on 19 July 2017 and the minutes of the monthly meeting of the 19 July 2017 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

**KN02/0917**

**Matters Arising**

**Landscaping and Flood Relief Works at Dara Park, Newbridge (KN21/1611, KN02/1612, KN03/1701, KN21/1702)**

Councillor Pender asked for an update on this matter. Mr Dunne stated that some issues were being attended to and would monitor remaining defects. The members will be kept updated.

**Cycle Lane, The Curragh (KN13/0717)**

Councillor Pender asked for an update on this matter. The Roads Department informed the members that their department along with the Senior Engineer had met with the Department of Defence to discuss the roads and use of roads in the Curragh, parking and other associated issues which had arisen from the Curragh Forum. The members will be updated.

**Progress Report on the Traffic Management Plan for Kildare-Newbridge (KN14/0617)**

Ms Wright stated that they were still working on this project and would come back to the members at their next meeting.

**Small town centre improvement upgrade at Athgarvan (KN02/0717, KN11/0617)**

Councillor Lynch had asked at the July meeting that a request be made for central funding and he asked for a report at the next meeting.

**Walkway at Moore Avenue (KN02/1603, KN04/1604, KN03/1701, KN02/0517, KN02/0717)**

Councillor Power noted report stating that planning permission for the site adjacent to the walkway had been granted and that the construction of the wall had now commenced. He was delighted with the progress on this and noted it was almost complete. He thanked all associated with this work.

**KN03/0917**

**Update on the Municipal District Road Works**

**Update on Parking by Text**

Ms Wright informed the members that the parking machines were installed since April 2017. They were initially put in for six months and it had now been extended for a further six months up to February 2018. This was a free trial and the cost to the council was for the operation of them.

**EU Mobility Week - 16 September to 22 September 2017**

Ms Wright informed the members that the council, in partnership with GoCar, was pleased to announce a pilot car sharing scheme. GoCar was a car sharing membership based program where, once you join, you can rent a car or van 24/7, 365 days a year. Cars are parked all across Dublin and Cork and would be available in Kildare close to where you live or work. Each shared car had been proven to replace between 10-15 private cars, as well as

increasing use of public transport. For more information click on [www.gocar.ie/faqs](http://www.gocar.ie/faqs) or email [info@gocar.ie](mailto:info@gocar.ie)

GoCars would be available at off-street car park locations in Naas, Maynooth, Newbridge and Celbridge, and at Irish Rail Stations in Athy, Leixlip, Celbridge and Newbridge.

The pilot scheme was being launched to coincide with the annual European Mobility Week, which takes place on September 16-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. This year's topic was focussed on sustainable mobility, with a theme of 'clean, shared and intelligent mobility', with a corresponding slogan – 'Sharing gets you further'. The theme was described on the [www.mobilityweek.eu](http://www.mobilityweek.eu) website.

Two further initiatives are in the planning phase to assist the Kildare Cycling Forum in promoting cycling on existing and planned cycleways throughout the county.

The Council was engaging with URBO with a view to the provision of a dockless bike sharing scheme in selected towns in the county. For more information click on [www.urbosolutions.com](http://www.urbosolutions.com) or email [info@urbosolutions.com](mailto:info@urbosolutions.com). A tender process was also underway for the supply of secure bicycle lockers, which would be located in towns to support cyclists.

The Municipal District Engineer updated the members on the Municipal District road works as follows: -

Surface Dressing Programme 2017 - All surface dressing works within the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area have been completed. This work delivered road improvements in the Maddenstown/Cut Bush/Suncroft/Milltown/Kilmeague/Allenwood areas.

### Road Improvement Works:

Barrettstown Road/Sexes Road area, Newbridge - The contract to carry out road improvements in the Sexes Road / Barrettstown Road area is substantially complete with some minor works remaining which will be completed in the coming weeks.

Great Connell Road, Newbridge - A tender is currently being prepared to carry out road improvements at the above location. It is expected that works will commence in October.

