

Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held at 10.00 am on 18 September 2019 in Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

Members Present: Councillor M Stafford (Mayor), Councillors A Connolly, S Doyle, K Duffy, N Heavey, F McLoughlin Healy, T O'Dwyer, C Pender, R Power, and P Ryan

Apologies: Councillor P O'Dwyer

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Ms A Brangan, (Senior Executive Planner), Mr M Kenny (Senior Planner), Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr J Murtagh (Executive Engineer), Ms F Breen (Executive Planner), Ms V Cooke, Mr M McLoughlin (Administrative Officers), Mr B Cuddy (Municipal District Engineer), Ms S Martin (Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office), Ms K Keane (Meetings Administrator) and Ms R O'Connell (Meetings Secretary)

KN01/0919

Minutes and Progress Report

To approve the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 17 July 2019 and to note the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Power seconded by Councillor Heavey that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on 17 July 2019 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

KN02/0919

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:

Road Resurfacing Works:

- **Buckley Cross to the Bridge in Newbridge:** resurfacing, upgrade of surface water network and raising of iron works completed.
- **Athgarvan Road & Bridge to rope factory:** Works due to commence on Monday 16 September, works to include resurfacing, upgrade of surface water network and raising of iron works.
- **Melitia Road, Dunmurry Road, Chapel Lane, Priest Lane:** Contractor on site upgrading footpaths, road resurfacing to commence in the coming weeks, works to include resurfacing, and raising of iron works.
- **Ring of Roseberry, Mylerstown to Healys Bridge & Ratherman to Blacktrench Road** recycling to commence at these locations from 16 September.

Road Surface Dressing works:

The Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Area has completed its surface dressing work for 2019 at the following locations:

- L3002 Forge to Kilmoney
- L3002 Feighcullen to Allan Cross
- L3003 Moores bridge to Rathbride Cross
- L7011 Crossmorris to Ellistown
- L 7034 Military Road
- L 7036 Morristown Bridge
- L 3008 Curragh Camp
- R 401 Dunmurry Road

Footpaths:

Newbridge – works carried out by in-house staff:

- Carna cottages to school in suncroft
- Brownstown at the rising sun pub
- Kilbelin Avenue
- Standhouse rise

IPB Funding: Work carried out at various locations within Newbridge town

Kildare – works carried out by in-house staff:

- Rathangan – near Garda station
- Kildare Town- Roundtowers GAA pitch

LPT Funded Projects:

Tenders are awarded for the following:

- Fenview Estate
- Moorefield Estate
- Chapel Lane Road
- Village Estate in Newbridge
- Junction at Railway station on R415 in Kildare town

Miscellaneous works:

- Ongoing maintenance across the Municipal District area, including water cuts and extensive jetting of surface water pipe network.
- Ongoing patching throughout the Municipal District area.
- Cleaning and repairing of road signs
- Emergency repair of surface water culvert at Allen

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

- Were there any plans for a pathway on Green road, to repair the footpaths outside Cnoc Na Gréine and the pathway to Sunnyhill was overgrown with weeds.
- Could the members have an update on the Kildangan bridge as it was still under the Athy Municipal District.
- Was the Clongorey road on the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District road works programme for this year.

Ms Cuddy informed the members that the path at the bridge on green road towards school would be widened. The footpaths outside Cnoc Na Gréine and the pathway to Sunnyhill were not on the roads programme for this year and patchworks would be carried out on the Clongorey Road.

The District Manager informed the members that he would investigate the cost of the footpath as it was very expensive. He stated that he had preliminary talks with the landowner and that the Roads Design section needed to prepare drawings but would keep the members informed.

The Mayor asked could a report be provided to the members on the programme works previously in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and now in the Athy and Naas Municipal District that has been done and what was left to be done for this year.

Ms B Cuddy informed the members that she would give them the list of the programme works for the Athy and Naas Municipal District for 2019.

KN03/0919

Capital Programme 2019 – 2021

A report was given by the District Manager giving an overview of the Capital Programme 2019 – 2021 stating the next Capital Programme would be 2020-2022. He informed the members that 80% of the money comes from Government grants and the balance was from revenue sources development levies/commercial rates etc.

The District Manager informed the members that depending on the amount of development levies the council received for this year it would have an impact on the figures for the Capital Programme for 2020-2022 and he did not know if they have declined for this year.

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

- The cost of the relocation of the Machinery yard
- An update on the second bridge in Newbridge
- Newbridge Southern Orbital Relief road
- An update on Tankardsgarden, Newbridge upgrade
- An update on the Barrow Blueway in Monasterevin

The District Manager stated that the machinery yard had been through the Part 8 process and the next stage would be moving it to construction which probably would not commence until next year. Regarding the second bridge for Newbridge, the figure in the capital programme was for the road

and bridge but it would cost more than what was listed. He informed the members that he would speak to the Roads Department and would advise the members.

Regarding Tankardsgarden, Newbridge, this figure was for the upgrading of the halting site, but he would speak to the Housing Department and update the members. Regarding the Barrow Blueway, he stated he hoped the capital figure that was listed on the report would increase. He informed the members that if they have any queries about the Capital Programme to contact him.

KN04/0919

Halverstown Cross to Floods Cross near Caragh

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

That the Municipal District Engineer examine options for improving safety on the road from Halverstown Cross to Floods Cross near Caragh.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District Engineer would meet with Councillor Power to discuss any issues at this location.

Councillor Power stated that it was a blind crossroad and the issue was with trucks. He had spoken to the Naas Municipal District Engineer about it and would meet him on site. He stated that he was looking for funding to improve the safety of the road.

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

KN05/0919

Pedestrian crossing opposite the entrance to the Day Care Centre

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

That the council position a pedestrian crossing opposite the entrance to the Day Care Centre in Rathangan in the interest of the safety of the senior citizens attending the venue.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this request would require an assessment of need/warrant and a source of funding would need to be identified.

Councillor Connolly stated that the footpath does not go down to the boy's school and asked if a pedestrian crossing could be installed to facilitate the safety of the senior citizens attending the Day Care Centre.

Ms Cuddy informed the members that she has sent this matter to Roads Design to be assessed but noted that funding would have to be sourced.

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

KN06/0919

Double yellow lines from Brennan's Pub

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

That the council put double yellow lines from Brennan's Pub to the pedestrian lights on Dublin Road, Monasterevin and extend the double yellow lines on the opposite side of the road.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Department had commenced the preparation of Draft Bye-Laws for Monasterevin in order to control and manage parking in the town, including long stay/commuter parking. The Draft Bye-Laws and map showing the proposed location of parking spaces and double yellow lines would be discussed with the members in the coming weeks in advance of commencing the required statutory procedure.

Councillor Connolly stated that this matter has been reported to the council before. She was happy with the report and would wait for the Draft Bye-Laws for Monasterevin to be prepared.

Councillor Duffy accepted the report but did not accept that the members must wait until the Bye-Laws came into effect as in his view, it was a simple problem to solve and to extend the double yellow lines onto the Portlaoise side of the road.

Councillor Ryan agreed with the double yellow lines but stated that this would make the road much narrower and that a traffic warden was needed for the town to stop people from parking.

Ms Cuddy informed the members that without Bye-Laws the council cannot put traffic wardens into the town.

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

KN07/0919

Erect signs on the Passlands/Ballykelly Road, Monasterevin

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

That the council erect signs on the Passlands/Ballykelly Road, Monasterevin to alert HGVs that it is not suitable for them to use.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the standard signs would be erected in the coming weeks to indicate the Narrow Road/Hump-Back Bridge on the road ahead.

Councillor Ryan stated that she was happy that the signs had gone up on the road.

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

KN08/0919

Pathway on one side from Athgarvan Village to Kinneagh Cross

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

That the council considers completing the existing pathway on one side from Athgarvan Village to Kinneagh Cross for the purpose of connecting two small communities together ie. Lurg Lane and Athgarvan.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this was a long stretch of footpath that potentially would require land purchase; there was no funding available in the 2019 budget to consider this proposal.

Councillor T O'Dwyer stated that the residents had been looking for this pathway for the last 30 year. She stated that she has spoken to the landowner about acquiring the land and he was willing to talk to the council. She asked that this item be put on the progress report.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that a Health Check report was needed for Athgarvan.

