



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
Meeting held on 17 February 2021
via Microsoft Teams**

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

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Ms B Cuddy, (District Engineer), Ms C Barrett (A/Director of Services) Ms M Hunt, Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officers), Mr O Brady (Administrative Officer), Mr J Murtagh (Executive Engineer), Mr J O'Neill (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms K Keane (Meetings Administrator) Ms E Molloy (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

KN01/0221

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2021 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, 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, 20 January 2021 be taken as read. The progress report was noted

KN02/0221

Municipal District Roadworks

The District Engineer stated a report had been circulated to the members providing an update on roadworks. She said that LPT works were on hold during lockdown, only emergency works were being carried out. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked what was emergency works and what was happening on Artillery Road in Newbridge? The District Engineer replied that emergency works were pothole repairs, patching and drainage work



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that had to be carried out due to severe weather. She also confirmed that the roadworks on Artillery Road were being carried out by Irish Water who had received approval for full road closure, and that the work would be going on 24/7 for approximately six weeks. Councillor Anne Connolly asked about the work that was done in Carna. The District Engineer replied that the work was done as a result of a flooding issue and she would liaise with Councillor Connolly outside of the meeting with the details.

KN03/0221

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

The Mayor stated that no further nominations had been received in writing and asked the members if anyone wanted to table any nominations at the meeting. There were no nominations.

KN04/0221

Allocation of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2021

The Mayor stated that members had met on this the previous week and that he had collated the responses and circulated them to the members. He confirmed the members were to meet again on this and suggested that the item be deferred to the March meeting. The members agreed.

KN05/0221

Taking in Charge of estates in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

The Mayor explained that due to time constraints at the LPT meeting the previous week, the Taking in Charge presentation could not be given and would now be given by A/Director of Services Celina Barrett and Executive Engineer Justin Murtagh. Ms Barrett stated that a report had been circulated to the members and that there was three priorities, number 1 being Cnoc na Greine, an estate that needed a significant amount of work and would need in the region of €50,000 to progress, number 2 being Moorhill Wood in Brannockstown, the council hoped to find money internally and would be looking for LPT to match funding in the region of €25,000 and number 3 being a number of smaller estates around the Municipal District which would require €50,000 to be divided among five estates to progress. The members considered the report and made the following comments and queries

- What was the criteria for selecting estates to Take In Charge as priorities?



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- How do the council assess the cost for Taking In Charge of all estates? Can we assess the cost of Taking in Charge of all estates?
- What works are Irish Water doing in this area and why had Irish Water not taken responsibility for sewage
- There was support for the request as there was no point piecemealing money into the estates.
- Welcomed the fact that any remaining bond monies could be recouped against the LPT allocation
- Hope going forward bonds would be sufficient to finish estates

The A/Director of Services replied that there was a number of factors for selecting estates to be taken in charge. Estates were looked at where progress could be made on the issues that were presented, the number of units in the estate and if there was a request for the estate to be taken in charge. Each estate was looked at on its merits. If there were health and safety issues or repeated flood issues, a repair was the best option. It was an engineering judgement. The A/Director of Services also stated that it was a significant challenge to assess the costings of each estate as there was a large number of surveys needed to be carried out and an assessment of the civil infrastructure of the estate. These assessments were only carried out when the council were about to take action and move forward in an estate. She said work in the Development and Building Control section was currently being prioritised towards live construction. Some estates were being progressed, there were issues with Walshestown Park. There was assessment work being done in Millfield and this estate needed to be closed out.

Mr Murtagh stated that funding was secured for Walshestown Park and a contractor was to begin works to upgrade the storm water/waste system but because of Covid restrictions the work would hopefully start after the 5 March. Temporary works were carried out previously to alleviate the flooding issues and the contractor should be able to begin work after the 5 March to resolve remaining issues.

The A/Director of Services Ms Barrett stated that Irish Water did not take responsibility for the water and wastewater until the infrastructure was in place for Taking In Charge. It was the council's responsibility to have this work done.



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The Mayor informed the members that a comprehensive report on Taking In Charge had already been circulated to the members the previous November and that there would be further meetings on LPT allocation at which they could take this request on board.

KN06/0221

Pedestrian route from the Bridge on the Rathbride Road to the Curragh edge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Suzanne Doyle
That the council deliver and complete a safe pedestrian route from the bridge on the Rathbride Road to the Curragh edge to support the significant increase of housing in that area.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Suzanne Doyle and seconded by Councillor Chris Pender

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that there was merit in examining this further as it was a very popular walking route from Kildare town, there was 250m of footpath required to extend the existing footpath to the cattle grid, there was also some land take required. At present the Municipal District office did not have funding for this project. The cost would be reduced significantly if lands were made available, the council could investigate further with Councillor Doyle.

