



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
Meeting held on 18 November 2020 in
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

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

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Ms B Cuddy, (District Engineer), Mr J Murtagh (Executive Engineer), Ms V Cooke (Administrative Officer) Mr A Shanahan (Administrative Officer) Mr S Cummins (A/Senior Engineer) Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officer) Ms S Scully (Administrative Officer) Mr C O'Toole (A/Staff Officer) Mr B Leonard (Meetings Administrator) Ms E Molloy (Meetings Secretary).

KN01/1120

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday 21 October 2020 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by the members that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on Wednesday, 21 October 2020 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

KN02/1120

Matters Arising

Councillor A Connolly stated in relation to the Progress Report that there was more vandalism reported at the Curragh Post Office. The District Manager replied that he had



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inspected the area, had written to the Department of Defence in this regard and would progress under the derelict site register if required.

Councillor F McLoughlin Healy requested an update on the Curragh Plains including who the council had engaged with in this regard. The District Manager replied that he had two provisional dates for a virtual meeting with Bord Na Mona, the dates being 10 December 2020 and 17 December 2020 and he would revert to the members on this.

Councillor Mark Stafford asked for clarification if this meeting with Bord Na Mona was to include the proposed development of a Windfarm at Ballydermot. The District Manager confirmed that the meeting with Bord Na Mona was on a separate subject.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy requested an update on her previous request for information regarding the sister city relationship with the Peoples Republic of China. The District Manager asked Councillor McLoughlin Healy if he could discuss this with her in more detail at a later date. Councillor McLoughlin Healy agreed to this.

KN03/1120

Municipal District Roadworks

The District Engineer stated a report had been circulated to the members providing an update on roads resurfacing and footpath works, low cost accident schemes, LPT, miscellaneous works, NTA funded works and drainage.

Councillor Doyle asked if the funding had been allocated for the works at Sheshoon Cross on the way to Carna. The District Engineer replied that she would get back to her on this.

Councillor P O'Dwyer asked about the roadworks on the Military Road and that the road closure had not taken place. The District Engineer replied that the works had not taken place as there was resistance to the works being carried out by one of the main retailers on



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the road and that due process had not been followed. Ms Cuddy stated that the works would commence on the 11 January 2021 for a duration of six weeks.

Councillor A Connolly commended the Municipal District Engineer on the work that had been done at Pollardstown Cross.

The members commended Executive Engineer J Murtagh on the report that he had provided on the Taking In Charge for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

KN04/1120

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District “other community projects” LPT funding 2020

The Mayor asked if there were any LPT nominations.

Councillor Mark Stafford confirmed the following nominations:

- €500 Newbridge-Kildare Samaritans
- €3,000 Rathangan Community Association
- The balance (€7,500) to go to Saint Brigid 1500 Anniversary

Councillor Tracey O’Dwyer confirmed the following nominations:

- €2000 Kilcullen GAA
- €2000 Sarsfields GAA Club
- €500 Kilcullen Boxing Club
- €1500 Brannockstown Tidy Towns
- €1000 Old Kilcullen Area Community Association
- €500 Newbridge Meals on Wheels
- €1000 Kilcullen Soccer Club

Councillor Robert Power confirmed the following nomination and stated that this also referred to Item 42 on the Agenda and requested through the Chair that this be dealt with at the same time. The members agreed to this.



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- €4000 for a pilot scheme to purchase 2000 saplings at €2 each, allowing five Tiny Forests of native species to be planted in locations within the Kildare-Newbridge District.

Councillor Noel Connolly confirmed the following LPT nomination:

- €500 Teach Dara

Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer confirmed the following LPT nomination:

- €1000 Lighting for the Standhouse Road
- €1500 Sarsfields GAA

Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy asked for clarity on what funding the council could give to charities and whether sports clubs could be funded? She also sought clarity on what was outside the community realm? Councillor Noel Heavey stated that over the past three years there had been a lot of change in the community governance and that community projects have sought charity status. The members asked that these questions be brought to the attention of the Economic Community and Cultural Development Department.

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 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 P O'Dwyer confirmed that she was connected with Sarsfields GAA Club, Councillor Mark Stafford confirmed that he was connected to Rathangan Community Association and he hopes to be involved in the St. Brigid 1500 Anniversary.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer confirmed she was connected to Sarsfields GAA Club

Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy confirmed she was connected to Sarsfields GAA Club

Councillor Suzanne Doyle confirmed she hoped to be involved in the St Brigid 1500 Anniversary.



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Resolved That the nominations were proposed by Councillor R Power and seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by the majority of the members.

KN05/1120

Christmas parking arrangements in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District 2020

Acting Staff Officer C O'Toole gave an overview of the arrangements which had been put in place for 2019. The members discussed the arrangements and made the following comments:

- That towns would be congested with traffic if there was free on street parking
- That the public needed to be informed of parking arrangements
- That the half hour free parking which was in place at present was enough
- That free parking varied around the Municipal District and could free parking be approved without a costing.
- That council car parks could be free and on street parking would remain at a half hour free

The Mayor stated that the options were free parking everywhere from the end of phase 5 restrictions to the 3 January 2021, continue with the first thirty minutes free or free parking in council car parks, and charge for on street parking. It was to be noted that for next year Kildare Chamber and LEO were to ascertain what local businesses wanted to do with regard to Christmas parking and costings.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N Heavey and seconded by Councillor S Doyle and agreed by all members that there was to be no suspension in the pay parking and to promote the 30 minute observation period which was already in place.

KN06/1120

Accident Prevention and Traffic Calming at Cherryville Cross

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



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That accident prevention and traffic calming measures be introduced at Cherryville Cross on the Old N7 between Monasterevin and Kildare Town.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that this could be included for consideration in the 2021 Budget under the Low-Cost Accident Schemes subject to funding being provided.

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

KN07/1120

Comprehensive Programme for the removal of illegal signage

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

That the council engage in a comprehensive programme for the removal of illegal signage.

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that following previous motions, the Council did engage extensively in such a programme in Newbridge which involved close liaison with the Planning department. Both departments, including the wardens walked the area and considered all signage, called to owners where merited and also issued notices where warranted. A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public safety department informing the members that the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal Office agreed to provide support for the removal of signage, however the identification of illegal signage would be a matter for the Planning and Environment departments. A report was received from the Planning department informing the members that where unauthorised signage was erected on private lands and cannot be considered to be exempt development under the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) the Planning Authority may take enforcement action seeking the removal of the unauthorised signage.



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The members discussed the motion and made the following points:

- That there were random illegal signs across the municipal district and could another walk through be taken to identify these signs?
- That there was an extensive report circulated in the term of the previous council which wasn't responded to.

The District Manager stated that a lot of effort had been put into this, the area had been walked and action had been taken and that some of the signage may be exempt from planning. He stated he would circulate a list of notices issued re the removal of signage. Councillor Pender stated he appreciated the work that had been done.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy with all members agreeing that the reports be noted.

KN08/1120

Pedestrian Crossing between George's Street and Newbridge Town Hall

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
That the council consider a pedestrian crossing between George's Street and the Newbridge Town Hall.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor M Stafford

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that this proposal would be considered as part of a wider scheme in this area of Newbridge that was planned to provide additional pedestrian facilities/promote cycling and walking. The provision of a crossing at this point would be premature pending the development of further schemes.

The District Engineer Ms B Cuddy stated that discussions in this matter were ongoing with Road Design Department.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Stafford with all members agreeing that the report be noted.



KN09/1120

Fionn MacCumhaill and his Hounds roundabout

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

That the council consider linking the Fionn MacCumhaill and his Hounds roundabout to join the L7042 at Lumville Crossroads with a footpath in the 2021 budget.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the Municipal District office agreed to examine and cost this proposal. Any works would be subject to funding being identified, appropriate lands being made available and agreement with all relevant stakeholders.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer, with all the members agreeing that the report be noted.

KN10/1120

Mullacash Junction

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

That the council submit Mullacash Junction to be included on the low-cost accident improvement scheme list for 2021.

The motion was proposed by Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor N Connolly

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that this can be included for consideration in the 2021 budget under the low-cost accident schemes, subject to funding being provided.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor N Connolly with all members agreeing that the report be noted.



KN11/1120

Support to Business in Kilcullen and Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
That the council provide support to business in Kilcullen and Newbridge that did not avail of the restart grant by painting 2 metre social distance stencils on the footpath outside the premises particular in the lead up to Christmas where there will most definitely be queues outside shops such as butchers and grocery both of which would not have availed of the restart grant as they remained open during lockdown.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the 2m distance stencils provided in August/September to assist schools were provided at state schools only. Where stencilling or marking is required outside a commercial premise the onus is on owner/management of that premises, whether it be a shop, butcher, chemist etc, to ensure social distancing guidelines are met. The Municipal District Office does not have budget or staff resources available to provide this service.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor M Stafford with all members agreeing that the report be noted.

