



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
Meeting held on 24 March 2021
via Microsoft Teams**

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

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Ms B Cuddy, (District Engineer), Ms C Barrett (A/Director of Services) Ms M Hunt, (Senior Executive Officer), Ms S Scully (Administrative Officer), Mr J Murtagh (Executive Engineer), Mr S Cummins (A/Senior Engineer), Mr B Leonard (Meetings Administrator) Ms E Molloy (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Mayor began the meeting by welcoming everyone and asked the members, in accordance with best practice, if there were any declarations of conflicts of interests. Councillor Noel Connolly stated that he had a potential conflict of interest in relation to Item 6 on the Agenda and would be absenting himself from the meeting for the duration of that item.

The Mayor, Councillor Kevin Duffy, stated that he had a conflict of interest in relation to Item 8 and would be absenting himself from the meeting and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Noel Heavey, would Chair for that item.

KN01/0321

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday 17 February 2021 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Anne Connolly, 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, 17 February 2021 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

KN02/0321

Music Generation Kildare Presentation

The Mayor welcomed Ms Lucina Russell Arts Officer and Mr Alan Costello, Music Generation Development Officer, Kildare and Wicklow Education Training Board (KWETB) to the meeting.

Mr Costello delivered a presentation to the members highlighting the following points:

- Music Generation is a National Partnership Programme, working with the Local Authority and Educational Training Board to deliver Music Generation Kildare.
- Music Generation Kildare provided children and young people the opportunity to access subsidised performance music education programmes and instrument rental which would transform and enhance their lives.
- A procurement process for instruments was carried out in 2020.
- Expression of interest forms were issued to all Primary Schools, 31% of primary schools responded in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.
- From March 2021 32% of all young musicians in schools and in online hubs are from the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
- Digital Hub in partnership with the Hive in Kildare Town are delivering a fully online and interactive programme around music production, technology, podcasting
- Locally generated income would be matched by the Music Generation National Development Office.
- Currently in the process of setting up Local Music Education Partnership (LMEP).

The Mayor and the members thanked Ms Russell and Mr Costello for the presentation and wished them well in their future work in this area. The Mayor noted that if there were any questions, the members could contact Mr Costello directly.

KN03/0321

Municipal District Roadworks

The District Engineer presented the Roads Programme 2021 which had been already circulated to the members, including a map of the location of the roadworks. Ms Cuddy



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explained that there were two types of roadworks that the council carry out in conjunction with the Department, restoration improvement and restoration maintenance and explained the difference between the two types of roadworks. She stated the tenders were being prepared at the moment, some of them had been issued, but the works were not programmed to start because of level 5 Covid restrictions. Some of the works would be deemed to be emergencies and she would seek approval from the Director of Service to deliver these after Easter.

The members had the following questions and comments:

- Would it be possible to know which works would be going ahead as emergencies?
- Have the contractors the capacity and staff to deliver these works and cover all areas?
- The members commended the District Engineer for the minimal disruption to traffic and the expeditious delivery of the extensive road works that were taking place on Military Road, Newbridge
- Would there be extra funding from the NTA
- Are there any opportunities for cycleways in the Municipal District with NTA funding?

The District Engineer stated that she could not specify which works would be done as emergencies but that she hoped to deliver all before the end of September depending on the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions, and the weather conditions. Ms Cuddy said that she had contractors in place to cover the LPT programme that was left over from last year. The roads programme was always a challenge due to the delivery of supplies e.g. tar, that had to be kept warm and most of the works would be done by a local crew as the best price is usually local. She stated that 15 tenders were already completed. Ms Cuddy stated that she was always in contact with the NTA in relation to funding of projects in urban areas. The Mayor stated that the members would be given a presentation from the Roads Team in early April in relation to NTA projects.



KN04/ 0321

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

The Mayor stated that there was one nomination received from Councillor Rob Power who had proposed a nomination of €1,950 to the Hopkins Festival, Newbridge.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked that any individual nominations to festival groups be taken into account when other funding was being provided to them, so that it was looked at in combination with other money that was being provided. She also asked for clarification in relation to the €15,000 she nominated last year for webcasting of council meetings, on the basis of there being no available funding at the time. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked if it was possible to get confirmation of the cost of the webcasting so that she could decide whether to leave the €15,000 aside or be re-distributed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Rob Power and seconded by Councillor Suzanne Doyle and agreed by the members that €1,950 be allocated to Hopkins Festival, Newbridge.

KN05/0321

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2021

The Mayor thanked the members for the work and collaboration they had put into the compilation of the 8 option reports for allocation of funding in 2021. He confirmed that the members had been asked to vote on their preference option reports with the top two being voted on at the meeting. The Mayor stated there had been a clear preference for the allocations as outlined in option 5 and option 6 and asked members to vote on those options.

Councillor Power proposed the Option 6 allocation report and this was seconded by Councillor Noel Heavey.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she would like to protect some monies for external applications and wished to propose the Option 8 allocation report stating that the councils festival grants were not fully drawn down last year and the members were now seeking to top up that fund, she also stated that option 6 would remove the sports grants. Councillor Pender seconded this proposal stating he would prefer if there was an allocation for external applications. He stated the removal of the sports grants would be regrettable. Councillor



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McLoughlin Healy also stated that option 6 would remove the Residents' Association grant allocation and that would be a shame.

The Mayor stated that he had two proposers and two seconders in relation to two options and was now going to take a vote on option 6 and option 8.

Option 6 was proposed by Councillor Rob Power and seconded by Councillor Noel Heavey. There were 8 votes in favour of this proposal.

Option 8 was proposed by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Chris Pender.

