



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
Meeting held on 16 September 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, T O'Dwyer, C Pender, R Power, M Stafford.

Apologies: Councillor P O'Dwyer.

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Ms B Cuddy, (District Engineer), J Murtagh (Executive Engineer), Ms S Scully, Ms V Cooke, Mr D McDermott (Administrative Officers), Mr B Leonard (Meetings Administrator) and Ms S Fitzgerald (Meetings Secretary).

KN01/0920

To Approve Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the proposed amendments of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District January 2020, items KN25/0120, KN28/0120 and KN29/0120. Councillor Stafford queried how the members could be expected to recall what happened in January's monthly meeting, stating that too much time had passed and whom attended the January meeting.

The meetings administrator stated he would confirm January's attendees with the members. Councillor Stafford stated he did not accept the amendment. The Mayor stated this was an outstanding issue and proposed to accept the amendment in order to move forward with the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District January 2020 monthly meeting (Items KN25/0120, KN28/0120, KN29/0120) be amended and the Meetings Administrator to confirm the attendees of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District January 2020 monthly meeting with the members.



Kildare County Council

The members considered the proposed amendments of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District June 2020 (KN03/0620). The Mayor informed the members that two submissions were received to amend the June minutes and that he had tabled a third amendment. The Mayor read his amendment into the record. The Mayor proposed his amendment to the June 2020 minutes (KN03/0620). Councillor Stafford stated the resolution of the June 2020 minutes (KN03/0620) was incorrect, the meetings administrator agreed to confirm this matter and report back to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor N Connolly that the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District June 2020 Minutes (KN03/0620) be amended and the meetings administrator to report back to the members on the resolution of KN03/0620.

The members considered the minutes of the annual meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District July 2020.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor N Connolly that the minutes of the annual meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District July 2020 be taken as read.

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District July 2020 together with the Progress Report.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy raised a number of queries in relation to the progress report, stating that there had been very little communication regarding Monasterevin Community Hall. Had there been any update on the items on the Management and Protection of the Curragh Plains? Were investigations completed on Donnolly's Hollow? Had anything happened with O'Modhrain Hall? Why had there been nothing reported on the Sister City relationship with the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China in Ireland and would the members be informed if there were? The District Manager confirmed he would pass the concerns onto the Director of Service of the Economic Community & Cultural Development Department regarding the Monasterevin Community Hall. A consultancy had been appointed to the



Management and Protection of the Curragh Plains. An assessment had been carried out on Donnelly's Hollow and there were no environmental concerns. The item on the Sister City relationship with the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China in Ireland had not progressed due to Covid-19, and members would be informed should there be any change to this. The District Manager informed the members he would circulate an e-mail to them in relation to O'Modhrain Hall.

Agreed by all members present that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District July 2020 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

KN02/0920

Schedule of Municipal District Works

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

Roads resurfacing and Footpath works:

- L6086 Castlefish - Kilcullen
- L6086 Common to Yellowbog- Kilcullen
- L 6062 Ballyme to Melon Hill- Kilcullen
- Blackberry Lane works were completed
- Derrylea - Kilcullen
- Melita Road – Kildare
- Roundtowers (footpaths) – Kildare (resurfacing would be taking place next week)
- R401 Rathangan to Edenderry Round footpath was being undertaken
- Lattensbog LIS Scheme were completed
- Miltown Footpath upgrade was completed, resurfacing would commence
- Academy Street works were completed
- Kilcullen R448 works ongoing and would be completed early next week

LPT:

- LPT project footpaths in Kilcullen Area – Logstown, Avondale, R448 Kilcullen Grangemore, R413 Brannockstown
- Pairc Mhuire was awarded and are waiting for ongoing Irish Water works to finish



Miscellaneous Works:

- Ballymany Park footpath upgrade
- Footpath repairs on Main Street Monasterevin
- Footpath drainage works adjacent to Cloncurry
- Walshestown fence repair
- General Maintenance - grass cutting, water cuts, road repairs etc
- Dominic Park bollards installation
- Installation of railing at Miltown School
- Installation of new sheep grid in Athgarvan and repair of existing gate along the Curragh
- Drainage works adjacent to Cloncurry
- Quinnsboro road repairs
- Patching unit on Kildare-Monasterevin Road R445

NTA funding:

The District Engineer discussed with the members proposed works for Drogheda Street, Monasterevin and on Low-cost accident schemes at Cribbons Lane, Brownstown Cross Roads, Brannockstown Cross Roads (maps previously circulated to members). Ms Cuddy informed the members that funding had been received from the National Transport Authority for these works €220,000 and €140,000 had been approved to carry out the works. Ms Cuddy stated that these works were a big ask to deliver in the timeframe necessary.

The members discussed the works and raised the following queries:

- Could a railing around the footpath for Brownstown be considered?
- Could the corner of Cribbins Lane be examined?
- What safety measures were being considered for pedestrians crossing on Drogheda Street?

