

Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held at 10.00 am on 21 November 2018 in Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

Members Present: Councillor M Aspell (Mayor), Councillors S Doyle, P Kennedy, M Lynch, M McCabe, F McLoughlin Healy, J Pender, S Power and M Stafford.

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr T McDonnell (Director of Service, Housing & Corporate Services), Ms B Cuddy (Municipal District Engineer), Ms E Wright & Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officers), Ms L Hanratty (A/Senior Executive Architect), Mr M McLoughlin, Ms M McCarthy & Ms S Scully (Administrative Officers), Ms P Conlan (Senior Executive Planner), Mr D Creighton (A/Senior Architect), Ms S Martin (Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office), Ms F Skehan (Meetings Administrator) and Ms R O'Connell (Meetings Secretary),

KN01/1118

Minutes and Progress Report

To approve the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 17 October 2018 and to note the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kennedy seconded by Councillor Doyle that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on 17 October 2018 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

KN02/1118

Municipal District Road Works

To receive an update on the municipal district road works.

Road Resurfacing Works:

- Road recycling and surfacing works were now complete at Black Trench and Lullymore.

- Works were still ongoing at the L7036 Langton Road in Newbridge (outside The Oaks Estate) which includes drainage improvement works, road resurfacing and footpath improvements in that area.

LPT/Pay Parking Projects/Footpath Improvements:

- Footpath improvement works were now completed in Dara Park, Ivy Grove and Highfield, some overlay still outstanding due for completion in the coming weeks.
- Tender will be issued for Kilmeage footpaths next week with works scheduled to commence in early December.

IPB Funding:

- Upgrade to sections of footpaths around Newbridge – in line with IPB funding – Municipal District staff were working on section of footpaths around Newbridge town that were identified as trip hazards.

Superloos:

- Removal of the two Superloos from Kildare and Newbridge would be completed by the end of November.

Miscellaneous works:

- Grass cutting, litter picking and gully cleaning were ongoing within the municipal district area.
- Hedge and verge cutting were taking place in Rathangan.
- Extensive patch repairs were carried out in bog areas due to severe summer heat.

Severe Weather Funding:

- An additional overlay carried out in Blacktrench due to severe summer weather.
- Works commencing at Athgarvan Cross, due to impact of severe summer weather.

KN03/1118

Chief Executive's Part 8 report

The Mayor welcomed Mr Creighton, Acting Senior Architect to the meeting who gave a presentation in respect of the Chief Executive's Part 8 report on the proposed 20 residential units and associated site works at Mountain View, Blackrath and Athgarvan, County Kildare.

Mr Creighton informed the members the proposed development was located at Mountain View, Blackrath and Athgarvan, Co Kildare and it comprises of 20 residential units as follows:

- 5 no. single storey one bed houses,
- 2 no. two storey two bedroom houses,
- 12 no. two storey three bedroom houses
- 1 no. single and two storey house

Councillor Lynch asked Mr Creighton could there be additional car parking areas at Mountain View and would it be possible to have a bus stop area included in this development and speed ramps outside the existing units that was there. He also asked that in Phase 2 if a suitable playground area could be put in at the greenfields area and that if disruption could be kept to a minimum for the residents that were living there.

Councillor Lynch stated that there was a problem with the sewerage system and whether, consideration could be given to the existing homes connecting to the newer sewerage system that would be installed for this proposed development.

Councillor Kennedy stated that he supported the proposed development and that the members should support the Chief Executive's Part 8 report as there was a need for these homes due to the homeless crises.

Councillor Stafford stated that the proposed development would increase traffic and that traffic provisions should be made for the existing houses. He asked if the council were leaving the boundary hedge or was it being replaced with a hedge, wall or wooden fence.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she supported Councillor Lynch's statement and that the area around Athgarvan had capacity issues with the sewerage system and could she be given reassurance that this would be looked at and that no further development would take place until this issue was dealt with.

Councillor Pender stated that the capacity issues would be a concern. She also stated that the 'Type E houses' on the map would be her concern with regards to anti-social behaviour as they back onto the green area.

Councillor Power asked if the new development would be keeping in with the existing homes and asked why the council reduced the development from 20 houses to 18 houses.

Councillor Doyle asked if sheep grids could be put in at the entrance of the development and that she had issues with one bedroom apartments and felt that two bedrooms would be more appropriate.

She also stated that the members were receiving a large number of Part 8's to approve and that these were being sent by email and that hardcopies were required as it was difficult to read these plans from a small laptop.

Mr T McDonnell stated that the statutory decision was to consider the scheme with/without modifications and not to approve the scheme.

Ms L Hanratty stated that a hardcopy was sent out in the post to each of the members and Councillor Doyle stated that neither she or her colleagues had received them.

Mr Creighton stated that no public submissions had been received to the Planning Section and only one elected representative had made a submission.

He responded to each of the members concerns by stating that they would not be able to provide 14 car park spaces in the green area. From initial assessment six car park spaces could be accommodated and the Architects Section would look at the possibility of providing additional spaces. He stated that he would not be able to provide a bus pull-in area along that stretch of the road however; a footpath could be provided which would link to the uncontrolled pedestrian crossings. He stated that he would work with Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department with regard to the possibility of providing a bus pull-in at a location close to the site.

He stated that the drainage details under the Part 8 caters for the proposed development only. The new foul sewer serving the proposed development could be sized so that there was capacity for the existing dwellings opposite the proposed development. However the connection of those dwellings to the public sewer was not included in this Part 8 process and cannot be guaranteed as part of this development. The connection of these dwellings to the public sewer was a matter for Irish Water and the Water Services Section.

He said that the privately owned land to the south was zoned for housing and that the area identified for Phase 2 cannot block access to these zoned lands. He also said that site boundary treatments would comprise of walls and fencing and that the existing mature trees would remain.

In regard to the sewerage issues, Irish Water submitted a report to the Housing Department stating that a hydraulic assessment of the network capacity to determine the required capacity of the new development would be carried out and agreed prior to the commencement of development.

He stated that he would look at installing sheep grids. He also stated that funding for this development currently did not include for the upgrade of the existing houses in Mountain View. The expectation of the extent and cost of any upgrade works needed to be managed. The Architects Section would look at some general improvement works such as painting the existing houses.

He advised that in preparing the Chief Executives report the Planning and Strategic Development Department included the modification to omit the two 'E Type' single storey houses as they did not sit particular well on the site.

Councillor Lynch asked if the council could include the sewerage issues and ramps into the Part 8. Mr Creighton stated that submission for traffic calming, road width and signage would be included but Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department was not in favour of the ramps. He stated that sewerage pipes could be included to take on the existing houses.

The District Manager stated that Contract 2A which was the preferred tender for this development was well advanced.

Mr T McDonnell stated that the Housing Section guarantees connection of the existing dwellings to the new foul drainage system but that this would be raised outside the process. Road safety design would be considered by professional road designers who would propose the appropriate approach to road safety design.

Councillor Aspell asked could the council state how long would the disturbance be on the Athgarvan road and could he get a timeline and cost of this development.

Mr Creighton stated that 18 units would take about 9 months to construct but the contract had to go through the public procurement process. There was a current all-in estimated cost of €4.5 million.

All the members agreed to accept the Chief Executive's Part 8 report on the proposed 18 Residential units and associated site works at Mountain View, Blackrath and Athgarvan, County Kildare.

KN04/1118

Halting site at Tankardsgarden

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor S Power. That Kildare County Council outline its plans for the development of the halting site at Tankardsgarden.

The motion was proposed by Councillor S Power and seconded by Councillor Doyle.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Part 8 permission exists for the development of an eight bay halting site with day units and a caretaker unit. Tender documents were currently being prepared for a two stage tender for the appointment of a main contractor to this project. Stage one involves the shortlisting of contractors who would be invited to submit a final tender. The target date for the issue of the stage one tender documents was the 30 November 2018. When this tender was completed, stage four approval would be requested from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Councillor S Power said that it had taken longer than expected and asked that members be kept informed of progress.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor S Power seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted.

KN05/1118

Removing the ESB substation

The Mayor requested to take items 5 and 7 together and all the members agreed.

Item 5

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

That the council investigates the possibility of removing the ESB substation from the Heritage Centre in Kildare Town.

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

A report was received from the Facilities Manager informing the members that the matter was currently being investigated by Facilities. However; it was believed that the ESB own the section of the building that they occupy.

Councillor Pender stated that the Heritage Centre was looking at tourism projects and there was a number of obstacles in their way. She asked would there be cost barriers to removing it and what were the barriers.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender seconded by Councillor Lynch that the report be noted.

Item 7

KN06/1118

Ground rent to the ESB

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

That this council begins the process of immediately charging a ground rent to the ESB for their unwanted substation in the Heritage Centre in Kildare Town which is impacting on the centres ability to gain potential improvement funding and that this rent should be no less than €20,000 per month.

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

A report was received from the Facilities Manager informing the members that the matter was currently being investigated by Facilities however; it was believed that the ESB own the section of the building that they occupy.

