

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting of Full Council held at 3:00 p.m.

Monday 27 November 2023 in the Council Chamber

Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

Members Present: Councillor D Fitzpatrick (Cathaoirleach), Councillors
A Breen, A Breslin, F Brett, B Caldwell, B Clear, A Connolly, P.
Curran, Í Cussen, S. Doyle, T Durkan, A Farrelly, C. Galvin, P
Hamilton, N Heavey, I. Keatley, C Kelly, N Killeen, V. Liston, P
McEvoy, J. Neville, N Ó Cearúil, P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer,
B Quinn, B Weld and B Wyse.

Online Councillors M. Coleman, N. Connolly, B. Dooley, K. Duffy, A.
Feeney, M. Leigh, F Mcloughlin Healy, S. Moore, C. Pender, R.
Power, E. Sammon and P. Ward.

Apologies Councillor V.Behan

Also Present: Ms. A Aspell Deputy Chief Executive, Ms. M Higgins, Mr. A
Dunney, 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), Mr. J Hannigan (Meetings
Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the November meeting of Council.

01/1123

Bereavements

The Cathaoirleach extended his sympathy to the families of the late

Noel Weston, father of Gordon Weston Architects.

Shannon Flavin, former Staff Member.

A minute's silence was observed.

02/1123

Declaration of Interests

The Cathaoirleach sought from the members any declarations of conflicts of interest or pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended. There were no declarations.

03/1123

Minutes and Progress Report

The council considered the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 23 October 2023 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó Cearúil seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by the members present with the exception of Councillor McLoughlin Healy who abstained that the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 23 October 2023 be adopted.

The progress report was noted.

04/1123

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executives monthly management report.

05/1123

Section 183

This item was deferred.

06/1123

Annual Financial Statements 2022

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the reports on the audit of the Annual Financial Statements 2022 which were circulated to the members previously and which include the Audit Committee Report in accordance with Section 121 Local

Government Act 2001, as amended, the Unmodified Audit Opinion and the Local Government Audit Service Statutory Audit Report, were listed for noting on the agenda.

The Annual Financial Statements were noted by the members.

07/1122

Section 141 Reports from Other Bodies

The members considered reports from members appointed to Other Bodies pursuant to Section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended. The following reports were received at the November meeting.

- County Kildare Community Networks (CKCN)
- Dublin Mid Leinster Regional Health Forum
- County Kildare Leader Partnership

The Cathaoirleach asked that the members direct any questions they had on the reports to the members appointed to the relevant body.

The reports were noted.

08/1122

Draft Meetings Calendar for 2024

The members considered the draft calendar and report circulated previously which outlined the proposed dates of meetings for 2024 and proposed changes to dates as per Standing Orders and agreed protocols. This was to take account of Public Holidays and statutory budget timeframes. A provisional date had been included for the Annual Budget meeting. It noted that confirmation was still awaited on a number of meeting dates, which would be communicated to the members once confirmed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick and with the agreement of all members present, the Draft Meetings Calendar for 2024 was approved.

09/1123

Gnó an Cathaoirleach/Cathaoirleachs Business

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that he had attended a number of events in the previous month including the Chamber of Commerce Local Government Awards the Womens Shed event and the switching on of the Christmas Lights in Athy.

The Leas Cathaoirleach had attended the launch of Brigid 1500.

The Cathaoirleach congratulated Mr. Paul Lynch on his recent success, having been declared the winner of the Booker Prize 2023 and made reference to Mr. Lynch's position as writer in residence in Kildare County Council in 2019.

The Cathaoirleach advised that the Decade of Commemorations Committee wished to give a presentation to council at the December meeting and the Historic Monuments Committee at the January meeting and it was agreed these would be taken under the item on agenda relating to reports and recommendation of committees.

10/1023

Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed three items of correspondence had been circulated to the members along with the progress report. These included one motion referral from Clare County Council, one reply from the Minister for Rural and Community Development on the councils request to provide bridging finance and one letter of thanks to correspondence issued.

The correspondence was noted.

11/1123

Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator referred to the conference and training report which had been circulated to the members and recommended by the Corporate Policy Group and included the following.

Retrospective approval was sought for the LAMA Autumn Seminar held on 25 and 26 October in the Ard Rí House Hotel Tuam attended by Councillor J Neville cost €160 plus travel and subsistence.

AILG Road Safety, New Speed Limit Policy, held on 16 November in the Tower Hotel Waterford and attended by Councillor Bill Clear, cost €50 plus travel and subsistence.

AILG Road Safety, New Speed Limit Policy, held on 18 November in the Clayton Hotel Galway and attended by Councillor N Connelly and Councillor Carmel Kelly cost €50 plus travel and subsistence.

Approval was sought for the AILG Annual Conference 2024 being held on 14 and 15 February 2024 in the Arklow Bay Hotel, costs to be confirmed. Councillor N Connolly sought approval for attendance.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by all, that the above requests as set out in the training and conference report be approved.

12/1123

Local Community and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee

The members received a report from Councillor Kelly, Chair of the Local Community and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee.

Councillor Kelly outlined the membership of the committee and the key policy areas they were currently concentrating on.

Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan

- She outlined the Purpose of the plan which was to set out for a six-year period the objectives and actions to promote and support the economic and local-community development of the county
- This consisted of two parts
 - The development of an overall LECP framework outlining high level goals and Sustainable Objectives
 - The Development of an Implementation Plan

Kildare Library Development Plan 2024 to 2029

- She informed the meeting that Actionable Innovate have been chosen to work with Library Services to develop the plan
Consultation Process is to commence in Q4, 2023
- There would be 5 in person Consultation Workshops held at Maynooth, Leixlip, Newbridge, Naas and Athy Libraries in November 2023 and an Online Survey via Kildare County Council Consultation Portal in November and December 2023
Draft Library Development Plan is to be completed in February 2024 and the Draft Library Development Plan presented to SPC in Q2, 2024.
Following this it would be presented to Full Council in Q2, 2024

Brigid 1500

Councillor Kelly outlined the Brigid 1500 vision and noted there were 60 grant applications from artists and community groups in Kildare valued at over €350,000 processed and that at the closing date 10 November, there were over 100 applicants for the 2024 Grant Applications. She said that this was a once in a life-time opportunity and it was planned that among others, there would be events as follows:

- Mother Earth: A Day of Food and Music at The Wonderful Barn,
- We Shall Overcome: Songs of Social Justice and Freedom, Athy
- A Fire Processional event in Maynooth
- Light shows at prominent locations in Clane and Newbridge
- She Moved Through The Fair – An Evening of Song, St Brigid's Cathedral Kildare
- St. Brigid's day concert in the Moat Theatre, St. David's Church, and The Potato Market, Naas

The Festival which was launched on 07 November last will take place from the 27 January 2024 to 08 February 2024 with numerous events taking place and full details of the Festival Programme are available on www.brigid1500.ie

The report was noted.

13/1123

Special Briefing from Uisce Éireann

The following motion in the names of Councillor T. O'Dwyer, Councillor A. Farrelly and Councillor B. Wyse was considered by the members.

That Kildare County Council invite Uisce Éireann Management team to facilitate a separate Special Briefing for Full Council outlining their priority projects for 2024 in County Kildare.

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

A report from Ms. M Higgins, Director of Service, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that subject to the members agreement, Kildare County Council will issue an invitation to the relevant representatives on Uisce Éireann's management team asking that they facilitate a standalone special briefing for Full Council to outline their priority projects for 2024 in County Kildare.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that Uisce Éireann had requested to meet with the members in January 2024. This would be arranged.

Councillor T. O'Dwyer informed the meeting that issues such as the ongoing odour in Athgarvan and details of infrastructure upgrades needed to be addressed. Uisce Éireann needed to advise the members of what they were planning. Clinics were useful but the decision makers did not attend these meetings. Asset Management and Programme Plan details were required, for example Pumping Stations and Uisce Éireann's Policies on taking these in Charge.

Councillor Farrelly advised the members that there was a huge infrastructure in relation to the Allen Reservoir and of the occurrence of consistent outages, adding that the patience of the people in the north-west of the county had run out. He informed the meeting that Uisce Éireann needed to be accountable and he looked forward to the meeting in January 2024.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T. O'Dwyer seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by members that the report be noted and they looked forward to meeting with Uisce Éireann representatives in January 2024.

14/1123

Repair of Street Lights

The following motion in the names of Councillor Killeen and Councillor Clear was considered by the members.

That Kildare County Council explore the contractual issues in respect of non-delivery in targets for the repair of street lights, seeking guarantees or implementing penalties on the contactor or ESB networks where repairs are not conducted within agreed SLAs due to the serious problems in street light repair delays impacting the County. That the council seek monthly update reports to be issued to councillors indicating the number of outstanding repairs to be listed in the following format and where the action is outstanding - either contactor or ESB - 3 months, 6 months, - months, 12 months, longer-per Municipal District.

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

A report from Ms. C Barrett, A/Director of Service, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that the council is responsible for the maintenance of 26,000 public lights in the County. To date, 3,597 faults have been repaired in 2023 with the average percentage of faults at any time numbering 1.04% of public lights. This is slightly above the target performance figure of 1% of public lighting stock and the council engages on an ongoing basis with our contractor and the ESB to reduce repair times as much as possible.

There are penalty clauses within the service level agreement with the maintenance contractor in respect of routine repairable faults and non-routine major faults. All light repairs now include a provision for the replacement of the older lanterns with modern LED fittings in advance of the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) and the timescale allowed for the repair of lights has increased to 42 days to accommodate these works. The roll-out of PLEEP in 2024 to completion in 2025

will impact significantly on the ongoing maintenance of public lighting and future maintenance contracts will take these changes into consideration.

Councillor Killeen thanked staff for their help and advised the members that over the last few months she had looked at her own Municipal District in relation to this issue. The contractor gave assurances of 10 days for a bulb to be changed and she was enquiring if there may be a disconnect between the ESB and the contractor. Councillor Killeen made reference to Service Level Agreements (SLAs) that may be in place and advised that an App namely the deadsureapp indicates 42 days for repairs to be completed but that some issues on this App go back as far as February 2023. There was no confidence among the public in the Local Authority as it appeared that the Local Authority issue paperwork which was then given to a third party and then there was no escalation.

Councillor Clear then added that what was dead sure was that the repairs won't be fixed for a long time. He also added that even lights that were fixed were still showing up on the system as being out and that all the outstanding items resulted in poor service. The wait times were unacceptable.

Councillor P. O'Dwyer advised the members that €8,000 LPT monies was given and there are poles just left there for 12 months with no lights. A breakdown and audit of the process and pathway is required, referencing MPRN and Eircode numbers.

Councillor Pender advised the members of a specific lamp post in Newbridge out since 2017, which had been reported and reported and was fixed only because of assistance from Kildare County Council. He said that there does not appear to be any Key Performance Indicator (KPI) with this company and if there was they are not following it.

Councillor Brett advised the members that two or three years ago companies made an offer to councils to change all the lights, but that this was not taken up.

Councillor Caldwell advised that he supported the motion and added that sometimes the cheapest tender gets the job. He said that reportedly nightly patrols were supposed to be taking place in areas. The new buzz word he added was 'under pressure', the service was not good enough and something needed to happen from this.

Councillor Cussen advised the members that she had had positive results from the deadsureapp, but that perhaps checks were taking place in the middle of the day when outages would be hard to identify. Councillor Cussen also added that when she contacts the lighting section in Kildare County Council that issues then get fixed.

Ms. C Barrett advised the members that there were KPIs and a Penalty Clause in place and that the repair times were pushed out to 42 days as each repair is being updated to an LED Bulb. . In January repairs fell behind by 100 and then again in August by 100. It would be onerous to report on a monthly basis and advised that a three monthly report would be more feasible.

Councillor Killeen advised members that faults are being opened then closed then opened and then closed again without repairs being done. Councillor Killeen said that if the fault is with ESB Networks this needed to be identified and added that she appreciated quarterly reports and let's try for 2024.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen seconded by Councillor Brett and agreed by the members that quarterly reports be provided and the report be noted.

15/1123

Road Traffic Act 2023 Update

The following motion in the names of Councillor Heavey and Councillor Duffy was considered by the members.

That the council provide an update on the implementation of the Road Traffic Act 2023 with particular regard to the use of council CCTV cameras by other Government agencies and issues and timeframes to resolve this matter.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor Duffy. A report from Ms. C Barrett, A/Director of Service, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that Section 42 of the Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023 amends Section 2 of the Roads Act 1993 to give a legal basis for the gathering of data in the form of CCTV images. While certain sections of the Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023 have now commenced, this section of the Act has not commenced to date.

Kildare County Council has accepted an invitation from the Department of Transport to be a member on a working group set up to assist in the implementation of the new Section 77A of the Roads Act 1993 which is included in the provisions of section 46 the Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023 (Use of cameras on roads to obtain data). The council will implement all changes required under any legislation in the operation of CCTV cameras.

Councillor Heavey advised the members that this matter arose following a discussion at a recent JPC briefing. It was clear that in the efforts of An Garda Síochana in relation to crimes against the person, GDPR can sometimes prevent data being used. He referred to recent criminal events. To protect citizens An Garda Síochana should have access to this information. He reaffirmed his support for An Garda Síochana and not least making the images and data available from Kildare County Council systems.

Councillor Duffy thanked the A/Director of Services for the report added that it was positive and enquired if there was any indication of a timeframe to removing this barrier. Councillor Duffy said that An Garda Síochana need to be supported in their duties and requested that this item remain on the Progress Report.

Ms. C Barrett advised the members that in relation to GDPR there had to be a legal basis to collect data. In relation to commencement the group is still at formation stage and that she was agreeable to putting this item on the Progress Report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by members that the report be noted and the item remain on the progress report.

16/1123

Community Solar Energy Project

The following motion in the names of Councillor Hamilton and Councillor Quinn was considered by the members.

That the council prepare a feasibility study on the development of a council-led community solar energy project of up to 5MW at the Kerdiffstown Park site with supporting business model, given the feed-in capacity available from the Monread substation.

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

A report from Ms. M Higgins, Director of Service, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that Kerdiffstown Park primary use is as a recreational facility for the public's use. Given the need to decarbonise and increase energy efficiencies to meet the national objective it is important to seek out potential avenues that work in conjunction with the intended use of facilities and may create opportunities to enhance the operations.

In Kildare's proposed Climate Action Plan, action B12 states 'Undertake a feasibility study of the potential for district heating or energy from key sources within the County including data centres, wastewater treatment plants and large industry, ensuring such a report has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations. There is potential under this action to consider a feasibility study pending approval from the Parks Department and others associated in conjunction with ESB Networks.

The Parks Section have no objection in principle to a feasibility study being carried out for solar provision in Kerdiffstown Park. However, the following factors need to be considered. These are:

- The extent of area that may be required for solar panels and the effect this could have on the recreational use of the park and future recreational uses.
- The visual effect solar panels will have within the park and possibly the surrounding area.
- The effects solar panels will have on the maintenance & management of the park.
- The limitations of installing overground and underground infrastructure on a landfill site.

Councillor Hamilton said that the Kerdiffstown renewal had made the whole chamber proud. He advised that the National Grid was extremely restricted for tie in, adding that Monread was the only one with remaining tie in capacity. Kerdiffstown was a unique place and this was a unique opportunity to provide a potential 20Kvs from these types of units. He said that works would be needed to establish if Kerdiffstown ground was stable. The capacity in Monread was unique, if not for Kildare County Council to develop, perhaps to give to another party to progress. In the climate crisis the council needed to show leadership.

Ms. M Higgins agreed with Councillor Hamilton and advised the members that Monread was within Kildare County Council's Climate Action Plan for adoption and conversations were taking place with SEAI in relation to funding for a Feasibility Study but there were possible restrictions on that site.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by members that the report be noted.

17/1123

Pilot Scheme of Ballot Bins

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

That the council consider installing a pilot scheme of Ballot Bins to facilitate the disposal of cigarette butts similar to recently installed bins in Waterford City, Tramore and Dungarvan.

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

A report from Ms. C Barrett, A/Director of Service, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that the Transportation Department and Environment Department will work closely together to identify suitable locations to trial Ballot bins.

Councillor P. O'Dwyer advised members that these bins were customised in Villiers in London in 2016, were now in 43 countries and have been seen to reduce littering by cigarette butts by 73% and that it takes 30years for a cigarette butt to break down, as these contain plastic. If they are disposed of in drains they then can end up in the water courses. She said she has a location in Newbridge picked for the trial.

Members asked who would empty these bins, but also noted that they hoped they would prove successful.

Ms. C Barrett advised the members that this will be put in on a trial basis and we will see how well they work and that there will be a plan in place to maintain them.

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

18/1123

Efficiency Review of Regulatory Processes

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

That the council conduct an efficiency review of regulatory processes being implemented across departments to determine if duplication is occurring, if policies or regulations are still relevant and where potential efficiencies can be achieved in reducing costs of current processes for both the local authority and those we engage with for processing services.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Ó Cearúil. A report from Mr. E Ryan, Director of Service, Corporate, People and Cultural Services stated that there is no doubt that that duplication and/or overlap is occurring in some business areas and across various reports prepared for the Council (including for example, the CE Report/Budget Report/ Corporate Plan/Progress Reports/NOAC indicators; Freedom of Information, Access to Information on the Environment, Data Subject Access, Requests for Discovery; County Development Plan/Local Economic Development Plan/Economic Development Strategy, etc.), however these are all required by legislation or regulation and frequently reporting to different departments and agencies, but often containing the same basic information. While it could be argued that any overview of efficiency, duplication or overlap should be coordinated centrally, through the likes of the LGMA, it is important to note that Kildare County Council's Innovation Team are leading out on a variety of different workstreams/initiatives/projects which will address some of the issues highlighted.

Some planned activities to deliver on Innovation Teams goals are outlined in the Budget Book. A key component of our Innovation Work Plan priorities and goals is "Better Public Services" and is clearly aligned with the ethos of the motion – that we will strive to realise new and improved ways of working, promote continuous improvement, reduce waste, streamline our processes and promote digital and service design (i.e. designing services for and with our citizens) as key enablers.

While there are many workstreams, I would like to detail two in particular:

MYCOCO:

The public sector is required to ensure that 90% of appropriate services are available online by 2030. MyCoCo <https://www.mycoco.ie/> will be a key mechanism for delivering on this digital agenda. Kildare are a key champion of MyCoCo and the Head of IS sits on the project board. We are progressing the following services to go live on the platform over the next year,

Roads and Services

Permits

Housing Loan Applications

Headstone Permits

Quick Pay/Payments

Deeds of Discharge/Consent to Sale

Kildare is one of 9 Local Authorities who have committed to use the Housing Loans Application Service in MyCoCo which will have significant efficiencies for our processes and benefits for our applicants. This required an up-front financial investment to deliver this solution so again demonstrating our commitment to developing improved ways of working. We are also very cognisant that no-one is left behind in this digital agenda – not all our citizens will want to engage/consume our services online.

LEAN SIX SIGMA

The second workstream that is worth mentioning is Lean Six Sigma and 15 of our staff participated in a LSS yellow belt training programme this year and are working in project teams to deliver improvement projects for

Housing Support Application Process

Event Licensing

Rates

Development Levies

Parental Leave

One of the tools learned by the participants is **value stream mapping**. This involves reviewing a process and deciding whether each step is VA (Value added), NVA (Non Value Added), NNVA (Necessary Non Value Added e.g. legislative/statutory requirement so must be done). This analysis is a powerful tool for identifying waste and redesigning a process to improve it.

Following successful completion of this LSS cycle we will look to expand this programme next year as a way of building staff capability and competence in continuous improvement for the benefit of all our stakeholders.

In addition to the above, the Housing Department is engaged in an ongoing process of business improvement. We have secured permanent sanction for the position of Data Officer. The Data Officer is responsible for implementing an annual IT work programme which focuses on data collection, improvements and implementation of systems and improvements in customer service. Work is ongoing or completed in the following areas: HAP, loans, Social Work Team, void maintenance, mapping of social properties, affordable housing delivery, I-House data cleansing. Coordination with the IT Department has been essential to the successful implementation of this programme. The Housing Department is also engaged with the Lean 6 Sigma Innovation Programme and is considering the use of 'how to' video tutorials and is also engaged with nationally delivered programmes aimed at improving efficiencies:

- **TRABIS and Project Díon:** All social housing delivery by the council and AHBs is recorded in the TRABIS system which assists in recording and reporting on housing delivery vis a vis targets. TRABIS will be replaced by Project Díon, which is an IT system aimed at streamlining the IT process for the management of department funded housing projects, including construction, HAP, RAS, acquisitions, leasing, stock improvement programmes (grants, retrofit). The benefits of Project Díon is that it streamlines the application process, provides greater visibility in tracking progress, allows for real time reporting, manages the recoupment process.

- **Asset Management System:** The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) are introducing a new Asset Management System to assist LA's in managing housing stock. It incorporates the following elements: a stock condition survey, planned maintenance, response maintenance management of tenders and framework, a customer portal and private rental inspections. A stock condition survey is the first element of the system to be rolled out, and the council is being included in the first phase of the roll out which is expected to commence in Quarter 1, 2024.
- **National ICT System:** The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and the DHLGH have been progressing with the requirements to procure a national Housing ICT system. This aims to facilitate the standardisation of housing processes in Local Authorities and provide consistent and accurate reporting on housing across the sector using a proposed national reporting data warehouse. The objective is for a core housing ICT system that will interface and communicate with other ICT systems both locally and nationally (e.g. Díon, HAP, PASS, DEASP etc.) ensuring that housing practitioners have access to all the relevant data that is required to assist them in the provision of housing services.

Councillor Doyle advised the members that Lean Six SIGMA were interested in engaging with the public and this recently took place in relation to Affordable Housing. This facilitated a better level of engagement. Maybe more regular interaction with councillors would be useful. This could be fed up the line to the Government. She advised we should always live as if we were expecting lean times.

Councillor Ó Cearúil enquired if the number of staff who undertook Lean Six SIGMA could be extended. It would be helpful to SPCs to do value stream mapping training to map out what was needed to be delivered and setting any key objectives before next June.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy advised members that she had asked in 2015 about an Asset Management System and that she was advised that a new Asset Management Register was to be introduced. She asked if this system was linked and enquired in relation to what stage the compilation of an Asset Register is at.

Mr. E. Ryan advised the members that there is quite an appetite among staff, great enthusiasm, excitement and positivity. He also added that there is a lot on the work programme to implement and that he will take on board the points made and engage with the members and consult with the public.

Ms. A Aspell advised that there were National Asset Management Systems relevant to housing particularly in relation to Housing Maintenance and Private Rental Inspections and that these were not part of the Property Interest Register.

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

19/1123

Kildare County Council to partner with EnergyCloud

The following motion in the name of Councillor N. Connolly was considered by the members.

Go mbeidh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara i gcomhpháirtíocht le ScamallFuinnimh chun uisce te saor in aisce a sholáthar do thithe a úsáideann barrachas fuinnimh in-athnuaite.

That Kildare County Council partner with EnergyCloud to provide free hot water to homes using surplus renewable energy.

The motion was proposed by Councillor N. Connolly and seconded by Councillor Ó Cearúil.

A report from Ms M Higgins, A/Director of Service, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that partnership with EnergyCloud is not part of the current work programme of the Climate Action Office Team, but we will investigate the possibility for partnership further. Information has been sought from EnergyCloud on their system and their current partnerships. We await a reply. Upon further details being received from EnergyCloud the resulting potential line of action will be submitted to the Senior Executive Engineer in our Housing Maintenance Department for consideration.

Councillor N. Connolly explained that Energycloud was a not for profit organisation supported by Eirgrid ESB and others. They had developed a smart device that uses surplus renewable energy which would otherwise be wasted to heat emersion tanks at no cost to the householder. This had the potential to save €5.8 million in carbon penalties. They had recently launched partnerships with Fingal Co. Co. and Cluid Housing agency. He welcomed the report.

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

20/1123

M4 Motorway from Maynooth to Leixlip Update

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

That Kildare County Council give a progress report on the upgrade works on the east bound lane of the M4 Motorway from Maynooth to Leixlip.

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

A report from Ms. C Barrett, A/Director of Service, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that The M4 Bus Pilot Scheme is in the process of being delivered by TII Network Operations.

The construction of the first phase of the bus priority measures (M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures), Junction 5 to Junction 6 eastbound is proposed to commence in 2024. The Pilot objective as presented to and outlined by TII Network Operations: “Examine the introduction of bus priority measures on one of the main Dublin arterial routes as a pilot project in the advancement of this principle”. Therefore, this project has wider implications for future bus priority measures across the country.

To deliver this Pilot within a timeframe that informs the design of future schemes, the following phased approach is proposed:

- Junction 6 Celbridge to Junction 5 Leixlip
- Implement an operational regime initially that will inform a wider Concept of Operations for schemes of this type.
- Early construction of the Noise Barriers (proposed to commence in Q2 2024)
- The scheme will be procured through existing TII Contracts (MMaRC & ITS Contracts)
- Works to be carried out to align with Part 8 approval.

This pilot will inform the design and delivery of Phase 2 from J7 to J6.

Councillor Durkan enquired about noise barriers at Kilcock, Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge and that from his information Maynooth was the only town with noise barriers which are on the westbound lane.

He sought clarity on when the noise barriers would be in place.

Councillor Hamilton asked if procurement and tender stage at Q2 was too ambitious.

Ms. C Barrett informed the meeting that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) award the Motorway Maintenance and Renewals Contract to existing TII Contractors. Noise barriers will be installed in line with Part 8 permission. The westbound carriageway surface was replaced. She advised that she will follow up with Councillor Durkan on when the noise barriers will be in place.

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

21/1123

Making Kildare an Autism Friendly County

The following motion in the name of Councillor Ó Cearúil was considered by the members.

That Kildare County Council work to become an Autism Friendly County.

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

A report from Mr. E Ryan, Director of Service, Corporate, People and Cultural Services stated that the goal of the Council is to make County Kildare inclusive and accessible to all and we are working towards achieving this. The council would prefer not to focus on any one particularly disability.

Councillor Ó Cearúil advised the members that one in eight children are born with autism. He also added that there are two autism friendly communities in Maynooth and Clane. Councillor Ó Cearúil said that he had spoken with the Lord Mayor of Dublin and that Dublin is the first Capital City in the world to seek to be autism friendly. He suggested that Kildare should aspire to be the first county. He said that this is all about inclusion and that we have an Age Friendly Strategy and should look to be Autism Friendly too. He suggested the following:

1. Engage with As I Am to progress.
2. Engage with Dublin City Council and share ideas.
3. Engage with the Autism Friendly Communities in Maynooth and Clane

There would be huge benefits with Community Support and Local Authority Support.

Councillor Cussen informed the members that she did not support the motion but she did fully support access for all that is universal access for the whole county.

Councillor Cussen advised the members that Universal Accessibility is featured in every chapter of the CDP and that other counties are looking to us to see what we do. There is not a hierarchy, there is a universal approach.

Councillor Pender advised the members that he supported inclusion and societal improvements. He said that engagement is needed and that a one size fits all approach does not work. There is Autism, different types of ADHD and neurodiversity and to focus on one type would then create a hierarchy. An access all areas response is required for neurological and physical needs to support people regardless.

Councillor P. O'Dwyer advised the members that the County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) contains a strategic document, made up of five strands and that monies are channelled to everybody. That as part of County Kildare Access Strategy Communication Boards were placed at playgrounds and also that Maynooth Access Group took a first place in the Pride of Place Awards.

Councillor Galvin advised the members that she supported the motion. She advised the members that Communication Boards are not yet in place in Maynooth Municipal District.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy said that items put in place would benefit many people and she fully supported the motion.

Councillor Durkan made reference to County. Kildare Access Network and that an enquiry could be made to the chair of CKAN to give a briefing to the members and then be in a position to have a discussion at a later date.

Mr. E Ryan advised the members that this matter was brought up at the CKAN meeting and that a decision was made to focus on overall strategy and not on one area. He said he was in agreement with communicating with the Lord Mayor of Dublin in relation to work done.

Councillor Ó Cearúil enquired if this matter was discussed at CKAN.

Mr. E Ryan advised that yes there was a discussion in relation to providing a report.

Councillor Ó Cearúil said that it was disconcerting that this was discussed with CKAN before it was discussed by the members.

Councillor Kelly suggested that CKAN could be invited to make a presentation to the members in the New Year and also an invitation to Michael Hurley.

Mr. E Ryan made it clear to the members that he was not an expert and that he was not being disingenuous.

Councillor Cussen said by point of clarification that County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) meet monthly and discuss all matters pertaining to accessibility in Kildare as per Co. Kildare Access Strategy – A Universal Approach.

The Cathaoirleach put the motion to a vote and with 29 members voting in favour, 3 members voting against and no abstentions the motion was carried.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó Cearúil, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by the members with 29 members voting in favour, 3 voting against and no abstentions that Kildare County Council work to become an Autism Friendly County.

22/1123

Purchase of Landbanks in Kildare for Council Use

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

That the council outline its strategy on the purchasing of landbanks in Kildare for Council use while providing an updated list of all land bought since 2010 from private ownership.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Neville and seconded by Councillor Keatley.

A report from Mr. E Ryan, Director of Service, Corporate, People and Cultural Services stated that the Council does not have a public strategy on the purchasing of landbanks as to do so would alert private property owners of our intent and this could then interfere with us getting best value for money. For this reason, most of our offers to purchase are via independent valuers/agents. Both our County Development Plan and our various Local Area Plans indicate our key objectives and some of these relate directly to land and potential public use - either to access, facilities, infrastructure, housing, environment/burial, open space or biodiversity objectives, some of which could be delivered either via a condition of future planning and/or the delivery by the local authority through land acquisition. Land acquisition can therefore fall under three main categories:

- (1) Proactive – to fulfil a key objective of a County Development Plan or Local Area Plan;
- (2) Reactive – once a property goes on the open market we may pursue it if we have an identified need in the area such as housing, burial ground, community facility, etc.
- (3) Direct Response – a landowner, institution or another public body may contact us directly enquiring as to whether or not we might be interested in purchasing their property.

As part of the establishment of a new Property Management Team, we now undertake a due-diligence report for Management Team that examines any potential land purchase under a range of headings, including for example, current use, future intended use/options, type of sale, price/valuation, landscape features/constraints, flood risk assessment, archaeological review, access, planning context/zoning and any historic planning issues; infrastructure, building condition, conservation issues, risk assessment, etc.

A list of all land bought by the Council since 2010 is provided hereunder:

PIR ID	Asset ID	Asset ID(T)	Asset group	JOB	Status	Acq approved	Purchased	Vendor	Lands in Hectares - circa	Description of Lands	Purpose for Lands
10779	LAND0078	LAND AT IRISH NATIONAL STUD KILDARE	LAND	6334010C	N	2012	2013	Semi State	6.98	Grasslands	Amenity Lands
11965	LAND0099	NAAS TC LAND AT RATHASKER ROAD C.3.6 ACRES	LAND	B888888C	N	2009	2010	To be confirmed	1.44	Grasslands	Housing
12614	LAND0105	TOWER HILL KILDARE TOWN	LAND	6334010C	N	2015	2015	Company	0.66	Open Space	Proposed walkway & Monastic Garden
12713	LAND0106	DOMINICAN CHURCH, PRIORY & LANDS ATHY	LAND	8119005C	N	2015	2015	Company	3.92	Buildings and open space	Library, Social Housing and Amenity
12876	LAND0107	PROSPEROUS LAND BESIDE COILL DUBH CU	LAND	8119002C	N	2015	2015	Company	1.19	Open Space	Playground
12972	LAND0108	SALLINS AMENITY LAND SHANAHANS	LAND	6336004C	N	2016	2016	Private	14.57	Open Space	Amenity
13037	LAND0109	HSG OLD GREENFIELD MAYNOOTH	LAND	1153066C	N	2017	2017	Developer	4.92	Dev land	Housing
13869	LAND0110	DE BURGHE ESTATE	LAND	6336006C	N	2020	2020	Private	0.20	House & parkland	Housing & Amenity
	LAND0111	STATION ROAD, KILDARE 12 UNITS	LAND			2022	2022	Private	0.2	Open Space	Housing
Housing List - not included in above list											
PIR ID	Asset ID	Asset ID(T)	Asset group	JOB	Status	Acq approved	Purchased	Vendor	Lands in Hectares - circa	Description of Lands	Purpose for Lands
13293		Ambassador Site Kill				2018	2018	NAMA	to be confirmed	Brown site	Housing
13294		Oldtown Mill Celbridge				2018	2018	Company	1.71	Field	Housing
14404		Liffey Lodge Newbridge				2021	2022	Trust	0.698	Building and lands	Housing

Councillor Neville thanked the Director for the report adding that Councillors had historically kept this item on the agenda. He referred to the Oldtown Mill lands which are in the Development Plan and noted that people will soon be living on those lands.

Mr. E. Ryan advised the councillors that there was no purchasing strategy, however there were a couple of objectives that were contained in the County Development Plan which were the provision of facilities, infrastructure and housing. When an opportunity presents, we can react following an approach by the landowner or be proactive when considering purchase of a piece of land, however, due diligence would have to be undertaken in terms of acquisition and purchase of land for future use.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy enquired in relation to the following protocols:

- Ensuring that the same valuers were not engaged to do all of the valuations.

- Was there a protocol in place on how the executives decide on the use of land and also that the executive be provided with all information required.

Mr. E. Ryan advised the members that in terms of acquisition, due diligence would be undertaken as to what was the intended use and if there was vacant possession or archaeological considerations. There was a three year framework agreement in place and valuers are selected from that based on their relevant skills.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy requested that bio-diversity be the first consideration.

Mr. E. Ryan advised the members that firstly lands are looked at in relation to housing and then bio-diversity. The council also examine the PIR and carry out site visits when determining the use of council owned lands.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by the members that the report be noted.

23/1123

Housing First for Youth programme

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

That the council engage in a collaborative effort with TUSLA, Focus Ireland, the HSE, Empowering People in Care (EPIC) and additional relevant stakeholders to design and implement a specific Housing First for Youth programme, focusing on assisting care leavers and other young individuals who are vulnerable to homelessness. That the programme should;

- (a) be modelled on the Youth Housing First scheme, which has seen successful implementation in Wexford and Waterford but adapted to meet the specific needs of the youth in our area,
- (b) be inclusive and involve close cooperation with local regional and national organisations,

(c) engage in continuous monitoring and evaluation in order to ensure its effectiveness and allow for necessary adjustments and improvements over time.

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

A report from Ms. A Aspell, Director of Service, Housing and Regeneration stated that the Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023-2025 prepared by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage is a 3-year strategy working towards ending homelessness for young people aged 18-24 through prevention and exits; and improving the experience of young people accessing emergency accommodation. The strategy commits in the first instance to developing a pilot model of a housing-led intervention for young people: Supported Housing for Youth (SHY) which will be a youth housing-led intervention for young people with complex needs, who have experienced homelessness. The model for SHY takes inspiration from existing models of HF4Y (Housing First for Youths). SHY will be developed to provide housing with reasonable conditions, offer individualised, client-driven supports separated from housing, encourage positive youth development and community integration, and offer assertive engagement without coercion.

A Strategic Aim of the Youth Homelessness Strategy is to 'ensure the specific inclusion of young people in regional Homelessness Action Plans, with particular consideration given to those who have been identified in the Strategy as vulnerable cohorts'. The Mid-East Regional Homelessness Action Plan (which includes the Counties of Kildare Meath and Wicklow – with Kildare as the Regional Lead) is currently being reviewed and this Strategic Aim will be included in the new Homelessness Action Plan. This plan will be brought before the Housing SPC, the Homelessness Regional Forum and Strategic Management Group and a meeting of the Full Council in 2024. All stakeholders including the HSE, Tusla, AHBs, Probation Service, KWETB are being consulted throughout this process and will be involved during the implementation of the 2024-2026 Homelessness Action Plan.

Councillor Pender thanked the director for the report. There was new support for a Housing for Youth Model which would assist in getting individuals support. Along with Councillor Farrelly he had addressed this issue for young people at SPC level

He was delighted to see this going to SPC and that a collaborative approach was needed to deal with local realities and to be adaptive as seen around the Housing Model.

Councillor Farrelly advised that he was aware of housing staff working specifically for young people who were at risk of homelessness and he commended these staff for their work over the last year. He also enquired from the Director as to whether there would be any warrant for a Youth Housing Co-ordinator.

Ms. A. Aspell thanked Councillor Farrelly for the compliment to the Housing Team. The Youth Homeless Strategy required a lot of work and that was reflected in a review of documents in 2023 and the Action Plan. The matter would be coming before the SPCs in Kildare, Meath and Wicklow in approximately March 2024. Ms. Aspell advised that she took on board the comments that when engaging with young people there were quite a lot of teams involved. There was a lot of expertise including Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) and Tusla. She noted the comments and would talk with the homeless team in Housing. She would look at seeking a Youth Housing Officer. This would also be taken to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage as they would be looking at a critical tenancy support.

Councillor Pender advised the members that policy should be practical and support should be given wherever it can.

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

24/1123

Amendment of Standing Orders

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

That this council amends Standing Orders to remove the current requirement for an elected representative to get a seconder before the elected member has an opportunity/permission to propose or to put forward their arguments and reasoning in relation to their motion; that the chronology of the seconder recorded in council minutes reflects accurately when that seconder is required and provided; and that seconding where required, is only sought after the elected member has had an opportunity to speak on their motion, where it is properly on the agenda, in line with all normal practice.

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

A report from Mr E Ryan, Director of Service, Corporate, People and Cultural Services stated that Standing Orders for full council meetings were adopted by the members in March 2021. Standing Order no 17 and Standing Order no 18 make reference to the seconding of motions as follows,

1.SO 17 Motions and Amendments (Extract of Part of SO)

The proposer of an amendment to a motion shall upon moving same, deliver a copy in writing or by a telecommunications link to the Cathaoirleach and Meetings Administrator.

A motion, notice of which stands in the agenda and which has been proposed and seconded, may be withdrawn only on leave obtained from a majority of the Members present at the Meeting and at the request of the Member concerned. A motion may either be proposed by the Member in whose name it stands or if he/she be absent, by any Member authorised by her/him in writing to the Meetings Administrator to propose it on her/his behalf, but unless so proposed, the motion shall be removed from the agenda and shall not re-appear except on fresh notice.

A motion or an amendment when not seconded is lost.

An amendment which has been proposed and seconded may be withdrawn only on leave obtained from a majority of the Members present at the Meeting and at the request of its proposer and seconder.

2.SO 18 Order of Debate (extract of part of SO)

Except with the permission of the Cathaoirleach the proposer of a motion may speak for four minutes, other Members may speak on the motion for one minute, with the proposer having a right of reply for one minute while the motion remains before the Cathaoirleach and when the proposer replies the debate on the motion is closed. A Member may speak once upon any item on the agenda or on any motion except a motion which is to be put without debate.

A Member may speak more than once on the same motion or amendment for the purpose only of submitting a Point of Order or making a personal explanation. The Cathaoirleach's decision in determining a Point of Order or personal explanation shall be final.

The Cathaoirleach shall ascertain that a motion is seconded, and the Meeting shall hear any report on it before the proposer is permitted to speak to it.

A motion "that the Council proceed to the next business" may be made after any motion has been proposed and seconded. When made it shall be determined without amendment or debate and if it be affirmed the business interrupted by such motion shall not be proceeded with further at that Meeting and unless the Council otherwise determine shall be adjourned to the next ordinary Meeting. The motion to proceed to next business shall not be made more than once during the debate on any question.

Changes to standing orders should be referred to the Protocol and Procedures Committee for consideration and recommendation to full council.

Standing Orders remain in force from the date of their adoption until the Council shall decide by resolution to repeal them. Pending any such resolution, these orders may be amended by a resolution of the Council for which two-thirds of the Members of the Council vote in favour. For this purpose, two-thirds of the Membership shall be

determined by disregarding any fraction remaining after the calculation of two-thirds therefore any such amendment requires the support of at least 26 members.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that the requirement for a seconder was not reflected in the Standing Orders. It has happened that someone seconded a motion just to allow a councillor to speak and they then went on to vote against the motion. It was in the 1999 Constitutional Provisions to represent our citizens and she said that a seconder should not be required to move a motion. There is strict criteria on what can be put on an agenda and this affects members right to represent, adding that no council has this requirement to have a seconder. She said that in Wicklow County Council this does not happen as they propose the motion, the councillor speaks on their motion and then a seconder is required.

Councillor Killeen said that to second people's motions you do not have to be in support, adding that Independent Councillors were at a disadvantage and should be supported.

Councillor Michael Coleman advised that he supported the motion and that you need to be able to speak and that you do not have to be Independent to have this happen to you as this had happened to him. He agreed that you should be able to speak and have a seconder at the end.

Councillor Pender advised you should be allowed to at least propose and then you should be allowed to seek support, adding that he has no issue with a proposer speaking and then looking for a seconder at the end.

Councillor Doyle said that with 40 councillors it was difficult to get on the agenda and that a seconder was not needed for a matter to be discussed adding that it is too late now for this council but that this should be reflected in protocol.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy advised that the pitfalls are known and that this matter should not have to go to protocol committee. This requirement should be removed as it is overarching and a stopper on councillors ability to propose a motion on the agenda. Legal advice may be needed before this was referred to Protocol Committee.

Mr. E Ryan advised the members that in March 2021 Standing Orders, items 17 and 18 make reference to motions and seconding and that a decision by resolution was needed for any change to standing orders, adding that 26 members would be needed to change them.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy reaffirmed that this was only to remove the requirement for a seconder from the beginning and not at the end.

Councillor Heavy enquired if the vote was to send the matter to the Protocol Committee.

Councillor Fitzpatrick advised that it was a vote to change Standing Orders and 2/3 of the membership of the council voting in favour was required.

Councillor Robert Power enquired if there were enough councillors present in the chamber and online or should this vote wait until the matter is sent to protocol.

The Meetings Administrator advised that there were 19 councillors in the chamber and 10 online. The Meetings Administrator informed the meeting as this was a proposed change to Standing Orders that the motion needed 26 votes to be successful.

It was agreed by the members that a vote would take place and with only 18 members voting in favour the motion fell as it did not reach the required threshold of 26.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Killeen with only 18 voting in favour and 26 members required, under standing orders, the motion fell.

25/1123

2023 Shop Front Scheme Uptake

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

That the council provide a breakdown by municipal district of the Shop Front Scheme uptake for 2023.

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

A report from Mr. A. Dunney, Director of Service, Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services stated that the budget for Kildare County Council's Shop Front Grant (SFG) was €200,000 in 2023 with the €9,167.14 remaining on the relevant code funding some additional windows and County-wide social media footage that was currently being recorded for marketing purposes.

The Shop Front Grant (SFG) covers the physical enhancement of a shopfront with respect to painting, lighting, signage, planting, repair and/or installation of new doors and windows. In 2022 the Planning and Economic Development SPC broadened the support to additional retail support where deemed to enhance footfall. In 2023, to date, over 40 additional premises were awarded SFG compared to 2022. There is also a renewed focus on Age-Friendliness and Universal Accessibility with applications going from 2 to 17 in 2023. The Economic Development team has been asked to put in place an enhanced Age-Friendly campaign for 2024. The SFG 2023 also comprises Kildare County Council's Retail Window Merchandising Grant (RW); this is open to both general interior design enhancements (lighting/shelving) and seasonal promotion (St Brigid, St Patrick, Easter, Halloween and Christmas) or town-specific with respect to local events e.g. sports/racing meetings.

As of 21 November, the uptake of the SFG and RW can be broken down as follows:

SFG	APPS	VALUE
KDNB	15	€44,218.00
ATHY	15	€30,743.00
NAAS	15	€34,314.00
CBLX	14	€29,029.25
CLMN	7	€14,021.20
		€152,325.45
RW	APPS	VALUE
KDNB	3	€421.00
ATHY	4	€1,424.00
NAAS	7	€2,651.00
CBLX	3	€1,256.00
CLMN	3	€1,457.00
		€7,209.00
PROMO		VALUE
POP+MS		€20,951.91
Retail Series		€5,365.00
KFM		€4,981.50
		€31,298.41
Overall		€190,832.86

Furthermore, the SFG budget also funds:

- the Shop Local/Support Local campaign on KFM and in the newspapers for the Christmas period (cost €4,981).
- the Shop Local/Support Local social media presence, this campaign is year-round (cost €4,674).
- Signage for vacant retail units showcasing Kildare County Council supports and grants to attract potential business.
- Kildare County Council provided a Retail Series in the Spring and Autumn to over 30 retailers at a cost of c.€6,720.
- The Pride of Premises Awards occurred in April 2023 to celebrate and provide coverage to successful shopfront applicants at a cost of c.€20,000; there was over 80 attendees and the event received media coverage to further promote the Kildare retailers.

Over the past year, and in addition to the above, the Economic Development team also successfully applied for DRCD's Streetscape Enhancement Scheme for Athy. The Athy Municipal District provided 20% matched funding of €20,000 from its LPT budget; this was not derived from SFG. There were 18 premises involved in this measure.

Councillor Kelly thanked the Director for the comprehensive report and said that the consequences of the work can be seen in Villages and Towns enquiring also as to how many requests were received for signage as Gaeilge.

Mr. A Dunney advised that with the small amount of money available that as Gaeilge has not been promoted and there had not been a lot of requests for this, but that this area will be pursued.

The meeting concluded.