Maddenstown, The Curragh - A tender is currently being prepared to carry out road improvements at the above location. It is expected that works will commence in October.

LPT/Pay Parking Projects - The Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area would be progressing and completing works under the above in Q4/2017.

Kildare Town IBAL Award - In recognition of being awarded the title Ireland's Cleanest Town in 2016, a sculpture was specially commissioned for Kildare Town which was to be unveiled on Friday 22 September 2017. The Municipal District Office was currently carrying out works in relation to the installation of this sculpture.

**KN04/0917**

**To consider Part 8 Report on proposed development at Beechgrove, Rathangan**

Mr Creighton, Senior Architect gave an overview of the Part 8 for proposed housing development at Beechgrove, Rathangan.

A lengthy discussion ensued amongst the members and matters were clarified with regard to density, style of development, naming of estate, open space areas, consideration of bird boxes and adequate parking spaces for residents and visitors and other issues.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Kennedy that the Part 8 Housing Development at Beechgrove, Rathangan be approved and agreed by all the members.

**KN05/0917**

**Part 8 - proposed extension to Rathangan Cemetery**

Councillor Stafford excused himself from any discussion in this regard because of conflict of interest due to family land.

Mr Dunne, Senior Executive Officer gave an overview of the Part 8 on proposed extension to Rathangan Cemetery.

A lengthy discussion ensued amongst the members and matters were clarified with regard to entrance of cemetery, damage to headstones by trees, lawn cemetery and possible small area within existing cemeteries for a non-traditional plot, options for cremation area and interment of ashes.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Kennedy that the Part 8 for Rathangan Cemetery be approved and agreed by all the members.

**KN06/0917**

**Ó Modhráin Hall**

The members considered the following joint motion in the names of Councillor Pender and Councillor Lynch: -

That this Municipal District calls on the trustees of the Ó Modhráin Hall to meet with the local community and its representatives to discuss retaining the hall in community ownership in accordance with the documented aims of the Trust (Coisde Cuimhneachain Eamonn Ó Modhráin) as the council considers that maintaining the ownership of the building and attempting to refurbish the same is more important than the proceeds due from the proposed sale.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor Lynch.

Councillor Pender gave a detailed account of the background of the Ó Modhráin Hall and requested that the trustees of this hall would meet with the local community and the members to discuss retaining the hall. She stated that the trustees appealed the compulsory purchase order and the people in the community saw the site up for sale and thought it was bizarre that it was up for sale. She stated that representations had been made and the solicitors were asked to postpone the sale of the hall. The trustees were asked to meet with the people of Newbridge and this was not taken up and the sale happened. She contacted the charity regulator and asked for an investigation into the sale of the property as the public want the building retained as a community space.

Councillor Lynch added that there was a serious lack of community facilities for youth in Newbridge. He stated that the new trustees did not engage with the community about this hall and they refused to meet with any of the members, community or family of Eamon O'Modhráin. He asked the members to support this motion.

Councillor Aspell stated that it was important not to alienate themselves with the Trustees. This matter was ongoing since town council times. He added that there were other facilities in Newbridge and did not want the wrong information to come from the meeting. He added that he was disappointed that the trustees had not engaged in talks.

Councillor Stafford disagreed that the council were innocent in these negotiations. He gave some background to the hall and he stated that the members, years back, asked for the

building to go on the Derelict Sites Register. Under the compulsory purchase order process a low price was placed on the property and under the Charities Act the Trustees could not sell the hall for less than the market value. He stated that he did not know the Trustees or the solicitors acting in this regard but he well understood why the Trustees did not engage and stated that the council should not be misleading the public. He proposed that the members extend an invitation to meet the Trustees to discuss all options for this building.

Councillor Doyle stated that it was important to ask the trustees to meet with them.

Councillor McCabe agreed that this needed to be sorted diplomatically as it would benefit the town immensely.

Councillor Pender clarified that she asked for engagement at the beginning with no malice shown and she did not ask for a public meeting just a meeting between the community, members and trustees.

