

**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
meeting held at 10:00 a.m. on 20 November 2019 in
Áras 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, P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer, C Pender, R Power and P Ryan

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Ms E Wright, Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officers), Mr J Malone (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr J Murtagh (Executive Engineer), Ms V Cooke, (Administrative Officer), Mr D Keogh (Road Safety Officer), Ms B Cuddy (Municipal District Engineer), Ms K Keane, (Meetings Administrator) and Ms N Smullen (Meetings Secretary).

KN01/1119

Minutes and Progress Report

The Mayor stated that time permitting an in committee meeting would take place immediately after the meeting that day for the members to discuss LPT grant awards 2019.

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

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on 16 October 2019 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

KN02/1119

Matters Arising

Ms Wright introduced Mr Jim Malone, Senior Executive Engineer who had recently joined the Building and Development Control Section and stated he would be working with Mr Murtagh. Councillor Stafford welcomed Mr Malone to the meeting.

(KN09/0919) Walkway - Newbridge Rail Station and the Ring of Roseberry (Sexe's Bridge)

Ms Wright informed the members that the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department had written to Irish Rail asking that the walkway between Newbridge Rail Station and the Ring of Roseberry (Sexe's Bridge) remain open. She stated that a response had been received from Irish Rail which confirmed the pathway in question was owned by Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ) and was not suitable for use as a public walkway as it posed a safety risk. Ms Wright stated that Irish Rail would be holding an information evening at Newbridge Train Station on Wednesday 20 November from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. to outline their plans for the walkway and all the members were welcome to attend the meeting.

KN03/1119

Municipal District Road Works

The District Engineer informed the members that works on Melitia Road, Dunmurry Road, Chapel Lane, Priest Lane and additional works on Bucket Lane had been completed. She stated that road recycling works had been completed at the Ring of Roseberry, Mylerstown to Healy's Bridge and Rathernan to Blacktrench and footpath upgrades and full surface overlay were being carried out at Roseberry Stores.

The District Engineer stated that in relation to LPT/Pay Parking Projects/Footpath Improvements tenders had been issued for works at St. Patricks Park, Rathangan and works were due to commence shortly. She stated that maintenance works were ongoing across the municipal district including water cuts, extensive jetting of surface water pipe network ongoing patching and cleaning and repairing of road signs. The District Engineer stated that drainage works had been carried out at Paddy's Bridge and the line marking program was ongoing with upgrading of road lining throughout the municipal district.

KN04/1119

LPT Grant Awards 2019

Councillor Stafford proposed that the matter be deferred and listed on the December agenda for the Kildare-Newbridge meeting for further discussion.

Resolved with the agreement of all members present that the consideration of the LPT grant awards for 2019 be listed on the December agenda.

KN05/1119

Christmas Parking Arrangements

The members considered the Christmas pay parking arrangements in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District for 2019.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members as follows:

Newbridge 2018:

There will be no suspension of Pay Parking in Newbridge except for the GAA car park ONLY where there would be free parking on Saturday 15, Friday 21 and Saturday 22 December 2018. Illegal parking would continue to be enforced in all areas over the Christmas period.

Kildare Town 2018:

There would be no suspension of Pay Parking in Kildare Town, however, there would be two hours free parking (on street and Kildare County Council off-street car parks) between 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Monday-Friday, commencing Monday 17 December. Payment for parking from 11.00am was required. Normal enforcement times of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday would recommence at 9: 00 a.m. on Wednesday 02 January 2019. Illegal parking would continue to be enforced in all areas over the Christmas period.

Councillor Stafford stated that generally some form of relief on Pay Parking was offered during the Christmas period and stated it had not been deemed appropriate in the past for full suspension of Pay Parking. He gave the members an overview of the arrangements which had been put in place for 2018 and invited the members suggestions as to what arrangements they were proposing for 2019.

Councillor Doyle proposed that the arrangements for Newbridge remain the same as 2018 and Kildare Town requirement for payment of parking be extended from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Ms Wright clarified that the members were proposing to suspend three hours of Pay Parking in Kildare Town to facilitate a three hour free parking period from 16 December to 02 January inclusive.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Power seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the report be noted and agreed by all the members present that there would be no suspension of Pay

Parking in Newbridge except for the GAA car park ONLY where there would be free parking on Saturday 14, Friday 20 and Saturday 21 December 2019 and there would be no suspension of Pay Parking in Kildare Town, however, there would be three hours free parking (on street and Kildare County Council off-street car parks) between 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, commencing Monday 16 December until Thursday 02 January 2020. Payment for parking from 12:00 p.m. was required. Normal enforcement times of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday would recommence at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday 02 January 2020. Illegal parking would continue to be enforced in all areas over the Christmas period.

