



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 18 October 2023
in the Board Room**

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

Remote Attendance: Councillors F McLoughlin Healy and R Power

Officials Present: Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Ms R Jackson (LPT Co-Ordinator), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Ms B Cuddy (Municipal District Engineer), Ms F Millane (Financial/Management Accountant), Ms C Barrett (A/Director of Services), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Ms C O'Grady (Executive Parks and Landscaping Officer), Ms S Farrar (Administrator Officer), J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

KN01/1023

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.

KN02/1023

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the special Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 18 July 2023 and the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 20 September 2023 and to note the progress report.



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Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the special Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 18 July 2023 be taken as read and on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 20 September 2023 be taken as read and the progress report be noted.

KN03/1023

Municipal District Road Works

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

Road Resurfacing Works:

Restoration Improvement:

All Restoration Improvement schemes are now complete with the exception of the R445 (Sections of the dual carriageway) the tender has been awarded and work will commence in the coming weeks.

Restoration Maintenance (RM) schemes:

All RM are also complete within the Municipal District

LPT:

Henry street – Works are ongoing on Henry Street, approximately 4 weeks remaining.

Moorefield Drive: Upgrade to footpaths complete.

Dara Park Kildare Town: Footpath and road surface upgrade nearing completion.

Junction Upgrades:

Junction improvement works are now complete at Whelan Cross, Junction at Padder Byrnes Garage and Floods Cross.

Low-Cost Safety schemes:



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Ballykelly Cross – works ongoing, junction overlay complete, fencing contract issued to remove and replace existing fence to improve sight lines.

Feighcullen Cross: Upgrading to signage and road markings.

Bend at Feighcullen Church: Upgrading signage and road markings.

NTA:

- Works on Green Road are continuing, widening of footpaths, provision of pedestrian crossing and road overlay.
- Footpath in Kildangan now complete.
- Tender issued and awarded Allenvue / Lakeside Park.
- Tender issues for R445 Ballymany.
- St. Bridget's Square: Junction overlay works commencing in the coming days.

Miscellaneous Works:

Kilcullen:

- Drainage Aliginstown.
- Footpath repairs around eircom boxes Kilcullen.
- Flooding issue resolved at Ladytown.
- Water cuts Pipers Hill to Mullacash.
- Water cuts Brannockstown to Kennycourt.
- Water cuts Green Avenue.
- Drainage works Silliot Hill emptying holding sump and water cuts.
- The Municipal District office also had to clear some fallen trees.
- Pothole repairs Green Avenue.

Kildare:

- New concrete footpaths were poured in The Paddocks Housing Estate, Kildangan.
- Pencil bollards erected R419 Rathangan.
- Bins installed at St Evin's Park.



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- Hedges were cut back at Feighcullen-Pluckerstown, R441 Rathangan, R445 Monasterevin/Kildare Town.
- Drainage works were completed at R445 Kildare Town
- Flood waters were eased at the Lourdesville Estate, Kildare town.
- Patching works were completed at Rathbride Abbey, Rathmuck, Oghill.
- A lot of repair and drainage works were completed following Storm Agnes.
- Strimming around chevron signs on the R401 to Clonbullogue, R445 Whitesland and Mooretown Kildare Town.

Newbridge:

- 2 damaged barriers were removed from traffic lights at Tesco junction.
- Broken barriers were also removed from Moorefield Drive, and footpath repair works were carried out.
- Road repair works were carried out on Chapel Lane.
- Water cuts were opened in Suncroft, Maddenstown and Brownstown area.
- Poles were erected at Walshestown to Curragh Road for traffic calming measures.
- Footpath repair works was carried out in Athgarvan - Eyrefield lawns.
- Gullies at the college were connected to open drain and lines jetted to solve on going issues with surface water on road.
- 3 new stop signs and poles were erected in The Oaks estate.
- Footpath repair works are being carried out in Belmont Green, Walshestown.
- Cleaning and jetting of drainage network at Athgarvan School, Newbridge College, Pfizer roundabout, Brownstown, Suncroft, Brownstown Manor and on the dual carriage way.
- 2 New Big Belly compactor bins were installed at AIB bank and across from Garda Station Newbridge main street.
- Cattle grid at Ballymany/Curragh Racecourse roundabout was replaced.

The report was noted.



KN04/1023

Residual LPT 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023

Councillor P O'Dwyer proposed:

- €500 - Rivercourt Residents Association
- €500 - Newbridge Family Resource Centre for Community Development

This was seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer

Councillor Heavey proposed:

- €3,000 - Caragh Celtic Football Club towards development of a carpark on their grounds in Donore.
- €1,500 - Newbridge Rotary Club towards the expense of running a Youth Development Project 2023-24.

This was seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer

Councillor Doyle informed the members that there was €20,000 LPT outstanding for Christmas lights and she proposed to divide the monies pro rata:

- €7,500 Kildare
- €3,000 Rathangan
- €4,000 Kilcullen
- €5,500 Monasterevin

This was seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer

Resolved on the proposals of Councillors P O'Dwyer, S Doyle and N Heavey and seconded by T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that all the above allocations be approved.

KN05/1023

Kildare-Newbridge Draft Budget Plan 2024

Ms F Millane informed the members that in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 it requires that a draft budgetary plan for the municipal district be prepared under the direction of the chief executive and submitted for consideration by the municipal district



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members for each municipal district. This draft budgetary plan contains the discretionary funding which is made available to municipal district members. The total provision allocation for the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) for 2024 is €18,136,919, of which €5,680,122 was based on the retained LPT as voted for by Members in September. The total provisional GMA for Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District was €4,116,827. On that basis, the Finance Department had taken the opportunity to do some rebalancing of the Municipal District GMA which would be brought to Municipal Districts in October.

- Playgrounds maintenance have been increased from €7,500 to €8,000 and gyms/skateparks from €3,500 to €4,000.
- Resident association grants have been amended to reflect the 'per acre' a central amount was being retained to allow for new estates. Acreage and amounts based on 2023 applications.
- Tidy Towns are being budgeted based on population category with all towns and villages moving to the 'highest' amount per category.
- Parks and landscaping have been increased overall and the split was as advised by the Senior Parks Officer
- Kildare County Council have also planned to set up a Public Realm Maintenance Team which would maintain areas such as existing planters, entrances to town and villages, roundabouts, and SuDs features.
- The Roads Department had based the 2024 pay parking estimates on the August 2022 – July 2023 actual out turns.

Ms F Millane informed the members that Councillor Heavey had sent her some questions regarding the budget, and she informed the members she would revert back with the figures requested.

The members raised the following points:

- How would the public realm team be managed?
- How had the figure for the public realm maintenance been reached?
- Concerned on how this budget was going to work without there being a cross over into other departments.



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- There was €25,000 allocated to festival grants and asked if this could be reduced to €20,000 and use the other €5,000 towards footpaths.

Ms C Barrett informed the members that there was a new team being put into place and would report to the area engineer of the municipal district. It would consist of a three-person team across all municipal districts to start off and see how it goes as it progresses. It would be hoped that the team would be cross functional with different skills such as horticultural and her team were liaising with Human Resources about this. Ms F Millane advised that the festival grant could be reduced but this would have to be agreed by all the members.

Resolved on the proposals of Councillor Duffy seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan for 2024 be adopted without amendments and the report was noted.

KN06/1023

Christmas parking arrangements

To consider and agree Christmas parking arrangements in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District for 2023

Clarification was sought from Councillor P O'Dwyer on the parking arrangements for Christmas parking in 2022. The Meetings Administrator informed the members that there was no suspension of pay parking last year.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by members that there be no suspension of pay parking in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District over the Christmas period.

KN07/1023

Bus service to Suncroft, Carna

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillors A Connolly and Doyle. That this municipal district make a submission to the National Transport Authority (NTA) seeking prioritisation to support a bus service to Suncroft, Carna and surrounding areas that might link in with public transport networks in neighbouring towns.



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The motion was proposed by Councillors A Connolly and Doyle and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that with the members agreement, The Transport Department can write to the National Transport Authority regarding the request.

The members raised the following points:

- It would be a good idea to write to the NTA being especially specific about what would be needed.
- We needed to engage more with the NTA.
- It would be clear that the 126 bus services would not be suitable, maybe the Local Link service should be considered.?
- Alan Kerry be commended for his work with Local Link
- There had been several calls from local residents asking for this bus route to be considered.
- The council need a more cohesive/holistic approach to public transport for people using it for school and work, practical times.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillors A Connolly and Doyle and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members that the Transport Department would write to the National Transport Authority regarding the request.

KN08/1023

Link road from Station Road via Piercetown

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

That the council include the link road from Station Road via Piercetown to house number 1759 Pairc Mhuire for resurfacing in 2024 budget plan.

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



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The Restoration Improvement program will be prepared early 2024. The Municipal District office agrees to include the above road for consideration subject to budget and meeting the required criteria.

Councillor P O'Dwyer acknowledged the great work that had been already done around that area.

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

KN09/1023

Essential path works on Main Street, Kilcullen

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

That the council make a commitment to allocate funding towards essential path works on Main Street, Kilcullen in 2024 and include them in the works programme for 2024.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office will prepare and present the footpath program once LPT funding is agreed early 2024. The Municipal District office agrees to include for consideration subject to budget and approval.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that the last two years she had been working with KARE and Camphill for 'Make Way Day' access days and the paths on the main street were not suitable for wheelchair users and there was no accessible parking when you crossed over the bridge where there were many shops. On the main street in Kilcullen there were uneven cobble stones adjacent to two doctor's practices and a pharmacy. Nothing had been done about this in the last four and a half years. Support was needed.

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



KN10/1023

Salt Bins

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
That the council identify locations where sand can be stored for local farmers to voluntarily distribute at known locations where icy roads continue to cause accidents on a regular basis such as Kennycourt, Carnalway Bridge, Sunnyhill Road, Yellowbog Bridge and at Gormanstown Church, locations that due to lack of funding, council trucks cannot stretch to, but local farmers can.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council operate the Winter Maintenance Plan, treating approximately 680km of roads in the county. The provision/servicing of salt bins countywide is not included in the Kildare County Council Winter Maintenance Plan, due to the staff resources required to maintain this service, associated costs and potential liability issues.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that this issue comes up every year and she does understand that to add a new route to the Winter Maintenance Plan you have to take another route off and understands that there are costs and funding issues. Councillor T O'Dwyer felt that this could be an alternative and explained that Fingal County Council had something similar in place where they give nominated people within the community grit boxes and it is the responsibility of the community to look after them. This could potentially get around the staffing, insurance and cost issues. It could be no harm to pilot this project. Councillor P O'Dwyer asked what the reasons were for the limit of routes? Ms B Cuddy informed the members they only had a certain number of trucks, and the time drivers were allowed to drive was limited due to health and safety. She also informed the members that she would raise this request at the next Municipal District meeting.

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



KN11/1023

Hedge cutting works in Thomastown/Barretstown

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

That the council carry out hedge cutting works in Thomastown/Barretstown on the road from Barretstown Cemetery to the junction with the Rathangan Road.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that hedge cutting is the responsibility of the landowners. The Municipal District office is currently cutting junctions and limited numbers of hedges on very bad bends.

Councillor Power informed the members that this patch of road is 5km long with bends and queried would it be possible for the landowners to get support from traffic management? Ms B Cuddy informed the members that if Councillor Power would like to communicate to the landowners to get in touch with the municipal district office they would engage with them about traffic management subject to budget and staffing resources.

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

KN12/1023

Road markings at the junction of the R445

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

Go ndéanfaidh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara líneáil agus/nó athailíniú ar na marcanna bóthair ag Acomhal an R445 agus an R415 chun lánaí casta ceart a sholáthar don trácht atá ag taisteal ó Mhainistir Eimhín i dtreo Asraon Miondíola Shráidbhaile Chill Dara, agus don trácht atá ag taisteal ó Asraon Miondíola Sráidbhaile Chill Dara. agus ag casadh i dtreo Mhainistir Eimhín.

That Kildare County Council reline and/or realign the road markings at the junction of the R445 and the R415 to provide proper turning lanes for traffic that is travelling from Monasterevin towards Kildare Village Retail Outlet, and for traffic that is travelling from Kildare Village Retail Outlet and turning towards Monasterevin.



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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council has no current plans to upgrade this junction but upgrading works at the junction may be carried as part of future development if deemed to be warranted.

The members raised the following points:

- Similar motions had been submitted before but very little was done.
- The road would be wide enough on both sides to be relined and/or realignment.
- Was there an objection to this out of principle or was it budget?
- Why couldn't a filter light be installed for left turning from Kildare Town towards the motorway as it was believed this would alleviate traffic?
- Trucks/cars were mounting curbs and paths to try bypass traffic and this could be a road safety issue.
- The town centre needed to deliver the movement of traffic.

Mr D Hodgins informed the members that in the context of National, Regional and Local Transportation Policies, there was no policy to support the increase in vehicular capacity within urban/built up areas. The Climate Action plan mandated a 50% reduction in emissions from the Transport Sector and therefore Kildare County Council could not increase capacity to facilitate or encourage private vehicular trips. This was a major constraint. It was pointed out that where congestion occurred, it was as a result of the demand for motorised trips exceeding the capacity of the network.

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



KN13/1023

Community Car

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor N Connolly
Go mbeidh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara i gcomhpháirtíocht le Nasc Áitiúil agus le haonán neamhbhrabúis agus/nó tráchtála chun carr pobail a thriail laistigh de limistéar den Cheantar Bardasach a bhfuil drochsheirbhísí iompair phoiblí air.

That Kildare County Council partner with local link and a non profit and/or commercial entity to trial a community car within an area of the municipal district that is poorly served by public transport.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there are no plans to introduce a countywide car sharing network at present. The council has not ruled out the initiative, however, we are awaiting guidance from the National Transport Authority with regard to similar schemes in the Greater Dublin Metropolitan Area before advancing any plans for the development of sustainable transport hubs and other initiatives. The matter could be referred to and progressed by the Transport SPC and the Sustainable Transport Forum subcommittee.

Councillor N Connolly informed the members that Fingal County Council ran a Community Car Service in conjunction with Local Link and Go Car. They initially had 20 volunteers that had signed up for this service getting people where they needed to go. A quality nationwide service was needed to address poor rural links. Councillor N Connolly informed the members that Go Car would engage with Kildare County Council, and he would get a cost for this.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor Pender that agreed to have the item progressed by the Transport SPC and the Sustainable Transport Forum subcommittee.



KN14/1023

Bonaghmore to Canal Bridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly
That the council include the R401 road from Bonaghmore to Canal Bridge, Rathangan on the Roads Programme for 2024 and to include the upgrading of footpaths.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The Restoration Improvement program will be prepared early 2024. The Municipal District office agrees to include the above road for consideration subject to budget and meeting the required criteria.

Councillor A Connolly informed the members that this was a busy regional road with no new line markings or resurfacing done in a long time. The footpath was in poor condition and the locals would not use it because it was too narrow.

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

KN15/1023

Nurney Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Duffy
That the council add the upgrade of the Nurney Road from the new Secondary School outwards to the town boundary, onto the 2024 roads program for consideration.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Restoration Improvement program will be prepared early 2024. The Municipal District office agrees to include the above road for consideration subject to budget and meeting the required criteria.



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

KN16/1023

Clongorey Bus Service

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

That this council formally request that Clongorey and Districts be provided with a bus service to Newbridge by the National Transport Authority.

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 with the members agreement, the Transport Department can write to the National Transport Authority regarding the request.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that there were numerous people that lived in these areas that did not have cars and there had been several requests for a bus service to Newbridge town.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by all members that the Transport Department write to the NTA regarding the request and that the report be noted.

KN17/1023

Loughlion Green, Kildare Town

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

An bhfuil aon phlean ag an gComhairle an cosán a chríochnú ó Fhaiche Loch Lion go cúinne an R415?

Can the council confirm if there are any plans to complete the footpath from Loughlion Green, Kildare Town to the corner of the R415?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there are no plans and no budget to carry out these works.

Councillor Connolly asked for clarification if the footpath in question could be measured up for a cost per metre. Ms B Cuddy informed the members that it could be approximately €250 per linear metre but she could provide costings.

The report was noted. The District Engineer to provide costings.

KN18/1023

Glebe Court

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor A Connolly
Can the council confirm if there are any plans to upgrade the footpaths at Glebe Court, Rathangan?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the footpaths are in reasonable condition, however there was an element of subsidence on the road that the Municipal District office agrees to investigate.

The report was noted.

KN19/1023

Ellistown GAA

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor A Connolly
Can the council confirm when the road markings outside Ellistown GAA Grounds will be completed?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the majority of the line marking has been reinstated, there are a number of "slows" that are missing and are on the list of works to be completed.

The report was noted.



KN20/1023

Pass Bridge, Monasterevin

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

Can the council provide an update on the timeframe for repairing the damaged wall on the Pass Bridge, Monasterevin?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Passlands Bridge was damaged by a vehicle impact in July 2023 causing damage to the upstream parapet and resulting in a crack in the masonry cutwater. The Bridge Remediation team requested a quotation from one of our bridge framework contractors however they were unable to complete the works during the permitted season of June to September due to the volume of work on their books and the unseasonably wet summer. The bridge will be included in the Department of Transport 2024 Bridge Remediation Program, and it is hoped to complete works as soon as possible in 2024.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that this was a historical bridge and was hit by a vehicle a number of months ago, but the public were unaware of what was going on in the background and asked would it be possible to get a sign erected to keep the public up to date. Mr D Hodgins informed the members that he would investigate the practicality of erecting a sign.

The report was noted.

KN21/1023

Cherry Avenue

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

That the council revise plans for Cherry Avenue in Kildare Town with a view to delivering a more expedient and cost effective project, with ongoing staged consultation following from a phase one practical opening of site affording public access to much needed amenity in town.

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



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A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that a Part 8 for the development of Cherry Avenue was approved by the elected members in 2018. This plan was developed following extensive consultation with the elected members, the public and other external stakeholders over an 18 month period. The final masterplan delivered a plan which strongly reflected this consultation and what functions the park was to fulfil as a result of the consultation. It also included a phased development of the park. Delivery of the project now involves completing a feasibility study for the proposed amphitheatre and the design of a proposed earth feature. Following this an initial phase of works is proposed to facilitate the opening of the park involving the entrances, car park, perimeter path, wetland area and landscaping works to mitigate the motorway noise. It has not been possible to advance the project to date primarily due to staff resources and also due to the multiple and changing requests for works and projects within this Municipal District. An increase in staff this year will allow us progress this project to facilitate the opening of the park. However the support of the members to agree this as a priority project is also required. Any proposal to revise the plans and/or for further consultation will only delay the delivery of the project further. It should also be noted that public access has been granted for use of the park to Councillor Doyle for Halloween Festivals, the local Scout Group and also a Forest School.

Councillor Doyle informed the members that this land had originally been expected to be used for recreational use by the community apparently before the motorway was even developed. She had concerns about capital projects exploding in costs. She was aware that Kildare Town might qualify for the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and could apply for funding. The District Manager informed the members that Kildare County Council were awaiting confirmation from the Department regarding the URDF and Kildare County Council are in a good position with the Part 8.

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



KN22/1023

Communication Board

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

Can the council provide an update on the communication board planned for Liffey Linear Park?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that further to previous questions and motions on communications boards the initial proposal was for communication boards in playgrounds. The initial pilot communication board is proposed for Newbridge Playground. This should be installed by the end of the year. There are no plans to install a board in Liffey Linear Park at present.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that communication boards were displays of symbols, pictures that children can point to, to communicate with those around them. She proposed that there should be more communication boards installed.

The report was noted.

KN23/1023

Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme

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

Can the council provide an update on the feasibility study relating to the proposed Monasterevin to Portarlinton Brownway funded under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that it is proposed to tender for consultants to prepare the feasibility study by the end of the year and to progress the work in early 2024.

The report was noted.

KN24/1023

Curragh Plains

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

That the council issue an invitation to Hogarts to provide an update on the Curragh Plains Report.



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

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that the public consultation process is now complete. To bring this report forward additional legislation, funding and resources are required from central Government. The Paul Hogart Company was procured to deliver a Conservation Management Plan and an Interpretation Plan for the Curragh Plains, facilitating significant stakeholder engagement in the process. A presentation by Hogarts was given to the elected representatives, TD's and Senators followed by online and in-person consultation. 3,636 submissions were received from the first round of consultation. A second consultation process on the draft policies, following the presentation to elected members, received a further 240 submissions. A final draft document will now be prepared, in conjunction with the Department of Defence, for submission to the Minister for Defence for consideration by Cabinet.

The members raised the following points:

- It was the understanding of the members that Hogarts would be invited to give presentation of findings from the consultations.
- It was agreed to do a public engagement.
- This needed to be progressed from the view of public trust.

Ms C Barrett informed the members that they were progressing, and it was back with the consultants at the moment. The District Manager informed the members that Kildare County Council could not progress as they only had a part to play in the process and it would have to go to Cabinet to be agreed and the Tánaiste was aware for what was happening.

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



KN25/1023

Housing Units

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey
That the council outline the numbers and types of units (number of bedrooms) currently unallocated and available for allocation by Kildare County Council. Please also include information on units for which full planning has been granted as well as those currently under construction in the different settlements of this municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the number of properties available for allocation changes on a daily basis as properties are allocated and additional units become available. On the 10 October 2023 there were four properties available for allocation in this area. The Housing Department are continually working on opportunities to increase housing supply in this Municipal District. Reports on housing delivery are given to members on a monthly basis together with report on our vacant stock.

The members raised the following points:

- Kildare County Council were exceeding their targets all the time.
- The Chief Executive report showed the number of houses allocated and unoccupied.
- There was always room for improvement.
- Kildare County Council were at 1.94% of stock vacant which was below the national average.
- Maybe definition was needed on what was minor/ major works, so the public understood the reason for some properties taking longer to occupy.

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



KN26/1023

Land alongside O Modhrain Hall

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

That the council commence the process of securing the land alongside O Modhrain Hall in order to secure the possibility of pedestrian access and permeability in advance of the Bord Na Mona Masterplan.

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

A report was received from the Facilities, Property and Procurement Department informing the members that Kildare County Council are currently checking ownership of the land and once established will revert back to the members.

Councillor Pender informed the members that Kildare County Council needed to progress now on securing the land in question before the Bord Na Mona Masterplan progressed and public access was lost.

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

KN27/1023

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

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

Can the council confirm in what housing estates in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District energy retrofits are being carried out?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Kildare County Council completed retrofit work under the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme (EERP) scheme in Beechgrove, Rathangan in 2021 and 2022, Bishopsland, Dunmurray View and Farrincooley Crescent in Kildare Town in 2022 and St. Evin's Park, Monasterevin in 2022. There is work due to commence in Celbridge, Maynooth, Kilcock and Johnstownbridge in the coming weeks. Further work is tendered for Naas, Ballymore Eustace and Calverstown. When carrying out



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retrofit works we ensure an even spread around the county, not just geographically but also population-wise. It is expected to carry out further EERP works in Kildare -Newbridge Municipal District in 2024, subject to the confirmation of targets.

Councillor T O'Dwyer asked for clarification if there was a list for 2023 for Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District as the list in the report was showing towns/ estates not in her Municipal District. Ms S Farrar informed the members that 2023 had no towns/estates for Kildare-Newbridge but would clarify if it would be happening in 2024.

The report was noted.

KN28/1023

Carbon monoxide alarms

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
Can the council confirm if there is a log of when carbon monoxide alarms are checked in council owned properties in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and if so, how often are alarms checked?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the life span of the carbon monoxide alarm is ten years. The alarm will emit a beeping noise if there is a fault, the tenant should contact housing maintenance and log details of the repair. The alarms are wired to the mains and cannot be disconnected if there is a fault. There is no log of repairs for carbon monoxide alarms however all repair calls are logged on ihouse. There is no servicing required for the alarms.

The report was noted.

KN29/1023

Illegal encampments

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Doyle
Can the council provide a report on the number currently reported within the municipal district, the dates when they were brought to the council's attention and what the current status is on each with details of actions taken since reporting.



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A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that there are five illegal encampments in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District. The details are as follows:

Beechgrove, Rathangan

- Kildare County Council were notified on the 31 July 2023.
- All requisite notices served, and the case is with legal team. Aim to go to court by end of October.

Mooretown

- Kildare County Council notified on the 01 July 2021.
- All requisite notices served in July 2021 – housing section engaging with the family.

Curragh Farm

- Kildare County Council notified 23 March 2023.
- All requisite notices served in March 2023 – housing section engaging with the family.

Dunmurray

- One caravan on site in March 2023 (now two caravans owned by the same family on site and the additional caravan arrived in recent weeks).
- 2 other caravans at this location since May and August 2023
- All requisite notices served when caravans arrived, and the housing section is engaging with the occupants.
- Roads progressing case with Kildare County Council's legal team.

Monasterevin –

- Kildare County Council were notified on the 14 August 2023.
- All requisite notices served – housing section engaging with the family.

Councillor Doyle asked for current status on the Killhill Monasterevin illegal encampment as this had been ongoing since 2019. Ms S Farrar informed the members that she would revert back with update.

The report was noted.



KN30/1023

Newbridge Local Area Plan

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

Can the council outline the schedule to deliver the different stages of Newbridge Local Area Plan.

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the Pre-draft Consultation for the Newbridge Local Area Plan has been commenced (10 Oct) which will include an information session in Newbridge Town Hall, an invitation for written submissions on the strategic issues for Newbridge and an art competition for primary and post primary children. This is a non-statutory consultation after which a Chief Executives report will be prepared and submitted to the Elected Members. This will inform the preparation of the Draft Local Area Plan, the timeline for the publication of the Draft Local Area Plan will be dependent on the outcomes of the Pre-draft Consultation and other evidence-based reports including inter alia the Area Based Transport Assessment, Social Infrastructure Assessment, Settlement Capacity Audit and Environmental Assessments. Details of the schedule will be advised to the Elected Members once same is available.

The report was noted.

KN31/1023

Drain and other Urban Art

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

An bhfuil aon phlean ag an gComhairle Draenáil agus Ealaín Uirbeach eile a spreagadh laistigh den Cheantar Bardasach?

Can the council confirm if there are any plans to encourage Drain and other Urban Art within the municipal district?

A report was received from the Arts Department informing the members that the Arts Officer had left Kildare County Council on a yearlong career break since September. The Acting County Officer will begin her post in the next week, and we will refer this query to her for a reply at her earliest convenience.

The report was noted.



KN32/1023

General Services Supervisors and General Operatives

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

Can the council provide an update on the current number of general operatives and general service supervisors employed within the municipal district and areas of responsibility within the district?

A report was received from the Human Resources Department informing the members that below is a chart showing the number of general services supervisors and general operatives in the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District and the districts they are assigned to as and from 16 October 2023.

Area	No. of General Services Supervisors	No. of General Operatives
Newbridge	1	11
Rathangan	1	8
Kilcullen	1	8
Kildare	1	10
Total	4	37

The report was noted.

KN33/1023

St. Evin's Cemetery

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

That the council inspect St. Evin's Cemetery, Monasterevin and prepare a list of works required to be undertaken to improve the existing footpaths, cutting back of overgrown trees, removal of building rubble and replacement of benches in the Cemetery to improve the overall appearance.



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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the council is examining a list of potential works to be carried out at Monasterevin cemetery. Some tree removal works have taken place recently.

Mr K Kavanagh informed the members that there had been inspectors out to examine the area. There were contractors there at present cleaning up and tree pruning.

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

KN34/1023

Derelict sites register

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

That the council investigate the possibility of adding the site opposite the council machinery yard to the derelict sites register.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the site in question is the subject of a live planning application which is currently under appeal to An Bord Pleanála. The Board has indicated that it intends to determine that appeal before 23 October 2023. Once a determination has been made, the developer's plans for the site and timeframes may become clearer.

Councillor Pender asked that this item would remain on the progress report.

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



KN35/1023

Litter Fines

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
Can the council provide an update on how many litter fines have been successfully pursued in 2022 and 2023 in this municipal district?

A report was given at the meeting from the Environment Department informing the members that there were 2023 fines county wide and 95 successfully concluded with the remaining numbers been appealed or ongoing. There has been a new online system put in place to improve efficiency/productivity.

The report was noted.

KN36/1023

Solar Powered Big Belly Bins

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Doyle
Can the council confirm if it plans to roll out a programme to locate solar powered big belly bins in public realm areas that generate large volumes of footfall across our municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads Department informing the members that the Municipal District office have no plans or budget availability to roll out a programme to locate solar powered big belly bins across the Municipal District.

Councillor Doyle informed the members that she would consider the solar powered big belly bins to be efficient in the long run. Ms B Cuddy informed the members that there were six in Newbridge as a pilot scheme but for one big belly to be installed two rubbish bins must come out.

The report was noted.

KN37/1023

Newbridge Water Tower

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender
Can the council provide an update on the Newbridge Water Tower?



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A report was received from the Members Services Department informing the members that Newbridge Water Tower is on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. Ref AH 11818059. There are very strict guidelines in place as to what was permissible. If the councillor could outline his proposals, they will be forwarded to the Conservation Officer.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.