



**Minutes of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District  
held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 15 December 2021  
via Microsoft Teams**

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

**Officials Present:** Mr J Boland (District Manager), Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Mr D McCormack (Executive Engineer), Mr C O'Toole (A/Staff Officer), Mr M Corrigan (Senior Executive Librarian), Ms L Kennedy (LPT Co-ordinator), Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officer), Mr O Brady (Administrative Officer), Mr D Mc Dermott (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms Lucina Russell (Arts Officer), Mr B Leonard (Meetings Administrator), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

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The Deputy Mayor welcomed everyone and commenced the meeting.

**KN01/1221**

**Declaration of Pecuniary or Beneficial Interests**

The Deputy Mayor asked if there were any declarations of Interest under Section 177 Of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended. There were no declarations of interest.

**KN02/1221**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday 17 November 2021 together with the Progress Report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor S Doyle, seconded by Councillor A Connolly and



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agreed by the members that the minutes of the monthly meeting of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday 17 November be adopted. The report was noted.

### **Matters Arising**

Councillor A Connolly queried an item on the progress report relating to the Post Office at the Curragh regarding whether a timeline or any further information could be provided. The District Manager advised that he had written directly to the Department of Defence and enforcement action would be taken if necessary. He confirmed he would follow up and keep the members informed of all progress.

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for commencing the meeting and took the Chair.

### **KN03/1221**

**To receive an update on the municipal district road works.**

#### **Road Resurfacing Works:**

The Surface Dressing Program and Restoration Improvement Works is now complete for 2021, we are currently preparing the 2022 program.

#### **LIS:**

- LIS in Milltown and Conlanstown Rathangan.

#### **LPT:**

- Mount Carmel Footpaths
- Milltown – footpaths
- Rowanville footpaths
- Brownstown – drainage and footpaths
- Liffey linear park access

#### **Miscellaneous Works:**

- Verge cutting ongoing across all areas of the MD.



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- Footpath repairs in Brownstown, Oaks,
- Pothole repairs across the MD
- General Maintenance – water cuts, patching, gully cleaning.

### Drainage works:

- Brownstown
- Sunnyhill

The members acknowledged the work done and raised the following points.

- Had drainage works been completed at Maddenstown.
- Could a particularly bad pothole on Tully Road be filled.
- The Clongorey Road at Russellstown was prone to potholes which could be treacherous at times and could patch repair works be prioritised in this area if necessary.

Ms B Cuddy advised that LPT works were now completed for the year and the crew were moving to maintenance work until the New Year. The recent storm delayed some works which would be completed in the New Year. The patching crew would be off for Christmas except for emergencies.

### KN04/1221

#### **To agree and approve the allocation of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District 'Members nominations' 2021.**

Councillor A Connolly proposed two amounts to be allocated:

- €1500 to McDonagh Pitch and Putt Club for the installation of a defibrillator.
- €5500 to the Parks Department for works to be carried out at Rathangan playground.

This was seconded by Councillor Stafford.

Councillor Stafford proposed one amount to be allocated:

- €1500 to Newbridge St Vincent de Paul for Meals on Wheels.

This was seconded by Councillor Power.

Resolved on the proposals of Councillor A Connolly and Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor Stafford and Councillor Power and agreed by the members that the allocations as outlined be approved.



**KN05/1221**

**To receive an update on LPT Expenditure 2021.**

The Mayor advised that discussions regarding capitalisation and allocations would take place in the new year.

The report was noted.

**KN06/1221**

The members considered the Road Traffic Act 1994 – Section 38 Proposed Temporary Cycle and Seating Infrastructure along Main Street (R445-27) and Edward Street (R445-28), Newbridge.

Mr D McCormack informed the members that this Section 38 involved protected cycle tracks, seating areas and bicycle parking at various areas from the Riverbank to Eddie Rocketts. There had been 8 observations received which were circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

The members raised the following points:

- A submission had been sent in by Newbridge Access Group and was this now the final draft regarding accessibility.
- Had there been an increase in barriers

Mr D McCormack advised that there would be four accessible bays but that more space may become available. The barriers were 6-10 metres and were reduced in some areas for protection for pedestrians.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members that the Road Traffic Act 1994 – Section 38 Proposed Temporary Cycle and Seating Infrastructure along Main Street (R445-27) and Edward Street (R445-28), Newbridge be approved.