Ms Cuddy informed the members that if they wanted to speak to the landowner and the land was available, the council could do up a cost on how much funding they would need to complete this work.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the report be noted, and the item be placed on the progress report.

KN09/0919

Walkway between Newbridge Rail Station and the Ring of Roseberry (Sexes Bridge)

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

That the council advises how they are going to engage with Irish Rail to prevent the closure of the walkway between Newbridge Rail Station and the Ring of Roseberry (Sexes Bridge); taking into consideration the large numbers of people who use this path on a daily basis as their access to and from the station, as has been done for many years and as this route has been highlighted for

further development in the National Transport Authority Newbridge Town Transport Framework Document 2018.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor Power.

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that if the members agreed, the Roads Department would write to Irish Rail on this issue.

Councillor Heavey stated that on page 52 of the National Transport Authority Newbridge Town Transport Framework Document 2018 it stated that they would improve or construct new footpaths or cycle tracks. He cannot understand why Irish Rail would want to close this as anti-social behaviour happens in a large number of areas. Councillor Heavey confirmed this walkway was the primary way to the train station for people living in this area and if removed they would all have to use their cars to get to the train station where there were problems with limited car parking spaces at the station.

The Mayor stated that there may be legal issues such as the public right of way.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey, seconded by Councillor Power with all members agreeing that the report be noted, and the Roads Department would write to Irish Rail on this issue.

KN10/0919

Roads budget for 2019

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

Given that the roads budget for 2019 is being managed without regard to the recent Municipal District boundary changes, can the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department outline the processes in place to ensure a smooth transition of outstanding projects coming into the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District in 2020?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that please be advised that regard was given at the start of the year to the proposed boundary changes. In relation to budget considerations, each area agreed to retain and financially

manage roads within their area until the end of 2019. The Municipal District Office maintains a rolling list of requests received that need to be listed for consideration in relation to 2020 budgets. As this arises any requests that have been received that do not fall within our area were forwarded to the relevant municipal district office to be listed for consideration.

The report was noted.

KN11/0919

Speed Limit Review at Ballysax School

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

Can the council give a timeframe as to when the Speed Limit Review at Ballysax School will be carried out?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Speed Limit Review team continue to work on the County Wide Speed Limit review. The members would be kept informed and consulted with in relation to the project as it progresses towards the statutory consultation phase.

Councillor Connolly asked if the council could look at this as a matter of urgency as all schools in the county had 30km speed limit and this had a 50km speed limit.

The report was noted.

KN12/0919

Traffic lights on Moore's Bridge, The Curragh

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

Can the council confirm if it has considered the possibility of putting traffic lights on Moore's Bridge, The Curragh?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this had been referred to the Traffic Management Section for examination and consideration.

The report was noted.

KN13/0919

Proposed path in Two Mile House

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

Can the council give an update on the proposed path in Two Mile House that connects Dowdingstown Lawns estate to the village as this is the only housing estate in Two Mile House where the children cannot walk to school as there is no pathway to connect them to the existing path in the village?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District Office had made efforts to acquire lands to commence the development of a footpath at this location but had not been successful.

Councillor T O'Dwyer asked to see the most recent correspondence between the council and the landowner about the footpaths.

Ms Cuddy informed the members that she would speak to the Naas Municipal District about this. The report was noted.

KN14/0919

The mounds of clay at Brownstown Cross

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

Can the council confirm if there are any plans to remove the mounds of clay at Brownstown Cross?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were no plans to remove these mounds of clay; they were installed as a traffic calming measure along this route.

Councillor Ryan stated that people had come to her stating that these mounds of clay were blocking visibility at the crossroad.

Ms Cuddy stated that there were no plans or drawings available for this area. The report was noted.

KN15/0919

Road safety issues at Primary schools located in Drogheda Street

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

Can the council provide an update and time frame for completion of the identified road safety issues in and around the primary schools located in Drogheda Street, Monasterevin?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that following the completion of the required technical drawing/layout currently underway, the agreed works could be scheduled for completion in consultation with the Municipal District Engineer.

The report was noted.