Councillor Stafford reminded the members of the requirements under Standing Orders relating to speaking times and speaking on questions and sought the members co-operation in this regard.

KN06/1119

Suspension of Standing Orders

Councillor McLoughlin Healy proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to facilitate a discussion in relation to the car park in the Riverside Apartment Complex, Kilcullen. She stated that the members were awaiting an answer as to why businesses had not been consulted with. She stated that she understood information had been circulated in relation to a meeting with the businesses and the Public Realm Team and she stated it was not acceptable that the members had not been informed of the meeting.

The District Manager stated that Councillor McLoughlin Healey's comment was unfair given the fact the business community had sought a meeting with the Public Realm Team independently which was due to take place at 4:00 p.m. that day. He stated that there was a list of questions which had been received from the members and a commitment had been given to revert to the members on their queries. He apologised and acknowledged the item should have been listed on the agenda for discussion that day and stated representatives from the Public Realm Team could attend the meeting at 12:00 p.m. to answer the member's questions. Councillor McLoughlin Healy proposed that as there was question on the agenda (item 24) in relation to the car park that Standing Orders be suspended to facilitate a discussion on this question.

Councillor Doyle stated that the members had an opportunity to list the item as a motion on the agenda and stated this was clearly not the case. The Cathaoirleach called for a vote on Councillor

McLoughlin Healy's proposal to suspend Standing Orders to facilitate a discussion in relation to the car park in the Riverside Apartment Complex, Kilcullen.

Resolved with 2 members voting in favour of the proposal to suspend Standing Orders to facilitate a discussion in relation to the car park in the Riverside Apartment Complex, Kilcullen
4 members voting against and 5 members abstaining, that Standing Orders not be suspended, and the item be listed on the December agenda.

KN07/1119

Pedestrian Crossing, Páirc Mhuire

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer.

That the council consider installing a pedestrian crossing at Páirc Mhuire, Moorefield Shopping Centre, Newbridge.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Pender.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were no plans at this time to provide a pedestrian crossing at this location. This would require a technical assessment to include a pedestrian count, traffic and speed count to determine if a crossing was warranted at the location. Such an assessment would need to be carried out by the Technical Assessment Advisory Group (TAAG) in consultation with the Traffic Management Section and if deemed warranted, a source of funding would need to be identified.

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

- Councillor O'Dwyer and the District Engineer had met on site it was asked if a pedestrian crossing could be considered for the residents
- It was understood that a traffic count assessment etc. was required but questioned if there was any legislative reason why experienced engineers could not make recommendations without having to refer items to the TAAG
- Is funding available for such works to be carried out

The District Engineer stated that the Municipal District Office had examined the site, but the shopping centre was located on a bend and given the fact that the Municipal District Office is not set up as a design team it was necessary to refer the case to the TAAG.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Pender that the report be noted and the case be referred to the TAAG.

KN08/1119

Sex's Bridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer.

That the council consider installing a safety rail or another safety feature to safeguard pedestrians at Sex's Bridge.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Duffy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the footpath was restricted in width in areas along the bridge and installation of a barrier would only cause further restrictions. In relation to other possible solutions a full technical assessment would be required.

Councillor P O'Dwyer stated that she would argue that there was more traffic at Sex's Bridge than at the Station Road Bridge and asked if the council could look at an alternative solution to safeguard pedestrians. The District Engineer stated that a project would be required to examine possible solutions and there was no quick fix solution.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Duffy that the report be noted.

KN09/1119

Light at St Paul's Church

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

That the council provide a public light at St Paul's Church, Ballysax.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was no proposal to provide public lighting at this location as the installation of street lighting to illuminate such rural settlements was not economically or environmentally sustainable. The provision of street lighting at this location would have a negative impact on the rural character of the local landscape.

Councillor Connolly stated that she did not accept the report and stated the church was used for a variety of purposes including a community centre. She asked for a new light to be installed. Ms Wright stated as the light was within the church grounds it did not fit the criteria for public lighting. She stated that the council were currently identifying areas which needed new lights/repairs to existing lights, but no work was being carried out on lights located on private property.

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

KN10/1119

Naas Community National School

The Mayor welcomed teachers and pupils from third and sixth class of Naas Community National School to the meeting. He outlined the purpose of the meeting and the role of both the elected members and the council officials at the meeting.

