



**Minutes of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 17 November 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 Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Mr C O'Toole (A/Staff Officer), Mr M Corrigan (Senior Executive Librarian), Ms L Kennedy (LPT Co-ordinator), Mr O Brady (Administrative Officer), Mr M McLoughlin (Administrative Officer), Mr D Mc Dermott (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms P O'Rourke (Climate Action Officer), Ms C O'Flynn (Graduate), Ms Lucina Russell (Arts Officer), Mr B Leonard (Meetings Administrator), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

KN01/1021

Declaration of Pecuniary or Beneficial Interests

The Deputy Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and 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.

KN02/1121

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday 20 October 2021 together with the Progress Report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer 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 20 October be adopted. The report was noted.

KN03/1121

To receive an update on the municipal district road works.

The Municipal District Engineer gave an overview of works during the previous month.

Road Resurfacing Works:

Surface Dressing Program was now complete for 2021:

With Military Road works complete Restoration roads program was now complete for 2021.

LPT /LIS

- Mount Carmel, Newbridge Phase 2 footpaths had been completed.
- Rowanville, Kildare Town footpaths had been completed plus a section of the estate's road had been overlaid due to savings in the contract.
- Footpath work was currently taking place in Milltown and due to be complete by weekend.
- Emergency footpath repairs were also carried out in Newbridge Industrial Estate.

The contractor shall continue with the planned LPT works and drainage works over the winter months.

Miscellaneous Works:

- Verge cutting ongoing across all areas of the Municipal District.
- **Footpath repairs**, St. Patrick's Park Rathangan, Curragh View Brownstown
- **Drainage works**: Clogheen - cleaning of the drains
- Pothole repairs across the Municipal District



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- General Maintenance – water cuts, patching, gully cleaning.

The members acknowledged the works and thanked the team for the continuing improvements. The members raised the following points:

- Were there any plans for resurfacing on Moorefield Road at Dunnes/McDonalds.
- The residents of the Boolabeg/Mullacash areas were very grateful for the improvements works in their areas.

Ms B Cuddy advised that Moorefield Road would be repaired by Irish Water and that works would start before Christmas but a full resurfacing in the area would take place at a later date.

KN04/1121

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District LPT ‘members nominations’ 2021

The members considered a report in relation to LPT members nominations 2021.

Councillor	Name of Community Group/Project	LPT Allocation amount	Name of community group to be paid	Brief description of work/project	Section
2021 LPT Members Nominations November Meeting					
Noel Connolly	Bunscoil Bhride, Rathangan	€400.00	Bunscoil Bhride, Rathangan	To support their ASD Classroom	Community
	Mens Sheds Kildare Town	€400.00	Mens Sheds Kildare Town	To assist in the running of the Mens Shed	Community
	Mens sheds Rathangan	€400.00	Mens sheds Rathangan	To assist in the running of the Mens Shed	Community
	Mens Sheds Monasterevin	€400.00	Mens Sheds Monasterevin	To assist in the running of the Mens Shed	Community
	Carmel Cashin - Community Worker	€400.00	Carmel Cashin - Community Worker	To support the establishment of Monasterevin Womens Shed	Community
	Carmel Cashin - Community Worker	€1,200.00	Carmel Cashin - Community Worker	To purchase Acorn Tablets for Monasterevin Daycare Centre	Community

Councillor Duffy advised that he was involved in Monasterevin Daycare.

Councillor A Connolly advised that she was on the Board of Management of Bunscoil Bhride.

Councillor Power added €4000 to the Roads section for an adjustment to a ramp to support a level crossing at Caragh.

Following on from a discussion regarding motion KN37/1121 in the name of Councillor Duffy “That the council identify funding within the municipal district budget to provide a Christmas lights capital fund to be allocated to the towns in the municipal district as equivalent to 2020” the following items were added:

Councillor T O’Dwyer €2000 for Christmas lights in Kilcullen.



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Councillor Power €500 for Christmas lights in Kilcullen and €2500 for Christmas lights in Monasterevin.

