



**Minutes of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 20 October 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 F Millane A Head of Finance, Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Mr C O'Toole (A/Staff Officer), Mr J Malone (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms L Kennedy (LPT Co-ordinator), Mr O Brady (Administrative Officer), Mr D Mc Dermott (Staff 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 confirmed that the Mayor had asked him to chair the meeting until his arrival and sought the members agreement. The members agreed. 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.

KN02/1021

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday 15 September 2021 together with the progress Report.



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Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by the members, with Councillor McLoughlin Healy abstaining, that the minutes of the monthly meeting of Kildare Newbridge Municipal District held on Wednesday 15 September 2021 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

KN03/10/21

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:

Restoration Improvement works completed on the following roads since last meeting.

1. Henry Street
2. Military Road – night works ongoing
3. Emergency repairs in Dereens Caragh
4. Athgarvan

LPT /LIS

We had completed two LIS in

Conlanstown Rathangan

Scarletstown, Milltown

LPT:

2021 program had commenced in Mount Carmel with footpath works

Miscellaneous Works:

- Hedge cutting ongoing across all areas of the MD.
- Footpath repairs in Highfield Estate, Green Road Newbridge, Main street Newbridge, St. Patrick's park Rathangan
- Drainage works: Blackberry Lane, Main Street in Newbridge – installation of a gully Limerick lane which included upgrade of drainage, footpaths and surface overlay. Morristown to Byrnes cross.
- Pothole repairs across the MD



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General Maintenance – water cuts, patching, gully cleaning

The members acknowledged the work and expressed their thanks for the continued improvements.

The report was noted.

KN04/1021

To discuss the Kildare-Newbridge Draft Budget Plan 2022.

Ms Millane informed the members that in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the draft General Municipal Allocation (GMA) for Kildare County Council was €15,990,728 for 2022. She explained that it was a reserved function of the members of a municipal district to adopt the draft budgetary plan either with or without amendment and that the Chief Executive may take account of the draft budgetary plan, as presented to the members of that municipal district, without amendment if they do not adopt a draft budgetary plan.

She then went through the report highlighting the difficulty with the pay parking estimate. Ms Millane also advised that the reallocation of line items was a matter for the members.

The members raised the following points:

- There was a need for trend reporting to see comparison to previous years.
- A description was required for festival grants as it was unclear what could be applied for.
- They would like to see a higher allocation to heritage centres.
- The benefits of the roads allocation can be seen in the various improvements.
- How was the Residents Association allocation calculated
- There was an undertaking last year that heritage item would be reviewed and that Kildare Newbridge were at a disadvantage. Did the review happen?
- Junefest needed the grant funding it had been previously provided.
- There needed to be an increase in the amount for Resident Associations. There appeared to be huge discrepancies in the amounts allocated to different Resident Associations and the amounts allocated between Municipal Districts.
- Roads allocation should not be reduced. The whole area of Residents Associations and Tidy Towns needed to be addressed.



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- Was the reduction in the Pay Parking estimate a result of the 30 mins free parking or the loss of spaces to Public Realm projects
- The line item for public toilets was no longer listed.
- There was no equity per house for the Residents Associations. Adding funds from the Roads allocation would greatly benefit the Residents Associations in the Municipal District who were very underfunded in comparison to Naas Municipal District
- What was the extent of funding required for Residents Associations for new estates and those being taken in charge.
- There should have been a briefing meeting before any decisions were made.
- There was no discrepancy in the amounts allocated between Municipal Districts as there were differing requirements across the different Municipal Districts eg Naas has less rural roads than Kildare Newbridge.

Ms Millane responded with the following points:

- She would review including trend reporting for next year
- Members should be looking at the overall allocation rather than individual lines.
- Distribution of retained LPT is for the members to decide.
- There was no increase in the rates of LPT in relation to Heritage and Tidy Towns. Hopefully the baseline would change for 2023 but members should lobby their TDs to make sure that the additional funding was secured.
- The budget line entry for public toilets has been subsumed into Roads Budget
- With regard to the reference made to briefing meetings, the national budget needed to be finalised before figures could be circulated to the members. Any figures released prior to this would have been vastly reduced.

The District Engineer advised that footpath and road upgrades, which are currently very far behind, are primarily paid for from pay parking and supported by LPT. The Roads allocation would never be sufficient for all the works required and requested by the members.

Mr D McDermott advised that details could be provided of which Residents Associations received funding, how much they received and the purpose. Figures were given as per applications received. These figures worked out at €2.53 per private house and €12 per local authority house.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy referenced her motion at No 38 on the agenda and proposed to reduce line item B04 (local road maintenance excluding pay parking) by €20,000 and



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increase Residents Association Grants by €20,000. This was seconded by Councillor Power. The proposal was put to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Power, with five members voting in favour and six members voting against the proposal was defeated.

Councillor Duffy proposed to accept the Draft Budget as presented, this was seconded by Councillor Stafford. The proposal was put to the members with 8 voting in favour and 3 voting against the draft budget was accepted without amendment.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Stafford with 8 members voting in favour and 3 members voting against the Draft Budget Plan was approved without amendments.

KN05/1021

To receive an update on LPT Expenditure and to agree and approve the allocation of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District ‘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 October Meeting | | | | | |
| Peggy O'Dwyer | Roads MD Office | €4,500.00 | Roads MD Office | Towards the installation of driver information feedback signs on the Barrettstown Road. | Roads |
| Noel Connolly | Umeras Community Development | €3,000.00 | Umeras Community Development | To assist in their development of Umeras Peatlands Park | Community |
| Noel Connolly | Ellistown GFC | €500.00 | Ellistown GFC | To assist in their Irish language initiatives with the support of the Joe McDonagh Foundation. | Community |
| Kevin Duffy | Ros Glas Residents Association | €1,000.00 | Ros Glas Residents Association | Essential pruning of trees around the estate | Community |
| Kevin Duffy | Monasterevin Christmas Lights | €1,500.00 | Monasterevin Christmas Lights Committee | Operational costs associated with the operations of the Christmas lights | Community |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Councillor N Connolly declared that he had family membership of Ellistown GFC.

The members added the following items for approval:

Councillor P O'Dwyer: €10,500 towards the completion of footpaths in the area of Kinsella Park in Caragh.



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Councillor Doyle: €1,000 Bursary to Cross and Passion College, Kilcullen to allow the people of Kilcullen and surrounding area celebrate and recognise the work of Teresa Lambe in helping develop the Oxford/AstraZeneca Covid 19 Vaccine.

Councillor Duffy: In addition to the items listed above €3,000 for the upgrade and addition of a number of street lights along the front of St Evin's Park, Monasterevin to be transferred to the Transportation Department.

Councillor A Connolly: €500 towards Christmas lights in Rathangan.

Councillor Pender: €2,500 towards the Newbridge Community Development CLP, €2,000 to the charity Hope D and the remainder (€6,500) to go to the Arts Officer for the provision of a mural on Newbridge water tower.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members that the allocations as outlined be approved.

KN06/1021

To consider a referral from full council in relation to a recommendation from the Decade of Commemoration Committee regarding a memorial in Athy

This item was deferred as the members requested a report on what monies had been paid by the Municipal District to the Decade of Commemoration over the lifetime of this Municipal District and what was it used for.

With the agreement of the members item 38 was taken at this point.

KN38/1021

Residents Associations

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That this municipal district committee ask the executive to increase the proposed allocation for local Residential Associations in the municipal district budget, in order to bring the allocations for Residential Associations in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District in line with those allocated by the Naas Municipal District.

The Deputy Mayor confirmed this matter had been dealt with during the discussion on item 4 relating to the Draft Budget Plan for 2022 for the Municipal District.

Cllr McLoughlin Healy proposed an amendment to her motion as follows:



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That this municipal district committee ask the executive to increase the proposed allocation for local Residential Associations in the LPT allocations, in order to bring the allocations for Residential Associations in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District in line with those allocated by the Naas Municipal District.

The motion was not seconded therefore the amendment fell.

KN07/1021

Taking in Charge Caragh

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer
Can the council provide an update on the taking in charge of estates in Caragh with any outstanding issues to be resolved?

A report was received from Building and Development Control as follows:

| Category | DC Ref. | Town/Village | Eircode | Name of Estate | Current Situation / Potential Obstacles to Taking In Charge |
|----------|---------|--------------|----------|--|---|
| A | 3551 | Caragh | W91 AHP3 | The Streams See also 3554 | All units complete. CCTV Received. Bond for Caragh Heights not to be extended unless the wall in The Stream is repaired. PMak June 2021 |
| A | 3552 | Caragh | W91 XD1R | Old Chapel Wood, | Mature Estate. The services from Gingerstown Park and Old Chapel discharge into The Streams - 3551, 3552 and 3553 to be Taken In Charge together. PMak June 2021 |
| A | 3553a | Caragh | W91 HPY5 | Gingerstown Park, | All infrastructure Complete. 3551, 3552 and 3553 to be Taken In Charge together. The services from Gingerstown Park discharge into the Streams. CCTV & CCTV Report Received. PMak June 2021 |
| A | 3553b | Caragh | W91 Y327 | Old Chapel Grove, | All infrastructure Complete. 3551, 3552 and 3553 to be Taken In Charge together. All files to be reviewed to confirm what Taken In Charge documentation is submitted. PMak June 2021 |
| A | 3554 | Caragh | W91 AHP3 | The Streams (extension) See also 3551 | All infrastructure Complete. Estate part of The Streams. PMak June 2021 |

The report was noted



KN08/1021

Parking Spaces Henry Street/Charlotte Street

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
That the council consider removing the 4 parking spaces presently at Henry Street /Charlotte Street junction to create a more seamless traffic flow.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that subject to agreement by the members this request could be considered as part of the pay parking bye-law review.

The members raised the following points:

- The area suffered heavy congestion
- Due to lack of parking bays in the area alternatives should be sourced before considering removing these spaces

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

The Mayor then took the Chair.

KN09/1021

Pressure Points Kildare Town

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle.
That the council explore the implementation of small roundabouts/ traffic lights at pressure points in Kildare Town, such as Cross Keys, Newtown Cross and Weighbridge junction.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department Informing the members that



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Cross Keys: Junction of Academy Street (Cleamore Rd) & Claregate Street: This junction operated as a priority junction and it would not be suitable for the provision of a roundabout, the junction operates within capacity for most times of the day. The provision of traffic signals would not be considered appropriate or warranted at this location. Given the recent Municipal District scheme and one-way system on Cleamore Road, the provision of additional pedestrian facilities at Claregate Street to link into this scheme should be considered as part of future works if a source of funding can be identified.

Newtown Cross: Junction R415 & L7024 on the Nurney Road: This was a remote priority junction at the edge of town and operates well within capacity in terms of the Traffic Management Guidelines for appropriate junction selection type. The provision of a roundabout or traffic signals was not considered suitable or warranted and was not recommended at this location.

Weighbridge Junction: Junction R401 Fairview Cottages & Old Road: This junction operated as a priority junction and it would not be suitable for the provision of a roundabout, the junction operates within capacity for most times of the day. The provision of traffic signals would not be considered appropriate or warranted at this location. The provision of improved pedestrian facilities (possibly uncontrolled) at this location i.e. to cross the R401 at this location should be considered as part of future works in the area if a source of funding can be identified.

The members raised the following points:

- At key times non-priority roads got heavily backlogged and the issue needed addressing.
- Could levies from new house builds in the area be looked at as a source of funding.

Mr D Hodgins advised that a source of funding would need to be identified.

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

KN10/1021

Safety Measures Grey Abbey and Tully Roads

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



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That the council devise low-cost safety measures for both Grey Abbey and Tully Road, Kildare Town.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that due to the potential scale of the project, this would be outside the scope of Low Cost Safety Scheme and its restricted funding stream. A meeting will be arranged between Municipal District Office, Transportation Department and Public Realm to discuss available options and budgetary constraints to ensure a coordinated approach is taken address issues that may arise at the location.

The members raised the following points:

- Footpaths in the area were too narrow to accommodate a buggy.
- With a primary school of 1,000 students in the area the footpath issue needed to be addressed
- The tourism attraction of the National Stud in the area would benefit from better footpaths.

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

KN11/1021

Traffic Calming Rosglass

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

That the council install traffic calming measures on the L7055 to slow traffic on the approach to Rosglass GFC and the entrance to Rosglass Avenue.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were no plans to install additional traffic calming measures at this location, there is an existing 50kmh speed limit on this road, with a footpath and public



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lighting beyond the entrance to the sport field, if speeding was an issue then it should be referred to an Garda Síochana as they had the statutory powers of enforcement.

Councillor N Connolly stated that signs should be placed before the bad bend warning drivers of children entering and exiting Rosglass GAA club.

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

KN12/1021

Ballykelly Crossroads

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

That as the Ballykelly Crossroads is a known dangerous junction on the Rathangan Road, to facilitate the future realignment of the existing hedgerows to improve sightlines/road safety, that the council's municipal district office prepare a drawing of the necessary improvement works to facilitate discussions with the adjoining landowners.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that it intended to develop a county wide priority list of junctions that required improvement due to safety 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.

The members raised the following points:

- The area in question was at the crest of a hill and was a blind spot from both sides.
- How could this project be advanced and could a timeframe be provided.

Mr D Hodgins advised that this would be driven by Roads Design and that he would revert with a contact and timeframe.



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Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor A Connolly that the report be noted and that Mr D Hodgins would revert to the members with a contact and timeframe for the project.

KN13/1021

Traffic Calming Ellistown

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

That the council carry out a technical assessment to assess the need and type of traffic calming suitable for the L7011 through Ellistown for the section of road proposed to be changed from an 80km/h zone to 50km/h under the Countywide Speed Limit review.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this technical assessment was premature until the speed limit review was completed. Once the new speed limit was agreed then the council could re-evaluate the need of any additional traffic calming measures.

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

KN14/1021

Streetlights Brannockstown

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

That Kildare County Council explore the possibility of installing 2-3 streetlights to connect the existing street lighting in the village of Brannockstown to the street lights in Grangemore to make safe an existing natural walking path.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Public Lighting Section would visit the location of the requested new street lights, and it would then be assessed using a priority system within Kildare Lighting



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Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS). Lighting schemes would be scored on various factors and placed within KLIPS according to that score. The lighting within KLIPS would be installed as and when funds became available and depending on where the request sat within KLIPS. It should be noted that there was no funding available in the Public Lighting Budget for any new lighting installations at this time.

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

KN15/1021

Car Park Rathangan

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

That the council provide for a permanent car-park in Rathangan in order that the car parks at the Community Centre and the Church of the Assumption and St Patrick may be secured as required.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the provision of a permanent car park in Rathangan would be dependent on land being available. If the member was aware of a location he felt would be suitable and that the land was available, and if the members were in agreement, the Transportation Department could investigate further.

The members raised the following points:

- Residents were currently parking on the street for longer so the public were now parking in the Church and community centre car parks. This was causing problems for the committee of the community centre regarding anti-social behaviour.
- These car parks should have the option of being secured and not counted on as being available.
- Former business premises were now being used as residential which had exacerbated the problem.
- A public car park should be made available as a park and ride facility.



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

The members agreed that Items 16 and 17 be taken together.

KN16/1021

Road Salting Ellistown to Cherryville

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly. That the council include the Ellistown to Cherryville cross roads in the road salting programme for Winter 2021.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council operated 10 salting routes as set out in the Winter Maintenance Plan. These routes operate at full capacity which precludes the Council from making any changes. Given the capacity constraints, the addition of sections of road would require the removal of sections of existing routes covered under the Winter Maintenance Plan.

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

KN17/1021

Road Salting Feighcullen to Milltown

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly. That the council include the Feighcullen to Milltown road in the road salting programme for Winter 2021.

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



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council operates 10 salting routes as set out in the Winter Maintenance Plan. These routes operate at full capacity which precludes the Council from making any changes. Given the capacity constraints, the addition of sections of road would require the removal of sections of existing routes covered under the Winter Maintenance Plan.

Councillor A Connolly advised that she was disappointed with the response and hoped that it would be revisited.

The members made the following points:

- Both roads were very busy for access to the motorway and to Naas.
- Both villages should have at least one access road that has been salted.
- How could capacity be added to salting routes.
- Was it possible to use frost-resistant surfaces on roads.

The District Engineer advised that there was a certain process for road salting and there were no alternative surfaces that could be used. The only way capacity could be increased was through a budget increase to increase staff resources and vehicles needed.

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

KN18/1021

Sustainable Transport

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor N Heavey. That the council bring forward an overall strategic plan to link a sustainable transport system within Newbridge with a sustainable transport to and from the surrounding hinterland including the villages of Athgarvan, Milltown and The Curragh.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that it was proposed to commence the development of a Transport



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Strategy for Newbridge in Quarter 4 2021, following the completion of the Kildare Town Transport Strategy. The Newbridge Transport Strategy was expected to take approximately 12 months to complete and should include consideration of the links between surrounding villages and Newbridge Town Centre.

The members raised the following points:

- Global problems regarding Climate Action had now become local problems.
- Councillors had a responsibility to show leadership and assist in changing the public mindset.
- The process was taking far too long as it seemed to be ongoing since 2017 with consultants being brought in but nothing actually happening.
- Could the members meet with the NTA.

Mr D Hodgins advised that it was important to focus on a cultural change in terms of climate emergency. A dedicated team was now in place funded by the NTA and there was a programme of works to go ahead. He would raise the issue of the members meeting with the NTA regarding the pilot project with the NTA and would revert to the members.

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

KN19/1021

Speeding Barrettstown Cemetery

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

That the council consider what measures it can implement to slow down excessive speeding in the vicinity of Barrettstown cemetery?

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the cemetery was located in the countryside, outside of town speed limits and there appeared to be no signage identifying the Graveyard. If the members were in agreement the Municipal District Office would install two slow signs each side of the



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cemetery entrance. If speeding was an issue, it should be referred to An Garda Síochána as they had the statutory powers of enforcement.

Councillor Heavey acknowledged work done previously by Councillor P O'Dwyer in this regard.

The members raised the following points:

- Barrettstown Cemetery had no parking and had an issue with sightlines.
- The road was a very busy alternative to the Naas Road.

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

KN20/1021

Road Markings Programme

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

Can the council give an update on when the road markings programme in this municipal district is due to commence?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Road Marking Programme had commenced, there were a number of areas upgraded and would continue over the next few weeks. It should be noted that line marking was very expensive, and due to limited budgets, they could only remark within their budget.

The report was noted.

KN21/1021

Junctions beyond Capacity Newbridge

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

Can the council provide a report on the number of junctions in Newbridge that are currently functioning beyond capacity, with data on how often capacity is breached and what are the likely impacts of pending large scale developments on key artery routes?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the scale of this question was too voluminous for the Sustainable Transport Team to manage with current resources. In effect, a Traffic Management Plan for Newbridge Town and its Environs would be required to examine the capacity analysis requested. This was not within their current work schedule to produce. It was proposed to commence the development of a Transport Strategy for Newbridge in Quarter 4 2021, following the completion of the Kildare Town Transport Strategy. The Newbridge Transport Strategy was expected to take approximately 12 months to complete. The report was noted

KN22/1021

Footpaths Melitta Road and Rathbride Road

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Doyle.
Can the council advise on progress of footpath delivery on both Melitta Road and Rathbride Road?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was a meeting a number of months ago in relation to Melitta Road and the council agreed that a land take map would be prepared. Due to staff shortages, this had not been progressed any further but as soon as there were staff available, the council would carry out a survey and prepare land take drawings for discussion with the landowners.
The report was noted.

KN23/1021

Taking in Charge Letters

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford.
Can the council confirm why, in relation to the issue of "taking in charge" letters for Estate Schemes, is certification confined to certifying that the roads abutting the individual property are in charge, and that a separate enquiry has to be made to Irish Water regarding water and waste water?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that conveyancing letters confirming 'Taking in Charge' were issued by the Transportation Department of Kildare County Council. In November 2019, the Transportation Department was advised by Irish Water that agreement had been reached with the Law Society of Ireland Conveyancing Committee as follows:

Irish Water had agreed with the Law Society of Ireland Conveyancing Committee to give the confirmations outlined below to reduce the administrative burden on solicitors acting in conveyancing transactions.

Irish Water confirmed that solicitors acting for purchasers of second hand dwellings may rely on a letter issued by the local authority on any date confirming that the roads abutting the property are in charge, as evidence that the applicable water and waste water infrastructure abutting the property is now vested in Irish Water. This confirmation is applicable even where a letter from the local authority states that it cannot confirm the position regarding water services. To view the full wording, please visit the [Law Society Practice Direction](#). If the property which you are selling does not fall into the above category and you require confirmation directly from Irish Water to confirm whether the water and waste water infrastructure abutting a property is the responsibility of Irish Water, please apply in writing to operations@water.ie All applications should include a solicitors letter accompanied with a land registry map.

Councillor Stafford would follow up offline regarding whether the same letter applied to one-off housing.

The report was noted.

KN24/1021

Proposed Works Sheshoon Cross

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

Can the council indicate when proposed works at Sheshoon Cross will be completed?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this had been included in the road marking program. The



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contractor was to commence works this week. They were upgrading a number of junctions and works would be completed in a number of weeks.

The report was noted.

KN25/1021

Footpath from Community School To Nursing Home at Dunmurray

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

Can the council confirm if it has any plans to put in place a footpath from the Community School, Kildare to the Nursing Home at Dunmurray, Kildare.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were no plans and no funding available to install a footpath at this location.

The report was noted.

KN26/1021

Sightlines Tankardsgarden

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

Can the council provide an update on the request that was to be issued by the council (following a previous motion), to the landowner/s bordering Tankardsgarden, to cut back/remove dangerous branches and branches that were obstructing the view of drivers/cyclists/pedestrians along the route?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office had undertaken some hedge cutting on areas that were deemed a danger to road users in recent days. Kildare County Council published notices in September in several local and national newspapers outlining the landowner's obligations under Section 70 of the Roads Act, 1993.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy queried why newspaper advertisements were being used rather than engaging with landowners directly.

The District Engineer advised that landowners were met with regularly.

The report was noted.



KN27/1021

NTA Meeting

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council confirm when the NTA meeting with municipal district councillors is taking place (as promised previously by the NTA), to discuss the pilot traffic management and public realm plan previously announced for Newbridge, which was to include an estimated investment on the Main Street alone of approximately €10 million?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that it was expected that the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy would be published by the NTA in the coming weeks providing a framework for the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure and services in the GDA over the next two decades. The Roads Design section were working to deliver a number of Transport Strategies and expected the Kildare Town Transport Strategy to be finalised towards end of November. The Team expected that procurement of a consultant to progress the Newbridge Transportation Strategy would take place in Quarter 1 of 2022 after which the Strategy would take 12 months to complete. The NTA are primary consultees in preparing the Draft Transport Strategy for Newbridge and in this regard it would be premature to call for a meeting at this time.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy advised that on foot of the previous motion and reply from Mr D Hodgins she was happy to wait for the outcome of this.

The report was noted.

KN28/1021

Scarletstown, Newbridge

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 KE43330F 7.15 acres/2.89 hectares) at Scarletstown, Newbridge?



Kildare County Council

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the lands set out in Folio KE43330F (7.15 acres/2.89 hectares) at Scarletstown, Newbridge were registered to Kildare County Council. The lands in question were located at the edge of the Pollardstown Fen wetland area and it was a Protected Site being within a Special Area of Conservation and a Proposed Natural Heritage Area. This site was not considered as a development site for housing purposes by the Housing Section.

Councillor N Connolly queried whether an alternative access to the Fen could be used and were there any constructive plans for the area.

Mr O Brady advised that the lands were originally acquired for use by Water Services and had no housing use.

The report was noted.

KN29/1021

Housing Grants

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer. Can the council confirm if it would consider outsourcing housing grant inspections under the Housing Adaptation Grants for older People and People with a Disability Scheme for residents in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Housing Adaptation Grants (Disability grants) for private houses were assessed by Occupational Therapists and grant approval issues within 6-8 weeks of receipt of valid applications.

The Housing Aid Grants (repairs) for private houses were inspected by KCC Technical Staff and there was a backlog at present as a result of inspections not being permitted during Covid restrictions.

Urgent works (Roof repairs, Electrical works, Heating) inspections were being prioritised at present and applications for windows and door replacement would then be processed.

Outsourcing these inspections was not being considered and would have an impact on the Revenue Expenditure Budget for 2022 which has been drafted.



Kildare County Council

Councillor T O'Dwyer queried whether funding had ever been sought from the Department for this.

Mr O Brady advised that funding comes through the revenue budget but there was a need for more staff and resources.

The report was noted.

KN30/1021

Part V Housing

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

Can the council advise of the circumstances where Part V housing is provided through Approved Housing Bodies in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and the number of instances of same to date?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the acquisition of Part V units by approved housing bodies was an agreed Part V delivery mechanism and any such purchase must be approved by the Council.

Total Part V delivered 2020 and to date in 2021 was 35 units and the AHBs are Cluid, Clanmil, Co-Operative Housing Ireland Society Limited.

Councillor Stafford queried whether the approval came from the Executive Committee and why Approved Housing Bodies were acquiring Part V units.

Mr O Brady advised that in some cases Approved Housing Bodies may already be in the estate and it made sense for them to manage the units and that each proposal was considered on application.

The report was noted.

KN31/1021

CPOs Vacant Properties

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



Kildare County Council

That a list of CPOs that have been initiated (including those that have either failed or completed) on vacant properties in this municipal district including information on the stage they are at.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that no CPOs had been initiated on vacant properties in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District. Due to the complexities and time involved in processing CPOs, the focus for initiating CPOs was targeted at a number of areas in the County and none of these areas currently fell within this Municipal District.

The members raised the following points:

- Houses in some estates had been left vacant for a number of years and were at risk of falling down and were being used for anti-social behaviour.
- Could these houses be compulsory purchased prior to them reaching this state of dereliction.
- Would the report be different if derelict properties were included.

The District Manager advised that there was no statutory provision to compulsory purchase a property just because it was vacant and just because a property was vacant does not mean it is derelict. The report would be different if derelict properties had been included and it appeared that the motion was more relevant to derelict properties than vacant houses.

On the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by all members the motion was amended as follows:

That a list of CPOs that have been initiated (including those that have either failed or completed) on derelict properties in this municipal district including information on the stage they are at.

The District Manager agreed to provide a report via the Progress Report for the next meeting.



Kildare County Council

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

KN32/1021

Ballyfarsoon, Monasterevin

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 KE60362F 0.15 acres/0.06 hectares) at Ballyfarsoon, Monasterevin?

A report was received from the Water Services Section informing the members that this land was required by Water Services Department as a stores depot for its Rathangan / Monasterevin waterworks operation.

Councillor N Connolly queried what was being done in relation to the illegal encampment at the site and also enquired about two questions regarding land folios that he had not yet received an answer to.

The District Manager advised that no action had been taken on the illegal encampment due to Covid restrictions but now that restrictions had been lifted the necessary legal measures would be invoked. He would revert to the Councillor in relation to the two other questions. The report was noted.

KN33/1021

Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant

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

Can the council provide an update on their meeting with Irish Water regarding the failure at the Ballymore Eustace Waste Water Treatment Plant?

A report was received from the Water Services Section informing the members that the plant in Ballymore Eustace was operated by Dublin City Council on behalf of Irish Water. As soon as Kildare County Council became aware, senior staff were in contact with the Irish Water regional lead and received assurances that the issue which arose was fully resolved. KCC has been fully satisfied that that the water supply has been, and continues to be, fully compliant with the Drinking Water Regulations.



Kildare County Council

Please note that responsibility for drinking water quality rests with Irish Water subject to oversight by the HSE.

The report was noted.

KN34/1021

Festival Grants

The members considered the festival grants awards assessed by the Economic, Community & Cultural Development department.

| Group | Project | Proposed Grant |
|--------------------------|---|----------------|
| Suncroft Senior Citizens | Christmas Dinner for approx 100 elderly citizens to include dinner, raffle, music and dance | €1600 |

The members raised the following points:

- Was this from this year's allocation
- There is a need for clarification on what can be funded through festival grants.
- Were eligibility requirements and signatures checked on applications now that the process was done on-line.
- Extra boxes were required to include how much was applied for and to confirm that all documentation required had been submitted.
- The process should not be made more bureaucratic and should be simple or it would undermine the objectives and put hard-working volunteers off applying.

Mr D McDermott advised the following:

- This grant would finish off the allocation for this year.
- There was a verification process for all applications.
- New tickboxes could be added to the report as requested.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by the members that the grant be approved.



KN35/1021

Sister City Jingdezhen City

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor N Connolly. That in light of the continued detention of Irish citizen Mr Richard O'Halloran, that this council reverses its decision KN34/0919 taken at the September 2019 meeting of this Municipal District (to liaise with the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China in Ireland with a view to exploring a Sister City relationship or economic and cultural collaboration between Jingdezhen City in Jiangxi Province and the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District on the basis of mutual links through craft industries and tourism); and that we correspond with the Chinese Ambassador and the Minister for Foreign Affairs to inform them of the passing of this motion.

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

A report was received from the Community, Culture and Economic Development Department informing the members that no decision was made to pursue this as outlined in the above motion at the September 2019 meeting. What had been decided was to refer it to the Director of Community and Economic Development for further information. Members had been kept informed via the progress report and no further action had been taken. There was no decision to be rescinded in this case.

Councillor N Connolly updated the members on the circumstances of this case.

The members raised the following points:

- There were concerns regarding the original motion in September 2019
- There was a need to do research before deciding on any twinning or sister city relationships.
- This was an international issue and not for a Municipal District meeting and there was a need to stick to local issues.
- It had been agreed from the original motion that the matter be referred to the Director of Community for further information.
- Due to Covid restrictions this had not been progressed in the interim.
- The original motion had arisen following a request from the Chinese Ambassador.



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- Any decision made by this council would not have an effect on the work of the Local Enterprise office as they had a countywide remit.

On the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by the members Standing Orders were suspended for 30 minutes.

On the proposal of Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by the members that the original motion be amended as follows:

That in light of the continued detention of Irish citizen Mr Richard O'Halloran, that this council no longer pursues in any way its exploration of a Sister City relationship or economic and cultural collaboration between Jingdezhen City in Jiangxi Province and the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District on the basis of mutual links through craft industries and tourism); and that we correspond with the Chinese Ambassador and the Minister for Foreign Affairs to inform them of the passing of this motion and asking them to assist Mr O'Halloran in returning home.

A second amendment was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Pender as follows:

That in light of the continued detention of Irish citizen Mr Richard O'Halloran and other human rights violations, that this council no longer pursues in any way its exploration of a Sister City relationship or economic and cultural collaboration between Jingdezhen City in Jiangxi Province and the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District on the basis of mutual links through craft industries and tourism); and that we correspond with the Chinese Ambassador and the Minister for Foreign Affairs to inform them of the passing of this motion and asking them to assist Mr O'Halloran in returning home.

The Mayor called for a vote on the second amendment.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Power, with two members voting in favour, four members voting against and four abstaining the amendment was defeated.



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As the majority did not agreed to the second amendment of the motion, the first amendment was taken as the substantive motion.

The members present then voted on the now substantive motion:

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor Pender, with three members voting in favour, four members voting against and three members abstaining, the amended motion was defeated.

On proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by the members Standing Orders were suspended for a further 10 minutes.

KN36/1021

Irish Crochet Lace

The members considered the following motion in the names of Councillor T O'Dwyer and Councillor Stafford.

That the council conduct a feasibility study to clarify the proposition that the making of Irish crochet lace was started in Kilcullen, and the establishment of a permanent exhibition of the craft in the Kilcullen area.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the Heritage Officer along with the Arts Officer would present a proposal to the Kildare Creative Ireland team for the above feasibility study for funding in 2022. Assuming funding was received and the study was completed the council would be in a better position to advise further.

The members raised the following points:

- There was a view that Irish crochet lace began in Kilcullen.
- In other countries the industry had UNESCO protected status.
- Could it be established that the cottage industry originated in Kilcullen and an exhibition be created.



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

KN37/1021

Patrician Monastery, Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council consult with interested community stakeholders regarding how the Patrician Monastery, Newbridge (currently for sale) might be purchased with the help and support of the council and retained for community use.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that Kildare County Council had expressed interest in this site and discussions are ongoing. It was too early in the process to engage in detailed discussion with community stakeholders.

The members raised the following points:

- Newbridge has a need for community space and youth facilities.
- There was a need for community engagement.
- They hoped for a successful outcome and that the price would not be prohibitive.
- Other elected representatives were working on a proposal to bring to members.
- There were elements of commercial sensitivity related to this item.
- Would it be possible to partner up with other agencies to harness their capital.
- They hoped the property would end up in Municipal ownership.
- Valuations would take comparable properties into consideration which there were in the area with the recent sale of the convent.

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

The meeting concluded.

