



Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
Meeting held on 21 April 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 Lucina Russell (Arts Officer) Ms Bridget Loughlin (Heritage Officer) Mr Stephen Cummins (A/Senior Engineer) Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr J Murtagh (Executive Engineer), Mr Ciaran O'Toole (A/Staff Officer) Mr B Leonard (Meetings Administrator) Ms E Molloy (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

KN01/0421

Declaration of Pecuniary or Beneficial Interests

The Mayor began the meeting by welcoming everyone and asked the members if there were any declarations of interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended. There were no declarations of interest.

KN02/0421

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2021 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Chris Pender, seconded by Councillor Suzanne Doyle and agreed by the members that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-



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Newbridge Municipal District held on Wednesday, 24 March 2021 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

KN03/0421

Matters Arising

Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy stated that under KN26/0321 the March minutes stated that the hedgerow was on the inside of the boundary fence, but that the map circulated to the members after the meeting clearly showed the boundary fence was on the inside of the hedgerow and asked if this could be followed up on the progress report that the hedge was actually outside the boundary fence.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that with regard to Donnolly's Hollow on the progress report, the members were previously told that the investigation was being carried out by the Department but that it was the Council that were carrying out the investigation and asked for follow up on the progress report of when the investigation started and that the members would be given an update as soon as it was completed.

Councillor Chris Pender stated with regard to the Reverse Vending Machine on the progress report that he noted that the reverse vending machine in Naas was going ahead and he asked if there was any update on Kildare-Newbridge machine.

KN04/0421

Kildare Fáilte

The Mayor stated that the members had received a detailed presentation on this at the last full council meeting and there was a follow up email to the members asking if they had any questions on the presentation regarding the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District or any other matter, Kildare Fáilte would take any questions in writing.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy wanted to note that the members had asked for the Kildare Fáilte accounts to be forwarded on to the members, she asked if they would be. The Mayor



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stated that this was an action from the full council meeting and that he would take this on notice and follow up on this.

KN05/0421

Municipal District Roadworks

The District Engineer stated that a report had been circulated to the members providing an update on roadworks.

Councillor Stafford asked for a breakdown of what the works entailed. Ms B Cuddy stated that they were the projects that she presented at the LPT meeting that she was looking for funding for. All of them were footpath upgrade works.

KN06/0421

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District other community projects LPT funding 2020

The Mayor asked if there were any nominations from any members. Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy asked the Mayor was there was any follow up on the allocation for webcasting. The Mayor asked the Meetings Administrator if he would follow up on this with the CPG.

Councillor Chris Pender stated that he thought he had approximately €2,000 left from last year's allocation and he was looking for the members approval to allocate €1,000 to the Newbridge Community First Responders for the installation of a Defibrillator on Main Street, Newbridge.

The members agreed.

The Mayor stated that he had two nominations in his allocations for two residents' associations for €750 each which were no longer required. He asked the members if he could nominate this €1500 to the Monasterevin Sustainable Energy Committee for the work they were doing in relation to energy plans.

The members agreed.



KN07/0421

Taking In Charge Old Millrace Estate

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly. Can the council confirm when it will be taking in charge Old Millrace Estate, in Monasterevin?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that there was no record of a valid request to take in charge the estate known as Old Mill Race, Monasterevin, which was currently maintained by a Management Company. The estate could not be considered for taking in charge until the role of the Management Company was restricted to the apartments only, and a valid Section 180 request from the majority of the property owners was received.

Councillor Connolly stated that he had spoken to the residents and there were huge efforts to get signatures to initiate a Section 180 Taking In Charge. They had succeeded in getting 38 out of 68 homes to sign the request. He said he could correspond offline with a view to getting this item progressed.

The report was noted.

KN08/0421

Road Safety Measures for Horse Riders on the Curragh

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Suzanne Doyle. That the council provide a progress report on the delivery of road safety measures for horse riders on the Curragh.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the Municipal District Office engaged with the representatives from the Curragh and agreed two signs to be located on the road near the racecourse, these would be scheduled to be installed once Covid-19 restrictions ease. The Municipal District Office had no plans for any additional works.



Councillor Suzanne Doyle accepted the report and stated that she hoped the signs would be installed sooner rather than later.

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

KN09/0421

Traffic Calming Measures at entrance to Killinthomas Wood

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly
That the council carry out traffic calming measures at the entrance to Killinthomas Wood at Ballydermot Works yard, Rathangan.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that a technical assessment was required for any traffic management measures; the location had been noted for an assessment to be completed. The Municipal District Office was planning to engage a consultant to carry out a number of speed assessments which would be the initial stage of the required assessment.

Councillor Anne Connolly stated she accepted the report, that the car park was being used by a large number of people at the Ballydermot Works end and the road was becoming very dangerous and that she was looking for some form of signage or stipling to warn drivers that there were children crossing. Councillor Stafford stated that he wholly supported this motion, there were huge numbers of people using Killinthomas Woods, he asked the District Engineer if she could look at extending the carpark at the Ballydermot entrance.

The District Engineer stated that she planned to engage with a traffic consultant to carry out speed checks at these locations. She further stated that in relation to extending the carpark, budgets were very limited. Councillor Anne Connolly said that she would welcome signage in the short term.

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



KN10/0421

Road Maintenance works at Maddenstown North

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly
That the council carry out road maintenance works at Maddenstown North, the Curragh.
The motion was proposed by Councillor Anne Connolly and seconded by Councillor Noel Heavey.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that Maddenstown Cross had been identified for some drainage works this year subject to budget availability. There were no planned road works outside routine maintenance.

Councillor Anne Connolly stated that she accepted the report but that she thought there may have been a mix up regarding the location.

The District Engineer stated that she would meet with the Councillor on site when Covid 19 restrictions allowed.

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

KN11/0421

Visibility and Safety on road between intersection at Caragh Church and the Community Field

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Heavey
That the council prepare a report on how the visibility and safety on the short stretch of road between intersection at Caragh Church and the Community Field (playground) shall be improved particularly during darkness.

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



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that public lighting for approximately 220m along L-2030 is conditioned to be provided as part of the adjoining development. The installation of lighting along this stretch was a matter for the developer. Once the lighting along the L-2030 had been installed and energised, the Public Lighting Section would visit the location and it would then be assessed using a priority system within Kildare Lighting 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. Please note there is no funding available in 2021 Public Lighting Budget for installation of any new lighting at this location.

Councillor Noel Heavey stated that a footpath had been added recently and had narrowed the road and visibility at night was an issue particularly during the winter. He asked was there a commitment from the council to ensure that the lights would be installed here.

Mr C O'Toole stated that it was a planning issue, the lights were conditioned to be installed, the ducting and sleeves had been installed and the developer had applied for an extension of duration of the planning permission and the issue was still ongoing. Councillor Heavey stated he would follow up with the planning department offline.

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

KN12/0421

Green Space outside Monasterevin Cemetery on R417

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kevin Duffy. That the council put in place a management plan for the maintenance of the green space outside the Monasterevin Cemetery located on the R417.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kevin Duffy and seconded by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy



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A report was received from the Economic, Development and Cultural Development department informing the members that over a number of years the council had supported the local community to maintain this area with tree and bulb planting and support for tools and machinery. The council would be happy to discuss any further management improvement such as the introduction of wildflower areas to the space. The council would not however have the budget to undertake the full-time maintenance of the area.

Councillor Duffy stated that this green space had been maintained for the past twenty years by a local resident, who was not now in a position to do this. It was a council owned property and the local residents were looking for a local solution. Councillor Duffy stated he would work with Mr S Wallace on this.

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

KN13/0421

Safe Crossing across the Pinkeen Stream in Kilcullen

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

That the council provide an update on the assessment and costing for a safe crossing for hundreds of children and families across the Pinkeen Stream in Kilcullen

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that a commitment was given last year by the Municipal District and LPT funding was committed to carry out the assessment in question as part of the 2021 programme of works. This remains the plan but due to reduced staffing levels within the Municipal District Office and Covid 19 restrictions, they have not progressed any further yet.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy accepted the report and stated that she appreciated that because of Covid 19 restrictions, there was a delay on getting this costing done. She asked



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that this matter be added to the progress report to get a timeline on when this assessment would be carried out.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer wanted to commend the District Engineer and her team on the work that had been done into the community centre, there was line marking done that tied in with the bridge and that the community centre had been working with the area office on this matter.

The District Engineer stated that the commitment and funding was given for this and that at that moment there were two issues holding up the assessment, site visits could not be carried out at the moment and the municipal district office was short staffed. Road programmes were being prioritised at the moment.

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 the item to be added to the progress report.

KN14/0421

Cycle Projects not currently in the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan

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

That until such time as other funding may be available, that this Municipal District Committee ask the National Transport Authority to consider as part of its planning programme, cycle projects for which there is clear demand around the district, which would help create sustainable travel communities, yet are not currently in the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan. This should include consideration of a safe cycle route; between Athgarvan and Newbridge; between Caragh and Naas; along the Green Road Newbridge; from surrounding estates to Scoil Bhríde, the Community Centre, soccer pitches, pitch and putt, playground and GAA grounds in Kilcullen.

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



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that Kildare County Council would forward these projects for consideration to the National Transport Authority at the next meeting and ask that they be considered should further funding become available. Furthermore, Kildare County Council would highlight the demand and desire around the Municipal District, as expressed by the members, for these particular routes/projects and ask that they be considered in any future revision to the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she had deep concerns that there was a piecemeal approach to the cycle infrastructure development based on the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan. Councillor McLoughlin Healy wished to highlight the fact that there was petitioning and ongoing lobbying for a safe route to schools on the Green Road in Newbridge. There was also a petition handed in from residents in Caragh for a cycle route between Caragh and Naas. She stated that it was prudent that all these areas listed were highlighted to the NTA as areas of demand. Councillor McLoughlin thanked Mr S Cummins for his previous report which helped inform her motion and hoped it helped him communicate with the National Transport Authority and leverage the support of the Municipal District in his communications with them.

Councillor Chris Pender wished to support this motion and to commend the work Mr Cummins had been doing on this item. He stated that it was so important to listen to what the community were saying and to work with the community because the members' greatest allies in getting anything implemented were the people that they represented.

Councillor Noel Heavey asked as a point of information that when the council meets with the NTA on this issue, could the Mayor be present at the meeting. As a councillor who had had two motions to the council regarding the Athgarvan to Newbridge cycleway when this plan was announced there was very little funding for the whole constituency of Kildare South and he would be anxious to have the Mayor present at these meetings.

Mr S Cummins stated that he would need to check with the NTA if the Mayor could attend the next meeting. He stated that there was a clear message from the members of what he could bring forward and that was the purpose of the last meeting with the members and to



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identify the limitations that he was working around in the cycle plan. S.Cummins would highlight to the NTA that the plan was formed in 2013 and the desired routes had changed since then. He stated that he had monthly meetings with the NTA and that maybe a member could attend a quarterly or special meeting.

Council McLoughlin Healy stated that she appreciated the work that was being done and that she supported what Councillor Heavey had said about the disparity and the infrastructural inequality between the North and South of the County. There needed to be more equity in how the infrastructure was developed around the district.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Noel Heavey with all members agreeing that the report be noted.

