

Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held at 10.00 am on 20 February 2019 in Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

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

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr T McDonnell (Director of Services), Ms B Cuddy (Municipal District Engineer), Mr B Martin, Mr J Shannon, Ms S Scully, Ms V Cooke (Administrative Officers), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent) Ms C O'Grady, Ms P O'Rourke (Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr J Murtagh (Executive Engineer) Mr J Doyle (Senior Staff Officer), Ms M Murray (Staff Officer), Ms S Martin (Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office), Ms F Skehan (Meetings Administrator) and Ms R O'Connell (Meetings Secretary)

KN01/0219

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 16 January 2019, together with the progress report.

The minutes were approved subject to amendments to item **KN08/0119** as follows:

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

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Stafford that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on 16 January 2019 be confirmed with amendment as outlined above and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

KN02/0219

Matters Arising

Meeting with Bord Na Mona

Councillor S Power asked the District Manager had he met with Bord Na Mona. The District Manager informed the members that he was meeting with Bord Na Mona and hopeful to schedule a meeting in 2 to 3 weeks to discuss the issues that the members had with regard to Councillor S Power's motion from the December meeting.

Update on the Curragh Plains

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked had the council any update on the Curragh Plains. She asked about the bye-laws for the Curragh as mentioned in the minutes that she received in relation to meetings held by the Curragh Forum and that this issue should be brought to the Minister attention. She asked what had the Curragh Forum done since they were established especially about the illegal dumping and overgrazing on the Curragh Plains.

Councillor Lynch stated that a motion needed to be brought to the full council meeting about the dumping on the Curragh Plains especially at the monument at Donnelly's Hollow.

Councillor Aspell asked could the council organise a meeting with the Department of Defence with regard to the Curragh Plains.

The District Manager stated that he would be meeting the Department of Defence officials on 19 March 2019. The main purpose of this meeting was to seek consensus to progress the shared vision as highlighted in the recent discussion paper which was circulated to the members'. In this context, discussions had already taken place and a draft brief for consultants was currently being progressed.

Funding aspects would also likely feature in this discussion in light of the unsuccessful application for rural regeneration funding.

It was also proposed to use the opportunity to highlight the concerns of the members regarding a number of issues.

The District Manager has not, as yet, formally written to the Minister, pending this meeting. The members would be briefed further at the next Municipal District meeting.

Sports field at Rickardstown

Councillor McLoughlin Healy thanked the council for waiving the outstanding amount that was owed by the Hockey Club and asked when the lease to Sarsfield GAA and Newbridge United would be completed.

Mr S Wallace stated that he was waiting for a copy of the legal agreement from the solicitor.

Ten Acres at Magee Barracks

Councillor McLoughlin asked could the members have an update on the 10 acres at Magee Barracks for the next meeting.

Allocation for LPT money

Councillor Doyle stated that the previous allocation for LPT money was incorrectly assigned to Allen playground and should have stated Allenwood playground.

KN03/0219

Municipal District Road Works

To receive an update on the municipal district road works.

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office

- Budgets had now been agreed in relation to the annual roads programme for the restoration improvement schemes and restoration maintenance schemes with a view to works commencing in April.

LPT/Pay Parking Projects/Footpath Improvements:

- Works commenced in Kilmeague on the 29 January, existing footpaths removed and material stock piled, due to local protest works have ceased and the contractor had been redeployed at a considerable cost to the taxpayer.
- Preparation of the 2019 LPT programme was ongoing.

Miscellaneous works:

- Litter picking and gully cleaning was ongoing within the municipal district area.
- Major accident in Blacktrench, a lorry came off the edge of the road taking a sizable portion of the road into the drain. A number of days were spent restabilising this location.
- Minor footpath repairs within Newbridge Town at trip hazard locations;
 1. Entrance to Priory Estate.
 2. Baroda Court.
- Extensive patch repairs ongoing throughout the Municipal District.
- Works were completed on Cushaling Bridge on the Edenderry Border.
- Ongoing routine maintenance continued throughout the period.
- Extensive drainage works ongoing throughout the month within the area.
 - Junction between James Street and Patrick Street
 - Junction of Dawson Street and Limerick Lane
- Replacement of cobbles in Kildare at the superloo locations.

