



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 13 December 2023
in the Council Chamber**

Members Present: Councillor N Heavey (Mayor), Councillors A Connolly, N Connolly, P Curran, K Duffy, P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer

Remote Attendance: Councillors F McLoughlin Healy, R Power and C Pender

Apologies: Councillor S Doyle

Officials Present: Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Ms R Jackson (LPT Co-Ordinator), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Mr B Murnane (Executive Engineer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Executive Parks and Landscape Officer), Mr A Gaynor (Business Advisor), (Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Ms P O'Brien (Senior Executive Officer), Ms K Lane (Administrator Officer), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Administrator), Ms KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

KN01/1223

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of (a) conflicts of interest or (b) pecuniary or beneficial interests under section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

There were no declarations of interest.

KN02/1223

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the special Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 26 October 2023, minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 15 November 2023 and noted the progress report.



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The Meetings Administrator informed the members of a request from Councillor N Connolly to amend the minutes of the LAP special meeting on the 26 October 2023 in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Doyle agreed by all members present that the minutes of the LAP special Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on the 26 October 2023 be approved with the proposed amendment and the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 15 November 2023 be approved and the progress report be noted.

KN03/1223

Municipal District Road Works

The District Engineer gave the following update on roadworks in the Municipal District.

Road Resurfacing Works:

Restoration improvement:

Works have now commenced on the R445, the last section of works for the current year is the roundabout section, these are night works and are weather dependent, hopefully they will be completed by year end.

Restoration Maintenance schemes:

All RM are also complete within the Municipal District.

LPT:

Eyre Street: – Works are complete on Eyre Street.

Low-Cost Safety schemes:

- Ballykelly Cross – Works are ongoing junction overly complete, road markings and signage to follow.
- Feighcullen Cross: Upgrading signage and road markings.
- Bend at Feighcullen Church: Upgrading signage and road markings.



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- Rathmuck: Signage and road marking

NTA:

- Works on Green Road are continuing, widening of footpaths, provision of pedestrian crossing and road overlay.
- Contractor onsite in Lakeside Park/ Allenview Heights.
- Tender awarded for Ballymany footpath at the Keadeen Hotel, footpath now complete. The Municipal District Office are just waiting on ESB connection.
- St. Bridget's Square: Junction overlay complete.

Kildare

- Footpath repairs were completed in Kildangan.
- New bins installed at Cowpasture, Monasterevin.
- Road repairs completed at Derrylea.
- Leaves cleared at Ardevin, Priests Lane, R445 at Kildare Village junction, Mellita Road, Ros Glas, Tower View Kildare Town,
- Patching works were completed at Lackagh, Ummeras, Rathbride, Monasterevin, Cowpasture, Bull ring Monasterevin, Bracknagh, St Mary's Street Monasterevin, Oldgrange Monasterevin.
- Hedge cutting completed Ellistown, Bishopsland, Clogheen, Knavinstown.
- Drainage/ Gully repair at The Plains estate Kildare town, Rathmuck.
- Gully and line jetting Monasterevin, Gully repairs R445 Kildare.
- Drains surveyed and cleared at Old Mill Race culvert cleared at Clogheen.
- Gullies cleared at Rathbride Close.
- Signage realignment at Cross Morris junction L7002.
- Repairs to signage on Station Road Kildare, R445 at Monasterevin and speed limit signs Kildare Town.
- New chevron signs at cemetery Ellistown.
- The clearing of debris following storm Debbie was undertaken at various locations in the Kildare, Monasterevin and Kildangan areas.



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- In addition to the everyday works in the Municipal District, works have started for the Public Realm Department, which includes the upgrade of the Market Square, Kildare Town. Works will include the installation of new street bollards, replanting, and painting of the flower planters on the square and upgraded signage in the area.

Kilcullen

- Drainage issues resolved Ladytown, Twomilehouse, Coldwells and Floods Cross.
- Cleaning pipes Carnalway to Brannockstown.
- Water cuts Gormanstown, Castlefish, Milemill to Knockbounce, Logstown.
- Further storm clearing of fallen tree Lewistown.
- Washing road signs. Gully cleaning Kilcullen.
- Removing grass sod from road edge Knockbounce.
- Pothole repairs Grangebegg to Thornton, Caragh Village, Gormanstown to Giltown Cross, Castlefish, Church Road Kilcullen, Swordlestown.

