



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District  
held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 16 November 2022  
in the Council Chamber**

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

**On Line:** Councillors F McLoughlin Healy, P O'Dwyer.

**Officials Present:** Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr J Hennessy (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr G Hooban (Executive Engineer), Ms S Walsh (Executive Engineer), Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Ms L Kennedy (LPT Co-Ordinator), Mr O Brady (Administrative Officer), Ms L Russell (Arts Officer), Ms P O'Brien (Senior Executive Officer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent) Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

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The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that before beginning the agenda a vote be taken on changing the date of the December meeting from 21 to 14 December. This change had been agreed at the November 21 Council meeting but had not been amended on the meetings calendar. The change was proposed by Councillor A Connolly, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members that the next Kildare Newbridge Municipal District meeting take place on December 14 rather than December 21.

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**KN01/1122**

**Declarations of Interest**

Declaration of pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

There were no declarations of interest.

**KN02/1122**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

To approve the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 19 October 2022 and to note the progress report.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she felt she had been misrepresented in the minutes in relation to item 26 regarding parking in Kilcullen. She was advised by the Chair and the meetings administrator that no request for an amendment had been received prior to the meeting so therefore an amendment would not be considered.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Doyle, with 5 members voting in favour and one against, that the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 19 October 2022 be approved and the progress report be noted.

**KN03/1122**

**Municipal District Road Works**

To receive an update on the municipal district road works.

**Road Resurfacing Works:**

Restoration maintenance and Restoration Improvement schemes are now complete.

**LPT:**

Rural road LPT schemes are now complete with the exception of road markings, due to this funding we were able to strengthen and surface dress 9 additional country roads.

**NTA:**



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- Works continue in Dara Park, footpaths and upgrade, access road to train station is nearly complete, road overlay will be carried out in the coming weeks.
- Works have commenced on Melitta Road, the provision a footpath connecting the town to Curragh Plains.
- Works on Green Road are continuing, widening of footpaths, provision of pedestrian crossing and road overlay.
- Works are continuing on Tougher roads footpaths have been upgraded and extended, installation of 20 new drainage gullies.

### Miscellaneous Works:

**Newbridge Town:** Drainage works at Standhouse Rd., The Oaks, Green Rd., Athgarvan Rd. John St, Ballymany due to severe heavy rain there.

**Hedge Trimming** in Langton Pk, Liffey Terrace, Raymond's Court, Old Connell.

Signage cleaning / upgrade in Pairc Mhuire, Road narrows signs installed at Morrinstown Bridge, Speed limit signs installed at Standhouse Rd, slow sign installed at Barrettstown road. Installation of tactile paving at Cutlery Road, paving repairs in Roseberry Hill, road repairs at Raymond Court.

**Newbridge Area:** Signage upgrade installation of green bollards Athgarvan Rd Barrettstown Rd, Slow Signs Brownstown Suncroft.

Patching works carried out at Curragh Racecourse Rd, Clongorey, Curragh Camp, Suncroft Brownstown Rd, Pollardstown Rd.

Drainage improvement works at the back of Racecourse/Pollardstown Rd.

Road Repairs in Blacktrench.

Pollardstown removal of spoil for disposal.

**Kildare / Rathangan area:** Drainage upgrade at Blackbridge Kildare, Maryville Kildare

Cleaning Gullies in Kildare, Rathangan and Monasterevin

Sweeping Leaves Monasterevin, Kildare and Rathangan

Road Repairs on the Portarlinton Rd and Mountrice Rd



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### Kilcullen Area:

Gully cleaning in Kilcullen, Caragh and. Brannockstown.

Kerb repairs at Bishop Rogan Park Kilcullen.

Pothole repairs at Mill Lane Browns Lane, Hillarys Lane, Ladytown Logstown Rd.

Sign cleaning at major junctions and water cuts on the R448

The report was noted

### KN04/1122

#### LPT Allocations 2021 and 2022

The below nominations were received.

LPT Members		
Councillor	Name of Community Group/Project	LPT Allocation
Noel Connolly	Monasterevin Community Centre	€1,000
Noel Connolly	Umeras Community Development Association	€3,000
Noel Connolly	Rathangan Womens Shed	€1,000
Noel Connolly	Monasterevin Womens Shed	€1,000
Noel Connolly	Carmel Cashin, Community Worker	€3,000
Noel Connolly	The Dining Room, Newbridge	€750
Noel Connolly	Teach Dara, Kildare Town	€750
Noel Connolly	Monasterevin Food Bank	€750
Noel Connolly	Monasterevin Youth Action	€750
Noel Connolly	Ellistown GFC	€500
Ann Connolly	Suncroft Community Complex	€3,500
Ann Connolly	Rathangan Womens Shed	€2,000

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly, seconded by Councillor A Connolly and agreed by all members that the above LPT allocations be approved.

### KN05/1122

#### Taking in Charge Cnoc na Gréine

Mr J Hennessy advised the members that a report had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting and that it was the recommendation of the Building and Development Control Department that Cnoc na Gréine be taken in charge.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by all members that Cnoc na Greine, Kilcullen be taken in charge.



**KN06/1122**

**Taking in Charge Cnoc na Gréine Woods**

This item was deferred to December Meeting.

**KN07/1122**

**Taking in Charge Forge Hill, Athgarvan**

Ms S Walsh informed the members that a report had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting and that it was the recommendation of the Building and Development Control Department that Forge Hill be taken in charge.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly, seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer and agreed by all members that Forge Hill, Athgarvan be taken in charge.

**KN08/1122**

**Taking in Charge Riverside Grove, Newbridge**

Ms S Walsh informed the members that a report had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting and that it was the recommendation of the Building and Development Control Department that Riverside Grove be taken in charge.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Heavey and agreed by all members that Riverside Grove, Newbridge be taken in charge.

Councillor Doyle thanked the Building and Development Control Team for significant works being progressed recently as a result of an increase in resources and LPT funding.

**KN09/1122**

**Taking in Charge Loughminane and The Plains, Kildare**

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

Can the council provide a progress report on outstanding issues for the taking in charge of both Loughminane and The Plains Estates in Kildare Town?

A report was received from the Building and Development Control Department in relation to Loughminane Green informing the members that as confirmed at the site meeting between Development Control, the residents' representatives, Cllr. Doyle and Cllr. Stafford on 7



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February 2022, Development Control have prioritised funding investigative works relating to the surface water system in 2022. Following extensive investigations and testing, we now await the resolution report from the appointed consulting engineers, which we are advised we will have by the end of the month. This engineering report will outline the main infrastructure issues.

A report was also received from the Building and Development Control Department in relation to The Plains informing the members that approximately €45,000 out of the €284,000 bond remains following remedial works to the entrance roadway, the rising sewer main, the pumping stations and the recent non-dig below ground repairs to the surface water and wastewater sewers. It was not possible to repair all of the foul sewer lines using non-dig repairs. However, we have monitored the estate following these works and we did not receive any reports of any surface water flooding or foul sewer issues in the estate in 2022. We did execute further minor tweaks to the pumping station at the rear of the site to remove the reported malodour. We are now in the process of submitting our documentation to Irish Water, which will allow us to agree to a Site Resolution Plan (SRP). Subject to securing additional funding, this SRP will be implemented to bring the estate up to a taking in charge standard.

Councillor Doyle stated that she appreciated the difficulties and was happy with the progress so far. She requested that the Building and Development Control Team liaise with residents to keep them updated. She also requested an approximate time line for the taking in charge. Mr G Hooban advised that Loughminane Green would take time and probably would not be within the next twelve months. Although The Plains required significant works Mr Hooban hoped it would be within the next twelve months.

The report was noted.

### **KN10/1122**

#### **Christmas Parking Arrangements**

To consider and agree Christmas parking arrangements in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District for 2022.

The members raised the following points:

- Changes to parking only causes confusion



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- Retailers in the area had provided negative feedback regarding the suspension of pay parking saying that it resulted in all day parking and not providing the footfall they needed.
- Could clarification be provided regarding the days wardens would be off as there would be no point in having pay parking if there was nobody to enforce it
- Could clarification be provided on what days were already free as in Sunday/Bank Holiday arrangements

Mr J Doyle confirmed that the days which would fall under Sunday or Bank Holiday rules where there would be no parking charges would be Christmas day, St Stephens Day and Tues 27 December, also New Years Day and Mon Jan 2

Councillor Pender proposed a suspension of pay parking in St Conleths GAA car park only.

Councillor A Connolly proposed that there be no suspension of pay parking.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that under standing orders a vote could not take place without the members knowing the affect to revenue.

Mr Doyle left the meeting briefly and returned to circulate figures to the members.

Councillor Pender proposed that pay parking be suspended in St Conleths GAA car park only from Monday 12 December to Tuesday 3 January. This was seconded by Councillor N Connolly. With 2 members voting in favour, 6 against and 1 abstention the motion was defeated.

Councillor A Connolly proposed that there be no suspension of pay parking in the municipal district. This was seconded by Councillor Heavey. With 6 members voting in favour, 2 against and 1 abstaining the motion was carried.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly, Seconded by Councillor Heavey and agreed by the majority that there be no suspension of pay parking in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District over the Christmas period.

### KN11/1122

#### **Pedestrian Route Newbridge Town Hall to Main Street**

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

That the council explore the possibility of creating a separate pedestrian route from Newbridge Town Hall to Main Street, Newbridge.



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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office agree to investigate the possibility of providing a pedestrian access at this location.

Councillor P O'Dwyer stated that a separate pedestrian was necessary for safety as she had witnessed chaotic scenes of late as pedestrians, motorists and people with mobility issues all tried to enter and exit the area at the same time.

Ms B Cuddy advised that she had some concerns. A wall would have to be removed to facilitate a separate route which may cause a heritage issue. There was also an issue with footpaths being on two separate levels which would require steps thus causing an accessibility issue. Ms Cuddy advised that she would investigate the area for a possible solution.

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

### KN12/1122

#### Repairs to George's Lane

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

That the council add George's Lane located off George's Street, Newbridge to the list of road surfaces for repair.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office agree to include for consideration as part of the 2023 Budget subject to funding and meeting requirements.

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





**KN13/1122**

**Bus Stops Kinneagh Cross**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer.  
That the council carry out a safety assessment at the two official bus stops at Kinneagh Cross with a view to installing a hard stand area for people to safely stand in off the road.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that these two stops are on the Connecting Ireland Programme for routes in Kildare. We are currently seeking to resource the Programme.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that there was no protection for pedestrians at the bus stops which were on the edge of a very busy road. She sought clarity on what was required to resource the programme.

Mr D Hodgins advised that funding was being sought for the implementation of the programme

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

**KN14/1122**

**Road at Lackagh Beg**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor N Connolly  
That the council ensure that the sinking section of the road above the culvert at Lackagh Beg (known locally as Lackagh Spring) is safe from collapse and install signs to warn approaching vehicles to slow down, to prevent damage to vehicles. ( [what3words /// The simplest way to talk about location](#) )

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



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office agree to carry out a site visit to assess the issue and evaluate if any remedial works are required subject to budget. Councillor N Connolly informed the members that part of the road has collapsed to the extent that it appears like a ramp. The local residents are aware of this but motorists who are not familiar with the road could damage their vehicles.

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

### KN15/1122

#### Drainage Works Newtown, Rathangan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly  
That the council carry out additional drainage works at Newtown, Rathangan.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were two soak holes installed to alleviate this issue one at Cribbons Lane and one at the football pitch, in recent heavy floods it took a few hours to dissipate, but these flash floods are proving problematic everywhere. Leaves blocking gullies is also a problem.

Councillor A Connolly advised that the drains may need clearing of leaves again as the area was still flooding.

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

### KN16/1122

#### Capital Projects

Councillor Doyle stated that she wished to defer this item until the January meeting pending a request for further information.



**KN17/1122**

**Safety Measures at Lumville Cross**

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

That the council install traffic calming/low-cost accident safety scheme measures similar to those at Brownstown Cross at Lumville Cross where the R413, L7042 and the Green Road meet.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor N Connolly. A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there is no budget or plans for works at Lumville at present, however the Municipal District office agree to assess and if meets the requirements of the low-cost accident schemes we will include for consideration.

Councillor T O'Dwyer advised that in reply to a similar motion she had been advised by Mr S Deegan that this junction would be included in the second tranche of works.

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

**KN18/1122**

**Yellow Box Eurospar Kilcullen**

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

That the council repaint the yellow box at the entrance to Eurospar, Kilcullen.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office agree to include this in our line marking program.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that the yellow box was faded and that even one car entering the box caused traffic chaos from every direction at the traffic lights.



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Councillor Stafford added that the Eurospar car park was a great asset and everything required should be done to maintain its use.

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

### KN19/1122

#### Towpath from Glenaree to Feighcullen, Rathangan

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

That the council tar the section of towpath used by motor vehicles, which is presently comprised of very rough crushed stone, along the Grand Canal from Glenaree to Feighcullen, Rathangan.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that from our roads schedule, this towpath is not in the charge of Kildare County Council, therefore we are not in a position to carry out works as requested. Councillor Stafford informed the members that the towpath surface was rough stone which was difficult for pedestrians and cyclists. Residents had been told works would be done to the surface as part of the Barrow Blueway. He queried whether this was a matter for Waterways Ireland. Ms B Cuddy confirmed the towpath was in their charge.

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

### KN20/1122

#### Speed Reduction Measures Green Road

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

Can the council confirm if there are plans for additional speed reduction measures on the Green Road, in particular approaching the educational facilities?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there is a major upgrade to footpaths and road surface on the Green road, including installation of pedestrian crossing, widening of existing footpath to 2 meters minimum, this will improve both safety for children and adults alike accessing the school.

The report was noted.

### **KN21/1122**

#### **Road Widening Athgarvan**

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

Can the council provide an update on whether the original Part 8 can be implemented in the widening of the road from the traffic lights junction in Athgarvan back towards the wider section on the approach road to Newbridge, following my motion raised at the June meeting.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this project has been placed on the three-year 2023-2025 capital programme. The question as to whether the existing Part 8 is still valid or not is still being examined and may take a legal interpretation. A consultant team will be appointed in 2024 to commence delivery in any case.

The report was noted.

### **KN22/1122**

#### **Traffic Surveys**

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

Can the council confirm how many traffic surveys were carried out in the last year, in this municipal district and are there any actions arising out of same?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were 46 traffic counts on various roads within the Municipal District area this year. These counts are used to determine the condition of the roads and for surface and road maintenance.



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Councillor N Connolly queried whether the data was available to view publicly.

Mr D Hodgins advised that the data was available on request and was uploaded periodically.

The report was noted

### **KN23/1122**

#### **Footpath Upgrade Árdcoil Rath Iomgháin**

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

Can the council confirm when the upgrading of the footpath at Árdcoil Rath Iomgháin will be completed?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that footpath tenders are being prepared and will be issued in the next few weeks.

The report was noted.

### **KN24/1122**

#### **Yellow Lough Cross Roads, Rathangan**

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

Can the council confirm any plans to put a yellow box at Yellow Lough Cross Roads, Rathangan?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there are no plans at present to put a yellow box at Yellow Lough Crossroads, Rathangan.

Councillor A Connolly stated that some traffic calming measures were required at this area but she was happy to discuss this with the District Engineer offline.

The report was noted.



**KN25/1122**

**General Operatives**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender.  
Can the council provide a breakdown of current and newly recruited general operatives broken down by location within the municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there is 4 General Services Supervisors (GSS) in the Municipal District, allocated to Newbridge Town, Newbridge surrounds, Kildare and Kilcullen. There are 23 General Operatives spread across the Municipal District.

Area in Municipal District	Number of General Operatives
Newbridge Town	4
Newbridge Surrounds	3
Kildare	10
Kilcullen	6

Councillor Pender queried why only four of the 23 operatives were allocated to Newbridge Town.

Ms B Cuddy advised that Kildare included Monasterevin and Rathangan and Kilcullen included the Brannockstown area. Additional staff could not be recruited due to budget constraints.

The report was noted.

**KN26/1122**

**Leinster Walk, Kildare**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford.  
Can the council confirm if there are any proposals to resurface the internal road at Leinster Walk, Dublin Road, Kildare?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the roads program is complete for 2022, there are no plans at present to resurface the internal road at Leinster Walk, Dublin Road, Kildare.

Councillor Stafford stated that the road was in a bad state of disrepair and needed to be included for works in 2023.

Ms B Cuddy advised that the criteria for inclusion in the roads programme was quite tight but there could be scope for doing some housing estate works in 2023 with LPT funding.

The report was noted.

The following two items were taken together.

### **KN27/1122**

#### **Peter McVerry Trust**

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

That the council give an outline of the terms and conditions by which Peter McVerry Trust has been licensed to run a hostel facility for homeless people in Newbridge. This information to include licence renewal date, remuneration and other financial supports provided by the State and/or local authority to support the work of the Trust in Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Peter McVerry Trust operate the hostel facility for Supported Emergency Accommodation in Newbridge by way of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) which is renewed annually. The SLA is due for renewal in January and it should be noted that this building is in the ownership of the Peter McVerry Trust.

Payment for provision of the service is deemed commercially sensitive and is subject approval of the SMG of the Mid East Homeless Forum and the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. The Council is not involved in or aware of other state funding that the PMVT may receive for the operation of this service.





**KN28/1122**

**Peter McVerry Licence Renewal**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey.  
That the council commit herewith to consult with public representatives including local councillors in advance of renewing/granting of a licence to Peter McVerry Trust/other service provider to operate homeless facilities in Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the operation of this facility in Newbridge is critical to the provision of Homeless services in the Kildare area providing supported accommodation for vulnerable clients. Engagement with members in relation to the provision of Homeless Services in the County is carried out through the monthly Chief Executives reports and on a regular basis with staff on the Homeless Team. The chair of the Housing SPC sits on the Mid East regional homeless forum and Homelessness is an item on the SPC Work programme, as a result the Committee is updated at each meeting on Homeless provision in the county. Renewal of the Service Level Agreement is an executive function and is subject to annual funding approval by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. A visit to the facility has previously been facilitated for members and this could be arranged again if required.

The members raised the following points:

- While this was a very sensitive matter there were a number of concerns including the normalisation of homelessness
- People who had no issues with alcohol or drugs were finding themselves here and had difficult experiences
- On what basis was the licence granted
- While they supported the seeking of information there was nothing normal about homelessness. It was the result of failed policy.
- There was a need for a second facility in the area. Was this being considered?
- There was a lack of addiction services in the area



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- While it was a difficult issue to address, the location was inappropriate for residents, people working in the area and service users as it was having an overwhelming impact
- Some people were choosing to stay on the street rather than use the facility
- A visit to the facility should be encouraged
- Could the SLA be made available to members prior to organising a visit
- Would Kildare County Council Officials commit to meeting with service users and residents prior to the granting of a new licence.
- Did the SLA contract provide reporting

Mr O Brady provided the following replies

- The Peter McVerry Trust provided an important service to vulnerable users who would be on the street otherwise. The service is provided by SLA rather than licence and this is agreed annually by the Housing Director.
- Supports were offered for mental health and addiction issues and while these services were used by some, service users have to accept and engage with these supports. If supports are not availed of this may result in no real move on of people or progression from placement.
- The SLA (with costs redacted) would be made available to members
- With regard to a second facility in this area there was a move away from increasing this type of service nationally with the preferred option now being the use of supported transition units, supported shared accommodation and hotels/B and Bs if necessary. The meeting was informed that a second facility was not currently being considered in this area.
- The Peter McVerry Trust would be open to engaging with the community and members
- Kildare County Council officials would meet regularly with service users. Request for officials to meet with residents in relation to the operation of this facility was not agreed and would need to be brought to a different forum for agreement
- Mr Brady would schedule a visit to the facility for the members

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted



**KN29/1122**

**Christmas Dinner for Homeless**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor N Connolly.  
Can the council outline the arrangements in place to ensure residents in homeless services and emergency accommodation in this municipal district are provided with a Christmas dinner?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that contact is made in December by the Homeless team with all individuals and families in emergency accommodation to ascertain their plans for the Christmas period. For those in facilities operated on behalf of Kildare County Council in the region Christmas dinner is supplied in these locations. For those in bed and breakfasts hotels etc or for those who may not have any options for Christmas Dinner the Homeless Team engages with charities in the Municipal District and ensures everybody is offered a Christmas Dinner.

Councillor N Connolly commended the team in reaching out to people to try to make what can be a difficult time for many people a little easier and queried if the Open Arms Church would be organising a public Christmas dinner as had been done in previous years as he would like to offer some support through LPT.

The report was noted.

**KN30/1122**

**Red House**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer.  
Can the council provide any update on the Red House and its future use?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the future use of the building is a matter for the owners however we can confirm that there is ongoing discussion in relation to this with the owners and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

Councillor P O'Dwyer queried if the council had any involvement in discussions.

Mr O Brady advised that he was not aware of any discussions with Kildare County Council  
The report was noted.



**KN31/1122**

**Kilcullen as preference on Housing List**

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

Can the council confirm how many people have listed Kilcullen as their first preference on the housing list broken down by year, as in time on the list and by housing need as in one bed, two bed need etc.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that there are currently 446 applicants on the Housing List with Kilcullen listed as one of their areas of choice.

This is broken down as follows:

**179 One bed,**

Pre 2010 – 17

2010 – 2015 – 44

2016 – 2018 – 49

2019 – 2022 – 69

**188 Two bed**

Pre 2010 - 13

2010 – 2015 28

2016 – 2018 60

2019 – 2022 87

**74 Three bed**

Pre 2010 - 5

2010 – 2015 18

2016 – 2022 51

**5 Four bed**

2017 – 2022 5

Councillor T O'Dwyer stated that the report highlighted the need for one and two bed units.

The report was noted.



**KN32/1122**

**Newbridge Water Tower**

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

Can the council confirm the current status of the review of services that are on top of Newbridge Water Tower?

A report was received from the Public Realm Department informing the members that the Watertower site is identified in the Draft Town Renewal Masterplan as a delivery project and the Public Realm team have already completed some works in consultation with Tidy Towns, the Area Engineer and the neighbouring landowner. Any future proposed works to the Watertower structure will be subject to agreement with the relevant parties including the IT Department in Kildare County Council.

A second report was received from the IT Department informing the members that status of the services that are on top of the Newbridge Water Tower as follows:

1. **Wireless network:** Up to forty remote office locations belonging to Kildare County council (KCC) are connected to the corporate IT network in the Áras through a wireless network. The network is managed on behalf of KCC by a third-party company called Paradyn. This network is connected using line of sight connections which can be quite challenging for connections.
2. **The Water Tower:** All the communications equipment on the Newbridge Water Tower belong to Kildare County Council. This equipment is used to manage the Council wireless network. The following offices are connected to this equipment.
  - a. Central Fire Station,
  - b. Newbridge Library,
  - c. Newbridge Sports Centre,
  - d. Western Area Office
  - e. Machinery Yard.
- 2) **Survey:** Last year we moved an existing wireless connection from Silliot hill Kilcullen which was previously connected to the Water Tower directly to the hill of Allen. We have already started to plan for the move of the Machinery yard. As part of this planning process, we engaged Paradyn to carry out a survey for the potential of moving all the



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equipment from the Water Tower to the roof of White Water. The Company who manages the White Water shopping centre kindly allowed us to carry out this survey. We were able to confirm that we could get line of sight connections for all the remote Newbridge locations with a direct line of sight connection to the Áras.

- 3) **Next Steps** the next stage of this plan was to make a formal request to White Water seeking permission to transfer all our equipment from the Water Tower to the roof of the White Water. There are several things to consider with this request
- a. Will Whitewater management allow this equipment to be located on their roof and if so, will they charge for hosting this equipment.
  - b. The actual cost of the physical move and install of the equipment, there is no allocated budget.
  - c. The annual cost for electricity for this installation, we currently paying an average of over €100 per month for this installation.
  - d. Our third-party supplier will need access to the roof for both regular maintenance and in the event of an outage we will need to clarify how this can be accommodated.

Kildare County council prefer that we locate all our communications equipment on Council or Public sector locations, but we also have precedent for locating our equipment on non-Council property e.g. The Kildare town shopping centre, Moore Abbey in Monasterevin.

The report was noted.

### **KN33/1122**

#### **Undergrounding of Cables**

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

That the council ensure that the undergrounding of cables form an integral part of any current or future Part 8 applications in this municipal district.

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



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A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Department informing the members that the Sustainable Transport Section includes the provision of underground ducting for the future relocation of electricity supplies, future proofing urban schemes and liaising with ESB Networks accordingly. This ensures that the ducting is available to ESB networks for use when they are ready to finance and implement undergrounding of services. The costs of undergrounding of services by the ESB is not included in the project cost as these financial considerations and the allocation of resources to undergrounding of services is a matter for the ESB to determine.

Councillor Pender stated that overground cables were constantly an issue for the tidy towns groups and raised the following points:

- Was it possible to make laying of ducting a condition of planning
- Roads and footpaths constantly being dug up for utility cables was a total waste of money and resources.
- Could clarification be provided from the Planning Department on the ability to condition ducting

Councillor Doyle also queried if it was possible for different utility companies to share the same ducting.

Mr D Hodgins agreed that there should be no need to dig up roads and footpaths. Ducting was now being provided in consultation with ESB Networks. It was also possible to provide further ducting which would remain in the ownership of the council which could be made available to other utility companies.

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

### KN34/1122

#### Heritage Sites

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

That the council devise a ten year policy to take into public ownership national, regional and local heritage sites located in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

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



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A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that this should be referred to The Planning and Economic Developments SPC for their consideration.

Councillor Stafford informed the members that many heritage sites had been managed by private owners for generations and he believed that these sites should be taken into public ownership as a priority.

The members advised that they welcomed and supported the idea but it may need to be driven by a national policy.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by all that the matter be referred to the the Planning and Economic Developments SPC

### KN35/1122

#### Derelict Site

That the council confirm if the property at (details provided) is on the derelict sites register.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that this property is already on the derelict sites register.

Councillor N Connolly suggested that the property in question could have a potential community use possibly as an interpretive centre. The current owners came into ownership in 2015 but it has been vacant since and was becoming very run down. The building was located in a prominent position.

Councillor N Connolly stated that he had some follow up questions which he would put to the District Manager offline.

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

### KN36/1122

#### Water Pressure Issues Borahard/Ladytown





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The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Given the chronic water pressure issues being experienced by residents in Borahard/Ladytown in Newbridge and the failure of Irish Water (IW) to sufficiently and appropriately explain the chronic issues residents are experiencing, that this council seek answers from IW regarding the low pressure in Borahard/Ladytown and their plans for dealing with the impact on local residents of current and future development in the area.

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that Irish Water is the public utility responsible for such matters and queries should be raised as follows:

Through its customer service line 0818 178 178 [dedicated line for elected representatives], by email [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie)

or

at the regular clinics which have been arranged specifically to facilitate elected reps [currently awaiting schedule of clinics times for next period]

The members raised the following points:

- Residents in the area were already suffering low water pressure
- Irish Water clinics had not been very fruitful as no explanations were being provided
- Was there anything in the SLA that could be used to address concerns
- Irish Water were not living up to the responsibility and effectively holding everyone to ransom. There was a need for accountability.
- Does the planning authority seek any reassurances from Irish Water in relation to future capacity before granting of permissions
- There was a need to request informing regarding capacity through the Freedom of Information Act.

Mr J Boland stated the following:

- The matter was for Irish Water and was entirely their responsibility. While he was happy to assist, items such as this should not be on the agenda
- Planning permissions were granted subject to securing a connection agreement with Irish Water. This was a process separate to planning which was done with Irish



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Water. Normally a preconnection enquiry was agreed prior to submitting a planning application

- Mr Boland confirmed that Irish Water would be subject to Freedom of Information.

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

### **KN37/1122**

#### **Public Toilet Kildare Courthouse**

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

Can the council provide a progress report on the opening of a public toilet beside the courthouse in Kildare Town?

A report was received from the Facilities Manager informing the members that building works on a disability access toilet are currently being carried out at Kildare Courthouse. This work is due to be completed in December and, when finished, will provide accessible toilet facilities associated with the use of the Courthouse building.

The report was noted.

### **KN38/1122**

#### **Sports Hub Rathangan**

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

That the council source a location/building to progress the development of a Sports Hub in Rathangan.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Department informing the members that the Sports Partnership were successful in securing Sport Ireland/Dormant Account funding in recent years to develop Sports Hubs in Athy and Monasterevin. Further Sports Hub development at locations in the county would be dependent on a successful Dormant Account application (including needs analysis) or local funding.



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Councillor A Connolly stated that the sports hubs in Athy and Monasterevin had proven a great success so it was imperative that the needs analysis was done asap.

The report was noted

As items 39 and 40 both related to the Riverbank Arts Centre they were taken together

### **KN39/1122**

#### **Riverbank Arts Centre**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy  
That the council provide clarification and an update on the ongoing delays in the redevelopment of the Riverbank Arts Centre given that Wexford Arts Centre and the Riverbank Arts Centre were both awarded €1 million in funding in 2017 and Wexford has completed and recently launched its newly developed centre.

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

### **KN40/1122**

#### **Riverbank Arts Centre Progress**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford.  
Can the council furnish a progress report on the redevelopment of the Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge particularly in light of the fact that the two other major flagship projects announced under Stream 2 of the Arts and Culture Capital Scheme 2016 namely Cavan Townhall and Wexford Arts Centre are completed?

A report was received from the Arts Officer informing the members that following on from my report in December 2021, Riverbank Arts Centre redevelopment plan (led by Design Team Studio Red) has made significant progress over the last six months. The current design



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proposal by Studio Red has met with approval by the Riverbank Board of Directors and new venue director (Caroline Williams, appointed in April 2022). The design team has been instructed to complete the feasibility stage, with preparation of up-to-date costings for the new, expanded scheme, now being prepared by the Quantity Surveyor. Pending review and approval by the RAC board of these reports, stakeholder consultations on the design proposal will be held in December 2022 and January 2023.

Once the detailed design has been costed, funding options will be identified and pursued.

The members raised the following points:

- The same funding was given to Riverbank Arts Centre as was given to Wexford Arts Centre and Cavan Town Hall at the same time. Both of those projects are now completed. What is the delay with Riverbank Arts Centre and could a timeline be provided for the completion of works.
- How much above the original funding will be required to complete the works.
- In Kildare Community and Arts came second only to the GAA and this was not being recognised. The delay was very disappointing.
- What was the cost of the delay
- Were there now two plans. Was the project in limbo. Could the masterplan now be circulated to members
- While Covid caused a significant delay this was now being actively pursued
- The lack of progress was very disappointing.

Ms L Russell made the following replies:

- Previously funding was only available for new builds. It was only in recent years that funding became available for refurbishments and accessibility.
- The Wexford project was a much smaller one. The Riverbank was on a tricky site and had a shared car park.
- It had been decided to make the project bigger than originally anticipated and a greater masterplan was being progressed with works to the entrance and to seating.
- The new masterplan required a greater level of design so no assessment of costs were yet available.
- The new masterplan would be circulated to members when completed which was likely to be February 2023.



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

### **KN41/1122**

#### **Rosconnell Sports Field**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council provide an update on opening the field at Rosconnell as additional space for sports?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that works commenced on the reinstatement of the field in Rosconnell in September however due to the wet weather in September and October it has not been possible to complete this. The works will be completed in late Spring early Summer 2023 once ground and weather conditions allow.

The report was noted

### **KN42/1122**

#### **Playground for Newbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy Can the council provide details of the expected timeline of the process for the tendering, design and completion of the playground for Newbridge?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that a tender for the design of two play areas in Liffey Linear Park will be tendered in Q1 2023. This will involve the design for a junior play area in the section of the park from St Conleths Bridge to the Watering Gates. A natural play area will be designed for The Strand Area. It is planned to have these in place by Q3-4 2023. Other locations which we consider suitable for play areas are Moorefield Park and Lakeside Park. It is proposed to develop a small play area in Moorefield Park close to the skatepark and to progress a design for this in the Q3-4 2023 with installation in 2024. A masterplan for the amenity space in Lakeside Park will be necessary to consider how best to improve the amenity value and recreational facilities in it and where to locate play facilities within it. A tender for this will commence in Q3 2023. All



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play areas will include for consideration the findings of the survey carried out last year and attached with this report.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy sought clarification regarding funding for the playgrounds

Mr S Wallace stated that there was an amount of €300,000 to fund the three playgrounds.

€60,000 of this had been set aside for the Liffey Linear Park with the remainder to be divided between Moorefield Park and Lakeside Park. A further breakdown could not be provided at this stage as designs had not been completed.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.