Councillor Lynch stated that the council did the correct thing by putting it on the derelict sites register but we need to utilise the building correctly. Trustees never engaged, they were contacted numerous times to have a discussion to see whether it was feasible for other options and the conversation or meeting never happened and that was why a complaint was put in with the Charity Regulator.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Lynch that an invitation be sent to the trustees to meet with the members of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District to discuss the future of this hall and the members all agreed.

### **KN07/0917**

#### **Use of suitable houses in the Curragh Camp - Repair and Leasing Scheme**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Pender:

That given the extent and seriousness of the housing crisis, the council will investigate the possibility of entering into an agreement with the Department of Defence to use some of the suitable houses in the Curragh Camp under the repair and leasing scheme.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Lynch.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that with the agreement of the members of the Municipal District, the Housing Department would send an application form for the Repair and Leasing Scheme to the Department of Defence.

Councillor Pender stated that it was incredible that the council were not pursuing this. She added that many of these houses were in relatively good condition. She asked that somebody would arrange a meeting with the Department of Defence and see whether the council can use these vacant houses.

Councillor Stafford stated that he was not happy with this report as we should call on the Department of Defence to make properties and other lands available.

Councillor Doyle agreed that a meeting should be sought with the Department of Defence.

Councillor Aspell stated that these houses should have been made available to ex-army personnel but this was rejected because they were a security risk once they had retired.

Councillor Lynch stated that the Curragh Form was not resolving anything and that legislation was needed to put the Curragh in order.

Councillor McCabe agreed with the motion and stated that the Department of Defence were the issue here not the Army or the military personnel.

Councillor Pender added that the Department of Defence duty was to maintain and protect buildings on the Curragh. She noted that when you retire at 60 and if you are not an officer of the army, you have to leave your army accommodation.

Ms Scully stated that the members comments were noted and that she would make contact with the Department of Defence.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Lynch that the Housing Department make contact with the Department of Defence regarding the possibility of entering into an agreement with the Department of Defence to use some of the suitable houses in the Curragh Camp under the Repair and Leasing Scheme.

**KN08/0917**

**Cap on dwellings directly purchased by the council or Assisted Housing Bodies**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford:

That the council place a cap on the number of dwellings directly purchased by the council or Assisted Housing Bodies (AHBs) in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District in individual estates which would lead to an over concentration of social housing in a particular area.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Doyle.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that in the event that an Approved Housing Body seeks support from the council for the purchase or lease of multiple properties in a location, the council considers if the proposal complies with the objective of creating sustainable communities, particular attention was paid to the number of existing social houses in the area, the population of the area, services available locally and if the proposal would lead to an intensification of social housing. It should be noted that it was the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government who approve the capital/current funding of such proposals. The same principles of sustainability are applied to multi-unit purchases by the council.

Councillor Stafford stated that he was trying to ensure that the council had the correct balance of private and social housing in all estates and he was conscious that we were seeking sustainable communities. He noted in the reply that the council had little control over approved housing bodies. He asked that the matter be referred to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Councillor Doyle asked that the motion be amended to include "to that effect, that where a Part 5 obligation are not viable of efficiently delivering original development, that the Part V obligation would be delivered within the school catchment area having regard to issues of social integration".

Councillor Stafford noted that the council were currently buying houses in private estates and the amount needs to be balanced in order that they do not go over the limit.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Stafford approval of the amendment and that it be referred to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.



**KN09/0917**

**Process involved in turning around vacant housing stock**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Doyle:

Can we get an outline on the process involved in turning around vacant housing stock property with timelines on the historic turnaround over the past 18 months?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the council's Housing Maintenance Section had a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in place detailing all steps involved in refurbishing a vacant house once keys are sent up from Housing.