**KN07/1221**

The members considered the Road Traffic Act 1994 – Section 38 proposed Construction of New Bus Shelter at Curragh Camp (Opposite Orchard Park Estate), The Curragh, Road Number L-3008-0, (Out-Bound).



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**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly, seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by the members that the Road Traffic Act 1994 – Section 38 proposed Construction of New Bus Shelter at Curragh Camp (Opposite Orchard Park Estate), The Curragh, Road Number L-3008-0, (Out-Bound) be approved.

### **KN08/1221**

The members considered the Road Traffic Act 1994 – Section 38 proposed Construction of New Bus Shelter at Curragh Camp (Outside Orchard Park Estate), The Curragh, Road Number L-3008-0 (In-Bound) (report attached).

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly, seconded by Councillor C Pender and agreed by the members that the Road Traffic Act 1994 – Section 38 proposed Construction of New Bus Shelter at Curragh Camp (Outside Orchard Park Estate), The Curragh, Road Number L-3008-0 (In-Bound) be approved.

### **KN09/1221**

#### **Looped Walking Trail**

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

That the council investigate the feasibility of the provision of a looped walking trail at Clongownagh - Milltown - Baronstown West.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department advising the members that there was no objection in principle to the proposal, but further details were required in relation to the exact location and route of the project. Additionally, the Parks Section were committed to a number of projects in the municipal district already. Any further progression of the proposal would be contingent on completing these projects first and identifying funding for the feasibility study. Councillor Stafford advised that he would organise a meeting with the Parks Department onsite.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer that the report be noted.



**KN10/1221**

**Pilot Scheme Space Finder Service**

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

That the council explore the piloting of the Space Finder Service recently launched in Limerick, to help disabled drivers find parking spaces via an app, in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

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

A report was received from the Pay Parking Section advising the members that the possibility of providing this service as part of the current services across the County of Kildare would be investigated.

Councillor P O'Dwyer advised that the Space Finder App involved a sensor being placed in the ground which locates a vacant space in real time and she looked forward to trying to pilot the scheme.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Power that the report be noted.

**KN11/1221**

**Public Lighting Bishop Rogan Estate Kilcullen**

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

That the council carry out a public lights audit in Bishop Rogan Estate, Kilcullen as there appears to be a few blackspots but particularly in one location where there are a number of steps up to the houses and currently there is no light at this location.

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

A report was received from the Public Lighting Section informing the members that the location of the requested new street light would be visited and it would then be assessed using a priority system within Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS). Lighting schemes



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would be scored on various factors and placed within KLIPS according to that score. The lighting within KLIPS would be installed as and when funds became available and depending on where the request sits within KLIPS.

Councillor T O'Dwyer advised that there was inadequate lighting in the estate, but one particular area was a particular blackspot where there were no lights at all and steps up to the houses.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Pender that the report be noted.

### KN12/1221

#### Landscaping Survey R448

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer. That the council carry out a landscaping survey on a considerable section of land owned by Kildare County Council at the Two-Mile House/Brannockstown Junction on the R448 Naas/Kilcullen Road.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the council would carry out an assessment of the location in conjunction with the Roads Area Engineer to see what if any landscape treatment would be possible.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that the sightlines at the area in question were being cut by a group of volunteers but she would like to see something more sustainable similar to the wildflower zone at Killashee.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Duffy that the report be noted.

### KN13/1221

#### Footpath Upgrade

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



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That the council upgrade the footpath from Beechgrove to Spencer Court, Rathangan.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office could examine as part of the 2022 LPT program subject to budget and councillor approval.

Councillor A Connolly requested that the works be done as a matter of urgency as there were three wheelchair users in the area who currently had to cross the road to avoid this area and that one of the wheelchair users had a recent accident in the area.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted.

### **KN14/1221**

#### **Bioswales Trial**

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

That the council trial the provision of Bioswales in this municipal district, particularly but not limited to dealing with areas that flood perennially.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the provision of bioswales was most suitable to dealing with surface water (pluvial) as opposed to river based (fluvial) flooding, which was usually dealt with through flood defence measures. Flood Risk Management were currently trialling nature-based solutions, such as tree pits, swales and rain gardens, as the opportunities arose, e.g. proposing tree pits in St. Patrick's Park, Rathangan. However, for any trial to be meaningful, the nature-based solution must be appropriate to the area and the type of flooding, otherwise they became unmanageable or cannot be maintained.

Bioswales generally required larger areas of green space and were suitable in areas where standing water was not an issue (as they are based on infiltration) or the type of flooding was





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not particularly flashy (i.e. it was a slower volume of water), so e.g. would not necessarily be suitable at the foot of a hill or slope.

Policies had been adopted into LAPs (as reviews arose) and were proposed for the CDP prioritising the use of nature-based solutions for surface water drainage and requiring developers to demonstrate that they had been assessed with non-nature based solutions (such as underground storage) only being permitted when all other solutions have been exhausted.

Nature based solutions were also assessed and implemented where possible in our large-scale flood relief schemes.

Councillor N Connolly provided the members with some information on the significant benefits of bioswales and gave an example of Stoneybatter in Dublin which was funded by the Community Water Development Fund, was introduced in February 2021 and was community focused. He was happy with the awareness of green infrastructures in the Environment Department and wished to increase community awareness.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor Pender that the report be noted.

### KN15/1221

#### Safety Audit Sheane, Rathangan

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

That the council conduct a safety audit at the T junction on the R419 with the new link road at Sheane (Bracknagh Road), Rathangan and carry out all necessary remedial works.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council intended to develop a county wide priority list of junctions that required improvement due to safety or other concerns. It was hoped that these priority junctions would be examined in 2022 and a consultant appointed to assist in the development of preliminary designs for each junction. Once this was complete planning



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consent would be sought to implement the schemes and they would progress to the delivery phase thereafter. This would be subject to funding and resources constraints.

Councillor Stafford advised that there was a difficulty with traffic nudging out from the link road to the R409. He was concerned to see a new list similar to TAG relating to junctions and would prefer to see more action rather than lists being created.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor N Connolly that the report be noted.

### KN16/1221

#### Stop Signage M7 Junction 14

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

That the council request Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to install additional stop signage at the junction of the M7 Junction 14 and the R445.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that subject to the members approval, correspondence could issue to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) as requested.

Councillor Duffy advised this was a T-junction, but drivers were wrongly assuming they had right of way. There was only one small stop sign. As a cost-effective safety measure Transport Infrastructure Ireland could install two larger rectangular stop signs.

Councillor Doyle enquired if something could be included in the letter to Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding lighting on roundabouts. The Meetings Administrator advised that this would require an amendment to the original motion. Councillor Doyle did not proceed with an amendment.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members that correspondence issue to Transport Infrastructure Ireland requesting to have additional stop signage at the junction of the M7 Junction 14 and the R445 installed.



**KN17/1221**

**Paddy's Bridge Thomastown**

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

That the council outline how and when visibility and safety measures might be improved on both sides of Paddy's Bridge on the Naas - Rathangan Road at Thomastown.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office carried out routine maintenance, hedge cutting and drainage upkeep. There were no plans or budget to carry out any additional works.

The members raised the following points:

- The road in question is a main artery for traffic from Rathangan, Kilmeague, Allen and Clongorey to the motorway.
- There was no lighting in the area.
- Works being requested were possibly safety strips or something fluorescent to highlight the large stone wall.
- Could the lower part of the wall have something of high visibility added.

Ms B Cuddy advised that works had been carried out in the area to solve an issue of water ponding and the hedges had been cut. The area had a very low accident rate. Rumble strips would not be suitable as there were houses nearby. The area could be looked at in 2022 with the possibility of upgrading the line marking.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor Power that the report be noted.

**KN18/1221**

**Pedestrian Crossing Liffey Linear Park**

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

That the council engage with/write to Glenveigh Homes asking them to expedite the installation of a pedestrian crossing at the rear entrance to Liffey Linear Park, in the interest of public safety.



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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that the design of works on the Athgarvan Road, Newbridge had been agreed with Kildare County Council, which would be delivered by the Developer as part of the Strategic Housing Development. It was understood that these works were scheduled to commence on site in January 2022.

Councillor Pender advised that there was a tactile dished pavement in place but no crossing. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer that the report be noted.

#### **KN19/1221**

##### **Pelican Crossing at Kilcullen Library**

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

Have Kildare County Council considered reinstating the lights at the pelican crossing at the library in Kilcullen and inserting a dished section in the path to make it easier for wheelchair users to cross to the library.

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that a temporary Zebra crossing point was provided at this location as part of works to facilitate the closure of the footpath – this was removed by the developer when works were completed. The municipal district office would investigate the suitability of the location for an uncontrolled crossing point with dished kerbs etc.