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

KN07/0221

Gritting of Border Roads

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer
That the council engage with neighbouring councils to identify border roads in this municipal district that can be shared in the 2021/2022 gritting programme with a view to extending the number of roads gritted going forward.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer



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A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that requests for amending the current salting routes as submitted to the Roads Department may be considered as part of a review undertaken at the end of the current Winter Maintenance season including consultations with neighbouring counties. Consultations with neighbouring counties about routes where salting can be shared, if those roads met the minimum threshold for warranting salting as set down by our assessment criteria, has resulted in certain locations in County Kildare being covered by Offaly County Council and vice-versa. Kildare County Council's salting trucks on all routes, like those in neighbouring counties, were running at capacity at present, precluding the council from adding new roads to the current Salting Routes without removing the service from another area of the County.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer welcomed the report.

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

KN08/0221

Repair Works at Double Ditch/Raheens, Caragh

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer That the council carry out repair works in the area known as the double ditch/ Raheens, Caragh.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Anne Connolly

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that drainage works had been successfully completed in Raheens and Caragh in the last number of days, the road crew would be there in the coming days to carry out road repairs.

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



KN09/0221

Accessibility and trip hazard risk assessment of all paths along Main Street, Kilcullen

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

That the council carry out an accessibility and trip hazard risk assessment of all paths along the Main Street of Kilcullen.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Noel Connolly

A report was received from the Health and Safety Officer informing the members that the council would commit to carrying out an accessibility audit in association with members from the local access group once Covid restrictions were lifted. A key part of carrying out any accessibility audit was ensuring that the council engage with disabled people so that they could voice any concerns or difficulties they may have with the streetscape. As many of our disability advocates would be classed as vulnerable persons under Covid guidelines, this was the reason for the delay in carrying out the audit.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she fully supported this motion and asked what happened after the audit was done, what triggers action after an audit? Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer offered assistance from the County Kildare Access Network in carrying out this audit.

The District Engineer replied that any reports from an audit would be held until there was a budget in place, as the LPT budgets this year did not take work of this nature for footpaths. Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer replied that pursue the matter and seek monies elsewhere.

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

KN10/0221

Repairs to the Stone Wall on the Lough Road, Rathangan

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

That the council liaise with Office of Public Works to request repairs be carried out to the stone wall on the Lough Road, Rathangan.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Anne Connolly and seconded by Councillor Noel Connolly.



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department, informing the members that if the members agree, a request will issue to the Office of Public Works.

Councillor Anne Connolly stated that the wall was in very bad disrepair and the works should be done sooner rather than later. Several councillors voiced their support for this motion, and it was agreed to write to the Office of Public Works outlining their concerns.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Anne Connolly and seconded by Councillor Noel Connolly with by all members agreeing that Kildare County Council write to the Office of Public Works to request repairs be carried out to the stone wall on the Lough Road, Rathangan.

KN11/0221

Maintenance Works at the Old School Lane, Suncroft

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

That the council carry out maintenance works on the Old School Lane, Suncroft

The motion was proposed by Councillor Anne Connolly and seconded by Councillor Mark Stafford

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety department informing the members that the location would be included in the routine maintenance programme.

Councillor Anne Connolly accepted the report.

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

KN12/0221

Flooding along footpaths in Monasterevin

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

That the council address flooding along the footpaths between (details provided), Monasterevin which was blocking the safe access to houses in the area.

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



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A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety department informing the members that the Municipal District Office would investigate the location.

Councillor Duffy thanked the Municipal District Office for committing to investigate the issue.

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

KN13/0221

Works to prevent surface water flooding in Fernsbridge Estate/Old Grange Avenue

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

That the council undertake the necessary works to prevent surface water flooding in the area of the Fernsbridge estate entrance/Old Grange Avenue and Old Grange (laneway – rear of Fernsbridge) Monasterevin.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety department informing the members that maintenance crews would be in the area in the coming week to carry out works at these locations.

Councillor Duffy stated that a jetter had been out and thanked the Municipal District office for their swift response.

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

KN14/0221

Resurface of R419 at the County border at Sheane (Bracknagh Road) Rathangan

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

That the council resurface the R419 at the county boundary at Sheane (Bracknagh Road), Rathangan.



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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety department informing the members that the location was included for consideration as part of the Municipal District Office Road Improvement programme. The Municipal District Office anticipated being in a position to present the 2021 Road Programme to the members shortly.

Councillor Stafford stated that the road was in a poor state and gave a very bad impression to motorists coming across the Offaly border into Kildare, and the matter should be dealt with as a priority. Councillor Duffy supported this motion and added that he hoped through the Restoration Improvement programme these rural roads could be addressed. The District Engineer stated that she had just received the budget for the Municipal Districts and wished to arrange a meeting before the next committee meeting to present her plan for the Restoration Improvement's to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Mark Stafford and seconded by Councillor Anne Connolly with all members agreeing that the report be noted and the District Engineer to arrange a meeting with the members to present the RI programme for the Municipal District.

KN15/0221

Install a Sheep Grid at the entrance to Hazelwood Grove, Brownstown

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford That the council install a sheep/cattle grid at the entrance to Hazelwood Grove, Brownstown. The motion was proposed by Councillor Mark Stafford and seconded by Councillor Anne Connolly.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that there was no funding available for the installation of cattle grids at present. The Municipal District Office did not install cattle grids at entrances to individual housing estates.

