



**Minutes of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 16 March 2022
in the Council Chamber**

Members Present: Councillor C Pender (Deputy Mayor), Councillors A Connolly, N Connolly, K Duffy, N Heavey, F McLoughlin Healy, and M Stafford.

Apologies: Councillor R Power (Mayor), Councillors P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer and S Doyle.

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Ms L Kennedy (LPT Co-Ordinator), Mr O Brady (Administrative Officer), Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officer), Mr S Wallace (Parks Superintendent), Ms P O'Rourke (Climate Action Officer), Ms B Sweeney (Financial/Management Accountant), Ms P O'Brien (Senior Executive Officer), Ms K Keane (Meetings Administrator), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

Following apologies received from the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor Councillor Chris Pender, confirmed he would be chairing the meeting.

Councillor Mark Stafford informed the meeting that Councillor T O'Dwyer sent her apologies and that she had asked him to move her motions in her absence. The Meetings Administrator confirmed written notification had been received in this regard.

The Deputy Mayor advised that Councillor Doyle had sent apologies for the meeting, but he had received no instructions from her in relation to her motions thus in this regard, and in



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accordance with standing orders, her motions fell and would not be heard except on fresh notice on an agenda, and her questions were deemed to have been answered.

KN01/0322

Declaration of Pecuniary or Beneficial Interests

Declaration of pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended. There were no declarations of interest.

KN02/0322

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday 19 January 2022 together with the Progress Report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor K Duffy, seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by the members, with Councillor McLoughlin Healy abstaining, that the minutes of the monthly

meeting of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on Wednesday 16 February be adopted. The report was noted.

KN03/0222

Municipal District Road Works

To receive an update on the municipal district road works.

Report:

Road Resurfacing Works:

Tenders had been issued for 3 no. Contracts

Contract 1: Old Connell Road, Ladytown, Halverstown & Maddenstown

Contract 2: Castlefish, Melonhill, Ballymore Brannockstown, Ellistown

Contract 5: Barretstown Clongorey, Standhouse Road, Colganscut



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Works were due to commence on Military Road early the following week, including Dunnes stores junction and McLoughlin's Oil Junction on the R445

LPT:

There were a number of 2021 LPT's projects to be completed, the contractor would be on site in the coming weeks:

- Cutlery Road - Works had now commenced on Cutlery Road, with upgrades to footpaths and an overlay on the public road.
- Extinguishment of right of way at Rosconnell

Miscellaneous Works:

- Verge cutting ongoing across all areas of the MD.
- Pothole repairs across the MD
- General Maintenance – water cuts, patching, gully cleaning.
- Repair of Railings and pier in Ruan Beg Kildare

Drainage:

- Installation of gullies and drainage pipe at Hillsborough to solve a flooding issue ongoing for a number of years
- Installation of gullies and extension of pipe network at the medical centre in Newbridge

Ms Cuddy informed the members that works had commenced on Military Road for a duration of 4 weeks. Works on Cutlery Road would be ongoing for a further 5 weeks. In relation to the bridge at Caragh, Ms Cuddy stated that the contractor was on site and there were approximately another 5-6 days of masonry works to be completed. It was hoped that the bridge would reopen on Monday 28 March.

The members raised the following points:

- When would drainage works likely take place at Maddenstown.
- Could large circular potholes be patched on Tully Road and Clongorey Road.
- Queries on the upcoming road closure of 42 days on South Green Road in Kildare Town and the long detour that had been provided as a way of diversion.



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Ms Cuddy advised that drainage works for 2021 were still being completed and Maddenstown would form part of the 2022 works. She also stated that flash floods that occurred following heavy rainfall, would not be solved by drainage works. She noted the patch repair requests. In relation to the road closure Ms Cuddy did not have details but advised that the contractor would try to cover all possibilities and the closure may not be for the full 42 days. She stated that decisions regarding duration of closures and diversionary routes were not taken lightly due to the impact on road users and would not be undertaken unless absolutely required.

The report was noted.

KN04/0322

Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2022

To agree and approve the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2022.

The District Engineer advised that no budget had yet been allocated for this so the schedule of works could not be completed.

The District Manager informed the members that it was a statutory requirement that the funds be allocated before the end of March.

The Meetings Administrator advised that this required a special meeting to agree the allocation.

KN05/0322

Members Nominations 2021

To agree and approve any remaining allocation of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District 'Members Nominations' 2021.

2021 LPT Members Nominations March Meeting 16 March 2022					
Councillor	Name of Community Group/Project	LPT Allocation amount	Name of community group to be paid	Brief description of work/project	Section
Tracey O'Dwyer	Public Lighting - Roads	€2,623.35	Public Lighting - Roads	For the installation of additional new public lights in Bishop Rogan estate, Kilcullen	Roads



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Councillor Stafford, on behalf of Councillor T O'Dwyer proposed that the balance of her discretionary LPT of €2623.35 be allocated to the public lighting department for the installation on new lights in Bishop Rogan Estate in Kilcullen.

Councillor Heavey proposed €1000 to Newbridge St Patrick's Day Committee of which he was a member, €1000 to Newbridge First Responders for equipment and €1000 to Ryston Hall Executive Committee for equipment.

This was seconded by Councillor N Connolly.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy queried if the LPT allocation for public lighting in Bishop Rogan Park would be specific to that request, or would it go towards general public lighting funding. The Meetings Administrator advised that she would seek clarification from the Roads Department in relation to this. Councillor McLoughlin Healy also advised that she was awaiting clarification from the Chief Executive in relation to her own discretionary allocation.

Resolved on the proposals of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Noel Connolly and agreed by the members, the balance of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyers discretionary LPT of €2623.35 be allocated to the public lighting department for the installation on new lights in Bishop Rogan Estate in Kilcullen.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey, seconded by Councillor Noel Connolly and agreed by the members that €1000 be allocated to Newbridge St Patrick's Day Committee, €1000 to the Newbridge First Responders for equipment and €1000 to the Ryston Hall Executive Committee for equipment.

KN06/0322

Sustainable Transport and Active Travel Team projects

To receive an update on the Sustainable Transport and Active Travel Team projects.

The Chair confirmed this item was deferred to the April meeting

KN07/0322

Resurface of L70063 at Clongownagh/Milltown

The members considered the following motion in the names of Councillor P O'Dwyer and Councillor Stafford.



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That the council resurface the upper section of the L70063 at Clongownagh/Milltown which is in a state of disrepair.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this road was not included in the 2022 Roads Programme.

However due to the nature, traffic volume and size of the road it may be possible to include as a Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) if locals were interested.

Councillor Stafford informed the members that the first section of this road had been repaired previously under a CIS scheme and the road he was now referring to was at the rear and was in a very bad state of repair. He requested it be added to a list of works for 2023 as he did not think it would be suitable for a CIS scheme due to the number of residents. He also queried whether it should be abandoned as a public road or could some patch up works be done.

Ms Cuddy advised that works are listed under certain criteria for priority with budget, condition of road and number of users were all examined. She also added that there was a due process to be followed for the abandonment of a public road.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor Duffy that the report be noted.

KN08/0322

Assessment of road at bend at Dunlavin/Gormanstown Road at Gormanstown Church

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer

That Kildare County Council carry out an assessment of the road at the bend at Dunlavin/Gormanstown Road at Gormanstown Church with a view to overlaying a non-slip surface and installing signage warning motorists of the severe bend, following a number of accidents at this location.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Mark Stafford and seconded by Councillor Duffy.



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that having assessed the road, there may be an opportunity to include this in an application for funding as a low-cost accident scheme location in 2023, there was no funding in the 2022 budget.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor Duffy that the report be noted.

KN09/0322

Assessment on R413

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer. That Kildare County Council carry out an assessment on the R413 Kilcullen to Kinneagh Cross Road with a view to replacing the broken cats' eyes and amending the existing broken white line to a continuous white line.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Mark Stafford and seconded by Councillor Duffy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that subject to the members approval, the Municipal District office agreed to review this request. This would be subject to available budget, and the requirement to change the status of the centre line.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor Duffy that the report be noted.

KN10/0322

Low Bridge Dunmurray Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor N Connolly. That the council review signage on the approach roads to the Iarnród Éireann Bridge UBC80 on the Dunmurray Road in Kildare Town, with a view to improving advance warning signage of the low bridge, to prevent traffic backlog when a vehicle needs to divert, but only discovers this need at the last minute.



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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office agreed to review signage as requested. This would be subject to the members agreement and budget availability. Councillor N Connolly stated that the signage should be sufficiently set back to warn drivers early of the low bridge so they could still turn back as having to reverse was hazardous. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted.

KN11/0322

Footpath Works St Evin's park Monasterevin

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Duffy. That the council undertake improvement works to the entry of St Evin's Park, Monasterevin to narrow the entry, connect the footpaths and insert drop kerbs to improve the pedestrian safety and connectivity to the town's amenities and schools.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor xxxx

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office had no funding at present for the requested works. However, they agreed to review the location and assess the cost involved, should some funding be made available.

Councillor Duffy stated that St Evin's Park was an older estate with a very wide entrance and there was an opportunity to narrow the roadway and create a better infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor A Connolly that the report be noted.



KN12/0322

Baronstown Lane

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly.
That the council include Baronstown Lane in their road surfacing programme for 2022.

The motion was proposed by Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor Duffy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Restoration Improvement Programme had been agreed for 2022. However, this work could be included in the 2023 program for consideration. If Councillor Connolly could supply a road number to the Municipal District Office, identifying the exact location, it would be helpful.

Councillor A Connolly stated that the area had previously been patched but was now in a bad condition and that she would send the location to Ms Cuddy.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor Duffy that the report be noted.

KN13/0322

Traffic Calming Martinstown Cross

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly.
That the council put in place traffic calming/safety measures at Martinstown Cross, the Curragh.

The motion was proposed by Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor Duffy

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was no funding to carry out this work at present. However, there may be an opportunity to include this work in an application for funding as a low-cost accident scheme location in 2023.



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Councillor A Connolly stated that there had been 2 recent accidents at this location and queried whether 4 stop signs could be used.

Ms Cuddy advised that the use of all stops was uncommon and usually only done on smaller rural roads but she would investigate this.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor Duffy that the report be noted.

KN14/0322

Fence at Dunmurray Rise

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford.

That the council remove the dilapidated wooden fence at Dunmurray Rise, Kildare and replace it with the painted iron railings which are located at the other boundaries.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor A Connolly

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office had no budget for this request at present. However, it could be considered under LPT funding if agreed by the Councillors.

Councillor Stafford requested that a costing be provided and queried why this work would not fall under the remit of the Housing Department. The Meetings Administrator advised that clarification would issue on the issue raised.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor A Connolly that the report be noted.

KN15/0322

Junction 14 at R445

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor N Connolly.

Can the council confirm if it has any plans to upgrade the junction at M7 interchange Junction14 where it meets the R445? <https://what3words.com/eventual.advises.winked>



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A report was received from the National Roads Office informing the members that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) had stated that they had no plans to upgrade this junction at present.

A second report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The Municipal District Office had no plans at present to upgrade this junction.

The reports were noted.

KN16/0322

Pedestrian Crossing Curragh Post Office

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor A Connolly.

Can the council confirm if there are plans to install a pedestrian crossing at the Curragh Post Office?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were currently no plans or funding allocated to provide a pedestrian crossing at this location. The provision of pedestrian facilities should be looked at in the context of future developments/schemes in the area to provide safe access to planned facilities for pedestrians and vulnerable road users.

The report was noted.

KN17/0322

Traffic Calming Brownstown

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor A Connolly.

Can the council confirm if there are plans to put in place traffic calming measures in Brownstown as you enter the village from Suncroft?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office had no plans to carry out any additional traffic calming in the area at present.

The report was noted.



KN18/0322

Local Link Caragh to Naas

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council clarify when Local Link is scheduled to commence the service for and between Caragh and Naas?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the proposed service was currently at the final stages of Route, Timetabling and Scheduling processes. It was envisaged that this element would be signed off by the National Transport Authority by the end of March 2022. This would allow the commencement of the open procurement processes. These could take between 6 and 12 weeks to complete.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy sought clarification on whether the earliest possibility of this commencing would be June. The Meetings Administrator stated that she would seek clarification from the Roads Department.

The report was noted.

KN19/0322

Southern Relief Road and Second Bridge Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heavey. Can the council clarify the process and the likely schedule to deliver the Southern Relief Road and second bridge for Newbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Mr Stephen Deegan, Senior Engineer for Roads Projects & Planning would give an update on all the projects in his area including the Southern Relief Road and second bridge in Newbridge at the April municipal district committee meeting. The report was noted.



KN20/0322

Traffic Calming R419 at Ard Mhuire

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford.

Can the council confirm if there are proposals for additional traffic calming measures on the R419 Portarlington Road, Rathangan at Ard Mhuire?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office had no plans at present for additional traffic calming measures on the R419 Portarlington Road, Rathangan at Ard Mhuire.

The report was noted.

KN21/0322

Compulsory Purchase Order

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

That Comhairle Contae Chill Dara begin Compulsory Purchase Order proceedings against the owners of (details provided) Newbridge, which has been empty for 6 years and is now derelict.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Vacant Homes Officer would investigate the ownership of this property and would consider the CPO procedure to acquire it should this be deemed appropriate.

The members raised the following points:

- The property in question was an eyesore and was causing a nuisance due to antisocial behaviour.
- They supported the Compulsory Purchase Order process in relation to abandoned properties, and Kildare County Council should identify properties where financial institutions have a lean on the property and the properties have been abandoned.



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Mr O Brady advised that he would raise the members concerns with the Vacant Homes Officer for further review.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor Pender that the report be noted.

KN22/0322

Approved Housing Bodies

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council provide an overview of how it exercises oversight of Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) in the municipal district to include but not limited to for example, details of its register of compliance statements for each AHB over the last 5 years, details of its monitoring of mortgage title deeds for each AHB (who is holding the title, and how it monitors the end dates of mortgage terms) and how it records and deals with tenant complaints?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the role of Kildare County Council in relation to Approved Housing Bodies was to (a) ensure AHB compliance with funding schemes, (b) enter into new Payment and Availability agreements, Capital Advance and Leasing facility agreements and provide funding under the Capital Assistance Scheme (c) enforce the conditions of mortgage agreements (d) ensure AHB compliance with tenant nomination policies.

AHBRA (Approved Housing Body Regulatory Authority) regulated the AHB's in supporting stronger governance and financial viability of the AHB sector. The AHBRA was established on 1st February 2022 and the Voluntary Regulation of the AHB's was dissolved on 31st December 2021. AHBRA would have responsibility for establishing and maintaining a register of AHBs, preparing standards by which AHBs would be monitored and assessed, and encouraging and facilitating the better governance, administration and management, including corporate governance and financial management of AHBs. The Regulator would also have powers to carry out investigations and cancel the registration of AHBs.

Kildare County Council required AHB and Housing Associations who had availed of funding under the Social Leasing Scheme, Capital Assistance Scheme and Capital Loan and



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Subsidy Scheme to complete an annual compliance return, this return included information relating to (a) contact details (b) details of directors (c) insurance details (d) rent calculations (e) financial statements (f) maintenance allowance (g) occupancy statements and void rates (h) regulatory report. There was a register maintained of the compliance submission from each AHB.

The council held the mortgage title deeds. Title transfers to Approved Housing Bodies once the mortgage deed agreements had been completed (lodged with Land Registry), with a charge in favour of the council registered against the title. AHBs received an annual mortgage statement. On the expiry of the mortgage term, the council would begin the process of releasing deeds to the approved housing body in accordance with Circular 19/2014. Kildare County Council were in the process of completing a number of mortgages for existing CLSS Schemes.

The properties were managed by the AHB, tenancy management issues were the responsibility of the AHB. An inspection of the property could be requested, and this would be carried out by Kildare County Council's Rental Inspection Team and it should be noted a number of inspections of AHB units were undertaken annually. AHB tenancies were governed by the Residential Tenancies Act and any disputes that arose could be referred to the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB).

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she was not satisfied with the report as it did not answer the question asked, and was frustrated with this approach to answering items from the members.

Mr O Brady stated that there had been a misunderstanding of what had been asked and there had been no intention on the executives part to withhold information. He stated that he would make contact directly with Councillor McLoughlin Healy regarding information on individual Approved Housing Bodies.

The report was noted.

KN23/0322

Vacant Homes

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford.



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Can the council advise members on the number of engagements between the Vacant Homes Officer and the various lending institutions regarding abandoned and repossessed homes in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that when a vacant property was notified to the Vacant Homes Officer, all efforts were made to locate the owner. If a lending institution was listed in relation to the property, usually on the land registry documentation, then contact was made with that institution. Over 100 inspections of individual properties had been carried out in this municipal district area.

The report was noted.

KN24/0322

Development Levies

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey.

That the council give an outline of monies received in development levies for Newbridge (postal address) projects since January 1, 2019 and an account of its capital investments and planned capital investments in the same area.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the 2022-2024 Capital Programme was issued to Council as part of Budget 2022 in November 2021. It was also presented to Council in the new format showing each project by its relevant Municipal District at the January 2022 Council meeting. (Attached capital programme). The development contributions collected under the 2004 Development Contribution scheme were used to fund projects on this three-year rolling Capital Programme.

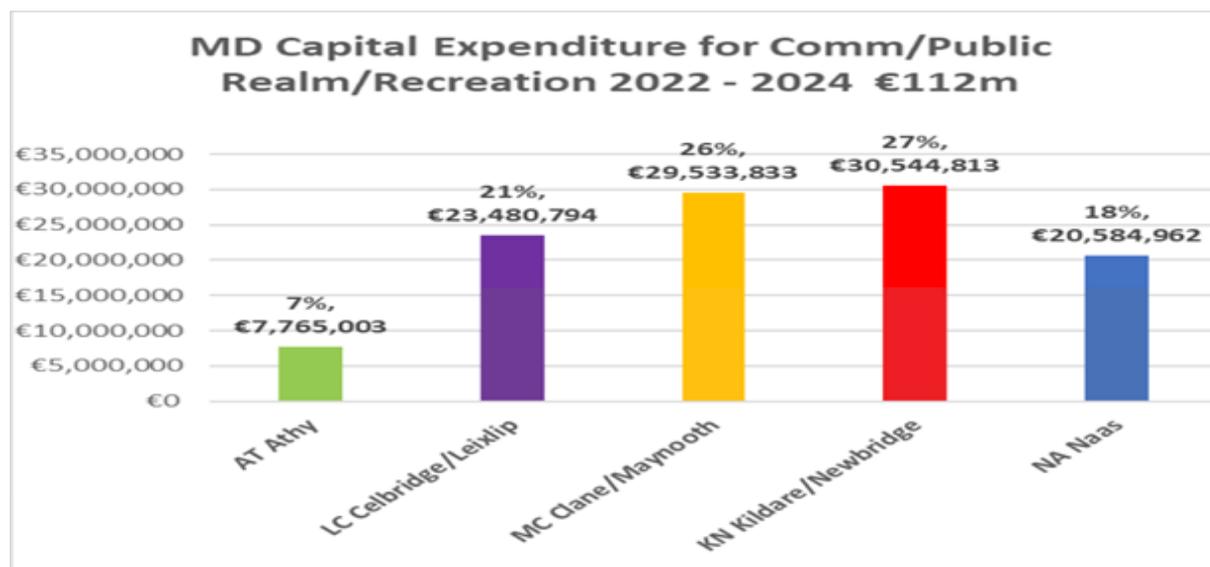
As per the 2004 scheme, development contributions were charged and collected on a county-wide basis (with the exception of Recreation & Amenity levies and Community & Enterprise levies which were collected on a municipal district basis). This enabled Council to prioritise projects as required, and more particularly ensured that more rural areas were apportioned



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funds towards projects that may alternatively have been focussed in the urban areas. The development levies for these areas were assigned to projects for Municipal Districts which were shown in the 2022-2024 Capital Programme and were not available by postal area.

In the 2022-2024 Capital Programme there was €30.5m proposed capital investment in Public Realm/Recreation/Community areas within the Kildare-Newbridge MD.



Councillor Heavey informed that members that the intention of his motion was to compare the monies collected in development levies on developments in Newbridge, to what was spent via development levies in the Newbridge area, but the report did not provide this information. He stated he was very unhappy that this information had not been made available to him.

Ms B Sweeney stated that the only element of development levy funding which could be extracted on a municipal district basis, was the capital spend for community and recreation and that the system could not facilitate providing the comparison figures being requested. The Mayor suggested further discussions could take place offline. Ms Sweeney confirmed she was very happy to discuss the matter with Councillor Heavey outside the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor N Connolly that the report be noted.

KN25/0322

SHD Briargate Developments

To receive a presentation from the Planning Department on Briargate Developments,



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Newbridge, for a stage 3 SHD development at lands at Ballymany, Newbridge, Co Kildare.

Ms Hunt advised that the presentation had been circulated previously to the members and that the only change had been the addition of an Environmental Impact Statement. She noted the members previous comments and advised that any additional comments should be sent directly to the Planning Department.

The members agreed.

KN26/0322

Alchemy Developments

To receive a presentation from the Planning Department on Alchemy Developments (Kilcullen) Limited for a stage 3 SHD development at lands at Riverside, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.

Ms Hunt advised that due to a family bereavement, the staff member dealing with this file was unable to attend the meeting. She confirmed the presentation would be deferred to the April meeting, adding it would be circulated to the members in advance of that meeting.

KN27/0322

Regional Spatial Economic Strategy

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council outline in detail all mechanisms and options open to us to challenge the designation of Newbridge as a ' Self Sustaining growth town' in the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy (RSES) including challenging the lack of representation from this district on Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) the body that developed and recommended the designations, to include a list of all social and other infrastructure audits conducted of the town over the last 5 years and any other evidence submitted by the council in support of Newbridge being appropriately designated as a Key Town.

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



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A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the appointment of representatives from Kildare County Council to the Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly was a matter for the members.

The Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) were the Authority with responsibility for the preparation and adoption of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern Midlands Region. The RSES designated “Key Towns” within the region and furthermore set out a series of characteristics to assist Local Authorities in designations for settlements in their respective County Development Plans. The RSES did not designate Newbridge as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town, this was a function of the County Development Plan. This was the highest designation which could be afforded to a settlement during the development plan review process. The designation of further Key Towns within the County was outside of the remit of the County Development Plan and was a matter for the mid-term review or otherwise of the RSES.

Attached were submissions made to EMRA by Kildare County Council during the preparation of the strategy, which had previously been circulated to members.

The members raised the following points:

- While very good initial submissions had been made, it was unclear why the designation change from ‘key town’ to ‘self-sustaining growth town’ had been accepted and not challenged.
- Had any evidence been provided to support the change.
- Could the term ‘asset-based model’ be explained.
- Newbridge appeared to be contributing the most but getting the least funding and there had been a deterioration in the infrastructure.
- Newbridge was a large town but having no multiple crossings was impacting growth.
- There was now a representative on the Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly from the MD.

Ms M Hunt advised that she would seek clarification on the term ‘asset based model’ and revert to the members.



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The District Manager stated that the submissions had been excellent and had sympathy with the members regarding the outcome of this which had been very disappointing and their points were well made.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Heavey that the report be noted.

KN28/0322

Barrow Blueway

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Duffy.
Can the council provide the members with an update on Kildare County Council's portion of the Barrow Blueway program of works in this municipal district, including a timeline for issuing of tenders for these works and likely completion date?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that geotechnical investigations, topographical and utility surveys were complete. Detailed design was underway with a tender for a Works Contractor to be advertised on etenders mid-April 2022 and award of a contractor June 2022. They would be coordinating with the Municipal Engineer and the contractor on a programme of works in their area and to establish works which may be a priority.

All Kildare County Council construction works for the Barrow Blueway were to be complete end of Quarter 1 2023.

The report was noted.

KN29/0322

Second Level School

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heavey.
Can the council clarify the process and likely schedule to deliver the new second level school in this municipal district to service Newbridge, Kilcullen and Kildare catchment area?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the issue of school delivery was a matter for the Department of Education. The Forward Planning Team



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of Kildare County Council liaised closely with the DoE under the MOU for School Site Acquisition and Local Area Plan/County Development Plan preparation.

Councillor Heavey stated that he found this report to be unacceptable following repeated appeals from the public in relation to second level places. He questioned why the information could not be sought and presented so that he could go back to the community with information, and expressed his frustration on reports of this nature being issued to elected members.

Ms Hunt stated that she understood his frustration on the lack of detail in the report and suggested that Councillor Heavey consider tabling this as a motion requesting that the information be sought from the Department of Education.

The report was noted.

KN30/0322

River Drainage Programme of Works

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Duffy.

Can the council confirm the proposed 2022 river drainage program of works in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that drainage maintenance works were scheduled for the Cowpasture stream in Monasterevin, the Boherbaun River (between R417 and River Barrow) and the River Barrow between Dunrally Bridge and Athy in 2022. Works were subject to ecological walkovers, which would take place in late April/early May and were prioritised based on the flood risk to existing properties. The programming of works was carried out in collaboration with the drainage maintenance teams of both Laois and Offaly County Councils.

The report was noted.

KN31/0322

Parks Works Programme

The members considered the Parks Works Programme 2022.



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Mr Wallace informed the members that a report on the Parks Works Programme for 2022 had been circulated prior to the meeting and that he would be happy to respond to any questions that the members had. He advised that the programme was a combination of projects and maintenance works. He stated he could not be more specific regarding timelines and the Municipal District members needed to prioritise upcoming works.

Ms P O'Rourke then gave a presentation to the members on works proposed for reduced grass maintenance and use of glyphosate. She highlighted the timeline and targets for these works from 2019 to today and what was planned for the future. She explained the "Demystifying Circular Economy" concept to the members with respect to the project to create renewable gas from waste grass. She finished by clarifying which sites had been selected for the municipal district projects and what would be carried out at each site. The members congratulated Ms O'Rourke on the exciting initiative and raised the following points:

- Had there been any progress on reducing glyphosate usage by Residents Associations, and could Ms O'Rourke be contacted directly for advice.
- Diversity sometimes leads to unsightly open spaces and in general the public preferred green spaces to be neat and tidy.
- While the developments were interesting, nothing could replace glyphosate in the process of food production as it was the only way of controlling some weeds and there was no scientific evidence for its demonisation.
- Was this work experimental and was any research and development being done nationally.

Ms O'Rourke responded by stating:

- Residents Associations could contact her directly for advice and she received regular calls seeking advice on alternatives to glyphosate.
- Misuse of glyphosate causes issues.
- In a recent survey 93% of those asked preferred uncut to manicured grass areas.
- There was a need to do research in this area as the information available was not presenting the full data. Kildare County Council were now providing the expertise to



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other local authorities in how to progress these initiatives in an effective and efficient manner.

The report was noted

KN32/0322

Lands for Community Spaces

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey.

That the council provide a list of council owned lands in excess of 0.25 ha across our municipal district towns and villages, to ascertain if these lands may be suitable for Community Spaces/developments (as distinct from housing).

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Culture Department informing the members to find attached a list of Kildare County Council sites measuring 0.25 ha plus, in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

Please note the following:

- The list had been generated from the Property Interest Register, which was a work in progress. As such, the list was not complete or exhaustive.
- The list excluded unregistered sites and sites registered in the Registry of Deeds.
- The list excluded sites acquired for cemeteries, as these plots were not available for any other purpose.
- The inclusion of Council owned lands on the attached list did not indicate that they were available or suitable for the community spaces/developments. The primary use for many of the sites would be housing.

The list included part-developed and undeveloped sites. In addition, the maps contained in the Property Interest Register dated back to 2018 and may not reflect the exact position on the ground.



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Queries in relation to the current and future use of specific sites were best addressed to the Director of Services in the acquiring section, who would have the most up to date and accurate overview. Where the acquiring section was not known, queries could be referred to the Property Interest Register team through the CRM system.

Please note that Housing Section also reviewed the attached list and confirmed that apart from the site that was under consideration for community use in Rickardstown, none of the other sites would be considered suitable/available for community spaces/developments.

Location	Size (Ha)	Comments	Acquiring Section
Kildangan	.4595	Additional lands between two phases of housing. Housing Section confirmed that it is its intention is to potentially develop this narrow strip as part of a bigger development.	Housing
Morrinstownbiller Newbridge	.45	Road Improvement	Roads
Roseberry Newbridge	.375	House adjacent to Rosconnell. Housing Section confirmed that access to this site may present a problem for any future use	Housing
Coolaghknock Glebe Kildare	5.2991	Lands partly undeveloped and zone C2 New Residential. Adjacent C1 lands described below to be developed before C2 lands.	Housing
Coolaghknock Glebe Kildare	2.8636	Lands zoned C1 New Residential and currently proposed for inclusion in Social Housing PPP Programme	Housing
Crosskeys Kildangan	2.2389	KCC lands only partly zoned (A- Village Centre) in the Kildangan Village Plan.	Housing
Bonaghmore Rathangan	3.8583	Lands between the St. Patrick's Park and Beechgrove estates. Restricted access to the public road	Housing



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Beechgrove Rathangan	6.8700	Folio ref KE15636F Beechgrove, Rathangan. Partly developed for social housing with remaining lands used for amenity.	Housing
Avondale Kilcullen	9.9600	Partly developed lands at Avondale. Kilcullen. Remaining undeveloped lands mainly zoned open space and amenity and partly zoned industrial and warehousing in Kilcullen LAP	Housing
Bishopslane Kildare Town	11.8199	Lands at Bishopslane, Kildare fully developed.	Housing
Rickardstown Newbridge	14.394	Lands include folio ref's KE35230, KE14382F adjacent to existing Rosconnell estate and school. Lands currently under consideration for mixed tenure development.	Housing
Athgarvan Newbridge	1.3507	Existing Part 8 approved for development of 18 social housing units at Mountainview, Athgarvan	Housing

The members raised the following points:

- There was a serious lack of spaces for teenager in the Newbridge area and these would not require much land, and such initiatives had been very successful in other areas.
- The lack of sites was disappointing.
- All lands available should be considered for further development.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the report be noted.

KN33/0322

Slip Way at Passlands Monasterevin

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Duffy.

That the council purchase the existing slipway into the river Barrow at Passlands, Monasterevin to secure it into public ownership.



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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that Kildare County Council would engage with the landowner to see if the slipway could remain open to the public.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that the slipway was a significant piece of infrastructure which would be a huge loss if it were to close. It was currently in private ownership but allowing public access posed an issue with liability.

Mr S Wallace stated that he would engage with the landowner but there was no budget available for purchase.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor N Connolly that the report be noted.

KN34/0322

Resident Association Fund allocations

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That this council requests a review of the system by which fund allocations are calculated for Residents Associations in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area as compared to the amounts allocated to Residents Associations in Naas with a view to informing and agreeing a fairer allocation of funds, whether from the municipal district budget or from retained LPT or other sources.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Culture Department informing the members that the funding for Residents Association grants had been allocated in the budget for 2022 and the closing date for applications was Friday 11 March. The Community section would allocate funding based on the budget amounts and prior year methodology.



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A Local Community & Cultural SPC subcommittee had been set up to review the methodology of calculating Resident Association grants and would report back to the SPC in May to identify possible alternatives to the current allocation and to explore an alternative approach to distributing funding in advance of 2023 budget.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy welcomed confirmation of the review and noted that all relevant information would be required before the forthcoming LPT discussions.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Pender, the report was noted.

KN35/0322

Accommodation for Sports Clubs

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor N Connolly. Can the council outline what plans it has to provide accommodation for sports clubs in the Kildare Town area within the next 3 years?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that Kildare County Council was not aware of any specific requests from Sports Clubs to be accommodated. If clubs needed additional facilities, then this would have to be considered for lands zoned recreation and amenity in Kildare Town and how these were to be acquired by Kildare County Council. Any requirements outside of this would have to be considered for the Kildare Town Local Area Plan and what mechanisms could be used for acquiring the lands for recreation and amenity.

Councillor N Connolly queried if there had been any progress on accommodation for St Brigid's Boxing Club. The District Manager advised that the issues had been resolved and there was a lease in place on the existing facility, however, a longer term solution was still required.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.