



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 19 October 2022
in the Council Chamber**

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

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Ms F Millane (Financial/Management Accountant), Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Mr S Deegan (Senior Engineer), Ms L Kennedy (LPT Co-Ordinator), Mr O Brady (Administrative Officer), Mr G Conlan (Senior Executive 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.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and suggested that items 4,5 and 6 be dealt with prior to item 3. This was agreed by the members.

KN01/1022

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.



KN02/1022

Minutes and Progress Report

To approve the minutes and to note the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Duffy, with Councillor McLoughlin Healy abstaining, that the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 21 September 2022 be approved and the progress report be noted.

KN03/1022

LPT Update 2022

To receive an update on 2022 LPT expenditure year to date.

The report was noted.

KN04/1022

LPT Allocations 2021 and 2022

To agree the residual LPT Allocations 2021 and 2022.

Councillor Duffy proposed that €20,000 be reallocated to Christmas lights from festival grants with €1,000 going to Milltown and the rest divided between the five towns of Newbridge, Kildare, Monasterevin, Rathangan and Kilcullen. This was seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer.

The members raised the following points:

- Communities may struggle to meet running costs this year.
- Could projects which had missed out on funding be investigated to check if some worthwhile project was not being overlooked.
- If funds were not drawn down by a certain date could they be reallocated

Ms L Kennedy advised the members that she would discuss this with the Community Team.

The members discussed the below discretionary items. Councillor P O'Dwyer advised that she was on the board of Newbridge Access Group. Councillor Duffy advised that he was vice-chairperson of the Barrow Blueway Monasterevin Committee and chairperson of Monasterevin Development Association.



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The following allocations were agreed

Councillor	Name of Community Group/Project	LPT Allocation amount	Name of community group to be paid	Brief description of work/project
Tracey O'Dwyer	Camphill Community, Kilcullen	€2,000	Camphill Community, Kilcullen	Towards the reopening of the nature trail and grounds and supporting linemarking, signage and information, fencing and gates in the training area.
Peggy O'Dwyer	Newbridge Family Resouce Centre	€750	Newbridge Family Resouce Centre	
Peggy O'Dwyer	Roads MD Office	€3,000	Roads MD Office	Installation of benches for Newbridge Access Group in St Conleths Cemetery
Fiona McLoughlin-Healy	Newbridge Athletic Club (2021 LPT Allocation)	€10,000	Newbridge Athletic Club	Towards the track and long jump
Fiona McLoughlin-Healy	Kilcullen Community Action (2021 LPT Allocation)	€2,000	Kilcullen Community Action	Towards a granite planter
Ann Connolly	Scarefest	€500	Rathangan Womens Shed	Towards the Scarefest festival
Kevin Duffy	Community Astroturf Pitch and Lighting	€2,500	Rathangan Secondary School	Construction of a community astroturf pitch and lighting
Kevin Duffy	Monasterevin Water Hub	€3,500	Monasterevin Barrow Blueway Kayak Club	Part 8 planning documentation and consultant reports (Structure and Ecology)
Kevin Duffy	Barrow Blueway Amenities	€1,750	Barrow Blueway @ Monasterevin Cttee	Match funding for awarded grants; water fountain and Heritage Sigange
Kevin Duffy	Monasterevin Christmas Lights	€2,500	Monasterevin Christmas Lights	Purchase of christmas lights and running costs
Kevin Duffy	Kill Hill Christmas Lights	€750	Kill Hill Christmas Lights	Running cost of the Kill Hill Christmas Tree
Kevin Duffy	Sports Hub	€6,500	Monasterevin Development Association	Part 8 planning documentation and consultant reports (Structure and Ecology) & Match Funding for LEADER strategic operational plan

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer and agreed by all members that €20,000 of unallocated festival grant funds be reallocated to Christmas lights and that all discretionary items be approved.