The District Engineer confirmed that railings in Brownstown would be examined. The municipal district office would examine the corner of Brownstown. There would be raised junction on all approach roads Drogheda Street which would slow down traffic



for safer pedestrian crossing. The District Engineer informed the members that Eyre Street, Newbridge would be a project to consider for 2021.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer that the works to be carried out be approved and the District Engineer to examine the railings for Brownstown and investigate the corner of Cribbins Lane.

KN03/0920

Update on LPT Expenditure 2020

The members received an update on LPT Expenditure 2020 from the Kildare-Newbridge District Manager.

Mr Murtagh, Executive Engineer, Building and Development Control gave an overview of estates being taken in charge. There were six estates advertised for taking in charge.

- Grangemore Manor – Brannockstown,
- 1-12 The Park – Curragh Grange
- Barrow View – Monasterevin
- Tougher Wood – Monasterevin
- Abbey Court – Kildare Town
- Beechmount, Beechmount Court & Curragh Chase – Newbridge.

Mr Murtagh confirmed 1-12 The Park, Curragh Grange was at the last stage of taking in charge stating there was an issue with the street lighting and sought approval to allocate €8,500 to repair/upgrade the street lighting in this estate.

The executive engineer sought approval of €36,000 to complete the taking in charge of Cnoc na Greine.

The executive engineer answered the following queries raised by the members.

- Why were older estates not prioritised? Mr Murtagh advised that some of the estates advertised for taking in charge were older estates.
- What stage was Loughminane Green, Kildare Town and The Plains, Kildare Town at? Mr Murtagh advised that the Development Control department had located the bond provided and were in talks with the bond provider to call in the bond. The site could not be taken in charge as there was a flooding issue in



the estate that must be resolved by the developer's insurance company first. The development control department had received the bond for The Plains, Kildare Town and upgrade works had been carried out to the pump stations. More works were required on site and the estate was a priority for 2021.

- An update on Red Hills Park in Ellistown, Walshestown Park and Walshestown Abbey were requested. Mr Murtagh advised that Red Hills Park could not be taken in charge at present as there was no Irish Water protocol to taking in charge estates with developer provided waste water treatment plant. In relation to Walshestown Park tender documents had been issued to the contractors on the council small works framework for pricing and Walshestown Abbey had not been advertised due to the complication of the pump station located on third party lands and further works were required to advance the taking in charge of this estate.

Mr Murtagh informed the members that the council had identified three estates that could be connected to public infrastructure and a further seven estates that funding was required to upgrade existing waste water treatment plants and water treatment plants. The Department confirmed funding would only be available for estates that could be connected to the public infrastructure and funding would be available in the coming weeks.

Mr Murtagh confirmed he would provide an update for the next meeting.

The report was noted.

KN04/0920

Agree and Approve Unallocated LPT and Other Community Projects LPT Funding

The members considered the allocation of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District unallocated LPT funding and other community projects LPT funding.

The Mayor requested the members to advise if their circumstances met any of the requirements under Part 15 Section 177 of the Local Government Act, as amended for members to disclose a pecuniary (i.e. financial) or other beneficial interest, of



Kildare County Council

which they have "actual knowledge" that they or a connected person had in a matter that arises at a meeting of the local authority.

Councillor Duffy declared he is on the Monasterevin Community Centre Committee.

Councillor Doyle declared she is involved with the Kildare Town Project Group, Kildare Town Chamber of Commerce and the Derby Festival.

Councillor Stafford declared he is involved with Kildare Drama Group, Lullymore LBDC Community Alert Group and the Kildare Town Project Group.

Councillor Pender declared he is involved with Rosconnell Community Centre. The members considered the report in relation to the projects listed for LPT funding for other Community Projects. This report was proposed by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Noel Connolly. All members agreeing.

The Mayor endeavoured to progress the €254,000 unallocated LPT fund and had put forward options for the members to consider. A joint proposal was put forward from Councillor T O'Dwyer and Councillor N Heavey, that this council allocates €100,000 from Kildare-Newbridge LPT to a community project for young people in Newbridge to be chosen by a majority vote of councillors at a meeting of Kildare-Newbridge MD by the end of 2020, the remaining €154,000 to be forwarded to Municipal District Engineer to draw up a list of costed options for rural roads and footpaths to be agreed by the members at the same meeting.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy proposed, and Councillor N Connolly seconded a proposal to amend the original joint proposal, proposing that €100,000 be allocated for the youth facility for Newbridge. Councillor McLoughlin Healy put forward a second proposal for €100,000 for the playground, subject to a detailed costing being provided for the youth facility, if funding was sourced through the Capital Programme the proposed money for the playground to be returned to LPT funding for alternative projects.

The members voted on this proposal.



On the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor N Connolly that €100,000 be allocated for a youth facility for Newbridge. The amendment fell with two votes in favour and five votes against with two abstentions.

Councillor Doyle proposed a second amendment to the original joint proposal to include an allocation of €25,000 to (destination tourist events) festivals/events in Kildare Town, reducing roads allocations to €124,000 and €100,000 to a community project ringfenced for Newbridge.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Stafford with a vote of seven members in favour, one member against and one abstention that the €254,000 unallocated Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District LPT fund be allocated, €100,000 to a community project for young people in Newbridge to be chosen by a majority vote of councillors at a meeting of Kildare-Newbridge MD by the end of 2020, €25,000 to destination tourist events and the remaining €129,000 to road projects in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy's second proposal for €100,000 for a playground in Newbridge fell as the €254,000 LPT allocation had been agreed by the members.

KN05/0920

Footpath from The Trinity Care Lodge Nursing Home to GAA Grounds

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly that the council install a footpath from the Trinity Care Suncroft Lodge Nursing Home to the GAA grounds, to facilitate the residents.

The motion was proposed by Councillor A 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 funding allocated for these works in the



Kildare County Council

2020 budget, we could include for consideration as part of the 2021 LPT funding with agreement of the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by all members that the report be noted and the footpath from the Trinity Care Suncroft Lodge Nursing Home to the GAA grounds be included for consideration in the 2021 LPT funding.

KN06/0920

Road from Cut Bush to Martinstown Cross

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly that the council include the road from Cut Bush to Martinstown Cross on the resurfacing programme for 2021.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the location could be included for consideration as part of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District 2021 roads program.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor Doyle with all members agreeing that the report be noted and the location be included for consideration as part of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District 2021 roads program.

The Mayor informed the members he would take items 8 and 14 together.

Agenda Item 8:

KN07/0920

Footpath from Monasterevin Town to Ballykelly GAA

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Duffy that this council write to the National Transport Authority seeking funding to construct a



Kildare County Council

footpath and cycleway that would connect Monasterevin town to Ballykelly GAA pitches, to improve accessibility and safety in the region.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that this could be included for funding in any future calls from National Transport Authority for projects under Active Travel Measure projects, alternatively, an application for funding could be lodged with National Transport Authority. An application for funding would require the following broad steps: Identification of policy objectives in the County Development Plan which would support the provision of the facility and these would have to be checked for consistency with national and regional planning policy. It would also have to comply with National Transport Authority strategy and their programme for rollout of that type of infrastructure.

A Preliminary Project Appraisal in accordance with the Capital Appraisal Framework and Public Spending Code would then be required.

If the Preliminary Project Appraisal received approval and the Sanctioning Authority allocated funding, then a project could commence once Kildare County Council engineering resources were assigned and the project was given priority.

A consultant would then be procured as Kildare County Council do not have inhouse design resources.

A project Execution Plan would be developed, and the project moved through a seven-phase process to completion.

The main events were as follows:

- a) Route Selection including non-statutory public consultation
- b) Statutory procedures (Appropriate Assessment Screening, Environmental Impact Assessment Report Screening, Natura Impact Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Compulsory Purchase Order, Benefit to Cost Analysis, Detailed Project Appraisal) which may lead to an oral hearing.



Kildare County Council

- c) Serving Notice to Treat and purchase lands.
- d) Detailed approval of the scheme to allow commencement of construction process.
- e) e-Tendering of Contract(s).
- f) Revised Detail Project Appraisal, Approval of tender report and appointment of the Contractor(s)
- g) Commencement of work.
- h) Completion of Scheme.

There were numerous other aspects and reports but the above were what was visible to the public. At many points the Sanctioning Authority could delay or stop the progress of the scheme.

Please note the above was only a broad outline of the process.

Agenda Item 14:

Kildare Cycling Infrastructure

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

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

That the council provide an update on the Kildare Cycling Infrastructure protocol as promised, to include an update on which cycle infrastructure projects are being assessed/prioritised around the municipal district.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that Progress had been made in relation to Kildare County Council's requests for sanctioning and funding in respect of recruitment. An audit of the existing infrastructure within the county would be required in advance of cycle infrastructure projects being assessed and prioritised on a countywide basis.

The members discussed the following:



Kildare County Council

- Keen for this footpath to go ahead.
- Was there an update on the Kildare Cycling Infrastructure protocol?
- What was the criteria for assessing an application?

The District Engineer informed the members that the footpath could be included under the stimulus package. Ms Pender stated progress had been made in relation to Kildare County Council's request for sanctioning and funding in respect of recruitment and would keep the members updated.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted and an application could be made to the National Transport Authority for a footpath from Monasterevin Town to Ballykelly GAA and the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department to keep members updated relation to the Kildare Cycling Infrastructure.

KN08/0920

HGV signage in Halversown, Caragh

As Councillor Power had to leave the meeting, he authorised Councillor Duffy to raise this motion on his behalf.

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

That the council move the HGV signage in Halversown, Caragh so as to inform drivers earlier of the weight restrictions at the Liffey Bridge.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the location of the signage will be reviewed and relocated if required

Resolved: by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by all members present that the report be noted



KN09/0920

Footpath from Ard Scoil Rathangan to Spencer Bridge

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

That the council complete a footpath from Ard Scoil Rathangan to Spencer Bridge, Rathangan.

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 funding allocated for these works in the 2020 budget, the location could be included for consideration as part of the 2021 LPT funding with agreement of the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Connolly, seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by all members present that the report be noted and the location to be included for consideration as part of the 2021 LPT funding.

KN10/0920

Traffic Calming Measures

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

That the council provide traffic calming measures at Ball Alley Cross in Monasterevin, known locally as Shinkins Cross.

