



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
Meeting held on 20 January 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 M Hunt, Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officers), Ms S Scully (Administrative Officer), Mr J Murtagh (Executive Engineer), Mr C O'Toole (A/Staff Officer), Mr B Leonard (Meetings Administrator) and Ms E Molloy (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

KN01/0121

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday 16 December 2020 together with the progress report.

The Meetings Administrator requested that two administrative corrections be made, the first being that the date on page 1 to read 16 December 2020 and not 18 December 2020 and under item KN30/1220, the motion should read seconded by Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer and not Councillor Noel Connolly.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy emailed her amendment to the minutes to the meetings administrator, Brian Leonard, who read out the original extract from the draft minutes ***Extract from draft minutes:*** Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy raised the issue of suspending orders in order to address the issue of the adjourned motions.

The meetings administrator read out the proposed amendment –



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Proposed amendment: Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked to suspend Standing Orders to address the anomaly of motions that were adjourned due to Covid time limits on previous meetings going unheard for 2 months. while new motions were heard first.

The Mayor informed the members that they had three amendments before them.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Cllr Robert Power and agreed by the members that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on Wednesday 16 December 2020 be taken as read and amendments agreed. The progress report was noted.

KN02/0121

Matters Arising

The Mayor asked the members for any comments in relation to the Progress Report.

Councillor Anne Connolly replied that she was not happy with the response received from the Department of Defence with regard to the old Curragh Post Office. Mr Joe Boland, the District Manager replied that he would follow up on this.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy enquired about meetings with The Oaks residents and also the dumping problem at Donnelly's Hollow. The District Engineer stated that she had been in contact with the resident's association in The Oaks but that no meetings were to take place during the pandemic. Councillor McLoughlin Healy also asked that all communication with the solicitors in relation to O'Modhráin Hall be recirculated to the members. The District Manager replied that he would arrange for this correspondence to be circulated.

Councillor Chris Pender requested that the item regarding the Reverse Vending Machine be included in the progress report.

Councillor Power asked if there was any update on the Naas Development Area Plan and whether this was a cross boundary plan or not. The District Manager replied that he would follow up on this with the Director of Planning.

KN03/0121

Municipal District Roadworks

The District Engineer stated a report had been circulated to the members providing an update on roadworks. She stated that only essential work was being carried out at the moment due to the pandemic. Councillor Anne Connolly asked was the large sign at the



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bridge in Rathangan to be taken down. The District Engineer replied that it could be removed if it was not essential. Councillor Heavey enquired regarding the work that was to be carried out by Irish Water on the Military Road in Newbridge. The District Engineer replied that there was a meeting that day in relation to this and that this work was scheduled to start on 3 February 2021 until the 22 or 23 of March 2021.

KN04/0121

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

The Mayor asked the members if there were any nominations under this item. Councillor Suzanne Doyle proposed that the remainder of her LPT be nominated to Item 7 on the agenda if the amount was less than €7000. (That appropriate fencing be put in place at the green area at Rathbride Abbey, Kildare adjacent to the traffic lights). Councillor Robert Power seconded this proposal. See KN08/0121

The Mayor asked the members to consider a nomination of €13,000 to be allocated to support initiatives to reduce the use of Glyphosate. This was proposed by Councillor Chris Pender and seconded by Councillor Rob Power.

The Mayor asked the members to consider a nomination of €1,000 contribution to the refurbishment of gates in Devoy Barracks. This was proposed by Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Anne Connolly

Councillor Doyle commented that as there were 11 members in this Municipal District, they should be conscious going forward of the LPT amounts being nominated for combined district projects.

The Mayor noted the point being made.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Chris Pender and seconded by Councillor Rob Power and agreed by all members that €13,000 was to be allocated to support initiatives to reduce the use of Glyphosate and resolved on the proposal of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Anne Connolly and agreed by all members that a contribution of €1,000 be given for the refurbishment of gates in Devoy Barracks.



KN05/01/21

Allocation LPT Schedule of Works 2021

The Mayor proposed that a structured discussion and presentation with the members and staff from departments looking for funding, should take place as it would be a good way to make informed decisions and establish the volume of requests.