The following was a brief outline:

- House was assessed by an engineer to see if any works are involved in order to allocate to a new tenant. If no works involved, the utilities are organised in such a way so that the new tenant will have working heat and power supply sufficient to meet their needs until they sort out the utilities themselves once they move in.
- If works are needed, the property is allocated a special project reference number and is allocated to a Clerk of Works for turn-around.
- If the house needs only minor works, the works are procured very quickly without a need for formal tendering through a quick turnaround tendering system in operation in Housing.
- If the house needs a major volume of works, the clerk of works compiles a detailed list of works and the works are procured through a special framework of contractors pre-qualified by the Housing Department.
- The preferred bidder is awarded the job once they satisfy us with regards to their proposed programme, their delivery team, and their Health & Safety controls and mechanisms.
- Once the works have been completed and snagged, a notification is sent to Housing that the house is available for reallocation.
- The tenant is normally provided with a detailed safety induction by our Clerk of Works shortly after moving in.
- The tenant then organises their own utilities (electricity, gas, oil, bins etc) after moving in.

Timelines vary depending on circumstances and budget, with some properties being refurbished in a matter of days, while others could take longer. Delays could be as a result of budgets, available human resources, repossession legalities, major structural problems, or

other. The normal target turnaround time for a vacant house is 6-8 weeks, which is well within national target delivery timelines. A number of units returned to the council this year required significant and costly works, some properties being returned in very poor condition. This has had a serious negative impact on the budget allocation for the pre-letting repairs. Based on the experiences of 2017 it is likely that a significant increase will be requested in Budget 2018 for housing maintenance.

The report was noted.

**KN10/0917**

**Repair footpaths outside the Eleson House bar in Kilmeague**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Aspell:

That the council repair footpaths on the hill outside the Eleson House bar in Kilmeague.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Aspell, seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that no funding for the repair of this footpath was available in 2017. These works could be considered by the members for funding under the 2018 LPT/Pay Parking Programme.

The District Engineer stated that he had agreed to prioritise this work for the 2018 LPT/Pay Parking Programme adding he was very concerned about re-instating the cobbles but the footpath should be brought up to a proper standard.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor Stafford that this work be prioritised for the 2018 LPT/Pay Parking Programme.

**KN11/0917**

**Yellow Boxes at the entrance to Connell Drive, Baroda Court and Wellesley Manor**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Aspell:

That the council install yellow boxes at the entrance to Connell Drive, Baroda Court and Wellesley Manor to help people leaving their estates at peak times in the morning.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Aspell, seconded by Councillor McCabe.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office was, of the opinion, that yellow boxes were not required at this location. The Municipal District Office would continue to monitor the situation and if boxes are required they would be included as part of the traffic calming review for Great Connell Road.

Councillor Aspell stated that he had met with the residents who are very patient with heavy trucks and that a yellow box was needed at the entrance for both estates in order to allow cars to pull out onto the road safely.

The District Engineer stated that he would keep the matter under consideration.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Aspell, seconded by Councillor McCabe that the situation is to be monitored and report was noted.

### **KN12/0917**

#### **Works to improve access and parking at Father Moore's Well**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle:  
That works to improve access and parking at Father Moore's Well be carried out in recognition of its significance as a visitor attraction for the region.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that it was not possible for the Municipal District Office to improve access or parking at this location. The appropriate solution would be the provision of a dedicated car park off the regional road. This would require funding to be indentified in respect of land acquisition and construction works.

Councillor Doyle noted the report and asked for the matter to be looked at again.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Stafford noted the report and the issue is to be looked at again.

### **KN13/0917**

#### **Pedestrian safety at the National School in Suncroft**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle:

That we examine appropriate measures to improve pedestrian safety at the National School in Suncroft with a view to implementing same.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer met with the school principal on site and agreed measures in relation to improving pedestrian safety and access at Suncroft National School. These works would be carried out in the coming weeks. A request for a pedestrian crossing at the school had been referred to TAAG for assessment.

Councillor Doyle noted the report and asked whether the other council staff could examine other than TAAG to carry out this work. Ms Wright stated that it would be the same skilled personnel needed to support road design team.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Stafford to note the report and that the request for a pedestrian crossing at the school be referred to TAAG for assessment.

