

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Full Council
held at 3:00 p.m.
Monday 26 July 2021 in
Newbridge Town Hall

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

Apologies: Councillors VL Behan, B Dooley, D Fitzpatrick, N Heavey, F McLoughlin Healy and P Ward

Also Present: Mr P Carey, Chief Executive, Ms A Aspell, Mr J Boland, Ms S Kavanagh (Directors of Service), Ms C Barrett and Ms M Hunt (A/Director of Service), Ms F Millane (A/Head of Finance), Ms C O'Grady (Meetings Administrator), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the July full council meeting reminding them of the protocols on speaking times and sought their co-operation in speaking with brevity to ensure an efficient use of the time available.

01/0721

Bereavements

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

Jim (James) Murphy, Revenue Collector, Finance and uncle of David Boyle Water Services.

John Keena recently retired Waterworks Overseer

Michéal Kane, father of Mick Kane Roads Department, Father in Law of Marie Kane Community Department and Father in Law of Brendan Sinnott, Roads Department

A minute's silence was observed.

02/0721

Declaration of Interests

The Cathaoirleach sought declarations of interests from the members under Section 177 of the Local Government Act, as amended.

There were no declarations of pecuniary or beneficial interests declared under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

03/0721

Minutes and Progress Report

The council considered the minutes of the annual meeting of council on 25th June 2021 and the monthly meeting on the 28th June 2021 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Brett seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by the members present that the minutes of the annual meeting on 25th June, 2021 and the monthly meeting on 28th June 2021, be adopted. The progress report was noted.

04/0721

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executives monthly management report.

05/0721

Section 183 Notice for Disposal of Lands

The members considered the statutory notices of the 13 July and 12 July pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended:

- i. Disposal of a portion of land approximately 18 sqm at 3,4,5 & 6 Rathasker Court, Naas, Co. Kildare
- ii. Disposal of 0.157 ha. of land at Kilgowan, Co. Kildare

The Cathaoirleach confirmed the members had received the statutory notices setting out the details of the proposed disposals.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by the members present that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended and statutory notice issued on 13 July 2021

That the disposal of a portion of land approximately 18 sqm at 3,4,5 & 6 Rathasker Court, Naas, Co. Kildare be approved.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Weld and agreed by the members present that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended and statutory notice issued on 12 July, 2021 that the disposal of 0.157 ha. of land at Kilgowan, Co. Kildare be approved

06/0721

Section 85 Agreement

The members considered the request pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, for the approval of a Section 85 Agreement with Wicklow County Council (The Lead Authority) for the Blessington Relief Road (N81 to the Naas Road).

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by the members present, that the Section 85 Agreement with Wicklow County Council (The Lead Authority) for the Blessington Relief Road (N81 to the Naas Road) be approved.

07/0721

Local Property Tax – Consideration of setting local adjustment factor

The members considered the report of the Chief Executive on the setting of a local adjustment factor for 2022 and the report on the submissions received during the public consultation. Two submissions were received.

Ms F Millane reported to the members that the 2021 budget was reasonably on target and it was for members to decide what the variation on the baseline of the Local Property tax should be for 2022.

She made the following observations

The adjustment to the baseline amount for 2021 stood at +7.5%

If the members decided to leave the adjustment at +7.5% there would be no change for 2022 for the majority of households (based on information from the Department on the likely outcome from the revaluations in November)

There were 7238 new builds between 2013 and 2020 according to the CSO which would now be included but the department had not indicated how this income would be distributed and that this would impact Budget 2023 not Budget 2022. Redistribution would be phased out.

The revaluations recently announced by the government would not come into effect until November.

There was a lack of clarity from the Department, pending Revenue getting updated valuations from homeowners

She informed the members that an increase of +2.5% on the current rate in 2022 would result in an increase in payment of approx. €10 per year for 88% of the households in the county
The Chief Executive complimented the members on what they had achieved for their communities through of the distribution of the LPT on excellent projects including parks, playgrounds and economic development.

Councillor Brett thanked Ms Millane for her report

Councillor Breslin proposed that the variation on the base line be increased from +7.5% to +10% for 2022 an increase of +2.5% on 2021. The proposal was seconded by Councillor McEvoy
Councillor Moore informed the members that LPT had benefited local communities through Public Realm projects and through schemes approved by the councillors when distributing the funding available to them.

Councillor Killeen pointed out that the base line for Kildare was based on the 1996 population figures. There had been no increase in funding from central government for Kildare while the council had to absorb the impact of the increase in population. The Government needed to address this.

The members voted on the proposal that the variation on the base line be increased from +7.5% for 2021 to +10% for 2022 an increase of 2.5% on 2021 LPT rate with 18 members voting in favour 4 members voting against and 10 members abstaining

The proposal was carried

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin seconded by Councillor McEvoy with 18 members voting in favour 4 members voting against and 10 members abstaining that the variation on the baseline LPT rate be +10.00% for 2022.

08/0721

Budgetary quarterly reports for the 3 months ended 31st March 2021

To budgetary quarterly reports for the 3 months ended 31st March 2021 had been circulated to the members.

The reports were noted

09/0721

Finished, unfinished, and estates under construction

The members considered a report on finished, unfinished and estates under construction

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that this detailed report was also available on the website and any question could be emailed to the Director of Services

Councillor Kelly commented that there were a number of estates in the Naas Municipal District that had been completed over 20 years that had not been taken in charge and wished to thank Mr Makhuzza from Building and Development Control for his efforts.

Councillor Stafford advised in the case of estates where the developer was insolvent that title fell to the Minister for Finance. The estates could be taken in charge but not the common areas. This was something that needed to be addressed nationally.

Councillor Doyle commended the staff from Building and Development Control noting that with the level of development in Kildare that this area needed to be resourced. She also suggested that the previous history of the Developer should be taken in account when decisions were being made on planning applications.

Ms Barrett thanked the members for their input. She advised the members that the council were engaging in the process to see if the council can take ownership of the common areas referred to by Councillor Stafford. She asked that the councillors bear with them until the new Building Regulations issue.

The report was noted.

10/0721

Date Change for September Full Council Meeting

The members considered the proposed change of date for the September full council meeting from 20 September to the 27 September.

A report was circulated from the Meetings Administrator informing the members that the September council meeting is scheduled for the 20th September as per the calendar of meetings agreed at the council meeting in November 2020.

The September meeting has been scheduled for a week earlier than normal for the past number of years so that decisions could be made on the LPT local adjustment factor and communicated to the Department within the timeframe they set.

Due to the change in timelines this year and the requirement to have the local adjustment factor on LPT agreed in July, it is not now necessary to move the September meeting from the last Monday in the month.

It is therefore open to the members to consider holding the September monthly council meeting on the last Monday of the month ie Monday 27 September if agreed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Sammon seconded by Councillor Feeney and agreed by the members present that the September meeting be held on the 27 September.

11/0721

Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade

The members considered the nomination of two elected members to the Community Forum for the Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade

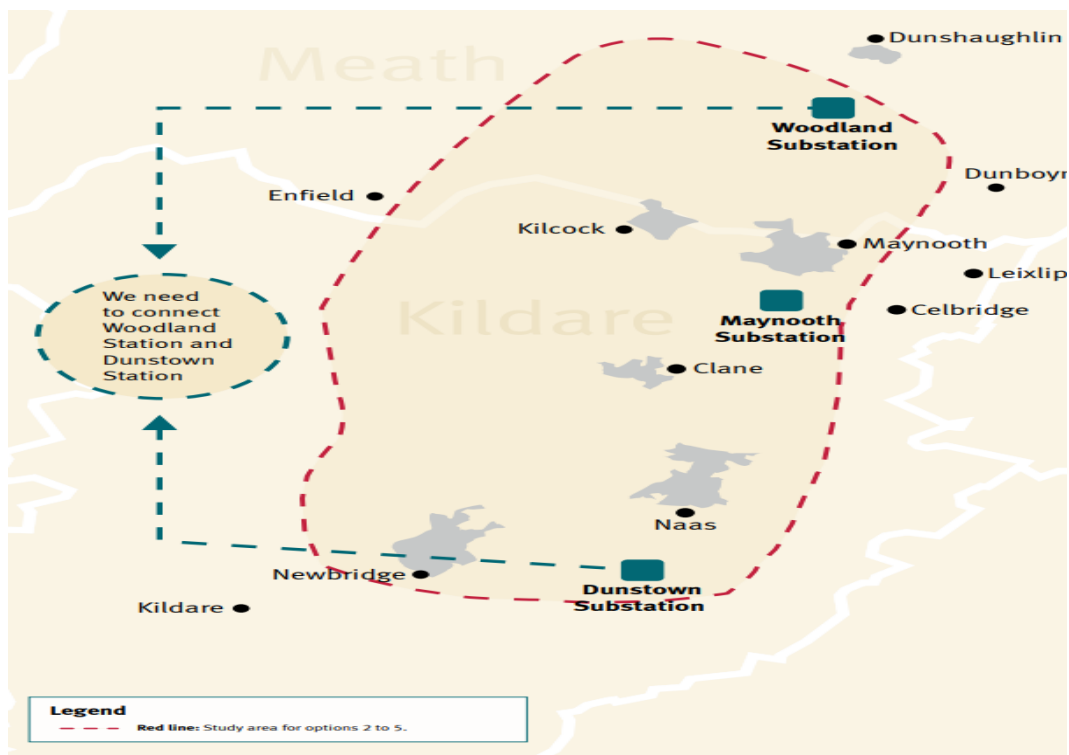
A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that the council has been advised that EirGrid have committed to establishing a community forum as part of their public engagement on the Kildare Meath Grid Upgrade Project. They have confirmed that Development Perspectives has been appointed as the community forum's independent facilitator and had invited Kildare County Council to be represented on this forum. The purpose of the forum was to:

- Represent the views of the community and facilitate a 'local voice'
- Provide guidance and feedback at key stages of the project
- Assist the resolution of local issues resulting from the project
- Identify local sources of information and analysis
- Communicate information to a wider group of regional and local stakeholders.
- In future, guide the implementation of Community Benefit

To ensure a fair representation, Kildare County Council has been invited to nominate two elected representatives with an interest in the project area and to assist with your deliberations, Eirgrid have supplied the attached map of the study area for this project for consideration when choosing your nominees to the forum. The Council are advised that EirGrid has informed all elected

representatives in the impacted Municipal Districts (Clane-Maynooth, Celbridge-Leixlip, Kildare-Newbridge and Naas) about the community forum and the invitation to put forward nominees

Map of study area



The Cathaoirleach advised that there were two positions to be filled with each being dealt with separately and in accordance with the provisions of section 37 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended. The Meeting Administrator explained the process.

Nomination 1, Councillor Sammon nominated Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer, this was seconded by Councillor Neville.

Councillor Liston nominated Councillor Hamilton, this was seconded Councillor Feeney

Councillor Killeen nominated Councillor Farrelly, this was seconded Councillor Pender.

All nominees agreed to their name going forward.

On the first count Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer received 13 votes Councillor Farrelly received 15 votes and Councillor Hamilton received 4. Councillor Hamilton was eliminated.

On the second vote Councillor Farrelly received 18 votes Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer received 14 votes. Councillor Aidan Farrelly was nominated for position number 1

Nomination 2, Councillor Sammon nominated Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer, this was seconded by Councillor Durkan

Councillor Liston nominated Councillor Hamilton, this was seconded by Councillor Feeney. Nominees agreed to their name going forward.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer received 23 votes and Councillor Hamilton received 8 votes therefore Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer was nominated for Position number 2.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen seconded by Councillor Pender and following a vote that Councillor Farrelly be nominated for position number 1 and on the proposal of Councillor Sammon seconded by Councillor Durkan and following a vote that Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer be nominated for position number 2.

It was further agreed that a presentation be given online by Eirgrid to all members on the 20th September to update them on the project.

12/0721

Gnó an Cathaoirleach/Cathaoirleachs Business

The Cathaoirleach sent best wishes to all the Kildare teams who were competing in the various GAA competitions over the following weekend. He also sent best wishes to those from Kildare who were competing or officiating at the Olympic games in Tokyo.