KN05/1022

Draft Budgetary Plan 2023

Ms Millane informed the members that in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the total draft General Municipal Allocation (GMA) for Kildare County Council was €15,610,006 for 2023 of which €5,211,369 was based on the retained LPT as voted for by members in September. The total provisional General Municipal Allocation for the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District was €3,652,426. She noted that the prescribed period for this year's Draft Budgetary Plan started on 14 October. She advised the members that this year's budget meeting was scheduled for 21 November and that a briefing would be held on Microsoft Teams on 14 November. She also explained that it was a reserved function of the members of a municipal district to adopt the draft budgetary plan either with or without amendment and that the Chief Executive may take account of the draft



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budgetary plan, as presented to the members of that municipal district, without amendment if they do not adopt a draft budgetary plan.

Ms Millane also advised of the following:

- Local Property Tax retained at +10% with no further increase
- Correspondence had been received from Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, Peter Burke in response to a letter from Ms F Millane regarding funding.
- There were concerns regarding a decrease in rates and no new valuations had been received in 2022

Ms P O'Brien advised that there had been changes regarding the calculation of Resident Association Grants, the grants were to be calculated based on acreage. It was hoped that the change would lead to better parity across the county and between the Municipal Districts.

The members raised the following points:

- The community department was commended on the change to criteria regarding resident association grants.
- Could €20,000 be moved from local road maintenance budget to resident association grants to create better parity with Naas
- How much funding from LPT would be required to have parity with Naas
- As the value to parity with Naas was still unknown, the community department should be given time to check how much would be required and also time to allow the new criteria to take effect.
- Some members did not agree to reducing the local road maintenance budget to increase resident association grants
- Parity with Naas was irrelevant but an extra €20,000 in resident association grants would make a big difference.
- The new criteria would also change the base amounts for Naas and would not create parity due to the extra amounts Naas allocated to resident association grants.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy proposed that an amount of €20,000 be reallocated from local road maintenance to resident association grants. This was seconded by Councillor Power. With four members voting in favour, six voting against and 1 abstaining the motion was defeated.



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Councillor Duffy proposed that the draft budgetary plan 2023 be adopted without amendments. This was seconded by Councillor Stafford. With nine members voting in favour and two members voting against the motion was carried.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Safford, with nine members voting in favour and two against that the Draft Budgetary Plan 2023 be adopted without amendments.

KN06/1022

Roads Projects and Planning Update

Mr S Deegan gave a presentation to members to update them on Roads Projects and Roads Planning in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District which covered the following.

- Newbridge Orbital Route and second bridge
- Newhall Junction
- Bridge Programme
- Kildare Town Transport Strategy
- Junction Programme
- Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn

The members thanked Mr Deegan for his presentation and raised the following points:

- What was the criteria for prioritising junctions. Would a junction of two local roads be less likely to be considered than a junction where a regional road was involved.
- Was traffic data used in the process or was in only accident data
- What plans were in place to address pinchpoints on railway bridges. Could traffic lights or one way systems be investigated.
- The issue of illegal encampments needed to be addressed before the completion of the taking in charge in Great Connell with possibly some mitigation measures put in place
- The second bridge would provide a vital connective piece to the plan. If the SHD was not approved what would happen to this bridge. An estimated cost for the bridge had been provided 12-15 years ago at a price of €6million. How was the same figure being estimated now.
- There was disappointment that Moore's Bridge had not been included



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- Space needed to be devoted to walking and cycling routes.

