

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Council
held at 2:00 p.m.
Monday 29 June 2020
Newbridge Town Hall, Newbridge, Co Kildare.

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

Apologies: Councillor M Coleman

Also Present: Mr P Carey, Chief Executive, Ms A Aspell and Ms S Kavanagh (Directors of Service), Messrs J Boland, T McDonnell, E Ryan (Directors of Service), Ms F Millane A/Head of Finance, Ms C O'Grady (Meetings Administrator) Ms K Keane (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

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

01/0620

Bereavements

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

Detective Garda Colm Horkan, Castlerea.

Eileen Farrell mother of Aidan Farrell, Kildare National Roads Office.

Pat Moore brother of Thomas Moore Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

Pat Cooley brother of Evelyn Cooley, Executive Librarian, Naas Library.

A minute's silence was observed.

02/0620

Adoption of Minutes

The council considered the minutes of the monthly meeting on 24 February, the special meeting on 25 February, the minutes of the monthly meeting on 25 May 2020 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick and agreed by the members present, that the minutes of the monthly meeting on 24 February, the special meeting on 25 February, the monthly meeting on 25 May 2020 be adopted. The progress report was noted.

03/0620

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executive's monthly management reports for March, April, May and June.

Councillor Wyse noted there was no update in the report on Allenwood playground and asked that an update be included going forward. Ms Kavanagh stated an update would be given as requested.

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

04/0620

Casual vacancy in the membership of the council

The Cathaoirleach conveyed apologies from Senator Mark Wall that he could not attend today's meeting and stated he wanted to thank all the members and staff of the council for the good wishes since his election. The Cathaoirleach congratulated Senator Wall on his election to the Seanad and wished him well in his new role. The Meetings Administrator confirmed that as former Councillor Mark Wall was a Labour Party member, it fell to the Labour Party to nominate a person to fill the casual vacancy and in this regard, the Labour Party had confirmed they were nominating Mr Mark Leigh.

Councillor Breslin proposed that Mr Mark Leigh be co-opted to the council to fill the vacancy created by the election of former Councillor Mark Wall to the Seanad, Councillor Keatley seconded this proposal.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Aoife Breslin, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by the members present, Mr Mark Leigh was appointed to fill the casual vacancy in the membership of the council following the election of former Councillor Mark Wall to the Seanad, and was invited to take his seat on the council.

Councillor Leigh thanked his proposer and seconder for the nomination and stated he felt privileged to be put forward for the position. He confirmed he had worked with former Deputy Jack Wall, Senator Mark Wall and Councillor Breslin over a long number of years and was looking forward to working with all the elected members into the future. He stated he would be a voice for disability, environment and community issues.

05/0620

Filling of committees' vacancies

The members considered the filling of vacancies on committees of the council.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Feeney and agreed by the members that Councillor Noel Connolly fill the vacancies on the committees held by former Councillor Patricia Ryan and Councillor Mark Leigh fill the vacancies on the committees held by former Councillor Mark Wall.

Housing SPC – Councillor Noel Connolly and Councillor Mark Leigh

Decade of Commemoration Committee – Councillor Noel Connolly

Kildare Town Heritage Company Limited – Councillor Noel Connolly

Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee – Councillor Noel Connolly and Councillor Mark Leigh

Regional Health Forum Dublin Mid-Leinster – Councillor Mark Leigh

06/0620

Chairperson of Housing SPC

The members considered the appointment of Chairperson to the Housing SPC.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by the members that Councillor Brendan Weld be appointed as Chair of the Housing SPC.

07/0620

Witness of affixing of the Council Seal

The members considered the nominations to witness affixing of the Council Seal.

Resolved with the agreement of the members that Councillor Noel Connolly and Councillor Mark Leigh be approved to witness affixing of the Council Seal.

08/0620

Section 183 Notice

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

- i. Grant of a ten-year lease at The Priory, Convent Lane, Athy to The Fr Peter McVerry Trust.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by the members present, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, that the council consents to the grant of a ten year lease of the lands at i) above in accordance with the statutory notices circulated on 18 June 2020.

09/0620

Annual Financial Statement 2019 and over-expenditure

The members considered the Annual Financial Statements (AFS) for 2019.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Weld and agreed by the members present that the Annual Financial Statements (AFS) for 2019 be noted and the over-expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2019 be approved.