KN12/1120

Road markings at the entrance to Ellistown GAA pitch

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly
That the council repaint the road markings at the entrance to Ellistown GAA pitch
The motion was proposed by Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor N Connolly.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that this could be included in the Roads Markings contract.



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

KN13/1120 Traffic Lights on L7023

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly
That the council explore the possibility of installing traffic lights at the bridge on the L7023, Rathbride Road, Curragh.

The motion was proposed by Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor C Pender.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public safety department informing the members that the Traffic Management Section investigated this issue; the bridge referred to is in a rural location with low traffic volumes which would not justify the provision of traffic signals and creating a one-way shuttle system. Given the present geometry/alignment of the bridge and its proximity to the R413 the provision of traffic signals would not be recommended as it would negatively impact on the R413 and would be complex and difficult to provide safe control for all approaches.

The members discussed the motion and made the following points:

- That a large number of HGV's were using this bridge which caused a huge back-up of traffic.
- There used to be large signs on this bridge banning HGV's, these signs were all removed and could Kildare County Council engage with Irish Rail to return these signs?
- That quite a number of horses traversed this bridge, could there be equine traffic lights?
- That the council could work with local companies to deter HGV drivers from using this bridge.

The A/Senior Engineer Mr S Cummins stated that his team would have another look at the signage for this bridge.



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Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor C Pender with all members agreeing that the report be noted and the Roads department to look at signage again at the bridge.

KN14/1120

Junction at Academy Street, Main Street, Kildare Town

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor S Doyle
That the council investigate traffic management measures to improve the efficiency of the junction at Academy Street, Main Street, Kildare Town.

The motion was proposed by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor C Pender

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that a one-way scheme on Cleamore Road was currently being trialled by the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District. The long-term implications of the scheme are also being currently assessed as part of the Kildare Transport Strategy through the use of a bespoke traffic model developed for Kildare Town. It is anticipated that the results of this assessment will be made available to members to review in January 2021

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor C Pender with all members agreeing that the report be noted.

KN15/1120

Suncroft National School

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kevin Duffy
That the council consider the upgrade of the existing speed ramps at the Suncroft National School and at the Carna housing estate to reduce the speed of traffic approaching the school and into the village.

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 there was no funding available for works at this location in 2020. This can be included for consideration in 2021.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kevin Duffy and seconded by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy with all members agreeing that the report be noted.

KN16/1120

Footpath from Fenview Heights, Milltown to Clongownagh

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor M Stafford
That the council install a footpath from Fenview Heights, Milltown to Clongownagh.
The motion was proposed by Councillor M Stafford and seconded by Councillor N Connolly.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that there was no funding available for works at this location in 2020. The location could be included for consideration for LPT funding subject to members agreement.

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

KN17/1120

Traffic Island at Garda Station, Rathangan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford.
That the council remove the traffic island recently installed at the Garda Station Rathangan which is causing an obstruction to traffic.
The motion was proposed by Councillor Mark Stafford and seconded by Councillor C Pender.



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that this island was installed as part of recent upgrades on the Rathangan to Edenderry Road, which included upgrading and installing of new footpaths, surface overlay of the road and upgrade to existing roundabout. This island was installed as a refuge island in line with traffic management guidelines. It provides for traffic calming and provides safe refuge for pedestrians when crossing the road and as such, it's removal would not be deemed appropriate.

Councillor Stafford stated that there was a lot of HGV traffic on this road and they found it difficult to navigate this island. The District Engineer replied that double yellow lines were to be installed to try to stop people parking here, and the purpose of the island was important to the safety of pedestrians.

Councillor Stafford welcomed the report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor M Stafford and seconded by Councillor C Pender with all members agreeing that the report be noted

KN18/1120

St. Dominic's Park, Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Chris Pender That the council begin the process of making St Dominic's park, Newbridge a one-way system to vehicular traffic.

The motion was proposed by Councillor C Pender and seconded by Councillor F McLoughlin Healy

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the making of a one-way system at this location would need to be assessed as part of the overall Traffic Management Plan for Newbridge. It was anticipated that the Traffic Management Plan would commence in 2021 subject to resources being available.

The members discussed the motion and made the following comments:



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- That the housing estate was being used as a through road by drivers.
- That small children and older people were being put in danger with the volume of cars going through the estate.
- Was there a case that this one-way system could be done on a pilot basis while waiting for the Traffic Management Plan?

The A/Senior Engineer S Cummins stated that he would be happy to consult with Councillor Pender in this matter in advance of the Traffic Management Plan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Chris Pender and seconded by Councillor F McLoughlin Healy with all members agreeing that the report be noted.

KN19/1120

Audit of public bins in the Newbridge area

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Chris Pender
That the council undertake a full audit of public bins in the Newbridge area; including usage, emptying frequency, state of disrepair, and the responsible party for their emptying.
The motion was proposed by Councillor Chris Pender and seconded by Councillor N Connolly

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that an audit of all public bins countywide had been identified by the Environment Department and its requirement was included in the Draft Litter Management Plan 2020-21. The audit will include suitability of site, size, prominence, frequency of emptying and timing of emptying. The Municipal District Office would continue with its current operations in Newbridge in relation to street sweeping and bin emptying until such time as the countywide audit is completed.

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



KN20/1120

Maintenance of L7087 between Russlestown and Victoria Bridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Heavey
That the council prioritise the L7087 stretch of road between Russlestown and Victoria Bridge for urgent maintenance in 2021 with particular focus on safety concerns along the raised 1 kilometre stretch at Blacktrench.

The motion was proposed by Councillor N Heavey and seconded by Councillor Rob Power

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that this can be included for consideration as part of the Roads Restoration programme in 2021, subject to meeting criteria and funding being available.

The members discussed the motion and raised the following points:

- That the L7087 was a very busy road, it had two quarries on it and HGV's using it were problematic.
- That patchwork repairs had been carried out, but could major repairs be undertaken?
- That the speed limit was not being enforced, there had been two fatalities on this stretch of road and could a pilot scheme to use cameras be introduced.

The Mayor stated that he could raise the speed limit point at the next JPC meeting.

The District Engineer stated that the annual roads programme was not enough to maintain this road. The ground was boggy, it sinks, cracks and swells due to weather conditions, depending on the time of year. Patchwork repairs were being carried out but that was not good enough. A substantial repair job would be at a huge cost to undertake.

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



KN21/1120

Restoration of the Hacklow Road

Items 20 and 29

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor R Power
That the MD engineer engages with the Old Kilcullen Residents Association in discussions on the restoration of the Hacklow Road to make it suitable for pedestrian and local vehicle use.

The motion was proposed by Councillor R Power and seconded by Councillor F McLoughlin Healy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer would meet with the Residents Association however, unless substantial funding is made available, the Municipal District Office will not be able to carry out works at this location.

The District Engineer Ms B Cuddy stated that she would engage with the residents once funding became available. She also stated that there would be a need for a multi section meeting in this regard.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor R Power and seconded by Councillor F McLoughlin Healy with all members agreeing that the report was noted.

KN22/1120

Barrettstown Road to Clongorey

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
Can the council confirm if the first section of the Barrettstown Road to Clongorey is listed for road improvement in 2021 (approximately half kilometre)?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the location could be considered for possible inclusion in Roadworks Programme for 2021 subject to required criteria being met.

The report was noted.



KN23/1120

Street Lights on Bourne's Lane

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly
Can the council confirm when the new street lights on Bourne's Lane, Rathangan will be switched on?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the lighting along Bourne's lane was conditioned to be provided as part of the Temple Mills development, and as such, energising the lighting is a matter for the developer.

The report was noted.

KN24/1120

Sheep Grid at the entrance to Curragh View

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly
Can the council confirm when the sheep grid at the entrance to Curragh View, Brownstown will be installed?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that as previously outlined, an extensive investigation and discussions with residents took place in 2019. At present the Municipal District Office cannot identify a suitable location for the sheep grid due to underground services and proximity to dwellings.

The District Engineer Ms B Cuddy stated that Irish Water services were on one side of this entrance, that new sheep grids cost between €70,000 to €80,000 and needed to be constantly fixed at a cost of between €10,000 to €12,000.

The report was noted.



KN25/1120

Magee Terrace in Kildare Town

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Suzanne Doyle
Can the council confirm if it has explored measures to improve safety sight lines for Magee Terrace in Kildare Town beside the Garda Station?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that Magee Terrace is private property and owned by the Department of Defence, therefore there are no proposals to carry out works at this location. Councillor Doyle stated that this was a housing estate near the Garda Station and that the barracks had been sold. The District Engineer stated that she would check out this matter and come back to the members.

The report was noted.

KN26/1120

Hedge Cutting in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford
Can the council advise on its hedge cutting programme in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District with particular reference to Ballykelly and Christianstown?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the Municipal District Office cuts hedgerows and grass verges to maintain sightlines at junctions within the Municipal District area. There is no budget available to carry out additional hedge cutting outside of maintaining sightlines. Maintenance of the remaining hedgerows and verges is the responsibility of the landowner.

Councillor Stafford asked if there was a programme for hedge cutting and how many times a year it was carried out? The District Engineer replied that it was seasonal and when specifically required and that the programme was carried out four to five times a year.

The report was noted.



KN27/1120

Suspension of Trading Byelaws in Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Chris Pender
That this Municipal District Committee temporarily suspend the trading byelaws in Newbridge in order to allow for outside market trading in the Market Square.

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

A report was received from the Housing and Corporate Services department informing the members that members that the current Casual Trading Bye Laws for Newbridge were adopted by the former Town Council in 2007. They relate to the George's Street area only, specifically stating the following:

*"The council hereby designates the following as a casual trading area: Georges Street, Droichead Nua (**exclusive** of any part of Main Street, Eyre Street and the area known as **Market Square**), situate in the administrative area of Kildare County Council"*

There is no bye law in place for the area commonly known as Market Square, off Eyre Street, in fact the Bye Law expressly excludes the area (emphasis above). The full bye law is available at this link:

<http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/YourCouncil/GovernanceandCompliance/CasualTrading/>

While the bye law relates to George's Street, it has, historically, operated in consultation with and been led by businesses on that street. Further background regarding this was reported at the January 2020 Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting, in response to a motion proposing new bye-laws:

"Bye-laws for a farmers' market were adopted in December 2007. Goods to be sold were limited. The market traded for approximately 1.5 years and then disbanded. Retailers on George's Street reactivated the market for 6 months in 2013 but again it was disbanded in August 2013."

In summary, the current bye law does not facilitate casual trading at the location proposed in the motion. To progress this matter new bye laws would be required.



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To assist the members in working towards developing and adopting new casual trading bye laws for Newbridge, at the January 2020 meeting it was reported to members (in response to a motion) that they would need to consider the matters below.

“In conclusion if the members agree to introduce casual trading bye-laws the following will have to be decided

- (i) The locations of the trading areas in each town, bearing in mind that the area in Kildare Town cannot be reduced.*
- (ii) How many licences will be issued for each town*
- (iii) What type of products can be sold*
- (iv) The cost of the licences”*

Correspondence outlining a list of 9 criteria for consideration in development of bye laws was also sent to the members after the municipal district meeting.

The Corporate Services Department were happy to work with the members in the development of bye laws and can re-issue this request for the key information needed to progress bye laws. Upon receipt of feedback from members, the Corporate Services Department will co-ordinate this feedback and input from other council departments, to develop new casual trading bye laws that reflect the needs of the Newbridge community.

Councillor Pender stated that there was a large volume of anti-social behaviour around this area and asked if there could be a complete review of this area. Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy stated that this item had been discussed in January and asked if the council could call a meeting to look at the laws and include the Newbridge Access Group. Mr A Shanahan replied that he would send the 9 criteria for consideration in development of bye laws to the members again and that he would brief the members in January 2021 to initiate the process to introduce the new bye laws, and that the byelaws were a reserved function.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Chris Pender and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy with all members agreeing that the report be noted.



KN28/1120

Increment Tenant Purchase Scheme

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford
Can the council advise on the number of houses sold under the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District since the commencement of the scheme?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that since commencement of the current scheme (2016) five properties have been sold in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

Councillor Stafford asked the number of houses sold in the other Municipal Districts and how many applications were made. Ms S Scully from the housing department replied that she would revert to the members with this information.

The report was noted.

KN29/1120

Purchase of Vacant Properties

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor R Power
Can the council outline how it engages with property owners to both secure and purchase vacant properties within the district expeditiously, in particular where anti-social behaviour is a cause of concern for neighbouring homes?

A report was received from the Housing department informing the members that the Vacant Homes Officer would carry out an assessment exercise on a vacant property in order to identify the registered owner of the property and would then make contact with the owner or financial institution in order to discuss with them the schemes available to bring the property back into use i.e. the Repair and Lease and the Buy and Renew Schemes. Where warranted a compulsory purchase can be considered.

The report was noted.



KN30/1120
Barrow Blueway

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor M Stafford
That as part of the rollout of the Barrow Blueway, the council outline its role as route host along with Inland Waterways and proposals for appropriate levels of service for each section, provision of route furniture and signage and most critically the route story.

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

A report was received from Planning, Strategic Projects and Public Realm department informing the members that Kildare County Council and our Project Partners are acutely aware that the Barrow Blueway represents one of the most exciting new Blueway opportunities. To ensure the success of the project, the Project Partners have set up a sub steering group looking specifically at marketing and promotion. The Barrow Blueway Marketing and Promotion group include officials from Kildare County Council, Laois County Council, Waterways Ireland, LEADER and LEO organizations, and are working together to deliver 46km of stand-out, multi-activity trails on and alongside the idyllic canal banks of the Barrow, with the understanding that the 'visitor experience' is of central importance to the success of the Barrow Blueway. The Blueway concept is based upon activation of trails, not only providing opportunities for cyclists and walkers but for paddlers also. The Blueway Experience not only aims to support the experienced paddler but also aims to support the novice to participate through the provision of equipment and supervision. By working closely with the tourism sector in the locality, including service providers, the Blueway can drive economic benefit. The packaging of experiences is of great importance along with convenience for the consumer. The Blueway initiative is grounded in not only building high quality visitor facilities, but equally in working with service providers to activate and bring the trails to life. The process of gaining accreditation as a Blueway has already commenced with a Stage 1 application submitted for independent review. There are a number of requirements that need to be satisfied in order to achieve accreditation including the provision of



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appropriate signage, route furniture and facilities. In addition to this, the Barrow Blueway Marketing and Promotion Group has commissioned a paddling feasibility study which is being undertaken by Canoeing Ireland to determine the requirements and shortfalls, along the route. The recommendations identified in this report will be assessed and brought to the Project Steering Group for review and decision.

Councillor Stafford asked for information signposts and tabletops to be put in place to highlight the local culture and history and to highlight local artists, also to inform the visitor the story of the area.

As there was no representative from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm section present, the District Manager stated that the report submitted was very comprehensive and that there would be many opportunities to make further suggestions.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy with all members agreeing that the report be noted.

KN31/1120

Vacant buildings on both sides of Dublin Street, Monasterevin

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly
That the council begin a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process on the vacant buildings on both sides of Dublin Street in Monasterevin with a view to bringing them into productive use.

The motion was proposed by Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor Anne Connolly

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Projects and Public Realm department informing the members that During 2020 survey work was undertaken on a number of sites throughout County Kildare, including Monasterevin to determine whether they were considered vacant in accordance with Part 2 of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 as amended with respect to the Vacant Site Levy. In relation to same, Section 7(1)



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notices are currently being issued with regard to a number of sites, including a number located along Dublin Street in Monasterevin.

Section 7(1) states the following:

'Before entering a site on the register a planning authority shall give written notice to the owner of the site setting out the reasons for the proposed entry and the owner may make submissions in respect of the proposed entry to the planning authority in writing within 28 days after the date of such notice'.

Further to Section 7(1), the planning authority will review any submissions received and, having regard to same, where the planning authority is of the opinion that the subject sites were vacant sites in accordance with Section 7(2) of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, it shall enter the site on the register in accordance with Section 6(2).

A further opportunity was available however for landowners to appeal any recommendation of the planning authority.

Separately the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team made successful funding applications to both the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund and the Town and Village Renewal Scheme in 2018. The Paul Hogarth Company were subsequently appointed to prepare a Healthcheck and Masterplan for Monasterevin Town Centre on behalf of Kildare County Council. This funding will serve to develop and bring to 'shovel ready' stage a number of public realm interventions arising out of this Masterplan to regenerate the town centre of Monasterevin.

Initial public consultation was carried out by way of a questionnaire, a public workshop event and stakeholder/landowner engagement in 2019 and the Urban Design and Spatial Analysis stage of the Masterplan has since been completed. The next stage of the Masterplan will comprise concept and design proposals. It is intended to launch an online public consultation before the end of November to further inform and shape the process. It is envisaged that the Masterplan will be completed in Quarter 2 of 2021.



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Kildare County Council along with The Paul Hogarth Company have engaged closely with local property owners within the town centre throughout this Masterplan process and will continue to do so.

The members made the following points:

- That this report was welcomed, that these were beautiful heritage buildings and worth preserving.
- That the council have been trying to deal with these sites for a long time.
- That the sites dominate the local landscape and there was huge potential for these sites as could be seen with the development of the distillery.

A report was received from the Housing department informing the members that currently the priority for the Vacant Homes Office was housing that can be turned around as quickly as possible for use as social housing. These buildings would constitute a substantial project and while it is agreed that it would certainly be positive to see these buildings brought back into use, a compulsory purchase order of these properties was not possible at present.

Councillor Power stated that each CPO was taking a huge amount of funding out of the housing budget. The District Manager stated that the council had to be cautious with the CPO option.

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

KN32/1120

Canal Road, Monasterevin

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kevin Duffy
That the council explore the opportunity to include the Barrow Blueway portion of works along Canal Road, Monasterevin from Main Street to Ballykelly Bridge as a variation to the



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current footpath and road civil works contract to minimise disruption, address immediate safe concerns and complete the works in the same time period as the current works.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kevin Duffy and seconded by Councillor M Stafford

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) department informing the members that Waterways Ireland have a preliminary design for road works in Monasterevin, The SPPR team recently ran a tender for detailed design in relation to all road crossings and bridge design in association with the Barrow Blueway. Fehily Timoney were the successful consultant. Detailed design would commence shortly, followed by procurement of a Works Contractor, and works were programmed to commence on site mid-June. The council can prioritise which works commence first and would of course liaise closely with the Municipal District Engineer in all instances.

The members discussed the motion and made the following points:

- That they would like to see this work happen sooner rather than later, that contractors would be going in and only half completing some works and then going back to finish.
- Drogheda Street needed a footpath urgently.

The District Manager stated that he would discuss these points with the District Engineer.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kevin Duffy and seconded by Councillor Mark Stafford with all members agreeing that the report be noted.

KN33/1120

National Transport Authority traffic management and public realm plan for Newbridge

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

That the council clarify any changes in the previous schedule for each element of the cultural quarter that was to be developed in conjunction with the National Transport Authority traffic management and public realm plan for Newbridge.



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

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team that the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team along with the Traffic Management Section were collaborating with respect to the Newbridge Cultural Quarter, the Newbridge Town Renewal Plan and the NTA's proposals for Newbridge. Discussions were on-going between Kildare County Council and the NTA in relation to Newbridge and when this process is concluded the council would be in a position to update the Elected Members.

The members discussed the motion and made the following points:

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that management reports were asked for and were not given and answers should be made available. She stated that she was really disappointed that the opportunity was not taken to update people and that she was very annoyed that there was no one present in the chamber to answer questions. Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer stated that there was frustration as to when things would happen in Newbridge.

The District Manager stated that the reply that issued sought to address the notice of motion as it was actually framed and that any additional information regarding the Newbridge Cultural Quarter in terms of timelines etc, over and above the existing quarterly report provided by the Public Realm team, could be made available.

The District Manager further stated that he understood the frustrations of the members in relation to Newbridge. He suggested, however, that significant progress had been made across the Municipal District and, for example, that Part 8s in respect of Rathangan and Kilcullen were about to be published. Indeed, some two years ago, there were no plans advanced at all for any of the towns. He emphasised that these were all long term projects. He acknowledged the support of the members to date. He also referred to the comprehensive quarterly reports issued by the Public Realm Team and, certainly, additional



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information could be added if required. In addition, the Newbridge Traffic Management Plan was due to commence in 2021 and this could be dovetailed with the public realm initiatives.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated there were plans for the Riverbank and the Library which were not delivered and that she was asking for a schedule of each element of the plan and that there was a need for regular detailed updates on what was being delivered and what was being planned.

The District Manager reiterated that the members get a regular report from the Public Realm team

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Noel Connolly with all members agreeing that the report be noted and that any additional information regarding the Newbridge Cultural Quarter in terms of timelines etc, over and above the existing quarterly report provided by the public realm team, be made available to include timelines, phases and any changes in each element.

The Mayor stated that there were six motions not heard and requested the members to let Members Services know if they were happy with the reports or wished to have their motions adjourned to the next Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting.

The meeting concluded.