

**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held at 10.00 am on 16 January 2019 in Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

**Members Present:** Councillor M Aspell (Mayor), Councillors S Doyle, P Kennedy, M Lynch, M McCabe, F McLoughlin Healy, J Pender, S Power and M Stafford.

**Officials Present:** Mr J Boland (District Manager), Ms B Cuddy (Municipal District Engineer), Ms E Wright (Senior Executive Officer), Ms AM Conneely (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms S Scully, Ms V Cooke (Administrative Officers), Ms P O'Rourke (Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms S Martin (Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office), Ms F Skehan (Meetings Administrator) and Ms R O'Connell (Meetings Secretary),

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**KN01/0119**

**Commenced Meeting**

As the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were absent, the members agreed to commence the meeting and asked Councillor S Power to take the Mayor's place until he arrived.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Pender seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy with all members agreeing that Councillor S Power chair the meeting.

**KN02/0119**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 19 December 2018, together with the progress report.

The minutes were approved subject to amendments of item **KN17/1218** as follows:

**Item KN17/1218:**

‘Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she had asked at the December meeting to have a list of bye laws for the Curragh and if the Department of Defence was going to count the sheep grazing on the Curragh’.

The District Manager informed the members that he had raised these issues with the Department of Defence and that he hoped to have a response for the next meeting in February. He also stated the council and the Department of Defence had a vision statement for the future of the Curragh including funding of €250,000 and hoped to have the funding approved in early February.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked could the members have the bye laws for the Curragh at their next meeting.

Councillor Stafford stated that there was primary legislation pertaining to the Curragh Plains. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor Lynch that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on 19 December 2018 be confirmed with amendment as outlined above and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

**KN03/0119**

**Matters Arising**

**Meeting with Bord Na Mona**

Councillor S Power asked the District Manager had he met with Bord Na Mona. The District Manager informed the members that he was meeting with Bord Na Mona the following Friday to discuss the issues that the members had with regard to Councillor S Power motion from the December meeting and that he would update the members at the next meeting.

**KN04/0119**

**Mayor**

The Mayor arrived and gave his apologies as he was late for the meeting and explained that it was due to traffic congestion. He took the Chair.

**KN05/0119**

**Municipal District Road Works**

To receive an update on the municipal district road works.

**Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office**

- Preparation of the annual roads programme was ongoing and subject to budget approval
- Works on Langton Road were now completed, including upgrade of Footpath and road surface.

**LPT/Pay Parking Projects/Footpath Improvements:**

- Tender for footpath works in Kilmeague had now been awarded and the contractor would be on site in the coming weeks.
- Preparation of the 2019 programme was ongoing.

**Miscellaneous works:**

- Grass cutting, litter picking and gully cleaning were ongoing within the municipal district area.
- Minor footpath repairs within Newbridge Town at trip hazard locations;
  1. Moorefield Park
  2. Lakeside Park
  3. Tactile paving at Curragh Grange
- Extensive patch repairs were ongoing throughout the Municipal District.
- Works commencing on Cushaling Bridge on the Edenderry Border this week.
- Ongoing Routine Maintenance continued throughout the Christmas period.

**Report issued by:** Ms B Cuddy, Municipal District Engineer

Councillor Stafford asked was the Cushaling Bridge not in Offaly and Ms Cuddy stated that it was on her list for the Kildare area.

Councillor Lynch and Councillor Aspell commended the work at Langton Park.

**KN06/0119**

The Mayor requested to take items 3 and 25 together and all the members agreed.

**Item 3**

**LPT Schedule of Works 2019**

The members considered the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Local Property Tax (LPT) allocation for 2019 with the total allocation for LPT for 2019 being €650,215 and the breakdowns under the following headings were as follows:

**LPT Allocation for 2019: €650,215**

Tidy Towns Groups	€96,000
Roads Programme	€100,000
Contribution to County Public Realm Team *3	€80,000
Shop Front Scheme	€10,000
Disability Access	€10,000
Urban/Village Renewal – Match Funding	€100,000
Discretionary Community Grants *1	€135,000
Arts Officer – Initiatives	€10,000
Other Community Initiatives	€10,000
Festivals & Events *2	€100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€650,215</b>

- \*1 €15,000 to be assigned to each councillor for discretionary community- related expenditure.
- \*2 Subject to a programme being submitted by Tourism Officer to Municipal District for formal approval.
- \*3 Benefits to Municipal District to be itemised.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McCabe, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by all members present that the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Local Property Tax (LPT) allocation for 2019 as outlined be approved.

