



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

Members Present: Councillor S Doyle (Mayor), Councillors A Connolly, N Connolly, K Duffy, N Heavey, P O'Dwyer, C Pender, R Power and M Stafford.

Remote Attendance: Councillor F McLoughlin Healy, T O'Dwyer,

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 E Ryan (Director of Services), Ms A Granville (Senior Planner), Ms J O'Reilly (Executive Planner), Ms P Pender (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr G Conlon (Senior Executive Officer), Ms SJ Walsh (Executive Engineer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms Susan Bookle (LCDC Coordinator), Ms L Kennedy (A/Administrative Officer), Ms P O'Rourke (Climate Action Coordinator) Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

KN01/0323

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.



KN02/0323

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 15 February 2023, the special meeting of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on 22 February 2023 and noted the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly, seconded by Councillor C Pender and agreed by all members that the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 15 February 2023 and the special meeting of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on 22 February 2023 be taken as read and the progress report be noted.

Matters Arising

Councillor Heavey informed the members that at the September monthly meeting he had requested that a letter issued to Irish Rail to investigate providing a walkway from the Ring of Roseberry to the train station. Anti-social behaviour had escalated recently in adjoining housing estates. He queried if the letter had issued.

Mr D Hodgins advised that if a letter had been requested it would have issued.

Councillor Doyle requested that a copy of the letter and any response received be provided to the members before the meeting concluded.

KN03/0323

Municipal District Road Works

To receive an update on the municipal district road works.

Report:

Road Resurfacing Works:

Tenders are now being prepared for the agreed list of road Projects.

LPT:

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



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NTA:

- Works on Green Road are continuing, widening of footpaths, provision of pedestrian crossing and road overlay.

Miscellaneous Works:

Newbridge

Hedges were cut in Roseberry, Moorefield Drive, Newbridge College, Langton Park, Athgarvan Road, Athgarvan Village, and Baroda.

Drainage works were completed in Cederwood Park, fixing an issue in the estate that had been a problem for the past 40 years.

As well as completed drainage works in housing estates - The Close, Curragh Grange, Beechmount, The Grove, The Park, The Crescent, The Green, The Avenue and The Downs, drainage works at Cottage Veterinary Clinic were completed easing flooding issues in the area.

New Ramp signs were installed at Lakeside Park, and new Cul De Sac signs at The Priory and Hawthorn Close. A new junction sign was erected at Roseberry.

To coincide with the new road layout at Liffey Hall, the old junction sign was removed and replaced with a Crossroads sign. In addition to this we continue to remove old, rusted street signs and poles within the area.

A new concrete footpath was poured at Cedarwood Park, as well as trip hazards being removed from various footpaths around Newbridge town using a concrete Scabbler, Repaired a concrete road crossing in Lakeside Park.

Roads were patched at Ballymany, Station Road, Piercetown, Milltown Road., Roseberry, Newbridge Industrial Estate, Athgarvan Road, bus stop at the Crescent, and ramps at Barrettstown.

Newbridge Environs

Upgrading of drainage system Feighcullen

Patching Rathbride, Brownstown, Barrattstown, Roseberry,

Sign cleaning throughout area

Footpath cleaning, replaced gully at Brownstown Manor

Patching Curragh golf club Road



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Erected new signage at Cherryville and Tullylost

Cleaned out gullies Kildare, Rathangan and Monasterevin

Repair footpaths St Evin's Park, Monasterevin

Hedge cutting Nurney Road Kildare and Edenderry Road Rathangan

General pothole repairs throughout entire area.

Kilcullen

Pothole repairs R448 Brownstown, Caragh, Mile Mill, Brannockstown, Thompson Cross, Nicholastown, Kilcullen, Malones Bridge Caragh, Green Avenue.

Water cuts commons Road Two Mile, Knockbouce and Mile Mill.

Replaced speed limit signs R448 Kilcullen. Replaced damaged road signs Thomastown.

Hedge cutting at Carnalway, Knockbouce, Logstown to Carnalway, Brannockstown to Ardenode, Caragh village, Halverstown, Two Mile House and Ladytown.

Road repairs Two Mile House.

The report was noted

KN04/0323

Residual LPT 2021 and 2022

Councillor Heavey proposed an amount of €2500 to be allocated to Newbridge St Patrick's Day Parade. This was seconded by Councillor Doyle.

Councillor Pender proposed an amount of €2500 also to be allocated to Newbridge St Patrick's Day Parade. This was seconded by Councillor Doyle.

Councillor T O'Dwyer proposed an amount of €700 to be allocated to Esker Lea Estate for the repair of a wall and a youth garden. This was seconded by Councillor Doyle.

Resolved on the proposals of Councillors Heavey, Pender and T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by the members that the above allocations be approved.



KN05/0323

LPT Schedule of Works 2023

To agree and approve the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2023.

Kildare Newbridge MD LPT Allocation 2023

Project Details	Pay Parking Funding	2023 LPT
	319,644	1,237,700
Roads/Footpath Projects		
Roads/Footpath programme	319,644	600,500
Additional Rural Roads Projects		
Public Lighting		35,000
Taking In-Charge		
Taking In-Charge of estates		100,000
Roads Sub Total		735,500
Community		
Festival Grants		-20,635
Junefest		15,000
Monasterevin Tidy Towns CLG - Gordan Bennett		6,500
Kildare Derby Festival		20,000
Kildare Drama Festival		1,000
Rathangan Drama Festival		1,000
Halloween Kildare		4,000
Scarefest, Rathangan		1,000
Silken Thomas Players Drama Festival		2,500
Bluebells and Buskers		3,000
Manley Hopkins Festival (Newbridge)		12,000
Manley Hopkins Festival (Monasterevin)		1,500
Christmas Lights Kildare/Kilcullen/Rathangan/Monasterevin		20,000
Kildare Sports Partnership		30,000
Residents Association Grants		50,000
Contingency Fund		343,646
Community Sub Total		490,511
Economic Development, Planning & Heritage		



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Community Monuments Programme		17,000
Biodiversity		8,000
Shop Front Grants		10,000
Kildare Access Network		5,000
Econ Dev, Planning & Heritage Sub Total		40,000
Libraries & Arts		
Music Generation		30,000
Brigid 1500		100,000
Decade of Commemoration (annual work program)		11,875
Libraries & Arts Sub Total		141,875
Climate Action		
Climate Innovation Fund		5,000
Tidy Town Groups		
Newbridge		25,538
Kildare		17,438
Monasterevin		13,500
Rathangan		10,800
Suncroft		6,416
Milltown		6,416
Kilcullen		10,800
Caragh		4,500
Brannockstown		2,700
Kildangan (Community Development Group)		1,350
Environment Sub Total		104,458
Recreation & Amenity		
Feasibility Study Monasterevin to Portarlington		2,500
Glyphosate Reduction		12,500
Tree Works		15,000
Tree Planting		15,000
Recreation & Amenity Sub Total		45,000
Total LPT Funding		1,557,344
		-

Councillor Doyle stated the members had decided to put a significant amount in contingency to deal with future issues that may arise throughout the year. The District Manager had expressed concerns about the nomination figure and that the Finance Department raised



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concerns also. Councillor Doyle noted this concern but advised that the amount had been set as a contingency fund to deal with the allocation of small sums which could be reappropriated back into administration.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by all members present that the LPT Schedule of Works 2023 be approved.

KN06/0323

Taking in Charge Old Mill Race, Monasterevin

Ms SJ Walsh advised the members that a report had been circulated to members prior to meeting and that it was the recommendation of the Building and Development Control Department that Old Mill Race, Monasterevin be taken in charge.

The members raised the following points:

- It was good to see the 14 previously vacant units being brought back into circulation
- Who would be responsible for the public areas

Ms Walsh advised that the management companies would remain in place for the apartment area but the houses would be removed from their responsibility when the area was taken in charge

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by all members that Old Mill Race, Monasterevin be taken in charge.

KN07/0323

Taking in Charge Millfield Manor, Newbridge

Ms SJ Walsh advised the members that a report had been circulated to members prior to meeting and that it was the recommendation of the Building and Development Control Department that Millfield Manor, Newbridge be taking in charge.

The members raised the following points:

- The members commended the building control team on the works and stated that they hoped learnings would come from the process
- Could clarification be provided on how parking would be regulated in the estate as it has a mix of private and public properties



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- Could the full cost be circulated to the members?
- Had the issue with bin storage been resolved
- Could clarification be provided on how parking was being delineated and would signage be displayed or notifications provided to residents
- Had the issue with the wall been resolved
- There were issues with mixed developments which should be referred to the SPC

Ms SJ Walsh confirmed that the on-street parking would be taken in charge and the apartment complex would still be maintained by the maintenance company which would also be regulating the parking for the apartment complex. There was no planned signage for parking but the area would be clearly delineated. Ms Walsh advised that she would circulate costings to the members.

Councillor T O Dwyer commended Building and Development Control Team for the works and also advised that the steering committee would be communicating with the residents and management company regarding parking regulations.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by all members that Millfield Manor, Newbridge be taken in charge.

KN08/0323

Pedestrian Crossing Green Road, Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
That the council install a pedestrian crossing on the Green Road, 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 crossing formed part of the original NTA works on the Green Road, however as funding has been reduced, at present there is no funding available for your request.

Councillor P O'Dwyer complimented the District Engineer and her team on a great job on the road, which had many works done including widening. She then sought clarification as to how pedestrians were to cross the road safely without a pedestrian crossing.



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The members raised the following points:

- A meeting with the NTA was needed.
- Concerned on the safety aspect for children and parents especially with many houses and educational campuses in the area.
- It was discouraging that elements were removed due to lack of funding when there was no multi annual funding.

Mr D Hodgins and the District Engineer clarified with the following:

- The funding was for works in 2022 and due to works not being finished in 2022 there was no money in 2023 as this was not multi annual funding so the works could not be completed as there was no external sources of income at year end.
- Funding could not be drawn down in 2022 as certain elements had extended the programme and there was no authorisation to reallocate funding from other projects.
- Mr D Hodgins had suggested writing a letter on behalf of the members to NTA regarding funding for this specific project.
- The District Engineer confirmed that the work has to be completed and will cost in the region of €250,000 - €300,000. The pedestrian crossing was one element which could be omitted to save costs

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

KN09/0323

Traffic Lights Moorefield and Morristown Junctions

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
That the council install a green filter light as part of the traffic light signalling system at Moorefield Junction and the Morristown Junction, 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 of the following:



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Morristown junction: There is a right-hand filter arrow and lane provided on the Northern and Western approach to this junction. There is not sufficient road width to provide filter lanes with green filter arrows on the Southern and Eastern approaches.

Moorefield junction: A right hand filter arrow is provided on the R445 (Curragh) approach, it may be possible to provide a filter lane/arrow on the R445 (Town Centre) approach – however there is currently no available funding to investigate/carry out any additional works. The Green Road and Morristown approaches operate as separate traffic phases and there is no requirement for filter arrows for these approaches. The facilities at the junction shall be reviewed as part of any future Active Travel Scheme in the area.

The members raised the following points:

- Clarification if there was a need to widen the road for a filter light to be installed.
- Issues from residents regarding the filter light not working.
- Sought costings on repairs to the existing filter light
- Could a briefing be organised with members regarding the traffic plan for Newbridge in advance of the Local Area Plan as there was a need to get the information out to the public.

Mr D Hodgins advised members that there was a need to widen the road to accommodate a filter lane and it was very challenging to get funding due to the focus on climate action and trying not to increase vehicle capacity as there was a shift towards active travel mode. This junction would be reviewed as part of Area Based Transport assessment (ABTA) which was currently underway.

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

KN10/0323

Crossroads on L7011

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

That the council install rumble strips on the L7011 prior to the crossroads between L7011 and L7012, given the blind spot created by the topography of the road approach to this junction.



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 Kildare Newbridge Municipal District Office agree to look at a line marking plan at this location, rumble strips can be noisy, we would have to assess the location with this in mind.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that this was a dual intersection. A hollow on the Ellistown side meant cars could not see traffic on the other side. Rumble strips may be possible as there were no houses in the area or a warning sign on approach to the junction heading towards Cherryville.

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

KN11/0323

Footpath at Woodview Estate

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Duffy
That the council install a 10 metre concrete footpath at the front of Woodview Estate to replace the existing stepping pavers to improve access for all and permeability from the estate to community services.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District Office agree to assess and cost. All works will be subject to budget availability.

Councillor Duffy stated that a 10metre footpath linking the estate to the footpath would improve accessibility for residents.

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



KN12/0323

Public Lighting Milltown Village

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford
That the council install additional public lights in the centre of Milltown Village.

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

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 Stafford advised that public lighting was good on the approach roads to Kilmeague and Newbridge but there were gaps in the village itself.

Members could be kept updated on the status of projects with KLIPS through the progress report.

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

KN13/0323

Mount Prospect to Kiltaghan/Clonbrin Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly
That the council include the L7008, Mount Prospect to Kiltaghan/Clonbrin Road in its road maintenance/restoration programme for 2023.

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 the roads programme is agreed and approved for 2023, it is expected that the budget is fully expended.

Councillor A Connolly stated that the area had been patched on numerous occasions and requested that it be added to the 2024 programme.



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

KN14/0323

Machinery Yard

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey
That the council outline plans to utilise or dispose of their Machine Yard property in Newbridge including how the community might benefit from these plans.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the construction of the new Machinery Yard is progressing well, and it is expected that the project will be delivered on target. Plans for the migration of machinery yard operations are also progressing. It was originally envisaged that the existing site would be sold to offset some of the costs of the new yard, however, given the central location of the site and the need for community services in Newbridge this decision is being revisited by Management Team. The Members will be updated when a final decision is made.

Councillor Heavey advised that this was a strategic space in the middle of Newbridge which would be ideally suited for use as a community or youth space and queried what was being considered.

The members raised the following points:

- Had any community uses been considered
- Delighted to see the property was being proposed as a community space and being revisited.
- The town was severely lacking community spaces.
- Option of looking at the property to be redeveloped for social housing and could be used as a pilot project.

Mr D Hodgins explained to members that it was an option to retain the property and was currently under consideration and he had no further details.



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

KN15/0323

Road linking the business park to Great Connell in Newbridge

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

Can the council confirm when the taking in charge of the road linking the business park to Great Connell in Newbridge will be completed?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the taking in charge of this section of road is currently being examined by the Kildare County Council Roads Planning Section and is subject to snags and some outstanding works being completed. The members will be updated on the timeline of the taking in charge process.

Councillor P O Dwyer informed members that this is a substantial issue and the place is full of rubbish and not fair on the residents and farmers in the area.

The report was noted.

KN16/0323

Planters in Newbridge

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

Can the council provide an update on who is responsible for the maintenance of the recently installed planters in Newbridge, excluding Cutlery Road, to include rubbish collection from the planters, pruning and replacing dead plants?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there is no maintenance agreement currently in place, however Public Realm are working with a potential provider to replace, manage and maintain the planting.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed members that she would discuss with Ms P Pender offline.

The report was noted.



KN17/0323

Footpath to the GAA grounds in Kildangan

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

Can the council provide costings for the extension of the footpath to the GAA grounds in Kildangan?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there are two options:

1. A new footpath from the junction to the GAA field approximately 850m in length at a costing of €160,000
2. Provision of a pedestrian crossing and a new 180m footpath from crossing to the field €90,000

All subject to tendering.

The report was noted.

KN18/0323

Pedestrian crossing at Kilcullen Library

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer Can the council provide an update on the technical assessment, as agreed in December 2021, that was to be carried out at the pedestrian crossing at Kilcullen Library to establish if dished kerbing was an option?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office agree to review and meet on site to establish an appropriate location.

The report was noted.

KN19/0323

Off-street parking for the residents of New Street, Rathangan

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

Can the council confirm if it has carried out an assessment for location of off-street parking for the residents of New Street, Rathangan?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that no appropriate land has been identified for off-street parking in Rathangan. Options can be discussed directly with Councillor A Connolly. Councillor A Connolly noted that she would speak to Mr M McLoughlin offline. The report was noted.

KN20/0323

Second-hand houses purchased in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District with sitting HAP tenants

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford
Can the council confirm the number of second-hand houses purchased in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District with sitting HAP tenants over a three year period including the number forecast for this year?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the council have purchased 8 properties over the last three years with sitting HAP tenants in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District area.

The report was noted.

KN21/0323

Town and Renewal Masterplan for Rathangan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford that the council commission a Town and Village Renewal Masterplan for Rathangan as a matter of urgency.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that there are currently no plans to commence a Town and Village Renewal Masterplan for Rathangan. The Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) team has a number of projects at various



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stages placing demands on the team. The Director of Services for Planning and SPPR is meeting all Municipal Districts in March to prioritise projects for the 5 areas.

Councillor Stafford informed the members that this was an important issue and requested that the members take a vote on commissioning a Town and Village Renewal Masterplan for Rathangan.

Following a discussion, Director of Services advised that Public Realm will be holding a briefing with the members and suggested that the motion be deferred until after this briefing had taken place.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor Duffy that the report be noted and that this motion be deferred until after the Public Realm meeting.

KN22/0323

Kildare Local Area Plan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle
That the council defer the statutory process for the Kildare Local Area Plan (LAP) until current CSO figures are released.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2012-2018 pre-dates the National Planning Framework (2018), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031, the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029, Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines in relation to Local Area Plans (2013) and Development Plans (2022) and indeed the establishment of the Office of the Planning Regulator. The Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2012-2018 does not comply with current national, regional and county planning policy and it is no longer fit for purpose.

It is the Executive's contention that it is not in the interest of the residents of Kildare Town or of the Elected Members of the Municipal District to defer the Local Area Plan process for Kildare Town for the following reasons:



1. Initial Census 2022 results at Electoral Division level and housing completion data allows the Planning Department to accurately estimate the population of the town for the purposes of preparing a land use plan as follows:
 - i. Census 2022 states that the population of the Kildare Town Electoral Division increased by 17.69% since the 2016 census. Applying this same growth rate to the settlement boundary (which is smaller than the ED) provides an estimated population for the town of 10,161 persons in April 2022, i.e. an increase of 1,527 persons from 9,874 in 2016.
 - ii. This estimated population figure is confirmed when cross-referenced with house completion rates. During the intercensal period 2016 to 2022, approx. 619 residential units were constructed within the LAP boundary. It is reasonable to assume that 10% of these new housing units were occupied by existing residents of the town (thus not increasing overall population). Using an occupancy rate of 2.75 persons per dwelling¹ for 558 units², this indicates a commensurate population growth of 1,534 additional persons.

2. The County Development Plan 2023-2029 expressly states how baseline population will be estimated for local area plan towns. Footnote 9 of Table 2.8 'Core Strategy' states:

'... As Local Area Plans are prepared during the lifetime of this County Development Plan, the Census 2022 figure will be used as the population baseline from which projected population growth will be calculated for each individual LAP town, where available. Any LAP prepared before the publication of the Census 2022 Small Area Population will require an updated population estimate to be prepared for the Draft LAP (to be based on factors including the quantum of residential units built since Census 2016) which will differ from that shown in the '2021 Population Estimate' column in this table.'

¹ According to Census 2022, the national and County Kildare average housing occupancy is 2.75 persons per dwelling.

² 619 units less 10% social and affordable is 558 units.



Therefore, the population projections have been prepared in accordance with the agreed policy approach as contained in the current County Development Plan.

3. Deferring the Kildare Town LAP raises many serious and significant concerns for the citizens of the town. The previous Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 specifically stated that Kildare Town had a surplus zoning capacity for 2,027 units over and above Core Strategy figures in 2017 which needed to be addressed through a local area plan. While the population of County Kildare increased by 11% between 2016 and 2022, the Kildare Town Electoral Division grew at a significantly higher rate of 17.69%. This is a direct result of the excessive amount of land zoned for residential development since 2012.

Significant preparatory work has been undertaken to ensure a timely, considered, holistic and evidence-based approach to devising a new development strategy for Kildare Town. The draft Plan is informed by an up-to-date Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) and Settlement Capacity Audit (SCA) which have a critical role in determining the development strategy for the town. The SIA indicates that social infrastructure has not kept pace with residential development, and that there are existing deficiencies in public open space, childcare and neighbourhood centre provision for the current population. These deficits need to be addressed immediately through the support of a revised statutory local area plan.

4. The publication of the statutory notice in accordance with Section 20 of Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) commences a 41 week process comprising of public consultation, during which time the draft Plan can be amended having regard to *inter alia*:
 - i. submissions received from the public,
 - ii. motions received from the Elected Members, and
 - iii. any updated CSO data published in the meantime.
5. Deferring the Kildare Town LAP has implications for the Council's Local Area Plan work programme and in particular will have significant time delays for Newbridge,



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Monasterevin and Kilcullen LAPs, all located within the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District.

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect on the 28 January 2023. It is considered timely and prudent to publish a new draft Local Area Plan for Kildare Town to ensure the future growth of the town aligns with national, regional and county planning policy without delay. It is ready for publication and public consultation.

In the absence of an up-to-date, considered, holistic and evidence-based approach to the development of Kildare Town, the town will continue to grow in a housing-led, car-based, unsustainable manner.

The draft LAP strives to achieve compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society and provides opportunity for catch-up social infrastructure to be delivered in the right location.

Having regard to the foregoing, to delay the roll-out of this important land use plan until the publication of the detailed Census would not deliver any discernible benefit to the people of Kildare Town as any amendments required can be addressed through the amendments as set out above.

The publication of a Local Area Plan is an Executive Function of the Council and it is the Executive's intention to publish the draft Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 for public consultation on Tuesday the 21 of March.

Councillor Doyle advised that she would like to defer the item to the April meeting as she was not happy with the response. Councillor Power stated that the publish date of March 21 was before the next meeting so the item needed to be discussed.

Councillor Doyle stated that she was very disappointed with the response as this was the only LAP to be published in advance of the CSO figures being released. She felt there were anomalies and that the reality of the situation was being ignored especially regarding the water network and infrastructure. She believed that the publication of the LAP should be deferred until the CSO figures were available.

The members queried what the impact would be if the publish date was deferred until after the CSO figures were available.

The Planning Team (Mr E Ryan, Ms A Granville and Ms J O'Reilly) stated the following:



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- Clarified that this was not the only LAP to be published, Athy and Naas were also adopted before the Census.
- Census 2022 figures had been used to inform the LAP and it would be unfair on citizens in Kildare Town to defer at this time. Deferral would delay the entire work programme for the county as this is one of 12 LAP's due in County Kildare
- The publication of a Draft LAP was an executive function, and the members agreement was not a statutory requirement.
- The LAP would be updated as information and Government Policy became available throughout the LAP preparation process.
- There would be opportunities to influence the plan during the public consultation period. Members could submit motions on the content of the LAP.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Power that the report be considered. Councillor Doyle did not accept the report.

KN23/0323

Policy on the grant/refusal of a retention planning permission

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford
That the council detail its policy on the grant/refusal of a retention planning permission in this municipal district where the development has "unlawful but immune" status in circumstances where the development is located in an area that may have environmental or other sensitivities.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that each planning application is assessed on its own merits having regard to the policies and objectives set out in the County Development Plan and Local Area Plans, National and Regional polies and relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act (2000) as amended.

Councillor Stafford stated that there was an issue, especially with some agricultural buildings, where no enforcement action had been taken in the 7 years, but retention could



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not be granted possibly due to proximity to a motorway or a conservation area. He queried why permission was still being refused even though the structures could not be removed. Could a policy be put in place to work with the landowners taking a conciliatory approach to regularise the position instead of leaving these structures in limbo.

Councillor Stafford asked for this matter to be referred to SPC. This was agreed by members.

Mr G Conlon stated that structures in breach of the County Development were still unauthorised even if no action had been brought in the 7 years and permission could not be granted. To initiate enforcement action some form of complaint had to be received. He noted that there were severe penalties for unauthorised developments.

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

KN24/0323

Unauthorised Developments

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly
That the council provide the number of and progress on, Unauthorised Developments within the municipal district in the year 2022.

The motion was proposed by Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor P O Dwyer.

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the following table outlines the activity on Unauthorised Development for 2022 for the County. Activity on Unauthorised Development is not provided by Municipal District as the current system does not facilitate an activity report by Municipal District.



New cases Referred in 2022	Cases closed in 2022	Warning letters issued in 2022	Enforcement Notices served
205	245 *	356	132

*Includes cases received prior to 2022

Councillor A Connolly had asked the question about how this can be facilitated better and queried what the process was if ownership could not be determined.

Councillor P O Dwyer queried how the Unauthorised Development section prioritise enforcement.

Mr G Conlon informed the members that there were different stages of enforcement that had to be followed and it was a slow process. Better reporting was required. The property register and local knowledge were used to determine ownership. He advised the section was currently under resourced.

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

KN25/0323

Barrow Blueway works.

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Duffy
Can the council provide an update on the Barrow Blueway works, newly appointed Contractor and the sequencing of the works and timeframes?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that the council are working with Waterways Ireland on getting the Temporary Works License, which is required to allow us to carry out works on their property. Waterways Ireland have all the required information including Insurances, Method Statements, Traffic Management Plans and Construction Environmental Management Plan, they are currently reviewing. Once this has been granted the Contractor will provide an updated programme,



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which the Public Realm Team can share. Included is an overview of how the works will be approached. (see appendix Item 25)

The report was noted.

KN26/0323

Public Realm Regeneration of Newbridge

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

Can the council provide the latest schedule for the Public Realm Regeneration of Newbridge including all grant applications?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that a quarterly report was presented to members in December 2022, the next update is due to be given at the April meeting of this Municipal District.

The report was noted.

KN27/0323

Centre of Excellence for Climate Change

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

Following on from my motion at the January meeting, can the council confirm when the Feasibility Study Report to build a Centre of Excellence for Climate Change and Sustainability in St Conleth's Square, Newbridge will be made available to members?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that a copy of the Draft Feasibility Study Report issued to the elected members for their information via the members online portal. From further discussion with Councillor Heavey, an Executive Summary of the Report is now requested. The Report is currently at Draft stage, an Executive Summary could be included as part of the final Report.

The report was noted.

KN28/0323

Litter Bins Lakeside Park, Highfield and Dara Park Estates in Newbridge.

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



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That the council provide a litter bin and signage to deal with casual littering at the seating area around the lake at Lakeside Park, Highfield and Dara Park Estates in Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there are no resources available to provide and manage the collection of additional bins in this municipal district at present.

Councillor Heavey advised that residents in the estates took pride in this area but did not accept the strategy of bringing waste home. Councillor Doyle suggested that maybe looking at redundant bins in other areas could be relocated and to approach the Municipal District office regarding this. The Meetings Administrator advised members that this information will be passed onto the Municipal District office.

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

KN29/0323

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2028

Ms S Bookle advised the members that a report had been circulated to members prior to meeting on the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2028.

The members received a comprehensive presentation from Ms Bookle who then opened the floor to questions and comments.

The members thanked Ms Bookle for her presentation and raised the following points:

- The plan provided great support when applying for grant funding
- Could clarification be provided regarding budgets and were these annual figures
- Timelines for grants were very tight

Ms Bookle stated that funding was to the LCDC process which was the conduit from National Level grants and not assigned to the plan itself. Timelines were restricted by National Government timelines but as much time was given as was possible. Ms Bookle advised that if members had any further queries at a later date they could be directed to her by email.

The report was noted.



KN30/0323

Open Space Management 2023

Ms P O' Rourke advised the members that a report had been circulated to members prior to meeting on Open Space Management 2023 and gave the members a comprehensive presentation.

The members thanked Ms O'Rourke for her very interesting and informative presentation and advised that any queries or comments would be collated and sent to her by email. The report was noted.

On the proposal of Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by the members, standing orders were suspended for 10 minutes.

KN31/0323

Parks Works Programme 2023.

A report had been circulated to members prior to meeting on Parks Works Programme 2023. Mr S Wallace discussed the Parks Works Programme and informed members that there were two priorities at the moment which were Cherry Avenue and the second playground in Newbridge.

The members raised the following points:

- Clarification on timelines for recruitment of new staff.
- Disappointed that roles have not been filled as of yet.
- Clarification if the second Newbridge playground incorporated the 'natural play area'.
- What was the delay with the public watering point in Kildare. Was it an Irish Water issue
- Reports had been received from representatives of Tidy Town groups that they had received notices from Irish water that charges would be imposed for using their own water for the purpose of public areas.
- Were there any plans for youth areas or pockets parks
- Could clarification be provided on the locations for the communications boards.



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- There appeared to be very few projects outside Kildare and Newbridge
- Could clarification be provided regarding Cherry Avenue
- There was a need to prioritise projects
- Could GPS data and a graph of spend across the county be provided
- Care would be required regarding any graph of spend across the county as larger projects could skew the data

Mr Wallace provided the following replies:

- In relation to recruitment one technician had commenced this week with the second to commence at the end of March.
- The natural play area would be incorporated into the second playground in Newbridge
- The council were still waiting on Irish Water regarding the public watering point in Kildare.
- Mr Wallace advised that there was no short answer to Irish Water charges to Tidy Towns representatives. Water butts could be installed but Irish Water had a social responsibility in this regard.
- In relation to Cherry Avenue Mr Wallace advised that the amphitheatre would impact all other works. It was still hoped to open in 2024.
- There would be one communications board installed in each municipal district as a pilot project incorporating information from LAMH.
- A discussion regarding the prioritisation of projects would be welcomed.

The report was noted

KN32/0323

Twinning Committee

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle
That this council send a recommendation to the twinning committee requesting that Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District be twinned with a similar municipal district/town in Ukraine as an act of solidarity recognising the anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

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



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A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the decision to enter into a twinning arrangement is a reserved function and should be referred to the Twinning Liaison Committee however there are budget constraints and limited resources which will need to be considered when deciding to enter into any new twinning arrangements.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Power that the report be noted.

KN33/0323

Community Centre on Dunmurray Road, Kildare

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

Can the council provide an update on the feasibility of delivery of a Community Centre on Dunmurray Road in Kildare, where planning exists to deliver a multiuse facility?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that planning permission was granted to Cill Dara Housing to construct a community centre at Maple Lawns, Bishopsland in Kildare. An extension to planning was granted and is due to expire in September 2023. There has been no recent contact between Cill Dara Housing and the Community Department of Kildare County Council. This proposed project is not currently within the capital programme however the community department can arrange to meet with Cill Dara Housing to discuss their future plans.

Ms L Kennedy to report back to members regarding ownership of the land.

The report was noted.

KN34/0323

Community Improvement Scheme project

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

Can the council confirm if other grant funding can be used to match fund a Community Improvement Scheme project in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Department administers the Community Involvement Scheme. The Community Involvement Scheme encourages a joint approach (on a voluntary



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basis) with groups of local residents and landowners for the restoration of public roads that are lightly trafficked, single lane or cul de sac roads. As well as being cul de sacs they may also link two local primary roads or two local secondary roads. Up to 80% of the funding is provided, with the balance coming from the local community. There is no mechanism for additional grant funding to be utilised.

The report was noted.

KN35/0323

Youth and Civic Space Kilcullen

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

Can the council confirm if any progress has been made in purchasing a premises in Kilcullen to be used as a youth and civic space?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the Community Department has not been approached by any established youth group in Kilcullen to progress the project. There is limited suitable premises available in the area however the Community department will welcome any suggestions for suitable locations from local youth groups.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.