Rathangan

- Emergency site inspection following the storm.
- Pothole repairs Rathangan Town and Boston Hill, Red Lane, L3002, L3001, L7083, L70068, Pluckerstown and Russellstown.
- Hedge cutting Allen Cross to Feighcullen junction, Kildare Road to Killeagh Road, Boston Hill wall cleaning works and Rathangan Cemetery pre works.
- Milltown gully and manhole investigation.
- Relocating Signs at Tullylost junction.
- Water cuts Boston Hill to R401 junction.
- Installing signs on Bog Road Ballinuire.
- Installation of new 50km/h signs at Tullylost junction.

Newbridge

- Cleaning gullies throughout Newbridge.
- Washing road signs.



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- Pothole repairs throughout area.
- During the icy weather the Newbridge crew were out salting footpaths in the vicinity of local schools and clearing leaves from main pathways.

The report was noted.

KN04/1223

Update on 2023 LPT expenditure year to date

Ms R Jackson informed the members that an update had been previously circulated to the members. She read out the LPT expenditure to date noting the 2023 commitments total of €1,657,344 and noted that there was a breakdown per member aswell. Councillor Duffy asked for clarification on the where the difference in the unallocated €273m and the unpaid €103m. Ms R Jackson informed the members she would revert with clarification.

KN05/1223

Residual LPT 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023

Councillor Curran proposed:

- €5,000 to the Rathangan Tennis Club to upgrade equipment.
- €2,900 to the KTCS Parents Association for new robes, sound and light system for the choir

Councillor Pender proposed:

- €1,500 to the Ryston Sports and Social for marking of badminton courts.

Councillor N Connolly proposed:

- €20,000 to the Road and Transportation Department for the pilot of Demand Responsive Transport/Community Car in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District
- €3,000 to the Kildare Town Community School towards the upgrading of the Acorn Centre Physical Therapy room
- €3,000 to the Senior Community Worker for the provision of a Civic Engagement Programme, with any surplus going to integration initiatives.



Kildare County Council

- €3,000 to the Senior Community Worker to support the work of Women's Sheds in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District.

Councillor Doyle proposed:

- €5,000 to Brigid 1500 for possible contingency overrun on projects.
- €3,000 to Kildare Chamber of Commerce to cover Christmas lighting outlays.

Councillor T O'Dwyer proposed a reallocation of:

- €1,000 to Kilcullen GAA for bicycle racks.

Councillor Power proposed:

- €1,000 for Caragh Community Development Association for a memorial to Larry Stanley

Councillor Power informed the members that he was no longer on the Tidy Towns Committee which would be partially associated with the memorial.

Councillor P O'Dwyer proposed:

- €1,000 for Caragh Community Development Association for a memorial to Larry Stanley

Councillor P'O Dwyer informed the members that she was on the Tidy Towns Committee

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that there had been LPT funding for 2020 that had not been drawdown and needed to request clarification on why this happened. She wanted the members to be aware of this and requested that the members tighten up on their allocations.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor Curran and agreed by all members present that all the above allocations be approved.

KN06/1223

Bus route from Athgarvan to Pipers Hill and Naas Hospital

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

That the council ask Local Link if an assessment could be carried out to demonstrate to the NTA the need for a bus route from Athgarvan to Pipers Hill and Naas Hospital.



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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 with the members agreement, the Transport Department will write to Local Link regarding this motion.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that this service was needed as there were students attending Pipers Hill who were not eligible for the School Transport Scheme. She said that there was a new service set up from Two Mile House and it had been a great success, with a full bus at all times. It catered for the hospital and schools and runs every day and weekend. She felt that a feasibility study was needed and there was a need for a bus route from Athgarvan to Pipers Hill and Naas Hospital. Councillor P O'Dwyer also informed the members that there were a lot of staff from Naas Hospital living outside of towns who would benefit from bus services like the one in question. She also said it was a good incentive for people to use public transport.

Resolved on the proposals of Councillor T O'Dwyer seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer and agreed by all the members that the Transport Department write to Local Link regarding this motion and the report was noted.

KN07/1223

No HGV Route

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
That the council consider implementing a 'no HGV route' from Buckley Cross towards the roundabout near Murphy International, Newbridge.