Councillor Lynch asked who was the owner of the building and stated that Councillor Stafford had a motion on this recently and asked if the council should ask for a meeting with the ESB about this substation.

Councillor Doyle stated that it was cost prohibitive and that the council needs to have a face-to-face meeting with the ESB. As an alternative 'glass box' could be put around the Heritage Centre. The work that had been done by the staff in the Heritage Centre needed to be acknowledged as they deserved it.

Councillor Pender asked could she be given a timeframe on the response as the question she asked was not answered.

The District Manager stated that Facilities had been working on the answer and acknowledged the future of the Heritage Centre was very important. He said that he would speak to the Facilities Manager and would have a report for the next month's meeting. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Lynch seconded by Councillor Pender that the report be noted.

KN07/1118

Termination of tenancy agreements

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Lynch. That the council indicates how many termination of tenancy agreements has occurred in the county, by municipal district since 2014, that we find a way of publishing the names of these same serious anti social tenants, we list what the "end of the line" was for those who consistently breach their tenancy agreement through serious anti social behaviour and that we acknowledge that some tenants need to be removed from their homes due to the life changing disruption they cause their neighbours.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Kildare County Council was obliged to comply with the legislation in this area whereby the decision to evict a tenant rests with the District Court. National legislation introduced in 2014 and enacted in 2015 repealed Section 62 of the Housing Act 1966. Tenancies in local authority dwellings could no longer be terminated by notice to quit for breaches of the tenancy agreement. A system of statutory tenancy warnings were introduced whereby the council must set out the time, date and nature of each breach and set out the same to the tenant. Tenants were entitled to request a review of a tenancy warning and have the same overturned if it was not held to be justified. In the event that the council should take a tenant to court to seek possession for a breach of tenancy, the tenant was entitled to notice of the council's intention to make an application for possession, the information to be included in the application and the date set for the hearing. Tenants were entitled by law to know the precise details of the allegations being made against them.

The burden of proof was very high and the level of evidence required and evidence from witnesses in order to secure successful possession applications makes this process extremely difficult. Under the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy (as adopted by the members in 2017) complaints were dealt with by means of an Official Complaints Form in order that adequate evidence could be provided in the event of cases being referred to the courts. While no applications for possession had been secured to date since the introduction of the legislation there was a case ongoing in the north of the County.

Tenant Liaison Officers and the Housing Department maintain an open and co-operative relationship with agencies such as the Health Service Executive, An Garda Síochana, MABS, Joint Policing Committees and other agencies involved in community development in order to combat anti-social behaviour.

Kildare County Council was committed to enforcing the appropriate legislation in the case of serious incidents of anti-social behaviour as outlined in the definition of anti-social behaviour. While the reference to publishing the names of serious anti-social tenants would be further considered, given the restrictions to the sharing of such personal information under recent GDPR legislation it may not be possible to do this.

Councillor Lynch said that some tenants were causing trouble in rented houses. The council were nominating families for these houses who were causing torment to the other families in the area and this had been going on for a number of years now and the council was moving

these families from one estate to another which was not solving the problem. He stated that he had made representations about the anti-social behaviour issues previously.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she supported Councillor Lynch's motion and asked does the council have a policy with regard to restricting breeds living with families stating the council needs to address the problem of dogs and anti-social behaviour in these estates. She said that the residents living there were paying their Local Property Tax (LPT) and that the council needed to take action in this regard.

Councillor Doyle stated that the allocation policy was at fault and that a national legislation needs to be brought into Residential Tenancies Board (RTB).

Councillor Aspell asked why the council were moving these residents from one estate to another

Councillor Pender stated that people were very reluctant to fill out the complaint form in case their identity was disclosed.

Councillor McCabe stated that disruptive tenants were getting worse in these estates and could the council make them sign a contract for a probationary period and that if they engaged in anti-social behaviour, they would be removed and re-housed in a rural area.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked was there any conflict of interest when houses were being allocated and if so does the council keep a record of it.

Councillor Lynch stated that the families that were causing this anti-social behaviour should be removed from the house and their name should be published.

Ms S Scully stated that eviction law changed in 2015 giving the local authorities more procedures for evictions and that the allocation of houses was based on the housing list and housing allocation scheme that there was no conflict of interest in this regard.

The District Manager stated that he would look at the issues of dogs in the housing estates and that there were no conflict of interest when allocating residents into these houses and the proper procedures were followed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted.

KN08/1118

Post election next May

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

Could this council have a report on proposals to manage the enlarged Kildare Newbridge Municipal District post election next May having regard to the fact that the two electoral districts have uneven numbers?

A report was received from the Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services informing the members that the Chief Executive indicated at the preliminary budget meeting that this matter would be considered in detail following notification from Minister Phelan of the final decision in relation to the re-drawing of boundaries.

The report was noted.

KN09/1118

Number of houses that were allocated this year

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor S Power.

Can Kildare County Council indicate the number of houses that were allocated this year in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and the expected number for next year?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that 76 social, 78 voluntary and 15 RAS units had been allocated to date in 2018 in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District. It was anticipated that a similar number of allocations would be made in the Municipal District in 2019.

Councillor S Power acknowledged the report and asked if the number of houses that would be allocated for next year would be the targeted amount for this Municipal District Area.

Ms S Scully stated that she would check and revert to the members with a report
The report was noted.

KN10/1118

Cold weather winter beds

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender.
Can the council confirm if it plans on having a cold weather winter beds initiative for people who were homeless this year and if so, when would that start?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Cold Weather Initiative had commenced on the 26 October due to the conditions forecasted for that particular weekend. It would remain in place over the winter months for sub-zero and extreme weather conditions.

Councillor Pender asked was there an out of hour service for people who was looking for a bed and was there a written policy that everyone was guaranteed a bed over the winter months similar to Dublin Winter Beds Initiative. She stated that she had done a sleep out with Focus Ireland and while she was there she spoke with five homeless people and two of them had drug addictions and some were living on the street and/or sleeping in tents at the river.

Ms S Scully stated that the Outreach Workers were engaging with people who were on the waiting list and would check and revert back to the members
The report was noted.

KN11/1118

Signing Tenancy Agreements

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy.
Can the council outline its protocol for signing tenancy agreements with tenants including a breakdown of how many tenancy agreements have been signed in the municipal district since 2014; the number of tenancies signed by each councillor; and the criteria for selecting councillors to sign tenancy agreements?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that tenancy agreements were signed by the tenant being allocated to a social house, a member of staff

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in the Allocation Section and the Senior Executive Officer in the Housing Department. As the allocation of a social house was an executive function, an Authorised Officer's Order was signed by the Senior Executive Officer appointing the tenant to the property.

It was a requirement that the council seal was affixed to each tenancy agreement, the council seal must be witnessed by a nominated member.

At the first annual meeting of the county council which was held on the 6 June 2014 all 40 councillors were appointed to witness the affixing of the council's seal, thereby allowing for any elected member to witness the affixing of the seal.

Data in relation to number of the councillors who witnessed the affixing of the council seal to tenant agreements was not retained in an easily retrievable format however below was the number of local authority social house allocations in the period from 2014-2018 in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District.

2014	25
2015	36
2016	37
2017	57
2018 to date	76

The report was noted.

KN12/1118

Christmas parking arrangements Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

The members considered the pay parking arrangements in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District for 2018.

Councillor Doyle suggested that the Christmas parking arrangements for Kildare town should not be the same as last year as people were parking their cars and leaving them there for the whole day. She stated that if the council did not suspend pay parking but extended the length of grace, if the council could give an hour's grace instead of the half hour that was in place for everyday.

Councillor Kennedy asked if the parking arrangements for Kildare-Newbridge could remain the same as last year.

Councillor Pender agreed with an hour grace for Kildare town.

Councillor Lynch stated that he supported Councillor Doyle's suggestion for Kildare town.

Ms E Wright confirmed to the members that the arrangements were as follows for this year's Christmas parking:

Kildare Town:

There would be no suspension of Pay Parking in Kildare Town, however, there would be two hours free parking (on street and Kildare County Council off-street car parks) between 9.00am -11.00am Monday-Friday, commencing Monday 17 December. Payment for parking from 11am was required. Normal enforcement times of 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday would recommence at 9.00am on Wednesday 2 January 2019. Illegal parking would continue to be enforced in all areas over the Christmas period.

Newbridge -

There would be no suspension of Pay Parking in Newbridge except for the GAA car park only where there would be free parking on Saturday 15, Friday 21 and Saturday 22 December 2018. Illegal parking would continue to be enforced in all areas over the Christmas period.

Councillor Doyle wished it noted that she did not accept the pay parking arrangement for Kildare town.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kennedy seconded Councillor Aspell with all members agreeing that pay parking arrangements as outlined be accepted.

KN13/1118

Traffic lights in Newbridge town

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Aspell.
That the council investigate the synchronisation of traffic lights in Newbridge town immediately as the system in place was not working.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the National Transport Authority (NTA) had commenced a Newbridge Town Transport Framework which would change the flow and length of journeys in the town. A discussion on the progress of this Framework with NTA was scheduled for 21 November 2018 at 2.00pm.

Councillor Aspell stated that traffic was getting worse in Newbridge and that there were three sequences of traffic lights when you turned left onto the Athgarvan road coming from Pfizer, and it was very frustrating for car users as it was taking about 20 minutes to get through the town. He stated that he had seen cars turning around and going back out of the town due to the traffic congestion which was not fair on the ratepayers and small retailers in the town as it was putting people off coming into the town. He stated that the council needed to come into Newbridge and investigate how to move traffic through the town especially at peak times.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she agreed with Councillor Aspell and that these frustrations had been expressed for the last four years. She said that she hoped the meeting which was organised for 2.00pm today (21 November 2018) with the NTA would see an improved system put in place and in the meantime asked could the council try and improve the system while they were waiting to get a new plan implemented.

Councillor Lynch stated that the synchronisation of traffic lights in Newbridge would not improve the delays being experienced by the traffic that was coming into the town noting a second bridge was needed for the town.

Councillor McCabe stated that the whole system had collapsed and was only going to get worse by Christmas adding somebody needs to physically investigate the problem over the Christmas period and operate the SCOOT system. Roadworks on the N7 was making car users commuting to work take back roads which was increasing the traffic through Newbridge.

The District Manager stated that he agreed with Councillor Lynch and that he appreciated the members concerns and frustration with regard to the traffic in Newbridge and stated that

at the meeting with the NTA and Roads Department they could bring these issues up with them.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Aspell seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the report be noted.

KN14/1118

Speed ramps or speed restriction signs

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

That the council provide speed ramps or speed restriction signs for the residents of the Priory Estate, Newbridge.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor Power.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that following a site visit, the Municipal District Engineer had agreed to review requirements with Road Design and subject to funding being provided had agreed to implement appropriate traffic calming measures.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Aspell seconded by Councillor Power that the report be noted.

KN15/1118

Teach Dara Family Resource Centre

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

That the council assist Teach Dara Family Resource Centre in Kildare town in accelerating a reasonable resolution around boundary wall issues that have effectively decommissioned a public footpath in a key strategic location for over two years.

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that he would examine the issue.

Councillor Doyle stated that she appreciated the report and if the council could get the footpath back in use.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted.

KN16/1118

Renovating toilets

The Mayor requested that items 16 and 18 were taken together and all the members agreed.

Item 16

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

That the council investigate the costs associated with renovating toilets to the side of the Courthouse in Kildare Town so they could be used as public toilets of a high standard and in addition, that the council examine the possibility of offering incentives to business to partake in the scheme where they would make their toilets accessible and welcome for public use.

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

A report was received from the Facilities Manager informing the members that the matter and costs associated with this were being investigated by Facilities.

Councillor Doyle stated that if the council could aim to develop the public toilets to a high standard and to keep it on the progress report. She also asked to bring it before the Economic Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Group (SPC).

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted.

Item 18

KN17/1118

Decommissioning and closure of the public toilets

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

That the council identify what alternative measures would be put in place for members of the public in Newbridge and Kildare Town following the termination of the contract with JCDecaux and the decommissioning and closure of the public toilets in Newbridge and Kildare.

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

A report was received from the Facilities Manager informing the members that the matter and costs associated with this were being investigated by Facilities.

Councillor Stafford stated that businesses have come to him about the public coming in and using their toilets. He stated that businesses had signs up stating that toilets were for customers and patrons only and when tourists visit the town there were no public toilets for them to use. There should be some scheme set up for public toilets and stated that he welcomes the report from facilities.

Councillor Pender and Councillor Lynch supported the motion and Councillor Lynch stated that funding should be given to private businesses by the council to allow the public to use their toilets.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted.

KN18/1118

Salted Roads

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor S Power.

That Kildare County Council provides a list of the roads in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District that would be salted during the winter months.

The motion was proposed by Councillor S Power and seconded by Councillor Aspell.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that details of Salting Routes for the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District were available on the KCC website:

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/RoadsandTransportation/WinterMaintenancePlan20172018/>

Routes 3 and parts of Route 4, 5 and 6 cover the Municipal District area. Additional roads for salting (as requested under the recent review) were included in the 2018/2019 programme, but subject to agreement of the budget for 2019.

Councillor S Power acknowledged the report and stated that the people using these roads would be pleased to know that they have been salted.

Councillor Lynch asked if the hill at Athgarvan could be salted and the R401 road as it was not being treated.

Ms E Wright issued all the members with a map explaining to them the roads that would be salted and any additional salting that would be done over the winter months. She said that salt supply was available and that the members could email her a list of the roads they had concerns about and that she would take note of them.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor S Power seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

KN19/1118

Funding of public lighting projects

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council provides an update regarding the funding of public lighting projects in the municipal district to include updates regarding funding sought for public lighting from; the National Public Upgrade project; the council's draft budget for 2019; and that the consideration of a two-part approach to public lighting on the Green Road, prioritising lighting from Crotanstown/Beechmount estates over the unlit bridge towards Ballymany, be implemented as a reduced cost phase 1.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Aspell.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the funding of public lighting projects in the county was from the Public Lighting budget and the 2019 Budget was pending approval by the members. The National Public Upgrade Project proposes to retrofit the existing lights with LEDs – the estimated cost for Kildare for this capital project was circa €9m. Kildare County Council had been preparing and financially planning for this project over recent years, with circa €3.7m set aside towards this project, it was planned to set aside €1.2m over the next 3 years. The council had advised the Road Management Office (overseeing this National project which would be advanced on a regional basis) that it would need to avail of borrowing circa 50% of

the capital investment required to complete the project. The members would be provided with further information on the borrowing requirement in due course.

In relation to the Green Road, the Public Lighting Section had visited the location and carried out an assessment based on the criteria set out in KLIPS. The cost of installing the public lights at this location was in the range of €75,000 to €80,000. Given the scale of the works requested, this was a project which would require a full technical assessment to determine feasibility of the scheme including land acquisition, civil works and a full costing. In order to achieve best value for money, it was not proposed to split this project.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked how much funding had been put aside for the budget and had they done a re-assessment since she last spoke to Ms E Wright about it.

Ms E Wright stated that there was €3 million allocated for public lights in the last three years but due to not having a public lighting engineer they had not spent the full budget. She stated that the Green Road was a large project and that they would not be able to take it on as stated on the report. She also stated that procurement was a problem noting Kilkenny County Council was the lead authority not Kildare County Council and that the Roads Department would not have control of it. She could not give a timeline as it was not part of phase one. She stated that she was not allowed to split the projects and was not in a position to do so. KLIPS had set aside a budget to replace 25,000 public lights with LED lights. The bulk of the €3 million would be going into public lighting. She stated that Roads Department was working with KLIPS and that she was very pleased with the progress.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

KN20/1118

Road safety improvements

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

Could road safety improvements be prioritised for the school area at Academy Street and Grey Abbey in Kildare town?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this issue could be examined in early 2019 subject to resources.

Councillor Doyle asked could the two projects be done at the same time and Ms B Cuddy stated that these were two separate projects and works were dependent on weather conditions.

The report was noted.

KN21/1118

Resurfacing in the Village Estate, Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor S Power.

Could Kildare County Council indicate when resurfacing would take place in the Village Estate, Newbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this would not form part of the Annual Roads programme; however it was listed on the draft LPT funding list for 2019. The allocation of funding was at the discretion of the members.

The report was noted.

KN22/1118

Reflectors on the wall under the railway bridge

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

Could the council put reflectors on the wall where there was no footpath under the railway bridge on the Dunmurray Road?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that reflective bollards were installed at this location a number of years ago, however the Municipal District office agrees to reassess and if additional reflectors were required they would be installed.

Councillor Pender asked if they could be put on the wall under the bridge to make it safer for people walking.

Ms B Cuddy stated that they would put them on the wall under the bridge.

The report was noted.

KN23/1118

Pedestrian crossing at Kilbelin, Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Lynch. Considering the recent large planning application granted for 343 new homes for Kilbelin, Newbridge and the recent petition signed by over 1000 people seeking a pedestrian crossing, can the council give serious consideration again for a pedestrian crossing at Kilbelin, Newbridge to allow schoolchildren safe crossing on this busy road?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Current Traffic Management Guidelines require that a traffic and pedestrian count be carried out in advance of a decision to provide controlled crossing facilities. Such an assessment would also identify the optimum area for a controlled crossing if warranted.

The report was noted.

KN24/1118

Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford. Can the council confirm how many Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) schemes are on hand in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District, is there a limit on the number of LIS schemes that can be carried out in the Municipal District in any one year and can proceeds from Local Property Tax (LPT) be used in full or in part as the residents contribution in certain circumstances?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were currently 8 Local Improvement Schemes on hand at present. Funding had been received to complete one of these schemes under the second phase of LIS funding for 2018. The remaining schemes were being reviewed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Department of Community and Rural Affairs terms and conditions. The number of schemes the council can carry out was dependent on the level of funding made available by the Department.

The Department of Community and Rural Affairs consider the local contribution as an integral part of the scheme and the use of LPT to fund this contribution may not be deemed to be in compliance with the Departmental terms and conditions.

The report was noted.

KN25/1118

Road markings at the Crescent junction in Newbridge

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

Can the council review the road markings at The Crescent junction in Newbridge as vehicles coming from the outer dual lane on the right have an extended lane for access to Tesco's which was split by a yellow box and this was a potential hazard due to lack of visibility?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer agreed to review and revert back to Councillor McCabe.

The report was noted.

KN26/1118

Public drinking water taps in a public amenity area

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

That the council install a public drinking water tap in a public amenity area in each park or town in the municipal district to help combat single use plastic bottles.

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

A report was received from Water Service informing the members that Irish Water would deal with any subsequent application for a water connection from an individual or a community. Please be advised that Councillor Pender should contact Irish Water directly via the dedicated Irish Water Local Representatives email or phone line, the details of which were below;

Email: localrepsupport@water.ie

Ph: 1890 178178 or 01 7072854

A report was received from Economic Community and Cultural Development Park informing the members that before any installation of a water tap could be considered the feasibility of locating water points would have to be investigated first. This would involve looking at design, location, installation and running costs and where the supply of water could be taken

from. If installation was practical following this, a trial site would have to be identified to survey use and vandalism. The investigation work would be considered for next year's work programme.

Councillor Pender stated that Dun-Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council was doing this and that it was the council's responsibility to incentivise people not using plastic bottles and asked if the council could find out how much it would cost to install drinking water taps in the area.

Councillor Mc Cabe stated that he supported the motion and that we need to get away from single use of plastic and suggested that the council set aside €5,000 from LPT funding and have one public water fountain in Kildare or Rathangan.

Councillor Lynch stated that he supported the motion. He asked if this could it be referred to the Environmental Services and Water Strategic Policy Group (SPC).

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked could the members raise it at the meeting with the NTA and Roads Department which was organised for 2.00pm today (21 November 2018) and suggested that a pilot project could be set up in the county.

The District Manager stated that it would have to go through Irish Water but could refer it to Environmental Services and Water Strategic Policy Group (SPC).

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

KN27/1118

Bins (recycle and refuse) along the Green Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council introduce bins (recycle and refuse) at some point along the Green Road, similar to that introduced in Suncroft, to address the volumes of rubbish discarded along this road in particular near the cross roads at McLoughlin's.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Aspell.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that supply of bins within the Municipal District area was the remit of the Environmental Section not the Municipal District office, however for each bin that was installed it had an impact on resources in the area both financial and staffing. At present the Municipal District Office were not in the position to service additional bins in the area.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that that she received no response from Environment section.

Councillor Kennedy stated that bins were put into Páirc Mhúire but people kept dropping domestic bags beside the bins.

The District Manager stated he apologised that the members did not receive a report from Environment Section but that he would check why Suncroft got these bins and would come back to the members with a report but at present the Municipal District Office were not in a position to service additional bins in the area.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

KN28/1118

Allenwood waste water treatment plant

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

It is anticipated that the Allenwood waste water treatment plant is nearing capacity; can the council confirm that they are in discussions with Irish Water regarding the upgrade of same?

A report was received from Water Services informing the members that currently there was sufficient capacity in the Allenwood Wastewater Treatment Plant. There were no plans to upgrade this plant.

Any further queries should be addressed to Irish water via the dedicated Irish Water Local Representatives email or phone line, the details of which were below;

Email: localrepsupport@water.ie

Ph: 1890 178178 or 01 7072854

The report was noted.

KN29/1118

Newbridge Tidy Towns

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. In light of the Tidy Towns Adjudicator's comments which affirmed concerns about the negative visual impact of signage and advertising, sandwich boards, redundant poles, chewing gum on footpaths and the redundant water tower in Newbridge, can the council commit to solving these ongoing issues before next year's Tidy Towns competition?

A report was received from Water Services informing the members that the ongoing work of Newbridge Tidy Towns Group was commended. The members can be assured that the various departments of the council would work positively with this group to address the issues highlighted in the adjudicator's report. As previously requested by the Municipal District, the issue of illegal signage had been prioritised

The District Manager stated that he would assess the Newbridge Tidy Towns concerns and that the Planning Section would enforce action where needed. He stated that the Municipal District Engineer and himself would meet with the Tidy Town Group and go through any issues.

The report was noted.

KN30/1118

Strategic Housing Development at Ballymany, Newbridge, County Kildare

The Mayor welcomed Ms Conlan, Senior Executive Planner to the meeting and receives a presentation in respect of the Strategic Housing Development at Ballymany, Newbridge, County Kildare on the proposed 180 new residential units.

Ms Conlan informed the members of the proposed development and stated that the application was submitted to An Bord Pleanála on 2 November. The proposed development was close to Ballymany Manor housing estate, Langton Park and Rathcurragh.

The application comprises of 145 two, three and four bed dwellings, 35 apartments, demolition of existing derelict house and sheds, new link street connecting onto R445 (Ballymany Road) and associated site works and the entrance comprises of a four to six storey landmark building with 35 apartments.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked how a development of this size could be possible without the construction of a new Interceptor Sewer that will connect Newbridge to the Osberstown Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Ms Conlan stated the developer deals with Irish Water in this respect with the District Manager confirming that water schemes were not the statutory role of the council and that was a decision for Irish Water.

Councillor Lynch stated that he had concerns over the height differences of the homes and the plans for the entrance of this development.

Councillor McCabe stated that he also had concerns about having the landmark building at the entrance of the town and that visually, this building would not be attractive looking and the scale was too high and does nothing to enhance the area.

Councillor Pender stated she had concerns for plans to do all of Part 5 in one go and Ms Conlon stated that this was a decision of the Approved Housing Body.

Ms P Conlon stated that public submissions must be made by 6 December to An Bord Pleanála and the decision was due Friday, 1 March 2019.

KN31/1118

Draft RSES report

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McCabe. In light of the draft RSES report classifying our municipal district as a hinterland and failing to recognise Newbridge therein, that the council outlines what it intends to do about this and the damaging consequences for our local economy and indicative suppression of our municipal districts growth.

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

A report was received from Planning Department informing the members that the draft RSES report would be listed for discussion on the agenda of the Economic Development,

Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee and on the agenda of a full meeting of council.

Members were also entitled to make an individual or group submission to the Regional Assembly on or before 23 January, 2019.

This was an issue for the members to consider.

Councillor McCabe stated that he was very disappointed that Newbridge was identified as a hinterland in the report. He stated that everything was aimed at Dublin and this was unacceptable and he would encourage people to go to their local TD's noting the report was disappointing for the region.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she was shocked with the information that had come out from the report. Kildare County Council had made submissions and she was told that they would be circulated to the members after the last meeting and she was still waiting for them and it was up to the Mayor to circulate them.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

KN32/1118

The 1500th anniversary of the death of St. Brigid

That the council, through the Decade of Commemorations Committee and the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District, commence the process of putting in place the appropriate strategy to commemorate the 1500th anniversary of the death of St Brigid to identify heritage sites and key stakeholders to be involved in the celebrations and that the council acknowledge the importance of this anniversary for the identity, history and culture of County Kildare.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor S Power.

A report was received from the County Librarian informing the members that this motion would be referred to the Decade of Commemorations Committee to discuss at their next meeting.

Councillor Stafford stated that plans should be made to commemorate the 1,500th anniversary of the death of St. Brigid. He suggested that Kildare County Council should, through the Decade of Commemorations Committee and the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District identify heritage sites and key stakeholders to be involved in the celebrations and that the council should acknowledge the importance of this anniversary for the identity, history and culture of County Kildare.

Councillor S Power stated that it was a wonderful idea and that it had huge tourism potential for Kildare if the council marked this occasion.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford seconded by Councillor S Power that the report be noted.

KN33/1118

The regeneration project plans

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

Can this council be provided with a copy of the regeneration project plans applied for The Curragh Plains, the Newbridge Link Road and Robertstown Village?

A report was received from Economic Community & Cultural Development informing the members that the application for funding in respect of the Curragh Plains was submitted by Kildare County Council in collaboration with the Department of Defence. It was seeking funding to procure the services of a multidisciplinary consultancy team to advance a proposal to address a series of issues and identify opportunities for the improved management and presentation of the Curragh Plains.

The application submitted for Roberstown lands seeks funding for the development of a Masterplan in respect of the Roberstown Amenity lands.

Both applications were submitted to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, and both applications were **Category 2**; proposals that had clear potential and quantifiable objectives but require further development to enable them to be submitted as Category 1 proposals in subsequent funding calls.

Councillor Lynch asked that if the members could have a copy of the masterplan in respect of the Roberstown Amenity lands.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.