### **KN14/0917**

#### **Public lighting at the Pound, Rathangan**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford:

That the council erect appropriate public lighting at the Pound, Rathangan.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor McCabe.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that they would arrange for a night inspection survey to be carried out at the location.

Councillor Stafford was happy with the report. He clarified that this was an area along the River Slate and it was used to impound stray animals. However, it was now a popular spot for courting couples and it was not utilised properly. He asked for some form of lighting to be installed. He welcomed the report and the councils support on this matter.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor McCabe that public lighting be erected at this location.

**KN15/0917**

**Redevelopment of Eyre Street Newbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Power:

Can an update be provided for the redevelopment of Eyre Street Newbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the information requested was not currently available but would be conveyed, in writing, to the member as quickly as possible as per standing order no 13.

Councillor Power noted the report.

**KN16/0917**

**Lights in the Meadows, Morristown and Cornelscourt, Newbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Aspell:

What is the current position on the lights in the Meadows, Morristown and Cornelscourt, Newbridge as we are fast approaching long evenings?

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that it was the bond provider/receivers responsibility to provide the public lighting in The Meadows, not the council. The building and development control staff had raised the issue of the public lighting with the bond provider/receivers and negotiations in this regard are ongoing. The committee would be kept informed of progress.

Councillor Aspell stated that the bond was to try and rectify the problem as there were young families walking into a dark estate. He stated that he was not happy as it was going on too long. He added that bonds were in place and wanted to know why they were not drawn down. Mr M. McLoughlin stated that he would check this out.

The report was noted.

**KN17/0917**

**Progress report on TAAG projects**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Doyle.

Can we have a progress report on TAAG projects for the Municipal District, to include indicative timelines on projects that are ready to proceed, project locations be identified more clearly and duplication be removed from the report?

Ms Wright stated that during the summer months, the Senior Executive Engineer who had been overseeing the work had left the council and there was no replacement for him at this time. Mr Martin gave the members an update on TAAG and stated that works had not progressed as much as they had wished and that they would report back to the members next month. Councillor Doyle asked how these works would be prioritised. Ms Wright stated that she would have to wait on a new appointment of a Senior Executive Engineer which was hoped for early 2018. Councillor Doyle stated that this was alarming that projects were not going to happen as quickly as they had hoped and it was negligent not to have resources in place. She gave her sympathies to the Roads Department. Ms Wright stated that they also had no Roads Safety Officer at present. The members to be kept updated.

**KN18/0917**

**Free public Wi-Fi**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McCabe:

Can the council talk with Electric Ireland and ask them to install free public Wi-Fi in our Municipal District towns as a compensation for the unsightly cables they are imposing upon our streetscapes with a log on page that incorporates the 'Into Kildare' message?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the provision of high speed broadband in towns in Kildare was currently being carried out on a commercial basis by SIRO (ESB/Vodafone consortium). The Roads Department had met with SIRO to discuss the use of overhead cables for broadband in towns in the county and it had been clarified that a number of the cables recently installed in Newbridge was related to ESB works and not fibre optic cables related to the provision of broadband.

Free public WiFi was already provided by the Council in the following towns:

- Athy Heritage Centre

- Naas Town Hall
- Leixlip Library
- Newbridge Library
- Maynooth Library
- Ballitore Library

WiFi4EU, an EU initiative with associated funding which would support installing free public Wi-Fi hotspots in local communities across the EU would shortly be announced. The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment was currently clarifying the likely timelines on funding and local authorities would be kept informed of any updates. This would provide a further opportunity for free WiFi in County Kildare.

The report was noted.

### **KN19/0917**

#### **Update - Installation of crash barriers outside community school in Kildare Town**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender:

Can the council provide an update on when the crash barriers will be installed outside the Community School in Kildare Town?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the area was inspected by the Municipal District Office. However, no funding for works at this location was allocated in 2017. The carrying out of the work would be assessed in Quarter 2017 and would be dependent on funding being available.

Councillor Pender hoped that this would be done as it was now a safety issue. She asked for assurance that this work would be done. The District Engineer stated that this work would be put on the list.

The report was noted.

**KN20/0917**

**Footpath along the R403 at Allenwood Middle from the cross towards New Road**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford:

Can the council confirm whether it has plans to continue the footpath along the R403 at Allenwood Middle from the cross towards New Road utilising the existing kerbing?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office had no plans at present to continue this footpath.

Councillor Stafford stated that this footpath runs along a derelict house and it was a busy road and populated area. He asked that it go on the list of projects to be carried out next year.

The report was noted.

**KN21/0917**

**Stop sign and white lines at Cribbons Lane, Rathangan**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford:

Can the council confirm whether it has plans to erect a stop sign and place the appropriate white line at Cribbons Lane, Rathangan at the junction with the R414?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this location would be included in the lining programme for Quarter 4 2017.

The report was noted.

**KN22/0917**

**Flooding and the sewerage overflow in Dara Park and Lakeside Park,  
Newbridge**

It was agreed by the members to take items 21, 22 and 24 on the agenda together.

Item 21

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Power:



That the council provide a full report on the flooding and the sewerage overflow in Dara Park Newbridge that occurred in mid August and indicate what action will be taken to prevent a recurrence.

### Item 22

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Power:

That the council provide a full report on the flooding and the sewerage overflow in Lakeside Park Newbridge that occurred in mid August and indicate what action will be taken to prevent a recurrence.

### Item 24

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender:

Can the council outline what infrastructural problems exist in Dara Park and Lakeside Park that allows for raw sewage to overflow from the wastewater system up onto the footpaths and into residents' gardens when it rains heavily and what needs to be done in order to prevent this from happening in future?

A report was received from the Water Services Department informing the members that the flooding which took place on 14 August affected a number of locations in Newbridge, two of which were at Dara Park and Lakeside Park. This flooding was as a result of a number of factors, including approx. 30 mm of rainfall over 7 hours (the monthly rainfall for the whole month of August was 65.4 mm) and a sewerage network which was operating at capacity and subject to a number of mis-connections from surface water. The Dara Park Flood Relief Scheme was designed to provide protection from flooding from the surface water network and had been working successfully since substantial completion. The flooding on 14 August was caused by the surcharging of the sewerage network, whose remediation was not part of the Flood Relief Scheme. The construction of the Newbridge Eastern Interceptor Sewer would reduce the pressure on the existing sewerage network and its capacity. In the meantime, the council would continue to carry out schemes to remove surface water from the sewerage network, where possible. The infrastructure issues at Dara Park and Lakeside Park would be raised with Irish Water.

Councillor Power stated that heavy rain, flooding and sewerage overflow into gardens and pathways was unacceptable. He added that the residents had been tolerant even though this was happening on a regular basis. He said it was terrible looking at children hopping through sewerage, it was not right and it was now a health and safety issue. He asked what works were intended to be carried out at these estates.

Councillor Pender stated that she contacted Irish Water and they told her it was a Roads issue. And Roads said it was issue to be dealt with by Irish Water. She stated that the issue was with combined sewers and there were serious infrastructural problems here and it would keep happening. She stated that it now turns out that Irish Water say the scheme was due to go to tender in three months and they were already aware of this issue and it would not be sorted until 2020. She added that in the meantime, clean-up should be arranged for the aftermath of this happening again.

Councillor Aspell agreed stating that the response time was vital here.

Councillor Lynch stated that this issue was going on a long time and he was embarrassed about the situation as the weather was only going to get worse and it needs to be rectified.

The District Engineer stated that wastewater deficiencies were not related to works already carried out in these estates.

Mr Dunne stated that works were carried out on flood alleviation issues in advance and that some works were carried out on odour issues. The matter was raised with Irish Water to establish what had to be done. He added that capital investment was required and this was raised with Irish Water.

Councillor McCabe noted that staff were in the town to sort out the flooding issues and this highlights our problem with water issues in our town and it requires major planning and organisation to resolve.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted, flooding be alleviated and sewerage overflow resolved with Irish Water.