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 that this has become an issue. It appears that the HGV's are using this road as it was a shorter route. Once a vehicle was taxed and insured restricting its usage of a public road is not possible. There are no structural issues or height restrictions to restrict movement on this road.



Kildare County Council

The members raised the following points:

- Residents in the area had been trying for a number of years to make this road safer.
- HGV's had been using this route to make their journey shorter.
- Maybe when the road had been Taken In Charge it could be looked at to erect signage.
- Was there a means of making restrictions on the road such as narrowing the road.
- This had been a source of contention with residents.
- Suggested that a conversation be had with the depots in this area to ask them to advise HGV drivers not to use this road.

Mr D Hodgins informed the members that he did believe that it was part of the planning conditions but not enforceable to stop the HGV drivers using this route. He said that An Garda Síochana could enforce this but would have to be looked at carefully as there would have to be an alternative public route on a public road available. Mr D Hodgins informed the members that making restrictions on the road could solve one problem but would bring another. When the road would be Taken in Charge this could be reviewed again.

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

KN08/1223

Flooding between Hawkfield, Newbridge and Milltown

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

That the council consider what mitigation measure can be undertaken to alleviate the longstanding problem with flooding between Hawkfield, Newbridge and Milltown during very heavy rainfall.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P O'Dwyer 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 has carried out weeks of drainage investigations at this location, jetted the pipes from both directions and cleaned out the manholes. There was still some



Kildare County Council

roots cleaning to be done and possibly an additional manhole to be installed hopefully this will resolve the issue.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that this area had significant flooding and acknowledged that works on this had been taking place.

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

KN09/1223

Feasibility study developing a 50km amenity canal loop.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
That Kildare County Council carry out a feasibility study of linking Corbally Harbour to Newbridge to Pollardstown Fen to the Milltown Canal feeder as a first step in developing a 50km amenity canal loop, centred on Newbridge.

The motions were 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 the provision of an amenity link between Corbally Harbour, Newbridge and the Milltown Canal Feeder was one of the options already under development as part of the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment. This and all the other options will be presented to the Elected Members in early 2024 in advance of the next phase of public consultation on this project. Please also note that funding has recently been secured by Kildare County Council as part of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme to look at the feasibility of developing a greenway along the Corbally branch of the canal and to provide links to Newbridge and Kilcullen along the River Liffey.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that this project was exactly what Newbridge needed. It was a great opportunity and there was great potential linking Newbridge to Pollardstown Fen Milltown Canal Feeder to Milltown to Lowtown Robertstown, to Digby Bridge to Soldiers Island to Naas Harbour to Corbally and back to Newbridge creating a 50km amenity canal loop centred on



Kildare County Council

Newbridge which was the bigger picture and to focus on getting the 50 km. She was aware that there was a plan under development at the moment, but a feasibility study would need to be carried out to assess the impact on the area and on the local landowners. Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members it was time for Newbridge to have their own little Camino.

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

KN10/1223

Ellistown GFC

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor N Connolly
Go n-oibreodh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara le CLG Bhaile Eilís chun feabhas a chur ar an mbóthar a úsáidtear chun rochtain a fháil ar a gcuid páirceanna cúil tríd an dromchla a uasghrádú agus an bóthar a leathnú, agus/nó níos mó pointí tarraingthe isteach a sholáthar chun ligean do charranna dul thar sáile.

That Kildare County Council work with Ellistown GFC to improve the road used to access their back pitches by upgrading the surface and widening the road, and/or providing more pull in points to allow cars to pass safely.

The motion was proposed by Councillor N Connolly 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 are open to a meeting with Ellistown GFC if Councillor Connolly would like to arrange same in the new year. The cost of the works required can then be assessed and the availability of budgets to carry out the required works can be discussed.

Councillor N Connolly informed the members that Ellistown GFC was a small club and were struggling at the moment with talks of joining different age groups due to numbers. He felt with this potential upgrade it would be a positive thing and give reason to bring children to their training ground. He felt this was a positive report. He asked for clarification on who was point of contact for this. Mr D Hodgins informed the members that himself or Ms B Cuddy would be point of contact.



