



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

Monday 30 March 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, A. Breslin, F. Brett, B. Caldwell, B. Clear, N. Connolly, S. Doyle, K. Duffy, G. Dunne, T. Durkan, W. Durkan, A. Feeney, D. Fitzpatrick, N. Heavey, M. Leigh, T. McDonnell, P. McEvoy, 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, B. Dooley, R. Heather, I. Keatley, P. Melrose, P. Mulroe, P. O'Dwyer and B. Wyse.

Apologies: Councillors N. Killeen, S. Moore and P. Ward.

Also Present: Ms. S. Kavanagh (Chief Executive), Mr. J. Boland, Mr. A. Dunney and Ms. M. Higgins (Directors of Services), Ms. E. Hanlon (Head of Finance), Mr. D. Creighton, Ms. P. Pender and Ms. S. Scully (A/Director of Services), Mr. T. Shanahan, 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 March 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.



00/0326

Bereavements

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

- Patrick Lynch, Father of Amanda Byrne, Naas Municipal District Office
- Timothy (Tim) McFadden, Father of Sally-Anne McFadden, Riverbank Arts Service
- Bernadette (Ber) Redmond, Sister of Lisa Duggan, School Warden, Newbridge
- Gertie Lawler, Mother of Jennifer McDonald, School Warden, Castledermot

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

01/0326

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.

02/0326

Minutes and Progress Report

The Council considered the draft minutes of the special planning meeting held on 23 February 2026, the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 23 February 2026 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A. Breen, seconded by Councillor D. Phelan and agreed by the members present that the draft minutes of the Special Planning Meeting held on 23 February 2026 and that the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 23 February 2026 were confirmed.

The progress report was noted.



03/0326

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

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

04/0326

Section 183 Disposal of Land

The members considered the disposal of lands pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended (Statutory notice of 02 March 2026 circulated previously and attached) disposal of 0.0213 hectares, at 1 Jubilee Terrace, Limerick Road, Naas, Co Kildare.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor B. Clear, seconded by Councillor G. Dunne and agreed by members present that the disposal of 0.0213 hectares, at 1 Jubilee Terrace, Limerick Road, Naas, Co Kildare pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended be approved.

05/0326

**Annual Financial Statement (AFS) for 2025
and additional expenditure (Appendix 9 AFS)**

The members considered the Annual Financial Statements (AFS) for 2025 and approval of the additional expenditure for the year ended 31st December 2025 (Appendix 9 AFS). A detailed report had previously been circulated to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A. Feeney, seconded by Councillor K. Duffy and agreed by the members that the Annual Financial Statements (AFS) for 2025 be noted and that the additional expenditure (Appendix 9 AFS) for the year ended 31 December 2025 be approved.

06/0326

Roads Programme 2026

The members considered the Roads Programme 2026, and the report circulated in advance of the meeting.

The report was noted.



07/0326

Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026

The members considered the draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026.

Councillor T. O'Dwyer queried the delivery and resourcing of several ASDP actions, including ongoing support for Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) post-project, the proposed rolling annual roads maintenance programme and arrangements to evaluate EU funding opportunities (noting prior calls for a dedicated EU-funding role).

Councillor O'Dwyer further sought that Newbridge be listed as a key hub network location, suggested adding an objective on town-centre parking management in plans for town and village regeneration, provide staff training and development opportunities to support staff retention, the feasibility of appointing a dedicated EU officer as well as and biannual meetings between Management Team and elected members. A number of members indicated their support for the matters raised and also raised additional queries relating to average reletting times for local authority houses and approval times for HAP top up payments.

The Chief Executive welcomed members' engagement on the plan and noted the queries raised, advising that some matters are policy driven. It was also noted that the Council's existing education support programme is extensively promoted to staff.

Ms. M. Higgins clarified that ongoing support for SECs has been a national challenge and that the matter would be referred to the Regional Climate Action Office and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

Mr. J. Boland highlighted the relevant service delivery objectives as listed in the ASDP that addressed most matters and dealt with the remaining queries raised including an outline of a response to a previous motion relating to the appointment of an EU officer noting the executives position remained unchanged. It was agreed to amend two sections of the document to reflect the importance of Newbridge as a hub network location as well as the importance of providing adequate carparking as part of regeneration initiatives.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor D. Trost, seconded by Councillor D. Fitzpatrick and agreed by the members present that the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026 be approved, with amendments.

08/0326

Audit Committee Annual Report 2025

The members noted the Audit Committee Annual Report 2025, previously circulated to the members.

Dr. Moling Ryan (Chairperson, Audit Committee) acknowledged the work of the committee. He thanked the members and the executive for their input, contribution and positive engagement with the committee's work.

Resolved It was agreed by the members that the Audit Committee Annual Report 2023 be noted.

09/0326

Nomination for Housing and Regeneration SPC

The members considered clarification information provided by the Public Participation Network (PPN) regarding the nomination process for a vacancy on the Housing and Regeneration Strategic Policy Committee.

Following discussion, the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the members, to confirm the proposed nomination to the Housing and Regeneration Strategic Policy Committee.

Results of vote:

In favour	8
Against	17
Abstain	11

Resolved on the results of the vote that the nomination not be approved.



10/0326

Fill Vacancy in County Kildare Community Network CLG

Councillor R. Power, seconded by Councillor T. O'Dwyer proposed Councillor K. Duffy to be nominated. There was no other nomination. Councillor K. Duffy accepted the nomination.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor R. Power, seconded by Councillor T. O'Dwyer and agreed by members present that Councillor K. Duffy be approved as the Council's nominee.

With the agreement of members, both items 11 and 12 were taken together.

Councillor I. Keatley, Chairperson of the Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) acknowledged the significant work involved in preparing both plans and thanked staff, the public, community and agencies for their proactive engagement as part of the consultation processes.

Councillor Keatley emphasised that the implementation phases for both plans will be critical to the success of the delivery of the proposed actions.

A number of members spoke on the plans and highlighted local initiatives that were welcomed.

Mr. A. Dunney thanked members for their positive contributions and advised that periodic updates on the delivery of both plans will be provided to the council.

11/0326

County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031

The members considered the County Kildare Draft Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor C. Pender, seconded by Councillor M. Leigh and agreed by the members present that the County Kildare Draft Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031 be approved.



12/0326

County Kildare Heritage Plan 2026 – 2031

The members considered the County Kildare Draft Heritage Plan 2026 – 2031.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor C. Pender, seconded by Councillor M. Leigh and agreed by the members present that the County Kildare Draft Heritage Plan 2026 – 2031 be approved.

13/0326

Kildare County Council Sports and Physical Activity Plan 2026 – 2031

The members considered the Kildare County Council Sports and Physical Activity Plan 2026–2031.

Mr. T. Shanahan delivered a presentation to the members and advised that the Local Community, Cultural and Integration SPC had recommended that the plan proceed to Full Council at its meeting in February.

He reported that there had been a high level of public engagement throughout the consultation process and that the plan is guided by national policy, while being tailored to the particular strengths and needs of County Kildare. He further advised that the plan sets out a clear vision whereby every person in County Kildare will have the opportunity to be more active, more often.

The plan is structured around three strategic themes:

- Active People and Communities – to empower individuals and communities to participate and thrive.
- Active Spaces and Places – to enhance facilities, infrastructure and environments that support physical activity.
- Active Communications and Partnerships – to strengthen networks and communications to encourage participation.

He advised that additional staffing resources to implement the Plan, including within Kildare Sports Partnership were needed, and that this was being pursued, through



appropriate channels. It was also emphasised that progressing actions in the Sports Plan was an all-of-organisation responsibility, and this will be reflected in a future implementation plan.

Councillor P. McEvoy enquired whether provision could be made to have regard to biodiversity considerations within the plan.

Notwithstanding the strategic nature of the plan, Councillor C. Pender requested that consideration be given to identifying the partner organisations responsible for delivery of the actions (similar to the LECP).

A number of members referred to the significant population growth within the county and the resulting demand for sporting facilities. The members welcomed the potential to maximise the use of existing infrastructure (including, where feasible, school sporting amenities).

Ms. M. Higgins thanked the members for their contributions and confirmed that, where feasible, the use of existing facilities within the county would be maximised and that accessibility supports would be further progressed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor C. Pender, seconded by Councillor A. Feeney and agreed by the members present that the Kildare County Council Sports and Physical Activity Plan 2026–2031 be approved.

14/0326

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):

- Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)
- South Western Regional Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce.

The reports were noted.



15/0326

Cathaoirleach's Business

The Cathaoirleach advised members on the following highlights:

- Retirement of Garda Superintendent Oliver Henry (30 years' service) acknowledged. The Cathaoirleach extended the council's appreciation for his professionalism, integrity and commitment to community policing in County Kildare.
- Attended the LAMA and Irish Building and Design Awards where the Shackleton Experience Athy received three national awards.
- Opened the Equine Summit at the Curragh (5 March), underscoring the sector's contribution to jobs, communities and Ireland's international reputation.
- Attended the launch of Relay for Life Kildare 2026 (11 March) at the Curragh Racecourse supporting the Irish Cancer Society through fundraising and awareness (including the Candle of Hope ceremony).
- Attended the Student Enterprise Awards. Extended congratulations to participating schools and students and acknowledged Local Enterprise Office mentoring supports.
- Undertook an official visit to New York representing County Kildare and engaging with the Kildare diaspora and relevant development agencies. Special thanks were extended to President Carmel Mangan (Kildare Association) and committee for the invitation and hospitality.
- Attended the 36th Rathangan Drama Festival and presented awards. Congratulations were extended to participants and the Drama Committee for the continued delivery of the annual festival.

16/0326

Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed nine referrals to SPCs and Committees and two items of correspondence issued, relating to motions passed at the February meeting of full council.



Also noted were eight items of correspondence received which included six items relating to resolutions passed by other local authorities, a response from the NTA regarding a request to review the active travel design specification. Also included was the meeting calendar for April, which sets out the deadline for receipt of motions.

The correspondence and report were noted.

17/0326

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.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P. McEvoy, seconded by Councillor W. Durkan and agreed by the members present that the Conference and Training report be approved.

18/0326

Update from Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces SPC

The members received a report from Councillor Kevin Duffy, Chairperson of the Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces Strategic Policy Committee.

The report was noted.

19/0326

Live Streaming of Municipal District Meetings

A report regarding the live streaming of Municipal District (MD) Meetings from the Protocol and Procedures Committee was considered (referred from Full Council FC 25/1125).

The report outlined the advantages and disadvantages to extend live streaming. While benefits such as greater transparency, accessibility and public engagement were recognised, concerns were raised about how live streaming could affect the informal atmosphere and workflow of MD meetings.



The Committee also reviewed operational considerations, including the need for amendments to Standing Orders and protocols. It was noted that live streaming would only be possible from the Council Chamber in Áras Chill Dara and would require consultation and resources. The Committee concluded that a district-by-district approach was not advisable, preferring a unified stance across all Municipal Districts.

Councillor S. Doyle, Chairperson of the Committee, advised members that it had been agreed to refer the matter back to Full Council for consideration, without recommendation.

Members spoke in favour of the proposal and highlighted the benefits of public access to meetings, noting that this facility operates in other local authorities. Concerns were raised regarding the future use of broadcast material. Mr Boland clarified that the proposal was for live streaming only and did not include the recording of meetings.

The Chief Executive advised that consideration of the matter was for the elected members. She noted that meetings are open to the public, are extensively covered by local media and that the minutes constitute the official record.

On the recommendation of the Cathaoirleach, it was agreed that the matter be referred to each of the five Municipal District Committees for consideration. The Council further agreed that webcasting would be extended to either all Municipal District meetings or none.

It was further agreed that a majority of Municipal District Committees would be required to support any extension of live streaming; accordingly, the agreement of three (or more) Municipal Districts will be required.

Following consideration by each Municipal District, a report will be submitted to Full Council confirming the result.



20/0326

Working Group to Review Supporting SME Rates Sector

The following motion in the name of Councillors Aoife Breslin, Suzanne Doyle, Nuala Killeen and Tracey O'Dwyer was considered by the members:

That a working group be established to review means of supporting our small and medium enterprises (SME) rates sector, particularly those providing employment, following discussions and commitments made when the county rate was set.

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

A report was received from Ms. E. Hanlon, Director of Services, Finance, Digital Services, Innovation and Governance and Mr A Dunney, Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development stating that a comprehensive suite of business supports — including training, mentoring and financial assistance — is provided by Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office (LEO), which operates as the primary first-stop shop for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across the county.

In addition to LEO supports, Kildare County Council, through the Department of Tourism, Enterprise and Economic Development, has developed a targeted range of grant schemes specifically for the SME rate-paying sector. These supports include:

- **€5,000 Shopfront Grant Scheme**
Grant aid of up to 50% of eligible costs, to a maximum of €5,000
This scheme supports local businesses in town and village centres to enhance the appearance of their premises, contributing to improved streetscapes and increased vibrancy within commercial areas.
- **€5,000 Universal Accessibility & Age-Friendly Grant**
Grant aid of up to 50% of eligible costs, to a maximum of €5,000
This grant supports businesses to implement Universal Design principles and Age-Friendly measures, improving accessibility and inclusivity for customers of all ages and abilities.
- **€1,000 Retail Window Merchandising Scheme**
Professional merchandising support with grant aid of €1,000



This programme provides retailers with professional visual merchandising expertise and financial support to develop impactful, sustainable, year-round window displays. The scheme aims to strengthen town centre presentation and enhance local festival and promotional activity across County Kildare.

These programmes were recently reviewed and updated for the 2026 period under the guidance of the Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), ensuring they remain relevant, responsive and aligned with current economic and town centre priorities.

In addition, these initiatives are promoted to rate-paying businesses alongside a range of complementary local and national support schemes, including:

- **Commercial Rates Incentive Waiver Scheme**

A newly occupied commercial unit, after being vacant for two years or more, will receive a 75% discount on rates in year one, 50% in year two, and 25% in year three.

- **€5,000 Digital for Business Grant**

Grant aid of up to 50% of eligible costs, to a maximum of €5,000.

An initiative that helps clients gain a digital edge by reviewing their existing systems, identifying gaps, and advising on opportunities to optimise or introduce digital solutions. Expert consultants also provide guidance on implementing improvements to enhance overall business operations.

- **€10,000 Energy Efficiency Grant**

Grant aid of up to 75% of eligible costs, to a maximum of €5,000.

The scheme aims to help businesses reduce their environmental impact while improving their resilience and ability to operate sustainably. It supports sustainability-related investment across areas such as energy, water efficiency, and circular economy initiatives.

- **€50,000 Built Heritage Investment Scheme**



The BHIS is designed to support the owners and custodians of historic buildings and structures that are protected under the Planning and Development Acts. The scheme aims to help maintain and conserve these important structures, which contribute significantly to Ireland's cultural heritage and architectural landscape.

Information on all available supports, including training initiatives, business advice, mentoring and loan programmes are actively disseminated to local businesses through multiple channels, including flyer inserts with direct rates correspondence, local enterprise roadshows in each Municipal District, business drop-in clinics, and wider promotional activity through local media, social media platforms and the Local Enterprise Office website: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare/>

Furthermore, and in relation to Commercial Rates, Section 15 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019 and SI 349 of 2024 Local Government Waiver of Rates Regulations 2024 allow Kildare County Council to adopt and implement a scheme for the waiver of rates in a financial year. A scheme for the waiver of rates is only valid for 1 year and must be considered by the Members again for the following year.

In September 2025, the members of Kildare County Council approved a scheme for the Waiver of Rates for the financial year 2026.

The members of the Finance Committee have been asked by full council to review the 2026 Kildare County Council waiver scheme and waiver schemes operational in other local authorities. They commenced discussions in this regard at their meeting on March 20th with a view to presenting options to the Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee at its meeting on 14th May next.

In line with regulation, the members of the Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development SPC must have proposed a scheme by the 30th of June 2026 to allow for public consultation.

It is suggested that this matter be referred to the meeting of the Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development SPC scheduled for the 14th of May 2026 where the issue of a rates waiver scheme for 2027 and supports to business can be discussed.



The Chairperson of the SPC may wish to invite those that submitted this motion to attend.

Councillor T. O'Dwyer accepted the report and highlighted the ongoing need to support small and growth enterprises in the county.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T. O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor A. Breslin and agreed by members present that this matter be referred to the meeting of the Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development SPC scheduled for 14 May 2026 where the issue of a rates waiver scheme for 2027 and supports to business can be discussed.

21/0326

Walking and Wheeling Index

The following motion in the name of Councillors Angela Feeney, Mark Leigh and Anne Breen was considered by members:

That the council writes to the National Transport Authority (NTA) to commence a Walking and Wheeling Index for major towns in Kildare to identify trends, improvements and sentiment for those who walk, cycle and wheel in our county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor A. Feeney and seconded by Councillor M. Leigh.

A report from Ms. S. Scully, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that the National Transport Authority (NTA), in conjunction with the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust, complete walking and cycling indexes which provides valuable insights into how people travel and what is needed to make walking, wheeling and cycling safer, easier and more attractive.

To date, indexes have been prepared every two years in the five largest metropolitan areas in the State i.e. Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford. The Dublin Metropolitan Area covers a number of urban areas in County Kildare including Kilcock, Maynooth, Celbridge and Leixlip and these locations were included in the survey work that informed the 2025 report. The full report is available to view on the NTA website.



With the members agreement, Kildare County Council will write to the NTA to request the expansion of the index to additional locations.

Councillor A. Feeney welcomed the report and suggested expanding the analysis to all county urban areas, noting that the data and analysis would benefit future consideration of active travel schemes.

Ms. S. Scully agreed that the proposal will assist and inform council decision making and agreed to write to the NTA.

Resolved on the proposed by Councillor A. Feeney, seconded by Councillor M. Leigh and agreed by members present that the Council writes to the National Transport Authority to commence a Walking and Wheeling Index for major towns in the county.

22/0326

Kildare Mental Health Association

The following motion in the name of Councillors Peggy O'Dwyer and Chris Pender was considered by members:

That Kildare Mental Health Association is invited to give full council a briefing on mental health services available through the county.

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

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

Councillor C. Pender highlighted the mental health crisis within the community and the importance of signposting the services available within the county to support people. He acknowledged the valuable work of the Kildare Mental Health Association and expressed the hope that existing services could be enhanced and expanded.

Councillor P. O'Dwyer advised that it was important for the Council to obtain an overview of the services and supports available.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P. O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor C. Pender and agreed by members present that the Council invites the Kildare Mental Health Association to give a briefing on mental health services available through the county.

23/0326

Reclassification of R403-R406-R407 to National Secondary Routes

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

That the council agrees to prepare a report, which includes traffic counts and traffic volume types, in order to seek a reclassification by the Department of Transport, of all or part of the R403-R406-R407 (regional roads) between the M4 and M7 to that of a National Secondary Route. These routes are carrying a significant share of national traffic which fall to be maintained by Kildare County Council as opposed to Transport Infrastructure Ireland. These roads are therefore functioning as National Secondary Routes and should be designated accordingly.

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

A report from Ms. S. Scully, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that in 2022, the National Transport Authority published the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2040 (GDATS) which encompasses the area between the M4, M7 and N7 Roads. The strategy identifies national primary routes as roads which cater for strategic traffic which is defined as inter urban and inter regional traffic, including traffic involved in the transportation to and between main ports and airports.

In accordance with the Roads Act 1993, the Minister for Transport is responsible for the reclassification of roads as national roads. While the Council acknowledges the importance of the roads referred to in the motion, it is unlikely that a request to reclassify a road would be successful based on traffic volumes solely.



The GDATS references the previously proposed Leinster Orbital Route creating a link between Drogheda and Naas/Newbridge, with intermediate links to Navan and other towns and advises that due to sustainability concerns the project will not proceed. It does, however, advise that consideration will be given to improvements to roads which are operating as orbital routes. The County Development Plan outlines specific actions in relation to improvements along the routes referenced in the motion and on this basis, it is recommended that in lieu of carrying out a traffic survey that the Transportation Department engage with Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding the prioritisation of the actions contained in the County Development Plan.

Councillor P. Melrose stated that the roads listed were key arterial routes in the county and that reclassification was appropriate. He welcomed the proposal that the Council would liaise with TII, which he considered best placed to maintain such roads.

Councillor P. McEvoy cautioned against reclassification, noting the potential to increase car dependence and referred to guidance in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS).

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P. Melrose, seconded by Councillor C. Pender and agreed by members present that the Council writes to the National Transport Authority.

24/0326

Installation of Plaque/ Sign by Grant Recipients indicating KCC Funding

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

That recipients of grants from Kildare County Council be required to erect/ install a plaque/ sign indicating that the project was funded or part funded by Kildare County Council.

The motion was proposed by Councillor C. Kelly and seconded by Councillor G. Dunne.



A report from Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water and Mr J Boland, Director of Services, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services stated that as part of the terms and conditions of the Kildare County Council Community Grant Schemes, all successful applicants are required to erect or install a plaque or sign acknowledging that the project was funded or part-funded by Kildare County Council.

This requirement is communicated to community groups at the annual Information Evening held in advance of the application process, and it is also set out in the grant approval documentation issued to all successful applicants.

Plaques and signs are available on request from the Community Department for groups undertaking works or capital projects where physical installation is appropriate. A significant portion of grant funding, however, relates to equipment purchases or events where the erection of a plaque may not be suitable. In such cases, groups are required to acknowledge Kildare County Council's support through other appropriate means, including social media posts, website notices, printed event materials, programmes, or advertising associated with the funded activity.

The Library and Arts Service has the same requirement for acknowledgement of any funded or part-funded projects/events/artist exhibitions/performances etc who receive any grant funding administered by the Library and Arts Service on behalf of Kildare County Council. All successful applicants for Kildare Arts Grants and Bursaries and Creative Ireland grant supported projects must ensure all publicity material and retrospectively presented documentation include Kildare County Council logos and / or make narrative acknowledgement of support through all social media posts, publicity or promotional material.

The requirement to provide suitable acknowledgement, whether through signage or alternative communication channels, is an established and mandatory condition of funding and applies to all projects supported under any Kildare County Council grant schemes.



Councillor C. Kelly welcomed the report and emphasised that, in particular for events, grant recipients should be reminded of the requirement to acknowledge the Council's support.

Ms. M. Higgins advised that this requirement is communicated to applicants at grant information sessions and reiterated in the grant approval correspondence issued by the council. She further advised that approximately €1.5 million in grants was awarded by the Community Department in the previous year and confirmed that compliance with grant conditions would be reinforced.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor C. Kelly, seconded by Councillor G. Dunne and agreed by members present that the report be noted.

25/0326

Progress Report Update

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

That the council includes, as part of the monthly progress report to elected members, an update on motions where actions were agreed, indicating the committee, department (or otherwise) to which each motion has been referred.

The motion was proposed by Councillor D. Phelan and seconded by Councillor N. Connolly.

Councillor Phelan welcomed the report.

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

26/0326

'Welcoming Kildare' Policy

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



Recognising the diversity of Kildare's communities, that the council develops a 'Welcoming Kildare' policy that sets out measures to achieve equitable access to services and civic participation for residents from diverse language and cultural backgrounds, and implements initiatives proposed by communities to strengthen community integration and social cohesion. To achieve sustainable and effective outcomes, that this policy is developed in collaboration with communities.

The motion was proposed by Councillor R. Heather and seconded by Councillor P. Balfe.

A report from Mr. J. Boland, Director of Services, Corporate and Cultural Services, Ms M Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water and Mr D Creighton, A/Director of Services, Integration and Strategic Property Management stated that the Public Sector Duty ("PSD") is an obligation for public bodies under Section 42(1) of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) Act 2014 requiring that in the performance of *all* their functions, they shall have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality, and protect the human rights of staff and service users.

This 'all of organisation' obligation is recognised by Kildare County Council and already this Council contributes to the PSD through a range of programmes and activities to deliver equitable access to services and civic participation for residents from diverse language and cultural backgrounds.

In the case of the Community Department, the County Kildare Integration Strategy (2020-2026) is an inter-agency plan developed by Kildare Interagency Integration Committee, to support migrants and ethnic minorities, enabling participation in Irish society while maintaining cultural identity. The large network also comprises Kildare Integration Network and its constituent intercultural groups, who are also active in the consultation on and implementation of the 63 action strategy.

The range of activities and service interactions for our growing and diverse population is such that this continued inter-agency approach to the next Strategy is recommended, rather than a Council-specific policy.



The Government has commenced public consultation of the development of the next national Strategy on Migration and Integration, and, following the publication of the national strategy (anticipated by end 2026), this Council, will, through the aforementioned networks engage in extensive consultation and in collaboration progress a successor Integration Strategy for Kildare. This should achieve the proposal of the motion to identify, through consultation, initiatives identified by communities to strengthen community integration.

In terms of references specifically to civic participation activities, in the past the Council's Corporate Services Department and Community Department have collaborated on voter registration and outreach events, often focussing on under-represented groups.

The Council is currently progressing the integration of a new national electoral register database system, Voter.ie, which is scheduled to be implemented in County Kildare in August 2026. In preparation for, and following, the completion of this migration, the Council is committed to working closely with the Electoral Commission to support the successful transition to the new system.

This will include the delivery of a strengthened voter awareness and engagement campaign, together with the provision of targeted, multi-lingual voter registration clinics to support and engage diverse communities across the county.

Kildare County Council established an Integration Directorate in early 2024, followed closely by establishing the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT). The directorate has responsibility for assisting International Protection Applicants, Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection fleeing the war in Ukraine, Programme Refugees resettling in County Kildare and Persons with Status (Refugee Status, Subsidiary Protection and Leave to Remain) and supports access to services for those cohorts. The Director of Services chairs the Community Integration Forum (CIF) which is a forum for State and non-State agencies and volunteer groups involved in the provision of services and assistance across the county to the cohorts mentioned above. The Integration Directorate arranges and funds activities to support integration in the county and supports activities organised by the Community Department.



The Integration Directorate will also assist with the preparation of the County Kildare Integration Strategy, following the publication of the National Strategy on Migration and Integration later in the year and has participated in the consultation process connected with that strategy.

With the agreement of members, this motion can be referred to the Local Community, Cultural and Integration Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.
exist

Councillor R. Heather welcomed the report and agreed that referral of the matter to the SPC was appropriate. He distinguished between the supports available from the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) and those available to other migrants already resident within the community. He cited the Intercultural Women's Network (IWN) as an exemplar of good practice that the council can engage with and support.

Councillor A. Breslin, Chairperson of the County Kildare Integration Committee, noted that a review of the County Integration Strategy 2020-2026 was forthcoming (awaiting national guidance) and welcomed all new communities to the county.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor R. Heather, seconded by Councillor P. Balfe and agreed by members present that the motion be referred to the Local Community, Cultural and Integration Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

27/0326

Control of Dogs

The following motion in the name of Councillor Brendan Wyse was considered by the members:

That the council outlines the role it plays in relation to dog control and the process used in dealing with repeated situations of loose dogs, in order to prevent injury to members of the public from same.

The motion was proposed by Councillor B. Wyse and seconded by Councillor W. Durkan.



A report from Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that The Dog Warden's role and responsibilities include:

- Dealing with queries and complaints from the public, court cases etc.,
- Investigating complaints from the public and the Gardai in relation to dogs
- Working in close co-operation with Gardai in relation to matters pertaining to control of dogs
- Co-ordinating activities in relation to the control of stray animals and the operation of the shelter (in Ballitore).

The Department of Rural and Community Development has policy and legislative responsibility for the area of Dog Control in Ireland. The primary legislation in this area is the Control of Dogs Act 1986. The Dog Warden service looks after stray and unwanted dogs and enforcement in relation to the Control of Dogs Act. The Warden can seize dogs not under control in a public place and have them impounded.

Dog owners play a vital role in preventing incidents and ensuring the safety of others. Dogs, including pups over 12 weeks, must be micro-chipped by a registered veterinary practice with owner details recorded. Micro-chipping makes it easier to reunite lost pets with their owners. Every dog must also wear a collar badge or tag displaying the owner's name and contact information.

- All dogs must be kept under effectual control when in any public place i.e. street, road, park, etc.
- Certain breeds must always be leashed, muzzled and accompanied by a person over the age of 16 years when in a public place.
- Under the Act, dog owners are strictly liable for any injuries caused by their dogs, regardless of prior behaviour or negligence.
- Any dog attack should be reported to the local Garda Síochána.

Where a complaint is made to the District Court by any interested person that a dog is dangerous and not kept under proper control, the Court, in addition to any other penalty which it may impose, may order that the dog be kept under proper control or destroyed.



Councillor B. Wyse acknowledged the report and the challenging role of the Dog Warden Service. He emphasised the need to ensure public safety within communities.

Councillor W. Durkan added that, in rural areas, issues also arise for livestock where dogs are not kept under appropriate control.

Councillor G. Dunne suggested that dog-control signage include contact details for the Dog Warden Service.

Ms. M. Higgins distinguished between the behaviour of dogs and instances of irresponsible ownership. She noted that County Kildare has a high level of dog seizures and requested that members and the public report all incidents to the Dog Warden Service for investigation.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor B. Wyse, seconded by Councillor W. Durkan agreed by members present that the report be noted.

28/0326

Legal Fees Expenditure

The following motion in the name of Councillor Evie Sammon was considered by the members:

That the council outlines in tabular format, by department, what the budgeted amount for legal fees was over the last five years and what the actual spend was.

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

A report from Ms. E. Hanlon, Head of Finance, Digital Services, Innovation and Governance stated that the council does not budget for legal fees at account element level. Budgets are prepared by the expenditure for each service that the council provides.

Please see below an analysis of the expenditure on legal fee's included in the Annual Financial Statements for the last five years.



Legal Fees	Y2025	Y2024	Y2023	Y2022	Y2021
Revenue	1,293,785	922,308	1,050,943	907,985	1,021,593
Capital	611,128	1,139,639	1,196,912	392,817	443,580
Total	1,904,913	2,061,947	2,247,855	1,300,802	1,465,173

Revenue					
Department	Y2025	Y2024	Y2023	Y2022	Y2021
Div A - Housing & Building	276,222	311,087	287,371	235,026	350,401
Div B - Roads & Transportation	390,204	256,236	279,348	264,714	199,117
Div C - Water Services		2,872	6,228		
Div D - Development Management	553,641	247,318	280,026	230,903	174,069
Div E - Environmental Services	24,582	54,906	89,272	159,143	131,045
Div F - Rec & Amenity	13,363	18,954	11,931	5,378	31,760
Div G - Ag, Ed, Hlth & Welfare		4,305	341	1,448	750
Div H - Misc Servs	35,374	17,770	82,130	2,360	100,879
Div J - Central Management	399	8,860	14,296	9,013	33,572
Total	1,293,785	922,308	1,050,943	907,985	1,021,593

Capital					
Department	Y2025	Y2024	Y2023	Y2022	Y2021
Prog Grp 1 - Housing & Building	444,659	646,648	497,726	182,525	240,608
Prg Grp 2 - Roads & Transportation	102,927	298,666	658,479	140,313	176,915
Prog Grp 3 - Water Services			10,164	0	0
Prog Grp 4 - Development Management	56,850	143,125	7,478	24,244	0
Prg Grp 5 - Environmental Services	1,725	46	8,814	15,265	24,311
Prg Grp 6 - Rec & Amenity	4,967	40,699	14,251	0	0
Prg Grp 7 - Ag, Ed, Hlth & Welfare		10,455		30,470	1,746
Prg Grp 8 - Misc Servs					
Total	611,128	1,139,639	1,196,912	392,817	443,580

Councillor E. Sammon thanked Ms. Hanlon for the report and advised that her enquiry arose from consideration of whether certain legal services could be provided by a dedicated in-house unit. She acknowledged that a wide range of services and expertise is available under the current arrangements.

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



29/0326

Equestrian and Tourism Amenities within the County

The following motion in the name of Councillor Veralouise Behan was considered by the members:

That the council explores opportunities to further develop its equestrian and tourism amenities within the county, including assessing the potential for bridleways and trail-riding routes on state-owned lands and identifying measures to support equestrian-focused enterprises.

The motion was proposed by Councillor V. Behan and seconded by Councillor D. Phelan.

A report from Mr. A. Dunney, Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development stated that County Kildare is branded Thoroughbred County and we are extremely proud of our equine heritage. Kildare County Council is working closely with Failte Ireland, Horse Racing Ireland and Tipperary County Council to promote County Kildare as an equine tourism destination under the brand – Horse Country, the formal launch of which took place at the 2025 Punchestown Festival and has since been gathering momentum across both counties.

Additionally, in March this year, approximately 300 people attended the Council's inaugural Equine Summit at the Curragh Racecourse, bringing together leaders in breeding, racing, sport, science, education and innovation. Plans to develop the Equine Summit event for 2027 are underway.

Through KCC funding, Into Kildare actively promotes Kildare as a tourism destination with the equine industry and thoroughbred theme being central pillars to that promotion, including horse racing festivals across the county such as the Derby Festival, Punchestown Festival and Naas Races in addition to equine visitor attractions such as the Irish National Stud.

Kildare's Enterprise, Economic Development & Tourism Department supports equine businesses with its suite of supports and is happy to meet with new businesses to develop riding routes across the country.



Finally, it is noted that an Outdoor Recreation Plan (2026-2031) is currently being prepared for Kildare. This will include the following action:

Action 4: Exploratory analysis to consider suitable opportunities for increasing accessibility for horse riding at appropriate locations

Description: This will necessitate a range of stakeholders such as Council, Bord na Móna, Coillte, Waterways Ireland and Horse Sport Ireland collaborating, to explore and better understand the potential benefits, environmental impacts, challenges and costs associated with equestrian recreation development.

The plan is for 5 years and includes 28 actions. Further work will be required once the plan is approved this year to develop a work plan to address these over the timeline 2026-31'.

Councillor V. Behan welcomed the report and highlighted the need for all relevant stakeholders to work together to develop the initiative.

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

30/0326

Road Traffic Accident Data

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

That the council writes to the Road Safety Authority (RSA) and An Garda Síochána requesting that detailed, timely, and location-specific road traffic accident data for County Kildare be made available to the Roads, Transportation and Road Safety Sections of Kildare County Council. This data should include, where permissible under data-protection legislation, geo-coded collision locations, dates and times, severity classifications, contributory factors where recorded, and road-user types. The purpose of this request is to support the identification of collision blackspots, the prioritisation of road-safety engineering works, the development of speed-management and traffic-calming measures, the advancement of Active Travel and school-safety projects, and to strengthen evidence-based decision-making in line with the Government's Road Safety Strategy and Vision Zero objectives



The motion was proposed by Councillor B. Clear and seconded by Councillor G. Dunne.

A report from Ms. S. Scully, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that following all fatal road collisions, Kildare County Council engineering staff meet An Garda Síochána on site to complete a detailed LA16 Collision Report. This report is a detailed record of the accident containing site specific engineering information, road and environmental characteristics, collision details provided by An Garda Síochána and all other relevant information.

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) currently provides collision data to the Department of Transport Support Office (DoTSO) which issues an annual Regional and Local Roads Network Safety Analysis Report for each County. This report is an evidence-based assessment of collision data in the County and outlines potential Locations of Interest on the Regional and Local Road Network. The report is used by the Local Authority when making funding applications to the DoT for Safety Improvement Schemes, in alignment with the principles of Vision Zero and the Safe Systems Approach.

The RSA currently do not provide collision data directly to Local Authorities. The Government is currently preparing legislation to allow this data to be shared with Local Authorities. It is expected that this legislation will be in place later this year providing Local Authorities with detailed collision information to support evidence-based road safety interventions.

Councillor B. Clear thanked the Director for her report and expressed the view that the proposed legislation would assist the Council in compiling a report on incidents and in implementing appropriate safety measures.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor B. Clear, seconded by Councillor G. Dunne and agreed by members present that the report be noted.



31/0326

Housing Grants Applications

The following motion in the name of Councillor Seamie Moore considered by the members:

That this council write to the Taoiseach, the Tánaiste, and Minister for Finance, requesting that funding streams be identified and made available to local authorities under the proposed new national savings and investment strategy for the purchase and development of lands to provide much needed sports, community, and social infrastructure and facilities in our fast-growing towns.

The motion was removed as Councillor Moore was absent from the meeting.

32/0326

Enforcement Measures to Combat Illegal Dumping

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

That Kildare County Council increases enforcement measures to combat illegal dumping across the county, including the expansion of CCTV surveillance at known blackspots, the allocation of additional resources to the community warden service, and the introduction of targeted public awareness campaigns; and that the Council provides a report to members within three months outlining enforcement actions taken, fines issued and priority areas for intervention.

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

A report from Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that litter continues to be a significant issue across the country, demanding a sustained and focused response to address it effectively. Tackling this problem requires the cooperation of all sectors of the community, as Kildare County Council cannot resolve it single-handedly.

Kildare County Council has recently adopted a comprehensive Litter Management Plan. This plan outlines the council's actions for litter control and prevention in the



coming period and highlights areas where collaboration with others is sought to enhance these efforts. The plan details objectives focused on preventing and controlling litter, alongside initiatives to boost public awareness. Special emphasis is placed on educational and informational strategies designed to promote prevention.

The national Green Schools programme targets litter among other environmental issues, and while acknowledging that education does not rest solely with the school population, there is also a need to encourage the general public and the commercial sector to “reduce , reuse and recycle “ where possible thereby reducing levels of waste entering landfill sites and minimising indiscriminate dumping in the countryside.

The council actively supports a variety of anti-littering programmes. These include National Spring Clean, Green Kilometre, Picker Pals, support for Tidy Towns groups, and school and community clean-up events. In larger towns, the council operates a robust street cleaning service managed through municipal district offices. This includes the servicing of public litter bins throughout the county, ensuring cleanliness and proper waste management.

Kildare County Council currently employs five community wardens responsible for enforcing litter legislation, and they represent a considerable opportunity to increase public awareness. The wardens’ information activities include attendance at meetings of community groups, residents’ associations and tidy towns committees to discuss any litter-related problems, and visits to retail, industrial and commercial premises to advise owners of their responsibilities under litter legislation. Enforcement measures include the issuing of fines / prosecutions against people responsible for illegal dumping. There is currently no provision in the council’s revenue budget to increase the number of community wardens.

The council’s Environment Awareness Officer’s role includes ensuring publicity for and development of maximum public participation in the council’s activities regarding litter pollution, and the EAO works with local print, radio and social media to run litter campaigns and highlight relevant issues.

The deployment of CCTV for addressing littering and illegal dumping is regulated by the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022. This legislation



provides a legal framework for local authorities to use surveillance technology in compliance with GDPR. CCTV is considered as part of a broader, integrated approach to litter management, alongside existing enforcement, awareness and infrastructural measures.

Experience from the recent pilot initiative, (in Athy) indicates that the targeted use of CCTV at identified blackspots can act as a deterrent and support enforcement activity where other measures have proven ineffective. Any future deployment of CCTV within the municipal district is subject to the completion of the required statutory processes in line with the national code of practice, and would be considered on a site-specific basis, having regard to proportionality, effectiveness and cost. Each Municipal District has been requested to allocate funding for potential CCTV deployment, and the council remains positive about rolling out CCTV at identified blackspots in consultation with district members.

It should be noted that Kildare has consistently performed strongly in the National Tidy Towns competition, earning 11 gold medals in 2025. Kildare towns have also secured the national IBAL award in four of the last five years. Notably too, Naas was named Ireland's Best Kept Town in 2025, an all-island (i.e. Ireland and Northern Ireland) competition and Maynooth was awarded a gold medal in the European-wide Entente Florale Competition.

Councillor P. Balfe welcomed the report and acknowledged the work of local Tidy Towns and community groups, as evidenced by the significant number of awards and accolades received. He noted, however, that littering and illegal dumping remain ongoing issues in both urban and rural areas.

Councillor B. Clear, Chairperson of the Environment and Water Services SPC, highlighted the success of the Athy CCTV pilot project and suggested that Local Property Tax (LPT) funding be allocated in each Municipal District to support targeted enforcement measures at identified blackspot areas.

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



33/0326

Pilot Social and Affordable Homes for Applicants with Irish Language

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

Go gcomhoibreodh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara le páirtithe leasmhara chun tionscadal píolótach um thithíocht shóisialta inbhuanaithe agus/nó inacmhainne a thabhairt chun cinn le go mbeadh iarratasóirí a bhfuil cumas measartha nó líofacht sa Gaeilge acu in ann cur fúthu iontu, agus leis seo, tógáil ar rath na micrea Ghaeltachta ar Bhóthar Ráth Oscair sa Nás agus mar ar chuir an pobal sin go mór le forbairt na Gaeilge i gContae Chill Dara ó 1969 i leith.

That Kildare County Council engages with stakeholders to bring forward a pilot project of sustainable social and/or affordable homes for occupation by applicants with moderate proficiency to fluency in the Irish language, building on the success of the micro Gaeltacht that has flourished on the Rathasker Road in Naas and that community's significant contribution to the development of the Irish language in Kildare since 1969.

The motion was proposed by Councillor N. Connolly and seconded by Councillor B. Caldwell.

A report from Ms. A. Aspell, Director of Services for Housing, Regeneration and People stated that subject to resolution, the elected members may wish to refer this motion to the Housing and Regeneration Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

Councillor N. Connolly thanked the Director for the report. He advised that the proposal had been considered at the most recent Coiste Gaeilge meeting and noted that similar initiatives are being considered by other local authorities.

Councillor S. Doyle expressed concern in respect of the proposal, noting the potential implications of prioritising one cohort at a time when housing pressures are being experienced across the community. She agreed that referral to the SPC would be appropriate.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N. Connolly, seconded by Councillor B. Caldwell and agreed by members present that the motion be referred to the Housing and Regeneration Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

34/0326

Planning Enforcement Process

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

That the council requests the Planning Department to provide a follow-up briefing to elected members on the planning enforcement process, including key procedures, timelines and follow-up actions after validation of complaints and the issuing of enforcement notices, and to outline how members will be updated on progress and outcomes.

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

A report from Mr. A. Dunney, Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development stated that In January 2025, a briefing was provided outlining the timelines for progressing complaints of unauthorised development through both the administrative and court processes. A further half-day briefing took place in the Council Chamber on 9th July 2025, facilitated by the Planning Enforcement Team and attended by the Council's legal representatives. This session was well attended by the Elected Members.

As there have been no changes to the relevant procedures to date, it would not be possible—or an effective use of resources—to hold an additional briefing at this time. However, once the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) come into effect, a comprehensive briefing will be provided to the Members.

In summary the following are the current procedures set out in the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended):



- On receipt of a complaint the planning authority has a period of 6 weeks to assess the complaint and determine if further action is required in the form of a Warning Letter.
- If a decision is made to issue a Warning Letter the planning authority has a further period of 12 weeks to move to the next stage which is an Enforcement Notice.
- An Enforcement Notice sets out a number of measures which must be complied with within a specified time (6 months being the maximum).
- If following this period the measures have not been complied with the case may then be referred to the Council's legal team for prosecution.

All complainants connected to a particular case are kept informed of progress. There is no legislative requirement to update Members on the status or outcome of an enforcement file unless they are themselves the complainant.

However, in response to requests from the Elected Members, a project to publish information on unauthorised developments on the Kildare County Council website was undertaken and subsequently completed and went live in September 2025. This now provides an effective and accessible means for individuals to monitor the progress of specific cases.

Given that there are currently in excess of 600 open cases, it would unfortunately not be feasible to offer a more detailed or individualised update service to Members.

As outlined at last July's briefing, Kildare County Council continues to work closely with relevant external agencies, including An Garda Síochána, as appropriate, in addressing unauthorised developments throughout the county.

The Council currently has over 50 enforcement files with the legal team for assessment and potential prosecution, with a number of significant cases already before the courts.

From a resourcing perspective, the Council has recently secured sanction, from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, for two new Enforcement Officer positions, following approval by the Elected Members during this year's



budgetary process. Recruitment for these posts is under way, and, once filled, they will provide substantial on-the-ground support to the Planning Enforcement Team.

Councillor C. O'Rourke thanked the Director for the report and noted that relevant information is published on the Council's website.

Councillor C. Pender welcomed the approval of additional resources and requested that enforcement activity be prioritised in respect of significant breaches.

Mr. A. Dunney thanked the members for their engagement on the matter. He acknowledged that a multi-agency approach may be required in cases involving significant planning breaches (e.g. An Garda Síochána, the Criminal Assets Bureau and the Revenue Commissioners). He further clarified that the Council may take enforcement action in respect of unauthorised development within a period of seven years.

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

Suspension of Standing Orders

With the agreement of members, Standing Orders were suspended to extend the meeting to continue after 6:00p.m.

On proposal of Councillor A. Feeney, seconded by Councillor C. Pender and agreed by all members present.

35/0326

Registered Identity Number on all Take Away Bags

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

That the council ensures that fast food and take away outlets in Kildare have a registered identity number on all take away bags to prevent litter.



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

A report from Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that this matter would require specific national legislation and therefore falls outside the remit of Kildare County Council.

The introduction of an identity number as proposed is considered unlikely to achieve the desired outcomes.

Under current litter legislation, the responsibility for the proper disposal of waste lies with the owner or holder – in this case, the customer, and not the food outlet.

For their part, operators of food and beverage outlets are required to provide adequate litter bins in the vicinity of their premises. This ensures customers have access to facilities for proper waste disposal.

To help tackle the issues of takeaway litter, the council has run a poster-based campaign called “Takeaway not throwaway”.



Posters were distributed to retailers who dealt in the takeaway market with the intention of raising awareness on the impacts of takeaway litter and encouraging the public to be more responsible around it.

Councillor T. McDonnell expressed concern that certain business premises were not complying with the relevant requirements to deter littering, particularly in the vicinity



of their premises. He expressed the view that the proposal would assist in identifying offenders.

Councillor B. Clear noted that 'drive-thru' type businesses present particular challenges for local Tidy Towns groups. He suggested that vehicle registration details be recorded on packaging.

Ms. M. Higgins advised that the Council must act within the parameters of the relevant legislation (including planning legislation). She noted that the Council has recently adopted its Litter Management Plan, which sets out three key objectives: education, prevention (including reuse) and enforcement. She advised that implementation of the proposal would require national legislation and confirmed that Community Wardens engage on an ongoing basis with takeaway premises.

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

This concluded the business of the meeting.