The motion was proposed by Councillor N Connolly seconded by Councillor Pender.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the Municipal District Office would include this location for possible funding under a Low Cost Accident Schemes in 2021.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor Pender with all members agreeing that the report be noted and the location be included for possible funding under the Low Cost Accident Scheme in 2021.

KN11/0920

Two-Way Traffic over Sex's Bridge

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

That the council commission a new design to facilitate two-way traffic over Sex's Bridge, Newbridge as the current time delayed lights system is no longer fit for purpose.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that Kildare County Council had no plans at present to carry out any works at this location. Agreement with Iarnrod Eireann would be required along with significant capital funding due to possible land acquisition, road realignment, relocation of services etc. As there was no capital funding allocated for this location, it was not possible to undertake any design works.

The members discussed the motion, Councillor Doyle stated that the whole area needed to be looked at and not to just keep addressing problems in the main towns. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that the extra development in the area had added to traffic pressures.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor N Connolly with all members agreeing that the report be noted.



KN12/0920

Pay Parking at St Dominics Park, Newbridge

The members considered the following joint motion in the names of Councillor P O'Dwyer and Councillor Pender.

That the council begin the process to extend pay parking byelaws to St Dominics Park, Newbridge to include residents parking permits.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that due to health and safety concerns and lack of overall parking spaces for residents, the Roads Department has been waiting for a number of years for a written signed agreement by all residents of St. Dominic's Park to agree enforcement of this area as not all residents were in agreement due to lack of available parking spaces.

Councillor Pender confirmed he had the written signed letter from the residents and would pass this onto the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that the report be noted and the Acting Senior Executive Officer of the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department arrange a meeting with Councillor P O'Dwyer and Councillor Pender.

KN13/0920

One Hour Only Parking Spaces

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

That the council designate "One Hour Only" car parking spaces in specific locations in Towns and Villages in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District where parking is at a premium and required for a short duration only i.e. outside banks, post offices, newsagents, etc.



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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that Under the last parking bye-law review for Newbridge, the Members changed the maximum parking time period in these areas from one hour to two hour maximum stay. In order for this to be amended a full review of the parking bye-laws would be required.

Councillor Stafford asked for this to be referred to the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee.

Ms. Pender informed the members that other motions had been received on this matter and consistency around the county would be required.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that the matter be referred to the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee.

KN14/0920

45 Minute Observation Period for Parking in Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer. Can the council provide an update on my motion at the June meeting to introduce a 45-minute observation period for parking in Newbridge in an effort to support business in Newbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Department had previously increased the observation period from 15 minutes to 30 minutes across the county as a temporary measure only as a result of Covid-19. The Roads Department would strongly recommend that the observation period should not be extended further. It should be noted that an observation period is only for the purpose of giving time to the motorist



Kildare County Council

to get change of cash for the parking machine if required. The Roads Department had increased a number of on-line services to facilitate motorists, including pay by phone where non-cash payments were available. Taking into account other motions from the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District, extending the observation period would have a significant negative impact on business and motorists. These negative impacts would include a significant reduction in the turnover of parking spaces for motorists to access parking spaces, a reduction of footfall and customers for businesses, increased traffic congestion, additional confusion for the general public with constant changes to parking regulation and a reduction in revenue to pay for these services and the municipal district. It should be further noted that having different observation periods in different towns across the county might lead to confusion and the public receiving fixed penalty charge notices unnecessarily as the public travel from town to town. This proposal would also contravene Kildare County Councils Parking Policy Framework Document adopted by the Elected Members and the Councils mission statement which is "to provide a professional and consistent parking management service for the benefit of its citizens and visitors to the county. The Council regulates illegal parking and manages parking spaces on public roads and in public car parks to ensure a regular turnover of parking spaces. This regulation of illegal parking and turnover of parking spaces would make our towns more accessible and more attractive to shoppers, customers, business people and tourists". The current 30-minute observation before the purchase of a valid pay and display ticket and on the expiry of a valid pay and display (total of one hour plus the time the motorist had paid for) is more than adequate. The Roads Department would in fact suggest reducing the observation back to the standard 15 minutes observation period across the county, especially with the approach of Christmas to assist business growth and facilitate customers gain access to parking and local businesses rather than congesting valuable parking spaces discouraging on-street retail which might result in a further increase in on-line shopping.

The report was noted.



KN15/0920

Speed Reduction Measures at Ellistown GAA Pitch

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor A Connolly.
Can the council confirm if it has any plans to install speed reduction measures at Ellistown GAA pitch?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were no plans at present for works at this location.
The report was noted.

KN16/0920

Improve Safety of Horse Riders on the Curragh Plains

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

Can the council provide a report on the delivery of measures agreed to improve safety of horse riders on the Curragh Plains?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that warning signage has been ordered and installation of same would be arranged in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

KN17/0920

School Streets Initiative in Monasterevin

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

Can the council provide an update on the outcomes of the School Streets Initiative Monasterevin, the proposed next steps to be undertaken and timeframes?



A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the School Street survey had been conducted and closed. The two towns were Athy and Monasterevin. The survey results were:

Survey returns for proposed School Street

Athy - Mount Hawkins	21
Monasterevin - Drogheda Street	49
Did Not Answer	0

While the majority of respondents were in favour of the school street initiative, there were some reservations and queries. From the feedback received, both towns would not favour a 'closed street'. Monasterevin would favour a part 'one-way' system while Athy may not suit. Parking outside both schools was identified in the survey as a problem and this is echoed from our own experiences.

Drogheda Street, Monasterevin lends itself to favourable work to coincide with the School Street initiative. The municipal district engineer had confirmed some works would be undertaken at Drogheda Street/Rathangan road junction of the street which would tie-in with the school street initiative. The council had confirmed that funding from School Street would also be added to the municipal district engineer's project if necessary. The process for both School Street's was that a public meeting would be held for both towns, after the survey, but this can't be achieved as yet due to current pandemic restrictions, however, other remedial works could continue in preparation for the scheme to take place.

The report was noted.

KN18/0920

Staggered Cross on Old Road Junction, Kildare Town

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

Can the council confirm if it has any plans to review the staggered cross on the Old Road Junction of the Southern Internal Link Road (SILR), Southgreen, Kildare Town?



Kildare County Council

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council Roads Planning Section was satisfied that the staggered cross on the Old Road Junction of the Southern Internal Link Road (SILR), Southgreen, Kildare Town complied with the relevant road design standards, that there were facilities for vulnerable road users, that there was adequate room for safe turning movements of traffic where traffic had to slow down and that a road safety audit stage 3 was carried out on the completed works at this location in day and night time hours.

From the council's analysis there were no further works required at this staggered junction. The report was noted.

KN19/0920

Bus Shelter

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

Can the council provide an update on the delivery of a bus shelter for Kilcullen?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the legal process in relation to the land transfer has commenced and is currently with Kildare County Council's legal advisors.

The report was noted.

KN20/0920

Suspension Period from Housing List

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

That the council reduce the suspension period from the housing list from 12 months to 6 months for those applicants who refuse accommodation in a 12-month period in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.



Kildare County Council

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

A report was received from Housing department informing the members that the suspension period from the Housing List was set out under regulation 12 of the Social Housing Allocation Regulations 2011, which were made under section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009. A Household that refused two reasonable offers of social housing tenancies in any 12-month period would not receive any further offers for a period of one year from the date of the second refusal. Councillor Stafford stated that this was a bit extreme.

The members discussed the following:

- Councillor Doyle stated that the time applicants are on the list is very valuable and she would like an appeals program in place.
- Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated was the terms of suspension reasonable up to Kildare County Council to determine, and was there any clarification on these terms.
- Councillor Duffy stated there was an item on this matter listed for Full Council's next meeting.
- Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked could the members have the number of refusals so far for 2020.

Ms Scully, Housing Department confirmed to the members that the Housing Department are bound by regulations in these matters, that the Choice Based Letting Scheme gave applicants a wider choice, a reasonable offer was suited to the families need, and there was an appeals process in place.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford seconded by Councillor N Connolly with the agreement of all members that the report be noted and the Housing department to circulate to the members the number of reasonable refusals so far for 2020.



The Mayor proposed that due to time constraints, questions be taken as read unless there was a specific query. The members agreed

KN21/0920

Housing Grants

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

Can the council provide a report for the last twelve months on the number of Disabled Person's Grant and Housing Adaptation Grant applications in this municipal district on the system, recorded for both local authority stock and private housing with details of length of time waiting for sanction and number of applications in each of the four categories that are refused a grant?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the following table provided details of the total number of grants approved annually since 2015 (private and public combined).

Approvals:

	2020 to date	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Housing Adaptation Grant	181	333	203	341	333	203
Mobility Aids	0	5	26	5	5	26
*Housing Aid for Older Persons	133	182	151	200	182	151

*Housing aid for older people grant (formally ERG) provided to homeowners only.

The annual allocation for private grants was on average €3 million per annum. This provision provided for approximately 300 adaptation grants and 200 housing aid for older persons annually. The full budget is expended annually.



Kildare County Council

The adaptation grant allocation for local authority properties is on average €400,000 per annum. This allowed us to complete approx. 40 local authority projects per year. In recent years we received additional funding which enabled us to double this output, however this additional funding is dependent on availability nationally.

In the case of private adaptation grants approval letters were generally issued within 6-8 weeks of receipt of a valid application. Applications were only deemed valid once all documentation was completed and received.

Given the current Covid crisis there was a backlog of applications to be assessed by the occupational therapist however there would not be any private applications waiting in excess of 1 year for approval. For business continuity any applications for stairlifts and level access showers received during Covid had been approved based on medical certification.

Prior to 2020 only priority 1 and 2 applications were being grant aided. Since January 2020 priority 3 applicants were now also being grant aided for adaptation works excluding extensions

In relation to housing adaptations for local authority properties the budget was significantly lower, and applications were prioritised based on need. Priority 1 were prioritised for works, which were managed by Kildare County Council and subject to public procurement rules. There was a waiting list for priority 2 which could be 12 – 24 months depending on the required works.

2020 refusals comprised of 69 Housing Adaptation Grant applications and 7 Housing Aid for Older People applications.

Definition of Priority 1-3:

Priority 1

Terminally ill or fully/mainly dependant on family or carer; or where alterations/adaptations would facilitate discharge from hospital or alleviate the need for hospitalisation in the future;

Priority 2:

Mobile but needed assistance in accessing washing, toilet facilities, bedroom etc; or where without the alterations/adaptations the disabled person's ability to function independently would be hindered;



Priority 3

Independent but required special facilities to improve the quality

The report was noted.

KN22/0920

Housing Adaptation Grants

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

Can the council confirm what is the number of local authority tenants and privately owned home owners who received housing adaptation grants in this municipal district grant each year since 2015, the average time it takes to process the two types of applications and the number of grants yet to be approved that are with the council over 1 year?

Report: The following table provides details of the total number of grants approved annually since 2015 (private and public combined).

Approvals:

	2020 to date	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Housing Adaptation Grant	181	333	203	341	333	203
Mobility Aids	0	5	26	5	5	26
*Housing Aid for Older Persons	133	182	151	200	182	151

*Housing aid for older people grant (formally ERG) provided to homeowners only.

The annual allocation for private grants was on average €3 million per annum. This provision provided for approximately 300 adaptation grants and 200 housing aid for older persons annually. The full budget is expended annually.

The adaptation grant allocation for local authority properties was on average €400,000 per annum. This allowed the housing department to complete approx. 40 local authority



Kildare County Council

projects per year. In recent years we received additional funding which enabled us to double this output, however this additional funding was dependent on availability nationally.

In the case of private adaptation grants approval letters were generally issued within 6-8 weeks of receipt of a valid application. Applications were only deemed valid once all documentation was completed and received.

Given the current Covid crisis there was a backlog of applications to be assessed by the occupational therapist however there would not be any private applications waiting in excess of 1 year for approval. For business continuity any applications for stairlifts and level access showers received during Covid had been approved based on medical certification.

Prior to 2020 only priority 1 and 2 applications were being grant aided. Since January 2020 priority 3 applicants were now also being grant aided for adaptation works excluding extensions.

In relation to housing adaptations for local authority properties the budget is significantly lower, and applications were prioritised based on need. Priority 1 were prioritised for works, which were managed by Kildare County Council and subject to public procurement rules. There was a waiting list for priority 2 which can be 12 – 24 months depending on the required works.

2020 refusals comprise of 69 Housing Adaptation Grant applications and 7 Housing Aid for Older People applications.

Definition of Priority 1-3:

Priority 1

Terminally ill or fully/mainly dependant on family or carer; or where alterations/adaptations would facilitate discharge from hospital or alleviate the need for hospitalisation in the future;

Priority 2

Mobile but needs assistance in accessing washing, toilet facilities, bedroom etc; or where without the alterations/adaptations the disabled person's ability to function independently would be hindered;



Priority 3

Independent but requires special facilities to improve the quality

The report was noted.

KN23/0920

Housing Applications

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

Can the council confirm how many housing applications have yet to be approved in this municipal district and how many are waiting longer than 10 weeks?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the statutory time period for carrying out a housing assessment was 12 weeks; the council could also request further information where the applicant had not provided sufficient information. There were zero housing applications waiting longer than 10 weeks for approval where further information was not required. As of 7th September, there were approximately 260 new applications waiting to be assessed and these applications would be assessed within the statutory time period.

The report was noted.

KN24/0920

Rates Relief Scheme

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

That the council provide an update in relation to the consideration for a Rates Relief Scheme through the Rate Act 2019 for businesses willing to occupy a vacant building in the town centres of Newbridge and Kilcullen.

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



A report was received from the Finance department informing the members that the Finance Department would review the practical application, together with the impacts of a Rates Relief Scheme in the context of the current legislation. It might be more appropriate to look at such a scheme on a wider, county-wide basis as elements of the Rates Act 2020 had not been enacted.

On that basis, the Finance Department would bring the options available to the Finance Committee at its September meeting, and should there be an option that can be implemented, that draft scheme would be brought to Council as part of the budget process.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by all members present that the report be noted.

KN25/0920

Business Support Program

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

That this municipal district committee allocate a portion of unallocated LPT toward a business support program.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor N Connolly.

A report was received from the Finance department informing the members that this was a matter for the municipal district members to determine.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by all members present that the report be noted.

KN26/0920

Projects for National Funding

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



Notwithstanding the short time-frames within which the council have been asked to submit projects for national funding, that the council ensures a minimum level of consultation with Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District councillors before funding submission deadlines including; informing all elected members when a new funding scheme opens; informing councillors of projects being considered for application and why; immediate confirmation to all councillors of when funding has been approved.

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that staff would continue to endeavour to keep the members informed at the various stages insofar as timeframes allow.

A second report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development department informing the members that with respect to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, the Department of Rural and Community Development had announced additional funding rounds under this Scheme with very tight timelines during July and August.

The projects that were considered suitable for consideration were those that had considerable previous public consultation (with both Councillors and the community) for example, Kildare Market Square in preparation of the Town Renewal Plan. Under new Covid-19 legislation and in consideration of the relatively low grant approval amounts of €25k and €40k respectively, the projects deemed suitable were those that were quick to install, low in cost and with wide reacting impact for the community and businesses affected during lockdown.

In keeping with the principles of tactical urbanism, such as recent temporary interventions in Kildare Market Square, Kildare County Council would continue to consult widely with the community and would modify the temporary and future proposed design in response to such feedback (which had been extremely positive to date).



Kildare County Council

Details of funding approvals received are circulated to the Members, and every effort would be made to circulate the list of applications made in all future funding rounds. The main Town and Village Renewal Scheme closed for applications on Monday 28 August.

The following applications were made to Round 2, Round 3, and Round 3 Large Towns under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme Accelerated Covid 19 Measures:

ROUND 2 Name of Town / Village	Category of Town based on Population:	Project Address	Total estimated project cost	Amount of T&V grant funding requested for this project	Amount of Match Funding available for this project (10% minimum)
Athgarvan	Less than 10,000 population	Routes to / from Scoil Bride National School, Athgarvan, County Kildare.	€44,000.00	€40,000.00	€4,000.00
Ardclough	Less than 10,000 population	Routes to / from St Anne's National School, Ardclough, Straffan, County Kildare.	€44,000.00	€40,000.00	€4,000.00
Ballymore Eustace	Less than 10,000 population	The Cartwheel Cycle Café, Ballymore Eustace, County Kildare	€27,500.00	€25,000.00	€2,500.00
Athy	Less than 10,000 population	Athy	€27,500.00	€25,000.00	€2,500.00
Punchestown, Eadestown	Less than 10,000 population	Punchestown, Eadestown, Naas	€27,500.00	€25,000.00	€2,500.00
Castledermot	Less than 10,000 population	Castledermot	€27,500.00	€25,000.00	€2,500.00



Kildare County Council

ROUND 3 Name of Town / Village	Category of Town based on Population:	Project Address	Total estimated project cost	Amount of T&V grant funding requested for this project	Amount of Match Funding available for this project (10% minimum)
Leixlip	Large Town	Leixlip Town Centre	€45,000	€40,000	€5,000
Celbridge	Large Town	Celbridge Town Centre	€45,000	€40,000	€5,000
Newbridge	Large Town	Newbridge Town Hall environs and Georges Street	€45,000	€40,000	€5,000
Naas	Large Town	Main Street, Naas and environs	€60,000	€40,000	€20,000
Maynooth	Large Town	Main Street, Maynooth and environs	€45,000	€40,000	€5,000
Athy, Narraghmore, Crookstown, & Donadea	Less than 10,000 population	Maganey, Athy, Athy town, Narraghmore, Crookstown, and Donadea County Kildare.	€45,000	€40,000	€5,000
Bigstone & Crookstown	Less than 10,000 population	Broadband Officer, Kildare County Council	€11,000	€10,000	€1,000

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer with the consent of all members present that the report be noted.

KN27/0920

Extension to Market House

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



Kildare County Council

That the council explore, as part of the public realm improvements for Kildare Town Square, the merits of including an extension to Market House in order to support growth in tourism activity.

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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development informing the members that the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team recently secured €1.75 million in funding from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for Market Square Phase 2 works, and were now in a position to develop the design, which would include the option to extend the Heritage Centre.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor N Connolly with the agreement of all members present that the report be noted.

KN28/0920

Car Parking

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

That the council undertakes an options assessment of the potential car parking locations to provide much needed car parking to support and enable the Barrow Blueway project and School Streets initiative in Monasterevin.

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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development department informing the members that the existing car parking facilities at the following locations along the route of the Barrow Blueway would be upgraded as part of the delivery of the Barrow Blueway project;

- Lowtown
- Rathangan Bridge



Kildare County Council

- Vicarstown
- Augustus Bridge

In addition, a new carpark would be provided at Spencer Bridge.

Separately, School Streets aimed to reduce the danger to school children from the significant amount of traffic on certain streets during a school opening and closing times. In Monasterevin, the school street pilot project was located on Drogheda Street serving St. Evan's, St. Peter's and St. John's National Schools and St. Pauls Post Primary School.

The school street initiative aimed to provide school-goers, parents, and guardians with a safer and easier route to school, creating a healthy, active and sustainable means of transport by walking, cycling or scooting to school. By temporarily closing the road or restricting vehicle traffic on it during school times, this would help reduce risks, traffic congestion and air pollution in the vicinity of the school, while making the journey to and from school more pleasant.

The Strategic Projects and Public Realm team are working with the KCC Cycling Officer and Area Engineer to identify and agree on alternative parking areas for parents during school opening and closing times.

Residents/businesspeople who live and work on a School Street would be able to register for a permit, as well as Disabled Badge holders who need to collect their children from school. The scheme would not operate on school holidays or at weekends.

As the Monasterevin School Street's project was a temporary pilot scheme, it was proposed to provide temporary rather than permanent alternative carparking around Monasterevin to support this initiative.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that the report be noted.

As Councillor Power had to leave the meeting early, the Mayor requested that item number 31 be adjourned to the next Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting on 21 October 2020. The members all agreed to this request.



KN29/0920

Update for the Barrow Blueway

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

Can the council provide a detailed update on the phases and timelines for the Barrow Blueway, including detailed design, tender, and construction and the points at which the municipal district members will have the opportunity to review the documentation?

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development informing the members of the following:

Trailway - Works to the trailway were progressing well through two Waterways Ireland (WI) direct labour crews. Crew no 1 had started at Ballyteague South and had approximately 1.5 km complete to 804 level, Crew No 2 had started just past Milltown Bridge and similarly had approximately 1.5 km complete to 804 level. Once the 2 crews meet in the middle at approximately 5.5 km total, Waterways Ireland would complete the 5.5 km length with quarry dust. Waterways Ireland would continue to work on the trailway until November this year and would recommence in February 2021. Some of the issues the council had encountered on the trailway were in relation to existing entrances and the right to access – including the right to move livestock. Waterways Ireland legal team were addressing these issues. Other issues were in relation to poor ground conditions, where there was a necessity to excavate further and stabilise with additional stone.

The Strategic Project and Public Realm Team procured the services of an Ecological Clerk of Works for independent oversight of all works to the Barrow Blueway as required by the Planning Permission and were working well with Waterways Ireland to ensure all works are carried out in compliance with Environmental Conditions and in compliance with current legislation.

Road Crossing/Junction Improvements, Car Parking Upgrade and Associates

Signage: The Strategic Project and Public Realm Team were currently running a tender on etenders for the detailed design and procurement of a Works Contractor for



all road crossings and junction improvements, including all associated signage, this was due to close on 16/09/2020, but a 3 week extension had been requested, moving closing date for tender returns to 7/10/2020. It was envisaged this work would go to site Spring 2021.

Bridge Design: The Strategic Project and Public Realm Team were currently working on a tender for bridge design and procurement of Works Contractor and hope to be in a position to upload to etenders by the end of September 2020.

Once Strategic Project and Public Realm have a detailed design on roads crossings, junction improvements and bridge design, these can be shared for information purposes only.

The Strategic Project and Public Realm team propose to update Kildare County Council's website on a biweekly basis, providing an update to the public as to how the works are progressing.

The report was noted.

KN30/0920

Historical Monuments

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

Can the council confirm if the Historical Monuments Committee intend to include the Rath in Rathangan on their work programme for the purposes of putting in place the appropriate measures to protect this local historical and archaeological landmark?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the Rath in Rathangan is in private ownership and therefore does not come under the remit of the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee. This question was to be brought to the Planning SPC.

The report was noted.



KN31/0920

Umeras Peatland Discovery Park Project

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

Can the council indicate if they have had any correspondence from Bord na Mona with reference to discussions on the proposed Umeras Peatland Discovery Park project?

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that no response has been received to date and a reminder is now being issued.

The report was noted.

KN32/0920

Grant awards under the Festival Grant Scheme

The members considered the Festival Grant Scheme administered by the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department which had been previously circulated to the members.

The Administrative Officer for Economic, Community and Cultural Development informed the members that a total of 33 festival grant applications were received, due to current restrictions it was expected that a number of these would not take place, each group had been contacted to confirm if the event had been cancelled, postponed or take place in a different format. Twenty-one groups had responded indicating their event would proceed totalling €12,100 (see appendix A).

Councillor McLoughlin Healy raised concerns around the lack of clarity in some of the projects, whom can apply and what is deemed as a festival.

The Administrative Officer agreed to clarify the concerns and would revert back to members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford seconded by Councillor A Connolly and agreed by all but Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the grant award under the Festival Grant Scheme be approved.



KN33/0920

Playground for Newbridge

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

In order to assist with identifying funding for a playground for Newbridge, the need for which is highlighted in the councils play strategy, can the council clarify; the geographic allocation of 2020 LPT funds around the district; potential funding from rates and levies raised in the area; and an update on projected/actual delivery schedule of projects identified in the councils current Capital Programme to identify funds that could be potentially redirected to the playground?

A report was received from the District Manager in consultation with the Head of Finance and the Director of Economic Community & Cultural Development/Human Resources informing the members that the details of proposed specific projects together with associated allocation of levies were set out in the capital account which had already been forwarded to the members. The details of proposed 2020 LPT spend was agreed by the members had similarly been circulated. The next quarterly update on actual spend would be circulated at the upcoming September municipal district meeting. The issue of commercial rates was not relevant to the matter at hand, this was dealt with through the annual budgetary process.

The next version of the three-year (multi-annual) capital budget was currently in preparation by all directorates. In this context, reps/suggestions on the part of each municipal district arising from the July monthly municipal district meeting had been conveyed to the relevant directorates (including playground). Also, just to reconfirm that the community and recreational levies collected in a municipal district would be spent in that municipal district.

A second report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that the three-year capital programme 2021-2023 for Recreation and Amenity projects was under preparation at present and funding for a second playground in Newbridge was being considered as part of this in addition to projects in the 2020-2022 programme which were already committed to. The



Kildare County Council

outcome of this would be presented to members as part of the Budget Meetings for 2021.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.