Councillor Stafford stated that he appreciated the difficulty the District Engineer had in locating a suitable site for a cattle grid in Brownstown and suggested that a grid be installed



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at Hazelwood Grove as this was the area most affected by the sheep. Councillor Anne Connolly stated that it was her understanding that there was a cattle grid designated for the Brownstown Road and if that could be installed, it would solve the problem for all the housing estates in Brownstown.

The District Engineer replied that she had carried out trial pits and there was nowhere suitable for a grid to be installed. She further stated that she had no budget for cattle grids which cost between €45,000 to €65-70,000 to install and cost between €10,000 – €15,000 a year to maintain adding they were not designed to take the weight of heavy trucks. Councillor Doyle asked should there be a review of the levy's programme and should there be a special levy for the ongoing maintenance and installation of grids. Councillor Stafford stated that if funds were to become available, Hazelwood Grove merited a cattle grid and he suggested that going forward monies should be set aside to install cattle grids to each settlement on the curragh and the balance used for the maintenance of these and asked that the matter be taken into consideration during the forthcoming County Development Plan review.

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

KN16/0221

Development of Newbridge-Athgarvan Cycleway/Walkway

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Heavey That the council ensure development of Newbridge-Athgarvan cycleway/walkway is included in National Transport Authority's Sustainable Transport Measures 2021 Grant Programme on foot of my motion discussed, supported and noted at June 2020 meeting of this council and further notified in my communication to the Chairman of Transport SPC on 19 June. The motion was proposed by Councillor Noel Heavey and seconded by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety department informing the members that The National Transport Authority's finalised 5 year plan was to be published shortly by the NTA outlining approved projects for their Sustainable Transport Measures Grants. Kildare County Council had completed extensive consultation with the NTA,



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however, the decision on what projects make the finalised list was a matter for the funding authority to determine. Councillor Heavey made the following points:

- He had seen the list and no area in South Kildare was on the list
- There were 10 housing estates on this stretch of road
- Previous councils had made provision for the installation of cycleways/walkways
- The fact this location was not included was unacceptable as Kildare County Council had completed extensive consultations with the NTA and this corridor had not been included.
- Can Kildare County Council bring forward an emergency motion to get the Athgarvan cycleway/walkway included in national funding.

The members discussed the motion and made the following points

- It was agreed a year ago that the council would be cycle funding ready and they had been asked to devise a system, similar to the KLIPS system, to assess and prioritise cycle infrastructure projects
- There was a need to support cycle infrastructure for people living and working in our towns.
- The Municipal District councillors needed to work together to keep the pressure on the NTA and push this project forward.

The Senior Executive Engineer stated that there would be a further list issued by the NTA this year and that there was also a 5 year plan being put together by the NTA and the project may be on that plan.

Councillor Heavey stated that the road in question was the location for the second bridge in Newbridge and there was a severe traffic issue on this road. He stated that if there was a safe walkway/cycleway on this road it would alleviate the traffic problem. Councillor Heavey asked for a vote to be taken and recorded that this Municipal District committee approves the motion that the council ensure the development of the Newbridge-Athgarvan cycleway/walkway is included in national funding. The Mayor stated that the control of the funding for this walkway/cycleway was outside the remit of this council and they would need to see the five year plan. Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded the proposal to go to a vote and asked the Chair and the Mayor of the county to follow up on the wishes of the



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council previously why the audit of the cycle infrastructure did not happen. The Mayor asked the Senior Executive Engineer to follow up on that. Councillor Suzanne Doyle stated that the motion should be amended to reflect that the Kildare-Newbridge committee recognised this as a priority and that this would be reflected in the request for funding.

The Meetings Administrator stated that based on the discussion an amendment to the motion was required and she asked for this amendment to be put in writing as required under Standing Orders.

The Meetings Administrator read out the amended motion

That the development of the Newbridge-Athgarvan cycleway/walkway is approved by the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District Committee as a priority for inclusion in the list of projects funded by the National Transport Authority's Sustainable Transport Measures 2021 Grant Programme on foot of my motion discussed, supported and noted at June 2020 meeting of this council and further notified in my communication to the Chairman of Transport SPC on 19 June.

The amended motion was proposed by Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by all members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy with all members agreeing that the Roads department write to the National Transport Authority to advise them that the development of the Newbridge-Athgarvan cycleway/walkway is approved by the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District Committee as a priority for inclusion in the list of projects funded by the National Transport Authority's Sustainable Transport Measures 2021 Grant Programme

KN17/0221

Low cost safety measures on the Naas/Newbridge Dual Carriageway at turnoff for Caragh/Ladytown

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Robert Power That low cost safety measures be introduced as soon as possible at the turn off of the Naas/Newbridge Dual Carriageway for Caragh/Ladytown to enhance visibility at this location.



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The motion was proposed by Councillor Robert Power and seconded by Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety department informing the members that Kildare County Council were currently progressing the design for a major junction upgrade at the Ladytown Junction. The design of the upgraded junction was substantially complete, and it was anticipated that the scheme would be brought before the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District for Part 8 approval by Q2 2021.

Councillor Power stated that he wanted to highlight the fact that this was a very dangerous junction with no lighting, no reflectors and asked if additional safety works could be done in conjunction with the upgrade works, preferably a roundabout.