KN11/1119

Light in St Evin's Park, Monasterevin

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

That the council consider putting up a light at the back of the houses from (details provided) to the end of that row in St Evin's Park, Monasterevin.

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

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

Councillor Ryan stated that the area at the back of the houses was extremely dark and was subject to anti-social behaviour. She stated that she hoped funding would be provided to install a light. Ms Wright stated that all requests would be assessed using the priority system. She stated that a status report on KLIPS would be issued to the members on a quarterly basis. Ms Wright stated that members will be advised how a fair, equitable, accessible KLIPS report is produced including the methodology used. She stated that pressures to reduce public lighting bills was a focus for 2020 and after that had been achieved the council may be in a better position to consider other requests.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Duffy that the report be noted, and the Public Lighting Section visit the location of the requested new street light followed by an assessment using the priority system within Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS).

KN12/1119

Road at The Bull Ring Entrance

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

That the council resurface the road at the small entrance into the Bull Ring in Gurteenooona, Monasterevin.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this road could be included for consideration as part of the 2020 budget subject to meeting the criteria set out by the Department and budget availability

Councillor Ryan stated that a small ring of houses were located on the area. The District Engineer stated that all resurfacing works were completed in early January and any requests received for same would be examined by the Municipal District Office and listed for discussion with the members. She stated that there was a very small budget to cover such works. Councillor Duffy asked if the same criteria applied to severe pot holes or if there was scope for immediate repair in such cases. The District Engineer stated that serious cases were prioritised especially on the main and national roads.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Duffy that the report be noted, and this road be included for consideration as part of the 2020 budget subject to meeting the criteria set out by the Department and budget availability.

KN13/1119

R413 New Abbey Road

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

That the council implement the court recommendations (details provided) for the R413 New Abbey Road between Brannockstown and Kilcullen as a matter of urgency given the time of year and the imminent onset of icy roads.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that it was the council's policy to attempt to maintain the principal roads within the county and keep them open for traffic and free from ice at all times during the winter season. Weather conditions were monitored on a daily basis during the winter season and ten routes were salted as necessary. A copy of the Winter Maintenance Plan and Salting Route Map was available on Kildare County Councils web site. The R413 between Brannockstown and Kilcullen was included in the designated salting routes. The National Road Safety Authority issued advisories to all motorists to drive with caution during the winter months and Kildare County Councils web site and social media sites also issued ongoing advisories. The County Wide Speed Limit Review was ongoing and the R413 would be examined as part of the review. The enforcement of speed limits on all roads was a matter for An Garda Síochána.

Councillor T O'Dwyer stated that she accepted the report and asked in the interim if signage could be installed to highlight warnings for black ice and asked if road improvements could be carried out to help alleviate the slippery surface in winter months. She acknowledged that the road was included on the salting route. The District Engineer stated the road was examined the previous week and stated it would be considered for improvement works in January.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor O'Dwyer that the report be noted, and the R413 be considered for improvement works in January 2020.

KN14/1119

Roundabout at Thompsons Cross

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

That based on feedback from An Garda Síochána Kilcullen, the council investigate the necessity of putting in place a roundabout at Thompsons Cross, Kilcullen given the high volume of incidents which is on average a minimum of one accident per month but more importantly, the high impact of the accidents at this location.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Department/Naas Municipal District recently spent in excess of €75,000 in this area as part of Low-Cost Safety Improvement works. The provision of a roundabout would warrant resources to complete a technical examination to include junction analysis, traffic counts, speed analysis, accidents recorded, and a possible CPO process to secure sufficient lands, and identification of a funding source.

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

- A substantial amount of money had been spent on Thompson's Cross and it was appreciated there were budget implications/restrictions which were acknowledged
- There was no issue with the onus being on the members to find funding for these works
- If the local landowner was willing to contribute land it would speed up the process

- Did the council automatically erect black spot signs in areas where fatal accidents had occurred
- Councillor T O'Dwyer requested that the item remain on the progress report

Ms Wright stated that €75,000 had been funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) for this area. She stated that the provision of a roundabout would be a lengthy process involving a CPO, land acquisition, and a technical assessment. Councillor T O'Dwyer stated she would discuss the matter further with Ms Wright after the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer that the report be noted and that this item remain on the progress report.

KN15/1119

Lighting at the Entrance to Clongorey

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

That the council consider the installation of road lighting at the entrance to Clongorey and District Community Centre (Eircode W12TN25) on the Old Bog Road, Clongorey.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was no proposal to provide public lighting at this location as the installation of street lighting to illuminate such rural settlements was not economically or environmentally sustainable. The provision of street lighting at this location would have a negative impact on the rural character of the local landscape.

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

- The Community Centre had been awarded significant funding from a Capital Project and on completion of the project the matter would be revisited
- It was asked if the Capital Project contributed towards the cost of the installation of the lighting, would it impact on the response received the Roads Department
- A rural lighting scheme was currently being piloted and there may be a variation of that scheme which could come into operation

- It was not sustainable to add any additional lighting to the rural lighting scheme
- The cost of a standard light was €5,000 with the additional cost of the electricity used
- The matter could be looked at by the members in terms of LPT monies

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

KN16/1119

Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) Monasterevin

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

That the council undertake a review to consider restricting Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and erect associated warning signage on Drogheda Street, Monasterevin to improve safety and traffic congestion in the vicinity of the three primary schools located there.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a restriction on Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) would require an appropriate alternative route plan to be developed in the immediate area. The Road Safety Officer and Municipal District engineer had recently examined this area with a view to improving road safety, access to the three schools, the provision of disabled parking bays, and managing vehicle movements during school opening and closing hours. The members might wish to consider an initiative currently being piloted in another local authority under the Green Schools Initiative - the '*School Streets*' initiative which prohibits vehicles from driving up to schools at the beginning and end of each school day. The piloting of this initiative would require engagement and agreement from the local community, schools, parents, and the members in consultation with An Garda Síochána and Kildare County Council's Municipal District Engineer and Road Safety Officer. Enforcing the car free zone would be via An Garda Síochána and Kildare County Council traffic wardens which would address congestion, unsafe parking and blocking of footpaths, road safety risks due to vehicular movements, children being exposed to air pollution, and car-dependent children being less physically active.

Councillor Duffy asked if an alternative route plan would be developed and if the council would be willing to discuss the School Street Initiative with Fingal County Council.

Ms Wright stated that any restriction on HGV access would have to be via An Garda Síochána as they were the only authority who could enforce a restriction. She stated a full technical assessment would be required and all areas would need to be examined. Ms Wright stated that Mr Keogh, the Road Safety Officer would be liaising with Fingal County Council in relation to the School Street Initiative and it would involve huge commitment from the schools. She stated that initially it would be a trial run to ensure it would be the appropriate area. She stated that the first step would be to have a consultation on line to get input from the schools, parents and local businesses.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Ryan that the report be noted, and an online consultation be advertised to invite submissions from the schools, parents and local businesses for the School Street Initiative Programme.

KN17/1119

Signage and Road Markings on Oghill Bridge

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

That the council consider the installation of signage and road markings on Oghill Bridge, Oghill, Monasterevin under the low-cost accident scheme to warn drivers of the concealed entrance at the bridge and improve road safety.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the application for 2020 Low Cost Accident Schemes had now been submitted, the council would carry out an assessment and if suitable it would be included in next year's submission.

Councillor Duffy asked if the assessment would be carried out in 2020 or 2021. The District Engineer stated that the application would be compiled for 2021 as it involved designing and costing.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted and that an assessment of the area be carried out and if suitable it would be included in next year's submission for the Low Cost Accident Schemes.

KN18/1119

Road Surface on the Barrettstown to Clongorey Road

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

That the council liaise with Irish Water or other relevant bodies to investigate continual, consistent deterioration over the years of 70m of road surface on the Barrettstown to Clongorey and District Community Centre (53.213035, -6.783769) Newbridge, and thereafter remediate the aforementioned stretch of road.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this road could be included for consideration as part of the 2020 budget subject to meeting the criteria set out by the Department and budget availability. The council had carried out some remedial works at this location during the previous week.

Councillor Heavey stated that there was a 70 metre stretch of road which had been repaired several times. He stated that a substantial amount of surface water was consistently on the road and stated that it could be either a leak from a water main or a problem with the drainage on the road. The District Engineer stated that there was soft ground underneath the road surface which could be part of the problem. She stated the council would have the area checked in terms of leakage from the water main and the Municipal District Office would consider including the area as part of the Annual Roads Programme.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey, seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer that the report be noted, and the council check the area for leakage from the water main and the Municipal District Office consider including the area as part of the Annual Roads Programme.

KN19/1119

Bus Stops

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

That the council engage with Bus Éireann to repair or replace damaged bus stops in the municipal district such as those on the Green Road, Newbridge.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy. A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that if the members were in agreement, the Roads Department would engage with Bus Éireann to examine, repair and replace damaged bus stops in the municipal district.

Councillor Pender stated that he knew of five damaged bus stops and asked for the members support for the council to liaise with Bus Éireann to examine, repair and replace damaged bus stops.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by all members present that the report be noted, and the Roads Department engage with Bus Éireann to examine, repair and replace damaged bus stops in the municipal district.

KN20/1119

Traffic calming measures at The Standhouse Rise

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

That the council investigate speed calming measures in the form of ramps for The Standhouse Rise, Standhouse Lawns and Fenview area, given its close proximity to a primary school.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this would require a technical assessment by the Technical Assessment Advisory Group (TAAG) and traffic/speed counts.

Councillor Pender stated that he accepted the area would require a technical assessment.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the report be noted and a technical assessment by the Technical Assessment Advisory Group (TAAG) and traffic/speed counts be carried out.

KN21/1119

Surface Dressing at Ballygaddy and Coolelan

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

That the council include sections of the road at Ballygaddy and Coolelan, Rathangan in the next surface dressing programme.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this road could be included for consideration as part of the 2020 budget subject to meeting the criteria set out by the department and budget availability.

Councillor Stafford stated that he accepted the report. He noted that part of the road was under the remit of Offaly County Council and it was important to ensure this part of road was not overlooked.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted, and this section of road be included for consideration as part of the 2020 budget subject to meeting the criteria set out by the department and budget availability.

KN22/1119

Bus Stop, Ruanbeg

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

That this Municipal District Committee make a request to the National Transport Authority to have a bus stop installed close to Ruanbeg in Kildare Town.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that if the members were in agreement, the Roads Department would make a written

request to the National Transport Authority (NTA) to consider installing a bus stop at this location, in consultation with licensed bus service providers.

Councillor Doyle stated that if the members agreed she would be happy for the Roads Department to write to the National Transport Authority (NTA).

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Power that the report be noted, and agreed by all members present that the Roads Department write to the National Transport Authority (NTA) requesting them to consider installing a bus stop at this location, in consultation with licensed bus service providers

KN23/1119

Bundle of Sticks Roundabout

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer.
Can the council confirm who is responsible for the maintenance of the Bundle of Sticks Roundabout as it has ongoing problems with flooding?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that responsibility for maintenance of the Bundle of Sticks Roundabout rested with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and at this time, Kildare County Council had not been notified of an anticipated change of responsibility for its management.

The report was noted.

KN24/1119

Nags Head Junction

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Ryan.
Can the council give an update on the schedule of works to be carried out at the Nags Head Junction, Monasterevin?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were no planned works or budget allocated at the present time. As part of the proposed Parking Bye-Laws this area could be considered with a view to improving visibility by restricting parking.

The report was noted.

KN25/1119

Traffic Calming Measures Kildare Road

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

Can the council confirm if it has any plans to put in place some traffic calming measures on Kildare Road, Rathangan?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office had no plans to carry out upgrades/traffic calming on the road in question.

The report was noted.

KN26/1119

Speed Limit Signs at the Entrance to Martinstown Lane

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

Can the council confirm if it has any plans to erect speed limit signs at the entrance to Martinstown Lane, Martinstown?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this was in the Athy Municipal District and there were no plans to erect speed limit signs in advance of the completion of the County Wide Speed Limit review, which was ongoing.

The report was noted.

KN27/1119

Car Spaces at the Riverside Apartment Complex

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

Can the council confirm if the 39 above ground car spaces at the Riverside Apartment Complex, Kilcullen are public or privately-owned spaces and if the spaces are privately owned, can the council further confirm if there are any stipulations on the owners of this car park to ensure access is permitted indefinitely to the general public?

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that this was not a planning matter. This issue was being dealt with by the Strategic

Projects and Public Realm Team, who were currently looking into the matter, and would advise in due course.

Councillor Stafford noted that this item would be listed on the agenda for the December meeting and The District Manager agreed the item would be listed.

The report was noted.

KN28/1119

Disabled Car Parking Bays Outside St. Peter's National School

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

Can the council provide an update on the proposed timeframe to install the two disabled car parking bays outside St. Peter's National School, Monasterevin that was agreed at the July Municipal District Meeting?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District had agreed to fund this, and the design/layout was currently being finalised. The timeline for installation would be agreed in early 2020 in consultation with the Municipal District Engineer as part of the schedule of works in consultation with the Parking Section.

The report was noted.

KN29/1119

Monasterevin Traffic and Parking Bye-Laws

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

Can the council provide a timeframe for the completion of the Monasterevin traffic and parking Bye-Laws?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the statutory procedure required for the Draft Bye-Laws could commence in 2020 subject to further discussion and agreement by the members in consultation with the Municipal District Engineer and the Pay Parking Section.

The report was noted.

KN30/1119

Old Bog Road from Barrettstown to the Clongorey

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

Can the council confirm when is it proposed to repair the significant dip (53.213428- 6.784960) on the Old Bog Road from Barrettstown to the Clongorey and District Community Centre?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this road could be included for consideration as part of the 2020 budget subject to meeting the criteria set out by the Department and budget availability. The council had carried out some remedial works at this location that week and would continue to schedule routine maintenance as required.

Councillor Heavey noted these works had now been completed.

The report was noted.

KN31/1119

New Lighting and Markings on Poles

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

Can this Municipal District Committee be updated on the upgrade works to public lighting in relation to progress on the installation of new lighting in the municipal district and markings on the poles in order to facilitate proper and efficient reporting of faults?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a Kildare Lighting Priority Scheme (KLIPS) report was issued to all members in October 2019 detailing all new lighting installations which had been progressed in 2018/19 in the county. The report also detailed requests which were awaiting assessment and identified requests where public lighting would not be installed. A surveying programme was to be undertaken where all new and previously installed lighting would be numbered and available to log faults on the online fault reporting system. The surveying programme would only include locations which were in charge of Kildare County Council.

The report was noted.

KN32/1119

Public Lighting Projects

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council provide a progress report on the assessment and implementation of public lighting projects in the municipal district outlining; their current status on the Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Programme, where funding is likely to come from, and how many have been submitted for consideration in budget 2020?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a Kildare Lighting Priority Scheme (KLIPS) report was issued to all members in October 2019 detailing all new lighting installations which had been progressed in 2018/19 in the county. The report also included details of requests which were awaiting assessment and identified requests where public lighting would not be installed. Public Lighting installations were funded directly from the Public Lighting budget, however, if members wished to provide additional funding from LPT to progress a specific project, this could be discussed and accommodated. The identified project would have to be either an upgrade of existing infrastructure or a project approved under the KLIPS criteria. The Public Lighting Section was currently working to complete the projects funded in 2018/19 and had not assessed any projects for 2020.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy raised issues in relation to the content of the updated KLIPS report and Ms Wright stated a copy of the KLIPS assessment criteria would be issued to the members. The report was noted.

KN33/1119

Fixed Charge Penalty Notices

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford. Can the council confirm how many payments for fixed charge penalty notices have been returned to members of the public in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District over the past 3 years on the basis that they have been submitted outside the statutory period for payment and how long does it take to process these returns?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department did not return payments

made outside the statutory period as payments were accepted up to the Court stage once they were the correct amount. The Roads Department and/or their agents only returned underpayments.

Councillor Stafford stated he did not accept the response but would deal with the matter separately outside the meeting.

The report was noted.

KN34/1119

GP Services

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

That this Municipal District Committee request a report from HSE outlining GP service hours in towns throughout the municipal district with details of the number of GP services that are no longer accepting patients.

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

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

Councillor Doyle stated she would welcome the members support to request a report from the HSE. She stated that doctors working hours varied and she had concerns in relation to the level of GP's and mental health support available to the public. Councillor McLoughlin Healy supported the motion and stated it would be helpful if the report included details of the GP's due to retire in the coming years. Councillor P O'Dwyer stated she was a member of the Health Forum and she would raise the matter at their December meeting. Councillor Doyle requested that a draft of the letter be sent to her before sending it.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Connolly and agreed by all members present that the report be noted and the Corporate Services Department write to the HSE requesting a report outlining GP service hours in towns throughout the municipal district with details of the number of GP services who are no longer accepting patients and details of the GP's due to retire in the coming years.

KN35/1119

Community Policing Unit

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council write to the Chief Superintendent on behalf of the municipal district members asking for consideration of a dedicated Community Policing Unit and a dedicated Drugs Unit for Newbridge given the current restructuring of An Garda Síochána divisions and the opportunity this offers.

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

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

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that the ratio of Gardai for Kildare was 40% less than other counties and noted the population of Newbridge had increased by 189%.

Following a discussion amongst the members the following points were raised:

- A dedicated Community Policing Unit and a dedicated Drugs Unit for Newbridge was badly needed
- It was important to keep pressure on Superintendents given the current pressures on resources
- It was requested the matter be referred to the Steering Committee of the Joint Policing Group (JPC)

The Meetings Administrator sought the members approval to the motion being referred to the Steering Committee of the JPC.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Heavey and agreed by all members present that the report be noted, and the council write to the Chief Superintendent on behalf of the municipal district members asking for consideration of a dedicated Community Policing Unit and a dedicated Drugs Unit for Newbridge. The matter to be referred to the Steering Committee of the Joint Policing Group (JPC).

KN36/1119

Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Expenditure

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

Can the council give an update on how much has been spent in this municipal district on Housing Assistance Payments (HAP's) in the last 2 years, particularly in Monasterevin, as it is not a rent pressure zone?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that HAP Landlord payments were processed by the HAP Shared Services Centre and they had provided the following information in relation to expenditure in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area. The council were awaiting a response from the Shared Services Centre as to the possibility of proving this information in relation to Monasterevin specifically:

HAP Landlord Payments Kildare Newbridge Municipal District Area

2018: €5,633,689

2019 year to date: €5,601,442

Councillor Ryan asked when the figures in relation to Monasterevin would be available. Ms Scully stated that as soon as the Housing Department received the information, it would be circulated to the members.

The report was noted.

KN37/1119

International Disability Day

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer.

Can the council advise if it has any plans to turn the Newbridge Town Hall and the library at Riverbank purple on 03 December to celebrate International Disability Day?

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that Facilities would be lighting up the Newbridge Town Hall on the 03 December to celebrate International Disability Day.

The report was noted.

KN38/1119

Vacant Unit in Suncroft

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

Can this Municipal District Committee have a progress report on the vacant unit (details provided) in Suncroft?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that this property had been taken into Kildare County Council stock and a request had been sent to the Maintenance Section to prepare it for allocation.

The report was noted.

KN39/1119

Inspections on Private Rented Dwellings

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

Can the council advise how many inspections were carried out on private rented dwellings in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District in the last year and how many improvement and prohibition notices were issued during that time?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that in the period from October 2018-October 2019 Kildare County Council had carried out 369 inspections in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District resulting in a total of:

347 Works/Improvement Letters.

23 Improvement Notices.

7 Prohibition Notices.

Councillor Stafford stated that he was looking for the number of notices issued specifically in relation to council and private dwellings. Ms Scully stated that she would forward details to Councillor Stafford.

The report was noted.

KN40/1119

Planning Permission for Multiples (Retail) – Bring Centres

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

Can this Municipal District Committee have a report on the number of multiples (retail) granted planning permission in this municipal district in the past 3 years with details on how many have been conditioned to deliver bring centres to support the recycling of reusable materials and where such a condition has not been applied, the reason why?

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that the information requested was not available in the format required. In order to ascertain the numbers, it would be necessary to check the detail of every file which was granted permission during the last three years and to decide whether or not it fitted into the category required. Then it would be necessary to read through all the conditions attached to each one and to also check to ensure that An Bord Pleanála had not changed the conditions attached.

All planning applications were referred to relevant internal council departments as a matter of course and if, for example, a condition requiring the provision of a “bring centre” was recommended this was duly considered. The members received a weekly list of all planning applications received and decisions made.

Councillor Doyle asked if multiples which had been granted planning permission in the last three years had been conditioned to deliver bring centres. Ms Cooke stated she would check for further details with the Planning Department and revert to Councillor Doyle.

The report was noted.

KN41/1119

Waste Water Treatment Plant in Rathangan

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

That the council ask Irish Water to carry out a full examination of the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Rathangan.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that if the members were in agreement a letter could be issued to Irish Water on behalf of their request.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Connolly, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by all members present that the report be noted and a letter issue to Irish Water asking them to carry out a full examination of the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Rathangan.

KN42/1119

Visitor Bed Space Accommodation

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

That an incentive scheme to increase the level of visitor bed space accommodation be developed in this municipal district in the interest of addressing deficits in this field and focusing on the conversion of vacant commercial space within relevant towns for this purpose. This scheme might examine the feasibility of developing a co-operative model for management and quality control of same.

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

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Services Department informing the members that this was an interesting suggestion which would take some level of research and consideration to develop. This motion merits being referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) as inputs from Kildare Fáilte, the Planning Department and the Business Support Unit would be required.

Councillor Doyle stated she was happy with the response and agreed the matter should be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the report be noted, and the matter be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

KN43/1119

Noxious Weeds Old Magee Barracks

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council provide a progress report and clarify its role in relation to ongoing noxious weeds issue on the Old Magee Barracks site which is continuing to infringe on residential property in the area causing harm to residents and their property.

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

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department informing the members that this was not an issue for the Environment Department.

Under the Noxious Weeds Act, 1936, it was an offence for the owner/occupier of lands not to prevent the growth and spread of noxious weeds. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine was the agency responsible for the enforcement of the Act.

Persons wishing to report a location at which Noxious Weeds were present, could do so by completing a report form and submitting it to the Department of Agriculture, Food And the Marine via the following email address: noxiousweedsreport@agriculture.gov.ie

A report was also received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that the control of Invasive Species on private land was a matter for the owner and not Kildare County Council.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that there was an ongoing issue with Japanese Knotweed and Ragwort at Magee Barracks. She stated that the weeds had caused damage to sheds and residents had been subject to skin burns from them. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked that going forward it would be helpful if all reports on agenda items were issued to the members in accordance with the agreed timelines in advance of the meeting given an additional report on this item had only been circulated at the meeting that day. She stated a consultant had been employed to inject the Knotweed but no progress had been made. Councillor McLoughlin Healy noted that under the provision of the Noxious Weed Act 1936 notices to destroy noxious weeds could be issued. She asked if the council could notify the Department of Agriculture of the situation and request that they issue a notice to the private land owner. Councillor Stafford stated

that Ragwort was poisonous to animals and stated Japanese and Knotweed were not covered by the Act. He stated all submissions previously made to An Bord Pleanála in relation to noxious weeds and rodents for McGee Barracks had been unsuccessful.

The District Manager stated that the council had followed up on any commitments they had previously made. He apologised for the report not being issued in advance of the meeting and stated that going forward if reports were not issued on time with the agenda reports the item would be carried forward to the next meeting. The District Manager stated that the council would contact the Department of Agriculture but reiterated that the council's role was to facilitate the solution in dealing with the eradication of the weeds. Councillor McLoughlin asked if the council could contact Limerick City and Limerick County Councils to ascertain how they implemented their three-year Weed Control Action Plan. The District Manager stated that the Environment Section would liaise with both councils.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted, and the Environment Section write to the Department of Agriculture asking them to serve a Noxious Weed Notice to the land owner. The Environment Section also to liaise with Limerick City and County Councils in relation to their three year Weed Control Action Plan.

KN44/1119

Cherry Avenue Project

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

That the council furnish a report on why the Cherry Avenue Project in Kildare Town has failed to secure funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for the second successive occasion and identify what alternative sources of funding can be procured and indicate when works are due to commence.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that unfortunately, as stated in the motion, the application for funding to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019 in respect of Cherry Avenue was unsuccessful.

A previous application in respect of this project was submitted to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (rather than the Town and Village Renewal Scheme) had been unsuccessful on the grounds that it was considered premature in terms of design and implementation plan. A meeting has been arranged with the Department of Rural and Community Development on 19 November to discuss this and other applications the scheme across the county which were unsuccessful in this round of funding. The members will be advised on the feedback received. In the meantime, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team were working in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design and implementation plan with a view to bringing the project to shovel ready stage.

Councillor Stafford welcomed the news that the Public Realm Team were working with the Parks Section on a design for the Cherry Avenue Project. Ms Hunt stated that the application to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund had been unsuccessful as they did not fund the design and implementation plan of projects. She stated the Public Realm Team were developing the plan and design themselves with a view to going back to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund for funding. Councillor Heavey asked if a briefing on the Cherry Avenue Project could be given to the members. Councillor Doyle suggested a copy of the report which had been completed by consultants could be circulated to the members. Ms Hunt agreed to circulate the report to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Power that the report be noted and a copy of the consultant's report for the Cherry Avenue Project be circulated to the members.

KN45/1119

Health Check Athgarvan

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council provide a detailed progress report and schedule for engagement with residents and business owners in and around Athgarvan following the award of funding from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme in Oct 2018 and the subsequent engagement of a Health Check consultant in August 2018?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that Brady Shipman Martin had been engaged (this appointment took place in 2019 rather than 2018) to carry out a Health Check/urban design analysis of Athgarvan and develop an associated Town Renewal Plan. Once desktop research and surveys had been completed, public consultation workshops would commence. The members would be advised in advance of the commencement of the public consultation.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked that Athgarvan be prioritised in terms of having a Health Check carried out and Ms Hunt stated Athgarvan would be prioritised in terms of the Health Check process.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.