KN15/0421

Old Road from Southgreen, Kildare to the junction with the R401 at Rahila

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford
That the council surface dress the Old Road from Southgreen, Kildare to the junction with the R401 at Rahila.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that this location was not included on the 2021 Roadworks programme, the location could be included for consideration as part of 2022 Roads Infrastructure programme.

Councillor Mark Stafford stated that this part of the Old Road was in a very bad condition and should be added to next year's road programme.

The District Engineer stated that she believed that that location needed more than surface dressing and would be putting it on the Road Improvement programme for next year for strengthening and surface dressing.



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

KN16/0421

Maintenance and Repair of Walls surrounding Railway Bridges

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer
Can the council confirm who is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the walls leading towards the railway bridges in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that in general, bridge parapet and wing walls are the responsibility of Iarnrod Eireann.

Councillor O'Dwyer stated that she had some feedback from Irish Rail with regard to two particular bridges that she had reported on, one of them being Sexe's bridge. She read from an email received from Iarnrod Eireann, that the maintenance crew had erected temporary fencing in the area, they were currently at the tender stage to appoint a contractor to rebuild this section of the wall and repointing other areas along the bridge walls. Subject to agreement with Kildare County Council road traffic management, they would plan to carry out the work in June. In relation to the Caragh bridge, (Malones) this bridge was struck by a vehicle, a maintenance crew had been out to remove debris from the road and further masonry work was scheduled for quarter 3 after nesting season had finished.

The report was noted

KN17/0421

Traffic Calming Measures on Kildare Road, Rathangan

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly
Can the council confirm if it has any plans to put traffic calming measures in place on Kildare Road, Rathangan?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that there were no plans at present for traffic calming measures at this location.

Councillor Anne Connolly stated that she was not happy with the report, there was a huge requirement for traffic calming as you enter Rathangan from the Kildare Road. It was an extremely busy road and there was a necessity to have some form of traffic calming measures at that location, but that she would accept the report.

The report was noted.

KN18/0421

Speed Review relevant to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer
Can the council provide an update as to what stage they are at in relation to the speed review relevant to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that it was anticipated that the Draft Speed Limit Amendments would be brought to the elected members at either the May or June Municipal District Meeting, seeking their approval to commence the public consultation process.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer asked if the amendments would include the feedback that the members had given in January, and if the feedback was not going to be captured, why not?

Mr C O'Toole stated that he had issued an email to the members the morning of the MD meeting with a report on their submissions, any submissions that the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department had agreed to, had been included in the amendments and would be brought to the May Municipal District meeting for noting and to seek approval to commence the public consultation period.

The report was noted.

KN19/0421



Installation of cameras at Traffic Lights at bridge on Rathbride Road, Kildare Town

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly
Can the council confirm if it has plans to explore the possibility of having cameras installed at the traffic lights of the Bridge on Rathbride Road in Kildare Town, adjacent to the train station, to detect cars that drive through the red light?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the Traffic Management Section managed and maintained CCTV cameras located at the rail bridge on the Rathbride Road in the vicinity of the train station in Kildare. These cameras were for traffic monitoring purposes and under current legalisation could not be solely utilised to prosecute road users that carry out red light violations. The Gardai were responsible for enforcing the Rules of the Road/Roads Traffic Act and if the Gardai required CCTV footage to assist/investigate any offence the council would assist and provide them with any required CCTV footage.

Councillor Connolly stated he would bring the matter to the JPC for further discussion.
The report was noted.

KN20/0421

Monthly List of Vacant Homes in the Municipal District

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly.
That the council provide the members with a monthly list of all vacant homes in the municipal district, either by address (not for public dissemination) or unique identifying reference, including type of house and expected date of completion or readiness for allocation.

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

A report was received from the Housing department informing the members that the Vacant House report was in the format agreed by The Housing Strategic Policy Committee 2014-2019. Following the referral of a motion from Councillor Mark Lynch, the members agreed



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that the information be presented in the current format and a report would issue to the full council and to each municipal district monthly. The format of the report was discussed again at the February 2018 meeting of the SPC and it was agreed by the Members of the Committee that the addresses of the vacant properties were not relevant to the report.

Councillor Noel Connolly thanked the Housing section for all the work they were doing in very difficult circumstances over the last year and said he brought this motion forward in order to ensure transparency of the vacant homes report, he stated there were currently 9 homes requiring major works and 14 homes requiring minor work. He stated it would be good to know how long each home has been vacant and when to expect allocation. He hoped the members would support sending this motion to the Housing Strategy Policy Committee for further discussion. Councillors Chris Pender and Fiona McLoughlin voiced their support of this motion and stated members needed to know where the vacant homes were, how long they had been vacant and why, and also to receive a timescale of when works would be carried out. The Mayor stated that the members were in agreement to move this item to the Housing SPC.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Noel Connolly and seconded by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy with all members agreeing that the report be noted and the item to be moved to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

KN21/0421

Public Realm Update

Item 20 and Item 27

Ms M Hunt stated that the members had the Public Realm Update report circulated to them. With regard to the Curragh Plains, 3,636 submissions were received online and over 40 by email with a total of approx. 3700 submissions. The Rathangan Part 8 would be before the members for approval at the May Municipal District meeting. She asked if the members had any questions on the report.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that this was also the report to her question which was Item 27 on the Agenda and requested through the Chair to discuss it now and the members agreed.



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

Can the council provide an updated timeline of the keys dates (public consultation/Part 8/tender/works) for each of the planned public realm projects in the district to include timeline for Athgarvan, Kilcullen, each element requiring Part 8 in Newbridge, Monasterevin and Rathangan?

Councillor Mark Stafford wished to thank Ms Hunt for the work by the Public Realm team and asked about the government grants announced for the renovation of old buildings under the Rural Regeneration Scheme and asked if Kildare County Council submitted an application under that scheme, in particular for the old courthouse in Kildare Town. Ms Hunt replied that that funding was for shovel ready projects and Part 8 approved projects. Kildare County Council had applied for the grand canal greenway from Sallins to the Offaly border as this was Part 8 approved. This was not successful but the council would submit this funding application to the Greenways fund when that opened up. She stated that she received correspondence from the RRDF to say that they would be announcing a call for projects where Part 8 was not in place but funding was required to bring them to that stage, and that the old courthouse or other similar buildings in the county would come under that.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked Ms Hunt to report on the 3 items for Newbridge, the Cultural Quarter, the Town Renewal Plan and the Response Project. Ms Hunt replied that the Town Renewal Plan was in draft stage and needed additional public consultation and would be aiming to launch the draft Town Renewal Plan for a final round of consultation online in May. The Library element of the Cultural Quarter was progressing to Part 8. Metropolitan Workshop had been engaged to do a feasibility study on the creation of a Climate Action Training Centre of Excellence and to look at the potential use of buildings in St Conleth's Square because the carparking in St Conleth's Square could not be removed without a built edge to provide passive surveillance. There was a need to use the buildings along the boundary of St. Conleth's park and the proposed square to deter potential anti-social behaviour. The Feasibility Study would examine the potential of a partnership arrangement with Maynooth University, Department of Agriculture, SEAI Ireland, Bord na Mona, Teagasc, and other bodies to create a training centre in relation to climate action for the public and private sector. Ms. Hunt stated with regard to the Covid Response Project,



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they were working on another tender for the parklets and would apply for funding through Creative Ireland to look at Market Square in Newbridge being an outdoor event space for public speakers, poetry corner etc. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that the parklets were to be in place by May and asked were the consultants selected? Ms Hunt replied that no works could be done until the Covid 19 restrictions had lifted, so the May deadline had moved, nothing could be done until construction reopened. Ms Hunt stated that if construction opened in early May, the Public Realm team could procure benches similar to Kildare Market Square on a temporary basis until such time as appropriate locations were identified for parklets. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that the timeline for the completion of the Cultural Quarter is Q3 2022, she asked was there no Part 8 coming before the members before Q3 2022. Ms Hunt stated that the Q3 2022 was the completion timeline of all the part 8's in relation to the Cultural Quarter in Newbridge, the part 8 for the Library would be the first one to roll out and pending the feasibility study, the Climate Action Training Centre would be next followed by the Public Realm improvements around the Town Hall, St. Conleths Square, Georges Street and Market Square. They should all be completed and approved by Q3 2022 to go for funding and move to construction.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer stated that she was aware that the Public Realm team were extremely busy and was there any more support the members could give to the team. She asked were there enough resources to deliver these projects. Were there project managers assigned to each of the projects that could support the team. Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer stated that temporary structures did not go down well in Naas initially, and it was important to get it right first time. Councillor O'Dwyer asked in relation to Kilcullen, would the members see the Part 8 before it went out to the public. Ms Hunt stated that she had a very small team and was down on resources and had just got a sign off for two additional resources. She stated that it had to go to central government for formal sanction and she may have to wait up to 10 weeks for those resources but had full support from the management. There were 60 active projects. She was eager to deliver on projects that were funded. She stated in relation to the Naas project, the learning from that was the temporary furniture was placed out in winter and that now was a good time to put out the furniture as the weather was improving. In relation to Kilcullen, Ms Hunt stated that she would circulate the Part 8 to the members before it went out to public consultation. She stated she had a meeting in Kilcullen with the roads consultant that was engaged. The



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challenge was to manage the speed in Kilcullen, there was a need for at least one if not two controlled crossings to slow the speed of the traffic through the town, particularly at Market Square.

Councillor Chris Pender suggested if the Part 8's to do with the Cultural Quarter could be split into separate reports, as there was a lot of work going on. He also asked if the council could provide the furniture to businesses who wished to have a parklet outside their business if safe to do so. Ms Hunt stated that the council could not purchase equipment to give to a particular business to use, anything that was provided was for the public in general whether they were a customer or not. The equipment would be for all, not just a customer of that particular business. Councillor Pender asked in relation to the Section 254's, were the council supporting businesses to use parking spaces outside their premises or just footpaths. Ms M Hunt replied that a business could apply for a Section 254 to take over a parking space, subject to it being inspected and agreed by the Area Engineer.

Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer stated that some businesses would benefit much more than others in relation to parklets and wished to highlight that the Access Group are a huge cohort of people to bring on board.

Councillor Noel Heavey wished to appeal to management to second more staff from Kildare County Council to the Public Realm team.

Ms Hunt stated that the team was formed from seconded staff from other departments within Kildare County Council and it was not possible to second any more staff. She also stated that she worked closely with Kildare Access Network.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she fully appreciated the pressure that Ms Hunt was under and the fantastic work that she was doing but was growing increasingly frustrated as to how to get the answers she was looking for. She asked to be provided with the answers to the question as asked before the next Municipal District meeting. Ms M Hunt stated that until such time as the tender documents had been agreed with Libraries, she couldn't say when the Part 8 for the library would be launched and until the results of the feasibility study were



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received from the consultants in relation to the Climate Action Training centre, she couldn't say when the Part 8 would be launched.

The Mayor stated that dates could not be given at this time and he noted Councillor McLoughlin Healy's frustration.

KN22/0421

Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2021 allocation for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

The Mayor told the members that the nominations had been circulated to them previously and asked for a proposer and a seconder.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Suzanne Doyle and seconded by Councillor Noel Heavey with all members agreeing the allocation for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2021 be approved.

KN23/0421

Outdoor Dining in Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

Item 22 and Item 28

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer That given the recent announcement of Government Funding to promote outdoor dining that Kildare County Council support business in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District to make this process as seamless as possible particularly in relation to any planning requirements that may be needed to help support business owners deliver these temporary outdoor structures.

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

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



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Can the council confirm what measures does the council propose to introduce as part of the national plan for the expansion of out-door dining, to address the provision of outdoor seating, cleaning and rubbish collection within the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm department informing the members that Fáilte Ireland had announced funding for outdoor dining, with the focus of the scheme to provide a level of financial support to tourism and hospitality businesses, in Kildare's town centres, to purchase or upgrade equipment to provide additional outdoor seating and, therefore, increase their outdoor dining capacity for the summer of 2021. This scheme would financially assist and support independent tourism and hospitality business owners to create outdoor dining experiences in a regulated and accessible manner. Funding under the scheme was only available to existing businesses. The scheme was open to attractions, hotels, restaurants, cafes, public houses or other tourism and hospitality business establishments where food was sold for consumption on the premises. Where a business wanted to use public footpaths/space the business must apply for a Section 254 licence. All S254 applications received would be processed by the Planning Department as a matter of priority to support local businesses in their applications to the Fáilte Ireland funding for the purchase of outdoor dining equipment.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer stated she welcomed the report and asked for a timeline on the Section 254, how long would it take to process, to allow businesses to progress. She also enquired regarding the waiver on licence fees and all costs associated with this licence, and were the council ready to deal with these Section 254 licence applications?

Councillor Mark Stafford stated he had a similar question on the Agenda under item 28 and was happy to take that as read. He asked who would take responsibility for clearing litter, would there be additional bins provided and would there be public toilets provided?

Councillor Chris Pender wished to offer his support for the motion and that the process be done correctly so not as to impede access for people with disabilities. He asked was there supports in place to help small businesses apply for a S254?



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Ms M Hunt stated that the Section 254 application was straight forward to complete and once the application was received it would go straight to the Area Engineer, it would be treated as a priority, and the planning department would issue the decision as soon as it was received. Ms M Hunt stated she could not give a definite timeline for the process but it would be a priority. Once the Section 254 licence was granted to the business they could apply through the Local Enterprise Office for funding for the purchase of the equipment. Ms Hunt stated in relation to litter, she had seen in Kildare town, there was a marked increase in the amount of litter and paper cups being left on tables and businesses in the area had taken responsibility for the clean-up, but that litter was a huge challenge in relation to providing this outdoor equipment. There was a personal responsibility for people to take their waste home or to a bin. This is a challenge that will have to be addressed with the area engineer and environment department.

Councillor Suzanne Doyle asked if maybe the planning department could put frequently asked questions on the website or some guidelines on how to complete the S254 application. She also stated that as the largest Municipal District in the area and with limited resources, more engineering resources were needed to support these types of initiatives. Ms Hunt said she would look at the FAQ's and help businesses in any way they could.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer stated that this was going to be a challenge for the planning department and the area engineer, with site visits needing to be arranged.

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

KN24/0421

Unauthorised Developments

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kevin Duffy. That the council undertake the operational work necessary to provide unauthorised development (UD) information at a municipal district level, including the number of logged UD's, status of these UD's, timeframes for their resolution for the period 2018 – 2021 year to date.



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The motion was proposed by Councillor Kevin Duffy and seconded by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm department informing the members that the current enforcement system did not provide a breakdown of activity per Municipal District area. The Planning Department were currently exploring the procurement of a new planning management system which should include enforcement activity. It was envisaged that the system would be able to produce reports by Municipal District area. In the meantime, if Councillor Duffy wished to provide details of the site(s) of interest, the enforcement team would revert to Councillor Duffy in this regard.

Councillor Kevin Duffy stated that his motion was not regarding one particular item, there was a wealth of unauthorised developments in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal district from extensions to new houses and it was becoming a real issue. The members discussed this motion and had the following comments/queries

- There were a huge number of UD's in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.
- People were afraid to report neighbours
- The identity of the person making the complaint cannot be revealed. This point needed to be represented on all channels that the Council use to make that disclosure.
- Can a person who has been issued with an enforcement notice apply for retention?
- A notice could only be issued to an owner of a property. If there was no owner on file a notice could not be issued. Some solicitors were not completing the paperwork fully to register properties, could another route of determining ownership be found.
- There needed to be a more concentrated effort to gather data on people who are habitually in breach of planning law, and legal agents needed to be checked

Ms Hunt stated that the number of complaints had increased over the last year, and the planning department did not have the resources to go through the 500 to 600 open files to give a breakdown by Municipal District. She said she could give a report on a countywide basis showing all enforcement notices, warning letters, legal proceedings, outcome of those proceedings. She said that the planning department were looking at a new planning system



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that would give more detailed reporting. Ms Hunt confirmed that a complainant's details were kept confidential throughout the whole process, and that she would make sure that this information was made very clear on the enforcement section on the Kildare County Council website. She stated that if someone had been served a warning letter or enforcement notice, they could still apply for retention, however, that did not stop or delay enforcement proceedings, but that a Judge was likely to grant an adjournment on that basis pending the outcome of the retention application. Ms Hunt stated that it was her understanding that there was no requirement to register ownership of land with Land Registry. Ms Hunt said she noticed a marked increase in the amount of unauthorised mobile homes, seomra type dwellings, garages etc.

Councillor Duffy stated he welcomed the comprehensive response and would welcome the countywide numbers, and noted the fact that a new planning system would be put in place.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kevin Duffy and seconded by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy with all members agreeing that the report be noted and Ms. Hunt to provide the members with a report on the countywide number of Unauthorised Developments.

KN25/0421

Walls in the vicinity of Old Connell Cemetery

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Heavey That the council prepare a report on the heritage value of the walls in the vicinity of Old Connell cemetery to include options as to how they shall be preserved and restored as a civic amenity.

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 a preliminary visual assessment of the wall structure(s) within the graveyard was undertaken, which indicated that same may be unstable. Work has been undertaken, by the Environment Section, to fence the area off and



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restrict access to same to ensure public safety. At present there was no funding available to conduct a condition survey and method statement for repair of these walls, however, the Heritage/Conservation Office was investigating possible funding channels and would update members should an appropriate opportunity arise. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Members should note the graveyard was not in the care of Kildare County Council.

Councillor Noel Heavey stated that this was a 900 year settlement and very important that these walls be preserved. The members discussed this motion and had the following comments:

- Could this motion be addressed through the Heritage fund?
- Under who's remit does the cemetery fall? Old cemeteries were becoming burdensome for committees to maintain and should be looked at as a pilot project.

Councillor Noel Heavey clarified that his motion referred to the graveyard in Great Connell.

The Heritage Officer Ms B Loughlin stated that this graveyard was owned by the representative church body. There was a major clean up done but there was a problem with the structure of the church and was deemed to be unsafe and fenced off. There was a group working in there through Newbridge Tidy Towns clearing the graveyard but were unable to continue because of the unsafe structure. She further stated that because the graveyard was not in the care of Kildare County Council, it was unclear who would repair the church. If a group was identified to clear the graveyard, Ms Loughlin said she would work with them.

Councillor Heavey stated he was concerned about the wall of the cemetery and that it brought a link to our ancient past and important that it was preserved.

The District Manager stated that the Council had a capital programme in relation to cemeteries and would discuss this item with Ms Loughlin.

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



KN26/0421

Geophysical Survey for the Old Kilcullen Area

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer
Can the Heritage Section confirm when the geophysical survey will be carried out for the Old Kilcullen Area?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm department informing the members that funding had been secured for this project from the Heritage Council and would commence within the coming months. The Heritage Officer would engage the Old Killcullen Community group in the project and the findings of the study would inform the interpretation for the area.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer accepted the report.

The report was noted.

KN27/0421

Kilcullen Square Development

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

Can the council provide detail of the issue holding up the Kilcullen Square development to include a clarification of the plan and procedure for acquiring additional parking space in Kilcullen?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm department informing the members that there were two factors holding up the Kilcullen Market Square Part 8 as follows:

- The number of signalised pedestrian crossings required in the environs of the proposed redeveloped Market Square. It was expected that this issue would be resolved in the coming week.



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- The number of projects being progressed by the Public Realm team on a county wide basis while currently operating on reduced resources.

The Strategic Projects & Public Realm team were progressing with the purchase of land to offset the loss of carparking as a result of the Kilcullen Market Square development. In this regard, the Council was awaiting a valuation of the lands from the current owner so that a purchase price may be agreed. The acquisition of land was an Executive Function which was authorised by way of a Director's Order or Chief Executive's Order depending on the value of the land being acquired.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked to see the valuation on the piece of property that was being acquired. Ms M Hunt stated that the council had asked the owner of the land to get his own valuation, once this was received, she would circulate this valuation to the members. The report was noted.

KN28/0421

Settlements in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District adversely affected by the transition from Fossil Fuels to Renewable Energy

The members considered the following in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford
That the council identify the settlements in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District mostly adversely affected by the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy and acknowledges that appropriate supports administered by the council be targeted to those communities.

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

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment department informing the members they would recall that a special joint meeting of the 3 relevant Municipal Districts was held in January to consider these important matters which were discussed in much detail. It was agreed that the 3 Municipal Districts would contribute (€15k per Municipal District) to establish a fund in order to engage a consultant to carry out research to identify



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possible initiatives which could be advanced in order to provide the necessary supports for the most affected communities . The District Manager was pleased to advise that a draft brief was more or less finalised by the CARO and would be circulated to each Municipal District very shortly before going to tender. Indeed, this was an excellent example of a collaborative effort on the part of the Municipal Districts and was to be commended. There was also the potential for replication across other (8) Midland counties which comprise the Just Transition region. In addition , the CARO had separately secured funding in the sum of €255k in order to progress a series of community capacity building initiatives for this region (not just County Kildare) and work was currently ongoing, albeit at an early stage, to identify the communities as well as the range of supports required . The Municipal District members would be kept apprised on progress.

Councillor Stafford stated he accepted the report but that this move away from fossil fuels has adversely affected communities at ground level, and it had been a slow transition and communities had suffered as a result. He asked that going forward Kildare County Council would be mindful that the Just Transition funding and any other funding that would come at Government level would be clearly focused on those most adversely affected.

The District Manager stated that Councillors Stafford's points were very well made and that the three Municipal Districts coming together was a very progressive thing. It was agreed by the three Municipal Districts to engage a consultant to look at opportunities that were coming in relation to economic activity, new funding schemes, training and that the draft brief for the consultant would be circulated to the members in the coming days. He also stated that the Climate Action Regional Office had applied for funding and had been allocated €255,000 for the Just Transition region which included eight Local Authorities. He said he would keep the members informed.

Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy stated she agreed with the principle of Just Transition, that Kildare County Council were very good at appointing consultants but was concerned that plans don't progress. She stated that there was €45,000 from the 3 Municipal Districts and €255,000 to CARO, was there an absolute necessity for both of those spends. The District Manager stated that the €255,00 was for a very specific purpose around capacity building and the €15,000 from each of the three Municipal Districts was focused on



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economic activity and opportunity. Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy asked that the purpose of the €255,000 allocation be circulated to the members.

Councillor Mark Stafford wanted to thank The Director for his verbal report, that it was very encouraging.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Mark Stafford and seconded by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy with all members agreeing that the report be noted and the District Manager to circulate to the members the purpose of the €255,000 allocation.

KN29/0421

Green Kilometre in the Municipal District

The following question was proposed by Councillor Kevin Duffy

Can the council provide an update on the Green Kilometre in the municipal district, numbers of groups involved, map of areas being covered and feedback on known black spots based on submitted CRM/complaints?

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment department informing the members that this scheme had gained a lot of momentum in 2021. From a total of just 17 kilometres registered in the County in 2020, to date in 2021, 97 kilometres had been renewed or added. Of this, 16 of the kilometres were in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District. It was proposed to map all kilometres in the county mid-year as this would most accurately reflect the total. The scheme was generating a lot of positive feedback, for three reasons:

- Provision of bags and pickers
- Prompt removal of bagged waste by arrangement
- Provision of native trees

In terms of developing the scheme further, the prompt removal of the waste was the most important of these as many participants stress the need to get the waste removed as soon as possible after the clean-up. As the scheme expands it may be necessary to increase the support levels for the scheme. The scheme was very effective at enabling socially distanced



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groups of individuals to remove litter from large areas of the county while getting the waste taken away soon after. The scheme was expanding with very little publicity required, some radio and social media had been carried out, but the real growth was by word of mouth, and clusters of Green Kilometres were appearing around the county as people encouraged their neighbours to adopt other kilometres.

In the year to date, 6.8 tonnes of litter was collected within the Municipal District under this scheme and there were a number of other clean-ups planned. It should be noted that two other local authorities (Meath and Westmeath) had also developed Green Kilometre programmes, so the model would appear to be good for other counties with large rural areas. The incentive of native trees was also proving to be effective at increasing participation so Kildare's environment benefits both by the removal of litter as well as improving the local biodiversity.

Councillor Duffy stated that this was a huge community initiative and thanked the Environmental Awareness Officer for the report.

The report was noted.

KN30/0421

Approval of Kildare 2021 Arts Act Grant scheme, Bursaries and Awards

The Mayor stated that the submission and report was previously circulated to the members. This was proposed by Councillor Suzanne Doyle and seconded by Councillor Chris Pender.

Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy asked who selected the participants and is the recommendation to the members the same as the persons application.

Ms L Russell replied that the selection was by independent panels each year which were representatives from outside of the county and matched to each of the awards.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Suzanne Doyle and seconded by Councillor Chris Pender with all members agreeing that the Kildare 2021 Arts Act Grant scheme, Bursaries and Awards be approved.



KN31/0421

Communication Boards in Playgrounds withing Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer
That the council install communication boards in playgrounds within the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

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 Development department informing the members that there were no plans to put in place communications boards in playgrounds as they could be an additional easy target for antisocial behaviour. The Parks Section did not have a regular enough presence in many of the playgrounds to ensure their maintenance and upkeep

Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer wanted to highlight that it was World Autism Awareness Day recently and these communication boards were a device to help people with limited language skills and were used in many settings, open spaces, parks etc. These boards promoted inclusiveness and independence. She stated that other authorities were working with the Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency. She stated she hoped that she could negotiate with the Senior Parks Superintendent on this matter. The members discussed this motion and had the following comments

- Fully supported the motion and that going forward the playground planned for Newbridge would be an exemplar inclusive playground for all.
- Are the contractors on the framework for the playgrounds capable of delivering inclusive elements to the playgrounds.
- Communication boards installed in Meath have not been a target for anti-social behaviour and can't allow anti-social behaviour to be the reason for the boards not to be installed
- To operate a pilot programme in the most suitable playground in the Municipal District



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Ms S Wallace stated that he misunderstood the motion, he thought it was for community notice boards. He said he would consider the motion, he was due to speak to the Access Committee in relation to standards in playgrounds. He stated he did previously try specific signage for blind people in a playground and it was a target for vandalism. He stated that the framework providers could provide universally accessible playgrounds and it was always a criterion in the tenders.

Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer thanked the members for their support and would work with the Parks Superintendent.

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.

KN32/0421

Installation of Directional Routes in the Liffey Linear Park

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer That the council liaise with the National Council for the Blind in Ireland (NCBI), Newbridge Tidy Towns and Newbridge Access Group to consider the installation of directional routes in the Liffey Linear Park.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development department informing the members that this would be considered as part of developing a signage scheme in the park which was one of the projects in the current works programme.

Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer stated that these directional routes were for people with low vision to allow to walk independently. She stated she looked forward to working with the Parks Superintendent on this.

Mr S Wallace stated he would work with the NCBI and there was a project in place to develop a signage standardising scheme for parks and the Liffey Linear park would be used to pilot this project.



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

KN33/0421

Tall Fencing around Rathangan Playground

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly
That the council provides secure tall fencing around Rathangan Playground and/or considers relocating the playground to an area where passive surveillance is available.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development department informing the members that there were no plans to install secure tall fencing in Rathangan Playground. This had been installed in other playgrounds and had not worked as a deterrent to people accessing playgrounds. Providing passive surveillance was difficult due to the location of the site. The playground site was chosen as it was the most suitable within the park and town and provided the best passive surveillance mainly from the bridge into the town. Some trees were removed as part of the playground construction to facilitate this. In other playgrounds community involvement in the maintenance of the playground and closing of the park or playground had assisted. There was some community involvement initially when the playground opened but there was none currently. Some patrols by local Gardai would be an assistance also. The Parks section would discuss this with local Gardai.

