



**Minutes of meeting of Full Council held at 3:00 p.m.
Monday 23 February 2026 in the Council Chamber
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

Members Present: Councillors C. Kelly (Cathaoirleach), P. Balfe, V. Behan, A. Breen, F. Brett, B. Caldwell, B. Clear, B. Dooley, S. Doyle, G. Dunne, T. Durkan, W. Durkan, A. Feeney, D. Fitzpatrick, R. Heather, N. Heavey, M. Leigh, T. McDonnell, P. McEvoy, S. Moore, P. O'Dwyer, T. O'Dwyer, B. O'Loughlin, C. O'Rourke, C. Pender, D. Phelan, R. Power, D. Ryan, E. Sammon and D. Trost.

Online: Councillors P. Brooks, N Connolly, K. Duffy, I. Keatley, N. Killeen, P. Melrose and P. Mulroe.

Apologies: Councillors A. Breslin, P. Ward and B. Wyse.

Also Present: Ms. S. Kavanagh (Chief Executive), Mr. J. Boland, Mr. A. Dunney, Ms. M. Higgins, Mr. E. Ryan (Directors of Services), Ms. E. Hanlon (Head of Finance), Mr. D. Creighton, Mr. M. McLoughlin, Ms. P. Pender (A/Director of Services), Mr. B. Leonard, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. O. Brady, A/ Senior Executive Officer, Ms. L. Hanratty (Meetings Administrator), Mr. B. O'Gorman (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

Councillor C. Kelly (Cathaoirleach) welcomed everyone to the February monthly meeting of the Council. The Meeting Administrator read out a notice regarding the live streaming of the meeting to the Council's YouTube channel.



00/0226

Bereavements

The Cathaoirleach advised the meeting that she had been informed of the following bereavements:

- Pearl Fogarty, Mother of Sabrina Fogarty (Procurement) and Josephine Fogarty (Housing)
- Mary Tormey, Mother of Aisling Tormey (National Roads Office)
- Winnie O'Donovan, Mother of Mary Rennick (Kildare/Newbridge MD Office)
- Kevin Byrne, former Councillor
- Laurence (Larry) O'Connor, Brother of Declan O'Connor (Newbridge Community Library), and
- Sarah (Sadie) Duffy, mother of Councillor Kevin Duffy.

The Cathaoirleach noted the recent passing of former Councillor Kevin Byrne (Labour). Members acknowledged his dedicated service to the community and noted that he will be greatly missed.

The Cathaoirleach requested that a minute's silence be observed. A minute's silence was observed.

01/0226

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.



02/0226

Minutes and Progress Report

The Council considered the draft minutes of the special planning meeting held on 26 January 2026, the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 26 January 2026 and the progress report.

An amendment to special meeting (Planning) minutes for Item 89, 90 and 91 was noted as below:

Items 89, 90 and 91 - Amend to record that Councillor D. Phelan (not Councillor A. Feeney) accepted the Chief Executive's recommendations.

The amendment was noted and agreed by members.

An amendment to full Council minutes for Item 01/0126 (Declarations of Interest) was noted as below:

Item 4 – Section 183 for Celbridge Industrial Estate - Councillor D. Trost advised that he was a voluntary Director of Camelton Enterprises Ltd. and would absent himself from discussion.

The amendment was noted and agreed by members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor C. Pender, seconded by Councillor M. Leigh and agreed by the members present that the draft minutes (with amendment) of the Special Planning Meeting held on 26 January 2026 were confirmed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor C. Pender, seconded by Councillor A. Feeney and agreed by the members present that the draft minutes of the monthly meeting (with amendment) held on 26 January 2026 were confirmed.

The progress report was noted.



03/0226

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

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

04/0226

Nomination to the Housing and Regeneration SPC

This item was deferred.

05/0226

Audit Committee Charter

Mr. J. Boland, Director of Services, Corporate and Cultural Services, noted that the Audit Committee Charter was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Audit Committee Charter is subject to annual review by the committee and council and may be amended or updated by resolution of the Council.

The members agreed to adopt the Charter, as circulated, without amendment.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor S. Moore, seconded by Councillor D. Fitzpatrick and agreed by members present that the Audit Committee Charter be adopted.

06/0226

Audit Committee Work Programme 2026

Mr. J. Boland, Director of Services, Corporate and Cultural Services noted that the Audit Committee Work Programme 2026 was circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillor S. Doyle commended the work of the Committee and requested that consideration of Value for Money (VFM) be incorporated across its programme.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor S. Moore, seconded by Councillor D. Trost and agreed by members present that the Audit Committee Work Programme be adopted.



07/0226

Report from Members appointed to Other Bodies

The members considered the following report from member appointed to Other Body, pursuant to Section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended):

- County Kildare Community Network Company CLG (CKAN).

The report was noted.

08/0226

Cathaoirleach's Business

The Cathaoirleach advised members on the following highlights:

Spirit of Kildare – Brigid Festival

The Cathaoirleach noted that February marked the celebration of Brigid and commended the success of the Spirit of Kildare – Brigid Festival, which delivered 65 events countywide. Appreciation was expressed to the Community Department for their organisation of the festival and the significant work involved. The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the strong public engagement and the growing profile of Kildare as the focal point for Brigid celebrations.

St. Farnan's Secondary School

The Cathaoirleach updated members on her recent visit to St. Farnan's Secondary School, Prosperous, where she met with students in the Special Needs class. The Cathaoirleach noted the warm welcome received and wished the students well in their future endeavours.

09/0226

Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that fourteen items of correspondence had been circulated to the members along with the progress report and meetings calendar for March. These included:



- Two items of correspondence issued relating to referrals for SPCs; and one in relation to motion passed at January full council meeting 25/0126.
- Reply from the office of Minister of State for International & Road Transport, Logistics, Rail & Ports, Sean Canney TD, re. Electric Scooters 25/0126.
- Reply from Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage re National Development Plan Review 2025 Sectoral Investment Plan for Transport 19/1225
- Local Government Circular LG 02-2026 (Elected Members Renumeration), and
- Eight resolutions from other County Councils.

The correspondence and report were noted.

10/0226

Conferences and Training

The Meeting Administrator referred to the Conference and Training report which was circulated to the members and recommended by the Corporate Policy Group.

Ms. Hanratty also highlighted the forthcoming Irish language training course that was being facilitated for members. This course is being funded under the Council's official languages budget. In addition, members were reminded of the Climate Crisis and Local Government Course (Part Time- CPD) by University College Cork (part funded by AILG).

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor C. Pender, seconded by Councillor F. Brett and agreed by the members present that the Conference and Training report be approved.

11/0226

Historic Monuments Advisory Committee

The members considered a report from the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee provided by Mr. A. Dunney, Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services, which was previously circulated.



Mr. Dunney advised that the Kildare Historic Monuments Advisory Committee (HMAC), as currently constituted, does not conform with the requirements under the National Monuments Act 1930, as amended by the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987. He noted there were too many members on the Committee and there was no fixed period of appointment.

Mr. Dunney informed members that the recommendation, as approved at the Corporate Policy Group, is:

- (i) That the Committee should be formally dissolved, and
- (ii) Steps initiated to re-establish a committee, fully compliant with the legal frameworks of the 1930 and 1987 Acts.

He outlined that as part of this process a new Work Programme and Terms of Reference would be developed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor S. Doyle, seconded by Councillor D. Fitzpatrick and agreed by members present that (i) That the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee should be formally dissolved, and (ii) Steps initiated to re-establish a committee, fully compliant with the legal frameworks of the 1930 and 1987 Acts.

12/0226

River Liffey Flood-Level Monitoring Stations

The following motion in the name of Councillors Pádraig McEvoy, Angela Feeney, Rob Power, Peggy O'Dwyer, Chris Pender and Carmel Kelly was considered by the members:

That the council, recognising the increased complexity of managing flood risk linked to climate change in the ESB-controlled River Liffey catchment, engages with relevant stakeholders to install electronic water-level monitoring stations at key locations, including Clane and Newbridge, to improve understanding of hydrological response and support climate adaptation and flood preparedness, with data made publicly available through the OPW www.waterlevel.ie platform.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P. McEvoy and seconded by Councillor A. Feeney.



A report was received from Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stating that, as a general rule of thumb, every degree of global temperature increase leads to an additional 7% rainfall. The planet for the last three years has reached the Paris Agreement mile marker of 1.5 degrees temperature global increase above pre-industrial levels. Based on risk analysis under the Kildare Climate Action Plan 2024–2029, extreme precipitation, river and pluvial (due to rain) flooding will continue to increase as weather event elements move from ‘frequent’ to ‘very frequent’ occurrences. To build resilience in communities and our operational areas, collaboration and data are invaluable tools to assist in decision-making.

The Flood Risk Management Team is in consultation with the Office of Public Works (OPW) to install gauges on the River Liffey in Newbridge and Clane. These gauges will provide long-term data which will inform proposed flood risk management measures in both towns as well as providing real time levels of the River Liffey.

Gauge levels are publicly available on the OPW’s website www.waterlevel.ie.

The Council will continue to work closely with ESB to manage discharges from Golden Falls as appropriate.

Councillor McEvoy welcomed the report and the Council’s engagement with the OPW and ESB to install electronic water-level gauges at Newbridge and Clane. He noted that recent severe rainfall and flooding had exposed the limits of manual river monitoring and placed significant strain on local communities. He commended staff for their work during these events and highlighted that real-time data will strengthen early-warning systems and support long-term climate adaptation. Councillor McEvoy referenced the ongoing progress under the Climate Action Plan 2024–2029 and stressed that climate-consistent decision-making across all public bodies is essential to meet national obligations.

Councillor Feeney commended the extent of flood alleviation works which had been carried out, particularly in the Liffey catchment area, over the years. She noted that these had worked very effectively during the recent weather emergency period.



Members supported the motion, emphasising the importance of public access to information during severe weather events, continued inter-agency collaboration, and the inclusion of relevant stakeholders. It was noted that while recent capital works have improved conditions in some areas, there remains an ongoing need to enhance monitoring tools and technology.

Ms. Higgins noted that recent weather events had activated the Council's Severe Weather Assessment Team and commended staff across departments and the strong working relationship with the ESB. She highlighted the importance of data and enhanced monitoring, confirmed further engagement with the OPW including consideration of additional locations such as Celbridge. Ms. Higgins advised that follow-up meetings and reviews would take place to inform improvements, noting that the recent episode was well managed.

Councillor McEvoy thanked members and the Director and welcomed the continued efforts to improve monitoring.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P. McEvoy, seconded by Councillor A. Feeney and agreed by members present that the report be noted.

13/0226

Review of Parking Enforcement Contract

The following motion in the name of Councillors Evie Sammon, Kevin Duffy, William Durkan, Brendan Wyse, and Ivan Keatley was considered by the members:

Given the imminent cessation of APCOA's contract, that the council considers moving to a model of Community Wardens, where wardens would have broad enforcement powers in the areas of parking enforcement, litter fines and enforcement of responsible dog ownership; similar to the model in place in Cork City Council and Dublin City Council.

The motion was proposed by Councillor E. Sammon and seconded by Councillor W. Durkan.



A report was received from Mr. M. McLoughlin, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that Kildare County Council administers and enforces parking bye-laws and traffic regulations throughout the county by means of bye-laws operating in seven pay parking bye-law towns i.e. Athy, Celbridge, Kildare, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge which are regulated by our contractor APCOA Parking Ireland Limited, and three maximum stay bye-law towns; Clane, Kilcock and Sallins, which are regulated by Kildare County Council wardens who also regulate the rest of the County outside of the pay parking bye-law towns.

The model of enforcement of parking regulations by community wardens was in operation a number of years ago and did not prove to be an efficient use of resources. This matter was discussed and addressed at the Transportation and Public Safety Strategic Policy Committee in 2016.

The key objective of regulated parking is to encourage the turnover of parking spaces at key central locations, allow for easier parking options for drivers with additional needs and make cheaper parking available in car-parks for commuters and longer-stay visitors while encouraging visitors to towns to consider using more sustainable means of transport such as public transport or walking and cycling. Enforcement of parking regulations requires a consistent full-time on-street presence to ensure compliance with parking byelaws and road traffic legislation, particularly during peak times. It was previously established that the model of community wardens carrying out enforcement did not work as a combination of duties vis-à-vis litter fines, dog fouling and other duties, invariably leaves a substantial gap in the visible on-street presence that is necessary to ensure compliance with a managed parking service. The community wardens in the Environment Department are fully engaged in litter management enforcement.

The scale of the parking operation in County Kildare is not at the scale of larger urban authorities such as Dublin and Cork, however, at a national level, Kildare is considered a best practice model. The transfer of engagement from a private contractor to a community warden-based system would have considerable implications including:

- procurement of cash collection services



- procurement of a systems to manage payment services
- Investment in hardware and software systems to manage and regulate parking.

The introduction of a community warden system would also necessitate an increase in administrative staff to manage the back-office process, currently carried out by our service provider.

In accordance with best practice, Kildare County Council is in discussion with the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) who are currently preparing a framework for parking services. Once this framework is in place, the Council will undertake a procurement process ensuring the best value for money for the Council. The Council is of the view that this is the most economically efficient means of delivering the service and best practice of managing parking services in bye-law towns for the foreseeable future. Surpluses generated from pay parking are used by municipal districts for the improvement of local and regional roads, footpaths, public lighting and road safety measures. The budgeted estimate for these improvements in 2026 is €1,106,752.

Councillor Sammon noted that the Council's contract with the current service provider was due to cease and was subject to review. She highlighted public confusion arising where the same operator provides services to both the Council and private car parks and queried whether future tendering processes could exclude operators providing such dual services within towns.

Members noted that the parking enforcement model had last been reviewed in 2016 and raised issues including the balance between income and expenditure, rising costs, limited market availability of service providers and the alignment of parking enforcement with transport policy objectives aimed at reducing car use. Concerns were also expressed regarding the capacity to address related enforcement matters such as litter, drinking and dog fouling. There was agreement that the matter should be referred to the Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces Strategic Policy Committee as part of the consideration of future tendering arrangements.

Mr. McLoughlin acknowledged engagement on the matter and advised that the Council will progress future arrangements through the Office of Government



Procurement framework. He noted that restricting one operator would be challenging and that the existing provider operates across multiple divisions with different personnel. He agreed that the matter should be referred to the Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor E. Sammon, seconded by Councillor W. Durkan and agreed by members present that the matter be referred to the Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces SPC for consideration.

14/0226

Pathway/Camino Connecting St. Brigid Sights

The following motion in the name of Councillor Brian O'Loughlin and Veralouise Behan was considered by members:

That the council provides an update on the progress of the proposed pathway/camino connecting the St. Brigid sights around County Kildare.

The motion was proposed by Councillor B. O'Loughlin and seconded by Councillor V. Behan.

A report from Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that the Council has secured funding of €50,000 under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) for a feasibility study regarding a possible St. Brigid camino in County Kildare. This proposal emerged from engagement with stakeholders as part of the development and expansion of the Brigid-Spirit of Kildare Festival.

To progress the project, the Community Department has allocated the required match funding of €5,000 and accordingly the Funding Agreement with the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht was signed in Q4 2025.

The next step is to initiate a procurement process for a consultancy to carry out a feasibility study to explore the routing options and all related factors, including but not limited to environmental, access, capital, maintenance and management.



The funding agreement's conditions require the completion of the feasibility study and submission of all costs by 27 February 2027.

Councillor B. O'Loughlin thanked the Director for the report and noted that challenges may arise in determining the most appropriate sites, emphasising the importance of stakeholder engagement.

Councillor V. Behan highlighted examples of existing walks and routes which traverse the Wicklow/ Kildare region, including the Columban Way and St. Kevin's Way. She noted the importance of the project for tourism development and year-round benefit.

Ms. Higgins advised that funding had been agreed at the end of 2025 to allow progression to the tendering of consultants to undertake a feasibility study. She noted that multiple stakeholders will be involved and that extensive consultation is envisaged.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor B. O'Loughlin, seconded by Councillor V. Behan and agreed by members present that the report be noted.

15/0226

Access All Areas

The following motion in the name of Councillor Nuala Killeen was listed on consideration as below:

That the council expands the successful Celbridge 'Access All Areas' initiative to all towns in County Kildare in 2026 contributing to Kildare's commitment to accessibility and inclusivity for all and that members support this campaign in reaching all businesses throughout the county to make Kildare accessible and inclusive for all; so that everyone can live, work, shop and travel safely in our community, feel valued and welcomed.

Access All Areas is an award-winning campaign developed by Celbridge Disability Access Group (CDAG), supporting local business in making Business Accessible to All. CDAG is working in partnership with Celbridge businesses to make people with disabilities feel valued and welcomed.



The motion was removed as Councillor Killeen was not in attendance when the motion arose.

16/0226

Solar Panels on Farmland

The following motion in the name of Councillor Tom McDonnell was considered by the members:

That the Council, in recognition of the critical need to protect farmland for food production, food security and the equine industry, adopts a clear policy position on opposing large or small ground mounted solar panels on farmland and direct officials to have full regard to this position on relevant planning permission applications.

The motion was proposed by Councillor T. McDonnell and seconded by Councillor B. Clear.

A report from Mr. A. Dunney, Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development stated that Kildare County Council's policy position regarding solar farms is contained in the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied), namely Section 7.6 and Section 15.11.2, which does not in principle exclude large or small ground mounted solar panels on farmland. Planning applications for solar energy projects are considered on their own merits having regard to County Development Plan policy, Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines (where appropriate), environmental assessments and submissions from the public and prescribed bodies.

Councillor McDonnell highlighted the importance of the county's equine economy and the protection of prime agricultural land, distinguishing between the installation of solar panels on industrial buildings or non-productive lands and their placement on farmland.

Councillor P. McEvoy noted that a transition to solar and wind energy was necessary in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.



Councillor C. Pender stated that the planning system does not treat all land as identical and that a blanket ban would not be appropriate, while agreeing that solar development would not be suitable on a stud farm.

Mr. A. Dunney advised that the Council's policy is set out in Chapter 7 of the County Development Plan. He noted that Regional Assemblies are considering renewable energy targets for local authorities. He stated that the Building Regulations include requirements to provide energy from renewable sources and that the Council is prescriptive regarding rooftop solar installations, where appropriate.

Councillor McDonnell noted the report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T. McDonnell, seconded by Councillor B. Clear and agreed by members present that the report was noted.

17/0226

Yellow Box Junctions

The following motion in the name of Councillor Bill Clear was considered by the members:

That the council reviews and clarifies its current policy and operational criteria for the installation, approval and enforcement of yellow box junction markings across the county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor B. Clear and seconded by Councillor C. Pender.

A report from Mr. M. McLoughlin, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that the criteria for the implementation of yellow boxes is included in the Criteria for the Implementation of Statutory Signing and Lining Measures in Co. Kildare (August 2020), as prepared by the Traffic Assessment and Advisory Group in accordance with the Road Traffic Acts and Road Traffic Regulations.

The matter was referred to the Transport, Mobility & Open Spaces Strategic Policy Committee by the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District (KN16/1025) and was



discussed at the December 2025 meeting. The Committee discussed the matter, and it was agreed that the policy document would be reviewed and is being considered as part of the Work Programme by the Committee for 2026.

Councillor Clear accepted the report that the matter will be further considered as part of the Work Programme of the SPC.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor B. Clear, seconded by Councillor C. Pender and agreed by members present that the matter be referred to the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Strategic Policy Committee.

18/0226

Review of Flag Policy

The following motion in the name of Councillor Peter Melrose was considered by the members:

That the council expands its flag policy to include the council's practice in relation to the flying of flags at all council-owned land including the decision-making process for requests relating to the same.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P. Melrose and seconded by Councillor C. Pender.

A report from Mr. J. Boland, Director of Services, Corporate and Cultural Services stated that Kildare County Council's Flag Policy (April 2024) governs the protocols for the flying of flags at all council-owned public buildings. The policy was developed with due regard to the national guidelines issued by the Department of Taoiseach.

Any proposed amendments to the current policy will require referral to the Protocol and Procedures Committee for consideration. In reviewing such proposals, the Committee will have regard to the relevant national guidelines as well as the operational and management requirements of the Council.

Councillor Melrose welcomed the report and noted the referral of the motion to the Protocol and Procedures Committee.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P. Melrose, seconded by Councillor C. Pender and agreed by members present that the matter be referred to the Protocol and Procedures Committee for consideration.

19/0226

Spirit of Brigid Festival

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

Recognising the success of Spirit of Brigid Festival and the momentum gathering behind this date in calendar, both Nationally & Internationally, that we host a SWOT workshop with key stakeholders in order to build on the momentum of this event and inform planning for successive years.

The motion was proposed by Councillor S. Doyle and seconded by Councillor B. O'Loughlin.

A report from Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that given that 2027 will be the fifth year of the Brigid Spirit of Kildare Festival and, it is agreed that 2026 represents an appropriate juncture for a focused SWOT workshop with stakeholders, to build upon existing success, realise new opportunities and sustain and expand the Festival into the future.

This can be actioned when the person to be appointed as Brigid Programme Manager has been assigned to the vacant post.

Councillor S. Doyle welcomed the report and highlighted the importance of capturing the commercial opportunity for the county. She acknowledged the work of the Community Department in delivering the programme. Members spoke in support of the motion and noted the potential for the Council to support similar events at other times of the year.

Ms. Higgins thanked members for their contributions and advised that it was an opportune time to undertake a strategic review of the festival. She noted that



attendance at this year's events had surpassed previous years and referenced the inaugural Spirit of Brigid Awards, which were well received.

The Chief Executive advised that the project will transition to the Economic Development Team and highlighted the role of Kildare Fáilte / Into Kildare in tourism development, noting the significant progress of the festival over the past four years.

Councillor Doyle thanked the Chief Executive and Director for their commitment to the project and to tourism development in the county and looked forward to future updates.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor S. Doyle, seconded by Councillor B. O'Loughlin agreed by members present that the report be noted.

20/0226

Solar PV Panels for Council Tenants

The following motion in the name of Councillor Pat Balfe was considered by the members:

That the Council outlines its current policy or position in respect of council-owned dwellings and the installation of solar PV systems where a tenant qualifies as medically vulnerable under national criteria and engages with the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), and electricity suppliers to establish whether medically vulnerable council tenants can avail a suitable scheme on an equitable basis with Kildare County Council as landlord, and examines the legal, financial, and operational implications for the Council in facilitating or participating in this scheme for eligible council tenants.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P. Balfe and seconded by Councillor C. O'Rourke.

A report from Ms. P. Pender, A/Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that Kildare County Council's Housing Maintenance Section can confirm that the Solar PV Scheme for Medically Vulnerable Customers does extend to Local Authority houses. Launched as a pilot in 2022. The Solar PV Scheme for Medically



Vulnerable Customers was initially a targeted pilot scheme designed to support the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panel in households registered under the life support category of the priority services register, as maintained by energy suppliers as of November 2022. The scheme has now been extended to include all households registered under the life support category of the priority services register.

The SEAI has confirmed the scheme is entirely managed by the four main energy suppliers: Bord Gáis, SSE Airtricity, Electric Ireland and Flogas. These account for approximately 89% of all households on the register. There is no application process. Eligible customers will be contacted by their energy supplier with details of the scheme. Once a Tenant confirms their interest, the energy supplier engages their solar PV company to initiate the survey. The Scheme includes the survey, a 2kWp solar PV system, the installation, post works BER and NC6 submission.

Housing Maintenance has examined the implications and can confirm that we will approve tenant-initiated Solar PV installations, including under the Solar PV Scheme for Medically Vulnerable Customers once the building is suitable. Some rooftops may not be suitable due to orientation, pitch, shading, obstructions, etc. This will be determined at the site survey stage. Kildare County Council has already received a number of requests from solar PV companies engaged by energy suppliers working under the Solar PV Scheme for Medically Vulnerable Customers.

Prior approval must be sought in advance for any Solar PV installation from the Housing Maintenance Section.

Information from an SEAI conference (January 2026) will be made available to members and this information sets out the basis for the below.

<https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/whats-new/free-solar-pv-if-youre-medically-vulnerable/>

Councillor Balfe welcomed the report and emphasised the importance of the scheme for medically vulnerable tenants, noting that the process should be accessible for all eligible tenants.



Members noted the need for Council support for relevant tenants and a clear accessible application process.

Mr. O. Brady advised that this is an SEAI-led scheme and that the Council provided approval where feasible. He noted that approximately four applications are in progress.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P. Balfe and seconded by Councillor C. O'Rourke and agreed by members present that the report be noted.

21/0226

River Barrow Maintenance Works

The following motion in the name of Councillor Brian Dooley was listed for consideration as below:

That this Council, in light of recent flood risks in this county and in neighbouring counties Laois and Carlow, writes to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning and An Coimisiún Pleanála to express concern about the overdue decision on Waterways Ireland's application for maintenance works on the River Barrow. To highlight the importance of these works for flood prevention and mitigation, and the negative impact of legislative changes that now prevent essential maintenance and remedial activities previously permitted, limiting Waterways Ireland and Inland Waterways Ireland in their ability to protect towns, villages and homes from flooding.

The motion was withdrawn by Councillor Dooley in advance of the meeting.

22/0226

Active Travel Design Specifications

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

That the Council writes to the National Transport Authority requesting a full review of the active travel design specifications for adjoining footpath and cycle lanes given



recent accidents across the county including Mill Street Maynooth, Louisa Bridge Leixlip, Naas, Kilcullen Road and Newbridge.

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

A report from Ms. L. Hanratty, Meetings Administrator stated that this is a matter for the members to agree.

A report from Mr. M. McLoughlin, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that the Council has received no details of the alleged incidents on Mill Street, at Louisa Bridge and in Newbridge Town Centre. In the absence of an understanding of what has occurred, this must be considered isolated incidents, and it would be misleading to consider them to be directly correlated. The Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme has unique issues associated with the design of the scheme and enhancements to the scheme are being developed by the designers, in association with the Council and the National Transport Authority.

Councillor Durkan highlighted examples of accidents at completed active travel schemes and requested that the matter be brought to the attention of the NTA.

Members referred to national design guidance for active travel infrastructure and the role of professional technical assessment and emphasised the importance of learning from pilot projects and previous schemes. Concerns were raised regarding issues arising at specific locations, including trip hazards and the need for engagement with the NTA and Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Reference was also made to independent findings identifying concerns with certain schemes.

Mr. M. McLoughlin advised that €11 million had been drawn down for active travel schemes in the county in 2025, with €9 million allocated for 2026. He noted that all investment in infrastructure is welcome and agreed that there is always a need to learn from previous schemes.

Councillor Durkan requested that the motion be referred to the National Transport Authority.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T. Durkan, seconded by Councillor T. O'Dwyer and agreed by members present that the motion be referred to the National Transport Authority for consideration.

23/0226

Housing Grants Applications

The following motion in the name of Councillor Donna Phelan considered by the members:

That the Council explores additional and more accessible ways of communicating how to fill out Housing Grants Applications including Housing Aid for Older People Grant, Housing Adaption Grant for Disabled People and Mobility Aids Grant similar to Clare County Councils video guide (<https://vimeo.com/1025157804>) and to compliment recent Kildare County Council You Tube video that explains Housing Aid Grants.

The motion was proposed by Councillor D. Phelan and seconded by Councillor B. Caldwell.

A report from Ms. P. Pender, A/Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration and Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that A project team was established at the beginning of 2026 to examine the development of an online application system for Housing Grants. The team has been working closely with the Council's software provider, and the project is progressing well. Once the online system is launched, it will be accompanied by an instructional video similar to the guide used by Clare County Council.

It is important to note that the online system will be provided as an additional option for applicants; hard-copy application forms will continue to be accepted.

This year, the contact details for the Healthy Age Friendly Homes (HAFH) Coordinators have been included with all Housing Grant application forms. These coordinators can assist applicants aged over 65 in completing their applications.

The Council has also included a document at the front of the application form summarising requirements of each grant scheme.



We have also updated the Housing Grant application form on the Council's website to an editable format to make it easier for applicants to complete.

The Grants Team also runs a daily Phone Clinic and can be contacted on 045 980480 from 10.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday, or by email at housinggrants@kildarecoco.ie

The Climate Action Office developed the GlasHouse Hub as part of a design thinking exercise to answer the needs described. The webpage went live at the start of February and disseminated the plethora of information into a single web page with buttons following the SEAI's program of 'Learn, Plan, Do'. It provides the necessary information to learn what is required, plan and enable action including funding opportunities.

Furthermore, Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) arranged a meeting with Wexford Town SEC and are now considering developing tools to follow Wexford's example to promote the Warmer Homes Scheme among those living in energy poverty.

Councillor D. Phelan welcomed the report and the measures introduced to ensure that the application process is clear and accessible for applicants.

Other members acknowledged the progress made in improving the application process in recent years, emphasised the importance of retaining hard-copy applications for those who may experience difficulty with online formats and highlighted the need to allow applicants to self-identify as vulnerable.

Mr. B. Leonard, Senior Executive Officer, Housing advised that a dual system of online and paper-based applications is in place and noted that applications are standardised nationally.

The Council has referred the request for customers to self-declare as a vulnerable person through the Local Community Safety Partnership, recognising that multiple stakeholders are involved.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor D. Phelan, seconded by Councillor B. Caldwell and agreed by members present that the report be noted.



24/0226

Webcast Library of Council Meetings

The following motion in the name of Councillor Claire O'Rourke considered by the members:

That the Council provides a webcast library of council meetings on our website. By providing a webcast library we would ensure transparency and openness and enable people who cannot attend or view live meetings due to work, caregiving responsibilities or other constraints, to stay informed about council decisions.

The motion was proposed by Councillor C. O'Rourke and seconded by Councillor C. Pender.

A report from Mr. J. Boland, Director of Services, Corporate and Cultural Services stated that this matter was examined in detail by the Protocol and Procedures Committee in 2024, supported by a comprehensive report. Research at that time showed that most local authorities did not webcast, with cost identified as the primary barrier. While live viewership levels nationally were consistently low, recorded views demonstrated higher engagement after meetings.

Protocol agreed in 2024 to continue live streaming for a further year, with a commitment to assess viewership and invite feedback in September 2025. Members also agreed that any move to uploading recordings would require new protocols and changes to Standing Orders.

Recent feedback from 20 local authorities, showed a mixed national picture 6 webcast, 3 livestream, 4 permit a live link through Teams on request and 7 operate in person meetings only.

Kildare's current YouTube livestreaming arrangements achieve low live viewership, operate at a nominal cost and require minimal internal resources. Promotion in advance of live streaming meetings to increase viewership numbers was discussed at the February meeting of the Protocol and Procedures Committee, and it was agreed to raise awareness through our social media accounts, and the use of radio would be investigated.



By contrast, implementing a full webcast system with the ability to record, edit and store recordings would require an investment in specialised software such as Public-I <https://www.public-i.tv/>, costing in the region of €20,000–€30,000 per year, along with additional Corporate Services resourcing for editing and publication. There are also GDPR, storage, and governance implications associated with retaining recordings to consider.

If members wish to revisit the proposal, the matter will require referral back to Protocol and Procedures Committee.

Councillor C. O'Rourke stated that the purpose of the motion was to promote inclusion and accessibility, noting that many members of the public are unable to view Council meetings live due to work, caring responsibilities or other commitments. She emphasised that improving access would benefit the wider community and that, notwithstanding the associated costs, this could be balanced against the public good.

Other members acknowledged that the matter had been previously considered by the Protocol and Procedures Committee and noted low live viewership levels, which were partly attributed to the timing of meetings. Members supported measures to improve public access and engagement, including consideration of making recordings available for a limited period following meetings.

Mr. Boland advised that a number of related matters had already been referred to the Protocol and Procedures Committee and agreed that the issues raised could be examined in further detail by the Committee. He confirmed that the Communications Team would continue to promote the livestreaming of meetings and that the suggestion regarding limited-period access to recordings would also be considered.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor C. O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor C. Pender and agreed by members present that the motion be referred to the Protocol and Procedures Committee for consideration.



25/0226

School Traffic Wardens

The following motion in the name of Councillor Rupert Heather considered by the members:

That the council provides a breakdown by municipal district of the number and location of School Traffic Wardens currently deployed. The report should outline the policies and criteria used for approving placements and set out how the council plans to future-proof the service in light of population growth, increased traffic, and rising school enrolment.

The motion was proposed by Councillor R. Heather and seconded by Councillor A, Feeney.

A report from Mr. M. McLoughlin, A/ Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that the School Warden service is provided by Kildare County Council for children attending schools across the county during school terms. They carry out their duties effectively and require the co-operation of all road users. A school warden is empowered under Section 96 of the 1961 Road Traffic Act to stop and hold traffic during times of operation in order to allow school children cross the road safely. Currently there are 21 wardens assigned to specific crossing points within the county.

Municipal District	School Warden Numbers
Athy	2
Celbridge Leixlip	5
Kildare Newbridge	5
Clane Maynooth	4
Naas	5

The provision of school wardens is one of a number of initiatives that the Council deliver that support road safety at outside school environments, and these include



signalised crossings and the implementation of the Safer Routes to School Programme.

The number of staff available to undertake these duties is limited and by their nature, this role is a difficult position to fill, either permanently or temporarily. The School Warden service is under constant review, particularly in the context of the increased provision of signalised pedestrian crossings.

Councillor R. Heather advised that he was seeking more detailed consideration of the assessment of schools for the School Warden service and the deployment of resources.

Other members emphasised the need for a review to better align provision based on need, taking account of pupil safety and the availability of wardens and referenced previous initiatives such as the Safe Cross Code. Suggestions were also made regarding local advertising of vacancies through schools and parent associations.

Mr. McLoughlin advised that school road safety is delivered through a suite of measures overseen by the Council's Road Safety Officer, including awareness and education initiatives, school wardens (notwithstanding recruitment challenges) and physical works in the vicinity of schools. He confirmed that the Council continues to work closely with An Garda Síochána.

Councillor Heather thanked the Director for the report and requested that the matter be referred to the Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor R. Heather, seconded by Councillor A. Feeney and agreed by members present that the matter be referred to the Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces SPC.



26/0226

Septic Tank Upgrade Grant

The following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly considered by the members:

Go scríobhfadh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara chuig an tAire Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht ag iarraidh air na critéir maidir le hiarratas a dhéanamh ar dheontas uasghrádaithe umar séipteach a leathnú, chun go bhféadfadh úinéirí tí iarratas a dhéanamh ar bhonn riachtanais seachas na critéir sriantacha reatha.

That the Council writes to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage asking him to expand the criteria for applying for a septic tank upgrade grant, to allow householders to apply on the basis of need rather than the current restrictive criteria.

The motion was proposed by Councillor N. Connolly and seconded by Councillor N. Heavey.

A report from Ms L Hanratty, Meetings Administrator stated that this is a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Connolly outlined concerns regarding the restrictive nature of the current criteria and emphasised the public health and water quality benefits of the proposal.

Councillor Durkan noted that the grant was a targeted measure and stated that it should be more equitable and easier to access.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N. Connolly, seconded by Councillor N. Heavey, and agreed by the members present, that the Council writes to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking an expansion of the criteria for applying for a septic tank upgrade grant to allow applications based on need.



27/0226

Green Dog Walkers

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

That the Council introduces a Green Dog Walkers scheme to proactively change attitudes to dog fouling in Kildare.

The motion was proposed by Councillor M. Leigh and seconded by Councillor R. Heather.

A report from Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that most dog owners are very responsible but there are instances of dog fouling on our streets and in green spaces, and it is detrimental to the health of all.

The Green Dog Walkers (GDW) initiative is a community-based, non-confrontational programme aimed at reducing dog fouling by encouraging responsible ownership.

The GDW scheme appeals to already-responsible dog owners as they are required to sign an online commitment / pledge to take part in the GDW campaign, and in accepting the terms of the pledge, agree to wear a Green Dog Walkers Armband/Vest, to clean up after their dog, to carry extra dog waste bags when walking their dog, and to be happy to be approached to 'lend' a dog waste bag to those without one. (People signing up to the scheme are provided with a complimentary Green Dog Walkers high-viz vest and a roll of bags).

Kildare County Council will happily consider supporting this initiative in addition to its on-going Anti-Dog Fouling Campaign to promote responsible dog ownership and continue to emphasise that dog fouling is the responsibility of the dog owner/walker and that they must clean up after their dog.

It should be noted however that the GDW scheme will require resources and an element of funding which is not provided for in the current budget.

Councillor Leigh welcomed the report and acknowledged that funding should be identified to progress the initiative.



A number of members spoke in support of the proposal and emphasised the importance of promoting responsible dog ownership.

Ms Higgins advised that, subject to funding being identified through Local Property Tax, the matter would be progressed by the Environmental Awareness Officer.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor M. Leigh, seconded by Councillor R. Heather and agreed by members present that the report was noted.

This concluded the business of the meeting.