### Item 25

#### LPT grants funding

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council provides certainty, clarity and fairness in relation to the LPT grants funding process by clarifying the deadline for applications and the criteria for application and selection.

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

A report was received from Ms S Kavanagh, Director of Services, Economic, Community and Cultural Development informing the members that the process and/or allocation of LPT funding were a matter for the elected members.

The Community Department were previously asked by the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District to notify the PPN of the availability of LPT funding in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area. Ms Kavanagh had drafted wording for the notice and sent it to the members along with a suggested closing date (copy email attached). She did not get the approval of the Municipal District to send this notice out so the notice didn't issue. If the Municipal District members agree on a form of words and on a closing date she would send the notice to the PPN and ask them if it was possible to circulate it to their members.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she had attended a public meeting in the town hall a few months ago and also emailed the Mayor and the Director of Services with regard to discretionary community funding for each councillor, looking for approval for a deadline date for the community to apply for these funds and did not receive any response from them.

Councillor Lynch stated that he agreed with Councillor McLoughlin Healy and asked that the members agree to a deadline of one month to notify the PPN.

Councillor McCabe stated that he attended the public meeting in the town hall and that the problem was that they had over €2 million in applications looking for funding and that people would be disappointed if their applications were not successful as expectations have been raised too high.

Councillor Stafford stated to go to the PPN with the amount that was available for consideration: €135,000 (discretionary funding) was raising the groups expectations. He further stated that there would be a high volume of applications for funding, funding which is not available to the community and should only be given to projects in an emergency to get projects over the line. He asked if a scheme similar to the Drehid Scheme could be looked at, where the funds were allocated by the councillors.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she agreed with Councillor Stafford's suggestion. She asked that a deadline of one month from today's meeting be given to notify the PPN. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor Aspell and all members agreeing that the report be noted and a deadline of one month from today's meeting be put in place to notify the PPN of the availability of LPT funding in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area.

### **KN07/0119**

#### **Properties purchased for housing**

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Stafford. That the council furnish a list of the properties purchased, particularly for housing, from Government Agencies and other public bodies in the municipal district within the past three years.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that they do not provide a list of properties purchased for social purposes as to do so would be in conflict with GDPR obligations. In the last three years the council had received two units from the Housing Agency.

Councillor Stafford stated that there was an old dental practice belonging to the HSE and a dispensary in Rathangan that the HSE were off loading to the open market and stated that if the council bought it, that it would be suitable accommodation for an elderly person.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked what were the clauses under GDPR for not giving the information and can these be distributed to the members in a 'bona fida' approach at the next meeting.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Stafford seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

### **KN08/0119**

#### **Ó'Modhráin Hall**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Pender. In light of the opportunities arising in Newbridge for infrastructural and cultural development and given the importance of availability of community spaces in the town centre, that the members agree to write to the Charities Regulator asking for clarity on how the public interest is being served in relation to the Ó'Modhráin Hall, one of the last community owned buildings held in trust for the public benefit and seeks engagement from the regulator on this matter.

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

A report was received from Economic, Community & Cultural Development informing the members that this was a matter for the members. If the Municipal District members agree then a letter would be sent to the Charities Regulator.

Councillor Pender stated that this motion was brought up 18 months ago. There was animosity about the quick sale of the hall and that the council had tried to put a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) on the hall which was carried out in good faith. She noted it had been derelict for the last 18 months and that neither Trustees nor the Charities Regulator had responded to the members requests to meet with them. She also noted that there were grants available to develop the hall and if the council could issue a letter to the Charities Regulator asking to clarify what their intention was for Ó'Modhráin Hall and how this best served the public interest.