### **KN23/0917**

#### **Roseberry grant funding**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Lynch:

That the council produces a report as to why it advertised that Roseberry residents were in receipt of €20,000 of grant funding, when in fact no resident of Roseberry applied for this same grant, in addition who are the names of the people who applied and signed off on this funding, what is the breakdown of its use and why was it deemed appropriate to seek

funding for a National Parks and Wildlife Services survey on private land without the landowners permission.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Lynch, seconded by Councillor Power.

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the project selected was an anti-dumping initiative and that Roseberry Bog area was found to be particularly suitable in the context of the criteria for funding (as the area was subject to widespread illegal dumping). It was not clear from the motion as to the advertisement referred to. Environment section had not advertised the scheme. The project funding of €20,000 was broken down as follows:

### **1) Local Community Groups**

Clean up materials (bags, litterpickers etc.) were provided to three community groups to the value of €5,000 (no monies were paid to the groups- materials only).

The three groups selected have been actively removing illegal waste from the bog on an ongoing basis. As the groups applied for the collected waste to be removed by the council, this was how they came to the councils attention when identifying the stakeholders.

### **2) Green Schools Educational Trips €5,000**

This sum was to provide an opportunity for local green schools to visit the area to appreciate the value of protecting the bog and to develop an appreciation of the consequences of indiscriminate dumping.

### **3) €5,000 Invasive Species Study**

The council deemed that a survey of illegally dumped green waste was necessary for this project to identify if any of the green waste contained any invasive species (e.g. japanese knotweed or pitcher plants) as these can subsequently become established on the bog. As the bog was a designated Special Area Of Conservation (SAC), the council was obliged to refer any actions to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The NPWS subsequently authorised the survey. These surveys had identified the presence of a number of invasive species. It was accepted that when the survey commenced, the council was not aware that lands were in private ownership (the lands are open access and widely used as an amenity by the local communities). Any further planned surveys would be undertaken with landowners permission.

**4) €5,000**

This sum was to meet costs of developing an app, to be used to highlight any dumping that was noticed in the area.

Councillor Lynch asked who had applied for this grant funding and who drew it down as nobody within the residents group were aware of it and nobody wanted or asked for it.

Councillor Power stated that the from an environment point of view it had been raised at a previous meeting of the Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

Mr Dunne stated that the residents were regularly in contact with the council with regard to illegal dumping and collection of same. No residents drew down the money, no cash exchanged hands. The council were just trying to assist in cleaning up the area. However, Mr Dunne took the point that the land was in private ownership and that was an oversight.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Lynch, seconded by Councillor Doyle and the report was noted.

**KN24/0917**

**Strategic Housing Development**

Mr McLoughlin confirmed timelines were agreed at the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) on Monday 11 September 2017 regarding the timelines for this project and a report was circulated to the members before the meeting. He stated that it was a three-stage process and it should be dealt with in-committee. Councillor Pender stated that the members would need training on iPlan. Mr McLoughlin stated that it was a public website and it was user friendly.

The report was noted.

**KN25/0917**

**Signage on private property**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McCabe:

That the Planning Department implement a greater degree of control over the signage on private property in keeping with the council's policy on signage. This is to control the excessive amount of random signage and 40ft containers being used on private properties within the Newbridge and Municipal District environs.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McCabe, seconded by Councillor Kennedy.

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that from a legislation and regulation perspective, advertising was governed by the Planning and Development Act, the Litter Pollution Acts 1997-2003, the Protection of the Environment Act 2003, the Roads Act 1993 and the respective Regulations applying to these Acts. It was acknowledged that advertising was a vital component of business activity and a means of providing information to the general public. Businesses, in particular, including council ratepayers, often try to counteract the impacts of economic recession by increasing their promotion and public presence. There was also evidence of signage being used in public areas to advertise local events, especially of a community non-commercial nature but, increasingly, also of one-off commercial events such as wedding fairs, home exhibitions, antique fairs etc. Quite often, advertising signs can be visually unattractive and a distraction to road users as well as being a hindrance to pedestrians, particularly the physically impaired and those with prams and buggies especially on busy urban streets. The council's objectives include trying to avoid a profusion of signs which can be poorly designed, badly located, and detract significantly from the local area. It was council policy to control advertising signs in relation to their location, design, materials and function. Chapter 17.14 of the County Development Plan governs policy on signage and 17.14.6 governs the use of containers for advertising purposes. Unauthorised advertising structures are subject to the same procedures, processes and timelines as all other unauthorised developments. The policy on signage was implemented by the following sections of the council, all of whom have responsibilities for dealing with advertising signs in public areas:

- (a) Transportation Section (under the Roads Act 1993)
- (b) Planning Section (under the Planning and Development Act )
- (c) Environment Section (under the Litter Pollution Acts)

The council sees the need for a certain amount of signage both in the public and private domain. It also recognises the positive value which good quality signage can have both from an informational perspective and by adding vibrancy and colour. It would support the idea of "the right signs in the right places" and shall do so through a cooperative approach between the Planning, Environment and Transportation sections leading to consistency in decision-making. In light of this, the members of both Environment and Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committees are hoping to meet before the year-end to consider the issue of signage throughout the county.

Councillor McCabe stated that the report was appreciated. He stated that we need to help the Tidy Towns out by removing old signage as sometimes the visual impact of these signs was terrible and cost them points when adjudication takes place. We need to engage with businesses and assist our tidy towns.

Councillor Stafford stated that businesses are trying to survive and then on the other side this signage was causing littering. He welcomed the meeting between the Strategic Policy Committees to consider the matter.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McCabe, seconded by Councillor Kennedy and the report was noted.

### **KN26/0917**

#### **Plans to further develop Liffey Linear Park, Newbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Power:

In view of the award presented to Newbridge in recognition of the development of the Liffey Linear Park, can the council provide full details of their plans to further develop this wonderful amenity?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that immediate works proposed in the park include the provision of a walkway under the bridge. Longer term works subject to the availability of budget for the upgrade of the walk to St Conleth's College, a small play area at the entrance to the park, the upgrade of the entrance to the Park from the Athgarvan Road and a review of signage in the park.

Councillor Power stated that this was a great facility for Newbridge and he wished to compliment the people involved. He asked that the council engage with Tidy Towns and draw up a plan for the area and the Liffey Linear Park on a phased basis.

The report was noted.

**KN27/0917**

**Weed Killing Programme**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McCabe:

Can the council implement a more regular or scheduled weed killing programme as weeds are causing major untidiness issues in our towns, and for Tidy Towns teams?

Councillor McCabe asked for a report to be made available for the next meeting.

**KN28/0917**

**Cost for the erection and illumination of a tricolour flag on the Town Hall,  
Newbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Lynch:

Can the council provide a full cost for the erection and illumination of a tricolour flag on the Town Hall, Newbridge?

A report was received from the Facilities Manager informing the members that facilities were currently looking at getting approximate costs for the erection of a flag on Newbridge Town Hall. A number of factors would affect the final price such as, where the flag would be placed, would it be hung on the building or on a flag pole beside the building and the type of lighting used to illuminate the flag.

The Meetings Administrator stated that she would request the matter be expedited and update members at the next meeting.

The report was noted.

**KN29/0917**

**Ownership of land at Lackagh Church**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Lynch:

Can the council confirm if it owns land at Lackagh Church and if so, are there any plans in place for this area?

A report was received from Corporate Services informing the members that if the councillor can provide the council with a map indicating the lands in question, the council would be able to confirm if the lands in question were owned by the council.

The report was noted.

**KN30/0917**

**Date and time of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District draft budgetary plan meeting**

The Meetings Administrator stated that the meeting would take place at 18 October 2017 at 9.30am.

**KN31/0917**

**Any Other Business**

The Mayor informed the members that a card had been received from the organising committee of the Kildare Town Medieval Festival 2017 expressing their thanks for the support of the council and especially the members of the Kildare-Newbridge for the event on 20 August last.

The meeting concluded.