The report was noted

#### **KN20/1221**

##### **Safety Measures Caragh**

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

Can the council outline what safety/visibility measures the developer of adjoining housing estates proposes to take, and when, as per the report received on my motion last April, re the road/footpath between the Community Field (Park) and Caragh Church?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that public lighting was to be installed along the boundary of the site. It was anticipated that the installation would commence in 2022.

The report was noted.

### **KN21/1221**

#### **Yellow Box, Lidl**

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

Can the council confirm if/when the yellow box at Lidl exit onto Military Road, Newbridge will be reinstated?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that the yellow box had now been re-instated.

The report was noted.

### **KN22/1221**

#### **St Patrick's Park, Rathangan**

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

Can the council confirm if it has received approval for Stage 2 regeneration works at St Patrick's Park, Rathangan which was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the 15 October?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the council was still awaiting Stage 2 Approval from the Department. Once approval was received the next step was Launch of Part 8, expected Early Q1 2022. It should be noted that updates for each Capital Project were provided in the monthly Chief Executives Management Report.

The report was noted.

### **KN23/1221**

#### **To receive an update on Public Realm projects.**

Ms Hunt advised the members that a report had previously been circulated to the members and she asked if there were any questions following the circulation of the report.

The members raised the following points:



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- Could the “estimated value” column be explained as to where the extra funding would come from.
- Why has the Newbridge Cultural Quarter been pushed back to Quarter 4 2022.
- The Government had recently announced an outdoor recreation infrastructure grant scheme of €15.5 million. Why had Kildare only been allocated 1% of this figure. There was scope in this scheme for individual projects to be awarded up to €500,000 so the problem needed to be identified as this could possibly have been used for Cherry Avenue, Kildare
- When would the St Conleth’s Square feasibility study take place.
- If the list was reduced could projects be advanced quicker.
- Does public realm need its own directorate and what is the scope for this.
- Could projects be bundled together for tendering as there may be benefits to scaling up projects.
- Could projects be broken down on reports so that there was a differentiation between projects being pushed back and only a small part of a project being delayed while the rest of the project was on track.

Ms Hunt made the following replies:

- Regarding the extra funding the development levy scheme was currently under review with a view to a portion being public realm specific. Subject to Part 8 approval an application would be made for rural regeneration funding also.
- The outdoor recreation grant was more for Parks Department small projects and not for larger Public Realm projects however the Members need to be mindful of the list of projects currently on hand in Parks with the low number of resources within the section.
- The Public Realm Team now had two new resources in the form of a new executive architect and new clerk of works which had enabled the Part 8 for the Library element of the Cultural Quarter to be progressed. Publication of this Part 8 was scheduled for Quarter 1 2022.
- The feasibility study on St Conleth’s Square was being finalised for feedback in early 2022.



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- A priority list by Municipal District could be developed across the different Project teams as they were all working separately but more linkages were needed as some projects could be progressed by Parks, Public Realm and Sustainable Transport in tandem. With regards to having its own specific directorate Ms Hunt advised that it was possible as it had been done in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown but this would be a decision for the Chief Executive.
- Ms Hunt advised that she had no problem with breaking down projects to show what stages different parts of the project were at.
- With regard to bundling projects for tendering Ms Hunt advised she would take the comments back for consideration.

Councillor Duffy gave an update on new Sports, Recreational & Water Hub facilities in Monasterevin. A health check in Monasterevin identified a lack of social infrastructure. There were a lot of community-based organisations but a lack of physical infrastructure. This led to the establishment of Monasterevin Development Association. In partnership with the Monasterevin Development Association, Waterways Ireland and the Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary, the Council had signed a Memorandum of Understanding which sets an agreement to develop new Sports, Recreational and Water hubs facilities in Monasterevin. The Water Hub was to be located between the River Barrow and Grand Canal at Moore's Lock, Monasterevin. This would enhance the ongoing development of the Barrow Blueway as well as investment by Kildare Sports Partnership and the Monasterevin Blueway Kayak Club. The Sports Hub was to be located on lands owned by the Sisters of Charity at Moore Abbey, Monasterevin. The 9-acre site would be developed as a multi-purpose sports and recreational precinct, including indoor and outdoor facilities and playing fields.