Councillor Stafford asked if the council was going to recoup funding from Irish Public Bodies (IPB) for the work that they had done for the accident in Blacktrench.

Ms B Cuddy stated that the council was going to recoup the funding for this work.

Report issued by: Ms B Cuddy, Municipal District Engineer

KN04/0219

Protocol Committee

The following referral from the Protocol Committee was considered:

With regard to the upcoming local elections 2019, that each Municipal District contact their own Tidy Towns groups or relevant community organisations asking them to identify areas they would like to keep 'poster free' and seek their views in relation to having a cap on the number of posters, per candidate, per Municipal District.

Councillor Stafford stated he did not agree. He said that proper public consultation and submissions was the way it should be done.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy agreed on the limiting of posters and stated they should go back to the Tidy Towns and to the community groups and get them to put pressure on their local representatives about limiting the posters in the areas.

Councillor Pender said new candidates that were running for the local elections should be allowed to put up posters as was the case in France, where there was a public space in one area where all candidates put up posters for the elections and that the council should do this in certain areas.

All other members agreed that the effectiveness of election posters was declining and that social media was the way forward.

The majority of the members agreed to the referral but to include 'that they the members contact their own Tidy Towns and that the Public Participation Network (PPN) be informed and that the Tidy Towns and PPN provide feedback on or before Friday 15 March. Members requested that they receive the feedback as part of the agenda report, in advance of the next monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday 20 March 2019.

Resolved they the members' contact their own Tidy Towns and the Public Participation Network (PPN) be informed and that the Tidy Towns and PPN provide feedback on or before Friday 15 March. Members requested that they receive the feedback as part of the agenda report, in advance of the next monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday 20 March 2019.

KN05/0219

Rented accommodation for children with severe disabilities

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

That this municipal district committee calls for a new policy to be created whereby young children with severe disabilities on the councils housing list can be given priority for housing if they are unable to live adequately in rented accommodation.

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

A report was received from Housing Section informing the members that the National Housing Strategy guidelines for people with a disability (NHSPWD) 2011-2016 (as extended to 2020 by Rebuilding Ireland), was published jointly by the Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government (DHPLG) and the Department of Health (DoH) in 2011. The strategy sets out the Governments broad framework for the delivery of housing for people with disabilities through mainstream housing options. One of the actions of the strategy was to establish a Housing Disability Steering Group in each Local Authority area and this was in place in Kildare County Council and meets quarterly. National Guidance for the Assessment and Allocation Process for Social Housing Provision for people with a disability was issued by the DHPLG in 2014 and the Assessments and Allocations teams processes consider these guidelines in carrying out their functions. Kildare County's Allocation Scheme as adopted by the members in November 2016 also under Schedule 2 of the policy provides that overall priority would be given to applicants on exceptional medical/compassionate grounds.

Councillor Lynch stated that the policy needs to be reviewed and that cases needed to be prioritised especially where there were cases involving children with severe disabilities whose accommodation was impacting on their quality of life.

Councillor Pender said that the State needed to provide houses for these people as the council through Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) and Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) do not always have the facilities for these people.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that people feel neglected and the policies as outlined were not being applied. She stated that she had made representations for people with housing difficulties in the past and got nowhere and felt that the Housing Department was not being objective when dealing with housing allocations.

The District Manager said that it was unfair to say the Housing Department was not acting in good faith and noted that all the required and relevant policies were being followed during the housing allocation process.

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

KN06/0219

Maintaining the appearance of HAP properties

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

Can the council confirm if it is possible to introduce a system whereby landlords within the municipal district who are paid through HAP Schemes would be conditioned to maintain the appearance of the property in a proper and presentable condition?