Councillors Peggy O'Dwyer and Noel Heavey commended Councillor Power on this motion. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Robert Power and seconded by Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer with all members agreeing that the report be noted.

KN18/0221

Update and Timeline for the Traffic Management Plan for Newbridge

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

That the council provide a clear update and timeline for the Traffic Management Plan for Newbridge, to include the last iteration of the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) by the National Transport Authority, which triggered the council taking over the design of the plan again.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety department informing the members that Kildare County Council were currently preparing a brief to commence the tender process for the appointment of a consultant to undertake a comprehensive Transport Strategy for Newbridge. This was one of a number of Transport Strategies being developed



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for urban centres in Kildare. It was anticipated that the strategy would be tendered later in the year subject to the availability of resources.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy expressed her disappointment with the poor response to her motion and had the following comments/questions

- The members had attended a briefing previously on this matter.
- There was a TMP from the NTA completed two years ago, which had now been taken back in house
- She stated she did not receive the last iteration of the TMP plan from the NTA and asked what triggered the council to take back the plan in house

The Mayor stated that the members were given the Traffic Management Plan 12 months previously. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated a number of items had been discussed at the briefing with the previous Director of Service ie. cycleways, a second bridge and the TMP and asked for a full update on what was happening with the TMP before the next Municipal District meeting. The Senior Executive Engineer stated that he would take the members comments on board. The Mayor enquired if the TMP would be carried out this year and asked the Senior Executive Engineer to provide a detailed response.

The District Manager stated that he appreciated and acknowledged the frustration on two particular issues, the cycling infrastructure and the TMP. He said he arranged that briefing with the members and thought it was forthright and it explained the reasons why the council had decided to progress the TMP in house and that it would be done this year. He said that the TMP would be progressed in conjunction with the Public Realm plan and the review of the Local Area Plan and that he had consistently raised these issues with the Director of Transport.

The Meetings Administrator undertook to clarify with the Roads Department that the members had received the most up to date version of the TMP.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Chris Pender with all members agreeing that the report be noted, and confirmation given to members they had received the last iteration of the Traffic Management Plan.



KN19/0221

Include the roundabout at Roseberry Hill on Scoot Traffic Management System

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

That the council include the roundabout at Roseberry Hill, Newbridge on the scoot traffic management system.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety department informing the members that the roundabout at Roseberry Hill was designed as a single lane roundabout to provide local access to the residential development – this type of roundabout was considered appropriate at this type of location given the road type/traffic volumes etc. These types of roundabouts were not suitable for the provision of traffic signals or SCOOT, similarly the same would apply to the roundabouts at The Meadows/Morristown Woods and Newbridge College/College Orchard.

Councillor Pender stated that this was a single lane roundabout going onto a single lane bridge with a school that had no pedestrian crossing and that the only way to cross the road was at the roundabout. He said one whole section of Newbridge was being ignored and this was connected to the TMP and part of the reason that the NTA plan needed to be reviewed to have a more holistic approach to a TMP.

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

KN20/0221

Road markings at Ellistown GAA pitch

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

Can the council give a timeline as to when the road markings at Ellistown GAA pitch might be done?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the Municipal District Office was currently preparing a line marking programme which was anticipated to commence in Quarter 2, 2021.

The report was noted

KN21/0221

Sheep Grid at Curragh Downs

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly
Can the council confirm if it has any plans to put a sheep grid at Curragh Downs, Brownstown?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the Municipal District Office did not install cattle grids at entrances to individual housing estates.

The report was noted

KN22/0221

Cycle specific crossing beside a Pedestrian crossing

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford
Can the council advise of the circumstances in this municipal district where a cycle specific crossing is required beside a pedestrian crossing and is there a difference in the sequencing?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that in general, additional provision is made at controlled crossings for cyclists where there was a cycle track/shared surface and where there would be a need for a cyclist to cross the road. These types of crossings were called Toucan Crossings (two can cross) they were wider than the standard pedestrian crossing at 4m and there was an additional pole/push button unit and signal head provided for the cyclist. They were designed so that both a pedestrian and cyclist can cross the road together. There can be a difference in the sequencing depending on what type of controlled pedestrian crossing that you were comparing them to – for instance a Pelican crossing would have a two aspect signal head where there would be a flashing amber signal/green man on a Toucan a three aspect signal



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head is provided where there was a solid amber man rather than a flashing green man etc. There were various requirements/regulations for different types of crossing which all Kildare County Council crossings were designed to comply with.

The report was noted.

KN23/0221

Temporary traffic arrangements on Military Road, Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Heavey
Can the council provide an update of temporary traffic arrangements in place to facilitate traffic flow into and out of retail parks during Irish Water excavations of Military Road, Moorefield Newbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that these works were the responsibility of Irish Water. While the council approve the traffic management layout, all documents were available through the Irish Water website. This website would be updated regularly by Irish Water as the works progress through the proposed closure.

The report was noted

KN24/0221

Narrow bridge in Caragh

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Robert Power
Can the council outline potential plans for allowing public transport vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists to cross the Liffey at the Narrow Bridge in Caragh including any plans to strengthen existing parapets, enhance the existing traffic light system or introduce a new bridge subject to funding in the future?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the Roads Projects team were currently undertaking the development of a significant number of projects in Kildare. Due to limited resources, this project was not on the list of projects to be developed at present.

Councillor Power asked were there any plans to zone land around the area to prevent development, were there other issues for not allowing public transport vehicles across the



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bridge and could there be any low cost or no cost changes to allow traffic over the bridge. The District Engineer replied that she would arrange to meet Councillor Power on site when restrictions were lifted.

The report was noted.

KN25/0221

Electric Vehicle charging points around the Municipal District

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

Can the council provide an update on plans and timeline for EV (Electric Vehicle) charging points around the municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that there were no plans at present to install EV charging points in the Municipal District. Roads, Transportation and Public Safety were currently engaging with relevant stakeholders regarding the installation, maintenance and upgrade of EV charging points across the county with consideration to be given to future proofing EV points, cost analysis, including continued upgrade and maintenance. Current policy restricts the installation of EV charging points to off street car parks only. A dedicated clearly marked parking space must also be provided per charge point with adequate enforcement measures in place to ensure access to EV which require charge. Relevant Parking Bye Laws would also have to be reviewed/enacted once the optimal locations were identified to ensure that the dedicated EV charging locations could be enforced. Once the Department had more information the Members would be informed.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked for some clarifications on the following items:

- Who were the relevant stakeholders and does that reference the motion which was passed at full council where the council was to engage with all the Dublin authorities to review EV charging points and has this information been shared?
- Why were the council not planning for EV charging points across the Municipal District?
- Who was identifying the optimal locations for EVs at the moment?



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Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that it was wholly unacceptable that the appropriate person from the Roads department was not in attendance to deal with these questions. The Mayor agreed that Senior Roads Engineer needed to be in attendance at their monthly meetings and he would take the matter up further with the relevant Directors after the meeting.

The report was noted

KN26/0221

Reports of Traffic Counts in the Municipal District

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

Can the council provide the reports for the last traffic counts done around Caragh (to include Caragh to Naas) Kilcullen, Rathangan, Kildare, Monasterevin and Newbridge to include the locations of the counters, the dates and results/analysis?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that raw data, collected as part of traffic surveys and counts and other data collected as part of the ongoing work within the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department (i.e., road construction levels, bridge structural calculations, CCTV-generated data etc) required a level of data cleansing prior to analysis and the calculation of summary information. The release of raw data to a non-technical audience would generate a level of queries, questions, verbal and written explanations, and would create an onerous burden on the Department's current limited resources.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that this information should be readily available for anyone who wished to access it. Councillor McLoughlin asked for clarification on

- The locations of the counts
- The dates when the counts were carried out
- Was the Caragh to Naas count done?

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked that it be noted that there was no one in attendance to answer the queries and the Mayor stated he would discuss the matter with the Director. The report was noted.



KN27/0221

Income from Pay Parking within the Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Chris Pender
Can the council provide an update on the income from pay parking that is used for road projects within the municipal district as pay parking provides quite a large amount of funding for the roads department.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the surplus/deficit was provided to the Members by Finance and Roads Departments at the October 2020 Municipal District meetings each year as part of the Budget process. The Members were advised that for budget 2021 the pay parking surplus provided to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office was €75,601.

Expenditure of surplus income derived from car parking was allocated to road projects with the agreement of members, when agreeing the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District. Councillor Pender asked for clarity that, if possible, the figure be broken down to income per town. The Meetings Administrator said she would revert to the Roads department.

The report was noted.

The Mayor proposed to suspend standing orders for five minutes to allow members and staff a break. Councillor Suzanne Doyle seconded the proposal with all members agreeing.

KN28/0221

Housing for older people on the current site of St Paul's School, Monasterevin

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly
That the council makes contact with the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin to explore the provision of housing for older people on the current site of St Paul's School in Monasterevin, which is due to be vacated within the next two years.

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



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A report was received from the Housing department informing the members that if zoning allowed for residential use, and if the members of the Municipal District were in agreement with the motion, Kildare County Council would write to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. Older person schemes were funded through the Capital Assistance Scheme and were delivered by Approved Housing Bodies. Councillor Noel Connolly stated that he had read a report from Alone that said older people were being left behind by Rebuilding Ireland and at a local level in housing strategies. There needed to be a choice in housing to allow older people to age in place and to take into consideration the needs of older people in respect of health, community and social inclusion. Housing for older people needed to be an integral part of town planning in the context of age friendly communities. He stated he thought this site would be particularly suited for the provision of housing for older people because of the location and hopefully would be vacated by the school within the next year.

The members supported the motion and made the following comments

- The council should look at providing retirement villages going forward
- This was an opportunity to bring back buildings that would have fallen into disrepair
- They supported writing to Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin and to start a conversation with the Diocese and the Department of Education
- This could create an opportunity for older people to downsize

Mr Brady stated that he had seen this working in other towns throughout the county and would write to the Department. The Mayor asked Mr Brady to circulate a copy of the letter to the members before it was sent.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Noel Connolly and seconded by Councillor Anne Connolly with all members agreeing that the report be noted and the Housing department to write to the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin to explore the provision of housing for older people on the current site of St Paul's School in Monasterevin.

KN29/0221

Social Units contribution to Resident Associations in the Municipal District

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



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That all social units (both Approved Housing Body (AHB) and Local Authority (LA)) in this municipal district where located within privately developed housing schemes contribute an equivalent sum, to residents association where properly constituted, as allocated to conventional LA estates and that the funding of same be sourced through the Department. The motion was proposed by Councillor Suzanne Doyle and seconded by Councillor Stafford

A report was received from the Housing department informing the members that no mechanism to source contributions to Residents Associations was in existence in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage so unfortunately, it was not therefore possible to source funding in this manner. Councillor Doyle said she noted that there was no provision there but that there was a policy being sent for consideration by full council with regard to grants for estates that comprised primarily of social housing, to fund the upkeep of greens etc. but that the majority of social housing coming through now was on private estates and there was no provision to supplement these resident associations. If the council had no means to address this issue locally it needed to be raised with the Department.

Councillor Doyle asked for the members agreement to raise the issue with the Department. The members supported the motion and made the following comments:

- Is a tenant expected to pay a contribution in a private estate?
- AHB have it in their authority to donate monies. The monies they are getting from tenants are not going back into paying a mortgage so there are significant funds available.
- This would bridge the perceived gap between local authority tenants and private homeowners

Mr Brady stated that the council had much more involvement in private estates, that the tenant was expected to pay the contribution to the residents associations but that there would not be 100% collection and that it was beyond the local authority's powers to enforce the AHB to provide contributions. Councillor Doyle stated that many of the AHBs were pursuing sites in Co. Kildare and could be asked to offer a contribution.



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The Meetings Administrator stated that based on the discussion, an amendment to the motion was required and she asked for this amendment to be put in writing as required under Standing Orders.

The Meetings Administrator read out Councillor Doyle's amended motion

That this Municipal District Committee request the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to address the issue that all social units (both Approved Housing Body (AHB) and Local Authority (LA)) in this municipal district where located within privately developed housing schemes, by issuing an instruction to agents for social housing either LA/AHB, asking them to contribute an equivalent sum, to residents association where properly constituted, as allocated to conventional LA estates.

This amended motion was proposed by Councillor Suzanne Doyle and seconded by Councillor Chris Pender.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Suzanne Doyle and seconded by Councillor Mark Stafford with all members agreeing that the Housing department write to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

KN30/0221

Lands/Buildings owned or controlled by Kildare County Council adjacent to Barrow Blueway

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly
Can the council provide a list of land and/or buildings it owns or controls adjacent to the Barrow Blueway within the municipal district?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team informing the members that Kildare County Council along with Waterways Ireland were working with Louise Brown and Associates and Kildare LEADER on the production of an Economic Business Plan for the Barrow Blueway. As part of this process details of all property known to be in the ownership of Kildare County Council and Waterways Ireland had been provided to the Consultants. This information would be used to identify the opportunities in the



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municipal district area, as to how these can be appropriately used to facilitate the Blueway. Kildare County Council did not have much in the way of vacant property/sites that were suitable along the route, but should an opportunity be identified, Kildare County Council would help facilitate it's use.

The report was noted

KN31/0221

Number of open housing applications

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly
Can the council provide the number of open housing applications by area of choice and by house type for this municipal district?

A report was received from the Housing department informing the members that information in relation to housing applicants per Electoral Area within the Municipal District was not currently available through the iHouse reporting system, however if there was a particular location for which details were required, every effort would be made to make this available. In relation to forthcoming housing provision in each area, this information was contained in the Chief Executives report which members receive each month however this information was not recorded by electoral area.

The report was noted.

KN32/0221

Guidelines for allocation of LPT in the Municipal District

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

That this committee considers the attached guidelines as a starting point for open, transparent, impactful allocation of LPT in the municipal district in the future.

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that there were already guidelines which had only recently been put in place and were considered to be



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functioning very well in all of the Municipal Districts. These were drawn up by the Finance Committee, were considered by CPG, and approved by Full Council in September 2019. From an overall governance perspective, it would be best to have consistency among all Municipal Districts. There was the further concern that the proposed new guidelines may be unduly onerous in terms of interpretation and subsequent application. In this context, the members would be aware of difficulties and delays in the past in terms of deciding on LPT spend in the past in the case of Kildare- Newbridge Municipal District. It was, however, pleasing to note that this was now fully reconciled to date.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she was happy that discussion on the guidelines be taken offline and worked on in advance of the next meeting. She stated that the guidelines had been drafted in 2017 with a view to maximising the benefits of LPT for the majority of people, to provide value for money, to invest in the provision of amenities that would not normally be funded except through LPT and to deliver projects that were 'visible' and show people where their LPT was going. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she had received feedback from Councillor Pender and Councillor T O'Dwyer and sought all the members input and hoped to have a final draft prepared for the next meeting.

A discussion ensued and the following points were made:

- The Mayor stated that the guidelines should be discussed collectively, and he would schedule a meeting in the coming weeks to consider same.
- The members queried the guideline documents that had been circulated as there appeared to be two documents and sought clarification on when they had been circulated and when the first document had been withdrawn.
- Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer stated that she wished to clarify that she was not aware or had any input into the guidelines that were circulated with the agenda, and only became aware of them at the same time as all the other members.
- Councillor Pender stated he had been working on the guidelines that issued with the agenda with Councillor McLoughlin Healy and the author, and confirmed Councillor T O'Dwyer had not been involved in those discussions and had not had sight of them prior to them being circulated with the agenda.
- The members sought clarification on who had prepared the guidelines.



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Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she had withdrawn the guideline document that had been circulated with the agenda because further work was required on it. She stated that the guideline document under consideration was the guidelines that were previously drawn up in 2017 by Councillor McLoughlin Healy, Councillor Doyle and former Councillor Joanne Pender. She confirmed she had worked on the guideline document circulated with the agenda with someone external to the council who had experience working in the Charity Sector and on Governance.

The members sought clarification on who had prepared the guidelines circulated with the agenda. Councillor Pender confirmed that they had been prepared by Ms Orla O'Neill who worked in the Charity sector. He further confirmed that Ms O'Neill had given her consent for her details to be shared at the meeting.

The Chair asked the Meetings Administrator to clarify the position with the documents that had been circulated. The Meetings Administrator stated she would clarify the position to the members after the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Noel Connolly and agreed by the members, the report was noted.

KN33/0221

Provision of benches on a short term basis in Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the names of Councillors Noel Heavey and Robert Power

That the council provide benches on a short-term basis in open spaces throughout the designated cultural quarter of Newbridge in conjunction with local businesses and community groups as Covid restrictions relax to facilitate safe socialisation over the coming months.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Noel Heavey and seconded by Councillor Chris Pender

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team informing the members that the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team were currently working on a



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number of Covid-19 response projects for the Newbridge Cultural Quarter which included works to Market Square, George Street and a number of parklets in collaboration with local businesses.

Councillor Noel Heavey suggested that the car park beside the Garda barracks would be a suitable area location for benches. Several councillors voiced their support to this proposal. Ms Hunt stated that was a welcome proposal and she would take that location on board. She stated that the advice coming from An Garda Síochána was that nothing could take place while Level 5 restrictions were in place, that encouraged people to leave their home. Councillor Heavey stated he wished to clarify that what he envisaged was an area where people could sit while observing the social distancing rules.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Noel Heavey, seconded by Councillor Chris Pender and agreed by the members that the report be noted.

KN34/0221

Active unauthorised development files

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Suzanne Doyle
Can the council provide a report on the number of active unauthorised development files in this municipal district and what their current status is?

A report was received from the Planning department informing the members that while it was not possible to provide statistics at Municipal District level, the following was a summary of activity at county level for the years 2018, 2019 and for 2020.

	2018	2019	2020
New Complaints.	182	240	274
Warning Letters Issued.	359	357	356
Enforcement Notices Served.	154	185	155
Legal Proceedings Initiated.	35	33	22
Cases Closed.	139	162	133



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Councillor Doyle stated that she was disappointed that there were no figures for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District. She noted that whereas the new complaints had rose from 2018 to 2020 the legal proceedings initiated had dropped. Councillor Doyle asked through the Chair for a presentation from the department on how they progress matters and what guidelines were used. The Mayor noted the request. The report was noted.

KN35/0221

St. Evins Park, Monasterevin

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Suzanne Doyle
Can we have a report on what measures are being employed to secure the council land adjacent to St Evins Park, Monasterevin for recreational and amenity use and what is the status of current use?

A report was received from the Parks department informing the members that the lands adjacent to St Evins Park were the current location for Monasterevin FC who had a pitch on the area. The remainder of the land was used for grazing. Monasterevin FC were seeking additional lands for additional pitches. This required the co-operation of the person grazing the lands. To date this co-operation had not been forthcoming but the council were pursuing the matter to facilitate Monasterevin FCs request.

The report was noted.

KN36/0221

Electric Gates and entrance of new developments adjacent to the Curragh

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford
Can the council advise in what circumstances an electric gate would be preferable to the installation of a sheep/cattle grids at the entrance of new developments adjacent to the Curragh as prescribed by the County Development Plan?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team informing the members that planning applications for development were assessed in the context of the *Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied)* and the relevant local area plan, where appropriate having regard to the character of the receiving environment and



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landscape. Section 16.6.2 *Entrances* sets out key principles for 'Boundaries & Entrances' including avoiding replacing boundaries with unsympathetic fencing, pre-cast decorative concrete blocks and artificial stone and avoiding fussy and elaborate entrance gates. Furthermore, Section 17.2.7 *Hard Landscaping* also states that 'walls, fences, metal railings and gates used to define spaces and their usage have a major impact on the visual character of development' and stated 'these should be carefully selected with local distinctiveness in mind and would need to be an integral part of the overall design concept'. Assessments of developments were on a case by case basis having regard to the foregoing and to *inter alia* local road safety conditions. The report was noted.

KN37/0221

Update of Barrow Blueway

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kevin Duffy
Can the council provide an update on the Barrow Blueway tender drawings/documentation and timelines for tendering and commencing the council's portion of the works?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team informing the members that the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team (SPPR) ran a tender to the Kildare County Council Civil Engineering Consultant Framework, for the detailed design of all road crossings and the 2 pedestrian footbridges associated with the Blueway. Fehily Timoney were the successful tenderers following a most economically advantageous tender (MEAT) assessment and have been appointed. Separately the SPPR team ran a tender for the appointment of a Ground Investigations Works Contractor and would be ready to make an appointment when all the required documentation was received. Detailed design had commenced and was ongoing. Appointment of a Works Contractor was programmed for mid-June 2021, with a 12month programme to complete. Unfortunately, with Covid restrictions the design team had been unable to carry out any site visits, or complete any required surveys, until restrictions were lifted, this may ultimately have an effect on the programme.

The report as noted.



KN38/0221

Old Kilcullen Heritage Trail Project

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Robert Power
Can the council outline what steps need to be taken in order to prepare the Old Kilcullen heritage trail project (including works on reopening the Hacklow Road) for application to future sources of funding?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team informing the members that it was understood that this project was still in the early stages. An application had been made for funding by the Heritage Officer to the Heritage Council Heritage Plan fund, with the support of the Old Kilcullen Community Association, to explore the archaeological heritage of the medieval deserted settlement. The community were working with local landowners to explore the potential to reopen some of the old roads in the area. When a clearer plan of the routes had been established it was likely that further funding may be required to develop/open the routes

The report was noted.

KN39/0221

Update on Survey of Litter Bins

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Chris Pender
Can the council provide an update in relation to the survey of litter bins in the municipal district?

A report was received from the Environment department informing the members that an audit of existing street litter bins was listed as an objective in the draft Litter Management Plan which was before the members for consideration at the February council meeting. Councillor Pender stated he was not happy with the report.

The report was noted.

KN40/0221

Identify a site to provide a public leisure centre within the Municipal District

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



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That the council identify a site and pursue funding from Central Government to provide a public leisure centre including swimming pool within the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development department informing the members that it has always been the Council's position that, from a strategic point of view, the County should have (in the first instance) 3 public swimming pools; 1 in the South of the County, 1 Mid County and 1 in the North of the County. 2 public swimming pools were already in situ (Athy and Naas) so the pool for the North of the County was outstanding. Kildare County Council had set aside capital funding for a public swimming pool in North Kildare and also applied for funding under the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund for this project. As there was a Public Leisure Centre (KLeisure Newbridge) in the Municipal District already there was no further capacity at the present time for either a new Leisure Centre or a Public Swimming Pool in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District. Councillor Connolly suggested that the strategy be changed to have 4 public swimming pools stating that Newbridge was the largest town by population in the county and between it and Kildare town there should be a public pool available. He stated the Dáil recently voted to allow the carryover of unspent monies from 2020 into 2021 making grants available for public swimming pools. There was €100,00 held by trustees in Kildare town from the 1960's. There were prime sites in the Municipal District for this project.

The members discussed the motion and made the following points

- Other councils have 1 pool per 5,100 people, Kildare had 1 pool per 70,000 people
- There was a fund collected in Kildare town for a public swimming pool and the Charities Regulator was going to investigate this fund.
- Was there a Public Private Partnership opportunity here?
- There was a school going into the Municipal area and might be an opportunity to partner with the school or a local sports club to provide this facility.

Mr Dunne stated he would take on board the comments and suggestions of the members which would be noted in discussions and considerations of projects going forward. Councillor



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Noel Connolly stated that maybe this could be forwarded for discussion during the review of the County Development Plan.

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

KN41/0221

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Mayor proposed to suspend standing orders for 30 minutes to complete the remainder of the agenda. This was seconded by Councillor Noel Heavey and agreed by all members.

KN42/0221

Entrance to playground on Station Road, Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer
That the council develop a separate entrance to the playground on Station Road, Newbridge.
The motion was proposed by Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Noel Heavey

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development department informing the members that this work would be part of the councils works programme for the year and would arrange for the work to be done in the next few months.

Councillor O'Dwyer stated she welcomed the report.

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

KN43/0221

Trees along the boundary of Kildare Town Memorial Garden

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Chris Pender
That the council plant suitable trees along the boundary of the Kildare Town memorial garden that backs onto the bungalows on Chapel Hill.

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



A report was received from the Parks department informing the members that tree and hedge planting were proposed as part of the plans to construct a medieval garden on this site. Work was ongoing on the implementation of this plan.

Councillor Pender stated that the medieval garden would be an amazing resource to the town.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Chris Pender, seconded by Councillor Noel Connolly and agreed by the members, that the report be noted.

KN44/0221

Pump Track in the Caragh parkland facility

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer
Can the council give an update to the possible commencement date for the pump track in the Caragh Parkland facility as part of the Phase 2 development?

A report was received from the Parks department informing the members that work on this was included in the works programme but any progression of it was dependent on first advancing the boardwalk for Newbridge and Cherry Avenue Park.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded