



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 17 January 2024
in the Council Chamber**

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

Remote Attendance: Councillors F McLoughlin Healy and R Power

Apologies: Councillor S Doyle

Officials Present: Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Ms S Farrar (Administrative Officer), Mr G Hooban (Executive Engineer), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Mr C Flynn (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

KN01/0124

Elect Mayor

Councillor N Heavey read out a statement informing the members that he was resigning as Mayor and thanked everyone for their corporation during his time as mayor. He said it was the highlight of his career and really enjoyed it. The Members thanked Councillor Heavey for all his work. The District Manager also thanked Councillor Heavey. The Meetings Administrator informed the members that item 1 could not go ahead with an election for a new mayor as under the Local Government Act 2001 a new Mayor cannot be elected until 14 days after the resignation of the present Mayor.

Councillor A Connolly Deputy mayor took the chair.



KN02/0124

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of (a) conflicts of interest or (b) pecuniary or beneficial interests under section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

There were no declarations of interest.

KN03/0124

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 13 December 2023 and noted the progress report.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor N Connolly with Councillor McLoughlin Healy abstaining and agreed by all other members that the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 13 December 2023 be approved and the progress report be noted.

KN04/0124

Municipal District Road Works

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

Road Resurfacing Works:

The Municipal District office is currently preparing the Roads program for 2024.

NTA:

- Works on Green Road are continuing, widening of footpaths, provision of pedestrian crossing and road overlay.
- Contractor on site in Lakeside Park/ Allenvue Heights
- Footpath now complete, waiting on ESB connection.



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Kilcullen

- Gully cleaning Kennycourt, Milemill, Bishop Rogan Park entrance.
- Pothole repairs Kennycourt, Coughlanstown, Gilltown, Old Kilcullen, Newabbey. R448 Brannockstown, Ballymore Road.
- Road signage repairs Caragh Village. Erecting poles for road safety signs Brannockstown.
- Water cuts Knockbounse to Milemill, Old Kilcullen, Gormanstown to Kennycourt.
- Tarmac at new footpath Bishop Rogan Park.

Rathangan

- Road and drainage work at Roadstone Allen Quarry -installing 80 meters of drainage 600mm pipe, 1 manhole and 5 gully's and resurfacing the road afterwards.
- Hedge cutting -Killmanny Cross to Rathbride Cross, Milltown ESB, Milltown Town to Hills of Allen, Barrestown East and West Road, - Milltown to Boston Hill.
- Gully Cleaning Rathangan Londis Shop, Rathangan and Boston Hill, Milltown jetting gullies and camera investigation, Milltown GAA drainage pipecamera and scan tracing works
- New Footpath Works in Rathangan L7003
- Pothole repairs on Edenderry Road, Milbrook Road, Rathangan, Milltown.
- General maintenance - Branch and Tree removal/cutting, Gully Cleaning Boston Hill.

Kildare

- Drainage Redhills. Shanacloon, Passlands, Clogheen,
- Road repairs Kildare Town soccer club at Rathbride, Kildangan Village, Ferns Bridge, Passlands, Clogheen.
- Topsoil - Rathbride.
- Hedge cutting at Clogheen, Redhills, Dumurray, Kildangan, Mountrice, Ummeras, Mooretown, Rathbride, Passlands, Oldgrange, Cherryville, Rathwalkin, Crossmorris, Rathilla, Southgreen, Blackmillershill, Newtown, Duneany, Oghill,



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- There have been a few trees down following the various storms in December which brought about some clean up and maintenance.
- The yard in Kildare was rechipped in preparation for the winter months.

Newbridge

- Watercuts - Curragh, Brownstown, Maddenstown, Cutbush
- Pothole Repairs- Cutbush, Curragh, Suncroft, Newbridge Town, Ring of Roseberry
- Trip Hazards -Newbridge Main Street, Eyre Street
- Road repair - Harbour Road, Baroda Stud
- The Municipal District office have done some gully edge repair works in Ballymany Park Estate and Eyre Street.
- A stop sign replaced in the Oaks.
- Traffic calming sign was moved on the Morrystown Road.

The report was noted.

KN05/0124

Residual LPT

Councillor P O'Dwyer proposed:

- €500 to the Grove Residents Association Dara Park towards landscaping equipment. This was a reallocation of €500 that was originally allocated to Roseberry Hill Residents Association but had not been drawn down from 2020.

Councillor Pender proposed:

- €15,000 to the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District for Big Belly Bins for Newbridge town.

The District Manager reminded the members that she had asked them that they consider all unspent LPT and to be included in their deliberations when considering their Kildare Newbridge Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2024.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillors P O'Dwyer and Pender and seconded by Councillors Pender and Duffy and agreed by all members present that all the above allocations be approved.



KN06/0124

LPT Schedule of Works 2024

The members agreed to defer this item to the February Municipal District meeting.

KN07/0124

Traffic survey at the Athgarvan junction

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

That the council carry out a traffic survey at the Athgarvan junction to determine traffic volume and speed at this location.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that A traffic survey will be carried out at this location when resources become available.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that she had been approached by local residents about their concerns at this junction. The council needed to ascertain real volume on the road and to determine what was needed.

Resolved on the proposals of Councillor T O'Dwyer seconded by Councillor Heavey and the report was noted.

KN08/0124

Repairs to the L3006

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

Go ndéanfadh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara deisiúcháin riachtanacha ar bhóthar an L3006 ó Feirm an Churraigh, Baile Chill Dara go Baile Uí Mhadagáin, d'fhonn é a chur ar an liosta le haghaidh athdhromchlú ag an gcéad deis eile.

That Kildare County Council carry out necessary repairs to the L3006 road from Curraghfarm, Kildare Town to Maddenstown, with a view to including it on the list for resurfacing at the next opportunity.



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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The Municipal District office is currently preparing the 2024 list of roads for Restoration Improvement. The Municipal District office agree to include for consideration the above road subject to meeting criteria and budget.

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

KN09/0124

'Slow bad bend' signs on the Barraderra Road

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

That the council install rumble strips and 'slow bad bend' signs on the Barraderra Road near the R445 Kildare Road Junction given the frequency of accidents at this bend.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Duffy 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 is currently preparing the roads programme including line marking. There is an extensive list and line marking is very costly, the Municipal District office agree to include for consideration subject to budget availability.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that there was a partially bad bend on entering onto the R445 and if the side entering the bad bend could be investigated now. Councillor N Connolly informed the members that it was three years to the day that he ended up in a ditch on this road because someone came around that bad bend too quickly. This needed action now.

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



KN10/0124

New Lodge Cross and Cahill's Cross, Monasterevin

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

That the council, as agreed, undertake an on-site review of the new junction configuration, operation and safety at New Lodge Cross and Cahill's Cross, Monasterevin with the relevant stakeholders now that the new St. Paul's Secondary School has been open for six months.

The motions were proposed by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Pender

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council has monitored the junction layouts close to St. Paul's Secondary School and will continue to do so following the return of students in 2024. Transport Department will arrange to consult with relevant stakeholders in Quarter 1 2024 to discuss any concerns.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that he appreciated the action being taken. The school had been open six months and there were two junctions close together that could be problematic.

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

KN11/0124

Curragh via R413 towards St Marks School/St Brigid's Hospice

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

That the council consider traffic calming measures on the road from Lumville House towards the Curragh via R413 towards St Marks School/St Brigid's Hospice.

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 any potential traffic calming at this location will require a design and capital scheme



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budget. There is no provision for these works in the current Capital Programme and will have to be considered in this context.

The members raised the following points:

- This was a straight road that connected many areas and speed was the issue.
- The speeding was an ongoing issue, sheep had been injured and killed on the Curragh Plains
- The road was close proximity to a school and a hospice centre.
- This needed to be considered.
- The speed on this road needed to be addressed.
- Had not seen 'Black spot' signs designated lately.
- Would this be considered as part of the Capital Programme?

Mr D Hodgins informed the members that traffic calming measures are implemented where appropriate. Motorists speeding was a collective responsibility and that was the key message. There were talks of the Minister bringing forward new speed limits but this might not necessarily solve the problem. There needed to be continued communication to people to slow down for their own safety and the safety of others. This would be considered as part of the Capital Programme. The District Manger informed the members that there would be an opportunity for them to review the Capital Programme.

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

KN12/0124

Castlekealy, Caragh

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
That the council repair the potholes at Castlekealy, Caragh commencing at Railway Bridge (OBC 48) L6009 and finishing at the junction with the Clane Road and list for resurfacing in 2024.

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 has referred the location to the General Services Supervisor (GSS) for patching repair. The Municipal District office is currently preparing the 2024 list of roads for Restoration Improvement. The Municipal District office agree to include for consideration the above road subject to meeting criteria and budget.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that roads seem to be the main issue for everyone. There are approximately 80 houses in this area and was an amenity road with HGV's using this road also.

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

KN13/0124

Taxi Rank Kildare Town

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

That the council clearly identify a taxi rank with at least 3 spaces consisting of road markings (TAXI) and signage of same in Kildare Town.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there are no taxi rank spaces included in the current Kildare Town parking bye-laws, however, these can be considered in the context of the next review of the parking bye-laws.

The members raised the following points:

- With the new Market Square plan 14 parking spaces would be lost.
- Kildare Town was a heritage and tourist area.
- Taxis had been seen parking at bus stop, ATM and Silken Thomas, this needed to be rectified.



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- When would the bye laws be reviewed?

Mr D Hodgins informed the members that there was a back log with reviewing the bye laws and the current plan was to review the oldest one first. He suggested that this could be referred to the Transport SPC. Councillor Pender informed the members that he was on the sustainable transport committee and would be happy to bring it up there.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Curran and seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by all members that this item would be referred to the Transport SPC and that the report be noted.

KN14/0124

Church Lane, Two Mile

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
That the council consider Church Lane, Two Mile House for resurfacing when the 2024 works programme is being considered.

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 is currently preparing the 2024 list of roads for Restoration Improvement; the Municipal District office agree to include for consideration the above road subject to meeting criteria and budget.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that rural villages needed to use roads as there was less public transport and unfortunately people needed to drive in these areas. This was the main access road into Two Mile House.

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



KN15/0124

Rathangan-Naas Road at Paddy's Bridge, Thomastown

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

That the council outline measures to improve access and safety for motorists and others using the Newbridge Road to access Rathangan-Naas Road at Paddy's Bridge, Thomastown.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The Municipal District office regularly cut the hedges and strim around the bridge at this location. Visibility is the main issue over the bridge. The Municipal District office will include the location in the line marking programme to freshen up the centre and stop lines. There are no plans for any additional works at this location.

The members raised the following points:

- This was a back road used from Newbridge into Naas and extremely busy in the mornings and evenings.
- There had been many minor accidents in this area.
- The road to Rathangan had many quarries and was used by many trucks.
- The road from Newbridge onto the Rathangan-Naas Road at Paddy's Bridge, Thomastown was at an acute angle, with very difficult sightlines to merge out on to the road.
- A solution was needed.

Mr D Hodgins informed the members that there was no simple solution, resources or investment to upgrade this road. Investment in regional routes would take place first. There were 30 junctions being considered at the moment.

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



KN16/0124

Caragh Road with Rathangan - Naas Road at Yeomanstown

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

That the council bring forward proposals to improve safety for vehicular and bicycle traffic at the junction of Caragh Road with Rathangan - Naas Road at Yeomanstown.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Heavey 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 has no immediate plans to carry out any road improvement at this junction until such time that funding has been identified.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that this was formally a quiet T junction but over the years had become busier. He had personally witnessed three accidents at this junction as some motorists coming from the Caragh road get impatient and try to dart across the road. He felt that line markings and signs needed to be upgraded and make this junction fit for purpose. Mr D Hodgins informed the members that the junction was fit for purpose for the public.

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

KN17/0124

Eyre Street, Newbridge

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

That the council ensure that Eyre Street, Newbridge is included as part of the roads and footpath programme for 2024.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a section of footpath on Eyre Street was upgraded in the 2023 budget. The



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Municipal District office is currently preparing the 2024 list of roads for Restoration improvement. The Municipal District office agree to include for consideration the above road subject to meeting criteria and budget.

Councillor Pender informed the members that himself and Councillor P O'Dwyer had met with the area engineer previously and thanked her for the works that had been done at the top of Eyre Street and felt that a plan needed to be put in place for this street. He asked that it would be considered for a budget from the NTA. Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that they had walked with the local access group on Eyre Street and Ms B Cuddy informed the members that work had been done to alleviate trips, slips and falls. A significant budget would be needed for further works on Eyre Street.

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

KN18/0124

Waste Skip

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

An féidir leis an gComhairle cur síos a dhéanamh ar an bpróiseas a bhaineann le cead a iarraidh chun Scipeáil Dramhaíola a pháirceáil ar an tsráid?

Can the council outline the process involved in requesting permission to park a Waste Skip on the street?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that if a member of the public/organisation/business etc wishes to place a waste skip or any item on a public road where there is a parking bye-law in place they are required to pay a parking bay suspension fee as outlined in the parking bye-law as adopted by the Members. The payee must contact the parking section of the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department and make the required payment before any waste skip can be placed in a designated parking space on a public road. Once payment is received and processed, the parking contractor is notified. Waste skips or any item must only be placed in designated parking spaces. If a waste skip is required outside parking bye-law enforcement times, then a payment is not required.



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Councillor N Connolly looked for clarification regarding areas that don't have parking bye laws such as Monasterevin and was there a cost for putting waste skip on the street and can you only pay online? He also asked if there was forms online as he didn't seem to find them on the website. Mr D Hodgins informed Councillor N Connolly that he would get the parking official to contact him to answer his questions.

The report was noted.

KN19/0124

Tourist coaches

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

Can the council confirm if there is a designated set down location for tourist coaches in Kildare Town?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there are two designated bus bays in Market Square, Kildare Town. There is no distinction in the Kildare Town bye-laws between the classification of buses that can use these set down areas. No suitable location has been identified for longer-term coach parking and this could be considered in the context of a review of the Kildare town parking bye-laws.

Councillor Curran informed the members that bye laws needed to be reviewed.

The report was noted.

KN20/0124

Conroy Park Estate, Kilcullen

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

Can the council confirm if Conroy Park Estate, Kilcullen is being considered for footpath upgrades in 2024?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office is currently preparing the 2024 roads programme. The above works can be carried out under Local Property Tax (LPT) funding subject to budget and the agreement of the councillors.



The report was noted.

KN21/0124

Athgarvan Village to Athgarvan Primary School

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

Can the council confirm if it has considered upgrading and extending the existing footpath from Athgarvan Village to Athgarvan Primary School to support safe walking and cycling to school?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office agree to meet with the contractor at the junction. There is a section of connectivity footpath missing at this location.

The report was noted.

KN22/0124

Langton Cross in The Oaks, Newbridge

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

Can the council outline what measures it can take to reduce motor speed into and along the road closest to Langton Cross in The Oaks, Newbridge particularly at school opening and closing times?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The Municipal District office held several meetings two years ago with the residents at The Oaks, due to location of the back entrance to the school and the Municipal District office agreed to install three ramps exiting from the estate. There are no plans to install any additional traffic calming at this location.

The report was noted.

KN23/0124

Affordable Housing Initiative

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



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That the council actively pursue the development of an Affordable Housing Initiative, specifically targeting the Newbridge area.

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 the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) is carrying out an in-depth review of the council's first Affordable House Purchase Scheme at Grey Abbey View, Kildare Town. In the meantime, the council is exploring all opportunities for affordable delivery and has an open call for expressions of interest for affordable opportunities.

There are 2 Public Private Partnership (PPP) Schemes for Social and Affordable Housing Units at early design stages in the following locations:

- 1) Rickardstown, Newbridge - 40 Affordable Housing Units
- 2) Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare – 32 Affordable Housing Units

The members will be updated on these schemes through the monthly Chief Executives Report.

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

KN24/0124

St. Evin's Park, Monasterevin Part 8

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

Can the council confirm the timeline for the St. Evin's Park, Monasterevin Part 8 housing scheme?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Part 8 will be launched in February 2024 and will be brought for consideration by the members to the meeting of June/July 2024. The expected delivery is Q4 2025.

The report was noted.



KN25/0124

Public toilet Courthouse in Kildare Town

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

Can the council confirm why the public toilet at the Courthouse in Kildare Town is not open to the public?

A report was received from the Property Management and Procurement Section informing the members that the accessible toilets in Kildare Court House were completed in 2023. However, it is not the intention to open them up as a public toilet facility, which would require daily management and funding by Kildare County Council. Public Toilet facilities were closed down in County Kildare in 2018, due to the significant cost in managing them compared to the small income generated by their use. In addition, the building is in need of significant renovation and repair, and this is hoped to commence in 2024. During this period the building will be closed to all Kildare County Council staff who are not directly supervising the works and members of the public.

The report was noted.

KN26/0124

Victoria Bridge

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

Can the council outline the process on how Liffey Bridge at Yeomanstown, presently called Victoria Bridge, can be renamed Larry Stanley Bridge?

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that the Civic Memorial Policy adopted by Kildare County Council on 26 February 2018 sets out the process by which Kildare County Council will consider the commemoration of events or individuals who have shaped the County, either by the naming of infrastructure or by the installation of monuments, memorials and plaques in the public domain.

In respect of infrastructure, the policy document advises the following:

- Consideration will only be given to the naming of major infrastructure such as roundabouts, buildings (non-residential), facilities and bridges. Minor infrastructure will not be considered for naming.



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- County parks, fire stations, libraries and utility facilities will not be named after individuals or events. The names will reflect the locality or townland.
- Generally, an individual can only be commemorated with one piece of infrastructure.

Proposals for the naming of infrastructure are dealt with by the Civic Memorial Technical Committee by means of the submission of a proposal to the Civic Memorial Technical Committee. The Civic Memorial Technical Committee is chaired by the Director of Services, Corporate Services and its composition is outlined in the policy document under Section 7. The Committee may decide to seek additional expertise or carry out public consultation in making a decision in respect of any proposals. It is noted that the policy refers to naming only and does not have any provision for renaming of existing named structures. In respect of Victoria Bridge, this bridge is included on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS No.: B18-07) in the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029. It should be noted that Kildare Decade of Commemorations programme is supporting the installation of a public installation panel in Fr Kinsella Park, Caragh that Caragh Tidy Towns have developed. A grant has been provided for this purpose and it is planned to unveil this memorial to Larry Stanley in Caragh later in 2024, to mark Larry Stanley's role as the first track and field athlete to represent the independent Irish State in the modern Olympiad (Paris 1924) and also Larry Stanley's performance in the Tailteann Games. Family members are planning to attend from abroad once confirmed. Caragh Tidy Towns made a formal application for funding and approval of works.

The report was noted.

KN27/0124

Living green wall

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor N Connolly
Go soláthróidh nó go dtacódh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara le balla beo glas a sholáthar sa Cheantar Bardasach.

That Kildare County Council provide or support the provision of a living green wall in the municipal district.

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



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A joint report was received from the Biodiversity Officer and the Climate Action Coordinator informing the members that While the installation of living green walls and other nature-based elements are encouraged in principle, Green Walls would not be seen as a priority in terms of biodiversity provision primarily because that they do not replicate a functioning habitat or ecosystem. While they have the potential to improve air quality and have cooling benefits for buildings during extremes of heat, and can be aesthetically pleasing, maintenance can be costly, and plant failure rates are relatively high. If there were to be biodiversity 'benefits' these could be achieved through very deliberate planting schemes to include native plants, and other pollinator-friendly plants. Overall, however, green walls would be seen as investment-heavy with poor return on meaningful biodiversity protection or gain. The competitive Community Climate Action Programme Fund, specifically under the thematic area of 'Local Climate and Environmental Action' is now open. The fund provides capital funding only. Applications by community groups can be made via <https://submit.link/2cB> by the 6 March 2023. Victoria Kavanagh, Community Climate Action Officer is available to answer queries and discuss projects and is contactable at climateactionoffice@kildarecoco.ie.

Councillor N Connolly informed the members that he had originally seen a green wall at a Decathlon in Ballymun and thought it was very interesting. He felt it had an educational value to it. He said it was good to know that there was a funding stream available.

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

KN28/0124

Playground at Oaktree Green

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Curran
That the council take in charge the Playground at Oaktree Green in Kildare Town.

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

A report was received from the Building and Development Control informing the members that Development Control received a Taking in Charge request from the Developer and in response



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Development Control have issued a comprehensive snag list. The issue of the playgrounds condition along with the balance of the snags was raised by Development Control with the Developer at an in-person meeting on 30 November 2023. We have re-contacted the Developer in January 2024 regarding the playground condition. Development Control will continue to liaise with the Developer whilst they bring the estate up to a taking in charge standard. The Parks Section will assist the Development Control Section with this work where required.

Councillor Curran informed the members that the playground in question was in dire straits. Something needed to be done and a resolution found as soon as possible. He also informed the members that a study had been carried out that showed that access to a playground between the ages 1-7 was key to children's development and access was being denied to these children.

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

KN29/0124

Columbarium Wall St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge

Mr C Flynn from the Environment Department gave a presentation to the members on the proposed Columbarium Wall installation at St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge as part of the 2024 Cemeteries Capital Improvement Program.

Mr C Flynn informed the members of the following:

- The location was chosen due to the water table.
- There were three walls with 20 niches on each.
- Landscaping plan and improving footpaths would be part of the design.
- The Columbarium Walls were becoming more popular with Naas being the first to have one installed in the county and further ones planned for Athy, Maynooth, Confey, Leixlip and Crookstown.
- Newbridge was a growing town, and we needed to plan for the future.
- They were common in other countries.
- The plan was designed so that more could be added if needed.



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- Kildare County Council did not have a policy in place for the columbarium walls and maybe this was something that needed to be looked at.
- The cost was €40,000 - €45,000 from a capital grant and would hope it would go out for tender by February.
- Any proposals or queries could be emailed to Mr K Kavanagh or Mr C Flynn from the Environment Department.

The members raised the following points:

- What height were the walls compared to the boundary wall?
- There were baby/child plots at the back wall would this be close to them.
- The drawings showed space for two names on the niche covers could more be added, or would it only hold two urns?
- Was there a timeframe for one in Monasterevin.
- This was something new and policies needed to be looked at with sensitivity.

Mr C Flynn informed the members that it would not impact on the baby/child plots. The columbarium walls would be 2.2 metres in height. Regarding the spaces for two names on the wall, each niche could hold up to four urns.

KN30/0124

Rathangan Industrial Estate

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

An féidir leis an gComhairle cur síos a dhéanamh ar nádúr na hinfheistíochta atá déanta aici in Eastát Tionscail Ráth Iomgháin i Ráithe 4, 2023?

Can the council outline the nature of its investment in Rathangan Industrial Estate undertaken in Q4, 2023?

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office informing the members that Kildare County Council has procured a contractor to undertake aesthetic enhancements (landscape clearing/cleaning, painting, etc), delivery of new signage and some minor works (removal of bollards, etc) to the frontage of the 4nr. industrial sites in Kildare County Council's ownership including



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Rathangan, Newbridge, Kilcullen and Celbridge. The works commenced in Q4 2023 and are expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

KN31/0124

Posters and fly bills

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

Can the council confirm who is responsible for the removal of posters and fly bills in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that It is a criminal offence to deface property, and it is a requirement of the Litter Pollution Act for property owners to remedy defacement. If the poster is on public property, the council will arrange for its removal. This will typically fall to the asset owner within the council. If the poster is on say, utility boxes or property belonging to utility companies, the company concerned is responsible for its removal. If the poster is on private property, the property owner is required to remove it.

The report was noted.

KN32/0124

Illegal dumping

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

Can the council outline its plan to address issues and existing strategies related to illegal dumping in Newbridge and encourage community participation in keeping our local environment clean and sustainable?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that Litter remains a national problem that requires a consistent, concentrated approach to address effectively. While most of the citizens of our county are committed to the prevention and eradication of litter from our community, there is still a need to change attitudes and behaviour to recognise that littering / dumping is anti-social and devalues our environment.



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The support of the wider community is vital if the litter problem is to be successfully addressed, and the council acknowledges the ongoing dedicated efforts of the many individuals and groups working to tackle litter at a local level. The council has developed a schools environmental education programme which combines a friendly informative approach with practical supports designed to foster an anti-litter ethos. The national Green Schools programme – coordinated by an Taisce and supported locally by the council - targets litter amongst other environmental issues. Over 130 schools in Kildare have registered for the programme with over 110 schools achieving green flag status. Our Environmental Awareness Officer regularly visits primary and secondary schools throughout the county to discuss environmental topics with students and liaises with community groups raising awareness about litter and waste management. The council also supports the Picker Pals initiative in conjunction with Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. This is a primary schools programme where schools are loaned a litter information and cleanup kit which is then lent to all pupils in a class to bring home and do a cleanup locally with their family. 68 schools are currently involved in this scheme. The council's community wardens will also attend meetings of community groups and tidy towns committees supporting their activities and discussing any litter-related problems. Kildare currently has over 40 active Tidy Towns groups and the council is committed to assisting these groups with grants provided annually to support their work. In 2023, the members allocated funding of €256,000 for this purpose. There is also a need to encourage and educate the general public to reuse and recycle where possible thereby minimising indiscriminate dumping and reducing levels of waste going to landfill sites. The council publicises and supports events such as the annual National Spring Clean and schemes such as the Green Kilometre. To assist community groups with litter clean-up campaigns, the council provides items such as litter pickers, signage and bags free of charge. In addition, educational material from a wide range of sources on litter / waste management issues is readily available. Most recently, the council produced a "Waste Matters" booklet which is a guide to managing household waste and recycling in Kildare.



This guide was one of a series of projects that were part funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to help combat dumping under the Anti-dumping Initiative Scheme. The funding was also used to carry out clean ups and waste prevention measures at three locations in the county. In addition, two mattress amnesty days, at Silliot Hill and Gallows Hill, were organised which resulted in the collection of 21.8 tonnes of used mattresses.

The council undertakes a comprehensive street cleaning service in our larger towns through its municipal districts offices with particular attention paid to litter blackspots, e.g. bus-stops. A mobile environmental crew also continues to undertake a range of waste removal functions including cleaning of illegal dumping sites and recycling facilities. We also provide a network of bottle bank sites around the county.

The council also promotes community composting initiatives to deal with green waste locally. Three community composters were provided in 2023 to community groups.

Irish Business against Litter (IBAL) is a body set up by a number of businesses which involves an Taisce routinely surveying litter levels in a range of towns across Ireland according to international standards. Kildare towns have performed very well in recent surveys with Naas topping the poll in 2021 and 2022 and Maynooth tops in 2023.

The national Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy shifts focus away from waste disposal and treatment and looks instead to how we can preserve resources by creating a circular economy, i.e. having materials and products remain in productive use for longer thereby preventing waste and supporting reuse through a policy framework that discourages the wasting of resources and



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rewards circularity, making producers who manufacture and sell disposable goods for profit environmentally accountable for the products they place on the market, etc.

The members are reminded that Ireland will soon (February 2024) be introducing a Deposit Return Scheme which, by placing a monetary value on empty drinks containers – i.e. cans and plastic bottles- provides more incentive for consumers to return them rather than littering our environment.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.