He thanked the members for their support for the Petina Croatia Relief Fund, and the work of the Men's Shed in Naas to get the materials to send out there following the earthquake. He also acknowledged the support given by Kildare County Council.

13/0721

Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed 20 items of correspondence circulated to the members, with the Progress Report including correspondence re responses to motions from councillors and 14 motion referrals from other local authorities. She also drew members attention to Circular LG02/21 which dealt with the implementation of the recommendations from the Moorehouse Report on Councillors Remuneration.

The correspondence was noted.

14/0721

Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator confirmed the report circulated included online training organised with the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement for Friday 10 September and also online Disability Awareness training which had been previously approved but additional dates had been added.

She also noted the request from Councillor F McLoughlin Healy to change from an online part time course to an online fulltime course over a shorter duration at the same cost and with the same qualification previously approved. The above were recommended by CPG for approval.

There were no conferences for approval.

Resolved by the members present that the conference and training report be approved.

15/0721

Housing Strategic Policy Committee Report

The Cathaoirleach noted that the next two items on the agenda were presentations from the Chairs of SPCs. He sought the members co-operation in raising any questions/queries they had on the presentations with the Chairs after the meeting, due to restrictions on meeting time.

The members received a report from the Chair of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee Councillor Brendan Weld

Councillor Weld informed the members of the membership of the committee and the key policy areas. He outlined their work plan as follows

1. Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness and Housing for All
2. Affordable Housing
3. Homelessness
4. Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with a Disability

A new plan is to be adopted in 2021.

5. Traveller Accommodation Programme
6. Anti Social Behaviour Strategy
7. Energy Efficiency Programme/Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme

He also advised of the challenges faced and opportunities that presented themselves under the following headings

Housing Supply and Affordability

Available landbanks

Rebuilding Ireland and Housing for All

Homelessness

Impact of Covid 19 on Service Provision

Resources

He confirmed that the committee had met on 3 occasions in 2021

The report was noted.

16/0721

Local Community & Culture Strategic Policy Committee Report.

The members received a report from the Chair of the Local Community & Culture Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). Councillor Aoife Breslin

Councillor Breslin informed the members of the membership of the committee and outlined their work plan up to 2024 under the following headings

1. Age Friendly
2. Libraries
3. Arts Services
4. Parks
5. Twinning/Integration/Roma Traveller Strategy/Community Development
6. Community Administration
7. Local Community Development Committee
8. Sports Partnership

She informed the members that the committee hoped to have the Draft Kildare Age Strategy 2022 to 2024 ready later in the year and to bring it to a council meeting early in 2022

She advised the members that the Committee had made a submission to the National Peatlands Strategy Mid-Term Review in support of the proposed national park. The SPC has agreed to make a similar submission to the County Development Plan when the Draft Plan is released.

She praised the work of the various departments and the great work they had done and continued to do.

She also thanked the Director of Services, the staff, members of the committee and the external agencies that they worked with

The report was noted.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Councillors Weld and Breslin for the very informative presentations noting the volume of work that was continuing, despite the impact of the ongoing pandemic and acknowledged the work of the council members, the external members and the executive in this regard.

17/0721

Flag Policy

The members considered recommendations from the Protocol and Procedures Committee on the Flag Policy.

A report was received from Corporate Services informing the members that a copy of the draft Flag Policy was circulated previously, which identified the proposed amendments to the policy submitted by the Protocol and Procedures Committee. The first amendment is on foot of a submission from Fire Services in relation to the use of the Kildare County Flag during a fire service funeral. The second amendment included is from a motion from Councillor Pender referred to the committee in relation to the flying of the Progressive Pride Flag, Bi Pride Flag and Trans Pride Flag on specific dates. The reference to the county flag has been amended to refer to the Kildare County Flag. The agreement of council was sought to approving this revised Flag policy.

An additional amendment was proposed by Councillor McEvoy and seconded by Councillor Brett that the following be added

Flags of Other Countries

Flags of Other Countries are flown on occasions where there is an official representative or representative group of another country visiting.

This was agreed by all the members

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor Brett and agreed by the members present that the revised flag policy including the amendment above be adopted.