The members discussed the proposal and made the following comments

- The proposal was welcomed, and members would have the option to say no to projects
- To be aware that LPT projects would benefit the people who have paid the tax
- That guidelines and a process should be put in place as to what can be awarded

The District Manager stated that this discussion was a good idea and that it should take place before the next Municipal District meeting. A date was to be agreed between the Mayor, the District Manager and the Meetings Administrator.

Resolved that a date be agreed for a meeting of the MD members and relevant staff for a structured discussion and presentation with the members and staff from departments looking for funding.

KN06/0121

To receive an update on finished, unfinished and estates under construction

Mr J Murtagh, Executive Engineer informed the members that a detailed report on the up to date status of all finished, unfinished and estates under construction in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area had been previously circulated to the members. The Mayor asked the members if they had any questions in relation to this report.

Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer asked how residents know that an estate has been Taken in Charge. Mr J Murtagh replied that it was usually advertised, he would have to confirm if resident's associations were written to.

Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy asked what was happening with Millfield Manor. Mr J Murtagh replied that there were concerns about a retaining wall and that Kildare County Council could not take it in charge as there was a management company in place at the moment. The Mayor requested that Councillor McLoughlin Healy and Mr Murtagh speak out of the meeting regarding this subject.



KN07/0121

Extinguishment of a public right of way on the laneway linking Rosconnell Avenue to Rosconnell Close, Newbridge

The Mayor informed the members that a report had been previously circulated on this matter.

Councillor Doyle stated that there had been a lot of anti-social behaviour taking place in the vicinity of the laneway. She said that this item had already been discussed and supported. She also said that closing off this laneway would not interfere with access by emergency vehicles. Councillor Pender stated he wanted to reiterate what Councillor Doyle had said and that he worked closely with the residents and that they wanted the laneway closed. The District Engineer said that the best practice was to extend both gardens into the laneway. Councillor Stafford stated that if Section 183 was adopted the landowner would cover the cost to take the land over. Ms Cuddy said that a number of neighbouring householders were interested in acquiring the land if they could afford it, she added that the council would look at the various options and the cost implications.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Susanne Doyle and seconded by Councillor Chris Pender with all members agreeing that the public right of way on the laneway between Rosconnell Avenue to Rosconnell Close, Newbridge under Section 73 of the Roads Act, 1993 be extinguished.

KN08/0121

Fencing at Rathbride Abbey, Kildare Adjacent to the traffic lights

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Suzanne Doyle That appropriate fencing be put in place at the green area at Rathbride Abbey, Kildare adjacent to the traffic lights.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Suzanne Doyle and seconded by Councillor Robert Power

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that this is outside the remit of the of the Municipal District Office, however if LPT funding was agreed we will appoint a contractor to carry out the works.



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Councillor Suzanne Doyle stated she was happy to nominate €7000 of LPT “other community projects” to fund these works. See **KN04/0121**

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Suzanne Doyle and seconded by Councillor Robert Power and agreed by all members that Councillor Suzanne Doyle would nominate €7000 to fund the cost of fencing at the green area at Rathbride Abbey, Kildare adjacent to the traffic lights. See KN04/0121

KN09/0121

Footpaths in Moorefield Drive

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Peggy O’Dwyer
That the footpaths in Moorefield Drive, Newbridge be listed for upgrade.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that this could be included for consideration under LPT subject to the agreement of the members.

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

KN10/0121

Roadsalting route - Tullylost/Ellistown Road to Cherryville Crossroads

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly
That the council include the road Tullylost/Ellistown to Cherryville Crossroads, Kildare on the road salting route map for next winter.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Anne Connolly and seconded by Councillor Tracey O’Dwyer

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety department informing the members that following a review of the Council’s Winter Maintenance Plan in 2018/19, Kildare County Council had increased its winter salting programme, effective from Spring



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2019 increasing the existing route lengths by up to 70 km. Ten separate routes were now salted during the winter period, resulting in a total of 680 km of road being treated to ensure safer travel for all road users. This was the second increase in roads added to the salting routes within the past 5 years and have increased from eight salting routes in 2015 to the current ten routes. There were no plans at present to add/amend existing salting runs to the existing schedule as it would not be possible allowing for existing resources and availability of drivers and plant. A review may be carried out at the end of the current Winter Maintenance season, however, as this service is currently at full capacity, any amendments to the current routes will result in the service being removed from another location.

Following a discussion by the members, the District Engineer confirmed the following

- Issue is down to budget and resources
- For regional roads it is the usage of roads that deems priority for salting
- Because of lockdown, there are less cars on the road

Councillor Anne Connolly accepted the report but stated that there should be something put in place for extreme weather.

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

KN11/0121

Interactive speed sign at Tullylost, Rathangan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly
That the council install an interactive speed sign at Tullylost, Rathangan

The motion was proposed by Councillor Anne Connolly and seconded by Councillor Suzanne Doyle

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the site would be checked to see whether a Driver Feed Back Sign was warranted/would be beneficial at this location. It should be noted that there were no resources available/allocated in this year's budget to install these types of signs.



Councillor Anne Connolly stated that there have been a few accidents on this road and the 60km speed limit was not being adhered to. She stated an interactive sign would slow traffic down. The District Engineer replied that she would review this location but that these types of signs were only placed at strategic locations. Councillor Anne Connolly stated she accepted this report and hoped for a favourable outcome once the review was done.

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

The Mayor asked to take Item 11 and Item 12 together and the members agreed

KN12/0121

Traffic Calming works and Road Safety Concerns at Cowpasture, Monasterevin

Item 11

That the council carry out traffic calming works at Cowpasture, Monasterevin as a matter of urgency.

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

Item 12

That the council prioritise the resolution of road safety concerns along Cowpasture Road, Monasterevin from the entry of Hopkins Haven, Brocan Wood, through Cowpasture to the crossroads with the R414.

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

It was agreed to take the two motions together.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members an assessment would need to be carried out in line with Kildare County Councils Traffic Calming Policy and implemented subject to funding and resources being available to progress same.



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Councillor Noel Connolly stated there were two accidents recently on this road and that one resulted in a wall being demolished. He also said that this road would be a key artery for the new school. Councillor Duffy stated it was a key road in Monasterevin and there were two blind spots on this road, he asked for a dual walk of the road with the District Engineer when Covid restrictions lift. The District Engineer stated she would meet Councillors Duffy and Noel Connolly on site when restrictions lifted.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kevin Duffy and seconded by Councillor Noel Connolly with all members agreeing that the report be noted and a walk through be carried out with the District Engineer when Covid restrictions lift.

KN13/0121

Extension of Yellow Box at entrance to Kildangan Manor

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kevin Duffy
That the council extend the existing yellow box at the entrance to Kildangan Manor, Kildangan to allow vehicles in/out of the estate without blocking traffic over the railway bridge that has been recently reconstructed.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the Municipal District office agreed to reinstate the yellow box as requested.

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

KN14/0121

Additional car parking for Maryville, Kildare Town

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford
That the council provide additional car parking for (details provided) Maryville, Kildare Town.
The motion was proposed by Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor Anne Connolly



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that this was not within the remit of Municipal District Office, we do not have funding for installation of parking spaces.

Councillor Stafford stated that this was a ring of houses with shared parking to the rear noting that there was insufficient parking. He stated it was an old estate with elderly residents. The District Engineer replied that this motion would be re-directed to the housing department for a reply.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Safford and seconded by Councillor Anne Connolly with all members agreeing that the report be noted and the matter re-directed to the housing department.

KN15/0121

Repair footpath on the Dublin Road, Kildare from Magee Barracks to Rowanville

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford That the council repair the footpath on the Dublin Road, Kildare from Magee Barracks to Rowanville.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Mark Stafford and seconded by Councillor Doyle

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the developer of the new housing development was conditioned to carry out works on the footpath and road at this location, until this was complete the Municipal District Office had no plans to do works in the area.