10/0620

Quarterly Budgetary Reports

The members considered the quarterly budgetary reports to 31 March 2020.

Resolved with the agreement of the members, the quarterly budgetary reports to 31 March 2020 were noted and approved.

11/0620

Annual Report 2019 and Progress Report on Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019

The members considered the Draft Annual Report 2019 and the Progress Report on the Corporate Plan 2015-2019. The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the significant work by the Corporate Services Department in compiling these reports.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by the members present, the draft Annual Report 2019 was agreed, and the Progress Report on the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 was noted.

12/0620

To consider the Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that the requirement to prepare an Annual Service Delivery Plan was as set out under Section 50 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. She confirmed the plan outlined objectives for service delivery for the year across the 11 service areas confirming its adoption as a reserved function.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breen, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by the members present that the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020 be approved.

13/0620

Gnó an Chathaoirleach/Chairs Business

The Cathaoirleach confirmed she had attended the launch of the Kildare Creative Hub the previous night and commended all those involved in this success story for the county.

14/0620

Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

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

Councillor Farrelly enquired if there had been any further correspondence from the NTA, based on the submission by the members following the February meeting. Mr McDonnell confirmed there had not been to date and would keep the members advised. Councillor McLoughlin Healy queried what the implications of the correspondence from Sláintecare was for the members. Ms O'Grady confirmed the council had nominees on the Regional Health Forum Dublin Mid-Leinster who had copies of the referred to presentation adding further information related to the work of Sláintecare was contained on their website.

15/0620

Comhdhálacha agus Traenáil/Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator confirmed there were 3 requests for retrospective approval for conference and training this month.

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 I Keatley, AILG Module 2 Training Midlands & Eastern Region, Hotel Kilmore, Dublin Road, Cavan, 13 February, Councillors E Sammon, N Heavey, F Brett, AILG Annual Conference 2020, The Longford Arms Hotel, Longford, 4 and 5 March, Councillors I Keatley, M Wall, E Sammon, F Brett, A Breslin LAMA Spring Training Seminar 2020, Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo, 12 and 13 March.

16/0620

Annual Roads Programme 2020

The members considered the Annual Roads Programme 2020 circulated previously by the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department.

Resolved with the agreement of the members that the Annual Roads Programme 2020 be noted.

17/0620

Heritage Grants 2020

The members considered the Heritage Grants 2020.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Cearúil, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by the members, the Heritage Grants Scheme 2020 was approved.

18/0620

Arts Act Grant Scheme 2020

The members considered the Arts Act Grant Scheme 2020.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Cearúil, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by the members, the Arts Act Grant Scheme 2020 was approved.

19/0620

Protocol and Procedures Committee - Revised Standing Orders

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that a report from the Protocol and Procedures Committee on the proposed amendments to Standing Orders, a revised copy of Standing Orders and a revised copy showing the tracked changes to Standing Orders, had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated she wished to raise a number of issues with the report, referencing Standing Orders 12, 14 and 21. She stated the matter relating to potentially

controversial motions in Standing Order 12 had not been dealt with in the revised standing orders, as there was no guidance in the standing orders on why any motion would be prohibited. She asked that the reference to “three clear days” in Standing Order No 15 be amended to “three clear working days” to allow members enough time to read meeting material. Lastly in relation to Standing Order 21 Attendance of Public and Media, Councillor McLoughlin Healy noted there was no reference to broadcasting of council meetings and the inclusion of the line “other than council own” recording equipment as previously discussed.

Councillor Stafford confirmed that in relation to Standing Order 21 and recording at meetings, this proposed amendment to Standing Orders had been brought before council previously, and the members had rejected the proposal.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy proposed that the following paragraph be removed from Standing Order 12

“If the Meetings Administrator and the member submitting the motion cannot agree on the listing of a motion, the member shall receive notification of the Meeting Administrators decision. The member may then appeal the decision to a panel, that comprises of the Cathaoirleach, the Chair of the Protocol and Procedures Committee and the Chief Executive, who will collectively consider the appeal on the listing of the motion and their decision on the matter shall be final”.

This amendment to standing orders was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Noel Connolly.

The Standing Orders as presented, was proposed by Councillor Durkan and seconded by Councillor Keatley.

Councillor Stafford reminded members that the option of suspending standing orders, in order for a motion to be debated, was already contained within standing orders. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that an appeal mechanism as currently contained in standing orders, was not a valid appeal system in the absence of guidelines.

The Cathaoirleach asked the members if they were clear on what they were voting for. The members confirmed they were. The Cathaoirleach called a vote on the proposal put to the meeting to remove the referenced paragraph from Standing Order 12, on page 14 of the standing orders.

Resolved with one-member voting in favour of the proposal to remove the paragraph in Standing Order 12, 35 members voting against its removal and 3 abstentions, the proposal to remove the paragraph fell.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by the members, Standing Orders as presented to the council, without amendment were approved.

20/0620

Report on Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly

The Meetings Administrator referred to the report that had been circulated to the members by the members nominated to the Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly.

Resolved with the agreement of the members present that the report from the member of the Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly be noted.

21/0620

Referral from the Naas Municipal District Committee

The following motion from the Naas Municipal District Committee was considered.

That Kildare County Council support our neighbours Baltinglass Municipal District in lobbying the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to include the upgrading of the N81 in the National Roads Programme (correspondence attached).

Resolved with the agreement of the members that Kildare County Council support their neighbours Baltinglass Municipal District in lobbying the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to include the upgrading of the N81 in the National Roads Programme.

22/0620

Social Distancing Road Markings

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

That on health and safety grounds, the council considers footpath markings at pedestrian-controlled crossings at road junctions to enable social distancing to be observed while waiting for lights to change.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Health and Safety legislation is written in relation to Safety & Welfare in the workplace. Government advice in relation to social distancing, reiterated by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) 19 June stated:

“The importance of people exercising their own judgement and taking personal responsibility in protecting themselves and others cannot be overstated at this crucial point in the pandemic. Handwashing, physical distancing, cough/sneeze etiquette, face coverings and knowing the symptoms of Covid-19 - and what to immediately when experiencing symptoms - is how every individual can equip themselves to live safely as restrictions are eased.”

It would not be practicable to undertake what is proposed in the motion.

Following discussion, the member voted in favour of the council considering footpath markings at pedestrian-controlled crossings at road junctions to enable social distancing to be observed while waiting for lights to change.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Peggy O’Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by all members that the council considers footpath markings at pedestrian-controlled crossings at road junctions to enable social distancing to be observed while waiting for lights to change.

23/0620

SPC Meetings

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

That the council, through an amendment to Standing Orders, commits to facilitating a minimum of five Strategic Policy Committee meetings per year for the duration of this term of council - allowing for the lack of meetings within the first 12 months.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that the SPC scheme 2019-2024, section 2.9 states that meetings of SPC’s would normally be held on a quarterly basis or as often as is deemed necessary. The current SPC standing orders which are being reviewed by the Protocol and Procedures Committee states as follows “Meetings will normally be held four times per year in accordance with the council’s adopted meetings calendar.

Meetings shall commence at the appointed time and conclude within two hours. A special meeting of the committee may be called by the Chairperson or by at least five members of the committee”.

Councillor Farrelly noted the contents of the report stating he had tabled it as a result of a number of meetings being lost during the last year.

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

24/0620

Housing Developments including crèches

The following motion in the name of Councillor Angela Feeney was considered.

That the council provide a report of current and upcoming housing developments in the county that include a crèche as part of an approved planning application and what is required by Council to approve repurposing of a planned crèche facility.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Angela Feeney and seconded by Councillor Breslin.

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that the Planning Authority acknowledges the shortages, and difficulties in sourcing appropriate childcare in locations across the county. In this regard we are seeking to ensure that appropriate levels of such facilities are provided in appropriate locations, and in ensuring compliance with Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG) where identified needs exist.

Planning applications for residential developments are considered and assessed with respect to Childcare provision using the following; Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG) and Policies and Objectives in the County Development Plan 2017-2023, including Policy CPF 2 which seek to facilitate and encourage the provision of childcare facilities, including community crèche facilities, of an appropriate type and scale, at appropriate locations throughout the county and to identify suitable locations through the Local Area Plan process, where appropriate. Where identified needs exists, developers are required to provide a Childcare facility for 75 units and over.

Where a creche, permitted as part of a residential scheme is proposed for a change of use, planning permission is required. Whilst all applications are considered on their own merits, the Planning Authority has been consistent in not permitting the repurposing of creche facilities unless a comprehensive assessment has been provided to demonstrate a surplus of childcare facilities exist in the area, and this evidence is supported by the Planning Authority and Kildare County Childcare Committee.

The Planning Authority has conducted Infrastructure Assessments and Social Infrastructure Audits for a number of settlements to inform the County Development Plan Variation; details will be finalised in the coming months and distributed to the members thereafter. These assessments/audits provide a database of existing creches/childcare facilities and where possible the capacity of services therein.

Councillor Feeney stated we were at a critical point in relation to childcare in Ireland currently and this item should remain on the progress report. Following discussion, the members referenced creches closing down due to lack of facilities and asked that when creches are granted as part of a planning permission, consideration be given to them being conditioned for construction in the first phase of the development and any application for change of use to previously granted creche facilities, bear the difficulties faced by this sector in mind. It was suggested that an audit of existing creche facilities and waiting list numbers/age profiles would be helpful in conjunction with the County Childcare Committee.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Angela Feeney, seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all members present that the report be noted, and the matter kept on the Progress report.

25/0620

Opening of New Junction on M7

The following motion in the name of Councillor Bill Clear was considered.

That the council open Exit 9a where the Sallins Bypass meets the M7, now that this section is complete.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Bill Clear and seconded by Councillor Killeen.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the new M7- Junction 9a at Osberstown, Naas is not completed at this moment in time as there are ongoing works by the contractor on public lighting, communications and other work elements as part of the M7 Naas Newbridge Bypass Upgrade /M7 Osberstown Interchange Sallins Bypass Scheme.

Councillor Clear enquired if the interchange would be open before the bypass was complete and if the drawings of the scheme were available as he had concerns around what was currently constructed on the ground. Mr McDonnell confirmed that Kildare County Council did not design the project as it was a Design & Build contract and the documents were public documents but he would seek to have a copy provided. He stated the interchange design was part of the Sallins Bypass scheme and that the contractor was revising his programme of works/timelines having regard to Covid.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Bill Clear, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by all members that the report be noted.

26/0620

Environmental Assessment and Protection in Planning Applications

The following motion in the name of Councillor Vanessa Liston was considered.

That the Planning Department outlines the new measures it will implement to ensure that the highest standards are set for environmental assessment and protection in all planning applications and conditions that are applied, including methodology where appropriate, to ensure that all legislation protecting hedgerows, trees, native forests, wildlife and habitats, is upheld.

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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that Chapter 13 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 relates to Natural Heritage & Green Infrastructure and contains all relevant policies and objectives pursuant to the protection and consideration of habitats and the environment encountered during the course of the council's activities. The Development Management Section assess applications for development and carries out its activities within the context of the Planning and Development Acts and each development decision is made with full consideration of European Habitats and Environmental Impact Assessment.

Each and every application for development undergoes a Stage 1 Habitats Directive Assessment, and the report is included with the planning assessment, each application undergoes preliminary screening for the requirement to complete a statutory Environmental Impact Assessment, all European habitats and Natural Heritage Areas are included in the GIS mapping systems. For subthreshold and non-European habitats, a site-specific assessment must be made – the input of the Parks Department and Heritage officer is sought at validation and referral stage for many types of application, a review of the criteria for referrals has recently been completed. In addition, the case planners have been endeavouring to visit sites at an earlier stage in the process and this would allow for referrals to relevant sections should matters relating to habitat protection or biodiversity arise onsite inspection. Where habitat studies have been completed, these have been mapped and are available on the GIS mapping system. Within the Enforcement team, each enforcement notice directing works is screened for potential impact on European Sites and consideration is given to how any notice will impact on existing habitats. Permitting development always has the potential to impact existing habitats and to create new habitats, environmental protection and biodiversity will continue to be a core consideration in carrying out the planning function.

Councillor Liston referenced a recent incident of the felling of trees in a very unsustainable manner noting there had been nothing in the planning conditions of the particular development, to prevent this from happening. She stated there was a need to tighten up the landscaping guidelines and looked forward to as much action as possible in this area going forward.