18/0721

Additional Funding in the Upcoming Budget Estimates

The following joint motion in the names of Councillors Fintan Brett, Evie Sammon, Kevin Duffy, Brendan Wyse, Tim Durkan, Peggy O'Dwyer and Mark Stafford was considered by the members. That Kildare County Council include additional funding in the upcoming budget estimates to fund additional projects staff for the Parks Department, Public Realm Team and the Heritage Officer.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Brett and seconded by Councillor Durkan

A report from the Finance Department stated that the Finance Team is at the early stages of the budget process for 2022. At this stage there is no clear commitment of additional baseline funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Without this commitment, Finance expects that this will be a difficult budget to balance within the current envelope of funds.

It will, however, be open to the members to increase expenditure within these areas at the budget meeting, along with matching reductions to other expenditure lines.

Councillor Brett noted that members were aware of all of the projects going on in the county. The Parks Department had delivered 5 Playgrounds in the Naas Municipal District to date. There were Part VIII's that had to be progressed. With all the work going on in the Public Realm Department there was a need for a project manager for each municipal district. This had been discussed at the Regional Assembly and it was agreed that local authorities were disadvantaged when compared to the Dublin Authorities. If funding could be secured to take on additional staff in these areas it would be of great benefit to the council.

Councillor Duffy supported the motion advising that a project manager would play a central role in delivering these types of projects.

Ms Millane advised that she will do her utmost to secure an increase in the baseline funding.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by the members present that the report be noted

19/0721

Deficit of Funding and Staffing Levels

The following joint motion in the names of Councillors Nuala Killeen, Aidan Farrelly, Bill Clear and Chris Pender was considered by the members.

That the councillors collectively seek a briefing with the Minister and appropriate officials from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to discuss the significant deficit of appropriate funding and staffing levels to Kildare County Councils Baseline funding where the current needs and resources model of funding is based on the population figures as set out in the 1996 census of population, to acknowledge the increase in population in Kildare since then and also the increase in population that Kildare is tasked with absorbing and to discuss when the Department proposes to adequately fund the Council as per the current population in order to provide sufficient services to the public.

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

A report was received from A/Head of Finance advising that this was a matter for the members to agree. Members should be aware that a letter was sent to Minister O'Brien on the 2nd July 2021 making this argument, and advising that the Finance Committee, as representatives of the wider council, would be happy to meet with the Minister to discuss the funding difficulties facing Kildare. There has been no response as of today's date.

Councillor Killeen informed the members that Kildare had experienced significant growth in population over the last 20 years and had received less funding. Only Meath would have experienced similar growth. The county needed a significant increase in funding from central government. There were significant challenges facing Kildare, such as Climate Action and lack of resources. Councillor Farrelly asked that the members continue to push for a briefing from the Minister but if a response is received in the meantime, he would like to be made aware of it. Councillor Hamilton asked the Executive to support the members on this.

Ms Millane informed the members that the letter sent was fully supported by the Finance Committee and they would continue to seek a meeting with the Minister. This had also been requested by the Finance Committee last year. The Cathaoirleach indicated that he would write on behalf of the Council.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen seconded by Councillor Farrelly and agreed by the members that the Cathaoirleach write to the Minister and note that this is the second year of this council requesting such a meeting.

20/0721

Installation of Automated External Defibrillators as a condition of Planning.

The following joint motion in the names of Councillors Mark Leigh and Aoife Breslin was considered by the members.

That Kildare County Council writes to the Minister responsible for Local Government and for Planning with the following proposal: That as part of the conditions for planning applications for new housing estates, developers must install Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

The motion was proposed by Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Clear

A report from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department advised that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Leigh informed the members that the incident during the recent European Soccer Championship showed the need for and the benefit of having defibrillators available. Every minute without action reduced the likelihood of recovery by 10%

Councillor Coleman informed the meeting that O'Flynn developers had agreed to put in a defibrillator in a housing development that they were building and that this was the way to approach the issue

Councillor Killeen agreed that it was welcome to see Ambulance and First Responders having access to these, however there needed to be a policy on the installation and maintenance of them. People needed to have access to the codes to use them and their location also needed to be mapped. She questioned how they would be paid for.

Councillor McEvoy advised that Clane Maynooth MD had contributed for the installation of these using the LPT allocations. The community groups were responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of them.

It was suggested that this motion should also be referred to The Housing SPC who can liaise with the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC on the issues.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh seconded by Councillor Clear and agreed by the members present that the Council write to the Minster and that this motion also be referred to the Housing SPC who are to liaise with the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC on the issues

21/0721

Public Realm projects by municipal district in the Capital Budget.

The following motion in the name of Councillor Joe Neville was considered by the members. That the council ensures that the Public Realm team sets out equal projects by municipal district in the Capital Budget. The current Public Realm plan in the Capital Budget lacks balance and if Public Realm is to be a key driver of funding, we need to ensure we have a countywide approach in its focus.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Neville and seconded by Councillor Tracy O'Dwyer.

A report from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department informed the members that the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team are currently managing 60 projects across the county. These projects are of varying nature and scale and range from healthchecks, Town Renewal Plans (TRP), Part 8s, detailed designs, through to construction and completion. The team are currently working on Town Renewal Plans for several of our towns and villages. Where a Town Renewal Plan has been completed, the team has used the Plan to successfully gain substantial funding from a number of funding streams to deliver the projects identified in the Plan.

It is envisaged that as more Town Renewal Plans are completed, the projects identified in each Town Renewal Plan will appear in the Capital Programme, subject to funding sources being identified.

Councillor Neville informed the members that €42 to €46 million was allocated on capital projects of which one third of 1% was allocated to Celbridge Leixlip. The least number of playgrounds had been provided in the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal district. He believed a balanced approach needed to be adopted to allocation of projects. He acknowledged that this will change for next year for Celbridge Leixlip MD and noted that he had this item on the agenda before the Public Realm Team came to the MD meetings.

Councillor Killeen advised that there needed to be a Strategic Overview with 10 to 20 projects identified. It should be fair to everyone. There was not enough staff to deal with the volume of work Councillor Doyle informed the members that the priorities could be changed year to year but it should be equitable.

Councillor Duffy advised that members needed to take a full view of the Capital programme The amount spent in a municipal district would depend on the size of the capital project. It was requested that the Capital Report identify when an item comes on the programme and that equity be applied over a period.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville seconded by Councillor T. O'Dwyer and agreed by the members present that the report be noted

22/0721

Document Track and Receipt System

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

That Kildare County Council implement a simple document track and receipt system to be operated through the main reception counters in Áras Chill Dara.

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

A report from the Corporate Services Department informed the members that the council reviewed procedures regarding the management of post submitted at the Customer Service Counter in April last year in the context of the pandemic, and again in August 2020, following the lifting of the lockdown and the increased footfall and activity at our offices.

In the interests of Health and Safety and to avoid queuing and reduced excessive interaction between staff from different Departments, between couriers and staff and between customers and staff, and to reduce the repeated handling of post items, the following is the process:

- A locked large post box is placed at reception/main entrance to Áras Chill Dara and councillors and customers are asked to deposit items into this. This is located immediately in front of the manned Security Desk.
- This post box is emptied daily and post deposited in the post-room into the hatches for each Department.
- Individual Departments are responsible for distributing post from this location to their relevant Sections or staff.
- A separate post box is provided at the Planning Counter for planning post (based on sensitive statutory deadlines for Planning). Planning Department are key-holders and responsible for the management of this post.
- Couriers may leave work-related packages for staff of Kildare County Council at the storage trolley adjacent to the hatch at the manned public counter and the manned security desk. Where this occurs, Customer Service staff email and call the staff member/Section named on the package and ask them to collect immediately.
- The leaving of post for collection outside of this procedure is discouraged, with councillors and staff encouraged to use the locked post-box. In circumstances where a person attends the Customer Service counter for this purpose, basic information related to the item is noted in our Reception footfall counter log, and the post placed in the post box.
- If a post item is bulky and does not fit in the post box the relevant person/section is contacted to collect it from the Customer Service counter and if not collected, it is brought to the post room at the end of the day. These items are noted in the Reception footfall counter log.

- The overwhelming majority of post items brought to Áras Chill Dara are deposited in the locked post box as the customer is intercepted by the security guards who point them to the post-box. If our offices are closed, it can be left in the locked post box outside, which is also emptied daily.

This system has worked well throughout the pandemic both in terms of supporting social distancing and managing post with no recorded instances of breaches. In practical terms Departments have been notified to have due regard to security given that post may be delivered to sections where remote working and leave may result in lower than normal staff presence.

The procedure is due to be reviewed in August, however, it is evident at present that matters related to Covid will remain a significant factor to be considered in the context of this review.

Councillor O'Dwyer advised the members of complaints that she had received and stressed the importance of having a secure system. Applications submitted to the council often contained valuable documents. It was difficult to replace these

Councillor Doyle supported Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer and suggested post Covid that the documents be scanned using a double sticker system. Councillor Durkan also supported the motion requesting that applications be accepted by email.

Ms O'Grady advised that a review of the management of post was to take place in August. The council was trying to limit physical interaction by staff with customers and any unnecessary handling of packages and envelopes in the response to Covid. Not all documentation can be received by email as some documents have to be verified by the relevant departments however the members suggestions are welcome and will be considered in any future review.

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

23/0721

Review of the Residents Association Grant Scheme to factor in the voluntary contribution

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

That Kildare County Council as a landlord of houses in private estates reviews the current Residents Association Grant Scheme and factors in the voluntary contribution that is required in

order for residents associations to pay for basic grass cutting and maintenance works in private housing estates.

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

A report from the Community and Economic Development Department stated that Residents Association are paid on the basis of number of houses in the estate and green areas etc. Not all Residents Associations apply for grants on the basis that they represent all houses. It has not been possible to increase funding for grants in recent budgets due to pressures on the council's overall finances. The discussion on voluntary contributions is generally a matter for the Residents Associations to pursue. However, it might be in order to refer this matter to an SPC to discuss the matter further.

Councillor Cussen explained that as a landlord in housing estates she believed that the council should be contributing on behalf of their tenants as it costs residents associations an average of €850 per annum for grass cutting. This was funded by voluntary contributions and grants from LPT. Kildare County Council was not obliged to make a contribution on behalf of their tenants. She felt this might be a matter for the SPC to come up with a policy.

The members raised the following points

As the level of social housing increased this would put extra pressure on residents associations

Members felt there was an imbalance in payment of grants between newer and older estates

Was there an agreement with the tenant to pay a contribution

Ms Kavanagh informed the members that the Community and Culture SPC could look at this She also advised that there could be an issue with budgets and informed members that some municipal district committees had topped up grants to resident associations.

Councillor Cussen advised that Climate Action were trying to get residents associations to change practices and as grass cutting was labour intensive this might be an opportunity, She was happy to have this referred to the Community and Culture SPC

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members present that this motion be referred to the Community and Culture SPC

24/0721

Explanations of Locally Derived Housing Estate Names

The following motion in the name of Councillor Colm Kenny was considered by the members.

That the explanations of locally derived housing estate names be published to inform new residents and the wider public of their locally linked heritage. The use of names such as Finlay Park, Mullen Park and Whitewell are welcome but require explanation.

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

A report from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department informed the members that planning permissions for residential developments included a condition in respect of the naming of the development which is required to comply with the Council's policy on naming of new residential developments. Developers are required to submit three naming proposals in Irish and English in accordance with Policy 17.4.2 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023:

17.4.2 Naming and Advertising of New Developments

Name of residential and other developments shall reflect local heritage by incorporating local place-names or names of geographical, historical or cultural significance to the site location. Names of developments shall include the use of the Irish language. In order to ensure the above and to avoid confusion and duplication, the naming of developments will require the prior agreement of the Planning Authority. Proposed names shall be submitted to the Planning Authority and agreed prior to launching any advertising campaign for the development.

All compliance documentation in respect of the naming of new residential developments is available to the public to view on the online planning system under the relevant planning permission.

Councillor Kenny accepted the report but informed the members that the council needed to explain where names came from.

Members raised the following points

- There was a staff member in the planning department who used to check the proposed names submitted by the developer

- The naming of developments needed to be resolved

- There was inconsistency in the naming protocol

- This should be dealt with as part of the County Development Plan

- Proposed names should be submitted with the Planning Application.

Ms Hunt informed the members that she noted the feedback given from the members and needed to seek advice on this from the Senior Planner on how she should review the naming of estates

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kenny seconded by Councillor Noel Connolly with the agreement of the members present that the report be noted and Ms Hunt would seek advice from the Senior Planner on how she should review the naming of estates

25/0721

Segregated Street Bins

The following motion in the name of Councillor Vanessa Liston was considered by the members. That the council runs a trial of single recycling receptacles alongside general waste bins in suitable locations in the county with the view to measuring and evaluating the potential impact of segregated street bins on diverting waste from landfill/recovery to recycling.

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

A report from the Director of Service for Water Services, Environment and Climate Action informed the members that this matter was discussed in detail at the May meeting of the Celbridge- Leixlip Municipal District Committee.

By way of background, the Council's Transportation and Environment Departments are jointly working on developing a more robust policy around the provision of street litter bins which, inter alia, will be mindful of not just the initial purchase and installation costs but also the ongoing maintenance and servicing costs. Currently, there is no scope within the existing Municipal District budgets to provide additional bins.

The provision of segregated recycling bins in the district, offering recycle "on the go", would be difficult to enforce and manage. In particular, the trucks used to service bins would have to have capacity for segregation. There would also be a requirement to have segregated storage facilities for recyclates at depots as well as other logistical arrangements relating to ultimate disposal. The market for recyclates can be volatile and it is possible that this might lead to additional costs. This aspect would have to be further researched.

It is understood that trials in this area previously by Dublin City Council provided disappointing results with high contamination levels rendering the bin contents difficult for recycling. However, this trial is now being repeated and it will be interesting to ascertain the outcome. In this context, the (DCC) Regional Co-Ordinator has offered to attend a forthcoming meeting of the SPC to set

out the results of this latest pilot and it might be best to await his report.

It is, however, accepted that there is a merit in the proposal, and it would be good to show a lead particularly as the circular economy is now a key national impetus. The council will, therefore, research the matter further in conjunction with the SPC and keep the members informed, in due course.

Finally, it should be noted that generally the major waste collection companies segregate the waste material through Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) prior to final disposal.

Councillor Liston informed the members that there was an opportunity to look at how the council deal with waste disposal. There had been a pilot run in Dublin City and it would be beneficial to examine the results of this. She advised 152 tonnes of unsegregated waste was collected and 0% was recycled

If dual aperture bins were used 100% could be recycled. She would like to see this motion referred to Environment and Water SPC

The members raised the following points

- It was important that the council be innovative when dealing with waste collection

- Sports clubs had collected recycling waste as a fund raiser

- Disposal of waste should be consistent with other forms of recycling

- There was lack of funding in this area

- A pilot scheme would be beneficial

- This should be referred to the Climate Action SPC

Mr Boland agreed that the council needed to innovative. He had spoken with the lead in the Dublin pilot which had not been successful. He was keen for the results of the pilot to come to the SPC for consideration

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and this motion be referred to the Climate Action SPC

26/0721

Retirement of Chief Executive

The Cathaoirleach stated that this was the last council meeting which Mr Carey would attend as Chief Executive of Kildare County Council. He wished him well on his retirement and thanked him on behalf of the members and people of Kildare.

He acknowledged his contribution to the county and saying that Kildare was a better place today due in no small part to the work of Mr Carey and his team.

The members joined in thanking Mr Carey and wished him well on his retirement.

Mr Carey thanked the members and highlighted what had been achieved and what was in progress. He also highlighted the many challenges faced by the Council in the future.

He thanked his wife and family for their support and informed the members that in 40 years of service he had lived in 8 different locations as his career developed.

He thanked the management team and the staff for their support and for their work. He thanked community groups and the council's partners and he remembered colleagues who had passed away. He thanked the media for their role in reporting on meeting and wished the members and the staff all the best for the future.

The meeting concluded