

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Council
held at 2.00pm
Monday 29 July 2019
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare.

Members Present: Councillor S Doyle (Cathaoirleach), Councillors V Behan, A Breen, A Breslin, F Brett, B Caldwell, B Clear, M Coleman, A Connolly, Í Cussen, B Dooley, K Duffy, T Durkan, A Farrelly, A Feeney, C Galvin, P Hamilton, I Keatley, C Kelly, N Killeen, V Liston, V P Martin, P McEvoy, F McLoughlin Healy, S Moore, J Neville, N Ó'Ceairúil, P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer, C Pender, R Power, P Ryan, E Sammon, M Stafford, M Wall, B Weld and B Wyse.

Apologies: Councillors D Fitzpatrick, N Heavey and P Ward.

Also Present: Mr P Carey, Chief Executive, Messrs J Boland, T McDonnell, N Morrissey and Ms S Kavanagh (Director of Services), Mr MI Kenny (A/Director of Service) Ms F Millane (A/Head of Finance), Ms K Keane (Meetings Administrator), Ms F Skehan (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

01/0719

Vote of Sympathy

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the members to the meeting and extended her sympathy to the family of the late:

Tom Tinsley former Senior Executive Engineer retired.

Donal Kenny father of Michael Kenny, A/Director of Service Planning & Strategic Development.

Anna Brady mother of Ollie Brady, Administrative Officer, Housing Services and Mary Dalton former Administrative Officer, Corporate Services.

Paul Outen, husband of Pauline Fagan, Ballitore Library.

A minute's silence was observed.

02/0719

Adoption of Minutes

The council considered the minutes of the annual meeting held on 07 June, the minutes of the monthly meeting on 24 June and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by the members present, that the minutes of the annual meeting of the 07 June and the minutes of the monthly meeting on 24 June be adopted and the progress report noted.

03/0719

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executives monthly management report.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy noted she had submitted queries related to matters in the monthly report and responses were awaited and stated the members should be allowed raised queries on the report. The Cathaoirleach stated adequate advance notice was needed of any such queries to allow time for an appropriate response to issue. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that the 5 days notice being introduced undermined councillors right to ask questions regarding the Chief Executive report at a meeting. She asked that if 5 days notice of queries on the report were required that the report be circulated earlier to give sufficient time to councillors to review and submit those queries in time.

Resolved with the agreement of the members that the Chief Executive's monthly management report be noted.

04/0719

Section 183 Notices for Lease of Lands

The members considered the following Section 183 Notices pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, as amended:

- i. Lease of lands at Newbridge to Newbridge Cutlery Company (0.0249ha).
- ii. Disposal of lands at 1293 Townspark, Athy, Co. Kildare from Athy Town Council.
- iii. Disposal of lands at Assumpta 1367 Ballyhade, Athy, Co. Kildare from Athy Town Council

Councillor Martin asked that in future a valuation of the lands being disposed of should form part of the supporting documentation circulated to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and

agreed by the members present, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, that the council consents to the disposal of the lands at i) above in accordance with the statutory notice dated 17 June 2019 and the lease of the lands at ii) and iii) above in accordance with the statutory notices circulated on 18 July 2019.

05/0719

Approval of payment of allowance to Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach

The Meetings Administrator referred to the report from the Corporate Services Department dated 25 July circulated to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by the members, the payment of allowance to the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach in accordance with Part IV Table A of LG01 2018 was approved.

06/0719

Gnó an Chathaoirleach/Chairs Business

The Cathaoirleach advised that if the members were in agreement, the matter of a presentation to the Kildare Minor football team to coincide with an event to celebrate all other sporting achievement would be referred to the Protocol and Procedures Committee for consideration and recommendations. All members agreed.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that National Heritage Week was taking place from 17 – 25 August 2019.

The Cathaoirleach also informed the members that the National Play Day was taking place on Saturday 14 September 2019 in Áras Chill Dara.

07/0719

Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed 7 items of correspondence had been received and circulated to the members which comprised of 3 responses to motions from councillors and 4 motion referrals from Clare County Council and Kerry County Council.

08/0719

Comhdhálacha agus Traenáil/Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator referred to the report dated 25 July 2019 circulated to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by all members present having regard to Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 53(2) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the following retrospective approval was granted for the attendance of Councillor Brett at the 39th MacGill Summer School 2019 conference from 21-26 July in the Highlands Hotel, Glenties, Co Donegal and the following approval was granted for the attendance of Councillors McLoughlin Healy, Liston and Behan at the Irish Planning Conference on the 25 September in the Talbot Hotel, Stillorgan, Co Dublin and for the attendance of Councillors McLoughlin Healy, Liston and Behan at the Creating Economic & Business Opportunities from Climate Change on the 09 October 2019 in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co Offaly.

The following retrospective approval was granted to Councillors V Behan at AILG Training for elected members on the 11 July in the Mullingar Park Hotel, Co Westmeath and Councillor V Behan at AILG Autumn Training Seminar 2019 on the 11 & 12 September in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan and approval was granted to Councillors V Liston and B Clear at IPI Autumn Planning Conference on 04 October in the Grand Hotel, Malahide, Co Dublin.

09/0719

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

The Meetings Administrator referred to the report from the Housing Department dated 12 July 2019 circulated to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Breen and agreed by all members that Ms Rose McInerney, Ms Kathleen Donoghue, Ms Ann O'Connell, Ms Elizabeth McDonagh, Ms Bridget Cawley and Mr PJ Dooley be appointed to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee in accordance with Section 21 and 22 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998.

10/0719

Draft Kildare County Council Third Noise Action Plan 2019-2023

The Meetings Administrator referred to the report from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council would shortly go for public consultation in respect of the draft Third Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 and that all details are

available on the council's website, public libraries and the offices of the council during normal opening hours.

The report was noted by the members.

11/0719

Draft Naas Local Area Plan 2019-2023

To consider the Draft Naas Local Area Plan 2019-2023 and the Chief Executive's report on submissions received to the Draft Plan.

The Cathaoirleach stated this item had been discussed in great detail at local level given the position with a Traffic Management Plan for the town.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by all members, to not make the Naas Local Area Plan and the item to be considered further at a later date, to include a Traffic Management Plan.

12/0719

Protocol and Procedures Committee Report

Councillor McEvoy informed the members that the Protocol and Procedures Committee were recommending that seating arrangement to be applied at Municipal District meetings mirror the arrangement for the plenary council meetings whereby the District Manager and Meetings Administrator sit either side of the Chair and the members are seated in the body of the chamber. The seating arrangement will be trialled for three months and reviewed by the Protocol and Procedures Committee subsequently.

Resolved with the agreement of the members that the revised seating arrangements as recommended be agreed for a period of three months and be reviewed by the Protocol & Procedures Committee after that time.

Tuairisceana Reatha Feidhmeanna na Comhairle Contae
Current Motions Kildare County Council Functions

The Cathaoirleach sought and received the member's approval to take Councillor McLoughlin Healy's motion at this point in the meeting as she had to leave to attend a family funeral.

13/0719

Climate Action Plan -Transport expenditure

The following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy was considered.

Following the welcome announcement in the Climate Action Plan that 10% of transport expenditure will be allocated to cycle funding to enable a modal shift in public transport that the council prepares itself to be cycle funding ready by identifying key projects necessary in each municipal district to encourage or enhance cycling as a transport option.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the planning and development of cycle lanes is ongoing and a key priority of the Roads Department is regular engagement with the National Transport Authority (NTA) as a funding source for these infrastructure projects. A number of projects have completed statutory Part 8 procedures, a number are proceeding to full design stage and other projects are in a preliminary planning phase:

1. Naas to Kilcullen Road: proceeding to detailed design
2. Naas to Sallins: pre Part 8 planning underway
3. Naas to Kill: Part 8 completed, proceeding to detailed design
4. Royal Canal Scheme (Confey to Maynooth) - scheme is at detailed design stage
5. Grand Canal Blueway: statutory procedure completed, preparing to proceed to detailed design

All new road construction projects throughout the county, including new roads provided by developers, include the provision of cycle and pedestrian lanes, some recent examples include - Devoy Road, Naas, Maynooth Eastern Ring Road, North-South Corridor, Moyglare Road and Mariavilla in Maynooth, Craddockstown Road, Naas, proposed Kildare Town Northern Link and South Green Access Improvements, and Lidl development at Newbridge Road, Newbridge.

Preliminary discussions are underway to create a safe cycle corridor on the route to schools at Green Lane, Leixlip – engagement with the schools, local Gardaí and NTA has taken place.

Preliminary examination in the vicinity of schools in Ardclough and Monasterevin is underway with a view to creating safer walking/cycling options.

In addition to providing the required network of cycling infrastructure, the Roads Department is actively engaging with schools and the public with regard to cycling and sustainable transport:

- During National Bike Week (24 – 30 June) and a number of events were held throughout County Kildare, supported by grant funding from the Department of Transport, Sport and Tourism. Elected members and council officials attended the recent International Velo City Conference hosted by Dublin City Council on 25 – 28 June.
- EU Mobility Week runs from 16 – 22 September, 2019 and planning is underway for Kildare County Council's participation. This year's theme is '**Safe walking and cycling**' with the call to action '**Walk with us!**'. Full details are available on the website www.mobilityweek.eu, putting the spotlight on safe walking and cycling and the benefits it can have on our health, our environment, and our bank balance.
- Kildare County Council co-funded Cycle Safety Skills training with the Department of Transport through the National Cycle Right Programme to 24 schools/1,329 primary school students in County Kildare.

12 Cycle Lockers have been installed at Abbey Street, Naas to pilot the use of secure bike lockers, funded by NTA.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that the members that the council needed to be more proactive around cycling infrastructure in the county and be ready to tap into available funding. She stated that the list of projects was very helpful and that with model shifts, the council needed to deliver ambitious projects. Mr Morrissey advised that the priority of the council is to develop green infrastructure however, recent staff turnover had hampered the delivery of certain projects and that financial resources were limited. He further advised that the Road Safety, Cycling and Sustainable Transport Officer was working to deliver on a number of initiatives in relation to cycling and that Local Link was looking at developing the Caragh to Naas route but it was at an early stage in the process thus he was unable to comment further. Mr Morrissey noted that in all these types of projects, the CPO of land process can take some time to complete.

A discussion ensued amongst the members and the following points were made:

- Cycle Ireland: 10 per cent of Cycle Ireland funding is to be used for cycle projects
- That National Government assists the local authority in improving public transport in rural areas to reduce the use of the car and greenhouse gas emissions by expanding public transport spending over new road infrastructure of no less than 2:1 ratio

- That cycle lanes be an objective in the local area plans and an audit be carried out of cycle lanes in Kildare and their connectivity
- Create public awareness and examine 'shared space/safe streets' initiatives which have been rolled out in other local authorities.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy thanked the members for their support and asked if the criteria for delivering cycle lanes could be similar to the KLIPS which was a very fair and transparent process. Mr Morrissey undertook to examine establishing a criteria method, similar to KLIPS, in relation to cycle lanes.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members present that a criteria method, similar to KLIPS, be examined in relation to cycle lanes.

14/0719

County Wide Speed Limit Review

The following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly was considered.

That the council provide an update on when the County Wide Speed Limit Review will be completed and implemented.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor O Cearúil.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Countywide Speed Limit Review is progressing and the Roads Department anticipate, based on current technical resources, the following dates for completion of the statutory procedures required:

Notice to/response from the Garda Commissioner	Q1 2020
• Public Consultation	Q1/Q2 2020
• Seek Transport Infrastructure Ireland Approval	Q2/Q3 2020
• Adoption of Bye-Laws at Plenary Council meeting	Q4 2020

In relation to specifying the date on which the revised Speed Limit Bye Laws will come into force, it should be noted that an extensive program of signage upgrade/replacement will be required following adoption of the Bye-Laws. Input and co-ordination from the Municipal District Offices will be required.

Councillor Kelly thanked the Roads Directorate for the report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Ó Cearúil and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

15/0719

Review of Strategic Housing Developments

The following motion in the name of Councillor McEvoy was considered.

That a written submission is made to the Ministerial Review Group of Strategic Housing Developments on behalf of the elected members.

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

A report was received from the Housing and Corporate Services Department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree. Corporate Services sought and received an extension of time to enable the members of Kildare County Council make a submission to the Review Group following the plenary meeting on the 29 July. If agreed by the members, this submission must be with the Review Group by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday 30 July 2019.

Councillor McEvoy explained that due to the significant shortfall in public engagement in the SHD process and the potential to further curtail this process in the future, that a submission should be made on behalf of the elected members. He referred to the draft circulated to the members in advance of the meeting and requested their approval to submit this as a submission on behalf of the members of Kildare County Council.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by the members present that the draft submission as circulated, be made to the Ministerial Review Group of Strategic Housing Developments on behalf of the elected members.

16/0719

Installation of water bottle filling stations

The following motion in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer was considered.

That the council pilot a scheme to install water bottle filling stations to encourage people to refill thereby reducing plastic waste <https://ecofil.ie/>.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Clear.

A report was received from the Water and Environmental Services Department informing the members that it is agreed that this would be a very worthwhile pilot and, indeed, has also been raised in recent times at municipal district level. The scheme cited ie. refill.ie is a commercial entity which seeks to encourage businesses to sign up to fill customers water bottles for free. Another entity is wefill.ie which is supported by the Environmental Protection Agency. The councils own Coffee Dock at Level 0 is actually listed as one of the participating outlets. These are mapped on their website so that people can check as to where the nearest location is.

It is also agreed that providing such a facility in a public area would be worthwhile, particularly as this council is taking a lead in the whole area of climate action. Currently, the Community Section is working on an initial pilot which hopefully, will result in the first such facility being provided at the playground in Kildare Town. The Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District will be kept apprised on progress.

Councillor P O'Dwyer outlined the benefits to the environment by reducing waste and reducing the consumption of sugar drinks should bottle filling stations be made available in parks across the county and was happy to hear a pilot was underway in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and looked forward to seeing it rolled out across all the Municipal Districts.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Clear and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

17/0719

Commercial Rates Procedures and Payment of Rates on Vacant Building

The Cathaoirleach sought the member's approval to take Councillor Behan and Councillor Clears motions together. The members agreed.

The following motions in the name of Councillor Behan and Clear were considered.

That the council make its commercial rates calculation procedures available with regard to its county wide commercial rating practices.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Behan and seconded by Councillor Clear.

That the council examines the present situation regarding the payment of rates on vacant buildings in County Kildare and clarifies what documentation is required to prove that a building is available for rent as at present landlords of vacant buildings do not pay rates if their property is available to rent.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Clear and seconded by Councillor Behan.

A report was received from the Finance Department informing the members that rates are a charge on commercial property which comprises two distinct elements, namely:

The valuation of the property: which is set by the Valuations Office. Kildare County Council refers new properties and properties with substantial changes, to the Valuations Office for valuation but has no role in setting the valuation.

The annual rate on valuation: This is the rate struck by council at its annual Budget meeting. The rates charge, as billed to the customer, is the valuation multiplied by the annual rate on valuation. Commercial property that is vacant and available for letting at a reasonable market rent (proof of the availability for letting must be provided to the Head of Finance), or property that is undergoing substantial refurbishment (so is unavailable for use), may qualify for a strike off of rates for all or part of the year.

A report was received from the Finance Department informing the members that in cases where the property is vacant at the date of the making of the rate, the liability lies with the person entitled to occupy the property (i.e. the owner, or where there is a lease, the leaseholder). Commercial rates are due even if a property is vacant. However, in certain specified circumstances, a vacant property may qualify for vacancy relief. This is applied on the account after the end of the financial year and is subject to the following conditions:

- Receipt of completed vacancy relief application form. This can be downloaded at:
<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/CommercialRates/HowDoIApplyForVacancyRelief/>
- Inspections of the property by the Revenue Collector and/or another nominated member of the Finance Department.
- Recommendation from the relevant Revenue Collector in the area.

- Submission of required documentation e.g. confirmation that premises is available for letting/undergoing additions/amendments. These documents should be provided, where possible, by a third party e.g. the letting agent/architect/builder
- Approval by the Head of Finance.

Under S31 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, members have the power to vary the levels of rates refund (relief) that apply in individual local electoral areas within the authority's overall administrative area. This is determined, by members, at the annual budget meeting. Currently the vacancy relief rate is 100%.

Councillor Clear stated that the system was not working and stated he was happy that the Vacant Relief Scheme had a process in place and that it was difficult for landlords in the county to receive strike-offs on commercial rates.

Councillor Behan asked that the Valuation Office be invited to meet with the council to discuss the appeals process which delays payment of rates and issues that have arisen post the review.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Clear and agreed by the members present that the Valuation Office be asked to meet with the elected members to discuss the appeals process and issues, post the review.

18/0719

Traffic Calming Measures at Schools

The following motion in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer was considered.

Due to the proven success of flashing speed signals, that the council make it a priority to install these traffic calming measures at schools throughout the county that have requested them.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Duffy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Safety at, and in the vicinity of, schools is a priority for the Roads Department. Requests for the provision of traffic calming measures at schools, which include signage, are examined on a case by case basis, and if deemed appropriate are installed. Our Road Safety Officer is currently planning for Car Free School Days in September on a number of routes to raise

awareness of road safety and the impact of cars and speed in the vicinity of schools. Work on the revision of the Kildare Road Safety Plan is underway, and we will engage with the Road Safety Authority with regard to international developments on best practice in road safety strategy formulation and performance measures.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer thanked the Roads Directorate for the report and stated she would raise the issue again at budget time.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members present that this matter be considered as part of the discussions on Budget 2020.

19/0719

Update on Review of Finished, Unfinished & Estates under Construction

The following motion in the name of Councillor Brendan Wyse was considered.

That the council provides an update on the Review of Finished, Unfinished & Estates Under Construction report that was issued in May 2018 outlining the progress that has been made for the period May 2018 to June 2019 including the updated method for calculating development bonds and an explanation how this method eliminates the possibility of inadequate bonds being in place in the future.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Wyse and seconded by Councillor Sammon.

A report was received from the Building & Development Control Department informing the members that The Building & Development Control Section will endeavour to update the May 2018 summary report promptly. However due to the detail of the request, current staffing arrangements, vacancies and increase in workload from active estates it will take some time to gather the information to update the 2018 summary report. It will be Quarter 4 2019 before the 2018 summary report is updated and presented to the councillors.

The Building & Development Control Section are still reviewing the method for calculating development bonds. Any changes to the bond calculation will require consultation between the Building & Development Control Section, the Planning Department and Irish Water.

Councillor Wyse outlined the issues of outstanding snag lists, developments unfinished and development bonds in relation to Taking in Charge estates. He asked if it was possible to receive

updates on actions taken and the status of estates been Taking in Charge, for each of the Municipal Districts.

Mr Morrissey advised that the priority was to focus on inspections and the completion of works to the satisfaction of the council. Bonds are now received in cash and the council tries to manage each estate with the developer to complete the works. He added that a review of the Taking in Charge of estates procedure was currently being undertaken which would be brought to the members shortly and the matter of updates by Municipal District meetings would be examined.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Brendan Wyse, seconded by Councillor Sammon and agreed by the members that the report be noted and the provision of an update on Taking in Charge by Municipal District, would be examined.

20/0719

Climate Change Mitigation Strategy

The following joint motion in the names of Councillors Breen, Breslin, Feeney, Galvin, Hamilton, Liston, Martin and Wall was considered.

That the council immediately begin work on an ambitious Climate Change Mitigation Strategy and Plan for Kildare to tackle the climate and biodiversity emergency, and to act as an essential complement to the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Both strategies to also consider how a Just Transition to a low carbon economy can be achieved in Kildare and that the Climate Change Mitigation Strategy be published by the end of January 2020.

The joint motion was proposed by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Ó Cearúil.

A report was received from the Water and Environmental Services Department informing the members that the commitment of the new council to these crucial issues is really welcomed and is very encouraging. As previously advised, the council is committed to becoming a signatory to the EU Covenant of Mayors and, indeed, much preparatory work is currently taking place in the background. A resolution was passed by the previous council endorsing this initiative and it is proposed that it will be formally signed at the September plenary monthly meeting. The following aspects are particularly relevant to the motion submitted;

- It is a pledge that Kildare County Council will undertake actions which support implementation of the EU 40% greenhouse gas reduction target by 2030, This undertaking surpasses the national target for local authorities of a 30% reduction as set in the recent all of Government Climate Action Plan.
- Within 24 months of signing the Covenant of Mayors Kildare County Council will submit a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) outlining the key actions they plan to take. This plan will feature a Baseline Emission inventory to track mitigation actions. The SECAP will encompass a mitigation plan for Kildare.
- The Covenant of Mayors gives a role to 3 key groups: Elected Members, Public Officials and Community interests.
- Actions within a SECAP are built on the EU Subsidiarity Principle of social organisation where social and political issues are dealt with at a local level i.e. the most immediate level consistent with their resolution.

I really look forward to working with the elected members and in particular, the Strategic Policy Committee in progressing these matters. It should also be noted that the governance section of the climate adaptation strategy is also instructive in terms oversight and coordination.

Councillor Hamilton asked that the council consider a Mitigation Strategy as soon as possible and noted that with the timing of the signing of the Covenant of Mayors, council policy could drive practical changes throughout the county and the council needed to ensure a budget is in place to deliver green policy/infrastructure.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which the following points were made

- In delivering the mitigation strategy, the council needed to make brave changes and show courage and leadership in ensuring that it is ready to identify and negotiate what needs to happen in relation to climate change
- Create solutions by meeting the needs of the people fairly and practically through raising awareness by including youth groups and bringing the community together as a first step at mitigating factors and realising tangible returns.
- The members to be mindful of the accessibility function of the council when discussing the budget for 2020 as this issue needed to be addressed along with the green agenda.

In response, Mr Boland added that the council would be delivering a very ambitious Mitigation Plan which will include training for both members and staff. He also advised that a youth pilot scheme was being run by the National Stud and EPA to scope innovation.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Ó Cearúil and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and consideration be given to Climate Action and Mitigation measures/budgets during the Budget 2020 process.

21/0719

Time of SPC Meetings

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

In light of the proposal to move plenary council meetings to a later time and in order to facilitate local involvement in policy making, understanding of Local Government and to improve the participation of working people in local government, that the council amend Standing Orders to allow for Strategic Policy Meetings to be held later in the day.

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

A report was received from the Housing and Corporate Services Department informing the members that a review of the Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2014-2019 will be commencing in September which will involve public consultation. This request can be considered as part of that consultation process. For information and following a motion referral from plenary council, the Protocol and Procedures Committee are currently considering the start time of the plenary council meeting moving to a later time.

Councillor Pender advised that barriers such as the start time of meetings was making it difficult for people to put themselves forward for election as it impacts on childcare and work commitments. He added that the Strategic Policy Committee process needs to encourage more local participation in policy making decisions.

In response, Mr McDonnell advised that the council was awaiting confirmation of any further guidance on Strategic Policy Committees from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, to what had issued in 2014.

Councillor McEvoy advised that a suggestion to move the start time of plenary council from 2pm to 3pm had been considered at the Protocol and Procedures Committee meeting earlier that day.

The Cathaoirleach submitted the following motion to the meeting

That Standing Orders are suspended to facilitate a change of start time for the September plenary council meeting from 2:00pm to 3:00pm with the meeting finishing at 6pm.

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

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members present that standing orders are suspended to allow the start time for the September plenary council meeting move from 2pm to 3pm.

22/0719

St Catherine's Park

The following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen was considered.

When considering the Leixlip Local Area Plan 2020-2026, that the council adopt a policy to protect the amenity of St Catherine's Park, Leixlip and that no road proposal shall be considered by the council to go through the amenity park area within the council's ownership or jurisdiction and furthermore that the council liaise with neighbouring councils to ensure that no encroachment of St Catherine's Park or installation of traffic bridge's occur.

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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that the Chief Executives report for the Draft Leixlip Local Area Plan 2020-2026 is currently being prepared following the statutory public consultation. Following the submission of this report to the members, a meeting to consider same will be convened and motions invited, at which stage the submission of this motion may be more appropriate.

Councillor Killeen outlined that St Catherine's Park was made up of 200 acres of amenity land which was shared with Fingal County Council and that each member was going to be asked to vote on this amenity during the LAP review process and wanted to make them aware of the need to protect this amenity.

Councillor Neville advised that the previous council unanimously voted to protect this amenity.

Councillor McEvoy advised that he was receiving emails outside of the statutory public consultation process and requested confirmation of the statutory process as this could be seen as lobbying.

Mr Kenny advised that submissions received within the statutory timeframe only, will form part of the Chief Executive's report to the members. Any submissions received outside of that statutory timeframe will not be dealt with.

Mr McDonnell outlined in brief the requirements of the Lobbying Act and noted relevant information and associated links was contained in the Guidance manual for Elected Members that had been distributed at the start of the council term. The Meetings Administrator also confirmed all this information is available on the council's website and the Members Information Portal.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

23/0719

Kildare County Council Grant Schemes

The following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen was considered.

That the application forms/process for Kildare County Council Grant Schemes (including Community Grants, LPT Grants, Festival Grants) be reviewed to include a requisite for an environmental/eco friendly aspect and to also include an Access Inclusion aspect in order to be considered for a grant.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Cussen and seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

A report was received from the Economic Development, Community and Culture Department informing the members that the Community and Cultural Section is working on a draft grants scheme/policy for community, festival and residents' associations grants which it hopes to bring to the Local Community and Cultural SPC meeting in September. The proposals included in the motion, if passed, can be included in the draft policy for consideration.

As LPT grants are decided directly by the members currently, the inclusion of any qualifying criteria would be a matter for members themselves to agree on and implement.

Councillor Cussen welcomed the work being undertaken on the review of the grants scheme and reiterated the need for Access Inclusion on all grant applications.

In response, Ms Kavanagh advised that over the last number of years and through several discussions, it was agreed that all grants are now administered by the Community Section. She stated it was necessary to balance the requirement for ensuring the forms are not overly complicated to complete against governance requirements to ensure grants are properly administered and distributed. She confirmed that the previous council had sought gender balance criteria to be included in sports grant applications which had been carried out.

A discussion ensued amongst the members, following which a suggestion was made that a proposal be sent to the Local Community and Cultural SPC requesting that a general paragraph outlining the weighting / matrix for which applications will be assessed for grants in relation to social inclusion measures, gender balance, accessibility etc. be considered.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members present that the Grants Scheme be reviewed by the SPC with a view to including a general paragraph outlining the weighting / matrix for which applications will be assessed in relation to climate change and social inclusion measures ie. gender balance, accessibility.

24/0719

Review of Rural Housing Development Policy

The following motion in the name of Councillor Duffy was considered.

That the council ask the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee to undertake a review of the rural housing development policy as the depopulation of our rural towns and communities has a significant impact on their long-term viability. Promoting and supporting the sustainable population of our rural areas as a balance to the development of our towns needs to be considered, and a key factor in achieving such a sustainable rural population is the need for rural housing.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Durkan.

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that following a resolution passed at the November 2018 plenary council meeting, a sub-committee of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee

(SPC) was formed to discuss rural housing policies in the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023. The committee met on a number of occasions in early 2019 and reported back to the SPC on 10 May 2019. It was agreed at the SPC that the findings of the rural housing sub-committee would be used to inform the members prior to any review or variation of the County Development Plan. A copy of the sub-committees report is attached for your information.

Councillor Duffy was happy with the report and requested more detail on actions delivered and recommendations by the sub-committee be issued to the members.

Following discussion, the following points were made:

- That the SPC sub-committee be reformed as part of the work that was now required on foot of the adoption of the RSES
- The Rural Housing Policy needed to be reviewed to take account of the increase in refusal rates for one-off permissions
- The absolute need to support rural towns and villages in county Kildare through this process.

Mr Kenny confirmed the RSES Strategy must now inform the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan which includes the rural resettlement strategy. He also reiterated the need for the public to avail of the pre-planning meeting system as on inspection a large number of one-off applications that had been refused did not avail of a pre-planning meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and the Rural Housing sub-committee be reformed.

Tairisceana Reatha Nach feidhmeanna na Comhairle Contae iad Current Motions Non-Kildare County Council Functions

25/0719

Ban the use of lead in shooting

The following motion in the name of Councillor Ryan was considered.

That Kildare County Council expresses concern and calls on the Government to initiate a robust consultation process with all affected parties including game clubs, farming bodies and conservation organisations before proceeding to support any EU proposals in this regard or

enacting any legislation at domestic level to ban the use of lead in shooting and fishing thus making over 100,000 shotguns obsolete in Ireland.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Ryan and seconded by Councillor Cussen.

A report was received from the Housing and Corporate Services Department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Following discussion on the matter, the Cathaoirleach asked the members for a show of hands regarding the request to issue correspondence to the Government as outlined in the motion.

Resolved with the majority of members voting against the proposal, the motion fell.

26/0719

Call for the closure of Direct Provision Centres

The following motion in the name of Councillor Farrelly was considered.

That the council writes to the Minister for Justice and Equality Charlie Flanagan T.D. and the Minister of State for Justice at the Department of Justice and Equality with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration, and Integration David Staunton T.D., calling for the immediate closure of all Kildare based Direct Provision Centres and instead, offer residents suitable, community based accommodation and services for children and families.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Farrelly and seconded by Councillor Killeen.

A report was received from the Housing and Corporate Services Department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Farrelly outlined to the members the current situation in relation to direct provision and gave a description of how the system was affecting the lives of children and families living in direct provision. He stated that 20 years of this form of housing provision is too long and homeless families should be given alternative long-term housing solutions.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by the members present that a letter be sent to the Minister for Justice and Equality Charlie Flanagan T.D. and the Minister of State for Justice at the Department of Justice and Equality with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration, and Integration David Staunton T.D., calling for the

immediate closure of all Kildare based Direct Provision Centres and instead, offer residents suitable, community based accommodation and services for children and families.

27/0719

Overdue Medals for Gallantry and Service be awarded

The following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman was considered.

That the council write to An Taoiseach and Minister for Defence Leo Varadkar TD and to the Minister with responsibility for Defence Paul Kehoe TD asking that the long overdue medals for gallantry and distinguished service medals specifically for the Irish soldiers of "A" Company 35th Infantry Battalion who served at Jadotville in 1961 be awarded as these medals were promised by former Taoiseach Enda Kenny in his final days in Office and they still have no medal.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Coleman and seconded by Councillor Dooley.

A report was received from the Housing and Corporate Services Department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Coleman outlined the history of the battle at Jadotville to the members and the fact there were 5 Kildare men involved. He stated that it was a shameful treatment of our heroes that the medals as promised had not yet been presented.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by the members present that a letter be sent to An Taoiseach and Minister for Defence Leo Varadkar TD and to the Minister with responsibility for Defence Paul Kehoe TD asking that the long overdue medals for gallantry and distinguished service medals specifically for the Irish soldiers of "A" Company 35th Infantry Battalion who served at Jadotville in 1961 be awarded as these medals were promised by former Taoiseach Enda Kenny in his final days in Office and they still have no medal.

The meeting concluded.