Mr Ryan stated the motion submitted had been general in nature and he was not aware of the case being referred to. He stated he was happy to look at the individual case when details were provided. He confirmed that there was a much greater emphasis in Local Area Plans on planting out key habitats and asked the members of each municipal district to identify the areas of greenland in their municipal district areas in this regard.

The members welcomed the motion and following discussion, agreed that it be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC for further consideration.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Vanessa Liston, seconded by Councillor Hamilton and agreed by all members present that the motion be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC for further consideration.

27/0620

Broadcasting at Public Meetings

The following motion in the name of Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy was considered. That the council give effect to the wishes of a majority of the council in June 2019 to introduce broadcasting of public council meetings, and given the research already completed by this council, and by other councils of the products/services available by which to introduce webcasting/broadcasting, that the Protocol and Procedures Committee be asked for the recommendation being waited upon as to how best to introduce broadcasting.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Pender.

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that a resolution was passed by council in June 2019 to implement the broadcasting of public meetings of the full council and referred the matter to the Protocol and Procedures Committee to consider a specific proposal and budgetary provision be made for its introduction during the forthcoming budgetary process. The motion is included on the work programme for the Protocol and Procedures Committee and has been considered. However, priority has been given to the review of Standing Orders for full council. The matter will be considered further once the review of standing orders programme for Full Council, Municipal Districts and the SPC's is complete.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated this motion had been passed a year ago and the delay in progressing the matter was disappointing especially given comments in the Moorehead report, supporting the introduction of this initiative nationally as was seen to be in line with the requirements of the programme for Government around openness and transparency. She enquired what the perceived timelines were for introducing the broadcasting of meetings, as agreed by the members in June 2019.

The Cathaoirleach noted the comments made stating that the timelines of many projects had now been pushed back due to the pandemic but this item was on the Protocol and Procedures committee work programme and would be dealt with as a priority. She added that there were a number of factors to be considered, one being the capital and operational cost of the project. The Chair of the Protocol and Procedures Committee Councillor McEvoy stated the priority work of the committee had been the review of Standing Orders and that the comment in the Moorehead report would be taken into account when further considering the matter. He added that any national guidance on the matter would be welcomed. He also noted that the requirements of the Code of Conduct would have to be factored into the deliberations on the introduction of

broadcasting. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated she found the broadening of the Protocol committees' role in this matter, as outlined by Councillor McEvoy to be deeply worrying. Concerns were expressed by Councillor Power in relation to the cost of implementing a stand-alone system versus a potential national system being rolled out, and that value for money had to be a consideration in the process.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all members that the report be noted, and the Protocol and Procedures Committee advance their report on how this is to be introduced, as a matter of urgency.

28/0620

Electrification of the Leixlip Maynooth Railway Line

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

That the council provide a status on discussions with the relevant agencies i.e. Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and Iarnród Éireann, and clarify the latest planning and dates for next steps for the electrification of the Leixlip Maynooth railway line and the Celbridge, Sallins-Naas, Newbridge and Kildare railway line to support completion of this critical infrastructure upgrade as rapidly as possible, including any plans for capacity modelling, capacity increase and electrification and expansion to double line beyond Maynooth to Kilcock and Enfield, addressing particularly our ability to influence the planning and integrate into our local area planning and next County Development Plan planning process.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Peter Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Killeen.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Iarnród Éireann have recently had discussions: (1) with the Chief Executive and Director of Services for Planning and Strategic Development, and (2) a virtual Teams meeting with Director of Services for Planning, Director of Service for Transportation, Senior Planner and Senior Engineer, Transportation. The purpose of the meetings was to outline, at a high level, the proposals for DART expansion on the Maynooth & Kildare lines. Following these meetings IE have requested that an IE/KCC working group be established in order that IE may brief the relevant planning and transportation staff on the development of the proposal. Staff contacts have been forwarded, but no subsequent meetings have been held as yet.

Councillor Hamilton noted the contents of the report and welcomed the establishment of a working group as outlined. He stated that there was a need for rail infrastructure to be integrated into the public transport process, the County Development Plan, spatial planning and metropolitan planning. He outlined the problems currently being experienced by users of the Maynooth line and the Newbridge-Kildare line and asked that double line electrification, as far as Enfield be considered. He thanked the members and the executive for their support on his motion.

Mr McDonnell confirmed meetings of the working group had been arranged for that week and next week and a Railway application Order for the Maynooth line had been made in 2020 with the Newbridge Order approximately 8 months behind that.

Following a query on how to ensure the cost of these works are in the Governments national capital spending plan, Councillor Keatley confirmed the council had ensured it was included in the recent variation to the County Development Plan and the NTA's Strategic Plan up to 2027.

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

29/0620

Approved Housing Body Partnership

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

That the council advertises for a partner Approved Housing Body, with a view to providing a public housing development of 12 or more housing units built specifically for people with different abilities, in both the north and south of the county; or proceeds with this development in its own right.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) provides funding to Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) for the provision of housing for special categories of applicants. The 2017 Call for CAS Proposals prioritised three categories of provision as follows: elderly, homelessness (including Care-leavers) and decongregation of people living in institutional settings.

Kildare County Council works in partnership with AHBs to deliver these specialist housing types, ensuring that the design of schemes for people with a disability does not lead to further congregation. In 2018, a Call for Proposals from AHBs was issued for the delivery of elderly

person housing on lands in the ownership of the council at the Dominican Lands, Athy and the ESB Site, Leixlip. The outcome of this process resulted in the selection of Cluid to develop both sites. A summary was given on the ongoing CAS schemes at development or construction stage.

Councillor Connolly stated the councils housing stock was lacking in bungalows and more disability friendly estates needed to be considered when developing the capital housing programme.

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

30/0620

Operational Dashboard for Reporting

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

That the council confirms if it has considered for implementation an operational dashboard reporting structure reflecting issues reported to the executive from varying departments and relevant performance leads, collating monthly performance reports and comparing month on month progress as per aims and targets set out.

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

A report was received from the Information Systems Department informing the members that the Executive has considered the implementation of an operational dashboard and earlier this year, the council applied through the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform public service innovation fund 2020 to secure funding for this initiative. Unfortunately, I was informed on the 12 May that we were unsuccessful in this application. Over the last year the IT department have implemented the office 365 suite of products, this suite includes the Microsoft Power BI tool which is considered a market leader in the provision of operational dashboards (Gartner 2020).

The biggest challenge at this stage is securing both the financial and IT resources to build such an operational dashboard and in addition, the most appropriate format to enable provision of information would need to be scoped corporately.

Councillor Killeen stated the purpose of an operational dashboard was to bring all relevant information together onto one platform, but it would be a separate innovation to CRM. Ms

Sweeney confirmed the council are reviewing the matter and will update the members as soon as there was further information available. The members agreed that the motion be referred to the Protocol and Procedures Committee, perhaps with a view to a sub-committee being formed to further consider the proposal.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Nuala Killeen, seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by all members present that the report be noted and the motion referred to the Protocol and Procedures Committee for inclusion in its work programme.

31/0620

Rural Planning Objectives

The following motion in the name of Councillor Robert Power was considered.

That in light of recent changes to economic and social circumstances brought about by the Covid19 pandemic, the need to reform our rural planning objectives and the substantial additional population allocation proposed through the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan, that rather than committing to any second variation of the County Development Plan that the council instead moves to commence a full review of the County Development Plan immediately.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Robert Power and seconded by Councillor Ward.

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that In accordance with the Planning & Development Acts 2000 (as amended) the council must, no later than 4 years after the adoption of the County Development Plan (CDP) 2017- 2023, initiate a review of its Development Plan. The legislative timeframe for such a review is 99 weeks and involves a series of consultations with Elected Members, Prescribed Bodies, State Agencies, interest groups and the general public. The process is generally made up of 3 stages - pre-draft, draft and material alterations stages.

Notwithstanding the nearly 2 years that a Planning Authority had to prepare its development plan, there are many background and research papers that are required in advance of the official review commencing. The review of the Kildare County Development Plan is scheduled to commence in January 2021. In advance of the publication of the notice to initiate the review of the CDP, the Forward Planning team is currently preparing a suite of research and background projects which will inform the review and development of policies and objectives for the forthcoming plan.

Staff are or will be working on a number of projects including:

- Rural Housing Policy Review Paper and Rural Design Guidelines
- Open Space and Recreation Strategy
- Social & Physical infrastructure Assessments for all 72 Settlements
- Wind Energy Strategy
- Housing Strategy or Housing Needs Demand Assessment (awaiting Ministerial guidance)
- Vacant Site Surveys
- Assessment of extant permissions across the county
- Strategic employment land bank identification
- Environmental sensitivity mapping
- Transport assessments
- Public consultation strategy
- Draft local area plans for Naas, Athy, Maynooth and Kildare

Local Authorities are also awaiting the publication of Development Plan Guidelines by the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government. These guidelines will inform and impact on the preparation of the Development Plan.

It is also important to note that there is a statutory obligation to carry out Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment background data collection and analysis during the period in advance of the Development Plan review officially commencing.

Councillor Power sought clarification around the timeline for a second variation and a full review of the County Development Plan stating some of the current plans policies were not working, citing examples of the recent changes in industries and new ways of working due to Covid, the new programme for Government and the review of the National Planning Framework.

Mr Ryan stated the members had agreed not to do a second variation and it had been resolved by a majority of the members to accept the Chief Executives report at the special planning meeting in June. He confirmed that work is already ongoing on the issues paper to inform the review of the County Development Plan and time was needed to do this important body of work.

Councillor Power stated he was happy to note the contents of the report for now and asked that the work outlined continue as quickly as possible.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Robert Power, seconded by Councillor Ward and agreed by members present, that the report be noted.

32/0620

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

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

That the council investigates and implement a system similar to the internationally recognised Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) scheme, ensuring that they involve all relevant stakeholders in its development including members of An Garda Síochána and the local community.

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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is a multi-disciplinary approach to crime prevention that uses urban and architectural design to 'design out crime' and it seeks to ensure effective management of the built and natural environment. The design principles can be used to reduce or minimise the likelihood of crime and include things like- Providing clear sight lines; minimising concealed or isolated routes; providing natural surveillance (overlooking from adjoining properties), reducing isolation; improving lighting on key routes; promoting appropriate land use mix; clear demarcation between public and private spaces and creating a sense of ownership through maintenance and management. These are really principles of good urban design and design principles that focus on the human scale and experience (Human Centred Design). Different approaches have been taken in different countries and organisations (such as police forces commenting on large housing schemes) and for Kildare County Council this could involve the incorporation of a policy, a design guide and/or a checklist for the Development Management Standards of the County Development Plan. The principle of CPTED or 'designing out crime' are accepted by the Planning Authority and we suggest that this could be explored further with the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC and the Joint Policing Committee.

Councillor Pender stated he was happy with the report and the suggestion that the motion be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC and the Joint Policing Committee. Councillor Brett informed the meeting that the consultation period for the Criminal Justice Strategy was currently ongoing and encouraged all members to participate.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Chris Pender, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by all members that the motion be referred to the Planning SPC and the Joint Policing Committee.

33/0620

Consent to Sale

The following motion in the name of Councillor Brian Dooley was considered.

That the council provides a report explaining why it currently takes, in excess of 9 months to get a "consent to sale" of a local authority house, which causes unnecessary stress, hardship and difficulties during a housing crisis, and outlines how this issue can be resolved.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Brian Dooley and seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that over the past 24 months the Conveyancing Section has experienced a marked increase in the number of consent for sale requests and general conveyancing queries received. This was associated with the recovery of the housing market and resulted in a backlog of queries.

In response, the Housing Section re-assigned resources to address the backlog. To date, all planning permission confirmations and deeds of discharge have been brought up to date. The section continues to work on requests for the purchase of freehold and consent to sales. While significant progress has been made, and we continue to work to address a number of outstanding requests, the Covid crisis has also impacted on progress, both from the availability of Housing staff and also delays in response from external legal representatives.

Councillor Dooley thanked the Director of Services for the report and asked that the council set realistic timeframes to deal with these requests. Councillor Stafford asked that work on Deeds of Discharge be brought up to date also.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Brian Dooley, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick and agreed by the members present, that the report be noted.

34/0620

Economic Task Force

The following motion in the name of Councillor Seamie Moore was considered.

That council members and the Executive agree to form an Economic Task Force, around the Chairperson and members of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic

Policy Committee, to undertake a rebranding of Kildare, to highlight and promote the advantages and suitability of the spinal corridor of both the M7 and Dublin-Cork rail line through mid-Kildare for greater national and international economic investment and for that task force to pursue the inclusion of the electrification of that rail line into the RSES Regional Plan and to seek the siting of a 3rd level Institute or outreach centres within Kildare, to enhance the conditions to give Regional Growth Centre status and Southern Economic Corridor status to the major towns within that corridor for the future and greater economic development of our county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Seamie Moore and seconded by Councillor Pender.

A report was received from the Community, Culture and Economic Development Department informing the members that a draft Economic Strategy is almost ready to go to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC for the consideration and input of the elected members.

This draft strategy has been produced with the support and expertise of industry leaders from the County together with the IDA and Maynooth University. The strategy and other promotional material produced before this have highlighted the strategic position of the county and its accessibility in terms of public transport and particularly the rail line. There has also been engagement with the FDI companies already based in Kildare to ensure that Kildare's pro-business and "open for business" message is communicated whenever the opportunity arises. On the basis of all of the above, I would respectfully suggest that the action suggested in the motion is already in train.

Councillor Moore stated that the future of the county was predetermined by a number of matters reiterating the fact that central Kildare had lost its designation as a Regional Growth Centre and that a strong lobbying group was needed as the new national guidelines were onerous. He stated he was heartened by the comments of the executive and acknowledged the work that was being done on this. Councillor Keatley stated that a clear commitment had already been given to this and a county with 40 elected members and 11 TD's and Senators was a very strong lobbying strength noting that Kildare had one of the highest foreign direct investment outside of Dublin and Cork.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Seamie Moore, seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all members that the report be noted.

35/0620

Pumping of water from Athy

The following joint motion in the names of Councillors Tracey O'Dwyer and Evie Sammon was considered.

That the council request Irish Water to make a presentation to members at the upcoming full council meeting outlining in detail Irish Water's proposed plan to pump water from Athy to serve the Ballymore Eustace, Brannockstown and Naas areas which currently receives its full (100%) water supply from Ballymore Eustace.

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

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department informing the members that subject to the approval of the members, this request can issue to Irish Water. For information, the council understands it is proposed to take an additional 15 megalitres per day from the Shrowland (Barrow) supply to alleviate constraints in the Greater Dublin Area. In turn, County Kildare will, with effect from next year, take less supply from the Ballymore Eustace plant. Accordingly, the areas of Brannockstown, Ballymore Eustace, Caragh, Naas, Johnstown, Sallins (south) will be served directly from the Barrow, which will be a harder water. Be assured that this supply complies fully with EU drinking water standards. Again, these are matters for Irish Water.

Councillor Sammon noted this request was time-sensitive and the Director of Service agreed to write to Irish Water as requested and offered to meet with Councillors O'Dwyer and Sammon on the matter.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Sammon and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and correspondence issue to Irish Water as requested.

36/0620

Kildare Village Signage

The following motion in the name of Councillor Veralouise Behan was considered.

That the council work with Kildare Retail Village which is one of the most widely used tourist/commercial venues in the county, and Kildare Fáilte to create a comprehensive signage programme to lead and guide traffic on regional and national roads in the county to this destination and work with modern technology entities i.e. Google Maps to align with this signage programme.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Veralouise Behan and seconded by Councillor Keatley.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council are willing to co-operate with developers of significant tourist attractions when they wish to provide directional signs along Regional and Local roads directing visitors to their premises. There is a recognised planning policy and procedure for this in Kildare. Clearly the matter must be initiated by the developer. The matter of signs on the national road network in Kildare is now controlled by Transport Infrastructure Ireland and they have clear policy relating to signage. Any element of advertising signage is a matter for the Planning Directorate. We will liaise with Kildare Village in their efforts to have Google Map redirected.

A report was also received from Into Kildare informing the members that Kildare Fáilte works closely with Kildare Village (Value Retail) as one of our key partners. Over 4 million visitors per annum are attracted to Kildare Village and it hosts a tourist information centre which is open 7 days a week offering a professional service to customers. Kildare Fáilte and Kildare Village have worked on many initiatives together promoting the area and have had discussions regarding tourist information signage.

It should be stated that signage on National Routes can only be placed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland and in compliance with national guidelines.

Councillor Behan welcomed the contents of the report and looked forward to the matter being advanced in a co-ordination manner, as outlined.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Veralouise Behan, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all members that the report be noted, and the Roads department liaise with Kildare Village in their efforts to get Google Maps re-routed.

The meeting concluded.