

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Full Council
held at 3:00 p.m.
Monday 27 July 2020
Newbridge Town Hall, Newbridge, Co Kildare.

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

Apologies: Councillors B Clear, M Coleman, F McLoughlin Healy, S Moore, E Sammon and P Ward.

Also Present: Mr P Carey, Chief Executive, Ms A Aspell, Mr J Boland, Ms S Kavanagh, Mr T McDonnell (Directors of Service), Ms M Hunt (A/Director of Service) Mr MI Kenny, Senior Planner, Ms F Millane A/Head of Finance, Ms C O'Grady (Meetings Administrator) and Ms K Keane (Meetings Secretary).

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the July meeting of full council.

01/0720

Bereavements

The Cathaoirleach extended his sympathy to the family of the late:

Richard Brennan husband of Celine Brennan, Finance Section

Allan Donohue brother in law of Phyllis Donohue, LEO office

A minute's silence was observed.

02/0720

Adoption of Minutes

The council considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 29 June and the minutes of the annual meeting on 29 June 2020 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members present, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 29 June and the minutes of the annual meeting on 29 June 2020 be adopted. The progress report was noted.

03/0720

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executive's monthly management report for July.

Resolved with the agreement of the members, the Chief Executive's monthly management reports was noted.

04/0720

Appointment of external nominee to Strategic Policy Committee

The Meetings Administrator referred to the report that had been circulated in advance of the meeting which outlined the proposed nominee Mr PJ Fagan as the PPN Social Inclusion nominee to the Local Community and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer, with the agreement of the members, the appointment of Mr PJ Fagan as the PPN Social Inclusion nominee to the Local Community and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee, was approved.

05/0720

Gnó an Chathaoirleach/Chairs Business

The Cathaoirleach confirmed the Minister for Housing had postponed his attendance at the openings of housing schemes that month but it was hoped it could be rescheduled at a later date. He also confirmed he had attended the July Municipal District meetings in Áras Chill Dara.

06/0720

Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed three items of correspondence had been received and circulated to the members, with the progress report.

07/0720

Historic Monuments sub-committee

The members considered the nominations to the Historic Monuments Advisory sub-committee of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC. Councillor Seamie Moore was proposed by Councillor Pádraig McEvoy and seconded by Councillor Robert Power. Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer was proposed by Councillor Ward and seconded by Councillor Duffy. As there no other nominees, Councillors Moore and Tracey O'Dwyer were deemed to be appointed.

Resolved with the agreement of the members, the appointment of Councillor Seamie Moore and Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer to the Historic Monuments Advisory sub-committee of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC, was approved.

08/0720

Comhdhála agus Traenáil/Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator confirmed there were 2 requests for retrospective approval and 2 requests for approval for training this month. She also confirmed there was one request for approval for further education training.

Resolved and agreed by the 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 that the following retrospective approval was granted for the attendance of Councillor J Neville, AILG Module 2 Training Midlands & Eastern Region, Hotel Kilmore, Dublin Road, Cavan, 13 February, Councillors J Neville, I Keatley, AILG Annual Conference 2020, The Longford Arms Hotel, Longford, 4 and 5 March. Approval was granted for the attendance of Councillor A Farrelly AILG Module 3 Training Midlands & Eastern Region, Carrickdale Hotel and Spa, Dundalk, 30 July, Councillor E Sammon MSc Human Resource Management, DCU Collins Ave Ext, Whitehall Dublin 9, Year 1 2020-2021.

09/0720

Loan sanction Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme

The members considered the loan sanction of €10 million in order to provide mortgage facilities to first time borrowers under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme.

Following enquiry, Ms Millane confirmed this loan was in addition to the €15m loan approved in 2018. She further clarified that applications from those currently on the Covid-19 payment, would be paused until further clarification was received on their return to work arrangements.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kevin Duffy seconded by Councillor Angela Feeney and agreed by the members present that loan sanction of €10 million, in order to provide mortgage facilities to first time borrowers under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme, was approved.

10/0720

Reports from the members appointed to other bodies/committees

The members noted the reports received from the members who are appointed to AILG, IPBMI, Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional Health Forum, Kildare Local Community Development Committee, Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board, Kildare Sports and Leisure Facilities, County Kildare Joint Policing Committee, Drehid Community Liaison Committee, County Kildare Community Networks, Athy Heritage Company Limited and Athy Community Enterprise Company Limited.