There were 3 votes in favour of this proposal

The Mayor stated that as there were now eight votes in favour of option 6 and three votes in favour of option 8, they would proceed on the basis of the approval of option 6 and move forward with those allocations. He wished to thank the members again for their time and participation on this project.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Rob Power and seconded by Councillor Noel Heavey with a vote of eight members in favour and three against, the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2021 was approved. See appendix 1

KN06/0321

Taking in Charge of Housing Estate Moore Abbey Court, Monasterevin

The Mayor requested Councillor Noel Connolly to disconnect himself from the meeting and the Meetings Administrator confirmed that Councillor Connolly had disconnected to the meeting.

Mr J Murtagh stated that Moore Abbey Court was a development that commenced during the Celtic Tiger period and had been left unfinished for a number of years. He said it was now fully completed and comprised of 29 units. A schedule had been submitted to Irish Water and they had no objections and were happy for the council to proceed with the taking in charge. Councillor Doyle asked if there were associated costs that the council were bearing



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with the taking in charge or were all costs met by the developer. Mr J Murtagh confirmed that there were no associated costs.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Suzanne Doyle and seconded by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer with all members agreeing that Moore Abbey Court, Monasterevin be Taken in Charge.

The Meetings Administrator invited Councillor Noel Connolly back into the meeting.

KN07/0321

Presentation on Accessibility

The Mayor welcomed Mr M Hurley, Health and Safety/Access Officer to the meeting and proposed that if the members had any questions for Mr Hurley, they should email him their questions after the meeting and all the members agreed. Mr Hurley advised that he would reply to all questions received.

Mr Hurley delivered a presentation to the members highlighting the following points:

- Accessibility to buildings and all services was a legislative requirement under the Disability Act 2005.
- The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities came into force on 19 April 2018.
- The National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021 was the key framework for policy and action to address the needs of people with disabilities.
- There were five Local Access Groups in Naas, Newbridge, Celbridge, Maynooth and Athy.
- The role of the Access Officer was to provide and co-ordinate assistance and guidance to persons with disabilities accessing services provided by the council offices.
- The County Kildare Access Strategy 2020-2022 took a universal approach and the objectives for 2021 were outlined.
- Kildare County Council had achieved winner at the All-Ireland Community and Council Awards 2020 for having the best Disability Access and Inclusion Initiative and had also achieved winner of the overall Grand Prix Award for working to make County Kildare inclusive and accessible to all.



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- Working collaboratively with disability advocates would help the council deliver its shared commitment that no section of the community was left behind in the future delivery of council services.

The Mayor thanked Mr Hurley for his comprehensive presentation and congratulated him and his team on achieving the award for All-Ireland Community and Council Awards 2020 and the overall Grand Prix Award.

KN08/0321

Update on Monasterevin Fire Station

The Mayor informed the members that he was disconnecting himself from the meeting as there was a potential conflict of interest. The Meetings Administrator confirmed to the members that Councillor Duffy was disconnected from the meeting. Deputy Mayor, Councillor Noel Heavey took the chair.

Ms C Barrett stated that the statutory plan for the Fire Services was called the Section 26 plan and referred to Section 26 of the Fire Services Act which was a reserved function of the members to adopt that plan. One of the amendments to the last plan was that the council would make the provision for the upgrading of Monasterevin Fire Station. From the time of the adoption of the previous plan, the council had been looking for a new site for the Fire Station. Ms Barrett explained that when seeking a site within a town, two main issues had to be considered, the first because it was a retained service, the firefighters had to live and work within a 5 minute distance of the station and the second issue being accessibility, the station had to be easy to enter and exit and access key areas quickly. A suitable site was located in Monasterevin Business Park which was a 1.01acre site. The business park was located on the Dublin Road out of Monasterevin and fell within the travel time of the firefighters. Ms Barrett stated that the council had sufficient funds to purchase this site and was bringing it to the members attention and subject to no objections from the members the council would go ahead and purchase the site.

The members had the following queries and comments:

- Was the purchase being made out of Capital funding and was there any matching funding coming from the Department?



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- Would this fire station have the ability to respond to major accidents and emergencies on the motorway?
- What was the plan for the existing building, could it be used for community use?
- Was the site being bought or leased?

Ms Barrett stated that the Department would fund the construction of the fire station, but the council fund the purchase of the site. Once the site was purchased an application would be made to the Department for funding for the fire station. Ms Barrett explained that when there was an incident on the motorway, crews were deployed from two fire stations going in opposite directions, thereby getting the nearest crew to the incident first and the second crew as back up. Ms Barret stated there was no plan for the current building as the council were not on a programme for the new fire station build yet. Ms Barrett stated the site would be bought for €200,000 plus VAT.

The Meetings Administrator invited The Mayor back into the meeting.

KN09/0321

Grass Margins outside Scoil Na Naomh Uilig, Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer That the council consider repairing the grass margins or provide an alternative option to the area outside Scoil Na Naomh Uilig, Rickardstown, Newbridge which has been damaged by cars parking on the grass margins.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the grass margin was installed to provide an area of protection for the footpath users. Vehicles parking on the grass margin were predominately collecting children at school times and should not be parking there. The school, through the Department of Education, needed to provide an agreed plan for dropping off and collecting children in a safe manner.



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Councillor O'Dwyer stated that she was working with the Resident's Association and would give them feedback on this matter. The District Engineer stated that it was the parents that were parking on this grass margin, if the school resolved this issue, she would look at the matter and carry out some work. Councillor O'Dwyer suggested drafting a letter from the Councillors to the School Principal.

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.

KN10/0321

Installation of Roundabout or Traffic Lights on R445 at Junction 14 M7

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly. That the council install a roundabout or traffic lights on the R445 to allow free flowing access to and from the M7 at Junction 14.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that an analysis would have to be undertaken at this location to determine whether there was a requirement (Capacity/Safety issues) to upgrade this priority junction to a roundabout/signal-controlled junction. Funding would need to be identified to carry out the analysis and if an upgrade was deemed necessary, funding and resources would also need to be identified to progress the project. It was to be noted that any upgrade of this junction may involve land acquisition from third parties which was both costly and took time to deal with.

Councillor Connolly stated that there was long queue's waiting to leave and join the motorway at this junction every morning and evening and the funding of a roundabout could be sought under the low-cost accident scheme. The councillors had a short discussion on this and voiced their support for this motion. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked that if any report that required land acquisition and follow up with landowners, could be added to progress reports.



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Mr S Cummins stated that he would take all the councillors' comments on board. He said that there was a low likelihood of getting funding as this junction was not classified as an accident black spot. Councillor Noel Connolly asked if this junction could be kept in mind for low cost accident scheme works. The District Engineer explained that this junction would not qualify for the low cost accident scheme, she said the scheme was based on a high accident volume with a very low cost resolution. She said low cost accident schemes were about €20,000 to €30,000 and this amount would not fund a roundabout.

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

KN11/0321

Repairs to Gully at Nicholastown Estate, Kilcullen

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer That the council carry out repairs to a gully at Nicholastown Estate, Kilcullen, to prevent the ongoing flooding and pooling of water at the entrance to this estate.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the Municipal District Office would investigate the issue of ponding at the entrance to the estate.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer stated that when this water pooled, walkers had to step out onto the roadway to get around the water. She asked for a timeframe for when the investigation could be carried out and an update of the findings of the investigation. The District Engineer stated she would keep in touch with Councillor O'Dwyer on this.

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.



KN12/0321

Collection of Bins in Liffey Linear Park

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Chris Pender
That the council take over the collection of bins in Liffey Linear Park, including them in their collection route.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and cultural Development department informing the members that the Parks Section did not have the staff or financial resources to take over the collection of bins in Liffey Linear Park but the council have offered and assisted with the collection when the Tidy Towns were not able to manage the increase in litter.

Councillor Pender stated he accepted the report and asked that when the assessments of resources in the municipal districts were carried out that the council ensure that Liffey Linear Park is taken into account for the allocation of resources.

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

KN13/0321

Sheep Grids at Lurg Lane, Kinneagh, The Curragh

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford
That the council proceed with the installation of the two required sheep grids at Lurg Lane, Kinneagh, The Curragh on the basis that no acceptable location for the grid at Brownstown can be identified.

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



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members there was no funding available for the installation of two cattle grids. If the members wished to proceed with the installation of the cattle grids, funding would have to be provided for their installation and an allocation on an annual basis for their maintenance.

The members discussed this motion and made the following observations

- In 2018 the members agreed to fund two sheep grids on the Curragh, one at Lurg Lane and one at Brownstown. The installation of a sheep grid at Brownstown was not possible. Could the installation of the two sheep grids at Lurg Lane proceed? How much funding was used for the maintenance of existing sheep grids and how much was left to carry out the work at Lurg Lane
- There was a need for these sheep grids. As part of the submission for the Curragh review, this issue should be raised and if there was a plan put in place, there would be a Capital programme to support it.

The District Engineer stated that she used most of one of the budgets for repairs to sheep grids. There was still funding available for one grid, but her concern was that the more funding was put into the installation of sheep grids, then more was required to fix those grids. If a grid breaks it had to be repaired immediately and funding had to be reallocated for this repair. She said she needed a clear instruction from the members as to what the LPT funding was to be used for. Councillor Stafford stated that perhaps it was something to look at for next year's LPT allocations. It was part of the County Development Plan too but that would be a long-term approach. The District Engineer stated she would do a review of all existing sheep grids and which ones needed to be upgraded and how much funding was required and bring the findings back to the members as a package.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Mark Stafford and seconded by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer with all members agreeing, the report was noted and the District Engineer to carry out a review of all existing sheep grids on the Curragh



KN14/0321

Installation of Pedestrian Crossing at Preston Brook, Millbrook, Rathangan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford
That the council install a pedestrian crossing at Preston Brook, Millbrook, Rathangan.
Given the traffic and pedestrian volumes at Preston Brook/Milbrook and on the L7003 it is considered that an uncontrolled crossing point is the appropriate type of crossing that should be provided at this location.

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 the Municipal District Office would investigate whether this could be accommodated at the location. There was currently no funding available within the Municipal District budget to carry out these types of works.

Councillor Stafford stated that he appreciated the number of pedestrian crossings that were installed in Rathangan and would appreciate if the Municipal District office would have a look at the area with a view to installing a pedestrian crossing. Councillor Anne Connolly asked if the entrance to the Preston Brook estate could be made safer with road markings. Ms B Cuddy stated that she had a very small budget and would not be able to provide a pedestrian crossing this year but would be able to have a look at the area as part of her line marking upgrades.

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

KN15/0321

Disabled Parking Bays

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer.
Can the council confirm the process for the installation of disabled parking bays in this municipal district?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the Municipal District Office arranged for road markings to be refreshed on an annual basis. Locations were identified and works were scheduled, based on priority and available budget.

The report was noted.

KN16/0321

Second bridge over River Liffey at Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly
Can the council provide an update to the members on the proposals for a second bridge over the river Liffey at Newbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that Kildare County Council made an application to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for funding under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF). Kildare County Council have recently received correspondence that this application was not successful.

Councillor Noel Connolly stated he accepted the comprehensive report received (under item 34) and asked for the reasons why the application was unsuccessful. Did the RSES designation impact the funding? He also asked if there was any other way that funding could be secured for the bridge?

Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy stated that she would be happy to take her question (Item 34) together with this item as they were both covering the same topic. The Mayor agreed to take both items together and asked if there were any questions on point of clarification. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked the following questions

- Where was the phase 0 report?
- What was the priority that was given to the second bridge in Newbridge
- What communications were there between the Department and the Council since the application was submitted.

Ms M Hunt stated that the Department were to give the Council a full feedback in the coming weeks on why the application was unsuccessful. She stated that the only communication there was with the Department since the application was submitted was an



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acknowledgement of receipt of the application, there was no specific communication in relation to the Newbridge application. Ms Celina Barrett stated that significant detail and effort was put into the application and the council were awaiting a response from the Department. She stated there was no Phase 0 report, all information that was submitted to the Department was circulated to the members.

The Mayor stated that once there was a detailed response received from the Department there would be a separate meeting arranged on this subject with the members.

The report was noted.

KN17/0321

Route Selection for New Link roads within South Green Kildare

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Suzanne Doyle
Can the council provide a progress report on route selection for new link roads within South Green Kildare, with details on the schedule for delivery?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that The Kildare Town Transport Strategy was currently at draft stage and was due to proceed to Public Consultation in the coming weeks. It was proposed to hold a meeting with the elected members of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District to discuss this strategy prior to the commencement of the public consultation process. The progression of the South Green & Northern Link project would be reviewed following the completion of the Kildare Town Transport Strategy, subject to resources being available.

Councillor Doyle asked if this Transport Strategy and the Traffic Management Plan were all one process. Mr S Cummins replied that this was correct and when the strategy was finalised the members would receive a more detailed response. He confirmed that the data had been collected to inform the Traffic Management Plan and traffic surveys were carried out pre Covid restrictions.

The report was noted.



KN18/0321

Timeline for delivery of signage at Junction 13, Kildare Town

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Suzanne Doyle
Can the council provide a progress report, specifically a timeline for delivery and design details, on signage that is long overdue at junction 13, Kildare Town?

A report was received from the Facilities manager informing the members that the replacement signs were ready to be installed and were a replica of the original signs which were removed. The council could install these signs if it was confirmed that the design meets the councillor's requirements.

Councillor Doyle stated she would speak to the facilities manager.

The report was noted.

KN19/0321

Upgrade of footpaths at the front of Ard Brid, Carna

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly
Can the council confirm if it has any plans to upgrade the footpaths at the front of Ard Brid, Carna to the same standard as the footpaths at the back?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that there were no plans or funding available to carry out footpath upgrades at Ard Brid Carna.

The report was noted.

KN20/0321

Address flooding at the 50km speed sign at Maddenstown, Curragh

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly
Can the council confirm if it has any plans to address the flooding at the 50km speed sign at Maddenstown, Curragh?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that there was an ongoing issue with flooding at this location despite water cuts being opened and maintenance works taking place. The Municipal District Office were currently preparing a list of drainage schemes within the Municipal District and this location had been included. Any works would be subject to funding being available. The report was noted.

KN21/0321

Return of Street Sweeper in Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Chris Pender
Can the council clarify when the street sweeper will be back in use in Newbridge Town?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that Newbridge was rostered to have the large road sweeper three times a week with a contracted footpath sweeper on Sunday mornings. The Municipal District's own sweeper was currently waiting repair, a replacement part had been ordered. Litter picks were taking place daily in Newbridge while the machine was out of order. The report was noted.

KN22/0321

Lanes behind Palace Field and Fairgreen, Kildare Town

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford
Can the council identify which of the lanes behind Palace Field and Fairgreen, Kildare Town are in charge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that records indicate that these lanes are not in charge of Kildare County Council however if the member wished to provide a map indicating the exact location he was querying; the Municipal District Office could investigate further. The District Engineer stated she would liaise with Councillor Stafford on the matter when Covid 19 restrictions were lifted. The report was noted.



KN23/0321

Standing Orders for Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

The Mayor stated that the members were to consider and adopt the revised Standing Orders for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee. He stated that there were two members from the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District committee on the Protocol Committee in Councillors Stafford and Councillor Pender. The Mayor stated that he would take comments and clarifications from the members and then would look to ask the members to vote on the adoption of the revised Standing Orders. He said the adoption of the Standing Orders required two thirds majority to vote in favour ie. 7 members.

Councillor Suzanne Doyle proposed the adoption of the Standing Orders and this was seconded by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer.

Councillor Noel Connolly stated he had several concerns regarding the new Standing Orders

- 1) A motion was now defined as related to a function of the council, it removed the members ability to raise issues such as workers' rights.
- 2) Special Meetings being called by 4 members instead of 3, this was a disadvantage to independent councillors or councillors from smaller parties
- 3) Members cannot ask questions after deputations, if someone was lobbying for funding, members should be able to ask questions in a public forum
- 4) The roll call had been increased from 2 members to a quorum which again is an unfair disadvantage to smaller parties

Councillor Mark Stafford stated that the main purpose before the members was to bring the Municipal District Standing Orders in line with the Standing Orders for full council and he would support them.

Councillor Pender stated that the special meetings being called by 4 members instead of 3 was to do with the new quorum in line with the numbers on the current council. He said he



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had raised concerns with the points raised by Councillor Noel Connolly in relation to motions and rollcall votes.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated she disagreed with the Standing Orders stating they were restrictive and undemocratic. She proposed that the Standing Orders be sent for legal review. She stated she felt that it was unconstitutional that a motion had to be seconded before it was heard. She also asked why a quorum was needed for a roll call vote as in other councils it only took one person that did not agree, and a roll call vote was automatically taken.

Councillor Stafford stated as a point of order that members could ask questions during receipt of deputations.

Ms K Keane stated that the new Standing Orders did not prohibit the asking of questions from deputations. She stated that the issue of the legality of the document had been raised at full council, and at which the Chair of the Protocol Committee had confirmed that the Standing Orders had been drafted in accordance with the guidance that has issued from the Department and was satisfied that it concurred with all requirements that the council were made aware of.

On a point of clarification, Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that the guidance from the Department was a circular and was not proof of legality.

The Mayor called for a vote on the adoption of the revised Standing Orders

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Suzanne Doyle, seconded by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer, with 8 members voting in favour of the revised standing orders and 3 members against, the revised Standing Orders for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee were adopted.

The Mayor proposed a ten minute break be taken at this point of the meeting, this was seconded by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy and agreed by the members.



KN24/0321

New House Allocations

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Suzanne Doyle
That the council provide figures on new house allocations in this municipal district for previous 36 months, with breakdown by town and house type, i.e. purchase, direct build, lease, turn key and also identifying which are managed by the Local Authority and which are managed by Approved Housing Bodies.

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

A report was received from the Housing department informing the members that the following was the breakdown for the period 01/01/2018 – 28/02/2021 (679 in total)

Town	Purchase (KCC)	D. Build (KCC)	Lease (KCC)	Turn Key (KCC)	AHB
Athgarvan					01
Brownstown	1			19	
Kildare Town	28	32	26	46	67
Kilcullen	01				16
Monasterevin	47	0	01	15	10
Newbridge	76	13	12	01	210
Rathangan	18	18		01	14
Suncroft					02
The Curragh	03				01

Councillor Doyle made had the following queries

- 90% of housing was private delivery. Was the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage driving this?
- What were the councils plans for the next three year period and did it reflect over the other Municipal Districts too?



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Ms S Scully replied that the next project in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District was the delivery of units on the Athgarvan Road and that units were being delivered in accordance with Rebuilding Ireland, part of which was delivery under AHB/Leasing.

Councillor Doyle asked for a breakdown of the delivery across the county, noting that AHB's have delivered nearly 50% of housing and what were the implications of this in the long term and that this would need to feed back to national level.

Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy asked for a breakdown on AHB's, was it all acquired properties, or both acquired and leased.

Ms S Scully stated that she would come back to the members on those questions

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Suzanne Doyle and seconded by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer with all members agreeing, the report was noted.

KN25/0321

Universal Design Housing Stock in Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

The following question was proposed by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer

Can the council confirm what percentage of council housing stock in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District could be identified as universal design i.e. appropriate housing for people with disabilities?

A report was received from the Housing department informing the members that Units in Kildare County Council ownership are not identified as being designed to Universal Design standards. Units delivered by Kildare County Council are delivered in line with Kildare County Council's Plan for Housing Persons with a Disability 2016 (currently being reviewed). This strategy required 10% of units acquired and 12% of units are constructed to be suitable for persons with a disability.

All new units were designed to accord with the Building Regulations. Part M of the Building Regulations covers Access and Use, and this was the standard that Kildare County Council is funded to construct new units to, under the Capital Programme. Universal Design standards exceed Part M of the Building Regulations.

In a small number of cases Kildare County Council construct new dwellings under the Capital Programme, to accommodate a person with a specific need, where an Occupational



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Therapist's report was available, and this specific design received approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

In addition, Kildare County Council carried out adaptations or constructed extensions to existing units where a specific need had been identified based on an Occupational Therapist's report and a source of funding had been secured.

Councillor O'Dwyer asked if the council had met the 10% standard of acquired units over the past three years. Also in relation to Part M, were the units that had been acquired, at Part M standard or had the council to bring them up to Part M standard?

Ms S Scully stated she would revert to the Councillor O'Dwyer with this information

The report was noted.

KN26/0321

Removal of Hedge in Kilbelin, Newbridge

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

That the council confirm in relation to the hedge that was removed as part of the new housing development in Kilbelin, Newbridge and what mitigation measures can be taken to prevent the same happening in other developments.

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm department informing the members that planning permission was granted by An Bord Pleanála for a Strategic Housing Development at Kilbelin, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, (ABP 18/302141). The removal of the hedgerow did not require planning permission, and its removal was not a breach of any condition of the permission granted by An Bord Pleanála. A landscaping plan was submitted as part of the permission and may be inspected on the website of An Bord Pleanála or at Kildare County Council Online Planning Enquiry System. The Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 includes policies for the protection and management of existing hedgerows and for the replacement of hedgerows where removal was necessary during development.



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The members discussed the motion and had the following comments and queries

- Were the trees on the boundary in the ownership of Kildare County Council or the Developer?
- Was it necessary to take out the trees to put in the cycle lane?
- The hedge removal was carried out to facilitate the installation of drainage that services the graveyard and the provision of the cycle lane
- The construction manager had agreed to meet on site with members when Covid 19 restrictions were lifted
- Was this the site that military artifacts were found?
- Was there any other option other than removing the hedgerow to facilitate the drainage at the graveyard
- There was a need to prioritize the response from the council to an issue that was currently taking place.

Ms M Hunt stated that she would have the landscaping plan circulated to all the members. She stated that she was not aware of any military artefacts being located at the site but would check this. There was no tree protection order on the site and the hedgerow was within the site boundary on the inside of the boundary fence and it was her understanding that it was part of the developer's land holding.

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 and that the landscaping plan would be circulated to the members

KN27/0321

Designated parking spaces on the Curragh

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly
That the council develop designated parking spaces on the Curragh and introduce a bye law preventing cars from driving on the grass.

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



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A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm department informing the members that the Curragh lands were regulated by the Curragh of Kildare Act and related bye-laws and were not a matter for Kildare County Council. Notwithstanding this, Kildare County Council in collaboration with the Department of Defence have commissioned the services of Paul Hogarth Company as lead consultant for the delivery of firstly a Conservation Management Plan and secondly an Interpretation/Branding Strategy. The aim of the Conservation Management Plan was to provide clear policies and management actions that will be sustainable for the future of the Curragh Plains. The Interpretation/Branding Strategy aims to develop an overarching brand proposition and visual identity for the Curragh Plains. Putting anything in place prior to the delivery of both these plans would be premature pending the recommendations contained therein.

Councillor Noel Connolly stated he hoped the Department of Defence was paying a large proportion of the Conservation Management Plan. He stated the Curragh was a great amenity, and cycle lanes and car parking monitored by CCTV were needed. The members discussed this motion and made the following comments and queries

- There was a need to make sure that all amenities in the Curragh were accessible
- Was the Conservation Management Plan and the Branding Strategy being developed side by side?
- It was important not to pre-empt the consultation process
- New opening licences on to the Curragh should form an important part of the new Conservation Management Plan

Ms M Hunt stated that the Conservation Management Plan was being developed before the Branding Strategy, the Conservation Plan would include looking at appropriate sites for car parking, footpaths, cycle lanes. The Branding Strategy would deal with information relating to the Curragh e.g. telling the story of the Curragh. There were 500 submissions within 24 hours when the consultation was launched. She stated that there was one fee to develop the Conservation Management Plan and the Branding Strategy, €150,000 approximately, funded 50% by Kildare County Council and 50% by the Department of Defence.

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



KN28/0321

Submission to the Public Consultation on the Curragh Plains

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Chris Pender
That this municipal district prepares a submission to the public consultation on the Curragh Plains exploring multiple possible uses such as the development of a greenway that links up the surrounding towns/villages and exploring the tourism possibilities associated with Brave Heart Hill, Donnelly's Hallow, The Wrens, Saint Brigid, The Gordon Bennet Rally, etc. while remaining sensitive to its need to be identified as a Special Area of Conservation.
The motion was proposed by Councillor Chris Pender and seconded by Councillor Noel Connolly

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree, however Kildare County Council in collaboration with the Department of Defence had commissioned the services of Paul Hogarth Company as lead consultant for the delivery of firstly a Conservation Management Plan and secondly an Interpretation/Branding Strategy. The aim of the Conservation Management Plan was to provide clear policies and management actions that would be sustainable for the future of the Curragh Plains. The Interpretation/Branding Strategy aimed to develop an overreaching brand proposition and visual identity for the Curragh Plains. Public consultation in relation to a greenway that would link up surrounding towns would be premature pending the outcome and recommendations contained within these two documents.

Councillor Pender stated that as a Municipal District Committee they should come together as one voice when making a submission in relation to the Conservation Management Plan. The Mayor stated that this could be discussed amongst the members.

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

KN29/0321

Update on the Barrow Blueway

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



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That the council provide an update by way of a presentation on the Barrow Blueway route to include the detailed design for the road crossings and footpaths within the towns being delivered by Kildare County Council.

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 Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team ran a tender to the Roads Engineering Consultancy Design Framework for a Civil Engineering Consultant for the detailed design, of all road crossings, footpaths and the two no. pedestrian bridges, the preparation of a works package and appointment of a Works Contractor. Fehily Timoney have been appointed following a MEAT assessment. The SPPR Team have engaged with Roads Design on this, the traffic section, who have laid out some of their requirements. The SPPR Team also liaised with a representative from Laois County Council for works in Laois and the Area Engineers in Kildare.

The Consultants had visited the site to get a better understanding of the works required. The SPPR Team have procured Priority Geotechnical Limited to undertake ground investigation works in the area of the bridge locations, this work could not commence until after Covid restrictions were lifted. Fehily Timoney were currently putting a tender together for a utility survey at all road crossing locations. The detailed design work for road crossings, footpaths, bridges was not advanced enough at this stage to present to the members, but the SPPR can facilitate an overview of the scheme.

Councillor Duffy asked if there could possibly be a presentation at the April or May Municipal District meeting or a separate meeting to get to see the drawings. Ms M Hunt stated she would aim for the April Municipal District meeting but would confirm that with Councillor Duffy.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kevin Duffy and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy with all members agreeing that the report be noted. Ms Hunt to confirm with Councillor Duffy when the presentation would be given to the members.



KN30/0321

Green Space at entrance to Bord Na Móna

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

That the council support the retention and protection of the green space at the entrance to Bord na Móna with a view to opening up access to the area from Main Street Newbridge, in any new redevelopment of the site.

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm department informing the members that the council would assess any planning applications received in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development in consultation with relevant internal departments and external agencies.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy wished to put on record the desire within Newbridge that the green space at the main entrance to Bord na Móna be retained in any future re-development of the site. She welcomed the re-development of the space but also to recognise the importance of a green space in a community, and to have that green space almost as a town square. She asked for the Public Realm team to engage with Bord na Móna regarding the plan for the site.

Ms M Hunt stated that Bord na Móna had engaged the same consultant that the council had for the Cultural Quarter and there was substantial engagement between Bord na Móna, the Public Realm team and the consultants. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked if Ms Hunt thought that this green space site could be retained for the community. Ms Hunt stated that the green area in front of the protected structure on the masterplan, was retained. She stated that Bord na Móna were proposing a building/built edge along main street, on the left hand side. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked for a clear message to be conveyed to Bord na Móna of the importance to the community of retaining this green space. Ms Hunt said she would pass on these comments to the design team with Bord na Móna.



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Following a discussion by the members, the Mayor requested Ms. Hunt to arrange another meeting with Bord na Mona . Ms Hunt stated she would make contact with Bord na M6na and try and set up another meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Noel Healy with all members agreeing that the report be noted and Ms Hunt set up a meeting with the members and Bord na M6na

KN31/0321

Suspension of Standing Orders

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

KN32/0321

Location for Second Level School for the Newbridge-Kildare area

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

That the council clarify the outcome of recent discussions with the Department of Education regarding the identification of a location for the second level school for the Kildare-Newbridge area that was announced in 2018.

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm department informing the members that officials in The Department of Education (DoE) were currently in advanced negotiations with a landowner, in relation to the proposed acquisition of a site deemed suitable for the post primary school. The proposal sought to cater for expected demographic demand in the area. These negotiations were ongoing, in line with The Department of Education's comprehensive site selection criteria, technical consideration



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and assistance from Kildare County Council (under a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement). Further announcements would be made by the DoE when it became possible to do so. Unfortunately, due to commercial sensitivities, it was not possible to elaborate any further at this juncture however the members were strongly advised to note that the project was being given priority attention within the DoE

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that South Kildare Educate Together campaign was set up in 2014 and that the Department of Education initially disputed the campaign's figures, but then used them. She stated that what was needed now was an explanation as to why there has been a delay and what exactly were the issues in identifying the location, had the location changed from the Curragh post primary school, and what was the timeline for moving forward on this. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked for the Memorandum of Understanding to be circulated to the members between the council and the Department of Education and sought clarification on whether it was public or private land that was being considered. Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer asked if the council were in consultation with the Department of Defence and the Department of Education or just the Department of Education.

Ms M Hunt stated she did not have the information to hand in terms of a timeline or a location, that the Director of Planning engaged directly with the Department of Education and she would revert to him with the queries.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Anne Connolly with all members agreeing that the report be noted and Senior Executive Officer to revert to the Director of Planning with queries.

KN33/0321

Hill of Allen

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly
Can the council provide an update to the members on efforts to safeguard the Hill of Allen and the provision of car parking and visitor amenity facilities there?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety department informing the members that as the location was in private ownership, the provision of car parking and



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visitor facilities was a matter for the landowner. Any works would be subject to the relevant planning permission being in place to progress same.

Councillor Noel Connolly asked for the report that was circulated to the members after the September 2018 Municipal District meeting to be recirculated on foot of a motion from former Councillor Mark Lynch and asked if it could be established who owns the Tower.

The report was noted.

KN34/0321

Quarrying Operations and the Extraction of Peat

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Mark Stafford
Can the council confirm how many warning letters and enforcement notices have been served in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District in the past 18 months with particular reference to quarrying operations and the extraction of peat?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm department informing the members that the Enforcement Management System did not provide a breakdown of activity per Municipal District area nor did it provide a categorisation of unauthorised developments. If Councillor Stafford wished to provide details of the site(s) of interest, the enforcement team would revert to him in this regard.

Councillor Stafford asked if the council could clarify its role in relation to planning permission and enforcement in relation to the extraction of peat.

The report was noted.

KN35/0321

Circulation of application submitted to the URDF

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

Can the council circulate the application submitted to the URDF fund for the completion of the Southern Relief Road in Newbridge, including the application for the second bridge over the Liffey and a 1 kilometre section of road between the Athgarvan Road and Great Connell Road and any communications or feedback received from the Department since the application was submitted?



A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm department informing the members that the application was a very large file with a number of documents which cannot be sent as an email attachment, due to its size. It was available in the Teams folder - MD Kildare-Newbridge -Files-March 2021 and would be available on the Members Information Portal next Monday.

Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy stated she was happy with the report, and it had been discussed with Item 16.

The report was noted

KN36/0321

Litter Picking on the Curragh Plains

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly
That the council write to the Department of Defence requesting that more frequent litter picking be carried out on the Curragh Plains.

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

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment department informing the members that with the agreement of the members, the Council would write to the Department of Defence as requested.

Councillor Anne Connolly suggested a campaign or promotion by the council to encourage people to take home their litter. Councillor Doyle stated that as part of her role on the Environment SPC, they were looking at a number of pilot schemes around mobile signage. The Mayor stated that the members were in agreement of this motion.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Anne Connolly and seconded by Councillor Noel Heavey with all members agreeing that the report be noted and the District Manager write to the Department of Defence requesting that more frequent litter picking be carried out on the Curragh Plains.



KN37/0321

River Barrow at Monasterevin

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kevin Duffy
That the council consider fish habitat improvement works in the River Barrow at Monasterevin and meet with the Monasterevin & District Anglers Association to review the current river conditions and potential initiatives to increase the river's biodiversity and fish habitats.

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

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment department informing the members that The Council (Heritage Officer and SEE Flood Alleviation) would be pleased to meet with the angling group as soon as Covid-19 restrictions allow.

Councillor Duffy stated he was happy with the report.

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

KN38/0321

Solar Compactor Bins in Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Chris Pender
Can the council consider providing solar compactor bins (either sponsored or provided by the council) in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District?

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment department informing the members that there was no scope within the existing Municipal District budget to provide additional bins at present. The members would be aware that it was an objective of the recently adopted Litter Management Plan to carry out a general review of litter bin provision and servicing countywide, and also to review the distribution of costs among the five municipal districts.

The report was noted.



KN39/0321

2021 River Drainage Works

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kevin Duffy
Can the council provide the members with an update by way of presentation on the proposed 2021 river drainage works relevant to this municipal district?

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment department informing the members that the Senior Executive Engineer responsible for the Barrow Drainage crew would be pleased to attend the April meeting of the Municipal District.
The report was noted.

KN40/0321

Parks Works Programme 2021

Mr S Wallace stated that the reports on the Parks Works Programme for 2021 had been previously circulated to the members and asked if there were any questions.

Councillor Doyle stated that the members had allocated funds to cease the use of glyphosates and asked how much money was saved on Roundup? Mr S Wallace replied that he had offset some of the costs against changing the grass management practices, the reduction in glyphosates increased the cost as they were strimming rather than spraying and this had a higher cost element.

The report was noted.

KN41/0321

Resurface of carpark at Killinthomas Woods

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly
That the council write to Coillte requesting that the car park at Killinthomas Woods be resurfaced.

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



A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development department informing the members that if the members were in agreement, Kildare County Council would write to Coillte in relation to the resurfacing of the car park in Killinthomas Woods. Councillor Anne Connolly asked for the members agreement for the Council to write to Coillte in this regard and to stress that the works need to be carried out immediately. Councillor Mark Stafford wished to support this motion subject to confirmation that the lands were owned by Coillte and some of it not in the remit of Kildare County Council.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Anne Connolly and seconded by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer with all members agreeing that the report be noted, and Kildare County Council would write to Coillte in relation to the resurfacing of the car park in Killinthomas Woods.

KN42/0321

Slí na Sláinte Walking Route

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer That the council carry out a feasibility study of the existing "Slí na Sláinte" walking route through Kilcullen with a view to having this route shovel ready for any future central funding for cycle and walking routes.

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 the route would be examined in conjunction with the relevant internal departments such as the Transportation Department and Sports Partnership. Any work necessary would have to be considered in the context of the work required and existing commitments each section may have. The Parks Section did not have the capacity to undertake works related to the proposal in the current year but would like to progress projects such as this, to be ready for potential central funding announcements.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer stated that if this route was walked or driven it would be seen that there was very little work required. It was a very popular walking and running route and all



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that was needed in certain areas was to keep the verges maintained annually, new paths were not expected everywhere some gravel in areas might be required along with some signage. Mr S Wallace stated he would arrange a meeting with Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer to walk the route when Covid 19 restrictions lifted

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy with all members agreeing that the report be noted and Mr S Wallace would arrange a meeting with Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer.

KN43/0321

Newbridge Volleyball Club

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Heavey
That the members of this committee call on the council to engage with Newbridge Volleyball Club with a view to providing facilities for this long established organisation to adequately respond to the demand for access to their coaching and nurturing programme which has benefited many thousands of young people of varying abilities in Newbridge over the years.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Noel Heavey and seconded by Councillor Suzanne Doyle.

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development department informing the members that Kildare County Council had engaged with Newbridge Volleyball Club in relation to the facilities the club required. It was noted that the club provided great opportunities and was a valuable asset to the community of Newbridge. There were no immediate facilities within council ownership to meet the club's needs, but this would be kept under review should a suitable location arise.

Councillor Heavey stated that Newbridge Volleyball Club had been existing for over 40 years. It provided coaching to 6 or 7 local schools and never had their own facilities. There were 3 current players with the Irish National Squad that were from the Newbridge area, and 80% of the club's members were female. The District Manager stated that he had met representatives of the volleyball club with Mr Wallace and they were very impressed with their plans. He said he and Mr Wallace were following a few definite lines of enquiry and



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would keep the municipal district committee informed. Councillor Heavey wanted to make sure that the profile of the club was written in the record.

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

KN44/0321

Site identified for playground in Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer
Can the council provide an update on any potential sites that have been identified from their current landbanks or otherwise, in light of the allocation of €50,000 towards a playground in Newbridge?

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development department informing the members that a review of potential sites had not taken place yet but the locations were likely to be similar to those suggested for the location of the skatepark. It may not be possible to identify a site capable of locating a site big enough to facilitate the size of playgrounds (800-1000sq.m) that had been provided elsewhere around the county. It may be necessary to consider a number of smaller sites to facilitate extra play facilities. The council was working with the Newbridge Playground Group to progress the location of sites and what people would like to see provided. It was hoped to conclude this by the end of the year, but this was contingent on the council completing existing commitments in relation to Newbridge Boardwalk, Cherry Avenue and the monastic garden in Kildare town first as well as managing ongoing routine works.

The report was noted.

KN45/0321

Rationale of funding for Residents Associations

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer
Can the council explain the rationale that is applied when deciding how much core funding is allocated to each municipal district for Residents Associations, and if the council have any plans to increase the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District allocation from €2.74 to €6.15 per household in line with Naas, or €3.99 in line with Athy?



A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development department informing the members that the core funding allocated to each Municipal District was as set out in the spreadsheet that was presented by the Finance Department to the members in October 2020. The figures regarding Private Residents Association grants were in the main based on an historical breakdown, due to the contributions made by Town Councils. This reflects itself in the differences in the per households' rate between the Municipal Districts. Budgets could be considered by members during the budget process, but there have been no increases in recent years as to do so, would have meant a reduction in allocations elsewhere.

Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer stated that as members, this needed to be reviewed and noted with the members agreement that this be discussed in earnest at budget time.

The report was noted.

KN46/0321

Optimal Location for playground in Newbridge

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

Can the council outline the timeline and process for assessing an optimal location for the playground for Newbridge?

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development department informing the members that the council were working with the Newbridge Playground Group to progress the location of sites and what people would like to see provided for additional play in Newbridge. It was hoped to conclude this by the end of the year, but this was contingent on us completing existing commitments in relation to Newbridge Boardwalk, Cherry Avenue and the monastic garden in Kildare town first as well as managing ongoing routine works.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy welcomed the report and asked if the council could circulate the report prepared by Newbridge Development Association which was what informed the location of the skate park along with the assessment of sites for skate parks. Mr S Wallace



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stated he was not familiar with the report done by the Newbridge Development Association but would circulate the report of the audit on the skate parks. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated she would try and retrieve the other report.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded