



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District  
held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 15 February 2023  
in the Council Chamber**

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

**Remote Attendance:** Councillor F McLoughlin Healy

**Officials Present:** Mr J Boland (District Manager), Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Ms R Jackson (LPT Co-Ordinator), Ms F Byrne (Administrative Officer), Mr D Creighton (Senior Architect), Ms M Morrissey (Executive Architect), Mr T Kelleher (Senior Executive Quantity Surveyor), Mr D Boyle (Architectural Technician), 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 began by acknowledging the retirement of Superintendent Martin Walker. She stated that he had been easy to engage with and was very dedicated and practical in his approach. She thanked him for his service to the Municipal District.

**KN01/0223**

**Declarations of Interest**

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.

There were no declarations.

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**KN02/0223**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 18 January 2023 and noted the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by the members that the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 18 January 2023 be taken as read and the progress report be noted.

**KN03/0223**

**Municipal District Road Works**

To receive an update on the municipal district road works.

Report:

**Road Resurfacing Works:**

Presentation of Maps and List of Restoration Maintenance and Improvement roads for 2023

**LPT:**

The 2022 programme of works are now complete – awaiting budget agreement to prepare the 2023 program.

**NTA:**

- Dara Park now complete.
- Melitta Road, awaiting gates.
- Works on Green Road are continuing, widening of footpaths, provision of pedestrian crossing and road overlay.
- Togher Road now complete.

**Miscellaneous Works:**

**Newbridge Country**

Watercuts Red Lane and Wheelman



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Cleaning ditches and drainage works Wheelman and Feighcullen area

Patching, Brownstown Rathbride, Bothergoy, Old Connell, Ring of Roseberry, Moores Bridge Pluckerstown and Newbridge golf club road, replaced gully at Brownstown Manor

### **Kilcullen**

Water cuts R448., pothole repairs Market Square Kilcullen.

Drainage Carnalway. gully cleaning Kinneagh. Drainage Knockbounce. jetting Drainage Kilcullen.

Sweeping Brannockstown and Caragh. cleaning and repairing road signs.

Pothole repair Green Avenue, Melon Hill to Corbally Cross, Mile Mill to Kilcullen.

Water cuts Milemill to Kilcullen and Brannockstown to Ballymoney.

### **Kildare:**

Pothole repairs Monasterevin, new footpath at Evins Park, drainage works at Sheane Rathangan

Gully vacuuming in Kildare, general repairs to signs throughout the whole area

Litter picking street sweeping throughout the whole area.

### **Newbridge Town:**

A pedestrian crossing crash barrier was replaced at Dunnes Stores Main Street.

Various signs throughout our area including a new junction sign at Newbridge Ind Est, new directional arrow sign at the library, new junction sign at Athgarvan motorway bridge, new stop sign Moorefield Park, removed wheelchair sign at the library, Erected new ramp signs Highfield.

Potholes were patched at Blackberry Lane and Pairc Mhuire

Hedges were cut back at Green Road, Moore Park, Morristown junction, Cederwood Park, Moorefield Park, Ring of Roseberry, Roseberry stores, Sexton's bridge and Curragh Grange

Drainage works at Penney's, Liffey Hall, Ballymany Park were completed by McGuinness Maintenance

Bollards were installed at the library and replaced at the water tower Cutlery Road.

Bins at Moorefield Park were removed as there was very little general waste in the bins and a lot of household waste was being deposited in the bins.

On-going works at Cedarwood Park including a new footpath and gullies to ease flooding in the area are due to be completed this week (Friday 10 Feb)



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The District Engineer stated that a map had been previously circulated to members outlining the list of restoration, maintenance and improvement works for 2023 for which she was seeking the approval of the members. She advised that the 2023 programme of works could not be completed until a budget figure was available and requested that this be finalised as soon as possible as tender requests needed to be sent out.

The members raised the following points:

- If a pothole is repaired 3 or 4 times what happens next.
- Were any works on the R445 listed
- What was the rationale for the lack of Department funding
- Could any information be provided on the schedule for Ladytown

The District Engineer advised that busier roads would be higher priority on the Road Improvement list. Patch repairs would be done on other roads. A small section of the R445 was listed for improvement works but at a cost of €450,000 for 350m. Funding had been applied for from the Department for works on the Old N7 but it had been granted to the Old N4 instead. This was the second year it had been applied for and not granted.

Mr D Hodgins advised that Ladytown was at the detailed design stage but no funding had yet been identified to progress this.

The Mayor suggested a letter issue to the Department to query the fact that funding for the old N7 had not been granted despite two applications. The members agreed.

Councillor Pender proposed that the Restoration Maintenance and Improvement roads for 2023 be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members that the Restoration Maintenance and Improvement roads for 2023 be approved.

### KN04/0223

#### LTP Allocations

Councillor N Connolly proposed two items from his discretionary LTP.

€500 to go to Ukrainian Support Worker for an International Women's Day event on 8 March.

The remainder (€750) to go to Kildare Animal Rescue of Grey Abbey Kildare.

This was seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by the members.



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

### **KN05/0223**

#### **LPT Schedule of Works**

The members agreed to defer this item to a special meeting to be held online the following week.

### **KN06/0223**

#### **HGV Drivers avoid Great Connell**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer  
That the council contact businesses in the distribution/manufacturing sites in the vicinity of the R445, Newbridge requesting that HGV drivers use the new routes to access the R445 thus avoiding Great Connell residential area.

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 new route has not been taken in charge, however when the taking in charge process is completed, appropriate signage will be considered.

The members raised the following points:

- Was the addition of signage in the planning conditions.
- Yellow Bog Road had the same issue of 6 HGV's per hour using the road but this had eventually stopped after the intervention of the Area Office.
- Some signage is disregarded by HGV drivers, possibly following a wayfinder app which led to them not using an appropriate route.
- Could communications be issued to google maps advising routes no longer suitable for HGVs and to use alternative route.
- HGV drivers had a disregard for the surface of smaller regional roads
- How enforceable was a planning application route map

The District Engineer and Mr D Hodgins provided the following replies:



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- Signage would be included in the safety audit which would be part of the taking in charge process
- It was impractical to regulate wayfinder routes
- There would be no obligation on wayfinder apps to include agreed routes. Google would only register routes where byelaws and weight restrictions applied.
- Mr D Hodgins agreed to discuss the issue with the Forward Planning Team

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

### KN07/0223

#### Reinstate Double Yellow Lines Woodview

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

That the council request the reinstatement of the double yellow line from the Garda Station to the entrance to Woodview estate, Monasterevin on the R445 which weren't reinstated following the Irish Water resurfacing works.

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 the Municipal District office will highlight your request to Irish Water with a view to getting the issue resolved.

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

### KN08/0223

#### Hedging Drogheda Street, Monasterevin

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

That the council cut back the hedging along Drogheda Street, Monasterevin on the approach to the primary schools as it's growing out across the footpath and limiting access.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Duffy 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 this is private property and the responsibility of the landowner. Councillor Duffy informed the members that the hedge in question was between the footpath and private lands. He stated that it had previously been cut by the Parks Department but was overgrown again. He advised he would speak to Simon Wallace offline regarding this matter. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Pender that the report be noted.

### KN09/0223

#### Caragh Bridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer  
That the council install cameras to monitor vehicles crossing Caragh Bridge in view of the recent damage which has occurred again to the bridge.

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 there is a traffic management CCTV installed at the Caragh Bridge traffic signals. This camera is connected directly to the Traffic Management Centre in Naas.

The members raised the following points:

- Some clarification regarding the cameras had been provided at the JPC meeting.
- Traffic using Caragh Bridge was a major safety concern as previous damage to the bridge had cut off access to the village and severely impacted the community and commuters from north Kildare and retailers for months.
- The JPC were willing to work with community groups to deal with the issue proactively through an informal process rather than prosecutions as it was felt that there was the possibility that the bridge was being used unintentionally by some companies.
- Were there any byelaws relating to weight restriction on the bridge and if not, could the process be started as soon as possible

Mr D Hodgins advised that there was a certain protocol involved in the use of the CCTV cameras. They were only used for specific reason at the discretion of the Data Protection



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Officer. It was a laborious process as there was no way to filter the footage. He was unsure regarding the status of byelaws relating to the bridge but would check and was agreeable to the process commencing if not.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted and that the process of introducing byelaws be commenced.

### KN10/0223

#### Road Improvement Mountrice to Umeras Bridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly  
That the council include the L7010, Mountrice to Umeras Bridge, in the roads improvement/restoration programme for 2023.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the roads programme has been presented and this road did not meet the criteria under the limited budget.

Councillor A Connolly stated that a walk had taken place to celebrate St Brigid's day which involved hundreds of people. The road was in very poor condition and really needed works done in advance of Brigid 1500 which would attract a much bigger attendance.

The members raised the following points:

- The road was a connection to the Blueway. Waterways Ireland had some repair works planned and perhaps a collaboration could be agreed.
- Could parking in the area also be looked at.
- As there was no flexibility in the deadline was there a possibility of using capital funding

The District Engineer stated that it was a funding issue and could only be Carried out in lieu of another road. If any tenders came in under the budget it could be revisited.

The District Manager advised that all funds had been allocated in the capital programme, but he would liaise with the other directors to see if this was possible.





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

### KN11/0223

#### Path at Athgarvan Heights

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer  
That the council consider the installation of a path from Athgarvan Heights, Athgarvan to connect back with an existing path at the Traffic Lights to facilitate safe access to the local shop and post box for residents from Athgarvan Heights.

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 this is a part of the scheme to widen of the Newbridge Road, which is scheduled for a design review next year.

Design review will commence in 2024. Overall delivery timeframe will be dependent on the design review and the ability to implement the Part 8 that was already granted.

Councillor T O'Dwyer advised that a small section of 20m was all that was required to create a proper pedestrian link and queried why these works could not be carried out in isolation. The path would feed into the bigger plan as widening of the road would be happening on the other side of the road.

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

### KN12/0223

#### Street Lighting John's St, Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Pender  
That the council install additional street lighting on John's Street, Newbridge and the surrounding areas.



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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 this request has been added to the KLIPS (Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule) register and will be reviewed once funds become available. KLIPS is a system, where requests for new lighting will be scored on various factors and placed within KLIPS according to that score.

Councillor Pender informed the members that there were many families and elderly residents in the area and they required some public lighting to make the area safer and reduce criminality.

The members raised the following points:

- Public lighting was essential for walking and to make blackspots safer
- Was there a funding stream for KLIPS
- Was there a national standard or ratio per capita
- Could the people who patrol for lighting issues also check for areas where lighting was required
- Could a council or local policy be created through the SPC for safety of vulnerable users and crime prevention reasons.

Mr D Hodgins advised the members that funding was a challenge and with the current climate emergency the thinking was to provide less lighting or only use lights at certain times rather than increase the amount of lighting but he would revert to the members with a reply.

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

### KN13/0223

#### Traffic Management Rosconnell

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Pender  
That the council investigate and install traffic management and traffic control measure in Rosconnell, Newbridge.

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



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this is a traffic calming request, which requires a technical assessment. It will be included on the list.

Councillor Pender stated that the area was being used as a rat run but with multiple children walking in the area some form of traffic calming was urgently required.

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

### KN14/0223

#### Connecting Path Belin Woods to Gables

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer  
Can the council provide an update on the time frame for the completion of the connecting pathway from Belin Woods to the Gables?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the contractor is scheduled to start work on the footpath pathway, from Belin Woods to the Gables, by the end of this month (February 2023). The footpath should be completed within 3 months of the commencement date (that is by end of May).

Councillor P O'Dwyer requested that a map be circulated to members which Mr D Hodgins agreed to.

The report was noted.

### KN15/0223

#### TII Correspondence

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer  
Can the council confirm if Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) have responded to correspondence issued on foot of my motion raised at the November 2021 meeting requesting a technical survey be carried out at either the junction of the M9 and M7 or at Kinneagh Hill, for the purposes of installing a slip road for Newbridge traffic and creating greater connectivity?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that no response has been received to date from TII. A reminder letter was issued on 4 January 2023.

Councillor T O'Dwyer requested that copies of the correspondence be circulated to members.

The report was noted.

### **KN16/0223**

#### **Assessment R412 Brannockstown to Carnalway Cross**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer  
Can the council provide an update on the assessment which was to be carried out in line with the annual line marking contract, on the R412 Brannockstown Road to Carnalway Cross with a view to extending the broken white line to a continuous white line for a small section of road where motorists consistently overtake residents trying to turn into their home, as agreed at the January 2021 meeting?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this is a regional road, a long straight stretch. The Municipal District Office agree to extend the single white line by 50m.

The report was noted.

### **KN17/0223**

#### **Public Lighting Bishop Rogan Park**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer  
Can the council provide an update on the installation of additional public lighting in Bishop Rogan Park Estate, Kilcullen which was part funded through LPT in 2022?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that civil works on the additional lighting in Bishop Rogan Park Estate, Kilcullen will start in the next 2 weeks and the estimated time of completion is March 2023.

The report was noted



**KN18/0223**

**Deer Crossing Signs, Clonmoyle**

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

Can the council give a timeline as to when the warning signs - "Warning, Deer Crossing" at Clonmoyle, Rathangan will be put in place?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District Office agrees to order and install this signage at its earliest convenience.

The report was noted.

**KN19/0223**

**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 progress relating to the delivery of the bus stop at the Cross and Passion school, in Kilcullen?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The Council's Legal Representatives have received an update from the Cross and Passion's legal representatives as follows:

Cross and Passion have lodged their application to dispose of this land with the Charities Regulator. The application was queried by the Charities Regulator and the required amendments are currently being made by the Cross and Passion School and will be re-submitted shortly.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy requested that the members be updated of any progress.

The report was noted

**KN20/0223**

**Monasterevin Cycle Network**

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

Can the council outline what progress is being made with the Monasterevin Cycle Network?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the National Transport Authority has provided €15,000 in Active Travel Grants in 2023 for the Monasterevin Town Active Travel Scheme. The Sustainable Transport Section is reviewing this allocation in the context of what progress can be achieved in 2023 as a result. It is anticipated that the preliminary design of the scheme can be completed in 2023, subject to NTA approvals.

Councillor N Connolly sought clarification on funding and the timeline.

Mr D Hodgins stated that the funding would complete the current phase and have designs ready for public consultation. Following that NTA approval would be sought for the Part 8. There was currently no funding stream available to take the project past this stage. The report was noted.

### **KN21/0223**

#### **Safe Route to Schools**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor N Connolly  
Can the council provide an update on the provision of support infrastructure under the Safe to Schools Programme in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The National Transport Authority and Green Schools Team lead the Safe Routes to School Programme. Schools included in the 2023 programme of works that was funded by the National Transport Authority are located in Monasterevin, Kildare and Newbridge. Designs for the streetscape outside the schools in Monasterevin and Kildare Towns are being prepared inhouse by the Sustainable Transport Section and it is expected that they will be the subject of public consultation during 2023. The Newbridge schools are included in the 2023 programme at a preliminary stage.

Councillor N Connolly queried what form the public consultation would take as some elderly people in the area would benefit from being able to view this in person.

Mr D Hodgins advised that no decision had been made on this yet.

The report was noted.



**KN22/0223**

**Naas to Newbridge Inter-Urban Cycle Scheme**

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

Can the council provide an update on the Naas to Newbridge Inter-Urban Cycle Scheme?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the National Transport Authority (NTA) has provided €100,000 in Active Travel Grants in 2023 for the Naas to Newbridge Inter-Urban Active Travel Scheme. The Sustainable Transport Section is reviewing this allocation in the context of what progress can be achieved in 2023 as a result. It is anticipated that the preliminary design of the scheme can be completed in 2023, subject to NTA approvals.

Councillor N Connolly sought further information on what was planned in these works.

Mr D Hodgins advised that this would be the connecting part of two schemes and run from the Bundle of Sticks Roundabout to the Pfizer Roundabout. Discussions were ongoing on the details.

The report was noted.

**KN23/0223**

**Street Cleaning Schedule**

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

Can the council provide a street cleaning schedule and map in operation within the municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that street cleaning is broken down as follows in the Municipal District area.

Kildare Town: Sweeping: Small Sweeper 4 days a week and the large sweeper 1 day a week. Bins are emptied every second day. Litter pick is carried out on a Sunday.

Rathangan: Large sweeper is in Rathangan on a Monday. The small sweeper and a litter pick are carried out on a Wednesday. Bins and a litter pick are done on a Sunday.

Newbridge: Small sweeper 4 days a week and the large sweeper two days a week. Bins are emptied on a Tuesday and a Thursday. A litter pick is carried out on a Sunday.



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Monasterevin: Street sweeping is carried out on a Monday and a Friday. Bins are emptied on a Tuesday and a Thursday. Litter pick is carried out on a Sunday.

Kilcullen: Sweeping is carried out on a Monday and a Thursday.

There is no map available at present to show the routes, this would take some time to prepare.

Councillor N Connolly queried the number of people and amount of hours covered on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

The District Engineer advised that there would be a truck and driver and normally two or three people emptying bins. Cover was always provided on strategic days and bins were never left more than two days without being emptied but it was always down to budget constraints.

The report was noted.

### **KN24/0223**

#### **St Patrick's Park Rathangan**

The members considered the Chief Executive's report for a residential development and regeneration works at St Patrick's Park, Rathangan.

Mr D Creighton gave a presentation to the members on the works involved and advised that the Chief Executive's Report had been previously circulated.

The members thanked Mr Creighton for his presentation, congratulated and commended the team on the works involved and raised the following points:

- There were currently four wheelchair users in Beechgrove so could these people be considered for some of the accessible units.
- There were concerns regarding giant hogweed which was prevalent in the area.
- What type of controlled access would be provided to the back lanes.
- There were concerns of segregation in relation to the two green areas in the development.
- What type of planting was being considered.
- Were there plans to provide a link to adjacent lands at Beechgrove





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- Could the impact on adjacent lands be clarified and could Mr Creighton clarify if anyone had been forced to sell their home.
- Lessons should be learnt from this scheme which would inform how best to approach future schemes.

Mr D Creighton provided the following replies:

- The accessible units would be allocated by the allocations team
- Planting would be organised by the Parks Department
- Contractors had been sent to deal with the giant hogweed.
- It was proposed to remove the fencing on the back lanes and to have one access point. The lane would be closed off with a 3m wide maintenance access. Access for residents would be dealt with at a later date
- There was a lack of open space in the development previously. Units would face the pocket park and these units would be for older residents giving them access to this green area. The gym would be relocated as a circuit.
- To his knowledge there had been no forced sales. Some residents had moved voluntarily. One private residence in the centre of the regeneration scheme was in an area to be demolished but agreement had been reached.
- There were no proposals for development on adjacent lands so therefore there would be no impact. A map had been produced at a public workshop which showed connections through adjacent lands but the council had no proposals to access these lands and the next phase would be Beechgrove.

Councillor A Connolly proposed that the Part 8 be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by all members with Councillor McLoughlin Healy abstaining, explaining that she would like sight of the map which had been produced before making a definitive decision.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly, seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by the members, with Councillor McLoughlin Healy abstaining, that the Chief Executive's report for a residential development and regeneration works at St Patrick's Park, Rathangan be approved.



**KN25/0223**

**Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme**

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

Can the council confirm what properties, if any, have been offered under the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme ("LAAPS") in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and the uptake of same?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that in advance of any Affordable Purchase projects progressing a number of preparatory works need to be completed. To this end, a scheme of Priority for Affordable Purchase arrangements was adopted by Elected Members in November 2022 and the council is in the process of building its Affordable Housing Team that will have responsibility to assess and implement the requirements of the Affordable Housing Regulations 2022. The council is currently running an Affordable Housing Purchase Survey to ascertain demand in Kildare for affordable housing; the result of this survey will provide the team with information on areas of demand and the type of unit needed and it is being advertised on social media and on the Kildare County Council website at the moment. In addition to the above, work is also ongoing on the development of the detail and content of an online application portal which will be used to advertise schemes and applications to same.

Additionally, the Affordable Housing Team are liaising with the Housing Capital Team and the construction sector in an attempt to develop a project pipeline, noting the complexity of the scheme in the context of Kildare, particularly given the open market value of homes in the county.

While there has been no affordable purchase delivery to date in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District, it should be noted that three very successful Cost Rental (affordable rental) schemes have been delivered. These relate to a total of 186 units across Walkers Gate, Kildare, Belin Woods, Newbridge and The Paddocks, Newbridge.

Councillor Stafford queried if a timeline could be provided.

Ms F Byrne advised that no timeline was available at the moment as the team was only just in place and going through responses. The timeline would be issued when it became available.

The report was noted.



**KN26/0223**

**Public Consultation Cultural Quarter Newbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer  
Can the council confirm when the public consultation is due to commence on the Cultural/Civic Quarter in Newbridge?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that the Draft Feasibility Study has yet to be finalised. It would therefore be premature to define a public consultation period.

Councillor P O'Dwyer stated that it was very disappointing that nothing had appeared to have happened since the project was first discussed back in 2018.

Mr G Conlon advised that he appreciated the Councillor's frustration but the consultants had almost completed the feasibility study and it should go to public consultation in the next month or so. A new staff member had recently joined the public realm team and would be driving projects forward.

The report was noted.

**KN27/0223**

**LAP Newbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender  
Can the council confirm when the Local Area Plan (LAP) for Newbridge will commence?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that Background research/data collection to inform the preparation of the Local Area Plan (LAP) for Newbridge will commence in Q2 2023.

The report was noted.

**KN28/0223**

**Just Transition Fund**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford  
That the council request from People and Place Consultants commissioned by the Department of Communications Climate and Environment a detailed breakdown by



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settlement of the indicators and assessment of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District including statistical analysis and territorial profile used to determine its omission as a Just Transition Territory particularly in light of the reports acknowledgment "that much of the built environment and identity of towns such as Rathangan and villages like Lullymore are closely associated with life on the boglands."

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that the Council shares the members disappointment regarding the non inclusion of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District in the Territorial Just Transition Plan. The following is the factual position as ascertained by the undersigned together with linkages to relevant reports. I would be pleased to seek any further information that might be sought by the Municipal District or to otherwise assist in any way.

As per the Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 establishing the EU Just Transition Fund (JTF), the EU JTF resources shall support the "territory most negatively affected by the transition process" to a carbon neutral economy. This territory is to be identified in a Territorial Just Transition Plan prepared and adopted by the Member State.

In Ireland, the territory identified as most negatively affected by the transition includes the counties of Laois, Longford, Offaly, Roscommon, Westmeath, and municipal districts of Ballinasloe (County Galway), Athy and Clane-Maynooth (County Kildare), and Carrick-on-Suir and Thurles (County Tipperary).

The designated territory was approved by the Irish government in November 2022. This was further confirmed by the European Commission in December 2022 with the adoption of the Territorial Just Transition Plan for Ireland.

The territorial designation was informed by a number of different preparatory reports, which have been published by the Department for the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC):

- the [Structural Reform Support Programme](#) consultancy undertaken during 2021 to support the development of the Territorial Just Transition Plan
- the [reports and recommendations](#) of the Just Transition Commissioner for the Midlands region



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- the coverage of the [National Just Transition Fund](#)
- an additional analysis by *People and Place* to consider the impact of the transition at the sub-county level in the wider Midlands by providing a more fine-grained analysis at MD level based on robust and appropriately weighted indicators and the examination of qualitative and quantitative data - [People and Place Report 1](#) - [People and Place Report 2](#)

The [EU JTF Programme](#) will be implemented and managed by the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, which has been appointed Managing Authority for the Programme by DECC. It will support activities aligned with the Programme priorities and that benefit the identified territory.

The members thanked the District Manager for recent correspondence with the Minister and raised the following points:

- The members had been caught unawares when the Municipal District had been excluded from the Just Transition Plan
- How could the Municipal District have received a score of zero under employment and job losses.
- It was a huge missed opportunity and the decision should be appealed
- The findings should be challenged, possibly through engaging with Members of European Parliament
- Could a breakdown into how figures were arrived at be requested.
- The Local Electoral Area would have been included but the fact that the area crossed two Municipal Districts may have led to Kildare-Newbridge being excluded

The District Manager suggested a delegation meet with the Director of EMRA to explore avenues of appeal. It was agreed that the delegation would comprise of the District Manager, Councillor Stafford and Councillor Power.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members that a delegation meet with the Director of EMRA.

### KN29/0223

#### Water Capacity Ladytown/Borahard/Old Connell

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



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Can the council provide an update on what information it has in its possession or ability to procure regarding water capacity issues at Ladytown/Borahard/Old Connell area, that have relevance now and for future development in the area?

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that this is a matter for Irish Water and can be raised via their dedicated email support address at [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie) or discuss at next dedicated Councillors Clinic which is due to be held on Monday, 27 February.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy question whether the council had no role or no interest and why her question had not been interested

The District Manager stated that this was the third time in recent months that this question had been raised and the answers had not changed. Irish Water currently dealt with connections and the council played no role. An application to Irish Water directly was made prior to submitting a planning application. An obligations to upgrade or relating to capacity also lay with Irish Water.

Councillor N Connolly advised that he had been shown an anonymised SLA agreement which showed significant investment in the area

The District Manager agreed to speak to Councillor McLoughlin Healy offline in relation to this.

The report was noted

### **KN30/0223**

#### **Community Grants**

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

Can the council confirm, given the timing of the Community grants closing on 10 March and likely applications relating to St. Patrick's Day festivals for 17 March, if there is any way Community Groups arranging such events could be given an early preliminary approval regarding funding?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that Kildare County Council community and festival grant schemes are currently opened with a closing date of 10 March 2023. The grant schedule for assessing and processing is very tight with the assessment scheduled in the week following the closing date. Draft lists of proposed grants are scheduled for approval at



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each Municipal District meeting in April. On Municipal District approval, groups are notified of their award and payment is issued.

Grants are assessed collectively based on the available budget, except for a small number of legacy allocations. A number of controls and checks are required before funding is paid to applicants. Given the level of governance required it is not possible to assess individual grants in isolation however it may be possible to include funding for forward planning for future projects/events.

The report was noted

### **KN31/0223**

#### **Part 8 for County Library**

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

Can the council confirm the current status of the Part 8 for the county Library, Newbridge and when public consultation will begin?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the Part 8 documentation is currently being finalised to address feedback following consultation in recent months with a number of stakeholders and, we are delighted to confirm that we plan to launch the Part 8 for the new County Library in Newbridge in March (publication dates to be confirmed).

The report was noted

### **KN32/0223**

#### **Dead and Damaged Trees Melitta Road**

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

Can the council confirm if it has any plans to replace dead and damaged trees on the Melitta Road, Kildare opposite Kildare Business Centre?

**Report:** There are no plans in the 2023 planting programme to replace the trees on Melitta Road. However, we will arrange for any of the damaged trees to be removed and prioritise the replanting in 2024. It was not possible to include the location within the budget available this year.



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The report was noted

The meeting concluded