A report was received from Housing Section informing the members that in accordance with the regulations relating to the HAP scheme Kildare County Council was required to inspect HAP properties to ensure that they comply with minimum rental standards as laid down in Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017. Part of the inspection process relates to outward appearance of the property and the following specific items were inspected:

- Structural repair of the property.
- Condition of the roof.
- Condition of the fascia, soffit and gutters.
- The condition of the windows and doors.
- Condition of the garden.
- Provision of facilities to prevent harbourage of vermin.

In the event that there was continued non-compliance with minimum rental standards, the council may issue a Prohibition Notice to the owner of the property, in these cases the HAP payment to the landlord ceases 13 weeks after the issuing of the notice.

The report was noted.

KN07/0219

Turnaround time for a new house by the council

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

Can the council confirm what is the typical turnaround time from when a new house is acquired by the council either through Part 5 or purchased as an acquisition, to occupation and why have the houses at (address supplied) remained unoccupied since they were bought in October 2018?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the typical turnaround time was four weeks however houses have been turned around in less than a week where the council were able to negotiate for the developer to carry out additional works prior to the sale closing. Part V houses and turnkeys were provided to a particular standard for sale but the council's standards for our own houses would be of a higher standard and the developer may not provide certain items such as tiling in bathrooms, kitchens and utility rooms and thumb turn ironmongery locks on internal wet rooms and external front and back doors and other rented standard requirements. The council were also required to carry out the transfer of utilities and the installation of pre-paid power metres and there could be a time lag during the course of those transfers. The two units mentioned required additional works to bring them to the council's standards and owing to staff redeployment in the section there was a delay in getting the works carried out. These units were now ready and potential tenants had been contacted.

The report was noted.

KN08/0219

Taking in Charge of Estates

A report was circulated to the members detailing a list of the estates that the Building and Development Control Section proposed to be taken in charge in the coming six months in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District:

- Barrettstown Meadows
- Curragh Grange, Newbridge
- Oakgrove, Derrinturn
- Brownstown Manor, The Curragh
- Curraghbeg Meadows, Kildare

The following estates were proposed to be taken in charge by the end of the year:

- PH 2 Roseberry Hill, Newbridge
- Cluain Brook, Cutbush, The Curragh
- Lowtown View Robertstown
- Allen Manor, Kilmeague

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked why was Red Hills, Ellistown not on the list to be taken in charge and asked that this be put on the progress report for future update.

Councillor Stafford asked if the treatment plant in this estate was in good condition.

Councillor Doyle said that the members should go to a meeting with Irish Water on this issue as there were a lot of estates in this situation and a resolution was needed.

Mr J Murtagh said that this estate had a private developer infrastructure and also a Management Company therefore the council would not be taking this estate in charge.

KN09/0219

The Brownstown junction

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

That the council introduce a four way stop sign as an interim measure to improve safety at the Brownstown junction until such time as the council are in a position to deliver radical realignment/traffic lights at this junction.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Roads Design Section would carry out a technical assessment at the above location once resources become available. A topographical, traffic count and speed survey would be required to be carried out as part of our technical assessment.

Councillor Doyle asked if the technical team could prioritise this due to the amount of accidents that has happened there and asked how much would this cost.

Councillor Pender said that this junction needs to be looked at as the work that was carried out there previously had not worked and there had been a number of accidents at this junction.

Councillor S Power asked did the council have a figure of how many of these four way systems were in force in the county.

Ms B Cuddy informed the members that the Roads Design was looking into this as a technical assessment needed to be carried out and this was outside of her remit.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted and all members agreeing that this motion was to be prioritised for the technical team to assess.

KN10/0219

The Mayor requested to take items 9 and 14 together and all the members agreed.

Item 9.

Lifting cobblestones in the Kilmeague village.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council clarify the confusion around the consultation that was reportedly had with local residents of Kilmeague in advance of the agreement to lift the cobblestones in the village.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that from the council's viewpoint there was no confusion, these works were requested and funded by the public representatives under LPT funding. There was a trail of emails from previous municipal district engineers discussing same with the public representations, requesting feedback and suggesting discussion on site, no issues were flagged back then, and while the cobbles were raised in general it was agreed that the only safe method was the removal of same with a view to reusing them in some way.

The footpaths were determined to be no-longer fit for purpose as there were a number of potholes, uneven chambers backfilled with concrete, and some sections of the footpath were already replaced with brick paving. The decision to upgrade the footpath was based on historic complaints by those with mobility challenges and difficulties arising for parents using wheeled buggies/prams etc. Following discussions with the council's Heritage Officer it was agreed that in order to bring the footpath up to an acceptable standard, the reuse of the old cobble stones was not feasible as the main footpath surface.

The contract was awarded to Harbour View, they carried out a leaflet drop on Monday 28 January advising that works would commence on Tuesday, the leaflet drop was only to the directly affected house owners. Work commenced on Tuesday, it was Friday before it became apparent that a small number of locals had an issue and the council were advised of a public meeting being held on the Saturday.

Council officials went to the site first thing Monday morning to meet the group, discussed our plans, advised that the council were happy to facilitate them in relation to reusing the stones as a feature, but could not reuse them in the footpath in a safe manner. They again called a meeting for that evening to discuss our proposals.

The council suspended works that day, which remain suspended at a cost to the tax payer.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy said that little notice was given to the public and the feedback she had received was to whom did the council talk to about replacing the cobblestones.

Councillor Lynch stated that he was told by the council that the community had agreed to these works and stated that proper consultation had not taken place. In future public consultation should take place, especially where there were issues relating to heritage.

Council Stafford stated that the priority was to resolve the issue and getting it done and that the council should have had a public meeting and displayed the plan but unfortunately that had not happened.

Councillor Doyle said that there was no way the cobblestones could be reinstated and asked was anyone going to challenge an engineer to sign off and say that it was safe. She said that she was happy with the report.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy said that she agreed with Councillor Lynch.

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

Item 14.

Footpath works in Kilmeague

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

Can the municipal district engineer comment on recent footpath works in Kilmeague and give any recommendations on how we might avoid similar incidents?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the footpaths in question were old cobble stone that was badly worn away due to shared spaces between cars and pedestrians. The footpaths were determined to be no-longer fit for purpose as there were a number of potholes, uneven chambers backfilled with concrete, and some sections of the footpath were already replaced with brick paving. The decision to upgrade the footpath was based on historic complaints by those with mobility challenges and difficulties arising for parents using wheeled buggies/prams etc. Following discussions with the council's Heritage Officer it was agreed that in order to bring the

footpath up to an acceptable standard, the reuse of the old cobble stones was not feasible. The elected members assigned funding from Local Property Tax in 2018 to carry out the necessary improvements.

The cobble stones had been stockpiled and retained and would be re-used within the village subject to further discussions with the Roads Department, Tidy Towns and other interested parties. Ultimately, the replacement footpath would be safe and fit for purpose for use by all members of the Kilmeague community.

There were a number of local residents very happy with the proposed works; this was communicated both on site and by phone calls over the last week. In particular the council had one member of the public with disabled children very excited that their children would now have a safe footpath to use. Ultimately the provision of a safe and usable footpath for the public was the aim of the council.

The report was noted.

KN11/0219

Residential driveways along Morristown Biller near the bridge.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council outline any viable short-term and/or long term solutions to improving safety and visibility of oncoming traffic for residents emerging from residential driveways along Morristown Biller near the bridge.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the a survey and design would be required to be carried out at the location in relation to the requested works; this would had to be done in conjunction with the Roads Design Team. As part of the process a topographical survey, traffic count and speed survey was required to be carried out. The council would carry out the survey and design works once technical resources become available.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked could the council prioritise this on the list in the same way cases were prioritised on the KLIPS list.

Mr B Martin said that there were 143 cases waiting for technical assessment and 61 of these cases belong to Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area. The council had to arrange to have these sites inspected.

Councillor Doyle asked could they get a list of these 61 cases and have an in-committee meeting to see what could be prioritised.

Councillor Aspell said that Sexes Bridge had a traffic light system and that Morristown Biller should have the same.

Ms B Cuddy stated that a new traffic team was being set up and that they would review the TAAG list.

Mr B Martin said that he would update the members on the 61 cases that were on the list for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor Lynch that the report be noted and update provided to the members on the 61 cases on TAAG related to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

KN12/0219

Extend the footpath

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

That the council extend the footpath from White Abbey Court to the traffic lights at Pigeon Lane in Kildare Town.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there was no available funding at present to carry out required works, however if funding was made available then the council would review the situation.

Councillor Pender asked could this be considered by the council.

Councillor Lynch asked how much funds for extending footpaths was being allocated to their municipal district area.

Ms B Cuddy said that this request was through the municipal district office and not on the TAAG list. She advised that her budget allocation was for the operation and maintenance of footpaths and that LPT money could be used to install the footpath.

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

KN13/0219

Access and car parking at Killinthomas Wood, Rathangan

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

That this municipal district committee enter into discussions with Coillte regarding improving access and car parking at Killinthomas Wood, Rathangan which has become a very popular recreational amenity.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Stafford requested that the council write to Coillte asking them to improve access and car parking at Killinthomas Wood, Rathangan and to take measures to prevent illegal dumping that had taken place in this area.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford seconded by Councillor Aspell and all members agreeing that the report be noted and a letter be sent on their behalf to Coillte as outlined in the motion.

KN14/0219

Resurface the road at Lourdesville, Kildare

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

That this council resurface the road at Lourdesville, Kildare from Shraud to Chapel Hill.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that at present these works were not included in the program for 2019, Chapel Lane, Priest Lane, the R401 and the R413 were all included, if additional funding becomes avail the council would re-evaluate this.

Councillor Stafford asked could it be added to the 2019 list, if not for the 2020 list.

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

KN15/0219

Speed restrictions or danger warning signage

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

Can the council confirm if it is possible to put further speed restrictions or danger warning signage at Mountain View, Currage Road, Athgarvan where the road bends in the old school vicinity, following a major near miss on the evening of 31 January?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the council would need to review the cause of the near miss; the council could arrange a site visit to discuss further.

The report was noted.

KN16/0219

Plan to sell the machinery yard

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council provide an update as to what if any work has been undertaken or progress made on the plan to sell the machinery yard which continues to take up valuable space in the centre of Newbridge town, including what if any obstacle or change of mind has arisen to delay the sale which was touted more than 2 years ago?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the current base for machinery yard and salting operations for Kildare County Council needs to be transferred to a new location to facilitate the sale of the current site in Newbridge Town. The Part 8 process in respect to the new machinery yard and salting operations facility would be published for public consultation in the coming weeks. The report was noted.

KN17/0219

Bus shelters in the municipal district

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Mark Lynch. Can the council give a full report on the rollout of bus shelters in the municipal district including those already installed, those awaiting installation and those awaiting funding for same?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the councillor was emailed a table outlining the list of locations and outstanding issues in relation to the provision of Bus shelters within the municipal district area.

A copy of the table was attached for the other members.

There were three tables included:

- Table 1: Locations where Bus Shelter provision was agreed
- Table 2: Locations where Bus Shelters could be provided subject to works being provided by the council
- Table 3: Locations where Bus Shelter provision was not proposed at this point in time.

Locations that did not require additional civil works had been installed; locations where works were required by the municipal district area office had not been progressed due to staff shortages. It was planned to carry out a review at these locations later in the year subject to necessary staff resources being available.

The report was noted.

KN18/0219

The bike rack outside the Heritage Centre

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

Can the council fix the bike rack outside the Heritage Centre in Kildare town?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the municipal district office was an operations office with responsibilities for road and footpath maintenance, the council do not maintain street furniture.

The report was noted.

KN19/0219

Signage at Suncroft

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

Can the council confirm when it will complete the signage at Suncroft or alternatively remove the poles?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the municipal district office was not in the process of installing signage at Suncroft. However, the council would review the matter and revert back to the members.

The report was noted.

KN20/0219

Illegal dumping on the road from Ballyteague GAA to Allenwood?

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Doyle

Can the council provide a report on what measures the Environment Department have taken to address significant illegal dumping that has occurred on the road from Ballyteague GAA to Allenwood?

A report was received from the Environment and Water Services informing the members that the matter was being progressed by the Waste Enforcement Team (Environment). Legal action was pending.

The District Manager said that he would keep the members informed.

KN21/0219

Landscape works to be carried out in Dara Park

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

Can the council provide this municipal district committee with an update on the landscape works to be carried out to restore areas of Dara Park, including timelines for completion?

A report was received from the Environment and Water Services informing the members that much of the landscaping had taken very well since the difficult weather conditions experienced in 2018. However, there would be some minor top soiling and reseeding which would take place later in the spring.

The report was noted.

KN22/0219

Local Area Plan for Newbridge and Naas

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

In light of the council's submission to RSES where we recognised the symbiotic relationship of Newbridge and Naas, that we review our decision to delay the Local Area Plan for Newbridge and more appropriately, suspend the LAP for Naas and start a new process incorporating Naas and Newbridge into an integrated LAP.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the life of the Newbridge Local Area Plan had recently been extended to the end of 2021.

Considerable work, including extensive public consultation, had been undertaken in relation to the preparation of a draft Naas LAP, and it was proposed to place a draft Naas LAP on display in March 2019.

On proposing the motion Councillor Doyle asked the members to consider delaying and or suspending the Newbridge and Naas LAPs and to ask the Planning Department to scope out an integrated plan.

A lengthy discussion ensued between all members on the proposed motion.

Ms Cooke informed the members that their 2019 work programme schedule was prepared and as the County Development Plan was due for review, the Planning Department did not have the capacity to review or to scope a further plan this year as suggested by the members.

Councillor Doyle advised that she would review the wording of this motion and resubmit same.

KN23/0219

Legislation to correctly regulate quarries

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Lynch.
That this municipal district committee calls on the Minister for Rural Affairs and Natural Resources and the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment to introduce immediate legislation to correctly regulate quarries and that we call on the Minister to utilise the Environmental Protection Agency as the ultimate overseer of quarries.

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

The following report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the EPA was an independent public body established under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992. The other main instruments from which it derives its mandate were the Waste Management Act, 1996, and the Protection of the Environment Act, 2003 and Radiological Protection (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014.

The EPA's Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE) co-ordinates national efforts to improve the level of compliance with and enforcement of environmental legislation. It also had a role in supervising local authority environmental performance. Local authorities and

other public agencies have a range of environmental protection functions, and continue to have responsibility for enforcement.

The issuing of the letters was a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Lynch asked what the council does to enforce the closure of unauthorised quarries.

Ms Cooke informed the members that, generally speaking, enforcement action would be taken in these cases.

Councillor Stafford said that the council had more powers and that the council at their dispersal should write to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Energy and the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government with regard to this motion.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch seconded by Councillor Pender and all members agreeing that the report be noted and a letter be sent on their behalf to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Energy and the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government with regard to this motion.

KN24/0219

Parks Section Works Programme 2019

The members considered the Parks Works Programme 2019.

Mr Wallace introduced Ms C O'Grady to the members stating that she was a new member to the Parks team. He informed the members that any works not completed in 2018 would be carried over to 2019.

Councillor Pender asked Mr Wallace did he have a timeframe for the competition of the outdoor gym in Kildare town.

Mr Wallace said it would be May 2019 before it would be completed.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked what it would take to facilitate the shared use of amenity land at Crotanstown so that both the Gaelscoil and Educate Together could use the land.

