

**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held at 10.00 am on 20 March 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 and M Stafford.

**Apologises:** Councillor S Power

**Officials Present:** Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr J Shannon, Ms S Scully, Ms V Cooke (Administrative Officers), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms E Wright (Senior Executive Officer), Mr L McNeela, Mr J Murtagh (Executive Engineer), Ms S Martin (Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office), Ms F Skehan (Meetings Administrator) and Ms R O'Connell (Meetings Secretary)

**KN01/0319**

The Mayor congratulated the St. Patrick's parade committee for the great turn out in Newbridge on St. Patrick's Day and to Councillors Kennedy and McCabe as they were involved in the organising of the parade.

**KN02/0319**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 20 February 2019, together with the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Aspell seconded by Councillor Doyle that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on 20 February 2019 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

Councillor Pender thanked the District Manager for the work that he had done with regard to Dara Park.

### **KN03/0319**

#### **Municipal District Road Works**

Ms B Cuddy (Municipal District Engineer) sent her apologies and Mr L McNeela (Executive Engineer) updated the members on the municipal district road works as follows:

##### **Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office**

- Tender were being prepared for the annual roads programme.
- Tenders for footpaths under the IPB funding within Kildare and Newbridge were being prepared.
- LIS schemes were being reviewed and assessed.

##### **Miscellaneous works:**

- Footpath repairs at: the Grange, Newbridge, Moore Park, Newbridge, Market Square Kildare Town, Station Road at the entrance to the Elms, Fairview cottages, Kildare town.
- Footpath installation in Milltown.
- Patching repairs ongoing at: Blacktrench road, Rathernan road, outside Allen Church and various other locations within the Municipal District area.
- Gully cleaning ongoing within the municipal district area.
- Extensive patch repair between Mylerstown and Healy's bridge, the road had collapsed due to sever summer weather of 2018.
- Water cuts in Ballykelly were being opened.

**KN04/0319**

**The Eamonn O'Modhrain Hall**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender.  
Can this Municipal District Committee receive an update in relation to the Eamonn O'Modhrain Hall?

A letter was received from the Charities Regulator and was circulated to the members along with the progress report at the meeting.

Councillor Pender asked would it be possible that the council reopen the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process as the hall has been derelict since 2016.

The District Manager stated that a letter was referred to the Trustee's solicitor on 28 February 2019 to confirm what the delay was in finalising the sale of the property and stated that he would revisit the CPO and keep the members informed.

The report was noted.

**KN05/0319**

**Affordable loan applications**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Doyle.  
Can this Municipal District Committee have a report on the number of affordable loan applications that are presently in the system for this municipal district and all other municipal districts (for comparative purposes) for the period of the scheme, what number are approved, what number are eligible awaiting approval, what are the timelines on approved loans deadline for drawdown and what is total value on each of these?

A report was received from Housing Department informing the members that the Government put in place a facility of €200 million for the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan to be available to all local authorities. The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, and the elected members, approved borrowing to a maximum of €15 million for Kildare County Council. At this point in time, the council has fully committed this amount of money to the scheme and, as a result, it was not

possible to approve any further loans for the moment. The council did continue to accept applications for the scheme and also have applications on hand awaiting consideration. Subject to confirmation that additional funding would be available, and approved by the elected members, applications would be revisited in order of date of submission.

The following table provides an overview of the scheme to date:

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Declined</b>	<b>Waiting Approval</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Value Approved €</b>
ATHY	2	8	5	5	426,000
NAAS	16	16	22	10	2,974,420
KILDARE/NEWBRIDGE	11	13	13	11	2,242,130
MAYNOOTH	4	8	11	8	953,747
CELBRIDGE	14	12	9	4	2,845,300
OTHER	22	27	45	19	5,369,200
					14,810,797

As of March 2019, 29 loan offers has been drawn-down to the value of €5,634,502, once approval was issued; applicants have six months to draw down the loan.

Councillor Doyle said that she does not see how many was listed as discrepancy or eligible applicants pending due to lack of funding on the list. She stated that two thirds of this funding has not been drawn down to date and there was a huge demand for this scheme.

Ms Scully informed the members that funding of €5.6M was drawn down equating to 69 the number of approvals to date and that a further €4.8M was approved but an applicant has six months to draw down the loan once approval issued. She confirmed housing would not know the figure of approved loans not drawn down until the six months has lapsed.

The report was noted.

**KN06/0319**

**Taking in charge of estates**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford. That the council propose that Redhills Park, Ellistown, Mountrice Mill and/or Moore's Wood, Mountrice be added to any pilot or initial funding scheme for the taking in charge of estates with Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) as envisaged by the National Taking in Charge Initiative (NTICI).

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that in 2016 Minister Coveney launched the National Taking in Charge Initiative and the report on outcomes of this initiative was published by the Department in December 2018

[https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/national\\_taking\\_in\\_charge\\_initiative\\_report\\_dec2018.pdf](https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/national_taking_in_charge_initiative_report_dec2018.pdf)

The report sets out the current status and makes recommendations relating to estates with their own developer provided wastewater treatment plants. It recognises that these estates containing developer provided infrastructure (DPI) pose many legislative, licencing and funding challenges that need to be resolved. It advises that there would be a multi annual funding programme established to progressively resolve DPI. There were currently no details on this funding or how it would be applied. Kildare County Council would consider the above along with all other similar estates when such details emerge.

A report was received from Irish Water informing the members that Kildare County Council and Irish Water awaits further policy guidelines from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government relating to these estates and the council would be co-operating in any new initiatives once they were announced.

Councillor Stafford asked that the council do a pilot scheme and put these estates forward when this programme becomes established.

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

**KN07/0319**

**Taking In Charge of estates within the municipal district**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Doyle.  
Can the council provide a progress report on the Taking In Charge of estates within the municipal district for the period of this council and a status report on outstanding estates?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members(see appendix A ) the report for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area, which includes estates that had been taken in charge over the last five years and those, planned to be taken in charge this year. It provided the current status of all estates in the municipal district.

Councillor Doyle welcomed the publication of the National Taken in Charge report, outlining the procedure which shows movement, being proactive and ready to put forward the three estates. She asked how many estates were not taken in charge in this municipal district.

Mr Murtagh stated that eight estates in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District were not taken in charge.

The report was noted.

**KN08/0319**

**Taking in charge of The Plains, The Curragh Plains and Coolaghknock, Kildare**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford.  
Can the council provide a timeline for the carrying out of works and the taking in charge of The Plains, The Curragh Plains and Coolaghknock, Kildare given that the bond has been encashed.

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council has already carried out works on the upgrade to the two pumping stations and to the wearing course along the spine road. Further works were required to the surface water attenuation systems and remedial works also required to sections of the foul sewer.

Kildare County Council were looking into our options for progressing these works and it was acknowledged that there was a substantial amount of work required to bring the estate to a taking in charge standard. While the council would be progressing with the work required, it was not envisioned that the estate would be ready to be taken in charge this year.

Councillor Stafford stated he was disappointed these estates were not being taken in charge in 2019 as the bond has been cashed. He asked what role had Irish Water in relation to this and did the council have any responsibility in this regard with the council.

The report was noted.

### **KN09/0319**

#### **Irish Rail**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Aspell. That this Municipal District Committee invite Irish Rail to come to a meeting and explain why the first trains from Newbridge in the morning are leaving 10 minutes late.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Department does not have information on the scheduling or timetabling of trains in county Kildare. If the members were in agreement, an invitation could be issued to Irish Rail as requested.

Councillor Aspell said that the 8.30am train from Newbridge to Dublin was running late every morning. There was a lack of public toilet facilities at Newbridge train

station for people who were paying €2,500 for annual tickets. The Department of Transport encourage people to use public transport and this was unfair to people who were working and depending on public transport to get them to work on time. He asked if the members were in agreement that the council write to Irish Rail to invite them to meet with the members to discuss issues raised.

The Senior Executive Officer from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department confirmed meeting in the Chamber at 12 noon Monday 25 March with the NTA for all members to attend. The meeting was an opportunity for members to raise any issues with the NTA who have an oversight role over public transport.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Aspell seconded by Councillor Doyle and all members agreed that the council write to Irish Rail inviting them to have a meeting with the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and that the report be noted.

### **KN10/0319**

#### **Traffic calming measures in the county**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle. That this Municipal District Committee request the Transport, Safety and Emergency Services SPC to examine and identify the number of village or settlements seeking traffic calming measures in the county and scope the feasibility of designing and costing a generic treatment that addresses concerns and that a funding mechanism is identified through the annual budget programme/levies/LPT/Department funding where any, either or all contribute to the delivery of a schedule of works that will resolve this matter.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Aspell. A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that if the members were in agreement, the request could be brought to the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on Transport, Safety and Emergency Services to consider including the issue on the SPC's programme of work.



Councillor Doyle and Councillor Lynch asked that this motion be brought to the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on Transport, Safety and Emergency Services and that the lights in Athgaravan be considered on the SPC's Programme of Work.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Aspell this motion be brought to the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on Transport, Safety and Emergency Services and that the report be noted.

### **KN11/0319**

#### **The Bridge at Wheelam, Milltown**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford. That the council repair the bridge at Wheelam, Milltown.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this had been referred to the Senior Engineer with responsibility for bridge management for examination.

Councillor Stafford asked could the members have the report for the next month's meeting.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Stafford seconded by Councillor Doyle and that the report be noted and a report be available for the following month.

### **KN12/0319**

#### **Use of cattle grids around the Curragh**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender. Can the council confirm if there is any specific clause or any extra loading in the counties insurance cover relating to the use of cattle grids around the Curragh to keep livestock from roaming out into the M7?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was no specific clause or extra loading on the council's public liability policy relating to cattle grids around the Curragh.

The report was noted.

**KN13/0319**

**The development of a new cultural quarter in Newbridge**

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

Can the council outline the timeline and funding sources for each stage of the National Transport Authority traffic management plan and for the development of a new cultural quarter in Newbridge; specifically identifying the source of the €6.3 million for the cultural quarter and the extent of the development that this funding will cover, in light of the estimated €8 million cost of redevelopment of the library alone?

A report was issued from Economic, Community and Cultural Development informing the members as set out in the Category B application to the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, which was also circulated to the municipal district members, the total estimated cost of the Newbridge Cultural Quarter was €20 million. This proposal includes the redevelopment of the Library, Market Square, and some public realm works from Georges Street to the Town Hall and redevelopment of the area currently being used as a car park between the Town Hall and St Conleths Park. However, a more accurate costing for this project can only be ascertained once required Part 8 approvals were in place and detailed designs have been drawn up. These detailed designs could then be submitted to the URDF for Category A "shovel ready funding" for the actual construction of the various elements of the proposed Cultural Quarter.

The National Transport Authority Draft Newbridge Transport Plan was a separate project to that of the Cultural Quarter project, however both projects were complimentary. The NTA draft Transport Plan was estimated to cost in the region of €10 million. The full cost of this project, and sources of funding could only be ascertained once an analysis of key junctions has been completed and detailed designs were drawn up.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy advised that she was not fully aware of where the €6.3 million was from and asked if that could be clarified. She also raised an issue with

the website in particular the background to the project and links. She also advised that PRAM and the Culture Quarter are two different projects and asked if the council had to set aside funding for these projects with no timeline in the report.

The District Manager informed the members that following a well attended consultation process, that the projects were at very early stages and the €20 million was an estimated figure. He further advised that design costs in the region of €600 thousand for Newbridge Culture Quarter which includes the Library, new Conleth Square, new building and upgrade of George's Street with the next phase of design and funding is to progress the Civic Quarter. The council would have to match funding circa 25% from capital and the balance funded from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (NDP).

The Senior Executive Officer from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department informed the members that these were two separate projects and the NTA would be funding the National Transport Authority Draft Newbridge Transport Plan. A non statutory public consultation had to take place and that a lot of work needed to be carried out on costing the upgrading of the junction on the Athgaravan road which would see traffic diverted and removed from the town centre. Once the consultation was complete it would be sent to the NTA.

The report was noted.

### **KN14/0319**

#### **A metal footbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Lynch. Can the council provide a cost and create a plan for the installation of a metal footbridge over the railway at Morrinstown, Newbridge?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the agenda report for December 2017 stated that there were no immediate plans for upgrade works to this bridge. There were no current plans for the provision of a metal footbridge over the railway at Morrinstown. As this was a

railway bridge, any future works would require full consultation with Irish Rail and a funding source would need to be identified.

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

The Senior Executive Officer from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department informed the members that it was not feasible considering the land take and construction costs of the bridge. This matter was not referred to the design team as they are currently working on other Part 8 projects.

The report was noted.

#### **KN15/0319**

##### **Rathangan town improvement works**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Lynch. Can the council confirm what are the steps, timelines and proposed outcomes of the Rathangan town improvement works?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Part 8 documentation was currently being finalised for publication in early April 2019. Subject to approval of the Part 8 proposals, the project would progress to detailed design and tender for construction.

Councillor Lynch stated that he had asked for a report two months ago which has yet to be received. He asked what were the steps, timelines and outcome or was the council waiting on the Part 8 proposals.

The District Manager informed the members that he had met the consultants two weeks ago and that he hoped to finalise the Part 8 in the next month. He stated that Rathangan was a priority and would have a report for Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District by June or July. He was hopeful to go to tender this year and advised that the planning process was very extensive.

The report was noted.

**KN16/0319**

**Reinstate the original street name signs in Dara Park**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McCabe.  
Can the council reinstate the original street name signs in Dara Park, e.g. Ivy Grove, Walnut Grove, etc as a number of them are missing?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development informing the members that the Community Department could offer a grant towards the reinstatement of the street signs in conjunction with the Municipal District Engineer.

The report was noted.

**KN17/0319**

**Listing a road as Priority 2 on the Winter Service Plan 2018 - 2019,**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford.  
Can the council confirm what is the purpose of listing a road as Priority 2 on the Winter Service Plan 2018 - 2019, how many roads are included in this schedule and when is it anticipated that the R401 from Gallaghers Cross, Dunmurray to Rathangan, currently on the Priority 2 list, will be added to the Priority 1 list?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that in the Winter Services Plan 2018 - 2019, Priority 1 routes consist of all National Primary and National Secondary routes and all Non National (Regional and Local) salted routes. Priority 2 routes were not included in the routine salt run and primarily consist of the remainder of regional roads and public transport routes. Such roads may be treated in addition to Priority 1 routes in times of very severe weather.

A full Winter Maintenance Review of roads was carried out in 2018. The R401, from Gallagher's Cross, Dunmurray to Rathangan was on this secondary list and it was not planned presently to add this to the Priority 1 list.

Councillor Stafford asked for a list of all the Priority 1 and Priority 2 routes for next month's meeting.

The Senior Executive Officer from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department informed the members a list would be made available for next month's meeting.

The report was noted.

### **KN18/0319**

The Mayor requested to take items 20 and 22 together and all the members agreed.

#### **Item 20.**

##### **Issues on the Curragh Plains**

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

That the council review and explain the early recommendation of the Curragh Forum that bye-laws be used to address some of the ongoing issues on the Curragh Plains.

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that the District Manager was scheduled to meet with the Department of Defence on Friday 15 March to discuss all issues raised by the elected members and, in particular, the Curragh plains initiative. The members would be briefed at the next municipal district meeting.

The District Manager informed the members that he had met the Department of Defence to outline the issues and concerns raised by the members. He advised that he discussed the possibility of a Shared Vision on a partnership (joint) basis with the Department of Defence. This would involve moving on the Discussion Paper issued at the end of last year to appoint consultants, who would have to be experienced and have an understanding of international best practice due to its national monument

status, engage in a meaningful public consultation including all the stakeholders and application for grant funding taking into consideration its value in terms of recreation/amenity, residents and tourism. He stated that the council had applied for €250K grant funding and this was unsuccessful.

The District Manager asked for the members patience as the Department of Defence have a number of formalities to consider in respect of funding and participation in this project, but that there was corporate buy in. He further advised that the Curragh Forum would likely be replaced with something new and that would be discussed at a later date. He stated that this was not a short term project but an ambitious plan that would take two years to progress.

Councillor Pender asked if the bye laws would address some of the issues and if there was any impetus from the Department of Defence.

In response, the District Manager stated he felt that the current legislation was out of date and any new legislation or regulations would form part of the overall plans for the Curragh Plains.

Councillor Stafford advised that Deputy Heydon raised this issue 28th February last in the Dáil. He stated that the Minister for Defence advised he would consider the best way forward and that two additional staff had been appointed overseeing activity on the Curragh. A new Commissioner had also been appointed who should be invited to meet with the District Manager.

Councillor McCabe advised that the Curragh Plains was a strategic national and cultural asset which was recognised under regulations for Parks. He expressed delight that a plan from the top down was coming to fruition and that the Curragh Forum was to be replaced and suggested a smaller more focussed group.

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

### **Item 22.**

**Neglectful treatment of the Curragh Plains**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Lynch. That this Municipal District Committee states its objection to the ongoing neglectful treatment of the Curragh Plains by the Department of Defence (not the military), requests an immediate explanation as to why a significant amount of organised dumping has occurred on a national monument and special area of conservation and demands a response from the Minister of Defence to action the 1999 Inter-Departmental task force report on the Curragh Plains.

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that the council agrees that the dumping of this construction and demolition waste was unacceptable and this had been communicated to the Department of Defence. A technical assessment of the material had been carried out and subject to further monitoring; it did seem that there was not a danger of environmental pollution. It does, however, remain an unauthorised use and, in this context, the council would be seeking a formal meeting with the Department of Defence to inter alia, ensure that all issues were fully addressed and resolved. The concerns of the elected members were fully understood and noted and would be conveyed to the Department of Defence.

Councillor Lynch circulated a picture of the dumping to the members and advised that 1,000 tonnes of material has been dumped. He added that this was a national heritage monument and special area of conservation where organised dumping had taken place which was a total disgrace. He stated that the council and Curragh Forum were made aware of the dumping six months ago and trucks had continued dumping material with no prosecutions or fines issued. He further stated that the Department of Defence had no explanation as to why this was allowed to take place.

Councillor Pender supporting the motion said that even if the material was removed it would not return the area to its natural state and the state should be held accountable.



Councillor Doyle asked who had sanctioned the dumping and stated that there was commercial benefit which should be issued penalties and that it was a breach of trust.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that the bye- laws for the Curragh were out of date and that the new legislation for the Curragh needed to be progressed as a matter of urgency. She asked where the council was with the Vision Statement and whether the €250,000 funding was to prepare the document or progress it. She also asked if it was going to be 50/50 funding from the joint partnership between the council and the Department of Defence noting that it was worrying that it was going to take another two years for the Vision Statement to be prepared.

The District Manager in response advised that this was a new initiative for which a new model would emerge and that legislation would be updated as the current legislation was outdated. He advised that he could only agree with the members that the dumping was a breach of trust and that the council were aware of where it came from and that under the Pollution Act, it was investigated and found to be no danger to the public or environment. He further added that it was unauthorised and the council would be pursuing this issue in conjunction with the Department of Defence. He outlined how the Vision Statement would progress with the involvement of all stakeholders which would cost approximately €250,000 and that environmental sensitivities would have to be factored in whether that be carried out as an Appropriate Assessment (AA) or Environment Impact Assessment (EIS) costing circa €100,000. The consultation process would be extensive and more innovative and it would be tendered internationally to examine areas such as heritage, historical, amenity value, residential, tourism potential and management of the Curragh Plains. He agreed to circulate the response to the parliamentary question and advised that there would be challenges but the Department of Defence were positive and on board

Councillor Lynch asked that the Department of Defence explain why dumping was allowed on the Curragh and suggested the council write to the Minister as it needs an answer.

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

**KN19/0319**

**The machinery yard in Newbridge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Lynch. That the council commits to retaining at least half an acre of the machinery yard for open public green space and a playground for Newbridge town and that plans are put in place to ensure this happens on foot of the sale of the machinery yard in Newbridge.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Part 8 process for the proposed development of a new machinery yard and regional salt barn at Jigginstown, Newhall, Naas, Co Kildare had commenced.

The closing date for submissions was 10 April 2019. On receipt of approval of the Part 8 from the members, the estimated timeline for full design, build and relocation from the existing machinery yard to the new location was 24 months.

The option for the existing machinery yard site could be examined and discussed over this time period.

Councillor Lynch said that this was an ideal location for a public green area or playground and that the council needed to retain an element for community gain and to include this in the Part 8 proposal.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy supported the motion and asked if some of the funding from the sale could be put back into the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District for community use.

Councillor Stafford stated that it was a reserved function of the full council to dispose of land.

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

**KN20/0319**

**The Water Tower**

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

Can the council outline any progress in terms of its investigation of how the Water Tower could be demolished and removed in Newbridge?

A report was received from the District Manager informing the council's consulting engineers, Donnachadh O'Brien and associates had been engaged to carry out a structural assessment of the Water Tower. He stated that an update should be available for the April meeting of the municipal district.

The report was noted.

**KN21/0319**

**Seating for the new Skatepark in Newbridge**

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

Given the success of the new Skatepark in Newbridge that the council provide; seating for parents who have no option at the moment but to stand for long periods while supervising young children; replace the bins that were removed when redesigning the park; the CCTV envisaged for the park.

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

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, Economic Community and Cultural Development Park informing the members that arrangements would be made to install seating for parents. One bin was removed close to the Moorefield Park as there were two bins at this location. This was relocated to beside the skatepark. The installation of CCTV would be progressed over the summer.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy thanked Mr Wallace on the success of the skatepark and stated that it was a huge addition to the community and she had received wonderful feedback from the public. She asked Mr Wallace was there another bin to be installed since one was removed as there was littering. She also asked if it would be possible to provide seating for parents who supervise children for long periods of time.

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

Councillor Stafford stated that he did not share the view that seating be provided in parks as it may cause anti-social behaviour and loitering but does appreciate parents have to stand.

Councillor Pender said in support of the motion that anti-social behaviour happens when the seating is placed behind buildings but as this was an open space area it would be less likely to occur. She suggested a small sign on the seat such as 'keep this area clean' would be sufficient especially in relation to littering.

Councillor McCabe acknowledging Mr Wallace's work on the skate park and stated that seating was essential to make it comfortable and enjoyable. He stated that the residents were happy with it and that more policing was needed in the area.

Councillor Aspell stated that this amenity was needed in the area and the skateboard committee was keeping the area clean.

Councillor Doyle stated that it was good to hear that there was positive feedback from the public.

Mr Wallace informed the members that the bin was removed by the Municipal District engineer but was relocated on the other side of the park. He said that a contract cleaner was appointed to clean the skate park. He added that the council would be installing seating similar to Athy and Naas play areas and if it was causing problems the council can decide to remove it. He also informed the members that the An Garda Síochána would be patrolling the skate park and talk to the skateboarders. This was organised by the newly formed skateboard committee who are also assisting with the upkeep.

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

### **KN22/0319**

#### **Drug related issues in Newbridge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McCabe. That this Municipal District Committee requests the South Western Regional Drugs Task Force to actively engage and address the drug related issues in Newbridge as the current situation is causing too much disruption and distress in the community.

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

A report was received from Economic, Community and Cultural Development informing the members that a decision on the motion was a matter for the members. If agreed, a letter could issue to the South Western Regional Drugs Task Force. Councillor McCabe stated that Newbridge has a drug problem and this was causing disruption and distress in the community. He stated that there were only 17 An Garda Síochána members allocated per 1000 population compared to Dublin where there was 76 Garda members allocated per 1000 population. He asked that the members agree that the council write to the Garda Commissioner and asked that they allocate more An Garda Síochána members into our community to tackle the problems in Newbridge.

Councillor Pender stated that until there was proper facilities for mental health, housing and employment that the South Western Regional Drugs Task Force could not resolve these problems on its own without the HSE, An Garda Siochana, council and relevant Government Departments co-operation to address issues that were as a result of the economic downturn.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated a holistic approach needed to take place and a meeting with all stakeholders including the Homeless agencies arranged. She added that there was no follow up to previous issues raised since last September and asked that the council write to South Western Regional Drugs Task Force asking why the meeting had not taken place.

Councillor Aspell stated that he does not want a message going out saying that Newbridge was a no go area and that there were a lot of good businesses and people in the town

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor Aspell and all members agreeing that the council write to the South Western Regional Drugs Task Force Commissioner inviting them to meet with the members and that the report be noted.

### **KN23/0319**

#### **A monument in Newbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Aspell. Can the council consider the possibility of erecting a monument in Newbridge for the men and women who served in the army that have died throughout all wars as Newbridge is a garrison town and has been involved with the army for a long time?

A report was received from the Meeting Administrator informing the members that in accordance with the Civic Memorial Policy, as approved by full council 26 February 2018, proposals must be formally submitted to Corporate Services whereby the Civic Memorial Technical Committee (which meets quarterly) would consider all applications deemed to be valid under the terms of the policy. Recommendations of

the Civic Memorial Technical Committee would be brought to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) for consideration. The CPG would consider the recommendations on all applications and determine whether the applications be brought before full council or the municipal district for a final approval.

To date, two applications has been recommended for approval by the Civic Memorial Technical Committee and approved by the CPG.

A report was received from the Arts Officer informing the members that this query was referred to the Civic Memorial Policy Committee for consideration, through the formal application process.

<http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/corporateservices/CorporateServices/CivicMemorialPolicy/>

The report was noted

### **KN24/0319**

#### **Discretionary LPT**

The members agreed the Discretionary LPT funding (See appendix B)

Ms Skehan confirmed she would email the members after the meeting advising them that if they had any further requests to make her aware before the next monthly meeting.

The meeting concluded.