

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Full Council
held at 3:00 p.m.
Monday 31 May 2021 on
Microsoft Teams

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

Apologies: Councillor VL Behan

Also Present: Mr P Carey, Chief Executive, Ms A Aspell, Mr J Boland, Ms S Kavanagh and Mr E Ryan (Directors of Service), Ms C Barrett (A/Director 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 May online meeting of full council. He confirmed that the press and the public were attending via email on Teams and advised all attendees that recording was prohibited. He drew the members attention to the guidance for online meetings and asked that members refrain from posting on social media during the meeting. He confirmed there would be a break at 4.30pm and the meeting would conclude at 6pm with a decision made on any outstanding items at that point.

01/0521

Bereavements

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

Liam Coleman brother of Cllr. Michael Coleman

Mrs Helen McDermott, mother of Denis McDermott, in the Community Department, also sister of our retired colleague Tina Bradley.

Mr Douglas O'Connor father of Jeanne-Noelle O'Connor Health & Safety

A minute's silence was observed.

02/0521

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).

03/0521

Minutes and Progress Report

The council considered the minutes of the monthly meeting on 26 April 2021 together with the progress report. The Meetings Administrator sought the members approval to an amendment to item 10/0421 – Appointment of external nominee to SPC. She confirmed the name provided to the council in relation to the appointment of the IFA's pillar nominee to the Environment and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee was incorrect and should have stated Mr Thomas O'Connor, not Mr Thomas Moore as reported to, and approved at the April plenary meeting of council.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan seconded by Councillor Hamilton and agreed by the members present, the minutes of the monthly meeting on 26 April 2021, and the proposed amendment, were adopted. The progress report was noted.

04/0521

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executives monthly management report.

Councillor Wyse asked that an update on the Allenwood Playground be included in this report every month.

05/0521

Section 183 Notice for Disposal of Lands

The members considered the statutory notices of the 10 May and 20 May 2021 respectively pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended:

- i. Disposal of 5 Priory Village Calverstown.
- ii. Disposal of 0.025ha at Barnhall Leixlip, to Irish Water for the purpose of an extension to the existing pumping station.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed the members had received the statutory notices setting out the details of the proposed disposals. Following enquiry, the Director of Service confirmed the valuation method used for leaseholds was based on market values and a harmonised index for rent based on relevant statistical information and undertook to circulate this information to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members present that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended and statutory notice issued on 10 May, 2021 that the council consent to the Disposal of 5 Priory Village Calverstown by way of lease.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members present that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended and statutory notice issued on 20 May, 2021 that the council agree to the disposal of 0.025ha at Barnhall Leixlip, to Irish Water for the purpose of an extension to the existing pumping station.

06/0521

Draft Annual Report 2020

The members considered the Draft Annual Report 2020 including the Progress Report on the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020 and noted the 2020 Progress Report on the Corporate Plan 2019 – 2024. The Meetings Administrator confirmed that the NOAC service indicators 2020 for Kildare would be appended to the Annual Report 2020, once the final NOAC report was confirmed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Hamilton seconded by Councillor Brett and agreed by the members present to approve the draft Annual Report 2020 including the Progress Report on the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020 and to note the 2020 Progress Report on the Corporate Plan 2019 – 2024.

07/0521

Draft Casual Trading Selection Policy

The members considered the Draft Casual Trading Selection Policy circulated in advance of the meeting. The Meetings Administrator stated that the draft policy had been approved by the

Environment and Water Services SPC and had the support of CPG. She confirmed that legal advice has indicated that the high-level selection criteria governing decisions on the award of trading licences, be contained in a policy separate to the Casual Trading Bye Laws. Under the regulations the selection criteria should be transparent and accessible and made public in advance of decisions relating to casual trading applications.

Councillor Doyle complimented the work done by Mr Tony Shanahan on the draft policy noting this policy would now the inform the bye-laws.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Cussen and agreed by the members present to approve the draft Casual Trading Selection Policy be approved.

08/0521

Draft Standing Orders for Strategic Policy Committees

The members considered the Draft Standing Orders for Strategic Policy Committees. The Meetings Administrator confirmed these had been prepared by the Protocol and Procedures Committee and had the support of CPG. She confirmed they would apply to all SPCs and their approval required two thirds of the council membership to vote in their favour. She noted they were more wide-ranging than the previous SPC Standing Orders and that 10 days' notice was proposed for meetings and that the reports for meetings would issue at least 10 days in advance also.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wyse, seconded by Councillor Kelly and with 27 members voting in favour, no member voting against and no abstentions, the Standing Orders for Strategic Policy Committees were approved.

09/0521

UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List

The members received a presentation and considered the request to pledge support for the "Royal Sites" Application for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List in association with Meath, Westmeath, Roscommon & Tipperary County Councils and Armagh Craigavon Banbridge Borough Council.

Resolved with the unanimous agreement of the members, Kildare County Council pledged support for the "Royal Sites" Application for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative

List in association with Meath, Westmeath, Roscommon & Tipperary County Councils and Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Borough Council.

10/0521

Gnó an Cathaoirleach/Cathaoirleachs Business

The Cathaoirleach congratulated Councillor Brian Dooley on his recent Everest Challenge to raise funds for Pieta House. He confirmed that an on-line Book of Condolence had been opened for the late Tom Hickey, who had been born in Calverstown but who had lived in Naas for most of his life and was the sister of former staff member Phil Hickey.

11/0521

Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

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

12/0521

Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator confirmed the report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It included details of an Ability Focus, Live Online Disability Awareness Training event with a scheduled date to be confirmed. CPG had approved the training request as outlined. She also confirmed there were no conferences for approval this month.

Resolved with the agreement of the members present, attendance at the Ability Focus, Live Online Disability Awareness Training was approved.

13/0521

Motion referral from the Athy MD

The following motion referred from the Athy Municipal District was considered by the members. That the council provide funding to commemorate all those buried in St Marys Cemetery Athy. This fund will enable the design and construction of a suitable memorial to the memory of all those sadly neglected souls, that died in Athy's Workhouse and County Home.

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

A report from the Corporate Services Department gave the detail of the report that issued to the Athy Municipal District Committee and the extract of the minutes of the meeting where it was discussed.

Councillor Breslin stated that in light of previous motions and discussion at council, it was considered appropriate to refer this motion to the full council as the residents of the County Home came from all over the county. She noted and welcomed the previous apology that had issued to the survivors and their families by the Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive and sought the council's support in progressing a suitable memorial to the memory of all those that had died in Athy's Workhouse and County Home. She also sought the support of the Chairs of each of the Municipal District Committees, to work together and agree a funding proposal via LPT for each Municipal District.

A discussion ensued with the members fully supportive of the proposal and agreed that the matter be referred to the Decade of Commemoration Committee.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by the members present that the motion be referred to the Decade of Commemoration Committee and funding considered by each Municipal District Committee via their LPT allocation.

14/0521

Report referral from the Protocol and Procedures Committee

The members considered the Draft Standing Orders for Petitions to the Cathaoirleach.

The Cathaoirleach referred to the report that had been circulated in advance of the meeting and confirmed these had been prepared by the Protocol and Procedures Committee and had the support of CPG. He noted that the proposal would give the members a mechanism for raising and effecting action on matters related to non-council business and proposed the members could trial this procedure if the Standing Orders were approved. The Meetings Administrator confirmed their approval required two thirds of the council membership to vote in their favour.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford seconded by Councillor Kelly and with 29 members voting in favour, 4 voting against and no abstentions, the Standing Orders for Petitions to the Cathaoirleach were approved.

15/0521

Report from the Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee

The members received a presentation from Councillor Hamilton, Chair of the Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee. Councillor Hamilton outlined the 6-month priority areas from an organisational and practical focus viewpoint and detailed the meetings and works carried out since the SPC first met in 2020 ie. compilation of the SPC work programme, Decarbonisation Zone recommendation, Peatlands National Park, overview of Climate Action Fund and Public Services Innovation fund, Sustainable Energy Communities initiative and many more. He noted the significant input and support given to the SPC by CARO and the Climate Action Officer, the Energy Efficiency Officer and the entire Climate Action Team. He confirmed that the SPC had met with Minister Eamon Ryan in February 2021 and he had emphasised a number of policy areas including retrofits, biodiversity, energy reduction, active travel, National Planning Framework and Sustainable Planning. Councillor Hamilton also confirmed the committee was now considering the requirements of the forthcoming Climate (Amendment) Act.

The members thanked Councillor Hamilton for the impressive and comprehensive report which instilled great confidence in the work being done by the committee. Councillor Wyse also expressed his thanks and noted the importance of avoiding conflicting objectives, that might impact the Climate Action agenda, in the current review of the County Development Plan.

Director of Service, Mr Boland thanked Councillor Hamilton and all the members of the SPC for the positive and progressive work being done and acknowledged the significant buy in across the organisation. He stated that Government funding/grants and local funding allocations were facilitating and supporting this sea-change in approach both nationally and locally.

The report was noted.

16/0521

Report from the Environmental Services and Water Strategic Policy Committee

The members received a presentation from Councillor Suzanne Doyle, Chair of the Environmental Services and Water Strategic Policy Committee. Councillor Doyle outlined the policy issues the committee had been dealing with to include the consideration of current environmental awareness initiatives, assessment of Tidy Towns activities, an initial review of the Litter Management Plan, the consideration of the Flood Alleviation programme and the use of CCTV data protection. She outlined the work programme for the SPC which was based on the policy issues referenced and other matters as they arise or are referred. She confirmed the committee had also considered a case study of green procurement (Kerdiffstown) and had received presentations on community

composting from the Irish Peatland Council and on a proposal for a National Peatland Park in the Bog of Allen. Councillor Doyle confirmed that the committee had been considering all the legislative and policy aspects relating to public markets and had recommended the adoption of a policy to support bye-laws with regard to use of public spaces to conduct markets. The Committee had also recommended the Litter Management Plan which had been adopted by the full council in April. Councillor Doyle concluded by thanking all the members of the SPC and welcoming its most recent representative Mr Thomas O'Connor and thanked the staff for their support to the committee also.

Councillor Doyle referred to the joint report that had been circulated that morning, in relation to the previous motion referral from the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee which had been debated at the April meeting of plenary council as follows:

That the council resolve the issue of litter in public areas throughout the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District given COVID-19 Legislation and the Alcohol Bye-Laws to the satisfaction of the members and the public by providing 1,100 litre commercial bins where necessary while paying particular attention to areas with high levels of pedestrian/cyclist traffic to include but not limited to playgrounds, parks, harbours, greenways, public walkways, town squares and any other public amenity spaces.

She expressed her dissatisfaction at receiving the report the morning of the meeting and whilst an increased collection service and replacement bins were welcomed, it was not acceptable that members were being asked to provide LPT funding for this purpose until such time as clarity was received on the use of the €5m Government funding initiative. She noted that if there was an emergency weather event, funding would be sourced immediately and emphasised that litter management was fundamentally as important and was central to the wellbeing of communities and the recovery of the economy.

Councillor Doyle proposed to suspend standing orders to submit a motion that the council run a budget deficit to fund these initiatives and not out of LPT funding as had been proposed in the report. Councillor Íde Cussen supported the proposal to suspend standing orders.

Ms Millane acknowledged Councillor Doyle's comments but in advance of suspending standing orders, she confirmed that the council were agreeable to an overspend in the current year to fund

these initiatives but this was a “covid-related” overspend and emphasised that the overspend was for the current year only.

Mr Boland noted the members frustrations stating the council had been very active in trying to manage this difficult situation and had spent more than €4m a year on litter management which was not sustainable going forward. He took the opportunity to acknowledge the fantastic work being done by Tidy Towns Committees across the county and confirmed the new collection regime as outlined in the report would be in place from the weekend. He apologised for the lateness of the report and hoped that the councils reasonable and proportionate response would make a significant difference over the summer months.

The Chief Executive thanked the members and the SPC for their work in this most important area noting the executive was absolutely aware of the acuteness of the matter and were acting on it with the member’s support. He stated that regrettably, it was a societal problem and enhanced education awareness was needed.

Following further discussion, the members stated they were happy to accept Ms Millane’s proposal to fund the cost of the enhanced initiatives outlined by way of an overspend in the current year and would keep the matter under review. The Cathaoirleach stated that on this basis, there was no need to suspend standing orders and he was happy to facilitate a special meeting dedicated to the issue of litter management if the members felt it was warranted.

The report was noted.

17/0521

Innovation in Kildare Based Enterprises

The following joint motion in the names of Councillors Ciara Galvin and Anne Breen was considered by the members.

That the Local Enterprise Office seek a briefing from the IDEAS Institute in relation to workplace innovation, education and research and from SIPTU in relation to workplace democracy, to establish how these could foster innovation in Kildare based enterprises.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Galvin and seconded by Councillor Breen.

A report was received from the Economic Development, Community and Culture Department informing the members that the imminent publication of this Economic Strategy for County Kildare, adopted by full council, and the proposed new four year Local Enterprise Development Plan are the culmination of lengthy consultation processes with key stakeholders that reflect the current and future challenges and opportunities facing our economy and our communities. A key part of both strategies is fostering innovation in Kildare based enterprises and it is felt that both the Strategy and the Plan address this. If, however, the members feel that it would be of benefit to them then they are welcome to invite the IDEAS Institute and SIPTU to give them a briefing.

Councillor Galvin noted the report but stated a briefing as suggested would be beneficial in the areas of workplace democracy and work efficiency noting SIPTU had evidence to back this. She stated she could not see anything in the Economic Strategy that would expand innovation in this regard and asked that LEO reconsider their position and seek these briefings and hear the cases being made.

Ms Kavanagh, Director of Service noted Councillor Galvin's comments confirming innovation was key for the county and stated she was happy for LEO to receive a briefing and would work on the logistics of this with Councillor Galvin.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Galvin seconded by Councillor Breen and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and the Director of Service to liaise with Councillor Galvin to arrange a briefing for LEO.

18/0521

Housing Developments and Foreign Investment Funds

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

That Kildare County Council calls on the Government to urgently introduce legislation that prevents foreign investment funds from bulk buying in new housing developments in our county.

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

A report was received from the Housing and Corporate Services Department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree and if agreed, the motion could be referred as requested.

Councillor Feeney cited the recent case of the housing development in Maynooth where both the general public and the local authority had been outbid in the market by this investment fund. She stated it was incumbent on the members to raise this issue and seek a solution as the delivery of housing was failing badly as a result of this practise. She stated the scenario that had played out in Maynooth had created a huge sense of despair and that emergency legislation should be enacted immediately to address this serious issue. She also sought clarity on whether anything could be done through the planning application process to prevent this from happening.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Aoife Breslin seconded by Councillor Feeney and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and the motion referred as requested.

19/0521

Request for Briefing from the Minister for Housing

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

That Kildare County Council requests a briefing for members with the Minister for Housing to address the transparency of housing delivery under the five pillars of social housing delivery and the role of state-backed private investor funds in purchasing housing developments in Kildare.

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

A report was received from the Housing and Corporate Services Department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree and if agreed, the motion could be referred as requested.

Councillor Farrelly noted there had been no response to date from the Minister on his previous motion relating to leasing and a briefing was now needed with the Minister to address the concerns that have been highlighted by the members and the impact of leasing on its users and the detrimental financial legacy that would be left for local authorities into the future. Councillor Killeen supported the motion stating an “all of Kildare” approach was needed, and the commodification of housing and our communities had to stop.

A discussion ensued in which the members supported the request for a briefing noting the fault lay with national legislation and this needed to change. They agreed that local authorities needed to be given the resources to build affordable homes and that their role in the upcoming review of the County Development Plan would be very important in this regard. They also asked that the council expedite the use of its own land bank to build housing and to consider the purchase of land and the sale of private sites as a method of delivery also.

Ms Aspell, Director of Services stated correspondence has been received from the Minister on the matter but it had related to the planning function rather than the housing function.

Director of Service Mr Ryan confirmed the DHLGH had issued a circular to all Directors of Planning setting out conditions for planning relating to housing developments and undertook to circulate this to the members for their information. He noted that for applications over 5 units, the applicant would now have to enter into a Section 47 agreement with the local authority in relation to the sale of units, and this was being applied with immediate effect.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and the motion referred to the Minister for Housing seeking a briefing.

20/0521

Negotiations with Third Parties on Large Scale Leasing

The following joint motion in the names of Councillors Joe Neville, Tracey O'Dwyer, Evie Sammon and Tim Durkan was considered by the members.

That Kildare County Council pauses any negotiations with third parties on large scale leasing (greater than 10 units) until further information is received from Government regarding legislation related to this function.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Neville and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer.

A report was received from Housing and Corporate Services Department informing the members that the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has identified leasing as a housing delivery stream under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme. Funding has been set aside under this delivery stream for delivery of leased units, separate to funding under the Social Housing Investment Programme which delivers housing through build and acquisition

[including Part V]. Under the Government's Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness, ambitious targets were set for delivery of social housing, including 2,450 units to be funded across the country through leasing in 2021. While we await publication of the new Housing Strategy, "Housing for All", we anticipate that ambitious targets will again be set for delivery of social and also affordable housing over the lifetime of the strategy. The achievement of these targets will require a blended approach to delivery, across a range of funding streams both capital and current.

All social housing delivered by Kildare County Council requires the approval of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and must be compliant with all policies and procedures set down for the delivery of social housing. No direction has been received from the Department with regard to any changes to the mechanisms for delivery of leased units either through the Standard Lease or Enhanced Lease.