Councillor Noel Connolly stated he was very familiar with Rathangan playground, there were a number of incidents of vandalism over the years and local people had asked him if the park could be relocated closer to residential areas where parking was available or failing this for a higher fence to be installed to protect equipment.

Councillor Mark Stafford stated he wanted to support this motion and stated that the issue of passive surveillance needed to be addressed. He asked as part of the Part 8 proposals for Rathangan, the thinning out of trees at the foot of the bridge could be considered. Councillor



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Anne Connolly wished to support this motion and stated she had spoken to the Gardai and asked for them to patrol the area.

Mr S Wallace stated he was not in favour of fencing, there were numerous examples of high fencing around the county and it hadn't worked. He said he would look at thinning the trees. He said he would speak to the Gardai about getting co-operation on the anti-social behaviour. He stated that the best playgrounds were ones that had a good community involvement.

Councillor Noel Connolly thanked the Parks Superintendent for his response.

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

KN34/0421

Biodiversity and Cut Late Cut Less Campaign

The members considered the following motion in the name Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer
That the council launch a biodiversity and 'Cut Late Cut Less' campaign with all Resident Associations in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District as a pilot project that could then be rolled out to other municipal districts if found to be of benefit.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development department informing the members that there was no scope within the current works programme to progress this. However, it was proposed to promote and highlight the changing practices the Parks Section were introducing that could be applied to residents' associations and by individual residents in their gardens. The development of pilot areas would be considered as the change in grass cutting practices is progressed beyond this year. There was already very helpful information available on the pollinators.ie website in relation to actions that residents' associations and residents could apply to their estates and gardens in relation to grass cutting and benefitting pollinators.



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Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer stated she welcomed the move to promote and highlight the changing practices in grass cutting. She stated that without the important work of Resident's Associations and Tidy Towns the work would come back on Kildare County Council and should be recognised as part of our team. She said it was very important to include Resident's Associations and Tidy Towns along the process of change rather than at the end.

Councillor Mark Stafford wished to support the motion and stated the issue he had was in relation the cutting of the grass and to try to encourage the wildflower meadows. He asked that some guidance would be made available to create the wildflower gardens. Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy supported this motion and asked about linking funding to the Resident's Associations to incentivise people.

Ms B Loughlin stated that the Council had got funding from Leader and from the Municipal Districts. Biodiversity action plans had been carried out in various towns and villages and one of the things that was done as part of that process was to encourage Tidy Towns groups to bring in Resident's Associations to attend training and one of the recommendations was to mow late. The Community Heritage Grant Scheme had funded several Resident's Associations to do pollinator actions. She stated that Biodiversity Week was starting at the end of May and a series of infomercials with KFM was arranged and one would be regarding mowing less. She stated that she was hoping to run biodiversity training for the members in the future.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer asked that Resident's Associations could be kept informed by email as well as social media.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Tracey and seconded by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy with all members agreeing that the report be noted.

KN35/0421

Timeline for delivery of Playground in Rathangan

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



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Can the council provide an update and potential timeline for the delivery of the playground in Kildangan in accordance with the Kildare Play Strategy?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development department informing the members that Kildare County Council did not have land in the village suitable for a playground at present. A suitable site and location needed to be identified to provide one. The location of a site could be considered in conjunction with the review of the County Development Plan. If a site could be identified, then the project could be considered for funding to provide it and a timeline for its delivery.

The report was noted.

KN36/0421

Priming Grants, Business Expansion Grants and Feasibility Study Grants

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford
Can the council confirm how many Priming Grants, Business Expansion Grants and Feasibility Study Grants were awarded in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District in the past year?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development department

Kildare Applications Approved Report

From: 01/01/2020 To:31/12/2020

Feasibility - Priming and Business Expansion Grants approved in the Kildare / Newbridge Municipal District in 2020

LEO	Client Name	Ref Num	Grant Fund Type	Grant Type	Approved Date	Approved Amount
Kildare	Auto Simulation Ltd	15011568-1	ERDF	Priming	22/04/2020	26744
	DB Furniture Ltd. T/A Dunleavy Bespoke	15004643-3	ERDF	Business Expansion	18/11/2020	24354
	McConnon Meats Ltd	15012610-1	ERDF	Business Expansion	22/07/2020	49496
	Novitas Ltd	15008349-1	ERDF	Technical Assistance	18/03/2020	2500



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	Prime Building Materials Ltd	15012885-1	ERDF	Priming	09/09/2020	41250
	Safesound Ltd	15012820-1	ERDF	Feasibility/Innovation	22/07/2020	6150
	Sherin Sebastian Yo Face	15011950-1	ERDF	Feasibility/Innovation	03/06/2020	1375
	Springmount Foods Ltd. T/A Export Works	15012335-1	ERDF	Feasibility/Innovation	03/06/2020	15000
	Straight Sausages Ltd	15001986-3	ERDF	Business Expansion	18/03/2020	12885
			Total			179754

KILDARE SHOP FRONT GRANT

Kildare/Newbridge MD received €46729 in Shop Front Grant Awards in 2020.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS FOR COMPANIES IN KILDARE IN 2020

Business Continuity Voucher (BCV)

In 2020 500 companies availed of the BCV worth €2500 across Kildare

Trading Online Vouchers (TOV)

In 2020 187 companies availed of the TOV voucher worth €2500 across Kildare

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded