

**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held at 10.00 am on 17 April 2019 in Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

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

**Apologises:** Councillor P Kennedy

**Officials Present:** Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr J Shannon, Ms S Scully, Ms V Cooke (Administrative Officers), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms E Wright (Senior Executive Officer), Ms A M Conneely, (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms B Loughlin (Heritage Officer), Mr B Cuddy (Municipal District Engineer), Mr J Culhane (Assistant Engineer), Mr M Dowling (Executive Planner), Mr J Murtagh (Executive Engineer), Ms S Martin (Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office), Ms F Skehan (Meetings Administrator) and Ms R O'Connell (Meetings Secretary)

**KN01/0419**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The minutes were approved subject to amendment of item **KN14/0319** as follows:

Councillor Lynch asked could the members get a costing on how much it would cost for the bridge and could the members have the report for the next month's meeting. He asked could this be put on the TAAG list.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Power that the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 20 March 2019 be confirmed with amendments as outlined and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

**KN02/0419**  
**Matters Arising**

**Newbridge Machinery Yard**

Councillor Lynch stated that the members had agreed at last month's meeting that funding from the sale of the machinery yard would go back into community gain for Newbridge. He also said that some element of the site should be kept for community gain.

The Senior Executive Officer stated that the funding from the sale of the machinery yard would fund the new machinery yard in Naas with funding from the Department of Transport (DTO) also. Funding from the sale was not part of the playground and that the site in Newbridge was a brown site. She stated that she would have to speak to the Director about this funding for the playground.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked could she get a breakdown of the cost for the machinery yard. As previously, it was stated that the cost would be €10M and now it was going to cost €10.8M. She asked where the extra cost was coming from.

Councillor Doyle said that funds should be retained for community gain in Newbridge.

**Attendance at the March Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting**

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked how could a member sign in on the attendance book and then leave. She enquired in relation to the signing in process at meetings and stated that nine people signed in and that eight people attended the meeting.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

The Mayor and Councillor Doyle stated that as the Councillor was not at the meeting, the matter should not be discussed.

**Listing a road a priority 2 on the Winter Service Plan 2018-2019**

Councillor Stafford asked for a list of all the Priority 1 and Priority 2 routes

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed that she was working with the ICT section on compiling map and when this was completed, she would send the list to Councillor Stafford.

**Meeting with Bord Na Mona**

Councillor S Power thanked the District Manager for organising the meeting and stated that he was delighted with the commitment they had given to their employees.

**Lights in the Meadows, Morrinstown and Cornelscourt & Green Road,**

**Newbridge**

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked for an update on the lights as it has been on the progress report for a long time.

**KN03/0419**

**Municipal District Road Works**

Ms B Cuddy (Municipal District Engineer) updated the members on the municipal district road works as follows:

**Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office**

- Budgets have been agreed and the tendering process has commenced in relation to the annual roads programme.
- Footpath improvement works funded by the IPB for Newbridge have been tendered.
- Tenders issued for 3 LIS schemes – Works subject to funding.
- Following a query raised at the last Municipal District meeting it should be noted that the council have been reimbursed for works carried out in Blacktrench following a road traffic accident.

### **Footpath Improvements:**

- Upgrade and installation of new section of footpath in Milltown and Rathangan.
- Discussions ongoing in relation to the Kilmeague footpath.
- Footpath upgrade programmed to start in Fenview next week.

### **Miscellaneous works:**

- Ongoing maintenance across the Municipal District area, including water cuts and extensive jetting of surface water pipe network.
- Lilly white clean up day – saw two 20 tonne skips and two 14 tonne skips of waste collected across the municipal district. I would like to commend both the volunteers and Kildare County Council staff for their hard work over the weekend.
- Installation of parking / pull in bays and drainage in Ellistown and Cherryville.
- Fence Repair at Rathbride Demense
- Ongoing patching throughout the Municipal District area.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked where does the IPB get there money from?

Ms B Cuddy informed the members that footpath funding from IPB to make safe areas of existing claims or potential claims. She stated that the municipal district has issued a tender for a number of locations in the Newbridge area that match these criteria and agreed that she would forward a copy of the tender drawings to her.

Councillor S Power asked how many communities in this municipal district took part in the lily white clean up day.

Ms B Cuddy said there was only four or five communities that took part in it, the Kildare and Lullymore areas and two 20 tonne skips and two 14 tonne skip were filled. The communittees informs the Municipal District Office and then the Municipal District Office goes out to pick them up.

**KN04/0419**

**Protocol committee**

With regard to the upcoming local elections 2019, that this Municipal District confirm what has been agreed to in relation to areas to be kept 'poster free' so that all candidates running in the local elections can be advised accordingly.

A report was received from Corporate Services informing the members that referrals were awaited from the elected members in relation to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

A report was also received from Naas Municipal District, Meetings Administrator informing the members below:

**Caragh**

To note as Caragh would be part of the Newbridge Local Electoral Area in the upcoming Local elections, the Caragh Tidy Towns asked that the area within the 50kph speed limits remain free of election posters

At today's meeting the members informed the council that the following had been agreed:

Monasterevin - Posters

Newbridge - Posters

Caragh - No Posters

Kildare - No Posters

Rathangan - No Posters

Councillor McCabe stated that he does not like posters and that he was not putting up any.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy requested that the council inform any new candidates of the decision about the posters.

**KN05/0419**

**Breakdown of persons from within and outside the European Union**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Lynch. Can the council confirm what is the current percentage breakdown of persons from within and outside the European Union on either the homeless list or on any housing supports in this municipal district, and all other municipal districts for comparative purposes?

A report was received from Housing Department informing the members that the Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2018 as published by the Minister for Housing Planning and Local Government details Non-EEA Housing applicants for Kildare as 252 out of 3962 qualified social housing applicants in the county and applicants who were considered homeless were included in this figure (6.4%). A breakdown by Municipal District area was not available. Unfortunately a breakdown of persons from within and outside the European Union in relation any other housing support provided by Municipal District was also not available. The report was noted.

**KN06/0419**

**Number of inspections on properties under the HAP and RAS schemes**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford. Can the council advise on the number of inspections conducted on properties under the HAP and RAS schemes and the outcome of such inspections in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District within the past 2 years?

A report was received from Housing Department informing the members that in 2017 the council inspected 420 properties; the categorisation of the units was not readily available however the majority of inspections related to the HAP and RAS Scheme. 283 properties failed to achieve compliance with minimum rental standards at the first inspection.

In 2018 the council inspected 462 properties and the following breakdown relates to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

HAP	HAP Reinspected/Follow Up Required	RAS	RAS Reinspected/Follow Up Required
80	80	22	21

The report was noted.

**KN07/0419**

**Standhouse Lawns**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Aspell.  
That the council carry out repairs to the road at the very top of Standhouse Lawns and replace the broken kerbs in the same area.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office was in agreement to fix/replace damaged kerbs in the coming weeks, and would include the road in the 2020 LPT programme for consideration.

Councillor Aspell stated that the estate was taken in charge and asked that the council resurface the top of the road.

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

**KN08/0419**

**Replace the broken barrier**

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

That the council replace the broken barrier opposite KFC in Newbridge.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office agreed to carry out these repairs.

Councillor Aspell asked could the barrier be replaced.

Ms B Cuddy stated that she had fixed the barrier from sticking out but said she would have to check to see how much it would cost to replace it.

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

### **KN09/0419**

#### **Install a yellow box**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Pender. That the council install a yellow box at the junction between the old road and Munster Joinery on the R401 Dunmurray Road in Kildare Town.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender seconded by Councillor Lynch.

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the area in question was included in the 2019 programme for restoration improvement works, this includes upgrade of line marking in the area, and would include for a yellow box as part of these works.

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

### **KN10/0419**

#### **Appeals against parking fines**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Pender. That the council show discretionary leniency towards appeals against parking fines made on behalf of voluntary first responders for minor parking infringements in this municipal district while attending an emergency call out.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender seconded by Councillor Lynch.



A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that traffic wardens were obliged to enforce illegal parking in accordance with the parking bye-laws as adopted by the members and the road traffic legislation. Everyone has a right to appeal, and appeals were decided on in accordance with the Parking Appeals Policy.

Councillor Pender explained that as a member of voluntary first responders, this was an emergency call out and with a cardiac arrest time was critical for a person in this situation and on this occasion it was very busy in the town so they had to park illegally. An appeal was made to Apcoa who refused it and then it was sent to the council who in good faith accepted the appeal. Good faith was not shown from Apcoa. In these situations good faith should be shown as the first responders were not allowed to have flashing lights or signs on their vehicles. Due to GDPR they were not allowed to issue letters either which Apcoa was looking for from the ambulance company.

Councillor Aspell stated he supported the motion and asked could a sticker be issued to put on their car to let the clampers know when they were out on call.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked when the contract comes up that the council should have a policy to show discretionary leniency towards appeals against parking fines made on behalf of voluntary first responders or groups.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed that the services provider for the county was transparent, accountable and obliging with the term and conditions. She said that this was a two phase system. First phase it goes to Apcoa and second stage it has to go to pay parking which has to go to the Director for final decision. She stated that Section 38 - Double yellow line was a reserved function.

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

**KN11/0419**

**Traffic calming solutions**

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

That the council provide an update and identify which estates and when are to benefit from traffic calming solutions around the district.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor Lynch.

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was no available list, each estate was taken on its merit, assessed, and if required then a suitable design may carried out strictly subject to funding and staffing resources. The issue of traffic calming in housing estates was being examined by the Department of Transport's Support Unit, based at Kildare National Roads Office. Research was currently underway with a view to developing national guidelines on traffic calming in housing estates and best practice. A timeline for the publication of the work of the Support Unit was not available at this time.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked why there was no list. In December 2017, she had asked for a report of the Jake's Law signage plan about speeding in housing estates.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed that a draft list would be included within the 30km areas and all housing estates in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District would be included. A public consultation would take place when this was done.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked how long would this review take and did the council complete the list for stage two from the Jake Laws signage plan for speeding in housing estates.

The Senior Executive Officer stated the Jake Laws would be in the By-Laws and a technical engineer would do up the list.

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

**KN12/0419**

**Moorefield Park, Newbridge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor R Power. That the council agree to complete footpath and resurfacing works in Moorefield Park, Newbridge so that all areas of the estate area are treated.

With the prior consent of Councillor R Power the motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor S Power.

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this area had been included for consideration as part of our LPT funding.

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

**KN13/0419**

**The chronic traffic issues in Newbridge**

Councillor S Power informed the members that Councillor R Power had asked that this motion be withdrawn.

**KN14/0419**

**The traffic lights in Newbridge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McCabe. That the council synchronize the traffic lights in Newbridge to relieve congestion on the Main Street, especially at peak times.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor Doyle.

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Traffic Management Centre advises that the traffic lights were synchronized and it monitors traffic on an ongoing basis in Newbridge. Faults were dealt with promptly and any traffic signal faults could be emailed to [traffilight@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:traffilight@kildarecoco.ie). The main contributor to traffic in Newbridge was traffic diverting to local roads which was related to the current M7 motorway upgrade and Sallins By-Pass construction. These roadworks were scheduled to be completed in the near future. The NTA has commenced a Newbridge Town Transport Framework which would change the flow and length of journeys in the town. Submissions have been received and were now under consideration by NTA.

Following discussion amongst the members, the following points were made:

- Could an extra 20 seconds be put on the traffic lights in the main street to help the flow of traffic? A pedestrian bridge was needed especially for school times and a second bridge was needed for the traffic.
- The members have an issue with the NTA Plan and the second bridge was needed.
- This issue was going on since SCOOT came in and that they had been informed by the council many times about the traffic congestion. Traffic was going to get worse as development had been granted in Sarsfield.
- The existing plan for Newbridge had never happened and the council needed to examine this plan.
- With all the planning applications that have been granted, funding should be directed towards the development of a new bridge for the town.
- Parking facilities was a problem. Newbridge had two large shopping centres on the edge of the town which were Dunnes Stores and Tesco's and if an

agreement could be put in place with these shopping centres that people could park in there parking facilities and walk into the town.

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

**KN15/0419**

**Resurface Kilinthomas Lane, Rathangan**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford. That the council resurface Kilinthomas Lane, Rathangan.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members this was not on the annual roads programme for 2019, the council would include for consideration for the 2020 programme.

Councillor Stafford stated that Kilinthomas Lane was the access to the Kilinthomas woods which was use for recreational use. He was hoping that Coillte would meet with the members to have this discussion with them.

Councillor Pender asked if the lane could be widening as it was a fabulous facility which was also used for community events.

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

**KN16/0419**

**The Irish Stable Staff Association**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Doyle. Can the council consider working with the Irish Stable Staff Association to deliver a pilot initiative that will equip their members with helmet cam equipment, in order to assess signage and road improvement measures that will mitigate significant risks for riders, animals and drivers in the unique environment of the Curragh?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this issue was recently raised by Councillor McCabe and a submission had been made to the Speed Limit Review team to consider speed limits in the Curragh environment, and associated signage and any related road improvement measures. Kildare County Council was willing to work with the Irish Stable Staff Association (ISSA) and other equine bodies with our upcoming 'Horse Ride and Road User' Awareness Campaign which the Road Safety Officer (RSO) was in the process of planning. This campaign would raise awareness and provide guidance in making road users aware of safe rules when approaching or passing a horse and horse rider while on a public road. The RSO would also engage with ISSA in an effort to help promote road safety. The council was not in a position to provide Helmet Cameras, (GoPro) or otherwise to private or public body members for the recording of visual or audio footage. A standard 1080HD GoPro helmet camera would cost approximately €85.00.

Councillor Doyle asked who had prepared this report.

The Senior Executive Officer stated that she had discussed this matter with the RSA and that this was a matter for the Gardaí and not the council. She also confirmed that with GDPR the council were not allowed to record car registration numbers. The report was noted.

### **KN17/0419**

#### **Inspect the hedges on the road**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender. Can the council inspect the hedges on the road known as Mooney's Road or the Ring of Roseberry that runs adjacent to the back of Roseberry Hill estate where the most recent housing construction is located?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the landowner had responsibility to ensure that they maintain their hedges in a safe manner for all road users. The Municipal District

Office understands that portions of hedges on this road were in the charge of Kildare County Council and would include these areas in our hedge cutting program.

The report was noted.

### **KN18/0419**

#### **Electricity pole in Dara Park Newbridge**

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

Can the council remove the damaged and leaning electricity pole in Dara Park Newbridge while waiting for it to be replaced in the future?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this was not a matter for the Municipal District Office – this was an issue for the ESB.

Councillor Pender requested a contact number to ring the ESB.

Ms B Cuddy stated that she would get a contact number and forward it to her.

The report was noted.

### **KN19/0419**

#### **Install lighting in Lakeside Park**

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

Can the council install lighting on the pathway traversing the park in Lakeside Park similar to the lighting project in Pairc Mhuire?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Public Lighting Section would visit the location and it would then be assessed using a priority system within Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS). Lighting schemes would be scored on various factors and placed within KLIPS according to that score. The lighting within KLIPS would be installed as and when funds become available and depending on where the request sits within KLIPS.

The report was noted.

**KN20/0419**

**To improve safety at Feighcullen Cross Rathangan**

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

Can the council furnish an update on the steps being taken to improve safety at Feighcullen Cross (otherwise known as Church Cross), Rathangan?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office had no current plans or budget to carryout works in this area in 2019, nor was the Roads Design section considering any improvement proposals at this time.

Councillor Stafford asked can this be put on the TAAG list as it needs to be looked at.

The report was noted.

**KN21/0419**

**Day trips to domestic waste recycling centres**

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

That the council liaises with waste providers to begin a campaign whereby school children in the municipal district have organised day trips to domestic waste recycling centres to showcase the visual impact of recycling and the issues that occur when incorrect waste recycling takes place.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that schools were invited through the Green Schools Programme to organise trips to Silliot Hill Civic Amenity Facility (Kilcullen), where the Environment Awareness Officer gives a guided tour. Silliot Hill was particularly useful in terms of the educational aspect given the previous history as a landfill, as well as the recycling facilities now on site.



Councillor Lynch stated that he was looking at schools trips to the waste centre such as Panda or Irish Packaging Recycling Ltd where they can physical show the kids what happens when the wrong waste was put into the incorrect bins. What work they have to do to correct it and the waste that was involved. He asked how many green schools were in County Kildare.

Following discussion amongst the members, the following points were made:

- Did the council have an outreach worker or do we hold workshops that do this.
- Adults would also need to be educated as children were great for recycling.
- That children were leading the way on this and that Bord Na Mona might put something into place for the schools as we need to protect the future.

The District Manager confirmed that the council would do it. He said that there were 80 green schools in County Kildare and that he would speak to Dara Wyer (Environmental Awareness Officer) and keeps the members informed.

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

### **KN22/0419**

#### **The pumping station and buffer tank at Bluetown, Allenwood North**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford. That the council explain why it is presently desludging the pumping station and buffer tank at Bluetown, Allenwood North through a manhole on the public road and what steps are being taken to resolve the issue.

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

A report was received from the Water Services informing the members tankering would be necessary at this location until the Allenwood Modification Project was complete.

Councillor Stafford asked when this would be resolved.

The District Manager stated that he would come back to the members with a timeline.

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

### **KN23/0419**

#### **A drinking water fountain**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McCabe. Can the council install a drinking water fountain beside the Skate Park in Newbridge, to reduce single use plastics?

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, Economic Community and Cultural Development Park informing the members that the council were currently investigating the installation of a water fountain in the playground in Kildare town. This would involve costs for installation and also it was likely to involve ongoing charges because a connection would be required from Irish Water. The full of extent of these costs was still being established. It was not proposed to commit to any installation of water fountains until these costs were established.

The report was noted.

### **KN24/0419**

#### **Update on Vacant Sites process**

Mr Dowling, Executive Planner, attended the meeting and informed the members that the intention of the legislation was to deliver houses in applicable towns within the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District. Mr Dowling gave an outline of the various steps involved in the process. He informed the members that there were eight vacant sites in Newbridge.

Councillor Stafford asked of the 7(1) notices issued for Kildare Town how many had been entered on the vacant site register (VSR) and would lands that have phased zoning be entered on the VSR.

Councillor Pender asked why was the Kildare County Council owned site on the VSR for Newbridge.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked why were some of the columns on the VSR blank, e.g. market value, levy, etc.

Mr Dowling informed the members that for Kildare Town section 7(1) notices have issued and the submissions received were been actively considered by the planning authority. He advised Councillor Pender that he would revert to her on this query and informed the members that these columns would be completed in due course.

The Mayor and the members thanked Mr Dowling for his update.

### **KN25/0419**

#### **Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2019 Allocation**

The Meetings Administrator asked the members if their circumstances met any of the requirements under Part 15 Section 177 of the Local Government Act, as amended for members to disclose a pecuniary (i.e. financial) or other beneficial interest, of which they have "actual knowledge" that they or a connected person had in a matter that arises at a meeting of the local authority.

The following members stated as follows they did not have a pecuniary interest or beneficial interest in any of them.

Councillor McCabe stated he was a member of the Hopkins festival, Newbridge Christmas Lights, St. Patricks Parade and the Lions Club

Councillor Stafford stated his children attend the Gael Scoil, Rathangan scouts, Silken Thomas players, Rath players and Ellistown GFC.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she was a member of the Sensational Kids.

Councillor Aspell stated that he was a member of the Newbridge Tidy Town and Sarsfield GAA.

Councillor Doyle stated that she was a member of the Thoroughbred run, Derby festival, Bishoplands Awareness Committee and Chamber of Commerce.

Councillor Pender stated that she was a member of Kildare Community First Responders.

Ms Loughlin stated that a total of 64 applications were received under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2019 and 58 of the applications were deemed to be eligible for grant purposes. She added the total amount allocated by the council under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2019 was €51,160 and the total value of the applications seeking funding under this scheme was €143,273. The total number of applications for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District was 14 and the total allocation was €12,690.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Aspell seconded by Councillor McCabe and agreed by the members that the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2019 as detailed in report dated 2 April 2019 be approved.

### **KN26/0419**

#### **The Local Area Plan process for Newbridge**

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

That the council resolves to start the Local Area Plan process for Newbridge by no later than September of this year.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Aspell.

A report was received from Planning Section informing the members that at the December 2018 monthly meeting of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District, the

members resolved to extend the life of the Newbridge Local Area Plan until the 22 December 2021.

Due to current workloads within the Forward Planning section including the forthcoming review/variation of the County Development Plan following the adoption of the RSES, the team does not have the capacity to undertake a review of the Newbridge Local Area Plan.

Councillor Doyle informed the members that in the 5 years we were in this Municipal District that we had not done one LAP and we were the largest Municipal District in the county. She asked that we reverse our decision about extending this agreement and that the members take a vote on it today.

A discussion ensued amongst the members with the following points made: Councillor Lynch agreed with this motion. CPG was not a decision and that Councillor's McCabe and Doyle had put in submissions.

Councillor S Power stated that last December, the Planning Department had come in to explain why they did this and to come in 3 or 4 months later to reverse it was not right. He stated that he does not support this motion.

The District Manager stated that the deferral was a good thing. The Planning Department were progressing with the County Development Plan following the adoption of the RSES, the Public Realm plan and Traffic plan which were progressing and that these project were very critical and needed to be done.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked why the council can't start it in September. The council was progressing the Naas LAP and not the Newbridge LAP. She stated that we have a few months left to get this started and when the new council comes in that we should consider starting this process. She asked that the council explain where was the €10M they were to get from the NTA for the traffic plan.

Councillor McCabe stated that the LAP should proceed in September. The members needed to take control of their own area and things needed to happen in Newbridge.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Aspell, with seven members voting in favour, and one member abstaining, that the members agreed to commence the review of the Local Area Plan process for Newbridge by September 2019.

### **KN27/0419**

#### **Grass verges in the municipal district**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Lynch. That the council outlines what progress has been made on foot of previous motions whereby appropriate grass verges in the municipal district were to be planted with shrubbery for both environmental and cost saving reasons.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Lynch seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from Economic Community and Cultural Development informing the members that the planting of trees on the median of the Naas Newbridge Road had been included in the Parks Programme for this year. Any further progression would have to be considered for a future works programme.

Councillor Lynch confirmed that he appreciated that the grass verges were being mowed.

Following discussion amongst the members, the following points were made:

- Could the council sow wild flowers rather than shrubs to get away from the constant mowing.
- Was the grass verges part of the pollinator plan.
- That planting wild flowers would be better and to reconsider what we were planting and that a more wildflower landscape should be considered.

Mr Wallace said that the council was doing a pilot scheme as per Councillor McCabe's previous motion about a pollinator plan. He said that wildflowers were not always practical but would reduce the mowing scheme. He would consider it when they were designing future landscape plans.

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

### **KN28/0419**

#### **Design and delivery of playgrounds**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Doyle.  
Can the council consult with Enable Ireland and Autism Ireland to inform design and delivery of playgrounds and other relevant services in the municipal district to ensure optimum access and engagement?

A report was received from Economic Community and Cultural Development informing the members that accessibility in the design and delivery of playgrounds was a consideration for every playground that the deliver in the county and forms part of the play strategy for the county. This involves the application of various standards and best practise relating to inclusive design and accessibility. Due to the spectrum of disabilities that exist, it was not feasible for playground design to fully cater for all or every need. The majority of playgrounds the council provide go through the Part 8 planning process and this gives opportunities to any individuals or organisations to contribute or make any observations to the design of the playgrounds. Any contribution or assistance from any organisations associated with inclusive design and accessibility would be welcome.

The report was noted.

**KN29/0419**

**Governance of the Arts Centre**

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

Can the council detail the action it took to reassure itself as to the governance of the Arts Centre after; a discrepancy of €63,000 was discovered between a loan recorded in the Arts Centre accounts as a loan from the council which did not appear in the council's accounts; and concerns regarding conflicts of interest were raised in the awarding of contracts by the Arts Centre?

A report was received from Director of Services, Economic Community & Cultural Development informing the members as the members would be aware Riverbank Arts Centre CLG was overseen by a Board of Management. Funding provided to Riverbank was provided on the basis of a funding agreement. Kildare County Council was satisfied, as a funding partner that this funding helps to provide an excellent service to the people of Kildare. Furthermore, I wish to confirm that an audited set of accounts was provided to Kildare County Council on an annual basis and any and all payments were subject to Kildare County Council being in receipt of a valid Tax Clearance Certificate.

In relation to the 2 specific questions that had been raised by Councillor McLoughlin Healy the following responses from the Board had issued previously;

In January 2019 the Board of Riverbank Arts Centre CLG responded as follows;

Report from the Board of Riverbank Arts Centre CLG:

In relation to the €64,000, as noted by our accountants, an error was inadvertently made in the accounts. To correct this, the money would be written off against reserves and would not appear in Riverbank Arts Centre's 2018 accounts.

In March 2018 the Board of Riverbank Arts Centre CLG responded as follows;



In relation to the particular concerns highlighted by a constituent; the Board had advised me that they had yet to appoint an Architect and therefore no one had, as yet, been contracted to do this work. In relation to recruitment it was the policy and practice of Riverbank Arts Centre to advertise vacancies to ensure the maximum number of suitable candidates apply for positions. If the concerns relate to a particular competition then perhaps the details could be provided so that the Board can provide a more specific response. The Board had also stated that they would welcome any constituent to come to Riverbank to discuss any concerns they may had.

In conclusion, could I summarise the above by saying that the Board of Riverbank Arts Centre CLG had responded to the questions asked. The Board was the body who govern this company. Kildare County Council provides funding to this company in accordance with a Funding Agreement. I am satisfied that the terms of the Funding Agreement had been adhered to.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated she was not happy with the report on her question.

The report was noted.

### **KN30/0419**

#### **New centre at Robertstown**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Lynch. Can the council fully outline plans for the proposed new centre at Robertstown; how the significant amount of money on deposit will be used and what future engagement will occur with the wider community at Robertstown?

A report was received from Economic Community and Cultural Development informing the members that a Tender process had been completed for the development of a master plan for the 18 acres in Robertstown. Assessment of the tenders would commence next week with broad community consultation a key component of the creation of the plan. The funding available was for the development of a community space.

The report was noted.

**KN31/0419**

**Joint motion to full council**

The members considered the following joint motion in the name of Councillors Suzanne Doyle and Morgan McCabe.

That this Municipal District Committee refer the following motion to full council for approval at their next meeting; that LPT be distributed through each municipal district in an equitable manner where the division is in direct proportion to number of representatives of each municipal district.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor McCabe.

A report was received from the A/Head of Finance and ICT informing the members that the distribution of LPT was a matter for council to approve and would relate to the 2020 Revenue Budget. The new council would be asked to agree the distribution at the September meeting when the variation on LPT was being agreed.

Councillor McCabe said that he had concerns about how the LPT funding was going to be allocated for the new council especially with the new electoral areas. He said that the previous town council's money was funded into the communities and that communities with larger populations should get larger amount of funding and that a new area was needed.

Councillor Doyle said that Meath County Council had introduced a new municipal district area due to the size of the previous area. She said that the LPT funding should be split by portion per population in the municipal district areas and then divided by the 40 members. She amended the joint motion for full council to the following:

"That this Municipal District Committee refer the following motion to full council for approval at their next meeting; that the Finance Department put forward a range of options to be considered to improve the equity of the LPT."

Following discussion amongst the members, the following points were made:

- That vast amount of LPT funding came from houses with a value less of €250,000, that this was looked at last July and that the council needed to look at it as a county overview.
- That it should be equitable to all housing properties and the council needed to have guidelines and criteria for allocating LPT funding.
- That national government guidelines and criteria were needed, as the public needed to know how their LPT funding was being spent.
- Members were totally responsible for LPT funding, that councillors have discretionary LPT and that he stands over all his LPT allocation. He stated that the Tidy Towns does a great job and to say we were giving money to anyone was an incorrect statement.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor McCabe with all members agreeing that the amended motion should go to full council for April as follows:

"That this Municipal District Committee refer the following motion to full council for approval at their next meeting; that the Finance Department put forward a range of options to be considered to improve the equity of the LPT " and that the report be noted.

### **KN32/0419**

#### **List of the top 10 earning contractors**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy.

Can the council provide a list of the top 10 earning contractors (accumulated) across each Directorate in the municipal district together with an explanation of how the opening and tender evaluation panels are selected and a reassurance that the council has adhered to national procurement policy in the selection of these panels?

A report was received from Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services informing the members that Kildare County Council does not differentiate by Municipal District the payments made to contractors. Under the Public Service Reform Plan and in compliance with Departmental Circular Fin 07/2012, on a quarterly basis each payment over €20k was listed on the council's website at <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/AccountsPayable/PurchaseOrdersover2000/>. These details remain on the website for approximately 12 months.

An abbreviated version of the Kildare County Council procurement procedure (last updated in 2018) was available on the Council website at <http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Procurement/> and was prepared in accordance with Government guidelines. This guidance includes details of opening, examination and evaluation of tenders, including the criteria used in determining the selection of the panel.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked could the contractor's details be backdated from 2014 onto the website and could contractors with poor performance be excluded.

The District Manager stated that said that you cannot exclude contractors and he would check with the Finance Department if they could go back to 2014.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.