Councillor Aspell supported the motion and stated his disappointment that the Charities Regulator was not responding to their request to meet with the members with regard to the Ó'Modhráin Hall.

Councillor Lynch stated that it was an ideal place for the community youth groups and noted that Deputy Eoin Ó Broin had mentioned it in the Óireachtas last week.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she supported the motion and that it was very concerning that the facility in Newbridge was not been preserved for the community as it would be an ideal place for youth groups to perform musicals and dramas as currently they had to go to the Moat Theatre in Naas.

Councillor Stafford stated that it was very disappointing that the Charities Regulator had not responded. He stated this building was called to be listed on the Derelict Site Register and that discussions then centred on a CPO which left the Trustees with no choice but to put the band hall up for sale, as they did not have the money to invest in it. He stated that he would speak to his own TD with regard to Ó'Modhráin Hall.

Councillor S Power stated that the facility was in very poor condition but that it would be a great facility for young people. He noted that there probably would be enormous costs involved to get it developed but agreed with the members that the council write to the Charities Regulator.



Councillor McCabe stated that he supported the motion and that it was not acceptable that the Charities Regulator would not respond to the members.

Councillor Pender stated that that the Trustees made no attempt to engage with the public on the matter and that they were not registered with the Charities Regulator.

The District Manager stated that he understood the concerns of the local community and confirmed that he would seek advice from the council's solicitor and ask that these issues be looked at and would keep the members informed.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Pender seconded by Councillor Aspell and all members agreeing that the report be noted and a letter be sent on their behalf to the Charities Regulator regarding the proposed sale of the Ó'Modhráin Hall asking for clarification on how the public interest was being served in relation to the Ó'Modhráin Hall, one of the last community owned buildings held in trust for the public benefit and seeks engagement from the regulator on this matter.

### **KN09/0119**

#### **Emergency accommodation**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor S Power.  
Can Kildare County Council give an approximate figure as to how many people sought emergency accommodation in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District last year?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the total number of homeless presentations in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District in 2018 was 138.

The report was noted.

### **KN10/0119**

#### **Kildare Town Traffic Management Plan**

The members agreed to hold an in-committee meeting to discuss the proposed Kildare Town Traffic Management Plan at 2.00pm on Monday 11 February 2019.

**Resolved** with the agreement of all members to hold an in-committee meeting at 2.00pm on Monday 11 February 2019.

**KN11/0119**

The Mayor requested to take items 7 and 11 together and all the members agreed.

**Item 7**

**Scheme for small scale and one off public lighting**

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Stafford. That the council establish a separate scheme to make provision for small scale and one off public lighting requests, such as the provision of additional lights at Newtown and Ard Mhuire, Rathangan, as it is anticipated that the existing KLIPS scheme is weighted heavily in favour of larger projects and to examine other sources of funding such as community funding, sponsorship and LPT funding.

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

A report was received from Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that for information, the Athy Municipal District Committee established a Rural Lighting Assistance Pilot in 2016. The scheme was established due to the frequent request to Municipal District elected members by their constituents for the erection of public lighting in rural locations. It was proposed to develop a scheme of assistance to rural residents to erect private domestic external lighting to their properties at points where the buildings directly abound the public road. The scheme proposed to assist residents dwelling in rural locations to erect external lighting on their property with a view to enhancing the security and safety of the property. The desired function of the lighting was for the appropriate illumination of property and curtilage to enhance the security and safety of the dwelling and not to illuminate the public highway or adversely compromise the rural setting.

Details of the scheme were made available to the Athy members and placed on Kildare County Council's website. While Local Property Tax (LPT) funding was set aside by the Athy Municipal District, no applications were received for the scheme of assistance. The scheme had not been trialled in the other Municipal District areas.

The Transportation, Safety and Emergency Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) could examine the issue of rural lighting in terms of installation and lifecycle costs, and in the context of the current requirement on Kildare County Council to reduce its energy costs in line with the EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU), and the delivery of the 20% energy efficiency savings required by the Directive by 2020.

Councillor Stafford stated that KLIPS were putting their larger projects at the top of their list and the smaller ones were at the bottom. He asked if there could be a second scheme set up for the smaller projects noting that councillors McLoughlin Healy and Kennedy had raised this issue before.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Stafford seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

### Item 11

#### **Install public lights**

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

That the council install public lights along the R419 from Glebe Court, Portarlington Road, Rathangan to the junction with the L7003 at Bournes Lane.

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

A report was received from Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Public Lighting Section would assess the request using the Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS). It was noted that planning permission had been granted for large scale residential development at Temple Mills, Rathangan, which includes a condition to install public lighting along Bournes Lane. It may be prudent to delay any installation of lighting at this location until lighting along Bournes Lane had been installed by the developer to ensure that there was continuity in lighting from the R401 along Bournes Lane to Glebe Court.

Councillor Stafford stated that there was no public lights along this area and that one resident had put up lights himself. He asked if the council could sponsor public lights, as they do with roundabouts, and whether the council could have a provision for new public

lights and if the relevant engineer could meet the members at full council and explain how it all works.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she supported KLIPS and that it was a clear and fair application process but needed more funding to support it and noted that KLIPS had good criteria when projects were being assessed. She agreed that funding for smaller projects was needed and that there was no application process such smaller projects, through LPT.

Councillor Pender stated that certain rural areas needed public lighting and that a budget stream was needed for rural public lighting. She added that some sustainable energy lighting should be included for the rural areas also.

Councillor McCabe stated that sustainable lighting for rural areas would be more cost effective.

Councillor Doyle stated that a review of the levy for public lighting was required and this should be made a priority for the new council in June.

Councillor Lynch suggested that a national funding scheme should be allocated for public lighting.

Councillor Stafford acknowledged everyone's support however he was concerned about how the scheme currently works. He stated that if the council could apply a system like fixyourstreet.ie to smaller projects and provide a list of projects in order of priority. He stated that small schemes should be dealt with separately under a second scheme and should be allocated funding from LPT.

The Roads Transportation and Public Safety Senior Executive Officer informed the members that KLIPS was working for the bigger projects and that she would forward the member's comments to the SPC.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Stafford seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

**KN12/0119**

**Funding for a new bridge for Newbridge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor S Power.

That the council make every effort to source funding for the provision of a new bridge for Newbridge.

The motion was proposed by Councillor S Power and seconded by Councillor Aspell.

A report was received from Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members while the application made in 2018 for funding for a new bridge under the first call for Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) was not successful, it was anticipated that a further opportunity to apply for funding would emerge in 2019/2020 as the URDF had an overall allocation of funding of €2 billion to 2027.

Councillor S Power stated that a second bridge was needed for Newbridge especially for the future development of Newbridge. He also stated that the council should deal with these challenges and not wait for the URDF funding and could the council provide a costing for this second bridge to the members.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy supported the motion and that Newbridge was choked without the second bridge noting that funding for this second bridge was not in the RSES report as it was defining Naas as the main town of Kildare and not Newbridge. She asked that the council push Newbridge as a key town in Kildare and that submissions had to be made to RSES by 23 January 2019. This second bridge would bring great benefits to Newbridge town.

Councillor Lynch stated that the council should write to the South Kildare TD's with regard to this second bridge.

Councillor McCabe agreed with the members that the second bridge was needed for Newbridge and that submissions should be made to RSES. He added that there should be a

green strategy investment to include a green hub between Naas and Newbridge and to write to South Kildare TD's with regard to this motion.

Councillor Doyle asked that the council write to the RSES and to also look at suspending all Local Area Plans for the county in order to deal with the hierarchy of planning and future development. She further stated that Newbridge was a destination town having a train station and that this needs to be taken into account when devising future policy.

Councillor Aspell stated that he supported the motion and asked for a costing for this second bridge for the next meeting in February.

The District Manager stated that he was having a meeting on the 11 February 2019 with the Roads Department and that he would forward the issues raised.

The Roads Transportation and Public Safety Senior Executive Officer informed the members that it was disappointing that there was not funding for this second bridge but that the NTA had a draft brochure and that it should be finalised in two weeks. She stated that she would check if there was a costing for the bridge and would report back to the members.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked would there be a public consultation with regard to the draft brochure.

The Roads Transportation and Public Safety Senior Executive Officer informed the members that the final NTA public consultation would be in two weeks time and that this would be a long term project.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor S Power seconded by Councillor Aspell and all members agreeing that the report be noted and a letter be sent on their behalf to the South Kildare TD's with regard to this motion.

### **KN13/0119**

#### **Radar speed signs**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McCabe. That this municipal district considers trialling radar speed signs in built up areas and housing estates as an alternative to speed ramps.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McCabe and seconded by Councillor Aspell.

A report was received from Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members this can be reviewed and discussed further with Councillor McCabe in relation to proposed locations and existing issues.

Councillor McCabe stated that he had checked for costing on the radar signs and that they were cost effective. As radar signs had proven to be 80% more effective than speed ramps. He stated that the council should try these in housing estates as they were electronic reminders for people driving in these estates to slow down.

Councillor Kennedy stated that he was delighted that Councillor McCabe had done a costing on these and that these flashing signs were very useful as you cannot miss them.

Councillor Pender stated that there was one installed in Suncroft and it was working very well as it would go red if you were driving too fast and green when you were going at the right speed. She asked if they were solar powered and could they record information.

Councillor Stafford stated that he supported the motion and stated that they do work but if you have too many radar signs people may start ignoring them.

Councillor Lynch stated that he does not support them as technology does not always work and that speed ramps were the solution.

The District Engineer advised the members that radar signs only work when there is a long stretch of road and they would not be effective in housing estates as the sign needs time to read the speed, record and inform.

The Roads Transportation and Public Safety Senior Executive Officer informed the members that speed signs in Suncroft cost €10,000.

She also informed the members that radar signs were not effective on their own and this was the case on the M7 roadworks where radar signs were installed but it was not until the speed

vans were deployed to enforce the speed limit that motorists slow down as people had begun to ignore radar signs.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

### **KN14/0119**

The Mayor requested to take item 21 next and all the members agreed.

#### **Item 21**

##### **Local Enterprise Office, Evaluation and Approvals Committee**

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

That the council clarify if the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District has an expert representative on the Local Enterprise Office, Evaluation and Approvals Committee, how members of the committee are recruited and remunerated and if the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District is not represented, that the council consider that either all municipal districts or no municipal district are represented on the committee.

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

A report was received from Kildare Economic & Enterprise Team informing the members the Evaluation and Approvals Committee provide an impartial assessment of the requests for grant funding. Members serve in an unpaid capacity and were appointed following a public call for suitable members to serve on the committee.

#### **The Role of the Committee**

The membership of the Evaluation and Approvals committee brings together a wealth of experience across a diversity of areas of business expertise.

All projects being considered for financial support would be evaluated by the Evaluation and Approvals Committee and all projects under €50,000 may be approved by this committee in line with national enterprise policy. All projects over €50,000 would be evaluated and if



endorsed by the Evaluations and Approvals Committee, recommended to the Enterprise Ireland Jobs Expansion Fund Committee for final approval.

The current membership was as follows

- Peter Carey, Chief Executive, Kildare County Council
- Charles Carri, John P Greely & Co.
- James Cox, ex-BOI
- Deirdre O'Neill, Enterprise Ireland
- Declan Duke, IPC Consulting
- Liam Doyle, AIB
- Clodagh Huges, Bank of Ireland
- Joe Moore, Maynooth University

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked for clarity around the membership and how were the public been notified. She also asked if there was a protocol on evaluating projects and did that include an appeal process.

Ms J McNabb stated that LEO operates the service as part of a Service Level Agreement with the Local Enterprise Board. She stated that the committee must meet a minimum of six times a year and that this committee meet up to eight times a year. She informed the members that one member must step down after each year however this year two members were stepping down. Their key performance indicator (KPI) was job creation and when clients were applying for capital grants it was approved based on increasing employment and that LEO was conscious of not competing with existing businesses. She noted that in the last two years, four projects were approved and that there was an appeal process for non approved applications but that LEO only put forward applications that they were satisfied will receive approval. She confirmed that the membership was not based on local or national geographic spread as it was not a criterion and that the filling of the two vacancies would be advertised at the end of January.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked that the call for new members advertised on LinkedIn.

Councillor Stafford commended Ms J McNabb for the excellent work that she had done, especially in relation to Allenwood Enterprise Centre.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

**KN15/0119**

The Mayor requested to take items 10 and 17 together and all the members agreed.

**Item 10**

**Newbridge town pay parking bye-laws**

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

That this municipal district seeks an immediate review of the Newbridge town pay parking bye-laws which should consider and explore increasing the length of free parking from 15 minutes to 40 minutes and explore the possible introduction of pay parking on a Sunday to alleviate the parking crises in the town on this day.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor Aspell.

A report was received from Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the introduction of pay parking seven days per week in Newbridge was a matter for the members to discuss and consider in the context of parking demand on Sundays in the town. With regard to increasing the free parking period from 15 minutes to 40 minutes (and 40 minutes after the expiry of a valid ticket), the potential loss of income and reduction in turnover on the main streets would need to be examined.

Councillor Lynch stated that in Portlaoise they had 30 minutes grace and it was working there and that the council should have some enforcement on Sundays in Newbridge.

The Roads Transportation and Public Safety Senior Executive Officer informed the members that they were currently reviewing bye laws for smaller towns and were not in a position to address this particular issue at this time.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Lynch seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

**Item 17**

**An e-car charging space**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender. On foot of the motion passed at the October 2018 Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting regarding the installation of an e-car charging space in public car parks, can the council include the provision of e-charging spaces in the current Kildare Town and Newbridge parking bye-laws?

A report was received from Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the installation of EV charge points in towns throughout the county was scheduled to be examined by the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) in 2019, with a view to developing a policy which would likely lead to a procurement process for the supply, installation, and maintenance of such charge points.

The report was noted.

**KN16/0119**

**Take in charge of Langton Road, Newbridge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford. That the council take in charge the remaining section of Langton Road, Newbridge.

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

A report was received from Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this could be examined in consultation with the Municipal District Engineer and Councillor Stafford, in the context of Kildare County Council policy on the taking in charge of roads.

Councillor Stafford stated that the residents were willing to fund works themselves and asked if they did, would the council then take it in charge.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Stafford seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

**KN17/0119**

The Mayor requested to take items 13 and 19 together and all the members agreed.

**Item 13**

**Pedestrian crossings at Allenwood crossroads**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council address the issues arising from the location of the pedestrian crossings at Allenwood crossroads to include a report of the traffic counting exercise completed last year.

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

A report was received from Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that traffic and pedestrian counts had been completed and a report would be provided to the members at the February meeting.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that there had been a motion last April with regard to this and that she had a video recording of this area if anyone wanted to watch it. She stated that trucks were nearly on the pedestrian crossing when they were turning and it was very dangerous and that a traffic count needed to be done.

Councillor Stafford stated that there had been a number of near misses with people and young children in this area and stated that traffic lights could work.

Councillor Doyle stated that Kildangan had the same problem previously and that a gate way outside the village to slow traffic down could work instead of traffic lights.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she wanted it minuted that the issues raised at this meeting would be reported and addressed at the February meeting and the traffic and pedestrian counts report would be available.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

**Item 19**

**Installation of traffic lights**

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

Can the council furnish a progress report on the installation of traffic lights at Allenwood Cross.

A report was received from Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the member's traffic and pedestrian counts had been completed and a report would be provided to the members at the February meeting.

The report was noted.

**KN18/0119**

**Full design and funding stream**

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

Can the council develop a full design and funding stream for a full road safety redesign at Kilbelin, Newbridge (near the Gables) considering the large volume of traffic on the road and that there is no safe crossing on this busy road?

A report was received from Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the technical resources in the Roads Section to carry out this design work was not available at this time. From an initial analysis there were adequate footpath facilities on both sides of the public road at Kilbelin, Newbridge (near the Gables). The requirement for a new crossing facility at this location would have to be analysed under TAAG (Traffic Assessment Advisory Group).

The report was noted.

**KN19/0119**

**Cherry Avenue, Kildare Town Public Amenity works**

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

Can the council ensure that when the Cherry Avenue, Kildare Town Public Amenity works begin that some speed measures are included at the bend on the main road?

A report was received from Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members this had been referred to the Speed Limit Review team for examination as part of the County Wide Speed Limit Review. It could also be examined by the Municipal District Engineer in consultation with Road Design if engineering measures were required.

The report was noted.

**KN20/0119**

**Crossroads junction at Brownstown**

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

Can the council consider approaching the Department of Defence asking if they would be amenable to a land transfer at the crossroads junction at Brownstown in order to facilitate a suitable junction or roundabout which would improve road safety in this area?

A report was received from Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members the proposal could be discussed in principle at a future meeting of the Curragh Forum. If the Department of Defence were in agreement, an outline design and costing would need to be prepared; however, resources were fully committed to projects which had funding in place at this time.

Councillor Pender asked if the council could raise this issue at the next meeting with the Department of Defence. She stated that a resolution was needed as accidents were happening and that the work that had been done at the crossroads junction was not working. The report was noted.

**KN21/0119**

**Road resurfacing programme for 2019**

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

Can the council include the local roads from Mountrice to Umeras (L7010) and at Mullaghroe (L70101) as part of the road resurfacing programme for 2019?

A report was received from Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members the road surfacing programme for 2019 was now complete and submitted to the Department for approval; there was no additional funding at present however the council would include for consideration for the 2020 programme.

The report was noted.

**KN22/0119**

**New school for the Curragh Post Primary**

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

That the members welcome the news that the Department of Education has announced a new school for the Curragh Post Primary and given that new school buildings can sometimes be delivered very quickly, that the members write to the Department of Education, the Department of Defence Property Services Section and the Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board asking for engagement as soon as possible with current pupils, parents, possible feeder schools, South Kildare Educate Together and all other relevant stakeholders regarding the location of the new school and to consider that current and future students who walk or cycle to school, should be able to continue to do so.

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

A report was received from Planning Section informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Pender stated that the Department of Defence needed to look into these issues as people were afraid that the new school would be situated far out of the Curragh Camp. She stated that there was a vast amount of land on the Curragh for this school and that it should be within walking distance of the camp. She asked that the council consult with all the stakeholders that were involved in this new school and that location of the school form part of the Curragh.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy noted that the location had not been identified. The current school needed to be replaced and that it should be a model school like Educate Together and that it was necessary to find out from the stakeholders where the site for the new school was going to be.

Councillor S Power stated that Councillor Stafford and he were both board members of the Curragh school and that the building was very old. He noted it was a unique school in many

ways and that staff were doing their best for their students adding it was great news that they would be getting funding for a new school.

Councillor Stafford stated that it was great news that they were getting funding for a new school.

Councillor Lynch stated that too supported the motion and that the school should have easy access for public transport.

Ms V Cooke asked Councillor Pender what would they like the council to ask the stakeholders when Corporate Services writes a letter to the Department of Education, the Department of Defence Property Services Section and the Kildare and Wicklow Education Training Board asking them to verify where the new school site will be located for the new school on the Curragh.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Pender seconded by Councillor Aspell with all members agreeing that the report be noted and that Corporate Services would send a letter to the Department of Education, the Department of Defence Property Services Section and the Kildare and Wicklow Education Training Board asking them to verify with the stakeholders where the new school site will be located for the new school on the Curragh.

### **KN23/0119**

#### **Tree planting plan**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor S Power.

In view of the importance of the horticultural industry in County Kildare, that the council outline its tree planting plan for the Kildare-Newbridge municipal area this year and confirm what percentage of the trees will be sourced within the county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor S Power and seconded by Councillor Aspell.

A report was received from Economic Community and Cultural Development Park informing the members that a tree planting programme for the county for 2019 was currently being prepared. This would be broadly similar in cost and content to the 2018 programme. It would be forwarded to the members when completed. The tree planting was carried out by landscape contractors who source and plant the trees. There was no requirement to source



trees within the county as this was not allowed under procurement rules. Therefore where the trees were sourced from was a matter for the contractor who was awarded the work.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor S Power seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

### **KN24/0119**

#### **Pollinator action plan**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McCabe. That this municipal district considers initialising an overall pollinator action plan to assist nature's biodiversity, namely bees, butterflies and wildflowers by engaging in the pollinator friendly practices of grass cutting for parks and roadsides also to ensure the use of quality top soil on newly created road verges and roundabouts.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McCabe and seconded by Councillor Aspell.

A report was received from Economic Community and Cultural Development Park informing the members that an overall pollinator plan was a matter for the Heritage Officer. Regarding initiatives being implemented by the Parks Section the council had where practicable used trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs which were pollinator friendly and this would continue.

Regarding the introduction of pollinator friendly practices in relation to grass cutting the council had some areas where the council had introduced wild flower areas and decreased the frequency of grass cuts. However to do this on wider scale involves a number of considerations. These were

1. Cutting longer grass was more expensive
2. To increase species diversity the grass needs to be collected and disposed of which also adds to cost.

Quality topsoil was not recommended for pollinator friendly verges as it encourages grass growth. Poorer quality soil was best as it promotes species diversity.

The council would review the existing grass contract to see what measures could be implemented to have pollinator friendly practices of grass cutting. Any measures would have to be cost neutral.

Councillor McCabe stated that the council needed a pollinator programme and asked that the council grow wild flowers in grass verges for the future of the bees. He asked that due to the harm caused by using pesticides on pollination of plants that this Municipal District should look at introducing a pollinator programme.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

### **KN25/0119**

#### **Liffey Linear Park**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor S Power. In view of the wonderful amenity that is the Liffey Linear Park, can the council outline what planned expenditure it has made for it this year?

A report was received from Economic Community and Cultural Development Park informing the members that works proposed for the Liffey Linear Park was to complete plans for a walkway through the underpass of the bridge and a design for a boardwalk to link to Newbridge College. A review of the signage would be carried out with the aim of creating a co-ordinated approach to the location and design of signage in the park. The boundary fence between Ryston Close and the park would also be replaced and replanted with a hedgerow.

The report was noted.

### **KN26/0119**

#### **Volunteer/s for town and county twinning committees**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council clarify the delay in contacting a volunteer/s for town and county twinning committees?

A report was received from Economic Community & Cultural Development informing the members that the volunteer's contact details were passed on to the relevant twinning committees whose responsibility it was to follow up.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that last July she was approached by a person who volunteered to put their name forward but had not heard anything from the council and that she would speak to Ms AM Connelly after the meeting.

Ms AM Connelly stated that she had passed on the volunteer's contact details to the relevant twinning committees whose responsibility it was to follow up.

The report was noted.

### **KN27/0119**

#### **Leases for the sports field at Rickardstown**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council clarify if it accepted and confirmed surrender of the leases for the sports field at Rickardstown and outline a clear timeline for Sarsfields/Newbridge United to take possession of the land?

A report was received from Economic Community and Cultural Development Park informing the members that the formal surrender of the lease for the sports field was pending the payment of outstanding rent by the Hockey Club and when this was complete the surrender could be completed by our solicitors. The completion of a lease to Sarsfield GAA and Newbridge United was pending the receipt of an agreement between the two clubs as to how they would jointly manage the facility. If the information relating to these matters could be forwarded by the relevant club then the council would expect to complete the new lease by the end of April. The land had also been subject to illegal encroachment and the resolution of this matter was being dealt with by the Housing Department.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy noted the lease had been surrendered since 2016 and that there was an outstanding bill of €1000 owed by the Hockey Club and asked could the council waive this outstanding amount.

The District Manager stated that he would be having a public consultation on the 1 February 2019.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.