Mr Wallace said that when this issue was initially raised a shared use of the land for both schools had been arranged and that the schools were scheduled to meet to finalise this. 18 months later it transpired that this meeting had not taken place and the whole process of agreeing shared use had yet to recommence. The two schools share a campus and should be able to agree use of the land. Work was continuing on trying to reach an agreement to cater for both.

Councillor Stafford asked what were the next stages in progressing Cherry Avenue. He stated that the Park was not successful in getting grant funding from the Department of Rural Affairs as the project was not shovel ready.

Mr Wallace said that he was not aware of why it had not been successful in getting grant funding. He stated that the work envisaged for this year was to appoint Civil Engineers to carry out a detailed design and tender for Phase 1 of this project and also to progress the design of the earthworks feature in the plan.

KN25/0219

Playground in Athgarvan

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Lynch. That this municipal district committee seeks a design plan for the introduction of a playground in Athgarvan as per the County Development Plan.

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

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Park informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree.

The location of a playground in Athgarvan would be considered as part of the development of the open space along the Liffey.

Councillor Lynch asked if the playground could be considered for the new development at Mountain View Estate.

Mr Wallace said playgrounds can attract anti-social behavior and that locating one so close to houses may not be ideal but that he would check the feasibility of providing the playground in conjunction with the development.

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

KN26/0219

Dining Room in Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McCabe. That this municipal district committee considers a way to assist the Dining Room in Newbridge with finding a permanent space to operate from.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services informing the members that this was a matter for the members to consider.

Councillor McCabe said that this group was set up to help feed families and that there were looking for a place to rent with more space as the location where they were currently located was too small.

Councillor Pender said that originally they were in the Parish Centre and then moved to the Main Street but stated that they were also looking for storage space as people were donating food package but they had nowhere to store them.

Councillor McCabe said that they had asked him to find a suitable place to rent as their present location was too small.

Councillor Lynch said that the Riverbank had community space and that a letter should be sent to Economic Community and Cultural Development asking them to facilitate the Dining Room.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor Aspell and agreed by the members that the report be noted.

KN27/0219

The annual reports provided by Town Twinning Committees

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy
Can the council circulate to councillors the annual reports provided by Town Twinning Committees to the council as part of the council's statutory oversight of Twinning Committees, that it approves and funds in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Economic Community & Cultural Development informing the members as the members were aware the newly established Twinning Liaison Committee had been put in place to create policies and procedures for twinning groups and twinning related activities. To date, twinning groups have submitted a work programme for the year ahead as the basis for the drawdown of the twinning grant. One of the first objectives of the Twinning Liaison Committee was to create end of year reporting templates for twinning groups to use. The council would then collate all of the information and provide a summary report in the council's Annual Report.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated she was not satisfied with the answer provided to the meeting and that she had spoken with several twinning committees who had no issue with the reports be given to the members and asked why this has not happened to date. She also stated the response only set out plans to deal with twinning annual reports going forward and did not address the specifics of her question, which concerned issues of governance and accountability.

Mr J Shannon said that he could not give any more information than had been provided in the report but would bring back Councillors McLoughlin Healy's concerns, as outlined. The report was noted.

KN28/0219

Village Renewal Plan for Athgarvan

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

Can a timetable be provided for the Village Renewal Plan for Athgarvan including when physical works will begin and can a cost be given for the installation of quality raised brick crossings for pedestrians that can also slow down traffic and the possible removal of traffic lights to be replaced with a mini roundabout?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development informing the members that the Village Renewal Plan for Athgarvan could be developed as a result of the Health Check process which would commence in Quarter 2 2019. Once the Health Check process and associated Village Renewal plan had been completed, the projects identified by the community would be submitted for funding under various funding streams (e.g. Town and Village Renewal Scheme, LEADER, or Rural Regeneration and Development Fund) depending on the nature and scale of the projects involved. The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.