Councillor Neville noted that a proposal had been brought through the Dáil on this and it was being dealt with on a national level, but that this joint motion had been tabled with a view to seeing what action the council could itself take. He fully accepted that the Housing Department were carrying out their role as set down by Government but was asking that it paused any such negotiations for now, given the issues that were being debated nationally.

Further discussion took place where the members reiterated their concerns over leasing arrangements, the financial implications of entering into these agreements, the fact that the issue was merely pushing the housing problem out by 25 years and queried whether Section 47 agreements could be used for leasing. Councillor Moore stated the leasing arrangement the council had entered into for 120 units in Naas had reduced the housing list in Naas by one third and supported the leasing arrangement that had been entered into noting that some leasing arrangements are worth entering into.

Ms Aspell confirmed that the delivery of housing was an executive function and reiterated that the funding for leasing is off balance sheet and the Department have indicated it continued to be a mechanism for the delivery of social housing. She noted that the request to pause negotiations would have significant effect on the delivery of the councils housing programme. She outlined the difficulty the local authority has in purchasing land and that leasing was currently enabling the delivery of social housing. Following enquiry, Ms Aspell stated that the council's responsibility to the tenant under leasing agreements was similar to those under the RAS scheme and undertook

to recirculate the presentation that had been delivered previously on the whole area of leasing. Councillor McLoughlin Healy enquired regarding the possibility of receiving a briefing from someone external to the council and undertook to liaise with the Cathaoirleach in this regard.

Councillor Neville welcomed the debate stating that leasing units for a period of 25 years, and then handing the units back just did not make financial sense and sought a vote on the motion. The Cathaoirleach called for a show of hands vote.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer with 29 members voting in favour, 4 members voting against and 3 abstaining, the motion was passed.

Ms Aspell reiterated that the delivery of housing was an executive function.

21/05421

Fixed Penalty Notices/Fines

The following joint motion in the names of Councillors Carmel Kelly, Veralouise Behan, Anne Connolly, Michael Coleman, Suzanne Doyle, Paul Ward, Brian Dooley and Bernard Caldwell was considered by the members.

That following the introduction on the 1 March 2019 of Bye-laws for the Regulation and Control of Waste Management (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) within the county, that the council now provides a report which includes

- a) The number of fixed penalty notices/fines have been issued to Households in respect of 2.1 (Obligation to participate in a Waste Collection Service) and
- b) The number of fixed penalty notices/fines have been issued in respect of 2.8 (Additional Provisions Householders not availing of Kerbside Collections Service where documentation, including receipts was not produced as proof that waste was removed and managed in a manner that conforms to these byelaws)

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

A report was received from the Environment, Water Services and Climate Action Department informing the members that the principal legislation relating to waste activities is contained in the **Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended)**. Specifically, the council has powers under this Act (Section 18) requiring householders to provide information on measures taken for the disposal of waste. These are invoked by the council on a regular basis.

The Waste Management Byelaws as outlined in the motion, which became effective in March 2019, on the segregation, storage and presentation of household and commercial waste, govern a range of related issues. The primary purpose is to ensure that homes and businesses located in County Kildare take appropriate measures to ensure that waste is stored, managed, presented and collected in a manner so that risk to the environment is minimised, as well as encouraging greater segregation to reduce volumes of residual waste collected.

The Bye-laws include a provision obliging consumers to ensure that waste arising from that property/business is collected by an authorised waste collector and/or to provide documentary proof on alternative means (e.g., civic amenity sites) used to dispose of their waste.

Based on actual experience to date, Section 18 of the Waste Management Act has been a more expedient method of seeking information on how individual household waste and commercial waste is disposed of and the council, therefore, regularly uses this approach as a means of gathering information as a preliminary to taking enforcement action. Such action can involve using specific powers included in the Waste Management Acts (for more serious cases) or, in other instances, the issue of a litter fine [average of 3/400 issued annually]. For information, some 92% of householders in the county do have access to a kerbside collection.

Routine inspections are also conducted of both domestic and commercial properties to ensure compliance with various aspects of waste management legislation by both the community wardens and the environmental overseers.

The council's wardens also monitor the 'segregation, storage and presentation' of waste aspect and communicate directly with the household or businesses where appropriate. This can be an issue in urban areas particularly in relation to some trade waste bins. The focus here typically is to ensure nuisance issues, such as litter generation, odours and the negative visual impact caused by overflowing bins and burst or damaged plastic bags left in public areas, are minimised or eliminated. **(It should be noted that physical calls to individual households and businesses has been curtailed to a large extent in the past year due to Covid-related restrictions.)**

The Council work with relevant stakeholders, WERLA (the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority), the National Waste Collection Permit Officer (NWCPO), An Garda Síochána, local service providers etc., to ensure efficient use of resources and consistent adherence to the

regulations. Arising from a previous motion, a meeting of all stakeholders (to also include IFA, Coillte, Waterways Ireland etc) is currently being organised.

The Council also investigates reports of illegal/unauthorised waste collectors/operators, to include:

- Inspections to assess the nature and extent of the activity,
- Warning Letters to advise of non-compliance in disposal of refuse as well as providing instruction on how to bring about compliance,
- Statutory Notices providing legally binding instruction to provide information (Section 18 WMA)- 18 such notices have been served in the year to date. An arrest was also made in the south of the County.

WERLA and Kildare County Council ran extensive media campaigns including local radio during the past 12 months. This included information reminding householders to use only authorised waste collectors when disposing of their refuse. WERLA are proposing a further awareness campaign in 2021.

The Cathaoirleach noted the time was approaching 6pm and sought the members approval to suspend Standing Orders for 30 minutes to continue the business of the meeting.

Resolved with the agreement of the members present to suspend Standing Orders for 30 minutes to enable the meeting to continue to 6.30pm.

Councillor Kelly noted the contents of the report but highlighted the lack of statistics on fines issued etc and requested they be sent out to the members as requested. She stated that the use of Section 18 notices was a more expedient way of monitoring disposal methods and there was huge concern around the amount of money that was currently being spent on cleaning up fly tipping.

A discussion ensued with the members supportive of the motion and reiterating their concerns around the level of fly-tipping in the county and the clean-up costs involved. They asked if consideration could be given to publishing lists by municipal district of the percentage compliance on Section 18 notices and emphasised the need for increased penalties to discourage dumping and asked that the council would implement a zero tolerance once cases get to court.

Mr Boland confirmed that the wardens did actively knock on doors in this regard and that GDPR requirements had to be borne in mind when publishing information as had been suggested. He noted the matter was not straight forward in a lot of cases, but that where there was evidence of dumping the council proactively issued fines and followed the cases through to the legal end.

Councillor Kelly thanked the Director but noted that the bye-laws had only been adopted in March 2019 and that a) Section 2.1 was very specific in its ask and b) Section 2.8 required the production of this documentation. She asked if it was necessary to revisit the bye-laws to ensure they were fit for purpose. Councillor Doyle suggested that the motion be referred to the Environment and Water Services SPC for further consideration.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Cussen and agreed by the members present that the report be noted, and the motion referred to the Environment and Water Services SPC for further consideration.

22/0521

Housing Allocation Policy

The following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly was considered by the members. That Kildare County Council immediately adapt its housing allocation policy to allow credit for time spent by a person on the housing list and within a tenancy, where in the event of relationship breakdown, they have had to resign their interest in a tenancy.

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

A report was received from the Housing and Corporate Services Department informing the members that this matter was discussed at a recent meeting of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee and it was agreed to include it on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting in September. Any changes to the existing Allocation Scheme for Social Housing will be considered by the SPC before being brought to the elected members at a plenary council meeting for consideration.

It is worth noting that there is provision in the current allocations scheme whereby applicants for social housing can be afforded priority on the housing list if they are rendered homeless through no fault of their own and, while this will not result in applicants getting years back for duration of tenancy, it will nonetheless afford them priority on the housing list.

Councillor Connolly thanked the Director for the report stating he would continue to highlight this issue and the need that credit must be given to the time already served on the housing list, in these circumstances.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Connolly and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and the report from the Housing SPC be brought back to the elected members once it was completed.

23/0521

Implementation of ‘Jakes Law’ Proposals

The following motion in the name of Councillor Peter Hamilton was considered by the members. That the council revises the speed review recommendations to separate all elements related to implementing the 30km speed limits in housing developments in support of ‘Jake’s law’ from the general recommendations in the speed limit review, in order to allow the passing and implementation of these proposals without further delay.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Under the Road Traffic Act 2004 the 30km/h speed limit in housing developments (Jakes Law) is defined as a ‘special speed limit’ requiring a Byelaw to be adopted by the elected members of Kildare County Council.

A decision to combine the Speed Limit Review and Jake’s Law was taken at the commencement of the process, allocating the necessary funding and technical staffing resources required to complete the project in the most efficient manner.

Presently there are 5 No. Proposed Schedule of Amendment documents, (one for each Municipal District) containing 428 drawings showing both 30km speed limits in housing developments in support of Jake’s law and the Local, Regional, and National roads speed limits for Kildare.

In response to the current motion from Councillor Hamilton, Kildare County Council can separate all elements related to implementing the 30km speed limits in housing developments in support of ‘Jake’s law’ from the speed limit review.

However, separating the Speed Limit Review and Jakes Law from the current process would require the Team to cease completing the vast amount of work carried out to date and revert to the pre “Schedule of Proposed Amendment” stage. Recommencing the process and progressing as two individual strands would require editing of the 428 individual drawings to cater for the Speed Limit Review element only and the creation of an additional 180 drawings specific to the 30km speed limits in housing developments (Jakes Law).

The Speed Limit Review Team has worked closely with the elected members of each Municipal District to progress the current format to public consultation stage. Four of the Municipal District areas have agreed to proceed to public consultation with a further workshop to take place with one Municipal District.

It is the view of the Transportation Department that to cease the current process and recommence as two individual strands would place considerable strain on the resources in the Road Design office. It would also delay the implementation of the Speed Limit Review and Jakes Law even further, as the process has already been greatly impacted by the Covid-19 public health regulations.

Councillor Hamilton noted the report stating that Jakes Law came into being in 2014 following the untimely and tragic death of 6-year-old Jake Brennan outside his home in Kilkenny. He acknowledged it was a complex issue but that the delay in its implementation was unsatisfactory noting the public could not understand the inordinate delay in bringing the proposal into operation. He confirmed the purpose of his motion was to try and prevent any further delay as he was concerned that there would be further delays following the consultation and what is raised during that process. Councillor Dukan proposed that as all housing estates were mapped, a 30km speed limit could be applied to those and as such, he proposed that these housing estates and locations outside primary schools and secondary schools be segregated out and the matter put to a vote. Councillor Kelly sought clarification on whether estates that are in excess of 20 years old and not in the charge of the council, could be included in Jakes Law.

Director of Service Ms Barrett noted that it was not possible to segregate out the housing estates as was being proposed without causing further significant delays due to the considerable body of work that would have to be done to separate them out. She confirmed that out of the total 428 drawings, 180 would have to be reviewed if the members advanced this request. She also

confirmed that if an estate was not taken in charge, it was not a public road so a speed limit cannot be applied. Ms Barrett asked that the council stick with the process already in place.

Following debate, the members asked how long the delay would be if the estates were to be separated out as requested. Ms Barrett stated that what the members were asking for was a Special speed limit to be applied in these estates and under the Road Traffic Act, this needed special bye-laws. She stated this would in effect split the process and cause further delays due to the need to go to consultation again for this element. The members sought clarification on the time it was going to take to complete the process that was currently in train and following discussion agreed to await a response back on their queries, before proceeding further with the motion.

The Meetings Administrator advised that under Standing Order 18, the members could request that the Council proceed to the next business and if affirmed by the members, the motion would not be proceeded with further at the current meeting and unless the council otherwise determined, could be adjourned to the next ordinary meeting. This would enable the executive provide clarification on the queries raised. Councillor Doyle proposed proceeding to next business.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Hamilton, and with the agreement of the members that the meeting proceed to next business.

As the time was approaching 6.30pm the Cathaoirleach sought the members view on a further suspension to standing orders. to continue the business of the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor Kelly with the agreement of the members present to suspend Standing Orders for a further 15 minutes to enable the meeting to continue.

24/0521

EU Whistleblower Directive

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

That the council writes to the Minister for Justice Heather Humphreys and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Michael McGrath asking that the elected members of local authorities be specifically included and named as being protected by the Protected Disclosures Act when the EU Whistleblowers Directive is transposed into domestic law in December. The EU Whistleblower

directive yet to be transposed into our domestic law expands the definition of employee/worker beyond that of the Irish Whistleblowers Legislation to include not only workers and self-employed and contractors/subcontractors but also 'Shareholders and Persons belonging to the administrative, management or supervisory body of an undertaking, including non-executive members, as well as volunteers and paid or unpaid trainees'. International Best Practice suggests that Whistleblowers protection should cover all individuals working in the public or private sector, irrespective of the nature of their working relationship and whether they are paid or not. The EU directive clearly intends to extend the protection and attempts to list all workers not previously protected eg volunteers, and we ask that the omission of local elected members be corrected by the Ministers as part of the process of transposing the EU Directive into law.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Ó'Cearúil.

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that this is a matter for the members to agree. If agreed, the motion can be referred as requested.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that this directive was to be transposed into domestic law by the 17 December 2021, with the changes to be made to the Protected Disclosures Policy. She noted the EU Directive extended the protections of the Act, however the protections had not been extended to include elected members and that best practise was that it should cover all individuals covered in the public and the private sector. She confirmed that the AILG was supporting the campaign, as were TDs and Senators and sought the members support to write to the Ministers as outlined in her motion.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Ó'Cearúil and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and correspondence issue to the Minister for Justice Heather Humphreys and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Michael McGrath asking that the elected members of local authorities be specifically included and named as being protected by the Protected Disclosures Act when the EU Whistleblowers Directive is transposed into domestic law in December.

25/0521

Supports for Green Kilometre groups

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

That Kildare County Council enhances its support to Green Kilometre groups by providing dedicated secure areas for storage of rubbish awaiting collection, the provision of visibility warning signs to groups collecting on local roads with live traffic and arranges and supports multi department coordinated litter picks with Green Kilometre groups on regional roads where traffic volumes deem the roads unsuitable for normal type Green Kilometer litter picks.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Brett and seconded by Councillor Kelly.

A report was received from the Environment, Water Services and Climate Action Department informing the members that the council's Green Kilometre Scheme invites individuals/groups to choose approximately a kilometre (or longer) stretch of road in their area- preferably a quiet, local road in terms of safety. The group or individual would then commit to maintaining the chosen stretch over the course of the year.

There are plenty of opportunities for local communities to get involved and work together on a project that benefits everybody. The scheme has expanded significantly in 2021, from 16 kilometres in 2020 to 124 currently. The scheme is a real success story as it allows members of the public to become active in litter removal in their local areas.

Incentives of some native trees, litter pickers, bags and gloves are on offer for all participating individuals/groups and the council will also arrange to collect and remove the waste. The additional offer of native saplings for participants to plant back into the chosen kilometre is also proving to be very popular with over half the participants requesting the saplings.

The scheme has resulted in over 40 tonnes of litter being removed from local roads in the year to date.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the the Municipal District depots do not have secure areas to store rubbish. Storing of waste requires a licence and would not be compliant with EPA/KCC Environment section requirements. The Municipal District offices do not have warning signs advising of Litter Picking. If groups were to pick litter, they would be subject to full signage, design etc as it would be classed as a workplace for staff. The provision of signage by the Municipal District office could endorse their involvement and deem the area to be a workplace.

Roads staff are not available to carry out litter picking due to pressures on Kildare County Council to deliver the road works programme with Road Surfacing taking priority for the next number of weeks.

Councillor Brett noted the report stating the scheme had been a huge success throughout the county and the intent of the motion was to provide further assistance to these local groups who were doing wonderful work in keeping the county litter free.

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

26/0521

Kildare Dog Pound

The following motion in the name of Councillor Mark Leigh was considered by the members.

That in light of the expansion of the Kildare Dog Pound, the council outlines what plans it has to increase resources for it and its services.

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

A report was received from the Environment, Water Services and Climate Action Department informing the members that the council was pleased to complete a significant upgrade of the dog pound at Ballitore. Clearly, facilities are now significantly improved with resulting benefits for warden staff, members of public as well as impounded dogs. All work was completed to the highest standards.

The members will be aware that the current service is delivered on the Council's behalf through a service level agreement with the ISPCA. The level of service is reviewed annually. In light of current and expected financial constraints, it is considered very unlikely that the scope and range of these services, including related manpower, will be increased at least in the short term. Also, bear in mind that there are now annual loan charges arising from the costs of the capital works.

However, it is expected that there will be some improvements in terms of ICT and connectivity in the short term. In this context, the Environment Section is currently liaising with the Council's IT Dept as well as the ISPCA.

The active involvement of the KWWSPCA in assisting with the rehoming of dogs is also greatly commended.

Councillor Leigh accepted the report.

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

27/0521

Cemetery Charges and Associated Fees

The following motion in the name of Councillor Kevin Duffy was considered by the members. That the council undertakes a review of the cemetery charges and associated fees, the council's expenditure against the revenue (capital and operating expenditure) and compares these charges with other relevant county councils (North and South) to determine whether the current fees and fee structure are still reasonable or whether alternative models should be considered.

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

A report was received from the Environment Water Services and Climate Action Department informing the members that by way of background, the current scale of charges was last reviewed in 2008/2009. At that time, given a significant need to fund a range of cemetery capital upgrades including extensions, a decision was made to increase the then prevailing charges. Indeed, this proved to be a very progressive decision as, in the interim, a suite of very significant projects was delivered. The following list gives a broad flavour of major works completed in the last 10 years or so in terms of cemetery extensions:

- Newbridge
- Kildangan/Ballybracken
- Monasterevan
- Moone
- Athy
- Castlemitchell
- Staplestown
- Rathangan
- Celbridge
- Derrinturn
- Crookstown

In addition, significant internal capital-type improvements were completed in a number of other cemeteries including the provision of columbarium walls at Laraghbryan (Maynooth) and Naas.

The council's current capital programme includes proposals for further columbarium walls at a number of cemeteries as well as a number of further significant priorities:

- A new cemetery for Leixlip/Confey
- An extension to Cloncurry cemetery
- Significant internal improvements to St Conleth's cemetery, Kildare Town
- Upgrade of Newbridge cemetery car park
- Further internal capital-style improvements to Athy
- A new cemetery for Newtown, Kilcock (subject to feasibility)
- Significant internal works to Boycetown, Kilcock
- Provision of additional plots at Barrettstown as well as flood protection measures

In truth, the feasibility of providing extensions can be very costly given the price of acquiring lands in urban areas {Newbridge is a good example}. In addition, the spectrum of construction costs generally has also been escalating. Such costs do not differ unduly between the North and South of the county.

The costs of the above programme are wholly funded from an annual transfer [varies from 150 to 250k] from the proceeds of the sale of plots to the capital account in order to build up a fund. All in all, this approach has served the council well particularly in light of the scale of projects which have been completed. While it is not proposed to increase the price of plots anytime soon, it is strongly recommended that there would be no reductions as such would clearly impinge on the momentum for a very progressive programme of works. These matters can be considered further in the context of the forthcoming budgetary process.

When comparing with other counties, there needs to be regard to the additional costs particularly in relation to land acquisition. In addition, there are also emerging demographic trends wherein there has been a significant requirement for additional facilities in this county. It might also be stated that in counties where lesser charges apply, the cost of capital works will inevitably have to be met from other sources within the budgeting process. Accordingly, care should be taken when making comparisons.

It might also be noted that the price of plots in the Greater Dublin Area is significantly higher than that which applies in County Kildare. Again, the same reasoning applies in relation to relative costs etc. This has also led to applications from citizens of those counties to purchase plots in County Kildare.

Councillor Duffy thanked the Director for the detailed report noting the council had not reviewed its cemetery charges and associated fees, in over 10 years and it would be prudent to do so given the variance in fees in comparison to the neighbouring authorities. He also noted that the future costs of purchasing land for cemetery extensions had to be considered also. He sought the members support to request the Environment and Water Services SPC to carry out this review, in conjunction with the Finance Committee.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy seconded by Councillor Brett and agreed by the members present that the the Environment and Water Services SPC carry out a review of cemetery charges and associated fees charged in Kildare, in conjunction with the Finance Committee.

28/0521

Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems

The following motion in the name of Councillor Brendan Wyse was considered by the members. That in preparation for the new Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWTTS) which comes into effect in June 2021, the council carries out the following:

- a) Creates a guidance document which outlines common issues relating to the DWWTS selected for proposed developments, and the various alternative systems that can be installed
- b) Commits to ensuring that planning applicants have the opportunity to propose an alternative DWWTS by means of further information, where the site characteristics are deemed unacceptable for the originally proposed DWWTS.
- c) Creates a detailed standard operating procedure (SOP) for the inspection of trial holes and recording of the same. The SOP should ensure that the length of time a trial hole has been open is taken into account when assessing mottling.

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

A report was received from the Environment, Water Services and Climate Action Department informing the members that in accordance with Section 22(2)(c) of the 2001 Planning & Development Regulations where development is proposed including the disposal of wastewater other than to a public sewer; evidence must be supplied as to the suitability of the site for the system proposed. Further, in accordance with Section 76 of the EPA Act 1992; the type of system shall be designed, installed, and maintained in accordance with the EPA Code of Practice so that it causes no undue impact on the local environment. This is referred to further in Section 7.5.3 Policy Reference WW-11 of the current County Development Plan, where all new development in unserviced areas shall comply with the EPA Code of Practice.

On 24 March 2021, the DHLGH announced the introduction of a new “*Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems for Population Equivalents ≤ 10* ” which is to come into effect as and from 7th June 2021, and that it will replace the current 2009 Code of Practice. As part of this announcement, the Dept published detailed guidance for all Local Authority staff and practitioners in the area which is freely available on the Dept website <http://www.epa.ie/water/wastewater/guidance/cop/>

The most significant changes in the new code of practice are the following:

- Additional options in low permeability soils,
- The option of willow-bed evapotranspiration systems,
- A special allowance for existing development, particularly in relation to protected structures, and
- The availability of a de-sludging calculator for ongoing maintenance

The new Code of Practise also sets clear standards in terms of the types of soils that are suitable, ways of assessing soil types, and gives guidance also in terms of assessing new developments and clustering of developments in highly sensitive environmental areas.

Referring specifically to the points raised in the motion, I would advise as follows:

- a) Kildare county Council creates a guidance document which outlines common issues relating to the DWWTS selected for proposed developments, and the various alternative systems that can be installed

Response:

The Environment Department do not believe it necessary for Kildare County Council to develop its own guidance document. The EPA Code of Practice already sets out very clear guidance that competent Agents should consider and advise their clients on. Kildare County Council Environment Dept are available at any time for pre-planning discussions if requested through the proper channels.

- b) Commits to ensuring that planning applicants have the opportunity to propose an alternative DWWTS by means of further information, where the site characteristics are deemed unacceptable for the originally proposed DWWTS.

Response:

Planning applicants have an opportunity to propose any form of DWWTS they chose so long as the proposal is in compliance with the Code of Practice. Kildare county Council's preference at all times would be for Septic Tank and low-maintenance type natural treatment systems. Only when standard soil conditions do not exist should consideration be given to mechanical secondary or tertiary treatment systems.

- c) Creates a detailed standard operating procedure (SOP) for the inspection of trial holes and recording of the same. The SOP should ensure that the length of time a trial hole has been open is taken into account when assessing mottling.

Response:

Kildare County Council do not believe that it is necessary for this Council to create an SOP of our own in this regard. The Code of Practice already provides very detailed and simple guidance in terms of assessing site suitability and the period of time that trial holes should be left open. Site assessments should be carried out only by competent assessors in accordance with the guidelines set.

I should further advise the members that The Environment Department of the council will be writing out to all Agents already on our Register in the coming week, to remind them about the upcoming changes in the Code of Practice, and will also be publishing notices on our website and in local newspapers to advise the general public.

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the Planning Authority will adhere to the requirements of the Code of Practice which comes into effect in June 2021. Decisions will be guided by the requirements of the Code of Practice, onsite inspections,

ground conditions and tests results. All of these factors will inform the decision which is made on a planning application at that time.

Councillor Wyse accepted the report.

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

29/05421

Kildare Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The following motion in the name of Councillor Vanessa Liston was considered by the members. That the council provides an update on progress and a timeline for publication of the new Kildare Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

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

A report was received from the planning Department informing the members that The Heritage Office intends to commence the preparation of the County Biodiversity Plan in Quarter 3 of 2022, with a draft plan for adoption in Quarter 2 of 2023.

Councillor Liston sought clarity in relation to what preparatory work was proposed for the Plan, what was the impact of an “expired” Plan and sought confirmation of the type of consultation that would take place.

Mr Ryan undertook to revert to the members with clarification on the queries raised by Councillor Liston.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members present that the report be noted, and Mr Ryan would issue clarification on the queries raised by Councillor Liston.

30/0521

Integration Programmes

The following motion in the name of Councillor Seamie Moore was considered by the members. That the council outlines what additional programmes it offers to encourage greater integration into our communities, local organisations and representative groups of the many new migrants,

refugees and people from a wide range of overseas origins who now form a very welcome part of our communities. This is in addition to the acknowledged provision of housing supports and also recognises the great efforts and 'easing in' of integration of the education system, sports groups and general employment services.

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

A report was received from the Economic Development, Community and Culture Department informing the members that Kildare County Council along with County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP) is currently working to develop a new integration strategy for the county. Community Department facilitate this process and work with agency or groups who are from or provide services to anyone of migrant origin. This County Kildare Integration Strategy builds on the first strategy which covered the period 2014 – 2019. According to Census 2016, more than 10% of Kildare's population are of migrant origin. Work on this new strategy has involved a wide ranging consultation in 17 different languages along with working group meetings to set out realistic goals for agencies to implement over the life of the document. This consultation aims to understand how best to support integration when delivering services and working in communities.

The Elected Members will have an opportunity on Wednesday 02 June to discuss their ideas, solutions or actions that they feel will help with the integration process.

This will be the final phase of the consultation process. It is intended to produce the strategy document over the summer for launch in September.

From a Library and Arts perspective, Kildare and Wicklow Library Services are working in partnership with CKLP, Kildare Pavee Point, Bray Travellers Community Development Group and others on a series of pre-recorded videos aimed at parents/guardians in our Roma and Traveller communities. The videos will focus on what parents can do to support language development with their children from birth to 5 years. We are currently tendering for a production company to film and edit the videos.

In recent months a library welcome message and details of services has been translated into the most popular languages used by migrants in the county.

The Library Service links with Direct Provision Centres in terms of outreach activities, information, and encouragement to use library services. During Covid, books and art materials have been provided. The library service sit on The Direct Provision Working Group under the auspices of

Kildare Children & Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC). The group is an inter-agency Working Group under the Kildare CYPSC Outcome 5 Sub Group: *Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World*. Libraries intend to apply for Dormant Funding to work with project partners in this group in 2021 and will form part of the Asylum Support Groups post Covid. Kildare County Council actively promotes integration and a successful virtual Africa Day was celebrated on the 25 May. The online activities are captured on the Kildare Community Stories Facebook page. Kildare County Council is also participating in the National programme encouraging Women and Diversity in Local Government, to increase awareness in our migrant communities and how they can get further involved in their local communities.

Councillor Moore acknowledged the detailed report noting the Integration Strategy was out of date since 2019 and that he was of the view the figure for the migrant population in Kildare was closer to 16% than the 10% as stated in the report. He acknowledged that there was a lot of work taking place in this area, but a lot more supports for local integration was needed.

Chair of the Integration Steering Committee, Councillor Breslin confirmed the committee met regularly and had held a number of workshops and had provided a lot of information via KFM and was happy to have the opportunity to report on the work being done and welcomed all feedback from the members.

Director of Service, Ms S Kavanagh reiterated the fact that there was a lot work ongoing and that the County Kildare Leader Partnership were heavily involved in this work also. She confirmed there was a further meeting of the Committee due to take place the following Wednesday and welcomed all submissions from the members.

Councillor Moore thanked the Director for her response and asked if consideration could be given to setting a target date in the future for more in person consultation and interaction with the migrant community living in Kildare.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that concluded the business listed for the meeting and sought the members views in relation to the location of the AGM of full council in June and the June monthly council meeting. He proposed that both these meetings be held in person in Newbridge Town Hall.

He also proposed that the Municipal District meetings remain on-line for June but that they could return to in-person meetings in July. Following a query, he confirmed that it was up to the members of each municipal district to decide if they wished their July meeting to be held on-line or in person. Councillor Galvin asked regarding the possibility of hybrid meetings and the Cathaoirleach confirmed the technology required to enable hybrid meetings was not yet in place. **Resolved** with the agreement of the members that the AGM on the 25 June and the monthly meeting of Full Council on the 28 June be held in person in Newbridge Town Hall, that the June Municipal District Committee meetings be held online and the location/platform for Municipal District Committee meetings in July ie returning to Council Chamber or online be left to each Municipal District Committee to decide.

The meeting concluded.