



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
Meeting held on 15 July 2020 in
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

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

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Ms B Cuddy, (District Engineer), Ms M Hunt, Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officers), Mr J McGowan (Senior Engineer), Ms S Scully, Ms V Cooke (Administrative Officers), Ms K Keane (Meetings Administrator) and Ms S Fitzgerald (Meetings Secretary).

KN01/0720

Statement from Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer

The Meetings Administrator read a statement from Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer stating that at the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday 17 June, Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer became unwell and had to leave the meeting and sought assistance from a Kildare County Council staff member.

For the purposes of declaration of interests, Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer confirmed she was a member of the following:

- Friends of Naas Hospital
- Board member of Newbridge Family Resource Centre
- Newbridge Access Group
- Friends of Eyre Powell
- Newbridge Samaritans
- Caragh Tidy Towns



KN02/0720

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the draft minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 17 June 2020 together with the progress report. The Meetings Administrator confirmed a proposed amendment to the June minutes ref KN03/0620 had been submitted by Councillor Mark Stafford and was circulated to the members. Councillor McLoughlin Healy disagreed with the proposed amendment and referenced the amendments to KN03/0620 she had submitted. The Meetings Administrator confirmed there had been a difficulty opening the attachments to Councillor McLoughlin Healy's email received that morning. A discussion took place and the members agreed to defer agreeing the amendment of KN03/0620 to the September meeting. The Meetings Administrator reminded Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy to send in her requested amendments to the January minutes, and the members agreed to discuss both sets of amendments at the September meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by the members that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on Wednesday, 17 June 2020 be taken as read with the exception of KN03/0620 which would be deferred to the September meeting. The progress report was noted.

KN03/0720

Matters Arising

KN17/0620, KN25/0120, KN23/0220

The District Manager confirmed that the Director of Service, Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department had agreed he would arrange to meet the members for an update on the following items:

- Cycle Projects across the Municipal District
- The Second Bridge for Newbridge
- Traffic Management Plan for Newbridge

A e-mail would issue to the members confirming the date of the meeting.



KN26/0620

The District Manager circulated a copy of a letter issuing an invitation to Bord na Móna to meet the members to discuss the following:

- The cultural quarter and possible synergies with Bord na Móna
- An update on the Just Transition and possible opportunities for collaboration with Kildare County Council
- Proposals for Ummeras Bog.

KN32/0120, KN32/0220

Councillor Ann Connolly informed the members that the letter received from the Department of Defence was unsatisfactory and did not address the issue of the planned usage for the Curragh Post Primary school.

KN34/0220

Councillor Ann Connolly asked for an update on the Vandalism at the Curragh Post Office. The District Manager confirmed he had arranged for a formal inspection to be carried out under the Derelict Sites Act, it was now receiving attention and the District Manager would keep the Planning Department and the members updated on this item.

KN04/0720

Schedule of Municipal District Road Works

The District Engineer updated the members of the following road works in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District:

Road Resurfacing Works:

Road resurfacing had been completed at the following locations, under the restoration and maintenance grant (Surface Dressing) Rathbride to Milltown, Rathbride cross to Kilmoney, Wheelam bridge to Rathbride cross and Thomastown Cross to Cloughgarett. The Municipal Office had 60% of the Surface dressing Program works completed.

Under the Restoration and improvement Grant works were completed on the following, Castlefish L6089, Common to Yellow bog L6086, Ballymee to Melonhill L6062, Derrylea L7081, Allen cross to Roadstone L3002, Southgreen Road to Kildare town L7015,



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Blackberry lane L7025, Blacktrench Road L7067 and under the Local improvement Scheme (LIS) works were completed in Lattensbog.

LPT:

The contract had been awarded for Pairc Mhuire and works would commence in the coming weeks. Academy Street works would commence next week. Roundtowers Foothpath - works had commenced the previous week. Footpath tenders were currently being prepared for Logstown, Avondale, Brannockstown, Kilcullen and Grangemore.

Miscellaneous Works:

The verge cutting was ongoing across all areas of the Municipal District. Kerb repairs and replacement of block wall at College Farm. Pothole repairs across the municipal district were being carried out. Site preparation for the second phase of Surface dressing. General Maintenance – water cuts, patching, gully cleaning. The cattle grid on the Rathbride Road had been repaired. Larger patching repairs were under tender for patching at Hybla, Monasterevin and Miltown

Low Cost Safety Schemes: Brownstown Cross

The District Engineer presented a drawing of proposed works to improve the safety at Brownstown Cross. The proposal would provide a raised tabletop with ramped entrances in all directions.

The District Engineer informed the members that funding for this type of project was minimal, the works would reduce the possibility of accidents at the crossroad, while the works were being carried out underground ducting for lighting would be included for future projects.

Councillor Stafford raised a concern regarding the parking at the business park which was not included in the drawing, the District Engineer confirmed this would be addressed in the realignment of white lines.

The Mayor and the members thanked the District Engineer for the report and for ongoing works carried out in the municipal district.

The report was noted.

KN05/0720

Upgrade of Academy Street, Kildare Town



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The members considered the upgrade of Academy Street, Kildare Town in accordance with National Transport Authority (Covid-19) Guidelines. The District Engineer circulated a drawing of the upgrade works to the members.

The District Engineer confirmed the following:

- The Municipal District Engineers office was in discussions with Public Realm on the works to be carried out.
- They would be providing a 3-metre-wide footpath
- There would be a one way turn onto Academy Street
- This area facilitated three schools
- All parking spaces would remain
- This upgrade would help with traffic flow in Kildare Town

During a discussion the following points were raised:

- Members had concerns regarding the one-way system
- The members agreed that Convent Road should be included in these plans
- Changes proposed could be met with resistance by the public
- Members were disappointed to see bollards in the plans as they felt they were unsightly and queried if trees/plants could be used instead of bollards?

The District Engineer confirmed there would be a limited number of bollards which would be in sleeves. Public Realm would ensure it looked pleasing to the eye; there would be room left for planters. No parking spaces would be removed.

Councillor Suzanne Doyle proposed that Convent Street be included in the upgrade of Academy Street. This was seconded by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, Seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by all members that the upgrade of Academy Street, Kildare Town be noted and should include Convent Street and the District Engineer to investigate including Convent Street in the upgrade works of Academy Street.

KN06/0720

Capital Programme 2021-2023



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The members discussed the Capital Programme 2021-2023.

The District Manager stated if the members had any issues to raise, he would contact the relevant Director of Service.

The members asked for the following projects to be forwarded to the relevant Directors of Service for an update:

- A playground for Newbridge with The Family Resource Centre a possible location
- Kildare Town Theatre Group
- A Retirement Village (on a small scale)
- A Youth Hub
- Cherry Avenue Park Project
- The Water Tower in Newbridge
- Cycle Path from Caragh to Naas
- A Creative Hub for Kildare Town

Resolved with all members agreeing the District Manager to follow up with relevant Directors of Service for the capital projects and a status update on timelines.

KN07/0720

Finance Committee Annual Report

The members noted the annual report submitted by the Finance Committee.

KN08/0720

LPT Unallocated Funding

The members discussed the finalising of the allocation of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District unallocated LPT funding.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer proposed that Kilcullen Community Centre be granted funding of €5,000 towards the cost of resurfacing and installing traffic management marking system around the community center. This was seconded by Councillor Ann Connolly.

Resolved that €5,000 LPT funding be allocated to the Kilcullen Community Center toward the cost of resurfacing and installing traffic management marking system around the community center.



The members agreed to defer the finalising of the allocation of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District 2020 unallocated community projects LPT funding to the September meeting.

KN09/0720

Taking in Charge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kevin Duffy. That the council prioritise the taking in-charge of Ros Glas Estate, Monasterevin as part of its 2020 program.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the housing estate Ros Glas Avenue, Monasterevin was not on the priority list of estates for Taking In Charge (TIC) in 2020. However, the Council would put it on the 2021 Taking in Charge list. The Council had written to the developer to request that the estate be completed to the required Taking in Charge standard and for the relevant Taking In Charge documents to be submitted. If the estate was not completed to the required Taking In Charge standard the council would have to call in the development bond. In the meantime, the Council would initiate the Taking In Charge process.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kevin Duffy and seconded by Councillor Ann Connolly that the report be noted, and the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department initiate the Taking in Charge process.

KN10/0720

Pedestrian Crossing at Lakeside Park and Allenview Heights

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

That the council consider a pedestrian crossing between Lakeside Park and Allenview Heights on the Morrinstown Road.



The motion was proposed by Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Mark Stafford.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this would be referred to the Traffic Section for assessment. Please note this would involve a number of traffic counts and these are normally only taken during the school opening periods to reflect significant peak traffic movements and pedestrian movement. Therefore, this assessment could only be carried out after September at the earliest.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Mark Stafford that the report be noted and this item be referred to the Traffic Section to carry out a traffic count.

KN11/0720

Thompson's Cross

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer. That the council prepare a Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme for Thompson's Cross, Kilcullen and commence discussions with An Garda Síochána Kilcullen to be in a position to access 2021 Government Funding for Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Suzanne Doyle.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office would agree to have a look at this location in relation to the Low-cost Safety Schemes for 2021. It should be noted that funding under this scheme by its very nature is small.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Suzanne Doyle that the municipal district office consider this location in relation to the Low-Cost Safety Scheme for 2021.

KN12/0720

Railway Station Bridge, Newbridge



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The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer.
That the council trim back the foliage on the Railway Station Bridge, Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this was included in the verge trimming schedule.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Chris Pender that the report be noted.

KN13/0720

Install a Footpath Drop Kerb at Woodview Estate

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kevin Duffy.
That the council install a footpath drop-kerb at Woodview Estate and the junction along Kill Hill (R417) Monasterevin to improve accessibility.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the municipal district office agreed to provide drop kerb as requested.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kevin Duffy, seconded by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy that the report be noted and the municipal district office to provide drop kerb at Woodview Estate and the junction along Kill Hill (R417) Monasterevin.

KN14/0720

Junction at Lackagh Cross

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



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That the council review the sightlines and the functioning of the junction at Lackagh Cross, Lackagh.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the municipal district office agreed to review as requested.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Mark Stafford and seconded by Councillor Noel Connolly that the report be noted and the municipal district office review the sightlines and the functioning of the junction at Lackagh Cross, Lackagh.

KN15/0720

Park and Ride Facility

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

That the council provide a park and ride facility on a bus route near the N7 within the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Noel Connolly and seconded by Councillor Chris Pender.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the development of Park and Ride along bus corridors was primarily the remit of the National Transport Authority who control public transport. That Authority seem to have begun to look at the matter. Kildare County Council, as the Road and Planning Authority would respond to any National Transport Authority proposals. The Senior Executive Officer, Roads and Transport will write to the National Transport Authority seeking their view on the matter and query if they have identified a need or have developed plans.

Councillor Noel Connolly asked for this item to remain on the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Noel Connolly and seconded by Councillor Chris Pender that the report be noted, a letter to issue to the National Transport Authority and this item to remain on the progress report.



KN16/0720

Oakland Grove, Kildare

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly. That the council close the gap between numbers 14 and 15 Oakland Grove, Kildare and following consultation with the residents, provide a meaningful purpose for the land between the two homes to prevent anti-social behaviour.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this was a public right of way and required due process to close it, if the local residents and members were in favour then we could start this process, it should be noted that there are limited resources for any works at this location.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Noel Connolly and Seconded by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy with the agreement of all members that the report be noted and the municipal district office to start the process of closing the public right of way between numbers 14 and 15 Oakland Grove, Kildare.

KN17/0720

Pedestrian Crossing

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Chris Pender. That the council install a pedestrian crossing at the rear entrance to Liffey Linear Park in order to encourage people to cross safely into the park.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that as part of a large residential development in the area a developer had been conditioned to provide additional pedestrian and cycle facilities on the Athgarvan Road. As part of these improvements a Toucan crossing was conditioned to be provided in the vicinity



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of the Liffey Linear Park entrance. It was anticipated that these works might commence in the near future.

Following discussions, the members raised the following:

- People were using unsafe ways to cross the street
- Had the pedestrian crossing been identified in the design of the Liffey Linear Park project?

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Chris Pender, Seconded by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy that the report be noted and the Road Design office investigate if the pedestrian crossing had been identified in the design of the Liffey Linear Park Project.

KN18/0720

Speed Limit and Overhanging Trees

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

That the council address safety issues along Tankardsgarden including the reduction of the speed limit to 50km an hour and to cut overhanging tree branches that are impacting on space available for vehicles and hindering the sight lines of drivers of vehicles on this route.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the municipal district office were currently trimming hedges and verges to provide safe sight lines within the municipal district area. It should be noted that the municipal district office did not have the budgets to cut hedges outside the provision of sightlines. The maintenance of hedges is the responsibility of the landowners.

A further report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council were carrying out a County Speed Limit Review which was the legal process for the adopting of speed limits. As part of this process Kildare County Council would review the Speed Limit in Tankardsgarden.



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Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked when the County Speed Limit would be completed and could she have further clarification on the tree cutting. The Senior Engineer confirmed the request for the inclusion of Tankardsgarden road would be included in the County Speed Limit Review.

The District Engineer confirmed details of the hedges would be given to the municipal district office to investigate.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Suzanne Doyle that the report be noted and the Senior Engineer to include Tankardsgarden road in the program for the County Speed Limit Review and the municipal district office to investigate the hedges/sightlines at Tankardsgarden.

KN19/0720

Cycleway Feasibility Study

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer. Can the council confirm if they have plans to carry out a cycleway feasibility study in the environs of Kilcullen Community Centre to be shovel ready for any new sources of funding that may come on stream?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there are no plans to carry out a cycle feasibility study in the environs of the Kilcullen Community Centre.

The report was noted.

KN20/0720

Unauthorized Closure of Public Road L812, Kildoon, Kildare

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Suzanne Doyle. Can the council provide a report on what means are proposed to remedy the issue of the unauthorized closure of the public road, L812, at Kildoon, Kildare?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Council have on a number of occasions tried to reopen (what it considers) the public road at Kildoon. On each occasion the work was undone. The Council



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recognizes the need to resolve the matter and are endeavoring to arrange mediation on the dispute. It is hoped the parties will respond positively but have not done so to date. Should this fail, the only recourse would be through the civil courts. However, the standard of proof available would need to be tested carefully before proceeding as the cost of this type of case is very expensive and recent experience would urge caution before proceeding. The matter is further complicated by the fact that the estimated traffic volume on a re-opened road would be so low as to be negligible.

The report was noted.

KN21/0720

Footpath from Cluain Alain to Newtown Cross

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford. Can the council furnish a progress report on the proposals to construct a footpath from Cluain Alain to Newtown Cross, Kildare Town?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the municipal district office had no funding for proposals at present.

The report was noted.

KN22/0720

Cycling and Pedestrian Infrastructure Projects

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

Can the council provide a list detailing where all the cycling and pedestrian infrastructure projects proposed in the last 5 years for this municipal district sit on the councils Technical Assessment Advisory Group list, clarifying dates added to the list, date of assessment, priority on the list and whether those cycle related projects have yet been migrated to the new cycle infrastructure specific assessment list requested and agreed to previously at full council?



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A report was received from the Director of Service, Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the above question encompasses several issues and it would need to be clarified that the purpose of the Technical Assessment Advisory Group (TAAG) when established was to assess technical issues related to traffic calming, pedestrian crossings, speed ramps, etc. I have noted concerns articulated by members in relation to the efficacy of the TAAG process and have instructed that the list of works referred be examined. Henceforth requests would be determined based on an established need defined in terms of standards or warrants, and there would have to be identified supporting finance for works of this nature.

Accordingly, members should note:

- a) The Technical Assessment Advisory Group (TAAG) would not deal with proposed cycling and pedestrian infrastructure projects, and accordingly no projects would be added to the list.
- b) The proposal agreed by the members at full Council had not yet been implemented. However, it was important to note that progress had been made in relation to requests by Kildare County Council to sanctioning and funding authorities with respect to recruitment. It was also welcome that some municipal districts had allocated funding specifically to advance schemes of this nature.

The members asked if a system could be set up for members to see clearly which projects were on the list and where they were on the list.

The Senior Engineer confirmed there would be a system set up and he would report the concerns of the members to the Director of Service, Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department.

The report was noted.

The Mayor requested items 21 & 23 be taken together, all members agreed

KN23/0720

Newbridge Town Hall Bookings

Item 21

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



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Can the council provide a date from which Newbridge Town Hall will be available for bookings?

A report was received from Corporate Services Department informing the members that no decision had yet been made in relation to the re-opening of Newbridge Town Hall for general bookings. The activities to be permitted and procedures for use would need to be reviewed with regard to Public Health Guidelines and Health and Safety measures in light of Covid 19. This review would be done in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

Item 23

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Chris Pender. Can the council confirm what the timeline is for Newbridge Town Hall and other community halls in this municipal district, to be open for public bookings?

A report was received from Corporate Services Department informing the members that no decision had yet been made in relation to the re-opening of Newbridge Town Hall for general bookings. The activities to be permitted and procedures for use would need to be reviewed with regard to Public Health Guidelines and Health and Safety measures in light of Covid 19. This review would be done in the coming weeks.

A further report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Department, informing the members that Monasterevin Community Hall was still under refurbishment by facilities and hoped to be completed soon. The running of other community facilities was in the hands of their Local Committees/Association and it was up to each Committee/ Association to decide when the facility should be opened and to ensure that HSE guidelines were adhered to.

The reports were noted.

The Mayor requested items 22 & 35 be taken together, all members agreed

KN24/0720

Housing Development, St Evins Park, Monasterevin



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Item 22

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly. Can the council confirm what is the target completion date for the infill housing development in St. Evin's Park, Monasterevin; and can the members be provided with further details on the development?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing members that Kildare County Council received Stage 1 approval for the proposed development of 16 units at St. Evin's Park on the 5 May 2020.

The current proposal comprises of the following unit types:

Number	House type
3	One bed
11	Two bed
2	Three bed

The Council will now proceed to the Approval Stage 2 process where if granted allows the Council to proceed to the Part 8 Planning Process. We anticipate having a Part 8 by the end of October, being on site in March 2021 with a completion date by March 2022.

The report was noted.

Item 35

Develop Lands/Derelict Buildings Folio 44305F

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kevin Duffy. Can the council confirm if it has any plans to develop lands/derelict buildings under its ownership [Folio 44305F – refer to the attached folio] at the Cross Keys, Kildangan and if they do, to outline the proposal or if they do not, are they willing to work with the Kildangan community to develop potential uses?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the site identified in green was the site in the ownership of Kildare County Council. At present the site was currently not in the Council's Capital Programme pipeline for development as most



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of the site was un-zoned. Prior to making a decision on the future use of the building on the site, the council would need the input of the Planning Department to determine whether there was scope to have the site re-zoned under the next County Development Plan which would inform future options for the various elements of the site.

With regards to the element of the site that contains the building, the council had intended that some improvement works could be carried out to the building however there was currently no identified funding allocated for upgrade works to the building.

Following further in-house discussions, the council would be in a position to revert to the members with a report on potential uses.

The report was noted.

KN25/0720

Development Levies

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

Can the council clarify the amount of levies raised from the construction of the Lidl distribution centre which are to be assigned to Recreation and Amenity projects and whether this funding has been assigned to a specific project as yet?

A report was received from the Finance Department informing the members that Kildare County Council does not release details of how much individual customers have paid on the amount levied on a planning permission. As part of the Capital Programme that was brought to Council each year, Appendix II details how much levies had actually been received by category and to which projects these monies had been committed to.

A further report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that levies collected in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District were allocated based on the projects outlined in the 3-year capital programme 2020-22 presented at budget time last year to members. Any new additional projects could be considered for the next capital programme 2021-23 but would have to be considered in the context of projects already committed to and the amount of funding available.

The report was noted.



KN26/0720

Restart Grants

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Chris Pender.
Can the council confirm how many Restarts Grants have been applied for in this municipal district and how many have been allocated and drawn down to date?

A report was received from the Finance Department informing the members that the Business Restart Grant was announced by the Minister on 2 May 2020. This grant was available to small businesses with a turnover of less than €5m and fewer than 50 employees and had suffered a loss in turnover of 25% due to Covid.

It was a priority for Kildare County Council to ensure all ratepayers that were eligible for the grant claim the grant, as the positive impact of the grant on their cash flow should assist in their re-opening.

To this end there had been local advertising of the Restart Grant on our website, twitter plus the Revenue Collectors had been following up with rate payers in their local areas, ensuring that the details we had were the most up-to-date details and also advising them on the existence of the grant where the business may not previously have been aware of the detail.

The Restart Grants system produces details on a countywide basis and not by municipal district.

On a countywide basis, to Friday 3 July the numbers were as follows:

Total Number of Applications:	Number 1,095	Value €4,299,748
Total Applications Paid:	Number 649	Value €2,829,902"

The report was noted.

KN27/0720

Canopy and Awning Guidelines

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford.
That the council devise canopy and awning design guidelines to assist businesses in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District who may wish to apply for planning permission to erect same in order to provide shelter for customers queuing or in conjunction with a Section 254 licence application.



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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that Kildare County Council published shopfront design guidelines in 2013. This included a section on canopies – section 3.4.4. The guidelines note that canopies provide weather protection to shoppers and shop windows and could be lively additions to the streetscape provided that they were an integral part of the shopfront.

Among the key design recommendations of the guidelines in relation to canopies are:

- Architectural details should not be obscured with the installation of the canopy.
- The colour and material should be constant with or complementary to the materials of the shopfront and building.
- The erection of plastic, fabric ‘Dutch’ type canopies would be discouraged.
- Where canopies were required the use of rectangular sun blinds/awnings of the retractable type might be permitted.
- Canopies should not act as a permanent and prominent substitute for a fascia or projecting sign.
- Canopies should be kept free from signage.
- Care should be taken with canopies to ensure that their size, shape and position were compatible with the character of the building.
- Retracting blinds should always retract fully into the fascia and should provide safe and adequate ground clearance.
- Canopies should not interfere with the visibility of traffic signals and signs.
- Canopy supports should not interfere with or detract from the appearance of a shopfront

Section 17.14.3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (CDP) also includes some guidance on canopies based on the Council’s 2013 shop front guidelines.

The members asked if guidelines were published on this and could businesses apply under the Shop Front Improvement Scheme for Canopies and Awnings?

The Senior Executive Officer, Public Realm stated Canopies and Awnings would be considered under the Shop Front Improvement Scheme. There had been a press release on this. Planning permission would be needed for Canopies and Awnings.



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

KN28/0720

The Number of Endangerment and/or Restoration Notices Served

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford.
Can the council advise of the number of endangerment and/or restoration notices served in respect of protected structures within the past three years in the Kildare- Newbridge Municipal District and the outcome of same?

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that there had been no Section 59 Endangerment Notices or Section 60 Restoration Notices issued in respect of protected structures within the past three years in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District.

The report was noted.

KN29/0720

Public Realm Plans for Market Square, Kilcullen

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

Can the council provide an update on the Public Realm plans for Market Square Kilcullen to include the design drawings previously requested and the possibility of providing additional parking spaces as part of ongoing development and planning applications in the area?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Projects & Public Realm Department informing the members that the final design was currently being revisited on foot of feedback received from Transportation Department in relation to the positioning and type of pedestrian crossing proposed as under Part 8. Once this feedback had been incorporated into the final Part 8 documents, the design drawings would be circulated to the members as previously agreed. The Public Realm Team were actively pursuing alternative parking solutions within the vicinity of the Market Square which would support and compliment the Part 8 proposal when it was formally launched.



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Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked if the options for alternative parking would have costs associated with them.

The Senior Executive Officer, Public Realm confirmed one option would be part of an active planning permission and would have no cost to the council, the second option would have a cost as land would need to be purchased.

The report was noted.

KN30/0720

Donnelly's Hollow, The Curragh

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

Can the council confirm what progress is being made in the investigation into the filling in of the hollow next to Donnelly's Hollow on the Curragh?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the Council continues to engage with the Department of Defence in this matter and would keep the municipal district members informed. It was fully accepted that the matter has become somewhat protracted and really needs to progress towards a resolution.

The report was noted.

KN31/0720

Restart Grants for Local Sports Clubs and Organisations

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

That the council, with support from the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District LPT funding, facilitate a resilience, restart grant for local sports clubs and organisations as councillors and the council need to do all they can to ensure sporting activities can resume as soon as is safe to do so for the well-being and mental health of their constituents.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Mark Stafford.

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the allocation of LPT funds is a matter for the members to decide on. If the members agree to assist groups as suggested, the exact purposes for



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which funds are to be allocated and the process for so doing would need to be specified by the members.

Resolved that the report was noted.

The Mayor requested items 31 and 36 be taken together all members agreed.

KN32/0720

Youth Centre/Hub, Newbridge

Item 31

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Heavey. That in light of the social pressures on its young people, the council supports the provision of a Youth Centre/Hub in Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the provision of a youth /centre hub would be a welcome development in Newbridge. A local group had undertaken to carry out a scoping exercise to identify needs in this area. This was necessary to establish the requirements before embarking on plans to identify the type/location of premises for this purpose. A source of capital funding would also need to be identified for this project.

Item 36

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Heavey. Can the council provide information on a Youth Officer for the county and outline other ways it can provide support for the provision and running of a Youth Centre/Hub in Newbridge?

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board employ a youth officer for Kildare. Her name is Lorraine Flynn. She is based in the Aras Chill Dara offices can be contacted on 045 988000.



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Following discussions, the members raised the following issues:

- How would a Youth Hub be financed?
- There had been 40ft containers previously obtained for this, could it be confirmed if they were salvageable?
- Could the Machinery Yard site in Newbridge be developed for a Youth Hub?
- Could a meeting be arranged with the Youth Officer?

The Senior Executive Officer, Economic Community and Cultural Development Department confirmed a study had been carried out, he would identify what the outcome had been, he confirmed there would be costs associated with the provision of a youth hub in Newbridge.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Noel Heavy, seconded by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy that the report be noted, a meeting arranged with the Youth Officer and the Senior Executive Officer, Economic Community and Cultural Development Department investigate the provision of a Youth Hub in Newbridge.

KN33/0720

Access to the Park at the Corner of Ryston, Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Chris Pender. That the council investigate and implement an alternative access to the park at the corner of Ryston, Newbridge in order to give children a safe, alternative cycling and walking route through the park to school.

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

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the part of the permission for the Strategic Housing Development at Kilbelin house involved the installation of an alternative access to the park from the development and a pedestrian crossing. This should resolve the issues outlined.

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



KN34/0720

Grants for Sports Clubs

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

That the council provide a list of all the funding routes both local and national of which it is aware, the criteria and amounts available or that can be applied for currently or in the near future by sports clubs in the district, to include Council Community Grants, Capital Funding, Kildare Sports Partnership, Leader Funding, Outdoor Recreation Fund, etc.

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

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that community grants were not available for Sports Groups as they are excluded from applying under this heading. National Capital Grants were managed through the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport. The website indicates that they were not accepting applications at present. Kildare Sports Partnership would have a small budget for Club Development Grants to distribute amongst sports clubs in the fourth quarter of the year. County Kildare LEADER Partnership implement the Kildare LEADER Programme on behalf of Kildare LCDC/County Council. This programme aimed to revitalise rural communities and was under the European Social Inclusion Measure. The Kildare Local Development Strategy, in line with requirements was based on providing funding under three themes: a) Economic Development, Enterprise Development & Job Creation, b) Social Inclusion and c) Rural Environment.

The budget was available for project allocations in Kildare (under programme from 2014 to 2020) was €3,946,200. Sports Clubs could avail of grants under this programme.

However, as the programme was in its final year, over 80% of the budget was now allocated with a clear plan to allocate the remaining funding based on the applications submitted to County Kildare Leadership Partnership (CKLP) in line with requirements by year end.

The outdoor recreation scheme was a very specific scheme that stated that projects should, in the main, be located in the countryside (i.e. not within the environs of towns or villages)

The Parks Section do not have any projects which meet the criteria for the scheme.



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The attached press release gives an outline of recently announced further national assistance to the sports sector.

“Ministers announce COVID-19 funding support for the sport sector”

On the 19 June the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport and the Minister with responsibility for tourism and sport announced that a funding package of up to €70 million has been approved by Government to support the sport sector.

This funding package will support the sport sector through;

- Funding of up to €40m for the three main field sports organisations – the FAI, the GAA and the IRFU,
- A Resilience Fund of up to €10m to support the National Governing Bodies of Sport,
- A Sports Club Resilience Fund of up to €15m to support clubs, and
- A Sports Restart and Renewal Fund of up to €5m.

Details of the funding distribution had yet to be announced.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy sought clarification on why ‘community grants were not available for Sports Groups as they are excluded from applying under this heading’ in the report. Mr Dunne undertook to examine why community grants were not available for Sports Groups as they are excluded from applying under the heading.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Pender that the report be noted and the Economic Community and Cultural Development Department to examine why ‘community grants were not available for Sports Groups as they are excluded from applying under this heading’.

KN35/0720

New Playground, Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the names of Councillor Peggy O’Dwyer and Councillor Tracey O’Dwyer.

Can the council confirm if they are in a position to commence the process of identifying a site for a new playground in Newbridge?

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that a Parks works programme for the municipal area was presented



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to the members earlier this year. There was no capacity within the Parks Section to take on additional work outside that this year. The addition of this work could be considered for next year's programme. However, the work involved would have to be considered in the context of projects already being sought by the elected members and commitments to progress these. These projects were Newbridge Boardwalk, Cherry Avenue Park, Amenity Land at Athgarvan, Monastic Garden Kildare Town, Pump Track at Caragh Playground, Tree Planting in Pairc Mhuire and a Design for Beechwood Avenue/Standhouse Lawns/Allenview Heights Open Space. It would not be possible within the resources available to the Parks Section to progress all these projects and take on additional works. Therefore, members would need to identify what projects were priority and the sequence of delivery.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.