Councillor Stafford asked if the Municipal District office could look at the section in front of Rowanville to Chapmans Garage. The District Engineer replied that she was reluctant to but would work with the developer when back on site.

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



KN16/0121

Resurface Road at Bohergoy, Suncroft to Heffernans Cross

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly
Can the council confirm if it has any plans to resurface the road at Bohergoy, Suncroft to Heffernan's Cross?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the roads programme was being prepared for 2021 and would include this road for consideration.

The report was noted.

KN17/0121

Drain on the road from Ellistown to Southgreen Road, Kildare

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly
Can the council confirm if it has any plans to fill in the drain on the road from Ellistown to Southgreen Road, Kildare?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that there were no plans to fill in this drain. Filling of drains, with the exception at entrances, could make them hard to manage, additional pipes to clean, blockages, and flooding issues could potentially arise.

Councillor Connolly stated she was not happy with this report and would submit a motion to the next meeting on this.

The report was noted.

KN18/0121

Water on the road between TP Waters Garage and junction with the R415

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly
Can the council confirm if it has any plans to address the heavy accumulation of water which lies on the road between TP Waters Garage (Eircode R51 EV29) and its junction with the R415 (Eircode R51 H998) following moderate rainfall?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that there were no planned works for this area, but the Municipal District Office agreed to investigate the issue.

The report was noted.

KN19/0121

Road linking Allen Cross to Victoria Bridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Heavey
Can the council confirm that work on the road linking Allen Cross to Victoria Bridge will be undertaken in the current road programme and will include review of safety measures along the 360 metre stretch at Blacktrench?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the road programme was being prepared for 2021 and the council would include this road for consideration.

The report was noted

KN20/0121

Plans for cycle infrastructure across 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 for cycle infrastructure across the municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that under Sustainable Transport Measures Grant (STMG) programme, current projects for 2021 were issued to the Cathaoirleach and elected members in a report on 20 November 2020. In addition to these projects, the NTA were currently finalising their 5-year programme for proposed cycle infrastructure for Kildare County Council and an update would be provided when received. It was anticipated this would be available in February 2021.



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Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked was there any such projects for inclusion in this district? Mr O'Toole replied that he would furnish this information to Councillor McLoughlin Healy. The report was noted.

KN21/0121

Regional roads in Kildare-Newbridge district not treated as part of the winter maintenance programme

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford
Can the council identify which regional roads in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District are not treated as part of the winter maintenance programme?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that sections of the R401 and the R412 are the only Regional Roads in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District which are not treated as part of the Winter Maintenance Programme, due to the low traffic volumes which these roads carry.

Councillor Stafford asked if it would be possible to get a map of these locations. Mr O'Toole replied that he would provide the councillor with a map.

The report was noted

KN22/0121

Mortgage Title Deeds for Approved Housing Bodies

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

Can the council provide details of the mortgage title deeds for Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) in this municipal district, who holds them, tracks end of mortgage terms and the process for transferring title once the term is complete; and the impact on the council's financial statement?

A report was received from the Housing department informing the members that Kildare County Council holds the mortgage title deeds. Title transfers to Approved Housing Bodies once the mortgage deed agreements have been completed (lodged with Land Registry), with a charge in favour of the council registered against the title. AHBs receive an annual mortgage



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statement. On the expiry of the mortgage term, Kildare County Council would begin the process of releasing deeds to the approved housing body in accordance with Circular 19/2014. The effect on the council's financial statement was nil, as the Department funds all loan payments to AHBs. The council was currently in the process of completing mortgage title deeds for five Capital Loan and Subsidy Schemes in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked who provided the loans?

Ms Scully replied that the House Finance Agency provided funding to Kildare County Council who in turn provided funding to the Approved Housing Bodies. Councillor McLoughlin Healy and Ms Siobhán Scully agreed to discuss the matter further outside of the meeting.

The report was noted.

KN23/0121

Update on Public Realm Projects

Ms M Hunt informed the members that the Part 8 for Rathangan was to be published on Tuesday 26 January 2021. The public consultations could not take place at present with regard to the Curragh Plains and Monasterevin due to Level 5 restrictions. She stated that a report on all projects had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting and asked if anyone had questions.

The following queries and comments were raised by the members:

- There was no disadvantage to online consultations, more people access online and the council should go with this approach, the Curragh Plains needs engagement
- What was the schedule of delivery of projects e.g. Bridget 1500
- What is the position in Newbridge in relation to the redevelopment of the library and the pedestrianisation of Georges Street and with the Market Square in Kilcullen?
- Queries raised regarding carparking for Kilcullen?

Ms Hunt clarified the following points with the members:

- There needs a to be a full engagement across all avenues for consultations, some are online and some are in person



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- The pandemic was affecting the delivery of projects including the Bridget 1500 and it was difficult to say how the schedule would progress, she hoped this would be delivered in 2022 and that funding was to be received.
- With regard to Newbridge – a tender for Part 8 for the library, there was a feasibility study for St. Conleths, in conjunction with Bord Na Mona, CARO and then progress to Part 8. The council were looking at covering sections of Georges Street and to introduce outdoor seating.
- There was an unauthorised canopy outside the Town Hall which the Planning Section were investigating.
- It was hoped to get the Part 8 published in February in relation to Market Square Kilcullen

The report was noted.

KN24/0121

Feasibility study for upgrade of tow path from Corbally Harbour to Naas Canal

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer That Kildare County Council, in conjunction with Irish Waterways, carry out a feasibility study to naturally upgrade the existing tow path that runs from Corbally Harbour to Naas Canal to a biodiversity walking trail.

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm informing the members that the Heritage Officer will discuss the feasibility of such a project with Waterways Ireland, with a view to including a new objective for same in the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

Councillor O'Dwyer informed the members that the Corbally Harbour branch of the Grand Canal extended from the townland of Corbally to Naas Harbour. This canal branch was completed in 1810 mainly to service the transport of grain and flour from Reeves Mill at Athgarvan. The canal already provided an almost perfect walkway from Corbally to Naas and was the longest stretch of canal in the country with no locks as the terrain was flat. Corbally Harbour had previously been proposed as a Blueway, it was already a beautiful and



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fantastic natural amenity and a wonderful sanctuary for wildlife and only required minimum work to enhance the current tow path and if LPT was required to fund a soft covering for the path in the interim while further plans were developed through the Draft County Development Plan, she was happy to work with her colleague Councillor Evie Sammon to pursue LPT funding as this project crossed over two Municipal Districts.

Councillor Mark Stafford welcomed this motion and asked what type of soft covering would be used. Councillor Pender stated he hoped that the tow path would have accessibility for disabled persons. Ms Mairead Hunt replied that Waterways Ireland insist that any pathway is quarry dust and it would require a Part 8. The maintenance of this is approximately €1,000 per kilometre. She stated that if Councillors were willing to fund this covering with LPT funding, she would bring it to the Heritage Officer for consideration.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Mark Stafford with all members agreeing that the report be noted and Ms M Hunt to contact the Heritage Officer in relation to the motion.

KN25/0121

Curragh Plains

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer That this council writes to the Minister of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting his intention to make an order designating the Curragh Plains as a Natural Heritage Area under Section 16 (1) of the Wildlife Amendment Act, (2000) and call on the Minister to begin the formal process of advancing its current designation from a Proposed Natural Heritage Area (p NHA) to a Natural Heritage Area (NHA).

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm department informing the members that Kildare County Council and the Department of Defence had jointly engaged The Paul Hogarth Company to deliver a Conservation Management Plan and an Interpretation Plan for the Curragh Plains which would include significant stakeholder engagement. The aim of this Plan was to provide an understanding of the Curragh of Kildare, its setting, an assessment of the significance of the site, and how



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the Curragh was vulnerable or sensitive to change and to provide material for interpretation and education related to the Curragh and its setting in the wider landscape.

There were a number of ways in which The Curragh's conservation management and presentation could be improved. Such projects and others like them would help to protect this special landscape for future generations, whilst also facilitating divergence associated with its use. There was also major potential to improve the value of the Curragh as a resource to local people as a place for recreation and education. There was also considerable scope to elevate the Curragh to the status of a major visitor attraction that could generate significant economic return for surrounding towns and the region as a whole. Realising this potential would require sensitivity to the unique qualities of this special landscape, avoiding over development or commercialisation. It would also require an earnest commitment to collaboration with its diverse range of stakeholders, not least those who live in and work around this landscape.

Kildare County Council and the Department of Defence were fully committed to the proper maintenance and presentation of these unique lands of national importance that are the Curragh Plains. In partnership, the Council and Department of Defence wished to address a series of issues and identify opportunities for improvements in these areas so that the regional, national and international significance of The Curragh could be safeguarded and harnessed to the benefit of all.

It was respectfully suggested that this motion was premature until such time as both the Conservation Management Plan and the Interpretation Plan for the Curragh Plains were complete.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer stated that she did not accept this report. There was no reference to the scientific value of the area. She said Plains were recognised worldwide, yet the Curragh Plains still had no legal protection, that this was the central point of her motion. She asked if the Paul Hogarth Company would be consulting with the National Parks and Wildlife Agency. Ms M Hunt replied that the Paul Hogarth Company had an ecologist that would consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Agency. She also mentioned that



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perhaps a change in legislation was required as the Curragh currently was under the control and management of the Department of Defence.

Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy stated that in the past Ministers had failed to protect the Curragh, and that something was needed to be done now. Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer stated that it was essential that measures were put in place to protect the Curragh Plains for generations to come, that without the site being legally protected this was not guaranteed and asked again to write to the Minister of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, requesting him to make an order designating the Curragh Plains as a Natural Heritage Area.

The District Manager stated that this was a joint initiative with the Department of Defence and that the future was positive and a lot more was progressing this year. Councillor Duffy proposed that The District Manager write to the Minister of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and this was seconded by Councillor Mark Stafford.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Pender with all members agreeing that the report be noted and the District Manager to write to the Minister of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting his intention to make an order designating the Curragh Plains as a Natural Heritage Area under Section 16(1) of the Wildlife Amendment Act, (2000).

KN26/0121

Establishment of a Research Centre at St Conleth's Square/Bord Na Mona Complex

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Heavey That the council commit to promoting and facilitating the establishment of a Research Institute as part of Public Realm Development in St Conleth's Square/ Bord Na Mona Complex Newbridge during the first quarter of 2021.

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm department informing the members that this was a worthwhile motion and it aligned with the thinking of the Strategic Projects & Public Realm Team. The Public Realm Team had been



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looking broadly at the possibility of the establishment of a national climate action training centre at this location and was currently considering the merits, or otherwise, of progressing this idea to preliminary appraisal stage. This could also possibly encompass some research aspects. This idea was at a very early and formative stage and, clearly, would be contingent on a number of significant challenges being overcome including; identifying a lead partner, site assembly, finance, feasibility, planning etc. The member was thanked for his contribution.

Councillor Heavey stated that one sixth of land in Kildare was bog and would become even more unsustainable as future climate change directives were implemented. A research institute would renew its viability by harnessing the most up to date research findings around the sustainable development of these lands. Councillors Peggy O'Dwyer, Doyle and McLoughlin Healy voiced their support for this motion. Ms M Hunt said that there would be a feasibility study report commissioned and would be happy to share this with the members. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Noel Heavey and seconded by Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer with all members agreeing that the report be noted and that Ms. M Hunt would circulate the feasibility study report to the members when available.

KN27/0121

Parklets in the Municipal District

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

That the council provide an update on the delivery of parklets in the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm department informing the members that The Strategic Projects & Public Realm Team had prepared parklet concepts and designs for a number of locations throughout the county (including Newbridge, Sallins, Naas, Celbridge and Leixlip). Some initial enquiries and costings were sought by the team before Christmas, however, due to a number of constraints presented by the pandemic, it was now considered that a comprehensive tender package (that includes all proposed parklet designs and locations) would be more



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productive. This tender package was currently being prepared by the team for issue in the coming weeks.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she had checked and a Managers Order had been signed in relation to parklets and asked had there been a tender process? Ms M Hunt replied that she had sought quotes, but they had come back far in excess of what was expected. She said she would go through a formal tender process as this was better value in terms of what was ordered. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked if the members could see the designs and costings. Ms M Hunt agreed to circulate these to the members before the next meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Noel Connolly with all members agreeing that the report be noted and Ms M Hunt to circulate designs and costings to the members

KN28/0121

Vacant buildings on main street Rathangan

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly
Can the council provide a report to the members of the Municipal District on the extremely high number of vacant buildings on Main Street, Rathangan and detail the action it intends to take to address the high level of dereliction?

A report was received from the Environment & Public Realm departments informing the members that a distinction needed to be made between vacant and derelict buildings. While a building may be vacant, it doesn't necessarily follow that it was also derelict. There was one derelict property on Leinster Street / Main Street for which there was ongoing discussion with the owners who were in the process of completing the purchase with the intention of then preparing a planning application.

A Part 8 application for Environmental Improvements to Rathangan Town Centre would be placed on public display from 26 January to 23 February 2021. Submissions would be invited up until 9 March 2021. The proposed project comprises public realm works within the town centre including:



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- a. Footpath widening and resurfacing
- b. Upgrade of street furniture and street lighting
- c. Replacement of existing trees with new trees and additional trees
- d. Formalisation of car parking spaces and resurfacing, including additional disabled parking bays
- e. Sensitive restoration of water pump NIAH No. 11810056
- f. Re-design of 'William A Byrne' Memorial Garden
- g. Welcome signage at approach to town
- h. Gateway feature artworks on approach to town
- i. New street lighting columns and pedestrian feature lighting to replace existing

While this Part 8 application would not deal directly with vacancy within the town, it would act as a catalyst to encourage the occupation/redevelopment of vacant buildings through the significant improvement of the overall environment within the town centre in accordance with the Council's objectives for Rathangan. This project seeks to:

- Create a people friendly town centre by increasing footfall and commercial activity
- Stimulate business activity
- Develop visitor experience
- Manage appropriate town development
- Enhance the historic character of the town

The report was noted.

KN29/01/21

Combined Village Health Check in respect of Brownstown, Cutbush, Maddenstown and Suncroft, The Curragh

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford
Can the council confirm if it is possible to carry out a combined village health check in respect of Brownstown, Cutbush, Maddenstown and Suncroft, The Curragh?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm department informing the members that the Strategic Projects & Public Realm Team were supportive of the preparation of a village health check for Brownstown, Cutbush, Maddenstown and Suncroft. However, there was currently no funding in place to deliver this



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project. In the event that funding became available, this project would be added to the team's 2022 work programme.

Councillor Stafford asked if it was prudent to do a combined Village Health Check or preferable to do individual checks. Ms M Hunt replied that due to the size of the settlement and the proximity to each other it would work to carry out a combined check.

The report was noted.

The Mayor asked to take Item 30 last, with all members agreeing.

KN30/0121

Update on Management of Curragh to include outcome of investigation of dumping on the Curragh

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

That the council provide an update on management of the Curragh to include outcome of investigation of dumping on the Curragh.

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that the control and management of the Curragh was a matter for the Department of Defence. The members would be aware that there was a joint initiative ongoing on the part of the Department of Defence as well as the Council in progressing a joint shared vision for the Curragh Plains (also refer to response to notice of motion no 25).

Regarding the dumping, as previously advised, there was an obligation on public bodies in these instances to resolve such matters without recourse to expensive legal costs. Accordingly, both the Council and the Department of Defence were currently engaging in a process, which, hopefully, would culminate in a resolution of the matters at hand. It would be best, therefore, to allow both parties the opportunity to complete this process. Please be



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assured that the council was fully committed to seeing this matter through to a conclusion. In the interim, Mr Boland confirmed that the Council was satisfied that there was no risk of environment pollution.

The members discussed the motion and made the following comments

- There was a failure by the State to protect the Curragh Plains' unique flora & fauna
- There was a huge amount of damage being done on the Curragh by Scramblers, Cars, Horses
- There were not enough Rangers patrolling on the Curragh
- Letters were sent to the Department of Heritage in 2019 to progress the Curragh to a NHA, was there a response?
- There was a huge amount of dumping and illegal camping on the Curragh
- There was a weekly market at Lumville House with no proper parking

The District Manager replied that the management of the Curragh was the responsibility of the Department of Defence. He suggested the members document their concerns and he would pass this on to the Department of Defence. Ms M Hunt said that the planning department had received a complaint regarding the market at Lumville House, that the market had spilled over onto the Curragh and cars were being parked illegally. She stated that the planning enforcement section were investigating this.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked about the outcome of the investigation by the Department of Defence into illegal dumping on the Curragh. Mr Boland replied that he had given an update previously, that there was a detailed assessment of the dumping, that it was builders rubble and that there was no risk to the environment.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Chris Pender with all members agreeing that the report be noted and the District Manager would circulate to the members the correspondence with the Department of Heritage from 2019

KN31/0121

Changing Places facility

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



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That in view of the planned redevelopment of Newbridge library, the council consider that a "Changing Places" facility be installed which is now considered best practice in public buildings.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Department informing the members that The Kildare County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre was included in the successful URDF Category B funding application for the Newbridge Cultural and Civic Quarter. Funding was now available for the design stage of the project and the Library Team were currently working with the Public Realm Team on the tender for the Design Team for the project. The design for the new County Library would include a Changing Places facility in order to provide a fully accessible building. A Changing Places facility would provide a real improvement on standard accessible toilets as they provided a larger floor area of 12m² and additional equipment such as a height-adjustable adult-sized changing bench, a full room coverage ceiling track hoist system, a centrally located toilet bowl with space either side for transfers/assistants and a safe and clean environment.

Once the library was open to the public the Changing Places facility would be included on the location finder on the Changing Places website. This means it would be accessible to people with disabilities and their family/carers who live in Kildare and also to those visiting or travelling through Kildare.

Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer stated she was very happy with the report. From the last census there were 27,000 people registered with a disability. It was hugely important to make the public aware of this great facility. Councillor Pender stated that this facility would be of huge benefit to integrate the older population within our communities and he commended Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer on her motion.

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



KN/32/0121

Walking Route at Moore Abbey Woods, Monasterevin

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly
That the council liaise with Coillte with a view to requesting them to mark out a clearly defined long and short walking route at Moore Abbey Woods in Monasterevin, and to install CCTV in the car park of the woods.

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

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development department informing the members that Kildare County Council would discuss the issues with Collite however as Moore Abbey was their property, any decision on the proposals was a matter for them.

Councillor Noel Connolly stated that there were a number of break-ins to cars, and that better information boards were needed. Councillor Pender stated that when engaging with Coillte that accessibility must be a priority, that walking routes would facilitate wheelchairs and walking frames.

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

KN33/0121

Newbridge buildings in public ownership to be made available for community usage

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Heavey
Can the council clarify how Newbridge buildings in public ownership but not currently in day to day use like the Probation Office (formerly Social Welfare Office) at Market Square can be made available for Community usage like a Cultural Centre for Young People?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development department informing the members that the community department could make enquiries to establish ownership status of the Probation Office building and if it could be made available for community use.



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Councillor Noel Heavey stated that this was a marvellous community facility and asked if it could be made available. Senior Executive Office Mr L Dunne replied that he would make enquiries and revert to the member

The report was noted

The Mayor proposed suspending Standing Orders until 13:15 hrs in order to receive a Climate Action update from the Climate Action Officer. The members agreed.

KN34/0121

Climate Action update

Climate Action Officer, Mr Stephen Deegan delivered a presentation to the members in which he highlighted the following points:

- National context, the establishment of CARO and the Climate Action Bill.
- The appointment of an Energy Officer.
- Climate action challenges.
- The importance of Sustainable Energy Communities.

The members thanked Mr Deegan for his informative presentation, and it was agreed by all members that due to the meeting running late, they would forward any questions on the presentation directly to Mr Deegan.

The meeting concluded