



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 17 May 2023
in the Council Chamber**

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

Remote Attendance: Councillor F McLoughlin Healy

Officials Present: Mr K Kavanagh (A/District Manager), Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Ms F Byrne (Administrative Officer), Mr M McLoughlin (A/Senior Executive Officer) Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr C O'Toole (Staff Officer), Mr J Hennessy (Senior Executive Engineer), J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

Councillor Doyle proposed a suspension of Standing Orders for 15 minutes to allow the meeting to commence at 10:15 a.m., seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by all members that standing orders be suspended for 15 minutes.

KN01/0523

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.



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Councillor Duffy declared an interest regarding Item 5 as his parents in-law had purchased a house in the Passlands, Monasterevin.

KN02/0523

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 19 April 2023 including minor change to minutes and noted the progress report.

The Meetings Administrator apologised and advised members of the minor change requested to item 29 to include “and the residents association grants were noted”.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members, with Councillor McLoughlin Healy abstaining that the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 19 April 2023 be taken as read with the amendment and the progress report be noted.

KN03/0523

Municipal District Road Works

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

Road Resurfacing Works:

Road overlays at the following locations are now nearing completion:

- Milltown
- Lumville The Curragh
- Sunnyhill

LPT:

- Footpath and kerbs now complete in Milltown
- Footpath in Sunnyhill completed.
- Footpath at the school in Rathangan complete



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- Pedestrian crossing installed in Kilcullen.

NTA:

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

Miscellaneous Works:

Kilcullen

Pothole repairs - Mullacash to Swordlestown. Mylerstown to Mullacash Cross. Logstown to Carnalway. Browns Lane Two Mile House. Thompsons Cross to Sunnyhill. Sunnyhill cul de sac. Green Avenue to Rathasker. Rathasker to Ladytown.

Water cuts - Green Avenue. Dunnstown. Mylerstown to Swordlestown. Logstown to Carnalway. Corbally. Erecting Deer signs Harrison Common.

Newbridge

Drainage Works in Pollardstown

Replaced 2 bollards Moorefield Road and Newbridge Library

Lane clean up on Highfield estate removed several truck loads of debris

Replaced damaged footpath on Station Road

Pothole Road Repair at entrance to Kilbelin estate,

Cleared Gullies from Kilbelin estate to the Gables,

Footway Repair linking Moorefield Road to Edward Street

Country Crew

Patching Curragh and Suncroft area, Feighcullen, Ressurrect , Baroda, Newbridge Golf Club road, Clongorey, Athgarvan and Bothergoy Hawkfield and Milltown

Drainage works Ballintine

Watercuts Bothergoy

Kildare

Patching and water cuts were carried out throughout the Municipal District area.



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Trip hazard at Kildare train station, at St. Evins Park and on the R445 were removed.

Replaced Inspection Chamber lid at Beechview.

Fencing Monasterevin Depot

Councillor Pender asked if the junction box on the Athgarvan road was owned by Kildare County Council. District Engineer confirmed that it did not belong to Kildare County Council and would be looked at.

The report was noted.

KN04/0523

Residual LPT 2021, 2022 and 2023

Councillor Duffy proposed:

- €2,500 for Kildare County Council – LEO – Monasterevin Bank of Ireland
Match Funding – to support the development of a strategy to determine the best use of the building in supporting economic growth in the town.

Councillor Duffy asked members to support similar on behalf of Jacqui MacNabb and Councillor Doyle said she would support and match proposal. Agreed by all the members.

- €2,500 for Pigeon Club, Monasterevin
Replacement of an existing shed to facilitate the Pigeon Club, Monasterevin
- €2,500 for Kildare County Council - Heritage Passlands Cemetery
Match Funding – to repair the Cassidy's Vault in conjunction with KCC Heritage
- €5,000 for Kildare County Council - Heritage – Cassidy's Distillery
Match Funding – to support the T+V Development Grant to undertake the Heritage and Masterplan in conjunction with KCC Heritage.

Councillor Duffy declared conflict of interest - Involved in the project; submitted the original EOI for the project.

- €6,500 for Monasterevin Development Association



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Funding to support the development of the Part 8 planning application for the Sports & Water Hub in Monasterevin

Councillor Duffy declared conflict of interest - Chairperson of the MDA

- €1,300 for Kildare County Council - Lighting Section
Installation of 1 new Street Light in Passlands, Monasterevin on public safety grounds – quote provided.

Councillor Duffy declared conflict of interest - Perceived conflict, parents in-law purchased a house in the area recently after this issue was raised by another constituent.

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

Councillor Pender proposed:

- €4,000 to Kildare Wildlife Rescue - To support the protection and rehabilitation of native animals.

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

Councillor Doyle proposed:

- €1,000 given to KARE services Kildare.

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

Councillor P O'Dwyer proposed:

- €15,000 - Roads Department Newbridge Municipal District
- €1,000 - Newbridge Family Resource Centre towards the Summer Camp Programme 2023

This was seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by the members.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed members that there seemed to be no distinction between LPT and Community grants. The same application form was sent for both, and groups had no idea what they were getting. Councillor T O'Dwyer asked if this could be confirmed. Councillor Power asked if members could get a summary of the balance of the residual LPT. The Meetings Administrator informed members he would pass this on to the Community Department.

Resolved on the proposals of Councillors Duffy, Pender, Doyle and P O'Dwyer seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by all members that all the above allocations be approved.



KN05/0523

High Bridge, Grand Canal, Monasterevin

A report had been circulated to members prior to meeting to consider Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993 - the proposed extinguishment of public right of way for vehicles access at High Bridge on the Grand Canal, Monasterevin

The members raised the following points:

- All avenues had been exhausted to stop vehicles crossing this bridge.
- There were no sightlines on the bridge.
- They completely understood people/farmers concerns.
- The Blueway would be soon passing under this bridge and there were concerns for public safety.
- Farmers had voiced that they would have liked a compromise as they used this bridge to get to their land.
- Removable bollards were suggested to help farmers.
- Concerns were raised over traffic issues when drawbridge lifted.
- Could the area be monitored when bridge closes as there were concerns that illegal dumping could become an issue.
- Were there risks of integrity with the bridge carrying heavy loads?

The District Engineer informed members that the structural integrity of the bridge was okay but if it kept getting damaged with vehicles getting stuck on it and damaging the walls this would impact the integrity. When a vehicle gets stuck on this bridge it takes a lot of resources to help remove them. The bridge would still be open to pedestrians, cyclists and for moving animals.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Doyle with nine members, voting in favour with two members abstaining, that the public right of way for vehicles access at High Bridge on the Grand Canal, Monasterevin be extinguished.



KN06/0523

Yellow box Moorefield Drive onto Artillery Place/Morristown.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
That the council consider installing a yellow box at the upper junction from Moorefield Drive onto Artillery Place/Morristown.

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 it is the Municipal District's policy and it's also recommended that yellow boxes are only installed at junctions of main roads. Therefore there are no plans to install a yellow box at this location.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed members that she was looking for an alternative due to the filter light not been appropriate for this area. The District Engineer informed the members that a yellow box can cost €1,000 to install and must be maintained every two years. There are set of technical guidelines for installing yellow boxes.

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

KN07/0523

Loose paving stones Main Street, Kilcullen

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
That the council examine the best option to address the uneven and loose paving stones along the path on Main Street, Kilcullen from Nolan's Butchers to the Credit Union.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the location in question would require a major upgrade. The entire street is a



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cobbled footpath. There is no budget/funding available at present to consider taking this to design stage.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that she accepted the report, but the Access Officer had been out to the area in question and there were areas which were difficult to walk over especially for people with mobility issues and the kerbs were higher on that side of the road. There had been reports of multiple fallers due to the uneven cobbles and hill. Maybe the issue could be revisited around budget time.

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

KN08/0523

Nicholastown Estate and Avondale Estate

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
That the council assess the most suitable and effective traffic calming measure on the Athy approach road into Kilcullen at the section of road in front of Nicholastown Estate and Avondale Estate where speeding continues to be an issue.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office have assessed this area. The works required here are outside the works included in our Low Cost Safety Scheme. A design would have to be carried out by the Planning and Project Team and if works were to proceed here, funding would have to be identified.

Members raised the following points:

- It was a wide-open road with residents on both sides.
- There was no pedestrian crossing near the estates.
- Motorists needed to realise that they were coming into a residential area.



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- Could working with Tidy Towns be a solution using flowerpots/bedding.
- Could Kildare Newbridge Municipal District approve the Tidy Towns idea.
- Would there a technology device that could be used to slow motorist down.
- Could standardised gateways be used as they were used in other town/villages.

The District Engineer informed the members that as far as she was aware they are trying to move away from gateways. The Roads Department would look at the Tidy Towns solution, but it had to be maintained. They would have to consider visibility. It could cost in the region of €30,000 to €40,000 to put traffic calming measures in as it was a wide road. The Roads Departments were doing Junction designs at the moment, but it comes back to budget.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that she felt it would take a lot more than Tidy Towns to help with traffic calming in this area due to it being a wide road and it needed to be effective and safe. Needed to try find the money and would keep working with Kildare Newbridge Municipal District office.

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

KN09/0523

Day Care Centre in Kildare Town

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

That the council examine the junction for the Day Care Centre in Kildare Town and suggest an engineering solution to assist with access and egress at this blind turning point.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a detailed assessment, topographical survey together with a survey of sightlines and parking would have to be carried out in conjunction with the Municipal District Office. A funding source would also have to be identified to carry out any works required at this location.



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Councillor Doyle informed the members that there were Service Users and delivery trucks using this centre every day. The question was asked would it be possible just to have vehicles turning right and not left and could a solution be provided through future planning applications.

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

KN10/0523

Disabled parking bay Londis Supermarket

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly
That the council put in place a disabled parking bay outside Londis Supermarket, New Street, Rathangan.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Design team will carry out a survey of this location to ascertain its suitability for a disabled parking bay. Any works are subject to funding being available within the Municipal District.

Councillor A Connolly informed the members that the parking attendant had been very active the last few weeks in this area. It is the only supermarket in this area without a disabled parking space. She acknowledged report and survey.

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

KN11/0523

Three main accident black spots

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor N Connolly
Go n-aithneodh an Chomhairle na trí príomh áiteanna de thimpistí sa Cheantar Bardasach agus go leagfadh sí amach a pleananna chun feabhas a chur ar shábháilteacht ag na láithreacha seo.



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That the council identify the three main accident black spots in the municipal district and outline its plans to improve safety at these locations.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Department of Transport Support Office, as part of the Regional Road Network Safety Analysis has identified Locations of Interest across the County. Locations of Interest are identified, based on collision data – these can be junctions or linear sections of road. Roads Projects Section are taking this information and feeding it into the Junction Programme which is currently underway. Consultants have been appointed to start designing the first five junctions under that programme with the second five junctions about to go for design in Q3. This is in addition to the work being done through the Municipal District Engineers and the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme, which is funded by the Department of Transport.

Phase 1a: Phase 1b:

No.1	Junction Name	Roads		LOI Ref
JP01	<u>Dagwelds Cross</u>	R403	R409	R403-KE-24
JP02	Prosperous Main Junction	R403	L2002	R403-KE-21.3
JP03	<u>Allenwood Cross Roads</u>	R403	R415	
JP04	<u>Firmount Cross</u>	R403	L2002	
JP05	Cloncurry Cross	R148	L1007	
JP06	<u>Athy – Berts Cross</u>	R417	L8068/7	
JP07	Naas – Perry St	R411	L2026	
JP08	Naas – Watchhouse Cross	R411	L2023	
JP09	Newbridge / Kildare – Thompsons Cross	R448	R418	R448-KE-11.8
JP10	Newbridge / Kildare – Allen Cross	R415		

Councillor N Connolly informed the members that he accepted the report and asked if the report was available publicly and what was the timeline for the Junction Programme. Mr M McLoughlin informed the members he would revert to the Roads Department with the questions asked.

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



KN12/0523

Solar-Powered Public Lighting

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

That the council engage with private and public property owners to explore cost and implement a Pilot Project in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District for wall mounted Solar-Powered Public Lighting or a similar alternative in areas with limited space for lamp posts.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Public Lighting Section is always receiving offers from Solar Powered Lighting suppliers and the challenge at the current time has been the initial cost and the fact that our funds are committed to the PLEEP LED retrofitting project. Achieving economies of scale with solar powered lighting solutions is also a challenge as the locations where it might be beneficial to use them are few relative to the total inventory. The public lighting section always tries to implement the most economically advantageous solution for the available funds. In areas where there is limited space and permission is granted by the property owners, the lights are wall mounted. We are in the process of seeking permission to mount the lights on building walls for the N78 Main Street, Athy. We have recently completed a wall mounted lighting installation for the Naas Town Hall building.

The members raised the following points:

- Could Kildare Newbridge Municipal District be a lead in a pilot project?
- Kildare County Council could be actively reaching out to business/ public to implement this idea.
- Solar concept should be the way forward.
- Solar walk lights on paths could be an option and could grant funding to be looked at.
- It would help achieve our targets for climate action.
- Lakeside Park were looking for extra lighting. Could this be an option.
- The KLIPS system would show where extra lighting was needed.
- This needed to be pursued.



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Mr M McLoughlin asked members to give locations of where they think this could work.

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

KN13/0523

Obsolete signs Monasterevin

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

That the council remove two obsolete signs on the approach to Monasterevin, being the 'NDP Monasterevin Sewerage Scheme' sign located on the R414 and the 'NRA Kildare Town By-Pass' located on the R445.

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 if the members are agreeable, the Municipal District Office will remove the requested signage.

The members made the following point:

- Could signs be reused?
- How would the Roads Department know if signs were no longer needed/used?

The District Engineer informed the members that all signs need planning permission but unless they renew their licence there would be no way of knowing the ones that are obsolete. Kildare Newbridge Municipal District could do a sweep of the area to check signs.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by all members that the signage be removed and that the report be noted.

KN14/0523

Cycle lane over St. Conleth's Bridge

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to include the cycle lane over St. Conleth's Bridge in the resurfacing programme?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office have no plans to carry out resurfacing works at this location in 2023. There is no allocated funding in the budget for this year to do this additional work. The report was noted.

KN15/0523

Toughers bus stop area

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
Can the council provide an update on what is planned for the Toughers bus stop area which is presently on a grass margin with no safe pedestrian crossing, in light of the recently installed upgraded bus stop opposite Willowbrook Nursing home on the R445?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Sustainable Transport Section is currently designing an upgrade to the stops on both sides of the R445 west of the existing roundabout. This design includes new bus shelters and improvements to pedestrian facilities. The design will be discussed with the Municipal District members prior to a public consultation process in Q3 2023.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that she would like the Sustainable Transport Section to consider a depot style bus stop for this area as she felt it would be a much safer option. The report was noted.

KN16/0523

Illegal encampments

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Doyle
Can the council provide a report on what engineering solutions have been used to prevent illegal encampments on wide grass verges in various locations throughout the municipal district and what the typical costs of same are? A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the usual prevention methods used consist of mainly using berms/banks along the verge of the road or using bollards ranging from the temporary kelly block type to the permanent wooden post as employed on the Naas Southern Ring Road or the Newbridge Southern Orbital at Murphy International. (see photos below) Both of these options are expensive to retrofit. In the case of the berm, a good design would ensure the slope still allowed for proper grass cutting whilst discouraging movement of vehicles. However, verge widths are often too narrow to allow for construction of a berm. Bollards can be visually

Bollards along the Naas Southern Ring



Building of a berm at Grange Castle, South County Dublin, with temporary Kelly Blocks in the background



Another example of a mounded grass verge is opposite the main entrance into the Pipers Hill Campus. Below.



obtrusive and require a lot of ongoing maintenance, especially in the longer term. Access to roadside services and potential for damage to underground services is an issue for both methods.



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Councillor Doyle thanked the Senior Engineer for his response. She informed the members that some of the areas where the illegal encampments were happening were close to vulnerable rural areas. Could there be reassurance that new roads should have these designs put in from the beginning to stop this happening. It takes a lot of resources and time when the encampments have to be removed and feels bollards are effective.

The report was noted.

KN17/0523

Leinster Walk

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

Can the council confirm if there are plans to upgrade the footpaths and resurface the road at Leinster Walk, Kildare Town?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office have no plans to carry out works at this location. There is currently no budget in 2023 for this work.

Councillor A Connolly informed the members that there had been no upgrades in years in this area and could it be looked at for 2024.

The report was noted.

KN18/0523

Bus stop at Brownstown

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

Can the council indicate, or give a guideline, as to when the bus shelter at Brownstown, The Curragh, will be erected?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that consent from the Department of Defence has been requested to deliver the improvements to the bus stop at Brownstown. This consent has not been received by the Sustainable Transport Section to date.



Councillor A Connolly asked the Roads Department to send a reminder to the Department of Defence on this issue.

The report was noted.

KN19/0523

Parking in Kildare Town

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

An féidir leis an gComhairle uasdátú a thabhairt ar phleananna páirceála i mBaile Chill Dara, lena n-áirítear tagairt ar leith do phleananna a bhaineann le leasanna iomaíocha na mbinsí suíocháin agus páirceáil i gCearnóg an Mhargaidh?

Can the council provide an update on plans for parking in Kildare Town, including particular reference to plans relating to the competing interests of the seating benches and parking in Market Square?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department and Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that the Parking Bye-Laws will be reviewed once the design of the public realm spaces in Kildare town are finalised. Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) will be publishing a Part 8 in the coming months for the Kildare Market Square. We encourage residents and businesses in Kildare Town and surrounding areas to participate in the public consultation process once it commences.

Councillor N Connolly informed the members that business owners in this area were seeking clarity.

The report was noted.

Items 21 and 23 were taken together.



KN20/0523

New Secondary School in Monasterevin

Item 21

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

An féidir leis an gComhairle amlíne a sholáthar chun oibreacha bóthair agus taistil ghníomhaigh a chur i bhfeidhm a bhaineann leis an Meánscoil nua i Mainistir Eimhín, lena n-áirítear cathain a bheidh na soilse tráchta suiteáilte ag feidhmiú?

Can the council provide a timeline for the implementation of road and active travel works relating to the new Secondary School in Monasterevin, including when the traffic lights installed will become operational?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the completion of road works at the entrance to the new school at Cahill's Cross (R417/L7055) junction forms part of the planning development of the school. The completion of the traffic signal infrastructure works is dependent on the Department of Education's contractor working on the school campus in Moore Abbey and no date has been provided for its completion. The report was noted.

Item 23

New Lodge Cross and Cahill's Cross

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

Can the council provide an update on the timeframe for the turning on of the new pedestrian crossing lights at New Lodge Cross and Cahill's Cross, Monasterevin?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The RECI Certificate for connection for the two new Toucan crossings at New Lodge Cross were submitted to ESN on 23/12/22. Although, the Traffic Management Section staff have been liaising with ESN in order to try progress the connection, no timescale for connection has been provided. The completion of road works at the entrance to the new school at Cahill's Cross (R417/L7055) junction forms part of the planning development of the school. The completion of the traffic signal infrastructure works is dependent on the Department of Education's



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contractor working on the school campus in Moore Abbey and no date has been provided for its completion.

The members raised the following points:

- Were they waiting on the school or was it an electrical issue for the lights on the Dublin Road?
- The lights that were turned on at the Athy road that crosses the petrol station road were causing traffic issues as there was no yellow box and the junction was being blocked. Sequence of lights needed to be looked at.
- The Traffic lights at the petrol station seem to have some sort of filter on it which was causing visibility issue to see if its green or red, could this be looked at?
- Understood there can be teething issues.

The District Engineer informed the members that this issue would be dealt with the contractor in compliance when Taking in Charge. Mr M Mcloughlin will revert to the Senior Engineer to check the lights for filters and report back to members.

The report was noted.

KN21/0523

Ballykelly Cross

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

Can the council provide a drawing and timeframe for the completion of the approved low-cost accident scheme at Ballykelly Cross, Rathangan Road, Monasterevin?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office are not at design stage for this project yet. As soon as we are the Municipal District Office will discuss further with Municipal District Members.

Councillor Duffy asked the District Engineer if there was any sense of time on when this project would commence. The District Engineer informed the members that they were down an engineer and hoped to have a new engineer by 6 June 2023. At the moment the resurfacing works needed to be carried out and the LTP tenders were just back.



The report was noted.

KN22/0523

Thomastown and Caragh Church

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

Can the council inform the members if and when the road between the Liffey at Thomastown and Caragh Church will be median lined?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The Municipal District Office will include these works in our 2023 line marking programme.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that he was glad to know there was a definite date. With recent resurfacing in this area the line markings are non-existent. Could this be done before winter and maybe yellow signs on the edge. The District Engineer informed members that the width of the road dictated the line markings and edging.

The report was noted.

KN23/0523

Parish Church/CMWS in Kildare Town

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

Can the council confirm if it has any plans to resurface the junction of the R445 and R415 at the Parish Church/CMWS in Kildare Town?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office has no plans to carry out resurfacing at this location this year. These works were not included in the Municipal District budget for 2023.

Councillor Stafford enquired if Public Realm would have a possible link to Kildare Village from Parish Church/CMWS in Kildare Town. Mr M McLoughlin informed the members he would revert to Public Realm and update the members.



The report was noted.

KN24/0523

Skate Park

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

That the council examine the Weigh Bridge in Kildare Town as a possible location for a Skate Park.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that an examination of the location can be carried out. There are a number of considerations for this.

- Shape and size of the site to accommodate a worthy facility to cater for skaters, roller blading etc.
- Road Safety due to the proximity of the location to a busy junction and roadways.
- Existing water services on the site. There are existing water services on the site.
- Safe access and egress.
- Provision of parking to facilitate users.
- Adequate passive supervision
- Other suitable sites would also need to be assessed similar to the approach taken in Newbridge.
- A budget would have to be identified.

A works programme was set out to the members in March and agreed and the works on this were the priority for the year. Therefore it would not be possible to progress this proposal until the works programme were advanced.

The members raised the following points:

- Could an assessment be carried out sooner to see if it was feasible.
- The Newbridge skate park had been a great success and members felt that Weigh Bridge was a similar location to this.
- Facilities needed to be provided for older children.
- There was a big gap for children of ten to fifteen years of age regarding recreation.



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- There were issues with older children hanging around in playgrounds.
- Explore different avenues for older type playgrounds.
- Open to the idea of alternative open spaces.
- The success for recreational areas for older children was listening to what they want.

Mr S Wallace informed the members that it could be the end of the summer before this area would be assessed and consideration would need to be given to what services were on sight. He also informed the members that there was a project in Celbridge for 'hang out areas' for older children that would have Wi-Fi and USB ports with several small areas for seating, bike parking, football and basketball.

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

KN25/0523

Timelines on parks projects

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

Can the council provide an update with timelines on parks projects scheduled to be delivered in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District in 2023?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that an update to the works programme was presented to members in March with a current update. Any revised timelines have been added to the timeframes column in green text.



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Kildare - MD Kil/New	Newbridge Municipal District WProject St Brigids Well-Brigid 1500	works Programme 2023 Description Drainage, path upgrade works & seatin	Budget g€5000 - Revenue	Update March 2023 Resin surface for paths to be installed once weather is suitable	Update May 2023 Weather conditions have prevented the resin surface going in. Quotations are being sought for the upgrade of the grass patyh to a semi bound grit surface and additional drainage	Timeframe Q2-Q3 2023
Kil/New	Old Kilcullen Walking Route -ORIS	Feasibility study for route from Round Tower / Hacklow Road)	€45,000 - ORIS Grant & match Funding €5k	Draft design ready. Public meeting to discuss draft design early Feb, project to be completed end of Mar	Roads Design elements currently being finalised. Internal Department discussion scheduled for end of May, followed by discussion with Community Group & advertise plans for public consultation.	Q2- Q3 2023

The Meetings Administrator informed member that the full works programme would be circulated to members.

The report was noted.



KN26/0523

Moore Abbey Woods, Monasterevin

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

Can the council provide an update on the ORIS funded permeability connection to Moore Abbey Woods, Monasterevin?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that work has been completed to finalise a design for the permeability connection. It is planned to tender the works in the next 4-6 weeks.

Councillor Duffy asked the Parks Department to inform the members when finished.

The report was noted.

KN27/0523

Unoccupied Kildare County Council owned properties

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

That the council inform the members of the extent of damage done to unoccupied Kildare County Council owned properties in this Municipal area due to antisocial behaviour, since June 2019.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the maintenance and the allocations teams work very closely to ensure, as far as possible, that unoccupied properties are re-tenanted as quickly as possible when the properties are ready for allocation.

Where it is considered necessary to do so, in order to protect the council's asset, a vacant property will be secured while being renovated and while a new prospective tenant is identified and all necessary procedures are being followed. Vacant properties are not frequently damaged and such damage is not recorded as being of a particular category. While vacant, properties are monitored by our Tenant Liaison Officers (TLOs) and by the Maintenance team, and anything of concern is followed up on.



The members raised the following points:

- There were two tragedies with unoccupied houses,
- Vacant properties were used for antisocial behaviour.
- Securing the properties was the issue.
- Was the process being followed to make sure properties were secured when unoccupied?
- A lot of work had been done by the Housing Departments and this was valued.
- A report was given before that resources and money were not an issue for getting a quicker turnaround on unoccupied properties, does this still stand.
- Could getting subcontractors in to help with the workload be investigated.
- What could the members do to help with this situation?

Ms F Byrne informed the members that metal shutters were still used to secure properties when unoccupied. Money and staff were the issues at the moment. Councillor T O'Dwyer advised that the members had been informed that finance was not an issue. Ms F Byrne will revert back to the department, and this will be put on the progress report.

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

KN28/0523

Factors used to prioritise housing applicants

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

That the council provide members with details of the factors used to prioritise applicants when allocating housing units.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the allocation of housing units is governed by the adopted Kildare County Council Allocation Scheme for the Provision of Social Housing Support. This policy document was reviewed and brought to the members for their consideration and adoption at the February 2023 meeting of full council which



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was held on the 27 February 2023. The reviewed policy was adopted at that meeting on the 27 February 2023. The updated allocation scheme is published on the council's website and allocations are made in accordance with the terms of that policy document.

The members raised the following points:

- Public might not be aware of how policies work for the allocation of houses.
- The members needed to familiarise themselves with policies in order to keep up to date with the relevant information.
- Felt the policy wasn't clear.
- Suggested to bring back queries to Housing SPC for discussion.

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

KN29/0523

Rosconnell, Newbridge

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

Can the council provide an update and detailed timeline for the construction commencement and completion of local authority homes on the council owned site at Rosconnell, Newbridge?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the site at Rickardstown/Rosconnell is included in the PPP Bundle 6 housing scheme that is being developed by the NDFA (National Development Finance Agency) on behalf of Kildare County Council. This site is proposed for mixed use tenure (social and affordable) housing. The project website link is [Social Housing PPP Bundle 6 - NDFA](#) and will be updated as the project progresses. Cork County Council will act as the lead local authority and represent the other participating local authorities including Kildare County Council. It is expected that the procurement of Technical Advisors/Designers will commence shortly. Currently it is planned to lodge Part VIII planning in 2024 with financial close/commencement of works on site likely Q4 2025.



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The members raised the following points:

- The land had been sitting idle for years and Local Authority housing was needed.
- There was a housing crisis and 2025 was too far out.
- Was there an option to push this forward.

Ms F Byrne informed the members that the PPP was working well, and it was no disadvantage that Kildare County Council were not the lead in this project. The Housing Department were at full capacity on projects and programmes. Ms F Byrne informed members she would revert this information back to Mr Creighton to see about prioritising this project.

The report was noted.

KN30/0523

Pedestrian bridge in Rathangan

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

Can the council confirm when works will begin on the pedestrian bridge in Rathangan as part of the Barrow Blueway?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that a procurement process has been progressed and the successful tenderer has been identified. We have yet to award the contract as we are waiting for confirmation from the RRDF in relation to the additional funding required for delivery of this bridge.

The report was noted.

KN31/0523

Taking In Charge Millfield Close, Newbridge

Mr J Hennessy 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 Close, Newbridge be taken in charge.

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



KN32/0523

Hill of Allen

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

That the council cease to market the Hill of Allen in tourism or other forms of marketing as a tourist destination or otherwise until safe public access to the Hill is achieved.

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

A report was received from Into Kildare informing the members that Kildare Failte in association with Kildare County Council have marked St. Brigid's Day over the last three years by lighting up the Hill of Allen with the permission of Roadstone on two evenings 31 January and 1 February. This started during the Covid pandemic to give a beacon of light to brighter times ahead and has received positive feedback from local communities and a great sense of pride. The messaging stated that the site was not open to the public and also as a precaution paid security was provided for the two nights. No issues arose. Locals were advised to watch from their homes or streaming online.

Councillor Stafford informed the members that there was huge potential to have the Hill of Allen as a tourist site and Kildare County Council had not comprehended this yet. He felt it was sending out mixed messages when utilising this location for certain events. This may qualify under the Just Transition Fund. The members agreed be put forward to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for consideration.

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



KN33/0523

Newbridge Water Tower

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender
Can the council provide any and all information gathered in relation to the Newbridge Water Tower, including but not limited to the structural engineer's report, conservation report, maintenance and upkeep and any other documents or reports relevant to the water tower?

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that a report would be given as soon as possible. A number of Departments had been contacted seeking the information requested. The item would remain on the Progress Report.

KN34/0523

Rooske Lodge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender
Can the council provide information on the number of times the fire service has been called to Rooske Lodge and other derelict or abandoned buildings within the Kildare Newbridge Municipal district, as well as the associated cost incurred by the council?

A report was received from the Fire Service Department informing the members that Kildare Fire Service has attended incidents at Rooske Lodge on twelve occasions up to and including the 01 May 2023. The total amount invoiced is €8,000, with €4,500 having been paid to date. The fire service incident management system does not record information specific to abandoned or derelict buildings, so we are unable to provide information on other derelict or abandoned buildings in the Municipal District as requested.

Councillor Pender informed the members that this was clearly costing Kildare County Council money. The property was not secure, and the public could gain access. Councillor Doyle suggested that a report be circulated to the members on derelict sites that had multiple callouts



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from the Fire Service. The District Manager informed members that he would follow up with derelict sites section.

The report was noted.

KN35/0523

Refuge in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillors N Connolly, Pender and Power

Go scríobhfaidh an Ceantar Bardasach chuig an Aire Comhtháthaithe ag iarraidh air a chinntiú go bhfuil tacaíochtaí do dhaoine atá ag lorg tearmainn i mBardasach Chill Dara Droichead Nua, ar fáil do gach dídeanaí, beag beann ar stádas.

That this Municipal District writes to the Minister for Integration calling on him to ensure that supports are available to all people seeking refuge in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District regardless of country of origin.

The motion was proposed by Councillors N Connolly, Pender and Power and seconded by Councillor P. O'Dwyer.

A report was received from the Meetings Administrator that this was a matter for members to agree.

Councillor N Connolly informed the members that everybody needs to work together to create a fairer refugee system, where all refugees are treated with respect and dignity.

People arriving seeking protection should be provided with accommodation and children should be provided with places in schools. EU officials agreed the Temporary Protection Directive, an essential and life-saving mechanism affording people fleeing violence. Asking for international protection is a human right, enshrined in EU law. If you look at the last 10 years, refugees who arrived in the EU from places of conflict are left in limbo. The Temporary Protection Directive is an historic and welcome change to our refugee response. Everyone has the right to seek asylum,



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regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age or country of origin, the law applies equally to all of us.

The members raised the following points:

- There was a need to reduce the discriminations between the two-tier system.
- A system needed to be put in place for people coming in to assess the needs of people not as a group/nationality.
- Bringing cultures together and learning from each other.
- Protection for people arriving in no matter what country they are from
- Council related supports needed to be in place.
- Letter should not be complicated.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all members that a letter would be drafted and circulated to all members to agree and the report be noted.

KN36/0523

Casual Trading Bye Laws

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

That the council conduct a review of the impact of the introduction of Casual Trading Bye-Laws on the Thursday market in Kildare Town through engagement with all of the relevant stakeholders including members of the public.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Service Department informing the members that a review of the impact of the Casual Trading Bye Laws adopted by the members in May 2022, and commenced in September 2022, is problematic without baseline data on the “before” position and clarity on what precisely the members wish to measure in a review.



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In considering the impact of the bye laws, it is important to draw a distinction between the bye laws and the overall context in which they operate, as the bye-laws do not operate in a vacuum. While certain other interventions in the form of Public Realm works have not yet materialised but are imminent, it is the case that without these, judgements regarding the effect of the bye laws and the environment in which casual trading takes place, are premature. It may also be premature to draw conclusions from only nine months of implementation, and especially when the resources in terms especially of promotion of events and the use of the space (presented at SPC and flagged with members during the process of making bye laws) have not been deployed. As flagged in the statutory consultation report (shared with members in May 2022), and as discussed in SPCs and briefings, while the bye-laws are a starting point to enhance quality, without the measures needed to build upon the platform that the bye laws represent such as Public Realm works, regulation of car parking on Market Square/other parking provision, some pedestrianisation and a focussed resource to promote the potential of our public spaces (especially our many Market Squares), a less optimum economic outcome will occur. It is however acknowledged that progress on these matters is ongoing, with some measures imminent, and delivery of the measures will support the growth of a good quality market, that can become an economic driver for the Town. In considering a review, and public consultation, as referenced in the motion, it is notable that the consultation phase identified the above factors as essential to the success of markets but, as communicated at the making of bye laws, these are matters outside the bye laws, but which tend to be evident in locations where markets have successfully developed. It is not proposed to open a review in this matter, only nine months after introduction. It is deemed premature, however, council staff from Corporate Services Department. have, with Gardai, visited the market bi-monthly since June last year. In addition, the market was visited multiple times prior to introducing the bye laws. Through these visits, which encompass regular trader engagement, we are in a position to report on some findings regarding the before and after position and can compile a report and forward to the members separately.

Councillor Stafford informed the members that a market had been held in Kildare since the 1400's and that an official weekly market, was to be held on Thursdays, which was authorised by Henry VIII in the Charter of Kildare of 1515. He was concerned that there would be a negative impact from the byelaws.



The members raised the following points:

- Concerns from stallholders in Kildare Market since bye laws were introduced.
- There had been a drop in footfall.
- The market had declined.
- It was a shame to see its demise.
- Appreciated the problems had been in the market before the bye laws.
- Was it An Garda Síochána or Kildare County Council who enforced the byelaws and monitored casual traders?
- In an era of super marketing this had been impacting on craft workers and farmers.
- The Kildare market was once a thriving market, why had this happened?
- Would hope to be guided from the outcome of the report that would follow.
- Were customers consulted?
- To keep an open mind on going forward
- There had been an impact from the byelaws in Newbridge.

Mr T Shanahan informed the members that Kildare County Council did do not have the resources to enforce the bylaws. It was agreed with the local An Garda Síochána that they would assist a staff member from Kildare Country Council on a temporary basis for six to nine months to visit the market every two weeks and occasionally visit Newbridge. He also informed members that staff turnover was an issue for Kildare County Council at the moment and An Garda Síochána do not have the resources to assist anymore. A report would be circulated to members next week showing a before and after for the last nine months of casual trading in Kildare Market.

Councillor Stafford informed the members of the background history into Kildare Market.

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

KN37/0523

Tidy Towns groups for 2023

That the members consider the grant allocations for Tidy Towns groups for 2023.



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TT Group (11)	Population Category (from TT report)	Proposed Budget Allocation	Proposed LPT Allocation	Total
Newbridge	G	€ 8,650	€ 25,538	€ 34,188
Kildare	E	€ 2,335	€ 17,438	€ 19,773
Monasterevin	D	€ 1,211	€ 13,500	€ 14,711
Kilcullen	D	€ 1,211	€ 10,800	€ 12,011
Rathangan	D	€ 1,211	€ 10,800	€ 12,011
Suncroft	B	€ 518	€ 6,416	€ 6,934
Caragh	B	€ 518	€ 4,500	€ 5,018
Brannockstown	B	€ 518	€ 2,700	€ 3,218
Kildangan	B	€ 518	€ 1,350	€ 1,868
Milltown	A	€ 238	€ 6,416	€ 6,654
Total		€ 16,929	€ 99,458	€ 116,387

The members raised the following points:

- Why did Caragh get a smaller amount compared to towns of similar populations.
- Milltown budget should be brought up.
- Concerns on how figures were allocated.
- Maybe a workshop to discuss the grants process.
- Tidy Town groups deserved recognition for the work they do in our towns.

Mr C O'Toole that the budget allocation was set in stone and the members had agreed the LPT allocation be the same as last year. This can be looked at next year. The District Manager clarified to the members that the proposed grants to Tidy Towns consist of a budget allocation as well as the LPT allocation determined by the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by all members that the grant allocation for Tidy Towns groups for 2023 be approved.

The meeting concluded.