Councillor Doyle €1500 for Christmas lights in Monasterevin.

Councillor Stafford €1500 for Christmas lights in Monasterevin.

Councillor Duffy €1000 for Christmas lights in Monasterevin.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by the members that the allocations as outlined be approved.

KN05/1121

To consider and agree Christmas parking arrangements in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District for 2021.

The members raised the following points:

- Councillor Doyle proposed that the same Christmas parking arrangements be made that were in use for Christmas 2019 pre covid as retailers were under pressure and many people would prefer to shop locally.
- Councillor A Connolly proposed to leave the parking arrangements as they were with no suspension.
- Suspension of pay parking would have an impact on income and was not retail friendly as spaces are taken up all day.
- Changing current arrangements only leads to confusion.
- The current arrangement of half an hour free parking facilitates the rotation of spaces.
- Loss of income from suspension of pay parking negatively affects the budget for road and footpath works.
- In advance of next year's discussion could the members be provided with figures for the loss of income and the Christmas parking arrangements for other Municipal Districts with a view to possibly looking at standardising the arrangements across all Municipal Districts.

Mr C O'Toole advised that a costing could be provided in advance of next year's meeting however the members would need to put forward proposals before a costing could be calculated. Mr C O'Toole advised the members of the Christmas parking arrangements that had been agreed in some of the other Municipal Districts.

Following the discussion Councillor Doyle withdrew her proposal.



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Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by the members that there be no suspension of Pay Parking over the Christmas period and that the half an hour free parking would remain in place.

KN06/1121

Public Parking Liffey Terrace

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer. That the council reintroduce public parking for a one-hour duration at a cost of €3 at Liffey Terrace, Newbridge, Co Kildare.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that this request would be included in the Newbridge Pay Parking review. The review was scheduled to commence in Quarter 1 of 2022.

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

KN07/1121

Traffic Calming at The Oaks

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer. That following the recent installation of speed ramps in The Oaks, Newbridge, the council now consider installing ramps in The Elms, at the back of McLoughlin's Garage, to reduce speeding or alternative traffic calming measures be put in place.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that there were no plans to install any additional ramps at The Oaks, the new ramps installed were due to the pedestrian entrance to a primary school being



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located at the top of the road, on observation cars drop off their children and accelerate away, the ramps would reduce their speed.

The members acknowledged the recent works in this area and raised the following points:

- There was a serious issue with speeding in the area which had been exacerbated by the ramps were installed on the other side of the estate.
- The issue had been flagged as far back as 2016 so why was it not considered when the other ramps were installed.
- If ramps were not the solution could other traffic calming measures be considered.
- A pilot scheme had previously been considered for the area and why did this not go ahead.
- If funding or staff resources were an issue, could overtime be considered.

Ms B Cuddy advised the members that she did not accept that the situation had been exacerbated by the recent installation of ramps on the opposite side of the estate, rather the issue had been with parents dropping children at the school and accelerating away which was why the ramps had been installed. The pilot scheme had not been undertaken by the Municipal District office but rather by the NRDO so she had no information on why it had not progressed. There were a number of housing estates in the area which also required traffic calming measures and a full assessment would be required. The area would be investigated but a timeline could not be given due to lack of staff and funding. Overtime could not be considered as many technical staff were already working extra hours.

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

KN08/1121

M7/M9 Junction Technical Survey

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

That this council write to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), requesting a technical survey be carried out at either the junction of the M9 and M7 or at Kinneagh Hill for the purposes of installing a slip road for Newbridge traffic that currently has no option but to come through Kilcullen, Sunnyhill Road and Athgarvan to reach Newbridge.



