



**Draft Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District  
held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 September 2023  
in the Board Room**

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**Members Present:** Councillor N Heavey (Mayor), Councillors A Connolly, N Connolly, S Doyle, P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer, and R Power

**Remote Attendance:** Councillors F McLoughlin Healy and C Pender

**Apologies:** Councillor K Duffy

**Officials Present:** Mr K Kavanagh (A/District Manager), Ms R Jackson (LPT Co-Ordinator), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Ms B Cuddy (Municipal District Engineer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms S O'Gara (A/Senior Executive Architect), Mr M Mcloughlin (A/Senior Executive Officer) Ms F Byrne (Administrator Officer), Ms P O'Rourke (Climate Action Coordinator), Ms V Kavanagh (Community Climate Action Officer), J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

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The mayor welcomed everybody to the meeting. As Councillor Duffy could not be in attendance, he had requested for Councillor T O'Dwyer move his motions on his behalf.

**KN01/0723**

**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.

Councillor T O'Dwyer declared an interest regarding Item 35 as she volunteers with the Brannockstown Community Group



**KN02/0923  
Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the special Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 18 July 2023, the annual Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting and the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 19 July 2023 and to note the progress report.

The Meetings Administrator informed the members of a request from Councillor P O'Dwyer to amend the name on the motion from Councillor P O'Dwyer to Councillor T O'Dwyer on the draft minutes of July on Item K24/0723 Millfield Manor.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Power, agreed by seven members and one abstaining that annual Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting and the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 19 July 2023 be approved with the proposed amendemnet and to note the progress report. It was agreed by all members that the approval of the minutes of the special Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 18 July 2023 be deferred until the October Municipal District meeting.

**KN03/0923  
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) which has now gone to tender.

Restoration Maintenance (RM) schemes:

All RM's are now complete within the Municipal District.

LPT:



## Kildare County Council

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Henry street – Works have now commenced on Henry Street. It is estimated these works will be ongoing until the start of December.

With the remainder of the LPT works, the tender has been awarded and works will commence in the coming weeks.

### Junction Upgrades:

Whelan Cross, Junction at Padder Byrnes Garage, Floods Cross and

Ballymany: This year, through our own funding the above junction will be upgrade with new surface and line marking.

### Low-Cost Safety schemes:

- Ballykelly Cross – works ongoing junction overlay complete, fencing contract has issued to remove and replace existing fence to improve sight lines.
- Feighcullen Cross: Upgrading to signage and road markings.
- Bend at Feighcullen Church: Upgrading to signage and road markings.

### NTA:

- Works on Green Road are continuing, widening of footpaths, provision of pedestrian crossing and road overlay.
- The NTA have now confirmed additional funding for upgrade works at the following locations:  
Kildangan, Highfield estate – Allenvie / Lakeside Park.  
R445 Ballymany.

### Miscellaneous Works:

#### Kildare

- Grass verge and hedge cutting at dangerous junctions continued into August, taking in areas such as the R401 Dunmurray Road, Gallaghers Cross, footpaths at Dunmurray Graveyard, Black Bridge, Dunmurray Road, Kildare rugby club.



## Kildare County Council

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- Entrance at White Abbey Lawns, South Green Road, Kildare town, Old Forge, Rathangan to Kildare R401, St Evins Park, Junction at Curragh Farm/ Chapmans Garage, Oghill, Carmelite Church, Kildare town, Drogheda Row/ Drogheda Street and Mountrice.
- Heavy rainfall continued to cause issues across the area, as a result a footpath at Assumpta Villas was reinstated due to collapsed surface water pipes. A new concrete footpath was poured at Rathbride Abbey eliminating trip hazards.
- New Junction delineation bollards were erected along the R414 and Ellistown to Kildare Road.
- New signage was installed at Rathangan secondary school, Thomastown Cross, R414 Rathangan.
- Signs were cleaned and straightened in various locations.
- Works to clear drainage issues in Lourdesville, Kildare Town are underway and are expected to be completed in September.
- Drainage works at Castlepark.
- Patching with the high velocity patching unit were completed at Ellistown, R414 Rathangan, and Kildangan.
- A new non skid surface was installed on the Harbour bridge Monasterevin.

### Newbridge

- Footpath repairs at the town hall GAA ground side, Station Road and Curragh Grange Estate.
- 4 bollards were erected at The Meadows to stop cars driving up a footpath. Footpath and bike lane repair work at Roseberry Hill Estate.
- Grass verge cutting at The Meadows, The Ring of Roseberry, and Blackberry Lane
- The patching unit carried out works on Blackberry Lane, Pollardstown towards Milltown Road, and the Athgarvan Road.
- Jetting lines and cleaning out gullies in Newbridge Industrial Estate, Curragh Grange, College Road, Barretstown Road, Charlotte Street, and Highfield.
- The Municipal District office installed 4 big new belly compactor bins in Newbridge Main Street. This allowed for the removal of 8 old bins. 2 new children at play signs were installed at Wesley Manor.



## Kildare County Council

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- A shrub bed along the footpath on Barretstown Road was cleared back, Hedge cutting was carried out on Sexton's bridge on both sides and swept with road sweeper. The Municipal District office are currently working on cleaning around roundabouts throughout Newbridge with mini road sweeper.

### Kilcullen

- Water cuts - Knockbounce to Milemill, Gilltown, Castlefish, Carnalway to Coughlinstown, Mullaghboy, Kennel Bridge, Green Avenue.
- Grass cutting - Gilltown to Gormanstown, Castlefish, Gormanstown to Kennel Bridge, Silliot Hill, Green Avenue, Lewistown to Ladytown, Swordlestown, Corbally Cross, Harrison Common.
- Pothole repairs - Chapel Lane Two Mile House, Kennel Bridge, Corbally Harbour Road, Green Avenue. Repairs to accommodation road Corbally.
- Erected traffic light signs Kilcullen.

### Newbridge Country area

- Hedge cutting in Baroda.
- Drainage works Suncroft area.
- Road repairs Suncroft, Ballysax, Blacktrench Curragh.
- Road sweeping newly surfaced roads and removing signs.
- Cleaning and repairing signs throughout area.

The report was noted.

### **KN04/0923**

#### **Update on 2023 LPT expenditure year to date**

A report had been circulated to members prior to meeting to the members on LPT expenditure to date.

The report was noted.



**KN05/0923**

**Residual LPT 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023**

Councillor T O'Dwyer proposed on behalf of Councillor Duffy

- Monasterevin GFC €5,000 - to support the upgrade of the heating in the GAA clubhouse.
- Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District Office €4,500 - to replace park benches in Church View estate, Suncroft

This was seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer

Councillor T O'Dwyer proposed:

- Kilcullen Lions Club €2,000 - for the purchase of equipment to support the Kilcullen Bridge Cinema, which will begin in September in Kilcullen Town Hall.

This was seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer

Councillor P O'Dwyer proposed:

- Newbridge Lions Club €1,000 - Community Projects

This was seconded by Councillor N Connolly

Councillor Pender proposed:

- Newbridge Kenpo Karate Academy (NKKA) €2,000 - to support the purchase of kits bags/uniforms.
- Athgarvan Women's Shed €2,000 - to support the ongoing setup and work of the Athgarvan Women's Shed

This was seconded by Councillor Doyle

Councillor Doyle proposed:

- Kildare Town First Responders €1,000

This was seconded by Councillor A Connolly



## Kildare County Council

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Councillor A Connolly proposed:

- Milltown Tidy Towns €1,000

This was seconded by Councillor Power

**Resolved** on the proposals of Councillors T O'Dwyer, P O'Dwyer, C Pender, S Doyle and A Connolly seconded by Councillors P O'Dwyer, N Connolly, S Doyle, A Connolly and R Power and agreed by all members that all the above allocations be approved.

### **KN06/0923**

#### **Section 38 Bus Shelters**

To note Section 38 of the Roads Traffic Act, 1994 (as amended) – the submissions Report on proposed installation of five new bus shelters at Brownstown, The Curragh; Toughers Roundabout, Newbridge; and Caragh Village, Naas

The report was noted.

### **KN07/0923**

#### **Bus Shelters St. Conleths, Newbridge**

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

That the council consider installing bus shelters at the bus stop beside the parish church and across the road at the bus stop at St. Conleths, Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that fifteen new locations for bus shelters had been identified in 2023 across the county, with the agreement of the National Transport Authority. The provision of a bus shelter at this location could be considered for inclusion in the 2024 programme of works, subject to technical and financial approval with the NTA.

The members raised the following points:



## Kildare County Council

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- Viewed the list and were conscious that rural areas did receive bus shelters and new locations were welcomed.
- Would like bus shelters to be considered for the areas in question due to the number of schools, a church and on the route for the airport.
- When would the list for 2024 be submitted?
- What would the criteria be for deciding on locations?
- Concerns regarding bus shelters being installed in Caragh and then needing to be redone when the new road structure was completed.
- Could the request be two – three years if Newbridge was part of the route for the active travel corridor?

Mr D Hodgins informed the members that there were no set criteria to selecting areas for bus shelters and this was separate to the Active Travel Scheme. They were trialling solar panel bus shelters which were slimmer and did not take up as much space. He also mentioned that when there was no land acquisition or planning involved to install bus shelters this would more cost effective. He also informed the members that he welcomed suggestions from the members for areas they might have identified to install bus shelters.

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

### **KN08/0923**

#### **Chapel Lane, Newbridge**

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

That the council provide the extension of 65 metres to the double yellow lines on Chapel Lane, Newbridge?

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office have no objections subject to council approval.





**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members to the extension of 65 metres to the double yellow lines on Chapel Lane and the report be noted.

**KN09/0923**

**Orbital bus service in the Newbridge area**

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

That noting the growing population and the consequent increase in transportation needs within Newbridge and acknowledging the lack of a comprehensive local bus service to connect key areas of the town, this council formally writes to the National Transport Authority (NTA) advocating for the introduction of a town or orbital bus service in the Newbridge area highlighting the need for such a service to connect key community hubs, including but not limited to, schools, healthcare facilities, shopping centres, and residential areas.

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 with the members agreement, Kildare County Council will write to the NTA on their behalf.

The members raised the following points:

- This had been recently used in Carlow and there had been a reduction in traffic.
- Welcomed the news of planned second bridge for Newbridge but thought it would only make a slight difference to ease traffic.
- This bus service could make a huge difference to the town.
- There was a need to future proof the town.
- Traffic was very congested in Newbridge especially at school times.
- Newbridge people were frustrated with the high level of traffic.
- Bus service should also link to Newbridge Train Station
- Would it form part of the Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA)



## Kildare County Council

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- Kildare County Council officials should visit the town when it's at high levels of traffic and at the busiest time.
- How were bus services selected?

Mr D Hodgins informed the members that bus services should be included in ABTA. There were indications that Naas and Maynooth were two key towns for the ABTA. It was not confirmed but it seemed to be based on the settlement strategy. Mr D Hodgins informed the members he would draft the letter for the NTA and circulate for approval before sending it.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer and agreed by all members that the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department would write to the NTA on their behalf and that the report be noted.

### KN10/0923

#### NTA fulfilment of funding commitments

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer  
That the council formally write to the National Transport Authority requesting the fulfilment of funding commitments made to Kildare County Council at the recent NTA briefing in the Chamber, for projects such as a connectivity path in Brannockstown, a pedestrian crossing at Lakeside Park/Allenview Heights, completion of works on Green Road and school safety works at Scoil na Naomh Uilig, Newbridge.

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 NTA has confirmed approval to the Sustainable Transport Section that €73,775 can be reallocated to the "R445 Curragh Road, Newbridge Active Travel Scheme" and €244,025 can be reallocated to the "Morristown Biller Road Active Travel Scheme". These reallocations are from the original grant allocation of €9,965,000 and the monies must be diverted from existing schemes to fund these.



The members raised the following points:

- NTA recently committed to additional funding. Had this been honoured?
- Had the grant to be drawn down by December 2023
- Why was the Sustainable Transport Section not informed sooner about the reallocation of monies?
- Was another project losing out if the money was reallocated?

Mr D Hodgins informed the members that there had been no additional funding from NTA. The monies had to be drawn down by November which would cause difficulties, but funding was always welcomed. Works could not exceed €9.9 million over all Municipal Districts so if projects could not be carried out the money would then be reallocated to other schemes. “Morristown Biller Road Active Travel Scheme” might not happen, but members would be updated through the progress report next month. The members agreed that a letter should be issued to the NTA enquiring about not fulfilling the additional funding commitment and to consider the possibility of timing the reallocation of unused funds at an earlier date.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor T O’Dwyer and seconded by Councillor P O’Dwyer and agreed by all members that the Roads Department write to the NTA requesting an update on the commitment of the additional funding and asking that they inform the council as early as possible when unused funding became available.

### **KN11/0923**

#### **Kissing gate Togher Road and Super Valu, Monasterevin**

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

That the council investigate the installation of a kissing gate on the pedestrian access between Togher Road and Super Valu, Monasterevin to provide pedestrian safety.

The motion was proposed by Councillor T O’Dwyer on behalf of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor P O’Dwyer



## Kildare County Council

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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer agrees to meet Councillor Duffy on site to discuss further.

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

### **KN12/0923**

#### **Kildangan**

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

That the council seek funding to deliver a complete pedestrian link from Kildangan school to the GAA grounds at Kildangan Stud.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the NTA has confirmed approval to the Sustainable Transport Section that €79,450 can be reallocated to the "Kildangan Road Active Travel Scheme" and this reallocation is from the original grant allocation of €9,965,000 and the monies must be diverted from existing schemes to fund it.

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

### **KN13/0923**

#### **Magee Barracks**

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

That the council provide road linkages through Magee Barracks in advance of or in tandem with, completion of the post primary school and housing on the site.

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



## Kildare County Council

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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council are not in a position to provide road linkages through Magee Barracks in advance of or in tandem with, completion of the post primary school and housing on the site as there is no funding approved and sourced for these works which would be on private lands and where land acquisition by CPO would be required. The road linkages through Magee Barracks will be provided through Developers / Department of Education.

Councillor Doyle asked if the linkage road would be provided by the developers and Department of Education? Mr D Hodgins informed the members that he would talk to Mr G Willoughby to see if this was part of the planning conditions and would revert to the members.

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

### **KN14/0923**

#### **Lock Road, Rathangan**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly  
That the council add the installation of a footpath, to include lighting, on the Lock Road, Rathangan from Spencer Bridge to Ard Scoil Rath Iomghain, to their programme of works for 2024.

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 Municipal District Office agree with Councillor A Connolly that the provision of this footpath would enhance this location from a safety aspect for the schools and also a walking route for Rathangan. It's an extensive footpath and outside the budget of the Municipal District. The Municipal District office agrees to discuss the issue further with the NTA in 2024.

Councillor A Connolly informed the members that she was happy with that little bit of positivity. She told the members that there had been a couple of accidents in this area and could this be seriously looked at.



## Kildare County Council

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

### KN15/0923

#### Ladytown junction

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey  
That the council outline a schedule of its development plans for delivery of a roundabout at Ladytown junction to include any problematic issues causing the delay, in view of the protracted temporary closure of the junction.

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 in relation to the project to deliver a roundabout at this location, a Compulsory Application Order was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in November 2022 to acquire the land needed to upgrade this junction. Despite ongoing engagement with An Bord Pleanála there is still no indication on when a decision on this application will be forthcoming. An update on the timelines for this project will be provided once a decision is received from An Bord Pleanála.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that he was concerned that this junction would stay closed until the roundabout was developed and this was concerning to local people in the area. Mr D Hodgins informed the members that this median was only closed as part of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) traffic management works on the bridge and from a road safety point of view there had been no internal complaints and would open once works had been completed. Mr D Hodgins informed the members that he would confirm with TII when this junction was due to reopen and would revert to the members.

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



**KN16/0923**

**Cycle lanes in Newbridge**

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

Can the council confirm if an overall review of the temporary cycle lanes in Newbridge has taken place?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that no review mechanism has been agreed with the elected members. The status of the facility remains that it is a temporary installation. Design work is continuing on a permanent scheme for this location.

The report was noted.

**KN17/0923**

**Pay parking bye-laws**

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

Can the council clarify whether the 15-minute observation period stipulated in our pay parking bye-laws applies to vehicles parked in designated taxi ranks in the Newbridge area?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The Transportation Department can confirm that the 15-minute observation period only applies to pay and display where a vehicle is parked in a designated pay and display parking bay. If a non-taxi vehicle is parked in an appointed taxi stand this is a different offence of the Road Traffic Regulations. If a taxi vehicle is parked in an appointed taxi stand, the vehicle must be "standing for hire".

Councillor Pender asked for clarification as to whether the parking wardens were aware of this regulation as it had been communicated to him by taxi drivers that some traffic wardens were not. Mr K Kavanagh informed the members he would follow up with Mr M McLoughlin and revert to the members with clarification.

The report was noted.



**KN18/0923**

**Management of school-related traffic**

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

Can the council confirm any ongoing work, plans, or discussions specifically related to traffic calming measures, pedestrian safety, and the management of school-related traffic in areas in close proximity to all schools within Newbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council have submitted an application to the NTA for Patrician Primary School and St Conleth's Primary School Newbridge, for the Safer Routes to School Programme, we are currently awaiting confirmation from the NTA to progress further.

The report was noted.

**KN19/0923**

**Brannockstown feedback signs**

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

Can the council provide an update as to when the traffic calming feedback signs will be installed in the village of Brannockstown?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office will install the poles in the coming weeks, the signs are ready for installation.

The report was noted.

**KN20/0923**

**Mountrice Cross to Umeras Bridge**

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

Can the council confirm if the road from Mountrice Cross to Umeras Bridge will be resurfaced in time for Brigid 1500 celebrations.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office agree to include for consideration subject to budget availability and meeting the Restoration Improvement Schemes criteria.





Councillor A Connolly informed the members that she would hope that this resurfacing would be done in time for Brigid 1500. Ms B Cuddy informed the members that the budget was fully spent for 2023.

The report was noted.

**KN21/0923**

**Super Valu, Togher Road Monasterevin**

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

That the council include the large tree located at the entrance to Super Valu, Togher Road, Monasterevin to the pruning scheme due to overhang branches into neighbouring properties.

The motion was proposed by Councillor T O'Dwyer on behalf of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor N Connolly

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that it won't be possible within the available budget to include this in the current works. We will include it in the next programme of works. Any work will require assistance from the ESB to cut off the overhead wires to allow pruning.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer on behalf of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor N Connolly that the report be noted.

**KN22/0923**

**St Brigids Well**

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

Can the council provide a progress report on works to St Brigids Well with images, to include details of drainage and how to reinstate water flowing from the well through 'Brigids Clogs' into Tully stream?

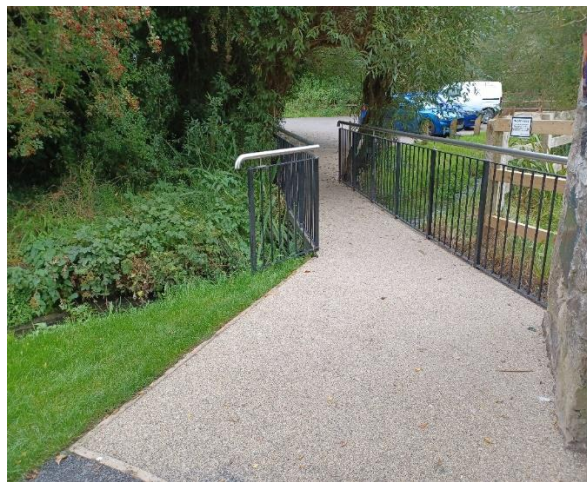
## Kildare County Council

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A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that Dust paths have been added to the site to facilitate access and the tarmac sections have been surfaced with a resin. Drainage works were carried out last year to drain the centre of the site. Local knowledge on the site has indicated that the Brigids Clogs were fed from a spring which was cut off when the adjacent land was drained. The restoration of any flow is beyond the scope of the Parks Section and would require the expertise of Environment/ Public Realm and or Roads Area Office to propose a possible solution to this issue. (See images)



Entrance Before



Entrance After



View Up Site from Entrance – Before



View Up Site from Entrance - After





View down Site - Before



View down Site - After

Councillor Doyle informed the members that she had concerns regarding what the well would look like come February for Brigid 1500 and would like an engineer to check the flow at the clogs. She also thanked the relevant departments for all the work that had already been done and would talk to Mr S Wallace offline.

The report was noted.

### **KN23/0923**

#### **Cherry Avenue Kildare**

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

Can the council provide a progress report on the schedule of delivery for opening of Cherry Avenue Kildare?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the feasibility for the amphitheatre will be carried out by the end of the year. This will be followed by a tender to design the central earth feature. When this is completed a detail design for Phase One will be completed and tendered to construct the entrances to the park, perimeter path and car park. Completion of the design work will be in 2024 followed by construction in 2025.

Councillor Doyle informed the members that she would prefer to see the gates open soon even with just the perimeter done and asked Mr S Wallace could this be done? Mr S Wallace informed the members that there would be difficulties doing the perimeters first and the rest later. He had



## Kildare County Council

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eleven projects that were active at the moment and needed to be fulfilled but would identify this as a priority.

The report was noted.

### KN24/0923

#### Part 8 Kildare County Library

A report had been circulated to members prior to meeting to approve the Chief Executive's Part 8 Report P82022.21 for the proposed Kildare County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre, Main Street, Newbridge Co Kildare.

Ms S O'Gara gave a presentation to the members on the Chief Executive's Part 8 Report for the proposed Kildare County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre, Main Street, Newbridge Co Kildare and informed the members that additional funding is required to bring the project forward.

The members raised the following points:

- There had been positive engagement with the public through submissions.
- This was a flagship project not only for Newbridge but for the County of Kildare
- Fantastic Emblem for Newbridge
- It was disheartening to hear that there was additional funding needed.
- How much extra funding was needed?
- Looking for update on the drawdown of insurance money of €200,000 from Newbridge courthouse fire as it was said that this money would be held for the library.
- Was the additional funding coming from County wide budget or where was it coming from?

Ms S O'Gara informed the members that Kildare County Council would need to match fund in the order of 20-25%. The extra funding cost would be in the region of €17 million.

**Resolved:** On the proposal of Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all members that the Chief Executive's Part 8 Report P82022.21 for the proposed Kildare County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre, Main Street, Newbridge Co Kildare be approved without any amendments.



**KN25/0923**

**Public Realm Projects**

A report had been circulated to members prior to meeting on an update on Public Realm Projects

The members raised the following points:

- The members were aware of what was happening in the background with the projects, but the public had not seen anything completed.
- Where are the Public Realm Team at with the Curragh Plains Land?
- What is the status of the Newbridge Town Renewal Plan of previous work and the €80,000 LPT?
- Had the Public Realm Team decided on who would start maintaining the planters in Newbridge?
- Had the feasibility study of Climate Action Training Centre of Excellence been completed?
- Cherry Avenue could be taken off the list of Projects as it was now on the Parks Programme.
- Had the 2018 Town and Village Renewal Scheme for the Part 8 design team fees been fully spent.
- Would the widening of a path in Athgarvan that was previously discussed have to wait on the town health check?

Ms S O’Gara informed the members that the Newbridge Town Renewal Plan is a work in progress and that the €80,000 is to complete the masterplan process including consultation and to address a new policy such as Town Centre First and the recent County Development Plan. She informed the members that the design team fees had been paid for Kilcullen Part 8. She told the members that the widening of the path in Athgarvan was included in the Town Renewal Master Plan but didn’t believe that it was dependant on this. The plan should be published before the end of the year. She said that all projects had a sequence that needed to be followed and they have to go through statutory processes. Kildare County Council were working on a solution at the moment regarding the maintenance of the planters in Newbridge. She also informed the members that the feasibility study has been completed on the Climate Action Training Centre of Excellence.

The report was noted.



**KN26/0923**

**Monasterevin Housing List**

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

Can the council confirm how many people on the housing list have expressed Monasterevin as an area of choice and what plans are in place to address the backlog?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that there are 209 households that have listed Monasterevin as their first preference for social housing. The Housing Department provides housing through turnkey and Part V opportunities and its own capital schemes. Assistance is also available through the Housing Assistance Payment.

Councillor Connolly asked for clarification on St Evins Park and any Approved Housing Bodies delivered in the area and will check offline with Ms F Byrne about them.

The report was noted.

**KN27/0923**

**Disposal of the land at Athgarvan**

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

Can the council clarify the if there was a wayleave, easement, or right of way or other such right, relevant to the disposal of the land at Athgarvan in November 2020 that ought to have been included in the notice of disposal and brought to the attention of the councillors before voting on the disposing of the land?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Section 183 notice dated 13 November 2020 relating to the disposal of land at Athgarvan to Mr Robert Doyle incorporated all information under any covenants, conditions or agreements to have effect in connection with this disposal.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy queried the process related to the procedure of land disposal and what was not mentioned in the report. Ms F Byrne informed the members that under Section 183



## Kildare County Council

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procedures had been followed and the report previously provided to the members at the November 2020 council meeting had indicated that they might require right of way. The report was noted.

### **KN28/0923**

#### **Fire Service at the Curragh**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor N Connolly That the members of the Municipal District write to the Minister for Defence, asking him to ensure the Fire Station and Fire Service at the Curragh remains operational and that its future be guaranteed.

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

A report was received from the Fire Service Department informing the members that this is a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Connolly informed the members that a designated fire service at the Curragh Camp was essential given it was already relied on by staff and residents in the area and that there would be ammunition on site. It would be a great loss to the area as this would be a relatively busy station. He asked the members for their support to write to the Minister for Defence to ensure the Fire Station and Fire Service at the Curragh remains operational and that its future be guaranteed.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members with one abstaining that the members of the Municipal District write to the Minister for Defence, asking him to ensure the Fire Station and Fire Service at the Curragh remains operational.

### **KN29/0923**

#### **School place and school bus provision**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor N Connolly That the members of the Municipal District write to the Minister for Education, seeking a meeting to discuss school place and school bus provision within the municipal district.



## Kildare County Council

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that this is a matter for the members to agree.

The members made the following points:

- The New school in Monastervin was nearly at capacity.
- There was land that was designated for a school in Kildare which has not been built on yet.
- Families had been in touch to say that they had not received an offer of a school place for their child.
- There was a need for schools especially in Newbridge as it seemed to be not meeting the growth demand.
- Four people had to be schooled from home last year and not by choice.
- School bus provision was not working.
- Requested for this topic to go on the agenda for the planning team meeting with the Department of Education.
- Numbers would decline in primary schools and level out according to data.
- Communications with all schools needed to be addressed as so many parents were adding their children's names to a number of schools but GDPR could be the issue with this.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer and agreed by all members that the Municipal District write to the Minister for Education, seeking a meeting to discuss school place and school bus provision within the municipal district and to go on the agenda of planning to discuss with the department and the report be noted.





**KN30/0923**

**Bonfires**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor N Connolly  
Can the council confirm what plans are in place to deal with bonfires on public land within the municipal district, particularly in recurring places such as Dara Park, Newbridge?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that due to the risks arising from bonfires, the illegal nature of the activity, the effects on the local community and the negative effect on the general environment, the Council, with the support of Residents Associations and the Gardai, is appealing to local communities not to contribute to any bonfires this Halloween, and to respect both the environment and the health of your children and neighbours.

Councillor Connolly asked for clarification on who the public could call and who would clean up the damage from the bonfires? Mr K Kavanagh informed the members that Kildare County Council did not condone bonfires and the cost for clean ups from bonfires could be costly. The public could contact the Fire Service and the Environment Department.

The report was noted.

**KN31/0923**

**Contracts for disposal of land**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy  
Can the council provide a list of all contracts agreed between the council and another party since 2014 regarding land within the Municipal District area where it has included as a condition of the contract an option to dispose of land to the other party should the council dispose of the property at a future date (including but not limited to contracts relating to CPO'd land) to include a clarification as to whether all such contracts entered into by the council contain a condition that any subsequent disposal will be subject to a vote of the elected representatives.

A report was received from the Housing, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces and Parks Department informing the members that the Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces Directorate does not hold a definitive list of such contracts and the compilation of such a list would take a



significant amount of time and resources. Where land is deemed surplus to the requirements, relevant agreements entered into with landowners are checked for special clauses to transfer the land back to the original owner. All other disposals of land are carried out in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

In order to definitively answer this question each contract would have to be reviewed requiring considerable time and resources, but it should be noted that all disposals are subject to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked for clarification on what a special clause was. Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that each contract would be different depending on the circumstances of each contract and could not comment for that reason but if there was a special case that Councillor McLoughlin Healy would like to talk about this might be possible.

The report was noted.

### **KN32/0923**

#### **Recording of minutes for Municipal District**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy  
That the council clarify who in the executive has the authority and on what grounds to deny a request by a councillor at a Municipal District meeting, to have something stated at the Municipal District meeting, recorded in the minutes of that meeting?

The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Pender

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that the content of the minutes is dealt with under Standing Order 11 for the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District. Minutes of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Municipal District shall be drawn up by the Meetings Administrator.

The minutes shall include:

the date, place and time of the meeting;

the names of the Members present at the meeting;

the names of the senior employees of the council present at the meeting;

reference to any report submitted to the Members at the meeting;



## Kildare County Council

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where there is a roll call vote, the number and names of Members voting for and against the motion and of those abstaining;

particulars of all resolutions passed at the meeting;

such other matters considered appropriate.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy informed the members that she felt that this was an ongoing issue and believed that the elected members should be allowed to include what they believed was important in the minutes of a municipal district meeting.

The members raised the following points:

- Did feel that sometimes it was frustrating that this did not happen but believed that it would not be reasonable to cherry pick what should be recorded.
- To remember that the Standing Orders of a meeting were set by the elected members and not controlled by the executive.
- Proposed amendments could be requested before a meeting which gave the members time to evaluate the proposed changes or additions.
- The understanding of minutes was to record the decision and actions.
- If there was a pattern where the minutes were not accommodated, then there would be an issue.

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

### KN33/0923

#### Town Hall, Newbridge

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

Can the council confirm what the time frame is for the completion of maintenance works to the railings on the west side of the Town Hall, Newbridge?

A report was received from the Facilities manager informing the members that facilities have appointed a contractor to repair and paint the railings in situ, we are currently waiting on a start



## Kildare County Council

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date from the contractor. We had two previous dates cancelled over the summer due to weather conditions.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the member that she was frustrated that this had not been carried out yet but is looking forward to it been completed.

The report was noted.

### **KN34/0923**

#### **Climate Innovation Fund 2023**

A report had been circulated to members prior to meeting for the approval of the 2023 Climate Innovation Fund application for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

Ms V Kavanagh informed the members that the Brannockstown Community Group would be using the funding to install a solar powered irrigation system to ensure a continuous supply of water to irrigate the village linear flowerbeds. She explained that The Hive Youth Club were unsuccessful as they were not the right fit for this fund.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by all members that the 2023 Climate Innovation Fund application for the Brannockstown Community Group of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District be approved and that the report be noted.

### **KN35/0923**

#### **Ulster Bank, Newbridge**

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

That, the council consider the purchase of the recently closed Ulster Bank branch building in Newbridge understanding the importance of utilising available spaces for the benefit of the community.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Kildare County Council is aware that the Ulster Bank property is for sale in a closed bidding process. The interest from the members is noted however further information is not available at this time.



## Kildare County Council

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

### KN36/0923

#### Pumping Station, Suncroft

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer  
That the council formally write to Uisce Eireann requesting an update on their plans to increase the level of the sump and redirect all sewage to the pumping station in Suncroft as previously recommended by Kildare County Council as a measure to address the ongoing issue of the smell of sewage in the village of Athgarvan.

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

A report was received from the Water Services Department informing the members that this is a matter for the members to consider and agree. The members may wish to contact Uisce Eireann directly via their dedicated email support address at [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie) or by phoning 0818178178.

Councillor T O'Dwyer asked for the members support the proposal to write to Uisce Éireann to check if they had referred their plan to asset planning for design?

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by all the members that Councillor T O'Dwyer would write a letter to Uisce Éireann and that the report be noted.

The meeting concluded.