Councillor Duffy advised that this announcement was the outcome of 2 years of collaboration between many partners and local clubs and was a significant milestone towards delivering sports and recreational amenities of strategic importance for the community. He thanked Kildare County Council, The District Manager, Mairead Hunt, Marian Higgins, Waterways Ireland, Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary and all the local groups for their hard work getting the project this far and looked forward to driving it on to Part 8 in 2022.

The District Manager commended all those involved in bringing this project to this stage, stating it would be of significant benefit to Monasterevin and the wider region.



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The Mayor proposed that item 26 be taken at this time. The members agreed.

### **KN24/1221**

#### **Public Realm Expenditure**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council provide details of expenditure on public realm plans across the municipal district, including cost vs expenditure to date on consultancy contracts already awarded and therefore no longer commercially sensitive.

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

A report was received from the Public Realm Department informing the members that the table at appendix 1 (see attached) set out the Public Realm projects within the Municipal District where a consultant has been appointed.

Those projects highlighted in blue on the table were construction projects where the consultancy fees were generally 10% of the total project cost.

As all of the projects were ongoing, details of amounts paid to date to the consultants appointed could not be released, as this information was commercially sensitive.

However, three of the projects listed were due to be completed in Quarter 1 2022. Once these projects had been completed and final payments made to the respective consultants, expenditure details on these particular projects could be released to the member in Quarter 1 2022.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy made the following points:

- If contracts have already been awarded why are the amounts paid still commercially sensitive
- Does the consultancy fee go up if the capital cost of the project goes up.
- It was difficult to distinguish what was new or changed since the previous reports so could trend reporting be used or changes highlighted.
- What does the “estimated value” equate to.
- Why was the Town Renewal Plan not on this report.

Ms Hunt replied with the following:





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- The information on the value of contracts awarded was not publicly available if the amount was under the EU threshold. Furthermore, under the Freedom of Information Act, such information was considered to be commercially sensitive as it could prejudice the commercial position of the company. All figures could be released when the contract is finished.
- The estimated value for a project was the total construction amount including consultant fees.
- The Newbridge Town Renewal Plan was not on the report due to an oversight, however it was included in the quarterly update from Public Realm previously discussed at the meeting. A new column had been added on the Public Realm Quarterly report presented to the meeting to highlight changes from previous reports.
- Consultants' fees were based on an estimate of the construction costs and were fixed fees, even if the cost of construction increased.

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

### KN25/1221

#### **Monument at Donnelly's Hollow**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor N Connolly. That the members of the municipal district write to An Roinn Cosanta asking them to correct the date of the Donnelly-Cooper fight on the monument at Donnelly's Hollow, the Curragh.

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

A report was received from the Senior Executive Librarian informing the members that Dan Donnelly fought George Cooper on the Curragh on 13 November 1815 as could be verified by the attached copy of the newspaper published the following day. The date was recorded in error on the Stone Monument at Donnelly's Hollow. It had been established in communication with the OPW in 2015 that it was not a national monument and responsibility rested with the Department of Defence.



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The lettering on the monument was currently in poor condition due to weathering.

It could be argued that Dan Donnelly was Ireland's first national sporting hero and was trained by Captain Kelly of Maddenstown in Co Kildare. Donnelly's Hollow was a unique and significant historic heritage location in County Kildare and warranted a correction of this error.

If the members were in agreement, Kildare County Council would write to the Head of the Property Management Division, Department of Defence requesting the monument be properly examined and the error on the monument be corrected. If the physical correction to the monument would be judged invasive it could be a matter to suggest alternate signage which highlighted the actual date of the fight and the error recorded on the stone.

<https://kildare.ie/ehistory/index.php/pugilistic-contest-dan-donnelly-v-george-cooper-13th-december-1815-or-not/>

<https://kildare.ie/ehistory/index.php/dan-donnelly-v-george-cooper-follow-up-investigations/>

### **Petition**

<https://www.change.org/p/irish-department-of-defence-correct-the-date-on-the-dan-donnelly-monument-donnelly-s-hollow-the-curragh-co-kildare>

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by the members that correspondence issue to the Head of Property Management Division, Department of Defence.

The Mayor proposed that the item from the supplementary agenda deferred from the October Meeting, be taken at this point. The members agreed.

### **KN26/1221**

To consider a referral from full council in relation to a recommendation from the Decade of Commemoration Committee regarding a memorial in Athy (deferred item from October meeting).

Mr M Corrigan informed the members that it had been agreed at Full Council that a county memorial be placed in Athy to commemorate those lost to, and the survivors of the



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workhouses. Decade of Commemoration were seeking an amount of €12,000 from each municipal district to fund this.

The members raised the following points:

- In principle there was no difficulty but as the Kildare-Newbridge MD was per capita less funded than some other municipal districts, the decision could have implications and a decision on LPT should be taken collectively.
- There was confusion over the role of “Decade of Commemoration” and could some information be provided in advance of an LPT meeting.

Councillor Power proposed that this be discussed with LPT in the New Year. The members agreed.

### KN27/1221

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

That the council provide a report outlining the number of site visits carried out by Planning Department officials in this municipal district categorised by the following: developments in excess of 100 units, developments less than 100 units, one off housing, and commercial units.

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

Councillor Doyle advised the meeting that the information she was seeking should have been referred to Building and Development Control rather than the Planning Department. Councillor Doyle proposed a motion that the municipal district proceed to the next order of business and the motion be deferred to the next meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by the members.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by the members that this motion be deferred to the January 2022 meeting.

### KN28/1221

#### Delivery of Schools

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



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Can the council provide a progress report on communications with the Department of Education with regards to delivery of schools within the municipal district?

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that the Planning Department was involved in the identification of proposed locations and sites for education facilities and engages on a regular basis with the Department of Education on emerging Development Plans and the various Local Area Plans to address gaps and deficiencies as efficiently as possible. However, the delivery, including site acquisition, design, and construction of sites for schools within the Kildare- Newbridge Municipal District were outside the remit of Kildare County Council.

In order to be proactive in discussions with the Department of Education, the Planning Department monitored the situation regarding pressures arising with the capacity of educational facilities for both primary and secondary school going children through the preparation of Social Infrastructure Audits to inform statutory plans.

The report was noted.

### **KN29/1221**

#### **Commencement of Works at Magee Barracks**

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

Can the council provide an update on the commencement of works, including the residential units, Cancer Treatment Clinic and neighbourhood centre at Magee Barracks, Kildare and any phasing or timeframe for the development?

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Realm Department informing the members that there were two live planning permissions at this location:

18/149: Lonadale Limited for the demolition of 6 No. existing buildings (with a GFA of c. 2,180sqm) and the removal of hard surfacing on the subject site, and the construction of a part 1, part 2 and part 3 No. storey Health Care Facility for a Cancer Treatment Clinic (Proton Therapy)

No commencement notice had been lodged in respect this application.



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19/305007 Ballymount Properties (An Bord Pleanála decision): for the demolition of 17 no existing buildings (including a range of former Barracks buildings, the Officers' Mess building and Water Tower Structure) and the construction of a development comprising of 375 no. residential units, a neighbourhood centre etc.

Condition 3 of the An Bord Pleanála permission required the amendment of the phasing plan as submitted by the applicant. The applicant had been in correspondence with the Planning Authority however this had not been agreed to date.

While certain demolition and groundworks were ongoing on site, the development had not commenced within the meaning of the Building Control Act 1990-2014.

The report was noted.

### **KN30/1221**

#### **Authorised Soil Recovery Facilities**

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

Can the council confirm the number and location of all authorised soil recovery facilities in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that details of the number and location of all authorised waste recovery facilities within County Kildare were freely available to the general public and staff alike via the National Waste Collection Permit Office website [www.nwcpo.ie](http://www.nwcpo.ie)

Kildare County Council did not maintain a separate register of waste facilities for towns or municipal districts in County Kildare.

Details of such facilities were updated on a regular basis as facilities open and close, and unfortunately the website was down at the time of writing of this report.

Kildare County Council would encourage the members and members of the public to refer to the website and check for availability of facilities in their area and to also check if needed as to whether particular facilities had the required certification to be in operation.

Any concerns should be referred to the council's Waste Enforcement Team at [environ@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:environ@kildarecoco.ie) for investigation.

Councillor Stafford advised that the website did not identify soil recovery facilities.



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The District Manager advised that he would follow up on this offline.

The report was noted

### **KN31/1221**

#### **Bord na Mona**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy  
Can the council provide a list of the green spaces/open areas owned by Bord na Mona in the municipal district and any efforts the council is taking to protect any of these open spaces, including but not limited to the green areas on Bord na Mona's site in Newbridge?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that queries regarding ownership of land by a third party within the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District should be directed to the relevant owner. However, it was acknowledged that Bord na Mona were significant landowners in County Kildare.

Policies and objectives in relation to the protection of open spaces would be considered as part of the County Development Plan review process.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy queried whether the Draft County Development Plan and Local Area Plan would be used when assessing current planning applications.

Ms M Hunt advised that the current County Development Plan and Local Area Plan stand until such time as the Draft County Development Plan is adopted.

The report was noted.

### **KN32/1221**

The members did not consider the following motion in the name of Councillor Pender.

That the council engage with Alupro Ireland on their Every Can Counts program with a view to installing a Can Wall in this municipal district, as a way to promote recycling.

Councillor Pender requested that the motion be withdrawn and the members agreed.

### **KN33/1221**

#### **Tree Planting**

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



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That the council begin a programme of strategic planting of trees that will be suitable for lighting at Christmas year on year (Spruce/ Pine etc), in towns throughout the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there was no objection in principle to the proposal however delivery of the programme was dependent on identifying appropriate locations and the number required. Additionally, if the trees proposed were 6-8ft or higher then additional budget would be required to carry out the planting.

Councillor Doyle suggested that each new development should have a landmark tree placed in a strategic location which would be linked to the public lighting in the estate which could be lit up at Christmas.

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

### KN34/1221

#### LPT Allocations

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That in order to facilitate councillors to make informed decisions regarding Local Property Tax allocations, the council communicates clearly where funds allocated in the previous year have been undersubscribed, to include an explanation of the process that is followed when additional monies are allocated by councillors from Local Property Tax to funds/grants already in existence eg Festival Grants, an explanation of how the entire amount available to potential applicants is communicated; and how the overall amount allocated/available under a particular heading, whether funded from one or multiple sources, might be clearly communicated to councillors.

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



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A report was received from the Community, Culture and Economic Development Department informing the members that the schedule of LPT works was agreed by the members at the beginning of each year. Following on from that, the attached updates of schedule of MD works from July and December were provided to members detailing LPT spent and LPT as yet unspent to date. By resolution, all unspent LPT funds had been carried forward within their respective municipal districts. Please also see attached festival grant list from May 2021 detailing grants awarded and the source of funding. All grant schemes were communicated through our normal channels, social media, website and previous applicants were informed by email. The limit available per grant was clearly identified on the application forms.

The members made the following points:

- While great strides had been made in the past year on the transparency of reporting could a column be added for total amount available and not allocated and the same under LPT, and another column showing the amount applied for rather than just the amount allocated.
- Why are certain groups such as sports clubs precluded from applying as it is unclear why they are ineligible.
- Could a briefing meeting be held in advance of the LPT meeting in isolation as there was a fear if this was done as part of the LPT meeting it would take up the whole LPT meeting.
- Sports clubs should be allowed to apply for funding, if they meet the criteria as their only other source of funding was through Kildare Sports Partnership which has limited resources.
- Junefest was funded previously by LPT as it had differing parameters to festival grants and would not take place otherwise.

Mr D McDermott advised that sports clubs had been precluded as they can avail of funding from other sources. He agreed to add the requested additions to the reports. Covid had changed some eligibility criteria and this was why having flexible guidelines was worthwhile. The policy, however, was countywide so would be difficult to define for the municipal district. He advised that information nights were organised for communities so this could be done for members in advance of the LPT meeting.





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

### **KN35/1221**

#### **Playground Entrance Station Road, Kildare**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer. Can the council provide an update on the time frame for the installation of a separate entrance to the playground on the Station Road, Kildare which was agreed at a previous meeting?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that quotations had been obtained for the gate. Upgrade works and a short section of new path were required to facilitate the new entrance. Quotations for this were due back by the end of the year. The start date for the works would be dependent on the contractor appointed to do the works but it was hoped the works would be completed in early 2022.

The report was noted.

### **KN36/1221**

#### **Monasterevin AFC**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor N Connolly. Can the council outline the progress being made to find a replacement junior pitch for Monasterevin AFC?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members lands adjacent to the existing pitch have been identified as a possible location for junior pitches and the Parks Department were currently engaged with the person using the lands to make these available to Monasterevin AFC.

Councillor N Connolly queried whether the person using the lands had permission to do so and if any timeline could be provided. Mr S Wallace advised that the permission was not formal and he did not currently have a timeline.

The report was noted.



**KN37/1221**

**Old Courthouse, Kildare**

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

Can the council provide an update on the purchase and future use of the old Courthouse in Baile Chill Dara?

A report was received from the Arts Officer informing the members that the building purchase had not yet been completed, although this was in process, with a deposit paid. The Arts Department were investigating the possibility that the building could be used to facilitate artists, creative studios, craft studios, individuals, groups and organisations in the area, as part of the local authority strategy to support artists. The facility could provide artists with the opportunity to create, showcase and develop new and existing work. The facility could provide a safe and professional workspace and exhibition opportunities for established and emerging practitioners.

The Library and Arts Department were examining models of delivery across the country, including Mart Studios

[MART Gallery & Studios – Providing Creative Platforms](#)

Councillor N Connolly queried why there had been a delay and when the sale would be concluded. Mr McDermott advised that the deposit had been paid and it was in the final stages of closing.

The report was noted.

**KN38/1221**

**Liffey Lodge Newbridge**

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

Can the council outline how a Centre of Excellence for young people aged 12 years and upwards, adequately resourced and managed, may be established in the recently purchased Liffey Lodge, Newbridge?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Kildare County Council had an offer accepted for acquisition of the property at Liffey Lodge. Subject



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to completion of the acquisition, plans for development of the site would be progressed. As was previously advised, the property had been acquired with the benefit of housing capital funding, therefore, the development of housing would be a key element of the project. Councillor Heavey advised that community facilities were scarce in Newbridge. While there was ongoing investment in housing there appeared to be no commitment to investment in the community. The lands in question were zoned community and education and it would be scandalous if the development did not include a community element and something for the young people as the municipal district have an obligation to provide this.

The report was noted.

### KN39/1221

#### Shop Front Grants

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

Can the council confirm the current status of all Shop Front Grant applications in the municipal district including those applied for, awarded, refused, awaiting decision?

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office informing the members that the current status of Shop Front Grant Applications for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District were as follows:

Applications rec'd:	26
Applications awarded:	16
Applications refused/ineligible:	1
Applications withdrawn:	2
Applications awaiting a decision:	0
Applications in progress:	7

**Kildare-Newbridge Shop Front Grant budget allocation: €45,183.00** (currently all spent / committed)

Value of those awarded and paid to-date is	€37,136.00
Value committed / yet to be paid out is	€ 8,047.00

**Kildare-Newbridge LPT Shop Front Grant allocation: €10,000.00**

Value of committed application (x1)	€ 4,000.00
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The report was noted.

**KN40/1221**

**Riverbank Redevelopment**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council explain in detail the delay in progressing the Riverbank redevelopment when Wexford Arts Centre, whose funding was announced on the same day, started construction in May?

A report was received from the Arts Officer informing the members that at the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting of November 2021, in response to the following question from Councillor Mark Stafford:

*Can the council furnish a report on the advancement of the redevelopment of the Riverbank Arts Centre?*

The written report below was provided:

*The contract with the Design Team (Studio Red) is at final stages of consultation with Kildare County Council and Riverbank solicitors. It is expected that a commencement meeting will take place very soon. The Design Team will then start working on the design and on updating the proposed budget of the project in line with the current construction market situation.*

At the November 2021 meeting, Ms Russell verbally reported that the project had been delayed for a number of reasons, including: Time allocated to source additional funding, including an unsuccessful application for URDF 2019; The need to retender for the Design Team, after the original tender process did not result in an appointment; Change in solicitors for Riverbank Arts Centre CLFG; The limited staff resources available to progress the project, factors included the Venue Director's extended maternity leave and subsequent resignation and also the demand on a small staff team to deliver an online programme, since the pandemic started in March 2020. The deadline for applications for a Venue Director for Riverbank was 13 December 2021.



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It should be borne in mind that capital projects countrywide which sought funding from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Arts and Culture Capital Scheme 2016-2018 would have been at various stages of development when the scheme was announced.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy sought clarification on why the solicitor had changed and was it through Kildare County Council or a separate legal entity. She also queried whether there was a link between the delay and the resignation of the Venue Director and would Covid not have given a prime opportunity for the programme to have progressed.

Ms L Russell advised that the solicitor, who was independent to Kildare County Council, did not feel sufficiently skilled to continue so withdrew. The Venue Director went on maternity leave and subsequently resigned. Ms Russell also advised that the Arts team was a small team and that significant challenges had arisen out of Covid, but the staff had ensured the Arts programme continued online. She stated that a significant delay had been caused by an unsuccessful URDF application and that she could not comment on how any other Arts Centres had progressed their developments.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.