11/0720

Capital funding

The following joint motion in the name of Councillors Anne Connolly, Suzanne Doyle, Kevin Duffy, Noel Heavey, Peggy O'Dwyer, Tracey O'Dwyer, Robert Power and Mark Stafford was considered. That in preparing the Capital Plan 2021-2023, capital funding via development levies or otherwise be earmarked to support outdoor recreation and amenity facilities in areas demonstrating the greatest need.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Robert Power and seconded by Councillor Kevin Duffy.

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the existing Capital Programme is developed based on this approach and this will be the continued methodology going forward.

Councillor Power acknowledged the report emphasising the need for the council to adhere to a longer-term strategy and to consider Newbridge as a priority area in this regard. He noted that the Parks department was a very busy department and resources were very stretched given the volume of work they carry out. Councillor Duffy stated the Amenity Strategy had been endorsed and agreed by the council and asked whether a gap analysis between the Strategy and the Capital Programme, could be considered.

Mr Dunne, A/Director of Service stated that Recreation and Amenity was a priority area for the council and he noted the members comments. The Chief Executive stated he agreed with the

principle of the motion adding that resources in the Parks Department had been augmented in recognition of the vast programme of work they carry out.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by all members, the report was noted.

12/0720

County Development Plan Variation

The following joint motion in the name of Councillors Veralouise Behan, Bernard Caldwell, Michael Coleman, Daragh Fitzpatrick, Carmel Kelly, Naoise Ó Cearúil and Paul Ward was considered. That the council varies the County Development Plan to remove or amend policies RH9 and RH10.

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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended referred and stated -

Planning Authorities are required to make a new development plan every six years (Section 9 of the Planning and Development Act). A planning authority may, for stated reasons, vary its Development Plan during its six-year lifespan (Section 13 of the Act). The Council varied the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 on 9th June 2020 (Variation No 1) in order to align the CDP with national and regional policy.

A development plan shall in so far as is practicable be consistent with such national plans, policies or strategies which the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has determined relate to proper planning and sustainable development (Section 9(6) of the Act). The written statement of the Development Plan is required to show that the development objectives in the plan are consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional development objectives. Any variation of the Plan is required to undergo the carrying out of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA). (SEA and AA accompanied the recently adopted Variation No 1.)

Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023

Section 4.12 of the Kildare County Development Plan deals specifically with rural housing. Briefly the rural housing strategy seeks to facilitate in a sustainable manner the legitimate needs of rural

communities or those who by their occupation make a significant contribution to community life. At the same time the Plan recognises the role of the rural countryside in the economic development of the county and the need to protect the rural area as an environmental and economic resource.

The rural housing strategy seeks to –

- Formulate policies which guide residential development to the most appropriate locations in rural areas in the interest of protecting natural and manmade assets. Key assets in rural areas such as water quality, natural / cultural heritage and the quality of the landscape must be protected;
- Apply appropriate policy criteria to regulate the provision of rural housing in accordance with relevant national and regional guidelines; and
- Ensure best practice is applied regarding site location, landscape and environmental sensitivities, design, layout, access, drainage and impacts on soils, flood risk assessment and management, water table and water quality.

The Development Plan contains 24 policies and four objectives in relation to rural housing including local need, re-use of old buildings, traffic hazard etc. The two policies identified in the Motion RH 9 and RH 10 deal with location, siting and design.

Briefly RH 9 seeks to ensure that, notwithstanding compliance with the local need criteria, applicants comply with all other normal siting and design considerations including -

- (i) The location and design of a new dwelling should take account of and integrate appropriately with its physical surroundings and the natural and cultural heritage of the area and respect the character of the area.
- (ii) Appropriate landscaping of the proposed development
- (iii) The protection of features that contribute to local attractiveness including; landscape features, hedgerows, trees, historic and archaeological landscapes, water bodies, ridges, skylines, topographical features, geological features and important views and prospects.
- (iv) The capacity of the area to absorb further development.
- (v) The ability to provide safe vehicular access to the site without the necessity to remove extensive stretches of native hedgerow and trees.
- (vi) The ability of a site to accommodate an on-site wastewater disposal system in accordance with the EPA Code of Practice
- (vii) The ability of a site to accommodate an appropriate on-site surface water management system

- (viii) The need to comply with the requirements of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DEHLG (2009).

RH 10 seeks to control the level of piecemeal and haphazard development of rural areas close to urban centres and settlements having regard to potential impacts on the orderly and efficient development of newly developing areas on the edges of towns and villages.

The provisions of these policies are in accordance with the mandatory objectives set out in Section 10 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). They are also referenced elsewhere in Chapter 4 of the Plan e.g. access and entrances are dealt with in policies RH 15, RH 16 and RH 17, while house design is dealt with in Chapter 16 and landscaping is in Chapter 17.

Policies RH 9 and RH 10 are not just policies in themselves and of relevance only to Council staff in assessing and deciding on a planning application. They are of direct relevance and assistance to applicants for single rural houses in matters they need to consider when they are applying to build a house in the countryside. To remove the policies will not do away with the need for an applicant to design a house that is sensitive to the Kildare landscape, to not cause pollution or a traffic hazard or to not remove hedgerows and trees which are vital for the preservation of habitats and species etc. While applicants and/or their technical advisors need to be aware of and take account of other sections of the Development Plan when framing their applications for planning permission policies RH 9 and RH 10 succinctly express many of the major technical matters that need to be addressed in such applications.

Considerations and Recommendation

Given that –

- The review of the County Development Plan is required by law to commence at the end of January 2021 when the Council will engage with the public and statutory and non-statutory bodies on the future planning of County Kildare when rural housing will be considered as part of the overall future sustainable development of the area.
- A Proposed Draft County Development Plan 2023-2029 will be presented to the members for their consideration and directions in circa Q4 of 2021.
- A proposed Variation will take time to prepare and adopt (16 weeks if no material alterations, ca. 30 weeks if there are material alterations).

- As noted above a Variation must undergo SEA and AA. There is the possibility that a Variation such as the one being put forward and which proposes to omit/weaken safeguards in the Plan regarding pollution, flooding, natural heritage, landscape etc will not come through either process intact in terms of the need to maintain and reinforce environmental protections.
- It should be noted that the SEA Environmental Report (February 2017) that accompanies the existing County Development Plan specifically identifies, at page 84, that Policies RH 9 and RH 10 contribute towards the protection and management of various environmental components.
- A single-issue Variation such as that proposed, must be referred to all the relevant statutory consultees, some of whom will review the proposed variation for compliance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and with national and regional policy documents and Ministerial Guidance under Section 28 of the Act. The omission or removal of Policies RH 9 and RH 10 from the Development Plan may render the Plan inconsistent with national and regional development objectives set out in the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and with guidelines on planning such as the *Sustainable Rural Housing - Guidelines for Planning Authorities* issued by the Minister under of Section 28 of the Act. The Office of the Planning Regulator is required to assess all statutory plans (and/or variations of same) for compliance with national and regional policy.
- Omitting the policies serve no obvious purpose given that the issues identified in the policies are threaded through the plan, are mandated by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and in fact are of assistance to applicants in framing applications for one-off houses in the rural area.

Having regard to the above, it is recommended that the motion is not adopted.

A lengthy discussion took place amongst the members, with numerous contributors supporting the motion and a number of contributors urging caution as there was no alternative proposal put forward. Councillor Weld reminded the executive of the previous commitment given to review these policies at the first opportunity.

Ms Hunt, A/Director of Service stated that an amendment or a deletion would result in a variation of the County Development Plan and outlined the requirements under the Planning & Development Act in relation to this and the requirement for the members to submit a report with “stated reasons” which needed the support of three quarters of the council, before the process can proceed.

Mr Kenny, Senior Planner spoke at length on the reasons for not removing RH9 and RH10 reiterating the point that if the members wished to go this route, they would:

- Have to send in a motion/report for the September meeting giving the “stated reasons”
- It would require the support of three quarters of the council
- If such a motion was approved, the Chief Executive would prepare a report which would have 4 weeks to come back before council.

Councillor Doyle proposed an amendment to the motion, Councillor Durkan seconded the amended motion.

That this council take appropriate measures to begin the process of amending Chapter 4 of CDP to address issues of concern regarding rural housing through a variation of the County Development Plan.

Resolved with 22 members voting in favour of the amended motion, 8 members voting against and one abstention, the amended motion was carried.

13/0720

Planting of trees by Coillte

The following joint motion in the name of Councillors Bill Clear, Aidan Farrelly and Chris Pender was considered.

That the council invites Coillte to plant native, broad-leaf trees on 3-5 acres of public lands in Kildare.

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

A report was received from the Climate Action Regional Office informing the members that on a pilot basis, the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) was collaborating with the Department of Agriculture and a number of counties in the eastern and midlands region to identify local lands, which are available and suitable, for a pilot afforestation project under a new funding programme that is due to be launched by the Department in the coming months. This programme would likely allow for 100% funding to a maximum level for native woodland establishment and would potentially include some of the costs associated with trails & signage and forest playgrounds. It

was also expected that this scheme will support the development of sites as small as 0.1 ha, although there may be potential economies of scale issues with sites this small.

Noting the above, CARO would be delighted to work with Kildare County Council in this regard and can facilitate engagement between the council and the Department of Agriculture if so required.

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the Programme for Government included a number of objectives to promote tree planting both commercially and by local authorities. When the detail of these objectives are announced, the contents of the motion could be considered further. The number of sites suitable for this scale of planting would be limited to sites being developed for town parks such as Cherry Avenue, Kildare Town which provides for some areas of planting, Sallins Amenity Land and Carton Avenue, Maynooth which still have to be planned. Any invitation for commercial planting on council owned land would have to be subject to the procurement process. The work required to develop any proposal for tree planting will also have to be considered in the context of the existing resources of the Parks Section and existing commitments to deliver other projects across the county.

Councillor Farrelly welcomed the reports confirming he had spoken with Coillte who had indicated they would be happy to use Kildare as a pilot project and enquired if there was an inventory of council owned lands available. Mr Boland commended the motion indicating it was a significant opportunity for all public bodies and which was being progressed and 100% funded = by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. He confirmed the Environment and Water Services SPC had agreed to take this matter on as a project and they would be establishing if suitable council lands were available in this regard.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly, seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all members present that the report be noted and the item to remain on the progress report for future updates.

14/0720

Tree planting scheme

The following motion in the name of Councillor Peter Hamilton was considered.

That in recognising the climate crisis declared by the council in 2019, the council prepares an ambitious plan for tree planting in motorway and rail exclusion zones including a survey of

appropriate lands throughout the county, dealing with obstacles which need to be overcome, and considering community and volunteer planting, with the aim of starting first planting in the October to March tree-planting season.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Liston

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that a report to similar motions to the Clane-Maynooth and Naas Municipal Districts earlier in the year indicated that the Parks Section would identify pilot sites for a community tree planting scheme. This remains the case. The greatest scope for developing a tree planting scheme is to identify areas within residential developments where this might be possible. This will be largely dependent on residents being receptive to the additional tree planting in their open spaces within their estates. This isn't always the case. Planting on motorway and rail exclusion zones are included in local area plans for future expansion of the motorway and railways therefore any planting on these areas would conflict with this proposed use. Furthermore, these lands may be privately owned in the majority of cases. An investigation can be carried out into other lands that may be available around existing infrastructure such as along roadways etc. This would require consultation with the relevant internal Departments and external bodies.

The obstacles that need to be overcome to implement a programme of tree planting are staff resources to develop the scheme. Financial resources to be able to fund the planting, establishment and maintenance of any planting and the administration associated with these elements. The Parks Section already has an extensive list of projects which different Municipal District Committees members are looking to be delivered. It will also be necessary to consider how this work fits into this as it is not possible to deliver a works programme where increasingly the Parks Section is being requested to deliver a changing list of projects and priorities.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), as a provider of transport infrastructure, manages the Motorway and National Roadside landscaping. Landscapes that have been planted and are being maintained by TII, along transport routes, are designed to be largely self-sustaining, using native species (but not exclusively) and species with high ecological value. The aim is to establish linear transport landscapes that ensure ecological connectivity is maintained through the Irish countryside while maintaining transport safety and performance criteria.

Councillor Hamilton noted the contents of the report stating he did not accept the view stated regarding road margins and that there was an opportunity to include road and rail perimeters for such creative uses. He noted National Tree Week was taking place the follow March and rolling out such an initiative would not involve a big operational cost. Councillor Power asked that rail corridors be included in any such proposals also, as they present an excellent opportunity to create greenways and cycle routes. Mr McDonnell noted that TII are not supportive of placing trees in the runover of the motorway.

Councillor Hamilton proposed an amendment to the motion, this was seconded by Councillor Power.

That in recognising the climate crisis declared by the council in 2019, the council prepares an ambitious plan for tree planting in motorway and rail exclusion zones and other suitable pockets of land through the county. The plan should integrate planning for other recreation, nature and active transport uses included in space for cycle paths, dog walking and other uses where appropriate, identifies and deals with obstacles which need to be overcome, and considering community and volunteer planting, with the aim of starting first planting in the October to March tree-planting season.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by all members, the amended motion was carried.

15/0720

Covid-19 lockdown photo competition

The following motion in the name of Councillor Fintan Brett was considered.

That the council run a Covid-19 lockdown photo competition to be adjudicated by local based professional photographers with an exhibition to be held before the December meeting with prizes for each municipal district and an overall winner.

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

A report was received from the Economic Development, Community and Culture Department informing the members that this is a matter for the members to agree however, it should be noted that Kildare Community Stories ran a photo competition in May 2020 around the #KeepKildareTalking campaign which was an initiative of the Community Response Forum. The

Project was designed to tackle loneliness and isolation and encourage people to reach out to their friends, families and neighbours. There were 4 winners identified and all entries were showcased afterwards for several weeks on the council's Facebook page.

Kildare COVID 19 Local Heroes Portrait Exhibition

In June Kildare Library & Arts Service made a 'call out' asking the public to nominate their local hero who should be recognised by KCC for their work through this unprecedented time. 10 heroes would then have their portrait painted – the portraits will all be A4 in size mounted & framed for exhibition on Culture Night 18th Sept.

Owing to the current situation it's not possible for 'sitters' to sit for an Artist in the traditional studio environment. For this reason, we've commissioned Johnny Savage Photographer to take photos of the chosen heroes to pass onto the successful artists to use as source material to paint from.

Display and Exhibition

A combined exhibition of both projects will launch in Aras Chill Dara on Culture Night (18 September). It will be a virtual launch with limited / invited guests onsite. The exhibition will be filmed for sharing online

Councillor Brett noted the contents of the report and with the agreement of the members, withdrew his motion.

16/0720

Allocation of Commercial Rates

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

That the council allocates a minimum of 40% of the commercial rates received annually from landfill facilities in the county, directly towards the maintenance and improvement of safety on the haulage routes for those facilities.

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

A report was received from the Finance Department informing the members that Kildare County Council's expenditure is funded through a combination of commercial rates, local property tax (local government fund), grants and income from goods and services. The allocation of income and expenditure is agreed at the budget meeting in November each year.

Whilst some elements of income (grants, Irish Water, housing loan receipts) have a direct correlation to specific expenditure, the remainder of the income, including rates, is used to fund all the other services provided by the Council. Specific percentages of elements of rates are not ring-fenced for specific spend as that would reduce the ability of Council to adapt to needs and would adversely impact on its ability to deliver services.

Roads, including maintenance and improvement of safety, is in receipt of a significant portion of this income. The Annual Roadworks Programme, which prioritises the routes where maintenance is required within each Municipal District is brought to each Municipal District in Quarter 1 each year as part of the Schedule of Municipal District Works.

It should be noted that whilst Kildare County Council maintains Regional and Local Roads in the county using internally available funding sources (rates, LPT etc), that these are supplemented by DTTaS allocations. It is a condition of the drawdown of DTTaS funding that Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance works are considered on a 'needs' basis, with the priority being the satisfactory protection of the existing road network in the county.

Councillor Wyse stated approximately 28,000 trucks a year were entering the Drehid facility and that a small percentage of the commercial rates should go towards the maintenance and repair of the local roads. Ms Millane outlined the budget process stating a service such as being requested could not be added, and that the Roads budget covers local and regional roads costs. On this basis, Ms Millane recommended that the members should not pass this motion.

Councillor Wyse acknowledged the points made by the A/Head of Finance and with the agreement of the members, withdrew his motion.

17/0720

Adjournment of motions

At this point in the meeting, the Cathaoirleach advised that the 2-hour time limit was almost complete, and the remaining motions would be adjourned to the September meeting unless any of them were time bound and needed to be heard. Councillor McEvoy and Councillor Cussen asked that their motions be heard. Councillor Noel Connolly and Councillor Killeen stated they were happy to accept the reports as issued.

19/0720

Improved space in urban areas

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

That the council includes a monthly update in the Chief Executive's report on works to implement improved spaces, albeit temporary, for walkers and cyclists in the urban areas of the county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pádraig McEvoy and seconded by Councillor Robert Power.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the monthly Chief Executive's report to members will include the items requested.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pádraig McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by all members that the report be noted, and the information requested would be included in the Chief Executives monthly management report.

19/0720

Resolutions passed on motions

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

That the resolutions passed on motions from Councillor Íde Cussen December 2018 (Féilecáin 26/1218) and February 2020 (Stillbirth Register 21/0220) be forwarded to all other local authorities as motions passed by Kildare County Council (copies attached).

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

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

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Íde Cussen, seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by all members that the resolutions as outlined in the motion, would be forwarded to all other local authorities as motions passed by Kildare County Council.

20/0720

Dry Hostel for Women

The following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly was considered.

That the council supports the provision of a dry hostel for women not accompanied by children and agrees to work towards the provision of same as soon as possible; within the county of Kildare.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Noel Connolly and seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that following consultation, including with other local authorities, the experience to date would suggest that self-contained units rather than dormitory style accommodation may offer a better solution, as such accommodation offers more flexibility in terms of use in the long term should demand or circumstances change in this area. Further research will need to be carried out to consider this matter further, examine demand, and consult with other agencies that provide supports to individuals in short term temporary accommodation.

It should be noted that any proposal for such a facility must, in the first instance, be brought before the Mid-East Region Homeless Strategic Management Group for consideration and approval, prior to submission of a request for funding to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

The Mid-East Region Homeless Action Plan 2018-2020 is currently being reviewed and this motion will be considered in the context of this review.

Councillor Connolly accepted the report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Noel Connolly, seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by all members present that the report be noted.

21/0720

Targeted tourism campaign

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

That the executive and elected members participate in a targeted tourism campaign to encourage people to visit attractions in Kildare and to encourage visitors into Kildare during the summer 2020.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Nuala Killeen and seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Economic Development, Community and Culture Department informing the members that a report from Ms A Mangan, CEO Into Kildare Into Kildare, the tourism body for county Kildare, have agreed a number of measures to promote tourism locally and

nationally during these challenging times. Over the pandemic Kildare Fáilte have been particularly busy supporting and engaging with key stakeholders in all areas of the hospitality and tourism industry in the county while keeping Kildare visible. A number of networking events were facilitated by Kildare Fáilte and continue to be held to help businesses share ideas and support each other. Guest speakers Eoghan Corry, who is also on the Government tourism Recovery Task Force and from County Kildare, gave his insights as did Fáilte Ireland and more recently economist David McWilliams.

Other targeted activity includes, blogs, press trips, photoshoots, planned radio, print and digital campaigns. Kildare Fáilte planned and launched a We Care in Kildare campaign. This is to reassure locals and visitors we are open and safe and welcome for them to visit the county. There has been considerable social activity and promotion on this. We are continuing to work with the county council and Fáilte Ireland in establishing a destination tourism recovery task force utilising the volunteer tourism board in place and linking in with relevant stakeholders as required. All financial resources are being invested in this recovery campaign and any additional budget would be appreciated to drive tourism even more during these unprecedented times.

Councillor Killeen accepted the report and would contact the members further on the matter.

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

18/0720

Reports to council

It was agreed that the following motion in the name of Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy would be adjourned to the September meeting:

That the council provide a list of all the organisations or groups that are required to provide reports to the council including, but not exclusive to, organisations/groups that are required by statute to report and organisations/groups that are required to report as part of the terms of a funding agreement with the council.

22/0720

Update on County Speed Limit Review

It was agreed that the following motion in the name of Councillor Angela Feeney would be adjourned to the September meeting:

That the council provides an update to members on the current status of the County Speed Limit Review, with associated timelines for its implementation.

23/0720

Public Dog Parks

It was agreed that the following motion in the name of Councillor Tim Durkan would be adjourned to the September meeting:

That the council considers providing public dog parks throughout the county on council owned lands where suitable, or lands where development is prohibited due to the proximity of such lands to the motorway network.

The meeting concluded.