KN16/0919

Flooding at Passlands, Monasterevin

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

Can the council confirm the position in relation to works referred to in correspondence that issued on 11 December 2015, in which Kildare County Council stated that an agreement had been reached to undertake drainage works to alleviate road flooding at Passlands, Monasterevin and that these works would be completed by March 2016, and when these works will be completed?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that work was carried out at this location in relation to drainage issues in the past. Work would be completed in the coming weeks.

Councillor Duffy stated that due to the significant rain recently, constituents had come back to him looking for more information about the flooding there.

Ms Cuddy stated that the Athy Municipal District Engineer informed her that a lengthy pipe needed to be installed.

The report was noted.

KN17/0919

Hill of Allen car park

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

Can the council furnish an update on the discussions with CRH PLC regarding accessibility to the Hill of Allen car park?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was no further update and there was no funding allocated to carry out these works at this location.

The District Manager informed the members that he would come back to them on this matter. The report was noted.

KN18/0919

Timeline report to resolving issue of vacant unit

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

That the council provide a timeline report on the actions to date with regard to resolving issue of vacant unit (details provided), and the likely schedule for completing this process.

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

A report was received from Housing Department informing the members that there were a number of legal issues regarding the future use of this property. The Housing Department was currently liaising with the council's solicitor to resolve the matter.

Councillor Doyle informed the members that she had spoken to the Administrative Officer in Housing who has confirmed that she would be in contact with more information about this case.

The Mayor stated that the members should be informed where was this property.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that the person that issued these reports should attend the meetings.

The Meeting Administrator confirmed the agreed Protocol was a representative from each Department attends the meetings to deal with any issues arising. If they cannot answer at the meeting, they would revert back to the members after the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Power that the report be noted.

KN19/0919

The post office building in the Curragh

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

That the council write to the Department of Defence asking them to maintain the post office building in the Curragh.

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

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

Councillor Ryan stated that old buildings like this should be maintained.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy with all members agreeing that the report be noted and all members agreeing that the council write to Department of Defence asking them to maintain the post office building in the Curragh.

KN20/0919

Motion on behalf of the WPDF to plenary council

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

That the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District bring forward a motion on behalf of the WPDF (wives and partners of the Defence Forces) to plenary council calling for an emergency meeting with relevant stake holders in relation to the current crisis in the Defence Forces in order to ensure all local representatives are aware of the severity of the situation.

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

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

Councillor Pender stated that this motion was very important for the WPDF and asked that the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District as a group bring this motion as a committee motion and not as a party motion to the plenary council meeting as there was also housing problems within the Department of Defence.

Councillor Doyle asked would it be better if the WRDF were brought in to meet with the Municipal District members.

The Mayor stated that he would not be encouraging to bring the same motion to plenary meeting to have the same debate again.

Councillor Connolly stated she does not agree bringing them in to council to meet for a special meeting as they would not gain any benefit from it.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Doyle with all members agreeing that the report be noted and that this motion be brought to the October Plenary meeting.

KN21/0919

The courthouse, Kildare Town

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

That the council commission a conservation report for the courthouse, Kildare Town with a view to developing a conservation strategy, to inform decisions regarding the future use of the building and to assist in funding applications.

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

A report was received from Facilities Manager informing the members that a structural survey was carried out on the building in 2017 and since then, works had been carried out in order to prevent further deterioration of the existing structure.

Facilities had been actively looking at potential uses for the building and were open to suggestions.

Councillor Stafford stated that it was a protected structure and asked that a conservation report be done as the entire building was not in use and it could be used as a tourism destination.

The District Manager stated that Ms M Hunt would be briefing the members on the draft renewable scheme for Kildare town at the meeting and they could ask her question about the courthouse.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the report be noted.

KN22/0919

Bookings for Newbridge Town Hall

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

Can the Facilities Department provide the municipal district councillors with a calendar of the bookings for Newbridge Town Hall on a monthly and weekly basis and that taking into account necessary GDPR requirements, these calendars would not necessarily need to include the names or functions of the groups unless they have express permission from said groups?

A report was received from Facilities Manager informing the members that at present the Facilities Department does not have the resources to provide a weekly calendar of bookings for the Newbridge Town Hall.

The report was noted.

KN23/0919

Strategic Housing Development at the former Magee Barracks

Ms A Brangan briefed the members in respect of the proposed Strategic Housing Development at the former Magee Barracks, Hospital Street, Kildare (An Bord Pleanála Ref:19-305007).

The Mayor acknowledged the work that the council had done with the members and stated that the members had sent submissions to Councillor Doyle who had forward them to Mr M Mcloughlin for issue to An Bord Pleanála.

KN24/0919

Location for the new build for St Paul's Secondary School

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council provide a report on the process by which the site at Mooreabbey in Monasterevin was selected/approved as the location for the new build for St Paul's Secondary School; to include details of any complexities in locating the school at this site of which the council were aware during the process, and the reasons why, if any other sites were considered, they were rejected.

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

A report was received from Planning and Strategic Development Section informing the members that the acquisition of sites for the construction and development of buildings for educational purposes was a matter for the Department of Education & Skills.

The subject site at Moore Abbey was zoned as E1/E2 Education and Community in the Monasterevin Local Area Plan with a specific objective (E2) to "provide for a new education campus on the site identified within Moore Abbey Demesne".

In November 2016, the Minister for Education and Skills submitted a planning application for the construction of a post primary school (Saint Paul's Secondary School), to accommodate c.850 pupils, at Moore Abbey in Monasterevin.

The application went through the standard planning process with the application available for public viewing and comment during the statutory period.

It was noted that a number of representations were made by local and national politicians supporting the application.

The application and its accompanying technical reports were analysed and considered by the relevant prescribed bodies and the appropriate service departments within Kildare County Council. A further information (FI) request, mostly on transportation related issues, was subsequently sought from the Department with a response received in May 2017. Permission for the school was granted in July 2017.

The planning permission was subject to forty-six specific conditions, all of which were subject to monitoring by the respective departments for compliance purposes.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she was invited to a public meeting about the delay in the building of the new school. At the meeting she had been informed that there were complexities in locating the school at this site of which the council were aware of, planning had been given and at the tendering stage the contracts had not even been signed which was worrying given this location had been identified a number of years previously.

Ms V Cooke informed the members that she did not know of any complexities about the zoning of the land. She stated that the site at Moore Abbey was zoned in the Monasterevin Local Area Plan.

Councillor Doyle stated that three sites were selected for the location of the new school. The sale was not completed until planning permission was given and stated that people needed to be reassured that there were no complexities about the site.

Councillor Duffy agreed with Councillor McLoughlin Healy stating the delivery of the school was the number one priority in Monasterevin.

Councillor Ryan stated that the community needed concrete evidence that the school would be built.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Ryan that the report be noted.

KN25/0919

The view and vista Rath in Rathangan

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

Can the council give an update on its plans to protect the view and vista of the Rath in Rathangan?

A report was received from Planning and Strategic Development Section informing the members that the Rath in Rathangan was not on the Record of Monuments and Places (List of Protected Structures) in the County Development Plan 2017 – 2023.

The Heritage Officer advised that the council does not have any plans for the protection of the view and vista of the Rath in Rathangan.

Councillor Stafford asked why Rath was not a protected structure.

Ms V Cooke informed the members that it was not on the list of Protected Structures in the County Development Plan 2017 – 2023.

The report was noted.

KN26/0919

Ban the release of balloons, lanterns etc

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

That this municipal district undertakes to ban the release of balloons, lanterns etc. in order to better protect wildlife, the horse racing industry and the environment and commit to developing an educational structure around what alternatives are available.

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

A report was received from the Environment and Water Department informing the members that this matter has been discussed at the Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee and at Plenary Council level.

A number of departments of the council had expressed concerns regarding the matter i.e. fire issues, animal/ wildlife safety, littering and climate change implications.

The Environment Department had received legal advice in relation to the matter which included an option of introducing Bye-Laws. The members would be kept informed of developments.

Councillor Pender confirmed that he was happy with the report.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked were there any other bodies in the country that had develop Bye-Laws on this.

The District Manager stated that he had received legal advice on this matter and would refer the motion to the Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee.

Councillor Ryan asked if biodegradable balloons could be used for events such as a 'loss of children' event.

Councillor Pender asked when the Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee would be meeting again.

The Meeting Administrator informed the members that the SPC scheme was currently been reviewed. The draft would be issued to the members in October and then go to public viewing with a view to bringing the Chief Executive report in November or December.

The Mayor asked that Councillor Pender be invited to the next Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Power that the report be noted.

KN27/0919

Quarterly update from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team.

The Mayor requested to take items 26, 32, 35, 36, and 38 together and all the members agreed as Ms M Hunt was going to update the members on the quarterly update from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team on these items.

Ms M Hunt updated the members on the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area for September 2019. She stated that the total value of projects in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area was €10.7 million but this did not include the construction cost of Newbridge Creation Cultural Quarter.

Following discussion amongst the members, they requested an update on the following:

- An update on the Curragh plains
- An update on Monasterevin town
- An update on the square in Kilcullen and Rathangan

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked since the Curragh Plains Forum had disbanded this year what had the council done in relation to the management and protection of the Curragh Plains and what had the council done about the illegal dumping at Donnelly Hollows as the Department of Defence had not given any clarification about it.

Councillor Doyle asked could the members send a request to the national agencies and ask them to take guardianship of The Curragh such as the Office of Public Works (OPW) who has experience in this line of work.

The District Manager informed the members that he had met with the Department of Defence twice and they were not willing to come into partnership with the council.

The council has done a lot on work on the matter and agreed that it should be sent to national agencies.

Mr Boland stated that if the members were in an agreement, that Ms M Hunt and he could arrange a meeting with the members to discuss any issues they had and give a briefing on the draft Kildare and Newbridge Town Renewal Plans.

The Mayor informed the District Manager that he would confirm a date to meet.

Item 26:

Management and protection of the Curragh Plains

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council clarify what progress has been made in relation to the management and protection of the Curragh Plains since the replacement of the Curragh Plains Forum with the partnership between the council and the Department of Defence, reported earlier this year.

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that he would provide an update at the meeting.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she had a copy of the 1964 Byelaws for the Curragh Plains and asked the following questions:

- What do the council need to do to progress this matter
- Can the council go ahead with the tender without the partnership of the Department of Defence?

Ms M Hunt informed the members that before the council could go to tender, an agreed plan with the council and stakeholders would have to be prepared on how it could be protected.

Councillor Connolly asked had the council gone to the Ministers departments on this.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked that the council write to the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Defence about the current situation on the Curragh Plains.

The District Manager stated that he held a shared vision for the Curragh plains and how it could be managed for tourism and recreational but unfortunately this had not happened to date. He stated that assistances from National levels would help and that if the members agreed, he would write to the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Defence about the Curragh Plains and would circulate the letter to the members for clarification beforehand.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin, seconded by Councillor Heavey that the report be noted and agreed by all members that the District Manager would write to the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Defence about the curragh plains.

Item 32:

Redevelopment of the Riverbank Arts Centre

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

That the council provide an update on the progress of the €2million redevelopment of the Riverbank Arts Centre, announced in 2017 as part of the Creative Ireland programme funding provided under Department of Arts and Culture Capital Scheme 2016-2018.

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

A report was received from Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the Riverbank Venue Manager had advised that they were ready to tender for a design team for the project. I understand that the Venue Manager had also invited the Municipal District members to the Riverbank for a full update on the programme and the future plans for expansion.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked why it had taken so long for the project to be developed and was it the preliminary design that was already done that was going to tender.

The District Manager stated that a meeting was arranged by the Venue Manager to meet with the members in the Riverbank for a full update on the programme and the future plans for expansion.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted.

Item 35:

New Cultural Quarter

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

That the Municipal District Committee welcomes plans for the regeneration and renewal of Newbridge, particularly the idea of the New Cultural Quarter and the Municipal District committee asks that the cultural quarter be extended to encompass the Eyre Street area with a particular emphasis on the presentation of the streetscape and adjoining laneways and alleyways.

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

A report was received from Economic Community & Cultural Development informing the members that while the desire expressed in this motion was welcome, the defined area of the Cultural Quarter cannot be extended under the current URDF funded proposals.

However, it was acknowledged that the Eyre Street area and its adjoining laneways do require intervention. The Newbridge Town Renewal Plan currently being finalised in tandem with the development of the Cultural Quarter proposals includes plans for the revitalisation of Eyre Street and its adjoining laneways.

Councillor Heavey stated that he realised there was a lot of work going on in Newbridge but that Eyre Street up to River Liffey, back down to Ryston, around to George Street, Main street and the car parking area was excluded from the Cultural quarter. He stated this would be the only opportunity for it to be included and asked that it not be excluded.

Ms M Hunt stated that the Newbridge Creation Cultural Quarter did not include the river but that the Newbridge Town Renewal Plan did include plans for Eyre Street and any adjoining laneways. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Heavey, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the report be noted.

Item 36:

Town Team for Monasterevin

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

That the council start the process of forming a Town Team for Monasterevin during 2019 so the true value of the planned projects over their life from 2020 – 2021 can be captured.

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

A report was received from Economic Community & Cultural Development informing the members that plans for Monasterevin were at an early concept stage. Once these plans were developed further, the formation of a Town Team would flow naturally from this process over the coming months.

Councillor Duffy asked that the council start the Town Team Plan for Monasterevin especially for the planned projects that would be happening such as the Blueway and the new Distillery that was going to be developed for the area and to look at the derelict building on the old Dublin road.

Ms M Hunt informed the members that she would work in collaboration with the businesses and landowners in the town.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the report be noted.

Item 38:

Urban District Regeneration Fund

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

Can the council provide details of the full list of projects in the municipal district for which it intends to apply for funding for from the next round of Urban District Regeneration Fund; to include details of the council's preparedness for application for each project including but not limited to applications for the second bridge, the new library and the development of the cultural quarter?

A report was received from Economic Community & Cultural Development informing the members as Newbridge had a population in-excess of 10,000, it was the only town in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District eligible to apply for funding under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

In the first call for applications to the URDF in 2018, a Category B application for funding to develop proposals for a Cultural Quarter in Newbridge from concept through to shovel ready stage was successful. Plans in respect of the Cultural Quarter concept were being developed, with a view to commencing separate Part 8 Planning Approval processes for the following distinct elements of the concept;

- Redevelopment of Newbridge Library.
- Development of a landmark building on Market Square.
- Development of mixed-use buildings on lands bounding St Conleth's Park/ Council carpark.
- Creation of a civic plaza on lands to the rear of Newbridge Town Hall.

- Public Realm Improvement works to Georges Street and to Main Street from the Town Hall to the bridge.

Before the council could apply for Category A URDF funding for the development of the Cultural Quarter, all planning consents and detailed designs must be in place. Each element of the concept must be at shovel ready stage to be eligible for Category A funding in respect of the actual construction.

It was the council's intention to submit an application for the provision of a second bridge over the Liffey in Newbridge when the next call for applications to the URDF was announced. The Transportation Department were currently preparing a Phase 0 Report for submission to the Department of Transport, Tourism, and Sport in respect of this project.

The report was noted.

KN28/0919

Dumping that took place at Donnelly's Hollow

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

Can the council advise the members of any progress made on resolving the dumping that took place at Donnelly's Hollow?

A report was received from Environment & Water Section informing the members that the council was in correspondence with legal representatives of the Department of Defence in relation to this matter. The members would be kept informed of progress.

Councillor Ryan stated that the lack of progress on this matter was not acceptable and there was a report done last April and asked for a copy of the report.

The District Manager stated that he would send her the report.

The report was noted.

KN29/0919

Car park at St Conleth's Cemetery

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

Can the council provide a timeline for the upgrade works of the car park at St Conleth's Cemetery?

A report was received from Environment & Water Section informing the members that tenders had been invited for the project. The closing date for receipt of tenders was the 24 September 2019.

The report was noted.

KN30/0919

O Modhrain Hall

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

Can the council outline the options for moving forward with the Compulsory Purchase Order of O Modhrain Hall that it had originally initiated, in light of the incomplete status of the sale of O Modhrain Hall?

A report was received from Environment & Water Section informing the members that the Environment Department had received correspondence from the Charities Regulator which states that the Charities Regulatory Authority authorised the sale in January 2018. This was subject to the proceeds of sale being transferred to the Authority's account, pending determination on registration of the trust and the ultimate application of the proceeds.

The Environment Department was also in correspondence with the vendor's solicitor. The council was mindful of the requirements of the derelict status of the building and continues to monitor developments in this regard.

The members would be kept informed of progress.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy sought clarity around how much time was allowed for the vendors solicitor to transfer the proceeds of the sale to the Charities Regulator Account before the council was in a position to initiate the original CPO order that it served, due to the vendors solicitors' inaction.

The report was noted.

KN31/0919

The playground in Kilcullen

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

That the council provide an all-weather safe surface for the playground in Kilcullen similar to that provided in Maynooth and explain in its report the criteria for selecting different playground surfaces.

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

A report was received from Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the playground in Kilcullen was created using play mulch as the safety surface. Due to the decomposing of the bark mulch evidenced, the surface was changed to sand. The installation of a wet-pour/rubber surface and its maintenance in the Kilcullen playground would be cost prohibitive. Playground surfaces were based on the finances available, taking into consideration such items as the critical fall heights of the equipment, the required maintenance and lifetime costs, natural drainage of the site, environmental impact of the material and the accessibility of the play equipment.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked how the council decides if to put wet pour/rubber surface or sand into the playgrounds.

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

- If accessible equipment could be put in especially for wheelchairs and walking frames as sand was clogging up the wheels.
- If the council could reduce sand and wood in some areas to stop it from blowing out onto the roads
- Was there a tender in progress for the Kilcullen playground?
- If the playground in Suncroft could be looked at as the sand was being dragged into the community centre.

Mr S Wallace informed the members that it depended on what equipment was in the playground. The cost of wet pour was €130 per meter and it only lasts for five years and sand and wood fibre costs €60 per meter. Woodchip was cheaper and only needed to be topped up, wet-pour was prone to shrinking and had been vandalised previously. Children could get burned or injured on wet-pour/rubber surfaces. He stated that he could change around 30 square meters of it to wet-pour and that the council uses a blower for moving the sand.

He stated that he could provide accessibility for wheelchairs/walking frames but that Suncroft playground would not change as there was a tower there and if a child fell in the playground, landing on sand would be safer than landing on wood fibre or chippings. He confirmed no tender had been carried out for Kilcullen.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Ryan that the report be noted.

KN32/0919

Infrastructure capacities for this municipal district

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

That the council prepare a detailed profile of infrastructure capacities for this municipal district, to include both physical and social infrastructure with a matrix of current population, projected population, with breakdowns in each age categories as per AIRO report.

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

A report was received from Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that this request would take some time to respond to as there were a number of service departments involved. We had the AIRO statistics, but it would be helpful for the Municipal District members to define the capacities that were being referred to so that we could ensure that the correct information was being compiled.

Councillor Doyle stated she would define the capacities she referred to. The Meetings Administrator asked that this be sent though to her and she would follow up on the matter.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Duffy that the report be noted.

KN33/0919

Suspension of Standing Orders

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and agreed by the members that standing orders be suspended for 30 minutes.

KN34/0919

Sister City relationship with the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China in Ireland

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

That the council liaise with the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China in Ireland with view to exploring a Sister City relationship or economic and cultural collaboration between Jingdezhen City in Jiangxi Province and the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District on the basis of mutual links through craft industries and tourism.

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

A report was received from Economic, Community & Cultural Development informing the members that this was a matter for the members to consider. If it was the members wish to explore a Sister City relationship, then we would provide the requisite support.

Councillor Stafford stated that this was not a Twinning request between Jingdezhen City in Jiangxi Province but a sister city relationship with a similar town in another country.

Councillor Doyle supported Councillor Stafford's motion stating it was being requested as there was a very good tourism potential.

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

- Where was the funding going to come from?
- What purpose would this serve for the council or the municipal district?
- Send in a business plan on the benefits for this.

The Meetings Administrator stated as per the report this was a matter for the members to decide.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked regarding where this request had come from and who had it issued to.

Councillor Stafford stated his motion was on foot of a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador and a Chinese delegation that had recently visited the County and to which he had been invited as Mayor of the Municipal District. He confirmed his motion did not seek any commitment, but rather was a request for the possibility to be explored and suggested the Head of Local Enterprise may be the best placed in this regard.

The Members agreed the request be referred to the Director of Community and Economic Development for further information.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted.

The meeting concluded.