Kildare County Council

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

KN11/1223

Calming measures on the Curragh Grange Road

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

That the council upgrade speed calming measures on the Curragh Grange Road linking Green Road to Athgarvan Road in Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there are existing pedestrian crossings at the Athgarvan junction, footpaths the full length of the road and speed cushions on the existing road. Further to our site meeting last week the Municipal District Office agreed to look at the speed cushions and upgrading of same, subject to this not causing drainage issues. All works are subject to budget availability.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that this was an arterial road and had concerns over the traffic measures that were there. Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that this was a very busy road and hoped when the second bridge went in there would be other options put in place to alleviate traffic in this area.

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

KN12/1223

Improved safety measures Scoil Na Naomh Uilig

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

That the council bring forward a report to outline improved safety measures for students who walk/cycle to Scoil Na Naomh Uilig, Newbridge.

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



Kildare County Council

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office have surveyed this location and completed drawings for upgrade works. The Municipal District Office included this location in a funding request to the NTA earlier this year however this was unsuccessful. The Municipal District Office will reapply next year as the Municipal District Office do not have a budget for these types of works and are reliant on NTA funding to bring projects such as these to fruition.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that there were a lot of expanding local estates in this area within walking distance, but it was felt that there was a need use cars. He said a structure needed to be put in place in line with the Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA). Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that it was a nightmare at lunch time when children were finishing school with the grass verges just muck now. The problem needed to be solved. She also asked was this project would cost.

Mr D Hodgins informed the members that there were 35 active projects throughout the county with an estimated costing at €130million on active projects with Newbridge at approximately €40-€50million. There were talks of a reduction of 20% in allocation of funding from the Department. A briefing would be given to all Municipal Districts in February on Capital Projects. An Taisce and the NTA were responsible for the funding for the Safer Routes to School Scheme and would encourage schools to apply for this funding. At the moment the low cost measures that the Transport team could use was to educate the schools by visiting them and giving talks. Infrastructure was costly. Mr D Hodgins informed the members that the costing was a six figure sum but would revert back to the members with a cost.

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

KN13/1223

Road signage on the R401

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Curran
That the council improve the road signage on the R401, Dunmurray Road, Kildare Town to indicate 'LOW BRIDGE' before Old Road/ Chapel Lane, turn off.



Kildare County Council

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office agree to review and resolve if no signage was in place.

Councillor Curran informed the members that a new DPD centre had opened in this area and for some reason SAT NAV's had been bringing them down the cemetery road which leads them to the low bridge and the only alternative for them was to reverse back which was not ideal. He asked that the existing signage that was there be raised up as so this cannot be seen by truck drivers. The road had changed since the signage went up originally. Mr D Hodgins informed the members that the existing sign would be reviewed.

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

KN14/1223

Reopen Ladytown Cross on the Naas/Newbridge Dual carriageway.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Power

That the council reopen Ladytown Cross on the Naas/Newbridge Dual carriageway by December 22 and that it reaffirms its plans to create a roundabout at this junction that would facilitate traffic travelling from Ladytown to Floods Cross.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Heavey

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the works to the two bridges over the M7 are not fully complete with some works to be completed in January. Following discussions with An Garda Síochána it was not advised to reopen the crossing due to safety concerns. Kildare County Council are in the process of confirming the compulsory purchase order for the new roundabout and will provide an update on this in due course. Once the compulsory purchase order was operative further works associated with this project will be proceed in 2024.



Kildare County Council

The members raised the following points:

- This closure had been an inconvenience to the residents.
- Was there an indication as to when the work on the bridge would be completed.
- Could the members be made aware of advice that would be coming from An Garda Síochana?
- The community connection between Ladytown and Caragh had been cut off.
- Could this be discussed at JPC?
- The closure should be discussed and gone through a form of procedure with the public.

Mr D Hodgins informed the members that he does understand their concerns, but the transportation team have a statutory obligation to follow legislation. There was a legitimate safety concern on reopening the road. If written advice came from An Garda Síochana the members would be advised on this. The District Manager advised Councillor Power that he could resubmit his motion the following month as there was no decision made on his motion.

KN15/1223

Feighcullen Cross, Rathangan

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor A Connolly
Can the council indicate when improvements works will commence at the Feighcullen Cross, Rathangan?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that signs have been ordered and road marking agreed for Feighcullen Cross.

With regards to the installation of the road markings we are awaiting contractor availability. The signage will be installed when delivered.

Councillor A Connolly asked for clarification on when this would commence as Feighcullen was given a grant. Mr B Mulrane informed the member that works had started and the signs had been



Kildare County Council

ordered and would hopefully be going up early January and this had been funded through the Low Cost Accident Scheme.

The report was noted.

KN16/1223

Guidelines on the installation of zebra crossings

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

Can the council provide any update on department plans to provide guidelines on the installation of zebra crossings without the need for Belisha Beacons and whether any pilots could be identified in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a national trial of eight zebra crossings, five in Limerick and three in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, without flashing orange Belisha Beacon lights was initiated by the NTA in 2022. No results of the pilot have been circulated to date. Should the regulations for zebra crossings be amended, the council can evaluate any requests, on a case-by-case basis, however, the homogeneousness of existing crossings and their widespread understanding by members of the public would be a key determining factor for such crossings.

The report was noted.

KN17/1223

Overgrown tree branches in Kildare Town Playground

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Curran

That the council cut the overgrown tree branches in Kildare Town Playground

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that a clean up of the site was ongoing. If the Councillor can clarify which trees, he was referring to these can be examined for pruning.



Kildare County Council

Councillor Curran informed the members that he had put in request for clean up on the playground and nine days had lapsed until the work was done and was impressed with the prompt response and as a new Councillor this was very encouraging. He said that the higher branches in the playground were releasing a green residue which was falling onto the playground equipment, and it was destroying children's clothes when using them. Mr S Wallace informed the members that this was a natural occurrence from the trees but he would look at cleaning the equipment in the playground.

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

KN18/1223

Athgarvan Health Check

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

Can the council provide an update on the Athgarvan Health Check including next steps planned?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm informing the members that the Athgarvan Health check now has final edits completed. The document was part of a bundle of six Renewal Plans which will be shared with Management Team for their feedback. Once Management Team approval has been confirmed the document will proceed to publication. Publication is expected in early 2024.

Councillor T O'Dwyer asked for clarification on what the final edits were as mentioned in the report and following approval would the members get a briefing before the public see it? Ms P Pender informed the members that the final edits were information that needed to be updated to current positions and this had now gone to the Management Team. A briefing could be arranged for each Municipal District in early January as it was hoped to publish in January.

The report was noted.

KN19/1223

Market Square Rathangan

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



Kildare County Council

An féidir leis an gComhairle breac-chuntas a thabhairt ar an dul chun cinn atá á dhéanamh leis na pleananna do Chearnóg an Mhargaidh, Ráth Iomgháin?

Can the council outline the progress being made with the plans for Market Square Rathangan?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm informing the members that Town and Village Funding was previously provided to bring the Market Square project in Rathangan to Part 8. The Part 8 process has been completed with approval granted. The progression of this project requires additional funding. Following a site visit to the location during the summer by the Director of Services and Senior Executive Officer it was agreed that a Town Renewal Plan was necessary for the town to provide an overall vision and plan for Rathangan. This Plan will form part of the Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) work programme for 2024.

Councillor N Connolly asked for clarification on how much additional funding was needed and if there would be any action in the meantime while waiting on the Town Renewal Plan. Ms P Pender informed the members that the RDF was due at the minute and waiting to be complete. There were drainage issues that needed to be addressed under the Part 8. The additional costing would be 1.7 million.

The report was noted.

KN20/1223

Feasibility study for Kildare Courthouse

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

Can the council furnish an update on the proposed feasibility study for the future of The Kildare Courthouse?

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office informing the members that the consultancy firm "Venture" procured by Kildare County Council (KCC) has submitted a draft study with respect to the economic feasibility and an indicative design of repurposing the Old Courthouse in Kildare Town for the purposes of a Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub. This space would include makers space, workshops, retail outlet, gallery, and outdoor theatre / market



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space. We are currently reviewing the study; however, it was important to note that we have not as yet identified a funding source for the project. Any future grant application will heavily depend on proof of concept, to this end Venture the same consultancy group was reviewing the success factors and learnings of KCC/ LEO's experience of delivering the temporary craft retail unit (GATHER) in Kildare Village which was hosting a collective of 24 makers/designers, the unit was operating until the end of Christmas. To further validate the project opportunities or highlight challenges we have secured a 3 year lease on Southwells in Kildare Town. From January this will open and house, showcase and retail the products produced by the Makers and designers of our County.

Councillor Curran informed the members that he did not see a mention of a horse racing Museum and felt this was a missed opportunity.

The report was noted.

KN21/1223

Programme for the 2024 Brigid 1500 Festival

Ms K Lane gave a presentation to the members on the programme for the 2024 Brigid 1500 Festival. She informed the members that Brigid was launched on the 7 November and was well attended with €50,000 of advertising value. There were 101 Community and Creative Grant Applications received with 58 applications approved awarding over €188,000 to Creative and Community Groups across the county. She informed the members that it was a good spread of programs and demographic inclusion. Ms K Lane said that there was a school programme launched for students with hardback education packs which were available in both English and Irish languages and also available to download on the Brigid 1500 website. She informed the members that their full list of events was available on their calendar on the website. She said it was about bringing communities together over the 10-day festival and showcase the county.

The members raised the following points:

- Was the Monasterevin Camino on the website.
- Huge work done by Kildare Councillors and a credit to everyone.



Kildare County Council

- Hope to see it grow throughout the years.
- Could the presentation slides be sent to the members?
- Could Virtual Reality (VR) be promoted?
- Murals in Kildare Town going up just waiting on planning permission to be approved to make deadline and Public Realm were funding it.

Ms K Lane informed the members that Kildare County Council were not directly running the Monasterevin Camino it was through the grant scheme. She said that there had been a lot of footfall regarding the VR and a school in Maynooth had been given a grant to go on a trip to the VR experience. Ms A Aspell wanted to acknowledge the hard work that had been put into the Brigid 1500 programme.

The report was noted.

KN22/1223

Derelict site fees

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

Can the council confirm if all derelict site fees have been paid in 2021 2022 and 2023 in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the council continues to pursue all outstanding derelict site levies. Information on derelict site fees are reflected in the council's Annual Financial Statement (AFS). Details are currently being finalised for this year's AFS. Currently, there are ten sites on the derelict sites register that sit within the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District.

Ms A Aspell informed the members that Derelict sites would be transferring to the Housing Department as soon as staff resources were resolved.

The report was noted.



KN23/1223

Brigid 1500 Sesquimillennium celebrations

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

An féidir leis an gComhairle clár imeachtaí sa Cheantar Bardasach (nó sa Chontae) a leagan amach do cheiliúradh Sesque na Mílaoise Brigid 1500?

Can the council outline the programme of events in the municipal district (or the County) for the Brigid 1500 Sesquimillennium celebrations?

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development informing the members a broad and diverse programme of events is planned for February 2024 delivered by Kildare County Council Brigid 1500 team, through the community and creative grant scheme and partner agencies including Solas Bhríde, Into Kildare and Kildare Library and Arts Service.

Highlights of St. Brigid's Festival include:

Saturday 27 January

Mother Earth: A Day of Food and Music, The Wonderful Barn.

Tuesday 30 January

Songs of Social Justice and Freedom concert, Athy.

Wednesday 31 January

Herstory Light Shows with Entertainment in Clane, Newbridge and Athy.

Thursday 1 February

Ecumenical service in St. Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare Town.

Thursday 1 February

Altan le Ceolfhoireann RTE, St. Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare Town.

Thursday 1 February

Nothing Compares Event in Moat Theatre, St. David's Church and Naas Potato Market.

Friday 2 February

Luxe Landscape Theatre Carrying Her Flame, Maynooth.

Sunday 4 February



Kildare County Council

She Moves Through the Fair concert in St. Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare Town.

Sunday 4 February

Luxe Landscape Theatre, Kildare Town.

Full details of all events are available on www.brigid1500.ie.

The report was noted.

KN24/1223

Incentives NOT to cut a percentage of grass.

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

Can the council confirm if it has plans to introduce incentives for resident's associations to encourage them NOT to cut a percentage of grass in housing estate green areas and embrace biodiversity studies at a local level?

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development informing the members that during 2022, the Community Department worked with a subgroup of the SPC, in order to revise the residents' association grant scheme and the calculation of such grants. The new scheme which was introduced in 2023 was more equitable to the previous scheme and grants are now awarded based solely on the size of the green area being maintained. As part of the application process, applicants are informed that Kildare County Council supports the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and requests that any planting and grass cutting would conform to the requirements of the plan which was available at www.pollinators.ie. The Public Participation Network (PPN) also routinely reminds subscribed residents' associations of the pollinator plan and will continue to do so next year.

The report was noted.

The Mayor wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

The meeting concluded.