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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that subject to members agreement, correspondence could issue to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)

Cllr Duffy proposed the following amendment, seconded by Cllr T O'Dwyer and agreed by the members:

That this council write to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), requesting a technical survey be carried out to investigate proposals to upgrade the M9 and M7 or at Kinneagh Hill to construct new slipways West bound to access Newbridge, and East bound to transition from the M7 onto the M9 to remove Newbridge traffic that currently has no option but to come through Kilcullen, Sunnyhill Road and Athgarvan to reach Newbridge.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer and agreed by the members that correspondence issue to Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

KN09/1121

Signage at Clonmoyle

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

That the council put in place, signage - 'Warning, Deer Crossing' at Clonmoyle, Rathangan as a matter of urgency.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the Municipal District Officer would discuss the request with Cllr Connolly and further investigate.

Ms B Cuddy advised that the signs would be ordered, and she would discuss the location with Councillor A Connolly.



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

KN10/1121

Bridge, Passlands Road

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

That the council commence the process to instate a weight restriction and local access road provision on the High Bridge (*High Bridge consists of two intersecting bridges – weight restriction would be for the top section*) and Passlands Road in Monasterevin.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the placement of weight restrictions on a road under *Article 17 of the Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations, 1997, (S.I. 182) Weight Restriction on Vehicles Entering a Road* was an executive function carried out following consultation with An Garda Síochána. As there was no appropriate alternative route, a weight restriction was not considered appropriate at this location.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that the road in question had a double humpback bridge and was being used by Heavy Goods Vehicles as a shortcut as there was no signage to advise that the road was unsuitable. These vehicles were regularly getting stuck on the bridge as it was too steep, and they effectively became “beached”. Waterways Ireland who owned the bridge had no objection to signage or restrictions being placed on the bridge.

Ms B Cuddy advised that she would be happy to meet Councillor Duffy onsite to investigate.

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

KN11/1121

Pedestrian Crossing, Kildare

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

That the council provide a button for pedestrian crossing on each traffic light in the centre of Kildare Town, at the Junction of the R445 and Bride Street R415.



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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that there were controlled crossing points with push button units provided on three arms of this junction. The Traffic Management Section had investigated the provision of a fourth crossing point on the Claregate Street arm, these works would require civil works to include dropped kerbs, additional signal poles etc. Future funding would have to be identified to enable these works to be provided.

Councillor N Connolly queried whether a costing estimate could be provided.

Mr D Hodgins advised that this could tie in with works on the Square but there was no costing as of yet.

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

KN12/1121

Spencer Bridge, Rathangan

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

That the council upgrade the junction on the bend at Spencer Bridge, Rathangan (the junction of the R414 and Millbrook) to improve traffic flow, including the provision of a turning lane, to enable Monasterevin bound coming from the secondary school traffic to pass freely.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising 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 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.

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



KN13/1121

Laneway, Newbridge

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

That this municipal district engages with the Office of Probation Services, the OPW and residents of Eyre Street to have a gate installed on the access laneway perpendicular to Market Square, Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that as the laneway was not in Kildare County Council ownership, this was a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Pender advised the members that the Office of Public Works and the residents of the area were in favour of having a gate installed as the area had become unsafe with antisocial behaviour.

Mr C O'Toole advised that the laneway was in the ownership of the Office of Public Works.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by the members that they would engage with all parties concerned.

KN14/1121

Bicycle Repair and Pump Stations

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

That the council cost and identify optimum locations for bicycle repair and pump stations in the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the Road Safety, Cycling and Sustainable Transport Officer had costed for 5 no. 'Public Cycle Repair and Pump Station's' for the Kildare/Newbridge



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Municipal District as follows, and **subject to available funding in 2022**. There were currently no funds available in this year's remaining budget for this project.

	Unit Cost	Town	Location
	€1,195.00	Newbridge	Outside Garda Station, Main Street
	€1,195.00	Kildare Town	The Square, Kildare Town
	€1,195.00	Kilcullen	Community Centre OR Kilcullen Library
	€1,195.00	Rathangan	Outside Ma's Kitchen, Main Street
	€1,195.00	Monasterevin	Monasterevin Community Centre
TOTAL	€5,975.00		

Councillor McLoughlin Healy queried how the locations were arrived at and whether costings had been allowed for in budget figures.

Councillor Power advised that as the Road Safety, Cycling and Sustainable Transport Officer was not in attendance these questions could be answered offline.

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

KN15/1121

Road Resurfacing Mill Lane, Milltown

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

That the council surface the roadway at Mill Lane, Milltown.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that from their records the lane way in question was not in charge, therefore any works at this location would be carried out under the LIS scheme if the locals wished to do so.

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



KN16/1121

Gas Connection Campion Crescent

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

That the council facilitate a gas connection to Campion Crescent, Melitta Road, Kildare.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that all gas connections, if on public property, required a road opening licence. Once they were submitted and received in the MD office they were processed in accordance with guidelines. From their records The Municipal District Office had not received any applications for the above location.

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

Following agreement from all members item 36 was taken at this point as the report had come from the Roads section.

KN17/1121

Lighting at Slí na Slainte

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

That the council carry out a costing for delivery of wind/solar powered lighting for unlit portions of St Brigid's Sli Na Slainte in Kildare town.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the Public Lighting Section would arrange for the costing to be provided, however a source of funding would have to be identified. There would not be funding available in the Public Lighting Budget. Public Lighting Section had concerns that the installation of lighting in a predominately rural location would have a negative impact on the



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rural character of the local landscape. It was considered that the public lighting columns would become the dominant aspect of the local landscape.

Councillor Doyle advised that there was only a small portion of the route which remained unlit, and the route was well used for public recreation and amenity.

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

KN18/1121

Litter at Toughers

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

Can the council confirm who is responsible for the collection and removal of litter at the bus stops at Toughers on the Naas Road, Newbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the Municipal District office did not carry out litter picking at this location. A schedule of cleaning for the Municipal District was contained within the Litter Management Plan.

The report was noted.

KN19/1121

Umeras Road, Mountrice

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

Can the council confirm if there are any plans to resurface the L7010, Umeras Road, Mountrice in 2022?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the Municipal District Office was currently preparing the 2022 roads programme. The location would be included for consideration.

The report was noted.



KN20/1121

St Paul's Secondary School

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

Can the council provide an update and timeline for the delivery of the road improvements at the junctions of R445/R417 and R417/L7055 that are conditioned as part of the new St. Paul's Secondary School building in Monasterevin?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the detailed design of the signalised junctions was underway at present. The equipment for the junctions was expected to be ordered before the end of 2021 with a view to being constructed in early 2022. The proposed road improvements, between the two junctions, were being incorporated into the town-wide cycle network project and were being designed to complement the linkages to both the Cowpasture and Drogheda Street areas.

Councillor Duffy queried whether an on-site meeting would take place. Mr D Hodgins advised that the team would have an onsite meeting with the school regarding the entrance. The report was noted.

KN21/1121

Lights on L7055

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

Can the council confirm when the lights being installed on the L7055 Nurney Road in Monasterevin will become operational?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the Public Lighting Section were currently engaging with ESB to have the connection completed. Once completed the lighting would be energised.

Councillor N Connolly queried whether he could be given the NPRN offline.

The report was noted.



KN22/1121

Pinkeen Stream Crossing

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council confirm how much is needed for a safe crossing for hundreds of children and families daily over the Pinkeen Stream, Kilcullen and which budget line the allocation will be contained in, in preparation for the upcoming budget?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that this project was at design stage at present. All projects that the Municipal District Office delivers were budgeted for within our annual budgets, which had not yet been allocated.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy advised that she was not happy as her question had not been answered in the report.

Ms B Cuddy advised that the project was still at design stage as it had been delayed due to Covid. An investigation had been restarted and while it was agreed that it would be worthwhile it was never a committed project. The stream in question was owned by the Office of Public Works and an application would have to be made to them for any work to take place. A bridge would be cost prohibitive, but alternatives were being considered. Until an agreement was made with the Office of Public Works no costing could be provided.

Mr D Hodgins advised that if a costing was required and was available it would be reported to the members.

The Mayor thanked both Ms Cuddy and Mr Hodgins for providing clarity and requested that if costings are not available, it should be advised in the report.

The report was noted.

KN23/1121

Pre-Christmas Markets

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

That the council support delivery of a series of pre-Christmas markets in Kildare town that will demonstrate commercial viability of same and set a standard that optimises commercial opportunities in advance of the adoption of market byelaws.



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

A report was received from the District Manager advising the members that the intent of this motion was good and positive though it was not without its complexities which really needed to be considered. It would realistically require the support and buy-in of all relevant departments, particularly Community, Planning, Public Realm, Finance, Environment, Community Wardens, Corporate Services, Municipal District Engineer and possibly An Garda Síochána, as well as relevant budget lines where appropriate.

Issues relating to public health and safety and public liability would also need to be addressed.

If these were to ultimately progress on a county-wide basis, such would put the foregoing issues in more focus. All in all, the above factors really needed to be considered and clearly, it would be best that any decision be made in a very considered way. There was also a possible argument in favour of engaging an events manager to ensure that there was a professional input brought to bear in relation to any future impetus.

Indeed, this might also fit well with ongoing and planned public realm improvements within the county. However, a budget line for such an initiative would have to be identified.

Given the range of issues to be considered and the number of entities/ depts involved as well as the broader corporate aspects, it might be best to ascertain the views of the Corporate Policy Group on this motion.

Councillor Doyle advised the members that she was seeking funding to pay for a marquee for evening or weekend markets for a 3-4 week period in the run up to Christmas at a cost of €2,000 per night.

The members agreed that correspondence should issue to the relevant departments, to include the Local Enterprise Office and Public Realm seeking assistance with said funding.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor A Connolly and agreed by the members that correspondence would issue to the relevant council departments, including LEO and Public Realm, seeking financial support for the provision of a marquee in Kildare Town for a Christmas market.



KN24/1121

Newbridge Town Hall

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

That this municipal district explores the possibility of engaging with a Local community/voluntary group in the area for the day to day running and operations of Newbridge Town Hall similar to the caretakers agreements in place for other community premises.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department advising the members that Kildare County Council had in some instances worked with community groups to help with the running of a facility. Newbridge Town Hall was managed directly by the Kildare County Council facilities section. This was due to

- The size of the facility.
- The considerable annual costs for insurance and maintenance.
- The technical ability to maintain a building of such historical significance.

It had been disappointing to see this facility closed for so long. Facilities were currently reopening the hall for a weekly event as a test case to ensure there are no covid related issues before a full reopening. Facilities were best placed to ensure that all health and safety precautions are taken and implemented. As they already had a booking system in place, known to those who have used the hall previously, facilities would be best placed to open the hall quickly and safely to the public assuming the test went well.

The members raised the following points:

- Newbridge Town Hall had become an extension of Áras Chill Dara since Covid restrictions began and was no longer being used for the benefit of the community.
- Caution should be exercised in the outsourcing of council properties as the history had been very poor in this regard with exclusion and unfairness.
- Newbridge Town Hall was underutilised and could the possibility of setting up a working group be investigated.



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- The running of Newbridge Town Hall was an onerous task and should be open to multiple sufficiently qualified groups.

Mr D McDermott advised the members that he was unsure of the advantage of using a community group or of involving multiple groups. The quickest way of booking was through Facilities and the building also need to be kept safe. There was a health and safety issue with involving multiple groups and there were challenges to the maintenance and protection of an old building. There was currently a good process through Facilities to book and make Newbridge Town Hall available.

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

KN25/1121

Overcrowded Accommodation

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council detail what investigations of overcrowded accommodation in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District it has been asked to initiate in the last 2 years as part of its Service Level Agreement with the HSE - and the outcome of same.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the housing element of the Service Level Agreement related to the inspection of private rented properties to ensure compliance with minimum rental standards. The HSE had not been requested to inspect properties for over-crowding.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy advised that with the controversy regarding overcrowding, especially during Covid, she found it surprising that there had been no requests made.

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



KN26/1121

Lands at Kildangan Village

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

Can the council outline its plans for lands in its ownership (Folio KE44305F 3.89 acres/1.58 hectares and 1.64 acres/0.66 hectares) at Kildangan Village?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that of the total site only about 0.3ha is currently zoned residential, there are also waste water constraints in this area. The Housing Department is currently looking to formalise a lease with a local farmer for this site.

Councillor N Connolly queried whether the lands could be put to community use rather than being leased as farmland.

Mr O Brady advised that there was no formal lease in place currently but that the council were seeking to extend the current arrangement.

The report was noted.

KN27/1121

Retrofit Schemes

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

Can the council furnish a report on the rollout of the various deep retrofit schemes administered by the Council in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and confirm if any units have been modified?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Kildare County Council had identified Houses in Beechgove Rathangan, Bishopland/Farrincooley/Dunmurray, Kildare and St Evin's Park Monasterevin as follows:

Bishopland/Farrincooley/Dunmurray

37 Units included for Retrofit works under the Midland Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (MEERP)



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Contractor approved, but awaiting confirmation of Performance Bond prior to issue of Letter of Acceptance

Due to resourcing and availability of materials it was likely to be Quarter 1 2022 before works would start in Bishopsland but once the contractor was engaged the MEERP team would communicate confirmed dates to the residents

Beechgrove, Rathangan

14 Units included for Retrofit works under the Midland Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (MEERP)

Letter of Acceptance signed

It was expected that works would commence to Beechgrove Quarter 4 2021 and be completed Quarter 1 2022

St Evin's Park

15 Units included for Retrofit works under the Midland Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (MEERP)

Letter of Acceptance ready for sign-off

It was expected that works would commence to St Evin's Park within the next two weeks, with an expected completion in Quarter 1 2022

There were no modifications to the scheme, but the Department did provide clarifications with respect to the replacement of windows and doors. Also, it was advised that these schemes were essentially a pilot and we were requested to select houses that had a reasonable energy rating. This would allow for learnings to be developed for when dealing with houses of a lower BER in the future.

Councillor Stafford queried why window and door replacement had been removed from the scheme. Mr O Brady advised that it was a pilot scheme and the areas in most need of work were being prioritised to allow learnings to be developed.

The report was noted.

KN28/1121

Blueway

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



Kildare County Council

That the council liaise with Waterways Ireland with a view of putting in place some tables/benches, signage and bins on the Blueway strip, which is now complete, from Rathangan to Lowtown.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department advising the members that Rathangan Tidy Towns had made contact with KCC, regarding picnic benches they had available for use on the Blueway, the SPPR team along with Waterways Ireland would be working with them, to find a suitable location. This may be only a temporary measure. Long term the council were looking at the Blueway as a whole and identifying the most suitable location for all ancillary infrastructure, such as signage, furniture and bespoke pieces that would tell the story of the Blueway.

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

KN29/1121

Unauthorised Developments

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer.
Can the council provide an update on the number of Unauthorised Developments in this municipal district that are presently registered with Kildare County Council?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the Enforcement Management System does not provide a breakdown of activity per Municipal District area.

Councillor O'Dwyer advised that she had been informed that the Planning Management system was being upgraded and could she now have a timeline on when this would happen as there was an ongoing problem on illegal encampments in the Municipal District.

Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that planning IT systems were currently being looked at but it would be at least a year before significant upgrades took place.

The report was noted.



KN30/1121

Climate Change Centre of Excellence

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heavey.
Can the council indicate when we might expect the draft Feasibility Study on the establishment of a Climate Change Centre of Excellence?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the SPPR Team had engaged architects and urban designers, Metropolitan Works, to prepare a feasibility study for the establishment of a Climate Change Centre of Excellence in Newbridge. The research was well underway and it was expected to have a draft document for circulation in the late December/early January 2022.

The report was noted.

KN31/1121

Social Infrastructure Audit

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Doyle.
Can the council provide an update on the social infrastructure audit for Kildare town?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that work commenced on the Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) for Kildare Town in Quarter 2 2020, when an analysis of the existing social infrastructure at the time was carried out. This work would be updated in Quarter 1 2022 and finalised prior to the publication of the Draft Kildare Town Local Area Plan later that year.

Councillor Doyle advised that she had no sense that this had happened and requested that details be provided to the members.

The report was noted.

KN32/1121

Housing Units Monasterevin

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



Kildare County Council

Can the council confirm what is the available housing unit headroom in Monasterevin under the current County Development Plan variation based on the core strategy, granted housing units and commencement notices submitted?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the member that as part of the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan 2023-2029, each settlement of the County, including Monasterevin, would be reviewed in terms of housing units granted to date. This would inform the population and housing unit allocation for the proposed settlement hierarchy. The Chief Executive's Draft County Development Plan would be presented to the Members for their consideration later this year.

The report was noted.

KN33/1121

Climate Action initiatives and funding towards Climate Innovation Fund

The Mayor welcomed Ms P O'Rourke, Climate Action Officer and Ms C O'Flynn, Development Programme Graduate to the meeting.

Ms O'Rourke updated the members on the climate action initiatives currently being undertaken and informed them that €25,000 LPT funding was being sought from each municipal district.

The Mayor stated that the members would consider the request for LPT funding.

KN34/1121

Signage at Newabbey Graveyard

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer. That the council install signage at Newabbey graveyard, Kilcullen reminding visitors not to leave personal belongings on display in their cars.

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



Kildare County Council

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the council could look into providing a sign in Newabbey reminding people not to leave valuables in their cars but ultimately this was an individual responsibility. The advice of An Garda Siochana was not to leave any valuable items or money in your car. By taking the simple step of not leaving any valuables on display, people could significantly reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime. If anyone was seen attempting to open cars or looking into cars and it seemed their behaviour was suspicious, an Garda Siochana should be notified.

Councillor T O'Dwyer advised that cars being broken into was a regular occurrence in this area and signage would provide a reminder to people therefore limiting opportunity.

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

KN35/1121

Sustainable Energy Communities

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

Can the council confirm what the future roadmap and next steps are for towns like Kilcullen that have completed their Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) Masterplan?

A report was received from the Energy Efficiency Officer informing the members that Kildare County Council was the first Council in Ireland to provide bridging financial supports to Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's) who chose to develop their respective Energy Master Plans. The support was in partnership with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and took away financial, administration and procurement responsibilities from the SEC as they went through the Energy Master Plan Process.

With regard to SEC future road map and next steps: Sustainable Energy Communities initially registered with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). The SEAI provided guidance, supports, manuals and mentoring at all stages of an SEC's development <https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/sustainable-energy-communities/>. The SEAI funded a County Kildare Mentor who could assist all of Kildare's SEC's in their journeys forward. Also a key part of an SEC's Energy Master Plan was the register of



Kildare County Council

opportunities which was specific to the associated community and should provide real and tangible areas for progression and next steps. Kildare County Council understood that Kildare's Sustainable Energy Communities were in the most part fledgling groups which were driven by a small nucleus of members and the council was keen for these groups to grow and reach their potential.

Post Master Plan stages the next steps included organising support networks and greater community engagement to enact the masterplan. Example of SEC's that were successfully implementing their master plan were available and one was showcased at the recent Kildare Climate and Energy Week- namely Dunleer SEC with other examples including Batterstown and Kilaneric SEC's with lots of examples on the SEAI website. Potential support was available from the county mentor and SEAI with regard to guidance and financial supports together with the experience of the SEC's that were implementing their plans. The key learnings taken from other more established and advanced SEC's could be utilised to grow Kildare's Sustainable Energy Communities. Various tools on the SEAI website were available to network, pathway markers and potential funding opportunities to name but a few. The SEC was the driver of their envisaged future as outlined by their masterplan. Kildare County Council was committed to supporting Sustainable Energy Communities into the future and would continue to assist existing SEC's and the SEAI around these supports where appropriate.

The District Manager advised that Ballymore and Johnstown were coming on board for Sustainable Energy Communities and a brief presentation could be made to the members in December or January if the members agreed.

The report was noted.

KN36/1121

Liffey Lodge

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

That the council establish a Youth Cultural Centre of Excellence, properly constituted and resourced to be established in Newbridge on the property heretofore known as Liffey Lodge.

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



Kildare County Council

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Department informing the members that prior to Liffey Lodge coming on the market Kildare County Council was presented with the opportunity to view it. When the property was placed on the market, the Council through its agent placed a number of bids on the property. As this response was being prepared there was no further update. This motion is premature as the Council do not own this property.

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

KN37/1121

Christmas Lights

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

That the council identify funding within the municipal district budget to provide a Christmas lights capital fund to be allocated to the towns in the municipal district as equivalent to 2020.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that €65,000 LPT was allocated for capital Christmas lighting projects in 2020 and this was fully allocated. It was a matter for the members if they wished to do similarly again but it was understood that all 2021 LPT had been allocated at this stage.

Please note that €28,000 of €50,000 LPT allocated to festivals in the Municipal District remained unallocated. Members could vote to redirect this funding should they wish to do so. If approved, consideration should be given to whether this would, like last year, be for capital spend and how such funding would be divided between the 6 towns who benefitted in 2020.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that he currently had two specific requests, €2500 for Kilcullen and €7500 for Monasterevin for a capital spend on Christmas Lights.

The members raised the following points:



Kildare County Council

- Why were they led to believe there were no funds left in festival grants to now discover there was €28,000 there from LPT
- Rates for Christmas lights would now be exorbitant and there would be no value for money
- Festivals would require funding next year.
- Funding was given for Christmas lights last year but some areas received more than others and capital spends would not be required every year.
- Funding should not be reallocated from festival grants but possibly some discretionary LPT could be allocated to assist with the two specific requests.

Mr D McDermott informed the members that a report had been previously circulated stating that there was an amount of €28000 LPT which remained unspent. Since Covid festival grants had been rolled on, he would be happy to allow applications for funding through festival grants.

Following discussion, it was decided that festival grant funds should not be used and some members offered to reallocate some discretionary LPT to cover the cost of the two specific requests. (Listed in Item 4)

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer, with the members in agreement, that the two specific requests be funded through members discretionary LPT.

KN38/1121

Liffey Lodge

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

Can the council confirm how and when it became engaged in the process of acquiring Liffey Lodge in Newbridge?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that prior to Liffey Lodge coming on the market Kildare County Council was presented with the opportunity to view it. When the property was placed on the market, the Council through its agent placed a number of bids on the property. At the time this response was being prepared there was no further update.

The report was noted.



KN39/1121

Public Drinking Water Fountains

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council provide an update on the implementation of public drinking water fountains across the district to include the costing for buying/installing each fountain and the top 5 optimum locations for installation across the district, in preparation for budget and LPT retained tax allocation discussions?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that a public water fountain was currently being installed in Kildare Town Playground. The cost of a non- touch battery powered unit was €4,500 provided by Ecofil which had been used by a number of local authorities, installation and a water connection was costing €3,500. This did not include the ongoing charge that Irish Water would apply for the water usage and ongoing cleaning and maintenance of the unit. The costs for the installation and connection may vary from the figure quoted depending on the location and type and length of excavation that had to be undertaken. The figure quoted above was for a 10m connection to a water main. The Parks Section did not have the capacity to lead the role out of a programme of the fountains within existing resources and commitments.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy queried if it was possible to get an approximation of the annual and connection costs from Irish Water and if she could be given an idea of a timeframe. The District Manager advised that an application would have to be sent to Irish Water for a connection at full commercial rate. The cost would be significant depending on civil works and proximity to the mains supply. Areas in the vicinity of schools and public buildings were being considered with a possible timeframe of 2022.

The report was noted.

KN40/1121

Riverbank Arts Centre

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

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



Kildare County Council

A report was received from the Arts Officer informing the members that 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.

Councillor Stafford queried if members could be kept updated with six monthly reports.

Ms L Russell advised she would be happy to do this.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.