Mr Deegan replied with the following:

- Depending on the design recommendations and whether CPO was required, for example, constructions works would probably not commence until 2024 on the Junction Programme.
- The programme was driven by mainly accident data or “Locations of Interest” as noted in the DoT Regional Road Network Safety Analysis. Not all “Locations of Interest” were junctions.
- The Newbridge ABTA process was likely to highlight pinchpoints and constricted bridges. Irish Rail are a stakeholder in the ABTA consultative process.
- He could not discuss the second bridge in detail as it involved a planning application which had not been submitted yet and the €6million was an estimate of the Kildare County Council contribution.
- Traffic data was not specifically used as a criteria for any bridge programme. Solving congestion on bridges wasn’t the principle concern and there was now a need to be highly cognisant of climate change / active travel actions with more emphasis on safe walking and cycling routes.
- Many bridges would benefit from required widening, reconstruction etc. Particular bridges of concern were not in the ownership of Kildare County Council and would require working with other authorities – such as Irish Rail. Shuttling was not recommended as, for example, queueing distance / time could be long encouraging bad driver behaviour. In such instances the recommended solution was to have the bridge replaced
- The taking in charge process at Great Connell was being worked on but as this was currently a private road the council had no role in dispersing the illegal encampment.
- Bridge remediation was prioritised and received department funding based on an Eirspan rating.

The report was noted.



KN07/1022

Municipal District Road Works

To receive an update on the municipal district road works.

Road Resurfacing Works:

The Restoration Improvement program is also nearing completion, except for the joint NTA Restoration Improvement schemes at Green Road and Tougher Road Monasterevin.

Road Maintenance:

The 2022 Surface dressing program is now complete just awaiting final line marking.

LPT:

Rural road LPT schemes are now completed except for line marking.

Pinkeen Stream:

Contractor is finished the installation of the bridge at the pinkeen stream, the Municipal District office will commence the road crossing in the coming weeks.

NTA:

- Works have continued in Dara Park, widening of existing footpaths, regularisation of parking bays and road overlay.
- Tender awarded for Melitta Road, footpath extension providing access to The Curragh.
- Works continue on Green Road, widening of footpaths, provision of pedestrian crossing and road overlay.
- Works have commenced on Tougher Road with view to completion before Christmas, these works include new footpaths, parking bays, upgrade of existing footpaths and road surface overlay.

Kildare Patching bog roads Rathangan Portarlington Road Monasterevin



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Repairing trip hazards in Kildare town outside Apache Pizza, drainage on Drogheda Street Rathangan and hedge cutting on junctions Rathangan, Feighcullen Monasterevin and Kildare.

Newbridge: Drainage works gully cleaning Loughbrown, Newbridge town, The Priory, Mount Carmel, Ailsbury Park, Belmont Green, Signage cleaning and upgrade in Newbridge. Strimming and verge cleaning in Newbridge Town.

Kilcullen: Patching in Caragh and Ballymoney area. Gully cleaning Brannockstown and Kilcullen, Water cuts throughout the Municipal District, signage replacement and cleaning.

Newbridge Surrounds: Drainage works Milltown, manhole repairs Church View Suncroft. Patching, water cuts Milltown Curragh. Road repairs Blacktrench, concrete retaining walls Clongorey, signage replacement and cleaning.

Councillor A Connolly expressed her thanks for recent drainage works at Maddenstown. The report was noted.

KN08/1022

Extension of Pedestrian/Cycle Lane to Athgarvan Road Junction

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

That the council explore the option of developing a full pedestrian/cycle lane to extend to the junction on the Athgarvan Rd towards Ryston to complete the present works being done by Glenveagh.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Newbridge Local Transport Plan was currently under development. The Phase 1 consultation had recently been completed and the analysis of the responses and the preparation of the baseline report was now ongoing. Once complete the consultants would begin the development of options for the town of Newbridge. One of the options would cover pedestrian and cycling routes around the town and this potential



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extension would be considered as part of this analysis. These options would be presented to the Municipal District Councillors for consideration in the first half of 2023 before the Phase 2 consultation takes place.

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

KN09/1022

Accessible Parking at An Tearmann

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer. That the council consider installing a dedicated blue demarked accessible parking space in front of An Tearmann in Kilcullen to enable service users and less mobile visitors, access the gardens.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Roads Design would review this location as part of the Kilcullen Parking Bye Laws. It was unlikely the council could provide this type of parking at this location due to the existing road width.

Councillor T O'Dwyer advised that the road was actually wider at the point where the space was requested than where spaces currently existed and would welcome an onsite meeting to discuss the matter further.

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

KN10/1022

Pedestrian Crossing Templemills Rathangan

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

That the council put in place a pedestrian crossing from Templemills Estate, Rathangan to St.Patrick's Boys school.



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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that traffic calming and an uncontrolled crossing point were provided on the section of road between Templemills Estate and St. Patrick's Boys school. There was evidence of haphazard parking by road users in proximity to the crossing point at school pick up/drop off times which affected the effectiveness and safe use of the crossing. Methods to deter such parking and to improve visibility of the crossing would be investigated.

Councillor A Connolly informed the members that she would work with Ms B Cuddy offline to find a resolution.

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

Councillor Stafford suggested that item 27 be taken with item 11 as it referred to the same subject. The members agreed.

KN11/1022

Public Lighting Bourne's Lane

Item 11

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

That the council liaise with Thoival Homes, the developer of Templemills Estate, Rathangan, to have the public lighting on Bourne's Lane, switched on.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that it was the developer's responsibility to engage directly with the ESB to activate the power source to the new public lighting that had been installed on Bourne's Lane. There were delays from the ESB at present in carrying out this type of work. The developer has been contacted and a timeline for connection has been requested.



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Item 27

Lighting Bourne's Lane Rathangan

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

Can the council confirm when the public lights at Bourne's Lane, Rathangan will be switched on?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that It is the Developer's responsibility to engage directly with the ESB to activate the power source to the new public lighting that has been installed on Bourne's Lane. There are delays from the ESB at present in carrying out this type of work.

The Developer has been contacted and a timeline for connection has been requested.

Councillor A Connolly advised that the lights had been in situ for 2-3 years but had never been switched on leading to the area being very dark and potentially dangerous.

Councillor Stafford added that switching on lights on Bourne's Lane was a condition of planning but the lights in the estate itself were all currently switched on.

The members requested that the developer be contacted again and that they be kept informed of progress.

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

KN12/1022

Upgrade R424 Monasterevin to Portarlinton

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

That the council seek national funding to repair and upgrade Kildare's portion of the R424 Monasterevin to Portarlinton road as part of the road has subsided making the road uneven and unsafe.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Further to a site visit, the Municipal District Office agree that this road requires upgrading. It is a bog road that has subsided due to both the nature of the road



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and the impact of a warm summer and wet winter. There was no Restoration Improvement works budget remaining in 2022, if funding became available, we will review this location. Councillor Duffy advised that this road was in a very poor condition on the Kildare side and was potentially in a very dangerous condition.

Ms B Cuddy advised that funding of €200,000 had just been confirmed under a climate change initiative and these works were now gone to tender.

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

KN13/1022

Footpath Rathbride Road to Curragh

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

That the council meet with residents and local clubs to investigate the possibility of extending the footpath along Rathbride Road to the Curragh.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was no funding remaining in the 2022 budget. The Municipal District Office agreed to liaise with the National Transport Authority and the Active Travel Team to discuss the possibility of funding in 2023 as it provided connectivity from Kildare to the Curragh.

Councillor Duffy advised that a connecting path would benefit the local soccer and golf club who currently were using a 200m grass verge.

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

KN14/1022

Footpath Dowdingstown Woods Estate to Two Mile House

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



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That the council commence the legal land transfer process in Two Mile House to ensure we are shovel ready should funding become available through the NTA to install a connecting path from Dowdingstown Woods Estate to the village of Two Mile House.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that land transfer and the installation of a footpath at this location would require funding. There were no available funds for this year. This could be revisited in 2023.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that residents of Dowdingstown Woods Estate had been waiting for 15 years for a footpath connecting the estate to the village so children could safely travel to school.

Ms B Cuddy advised that the issue could be revisited in early 2023.

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

KN15/1022

Local Link Bus to Caragh

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council provide an update on the expected timeline for the delivery of the Local Link bus route to service Caragh and surrounding areas.

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

A report was received from Local Link informing the members that the commencement date for the service relating to this motion, was Monday next, October 17. We would continue in test mode for the proposed timetable and would continue in test mode until Friday October 14. The service would be promoted and operated as Route 821. The *go live* timetable would be available on our website www.locallinkkildaresouthdublin.ie from 1600 hrs on Friday.



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Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she was delighted to see the bus service had been delivered but there appeared to be an issue on the timetable regarding pick up and drop off points. She also queried why the report was provided in the name of Mr Kerry.

Councillor P O'Dwyer advised that that the bus could not travel over the bridge in Caragh which may have caused the issue.

Mr D Hodgins advised that he would contact local link in this regard.

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

KN16/1022

Water Ponding Chapel Square Rathangan

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

That the council investigate water ponding at Chapel Square/New Street Rathangan which is collecting on the footpath and may be contributing to rising damp.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was a gully installed at this location recently, which should alleviate the ponding situation.

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

KN17/1022

Feighcullen Cross Rathangan

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

That the council review the junction at Feighcullen Cross, Rathangan for inclusion in the low-cost safety scheme and hedge/tree trimming.

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



A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office will include this work for consideration in our 2023 programme of works.

Councillor Stafford requested that this junction be included in the low cost safety scheme as soon as possible.

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

KN18/1022

Parking Tariff Liffey Terrace

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer. That the council set a 3 euro per hour tariff rate charge for parking at Liffey Terrace, Newbridge.

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 this was a decision for the Elected Members. However, the Roads Department could confirm that this proposal was currently in operation in St. Ita's Place, Naas, St. Patricks Park, Celbridge and the residential areas of Maynooth. This amendment may alleviate the current parking limitations for residents and free up parking spaces for residential permit holders and was working successfully in other towns in County Kildare.

It was agreed by all members that the tariff for parking at Liffey Terrace should be set at €3 per hour and that this should come into effect as soon as possible.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all members that the tariff for parking at Liffey Terrace should be raised to €3 per hour.



KN19/1022

Railway Bridge Morristown Road

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor N Connolly. Can the council confirm if there are any plans to address the choke point at the railway bridge on the Morristown Road after Watercress Manor, including the possibility of making the bridge one way?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that given the location of the railway bridge on the Morristown Road – which acts as an orbital route for road users in the Southwest section of Newbridge Town, the recommended solution for the bridge was for two-way traffic to be maintained with facilities provided for vulnerable road users – similar to what was provided at the railway bridge at Station Road/Newbridge Railway station. This would be reviewed and considered as part of the Newbridge Town Transportation Strategy.

The report was noted.

KN20/1022

Bus Stop Athgarvan Road

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer. Can the council clarify whether the bus stop on the Athgarvan Road near the junction at Military Road is an official stop?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that on the Transport For Ireland (TFI) Journey Planner, the only route that appeared to be passing by this location was the '129 - Local Link'. The route sequence did not appear to show any stop at this location by the NTA/operator. To clarify, a request had been made to both the NTA and Local Link to confirm if this location had an official stop. The council will revert with an update when a response is provided.

Mr D Hodgins advised that the matter was being checked with the NTA and TFI and he would revert to members with a response.

The report was noted.



KN21/1022

Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer.
Can the council confirm how many submissions for the recent Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) were received?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that 729 submissions were received via the online portal plus several hard copy submissions following the age friendly cinema screening.
The report was noted.

KN22/1022

Lighting at Bishop Rogan Estate Kilcullen

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer.
Can the council provide a status update on the installation of two new lights that were match funded through LPT last year for Bishop Rogan Estate, Kilcullen?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the installation of lighting at this location had been referred to the maintenance contractor for scheduling.

Councillor T O'Dwyer requested that these lights be prioritised.

The report was noted.

KN23/1022

Connecting Path Kilbelin Abbey to Walshestown Cross

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer.
Can the council confirm if there are plans to install a connecting path from Kilbelin Abbey to Walshestown Cross to bridge a gap between two existing paths.



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office had no plans at present to install a footpath at this location.

The report was noted.

KN24/1022

Barronstown Lane, Milltown

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

Can the council confirm if there are any plans to carry out remedial works/resurfacing on Barronstown Lane, Milltown?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was the possibility of carrying out a Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) at this location if the local community were interested. There were no plans to include in next year's Restoration Improvement Scheme.

The report was noted.

KN25/1022

Bus Stop Cross and Passion School

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

Can the council provide an update on the transfer of land for a bus stop at Cross and Passion school in Kilcullen to include reassurances about the number and nature of communications between the council's legal advisors and the legal advisors acting for the owners?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Department were actively progressing this matter with the legal team. Once the consent of the Charities Regulator was given to the Cross and Passion Convent, the acquisition of the plot of land by the Council could proceed.



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Councillor McLoughlin Healy if a timeline was available and could an update be requested from solicitors.

MS B Cuddy informed the members that the council had agreed to paying the fee involved.

Mr D Hodgins advised that the timeline was not currently known but he would request an update from solicitors.

The report was noted.

KN26/1022

Parking in Kilcullen

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy
Can the council provide an update on the actions taken, in relation to the purchase of land for parking in Kilcullen, since it was last debated in Council, to include the valuation carried out by the council and/or the owner?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that a number of options were still being considered including, but not restricted to, the lands at the rear of Fallons.

A full examination of possible funding sources was underway but not finalised for a resolution to the parking issues in Kilcullen.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy advised that the provision of alternative parking was to tie in with the development of Market Square and she had assumed that agreement was imminent. Could valuations now be provided for any lands under consideration.

Mr G Conlon advised that negotiations were ongoing and the council were actively engaged on a number of options. As these were third party lands Kildare County Council valuations could be provided to the elected members only as the information was commercially sensitive.

The report was noted.

KN27/1022

Civic Memorial

To consider the Civic Memorial application for Market Square, Kildare Town



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As the details of the application had been previously circulated, the Meetings Administrator advised the members that the recommendation from CPG that permission be given for updating of the information on the existing memorial at this time and any long-term changes to the structure of the monument be considered in the context of a move to another location, if required, in due course

The members raised the following points:

- The proposed new design was totally inappropriate.
- A more significant redesign could be done in conjunction with moving the monument from Market Square in the future.
- The project should be delayed and done properly
- The development of Market Square should have been completed before the 100 year anniversary but this was impossible.
- Due to the significant anniversary the monument should be upgraded as per the original application.

Councillor N Connolly proposed that the original application be approved ie that the Plinth be removed and that an additional stone with all of the names recorded on it be erected at the site. This was seconded by Councillor Pender. Following a vote, with 3 members voting in favour, 4 against and 2 abstaining, the motion was defeated.

Councillor Stafford proposed that the CPG recommendation be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Doyle. Following a vote, with 4 members voting in favour, 3 against and 2 abstaining the motion was carried.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by a majority that the recommendation from CPG that the missing names be added to the existing structure. and the monument cleaned up be approved.

KN28/1022

Mountain View Athgarvan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council clarify when the disposal of the land at Mountain View Athgarvan was completed and the purchase price, approved in 2020, paid to the council, to include an explanation for any delay in completing the transaction/payment of monies to the council.



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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the disposal of the land at Mountainview, Athgarvan approved in 2020 had not completed. Kildare County Council received Stage 4 approval from the DHLGH on 3 October 2022 for the award on contract for the construction of the 18 social housing units and the access road at Mountainview, Athgarvan. Kildare County Council was now engaging with the successful contractor to agree coordination and access arrangements across the lands retained by Kildare County Council, which would be within the contractor's site area. The disposal of the lands, subject to the Section 183 resolution, including all transactions relevant to this sale, would be completed once these arrangements are in place.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy queried why the process was taking so long and stated that the price agreed two years ago was no longer appropriate. If it was true that the site had been flipped to another developer some loopholes needed to be tightened.

Mr Ollie Brady advised that the Section 183 presented to and agreed by the councillors in 2020 clearly stated that access arrangement needed to be agreed prior to completion and negotiations were ongoing in relation to this. Stage 4 approval had only recently been received from the Department.

Following a discussion among the members

Mr Brady confirmed that:

- Stage 4 approval had been received from the Department
- The contract was in motion
- It was clear in the Section 183 document that agreement had to be reached
- Nothing was being hidden from the members

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



KN29/1022

Road Surface Barrow Blueway

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

Can the council confirm if it is monitoring the durability of the unbound hardcore surface on the Barrow Blueway and if any difficulties are anticipated.

A report was received from the Public Realm Department informing the members that the surfaces that were first laid in late 2019 continued to hold up well. The surface integrity remained intact. This was an unbound surface and as such would require periodic maintenance/topping up. The timeframe of this type of maintenance would depend on usage numbers as it was related to wear and tear.

Monitoring of the surface was currently taking place by Waterways Ireland, for example, one area did require surface maintenance following cattle breaking out onto the Blueway.

There would be maintenance agreements in place, between Waterways Ireland and Kildare County Council, once the Barrow Blueway was complete in its entirety.

The report was noted.

KN30/1022

O'Modhrain Hall

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

That the council resume, and pursue vigorously, the Compulsory Purchase Order process relating to O'Modhrain Hall, Newbridge and provide a report to the members on the amount levied under the derelict sites levy, and the amount collected, in relation to O'Modhrain Hall.

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that as previously outlined to the Municipal District, an amount of €19,525 in derelict sites levies accumulated to end of 2021 and these were discharged from the proceeds of sale. A further sum of €3,300 would become due in respect of 2022. The Council would engage with the new owners to ascertain their intentions regarding addressing the dereliction and update the



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elected members accordingly. In this context, the Council continued to have a range of statutory options available to it under the Derelict Sites Act, including compulsory purchase. The District Manager informed the members that levies to the amount of €19,525 had been received. The balance of the sale price remained with the Charities Regulator.

The members raised the following points:

- Could clarity be provided regarding the statutory options available under the Derelict Sites Act.
- Was there any benefit to pursuing a Compulsory Purchase Order
- Funds collected in relation to the sale needed to be allocated to the Newbridge area and not spent nationally.

The District Manager, Mr Boland advised that the following options were set out in the Derelict Sites Act:

- Engagement with the owners
- Issue statutory notice to have works completed
- Pursue through the courts
- Compulsory Purchase Order

would be happy to re-engage with the Charities Regulator to reinforce the members concerns and to engage with the new owner regarding the issue of dereliction and future plans for the building.

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

KN31/1022

Water Infrastructure Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor N Connolly. In light of recent planning applications, the existence of water hungry industries such as drinks manufacturing companies, and the industrial zoning in the area of Old Connell/Great Connell/Little Connell, has the Council any plans, or are they aware of any plans, to improve the water infrastructure in the area, to address residents' concerns regarding the current water supply and pressure?



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A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that this was a matter for Irish Water and really should be raised through their scheduled clinics. By way of comment, recent connection agreements with Irish Water had included conditions regarding the provision of additional water infrastructure on the part of new developments at their cost to include new pipelines, telemetry etc in order to ensure no impingement on local supply /capacity /pressure etc

The report was noted.

KN32/1022

Outdoor Exercise Equipment

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

That Comhairle Chontae Chill Dara provide outdoor exercise equipment within the environs of the town of Monasterevin.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there was no objection to the proposal of outdoor exercise equipment however a number of criteria would have to be met. These were:

1. A suitable location would have to be identified
2. An assessment of the type and number of equipment pieces whether it would be standard equipment with moving parts or calisthenic equipment or a mixture of both
3. A budget was identified to deliver the equipment.

The work involved in the provision would also have to be considered in the context of the existing commitments to a range of projects within the Municipal District.

Councillor N Connolly advised that the equipment would greatly complement the Blueway and queried whether a rough estimate could be provided which could possibly be provided by LPT.

Mr S Wallace advised that the price would be in the region of €30-€40,000.

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



KN33/1022

Liffey Lodge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey.
That the council provide details of how and when it will bring forward a process to determine the medium term split of community/housing options for its recently purchased facility known as Liffey Lodge, Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that Liffey Lodge is currently in use as a rest centre in support for displaced persons from the Ukraine. When the site becomes available for the use of the wider community in Newbridge, Kildare County Council's community department will conduct an expression of interest process, that will allow local groups to submit their requests to use the facility for community activities. Submissions will be assessed to ensure there is a good mix of activities and groups in the building.

Councillor heavy stated that he welcomed the news that Liffey Lodge would come on board for community use.

Councillor P O'Dwyer queried if clarification could be provided regarding housing's role in Liffey Lodge.

Ms P O'Brien advised that the building would be for community use and the site itself would be used for housing.

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

KN34/1022

Facilities/Services to Benefit Community Life

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey.
That the council suggest other new facilities/services, in addition to those currently being planned, that could be brought forward to benefit community life in Newbridge eg. Public WiFi in 'teen spaces'.



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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that a number of initiatives are currently underway by various departments in Kildare County Council which enhance community life in the Newbridge area including the following:

- Newbridge Library provides free Wi-Fi to customers, including teenagers, with their library card number and PIN. Additionally, students can avail of library Eduroam services. Eduroam, short for education roaming, is a Wi-Fi service which enables students, researchers and staff from participating institutions to securely access the internet at their college/university whilst using any of Kildare libraries. This is provided in partnership with HEAnet and is available to third level students at Newbridge Library.
- Kildare Music Generation supported by KWETB in partnership with Kildare County Council, have a number of new projects which will actively engage with young people such as:
 - Commencement of a percussion hub in Newbridge Family Resource Centre with the aim to create a "Samba group" or a 'Drum Circle' where young people can come together as part of a performance group
 - Creation of a 'Rock Jam' group which will serve as a practice space for young musicians who wish to play in a band.
 - While not specifically in Newbridge, however in the MD of Kildare Newbridge, it is planned to form a choir in Kildare town in the coming months. A very successful pilot project was run in St Brigid's NS in Kildare town last year.
- The Riverbank Theatre have a number of upcoming community and youth programmes including:
 - Fighting Words creative writing workshop
 - Halloween camps
 - Family Cinema days
 - Music and sensory play classes for toddlers and parents
 - Art workshops



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- Family Story Telling Days
- A number of Age Friendly initiatives are being considered for Newbridge and Kildare County Council community worker continues to engage with numerous community groups in the area such as Women's Shed groups and youth groups.
- Liffey Lodge will become available in the future for use as a community facility which will be available for local groups.

Councillor Heavey stated that his motion was more to do with what was being done in other local authorities that had not been considered in the Municipal District.

Councillor Doyle suggested that a consultation could be done in conjunction with the Local Area Plan.

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

KN35/1022

Monasterevin Bank of Ireland

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

Can the council provide an update on the purchase of the Monasterevin Bank of Ireland and the next steps as a future Remote Working Hub?

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office informing the members that Kildare County Council made an offer to purchase Bank of Ireland Monasterevin under the Governments RRDF funding for town and village renewal Scheme and it had been accepted. Valuation and property surveys had been completed and contracts would be signed off by Kildare County Council once all due diligence was complete by our solicitors. Once contracts were completed the department would sign off on the purchase fund. Hopefully the entire process would be completed before end of November.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.