



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 18 December 2024
in the Council Chamber**

Members Present: Councillors P O'Dwyer (Mayor), P Balfe, S Doyle, K Duffy, N Heavey, T McDonnell, T O'Dwyer, B O'Loughlin, C Pender, R Power

Officials Present: Ms E Hanlon (District Manager), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

**KN01/1224
Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of (a) conflicts of interest or (b) pecuniary or beneficial interests under section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

There were no declarations of interest.

**KN02/1224
Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 20 November and the progress report was noted.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 20 November 2024 be taken as read and the progress report be noted.

KN03/1224
Municipal District Road Works

The members received an update on the municipal district road works.

National Transport Authority (NTA): Works are ongoing on Bride Street, with safe routes to schools funding for upgrade of footpaths, installation of pedestrian crossings and overlay of road.

R445 Dublin Road Kildare: Footpath works ongoing on Dublin Road, Kildare (R445), including the widening of footpaths and installation of tabletop ramp.

Routine Maintenance by Kildare Newbridge Municipal District staff.

Rathangan

Sweeping: Rathangan Town.

Litter picking and empty bins: Rathangan Town.

Path sweeping: Rathangan.

Drainage work: Milltown.

Ground repair: Milltown.

Sign cleaning and replacement: Milltown and Blacktrench.

Pothole repair works: Pond Road Thomastown,

R401 Wheelam's Cross, Feighcullen, Blacktrench, Milltown, Boston Hill L3003.

Trip hazard repairs: Leinster Street Rathangan, Main Street, Rathangan and Yellow Lough.

Hedge cutting: Pollardstown, Feighcullen, Rathbride, Gillians Lane,

Blacktrench, Clongorey, Hill of Allen, Edenderry Road, Thomastown, Ellistown, Rathbride and Milltown.

Salting: Rathangan Town.

Path cleaning: Rathangan Town.

Leaf blowing and path cleaning: Rathangan Town.

Water cuts and verge repair: Coolelan.

Road Patching: Wilsons Bridge.

Kilcullen

Pothole repairs: Whitehall Cross to Ballysax, Milemill, Brannockstown, Kennycourt and Carnalway.

Road signage repairs: Milemill to Brannockstown and Kilcullen to Milemill.

New signs also erected at these locations and on the R448.

Cleaning signs: Grangebeg Junction.

Leaf sweeping: Kilcullen National School and Brannockstown School.

Watercuts: Mylerstown R448, Whitehall Cross to Ballysax and Old Carlow Road.

Cleaning Culvert: Ladytown.

Kildare

Drainage: Water cuts were opened at Dunmurry Road Kildare town, Beech Park / Gallaghers cross Kildare town, Old Green Road, Green Road.

McGuinness maintenance jetted lines on the Nurney Road at Ros Glas, Monasterevin.

Hedgecutting: Hedges were cut back at Bishopsland Kildare town, Rathmuck, Redhills, Dunnaney, Crossmorris, Ellistown and R445 Monasterevin – Kildare Town.

Signage: New stop sign at Curragh Chase (Bucket Road).

New ramp signs at Ruanbeg Kildare Town.

Two new Children at play signs at Old Mill Race Monasterevin. Ramp signs replaced at Drogheda Street and Monasterevin.

Footpath works: The Plains, Kildare Town (ongoing), including new drop kerbs, footpath repair, trip hazard repair and new tactile paving.

Road patching: the velocity patching unit repaired potholes in Rathmuck Kildare Town, Ummeras, Kill Hill and Cowpasture, Monasterevin.

Street cleaning: Completed daily including litter picking, bin emptying and footpath sweeping.

Newbridge

Street cleaning: Litter picking and emptying bins, clearing of lanes and general maintenance of Newbridge Town and small villages around the Newbridge Municipal District.

Patching works: Maddenstown towards Kildare Town, Cutbush, Piercetown, Newbridge Industrial Estate, Sarsfield Drive and Brownstown towards Suncroft.

Footpath widening: Standhouse Road, Morrinstown Road, Ballymany Road, Langton Road and Standhouse Road.

Drainage works: Jetting lines and cleaning gullies at Curragh Camp/Brownstown, Curragh Racecourse Road, Ballymany Park, Athgarvan School, Cutlery Road, Green Road, Pairc Mhuire, Piercetown, Barrettstown Road, Barretstown Lawns, Great Connell Road, College Farm, College Park and College Orchard.

Gully Repairs: Langton Park.

Leaf Clearing: Liffey Hall, Athgarvan Road, Barrettstown Road, Liffey Hall, Rowan Terrace.

Footpath Scabbling Works: Liffey Hall.

Fencing Works: Liffey Hall the Park.

Hedgecutting: Langton Road, Morrinstown Road and The Meadows.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that she wanted to acknowledge the team in the Municipal District Office and the commitment to their hard work over the last year.

The report was noted.

KN04/1224
Thomastown

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

That the council produces a report on the frequency of vehicle collisions at the junction of Caragh-Newbridge Road with Rathangan-Naas Road in Thomastown and what it might consider as appropriate to remediate this busy junction.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District office does not have road collision records. This office agrees to list the junction between the L-7087 and L-7041 in Thomastown for consideration for low-cost safety improvement work schemes. All works are subject to budget and staff availability.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that it was his understanding that when there were accidents on the Kildare roads the data/GPS results were sent from An Garda Síochána to Kildare County Council.

The members raised the following points:

- Local people had raised concerns over this patch of road
- It was a very busy road with commuters
- There have been numerous accidents at this junction and a serious accident at the weekend
- The low-cost safety improvement work scheme was not appropriate for this junction
- If there was data what did Kildare County Council have
- Metrics on safety needed to be looked at
- An assessment needs to be done
- Would have concerns that if there was data that it was being held up due to GDPR
- Kildare County Council needed to help reduce these impacts
- There was a recent accident that took down a landowner's wall and signpost and now that landowner had to get it fixed
- There had also been collisions at Victoria Bridge which was close to this junction also
- At the Junction coming from the Caragh side there was a pole on the right-hand side which was impeding on drivers line of sight.
- Acknowledged that the district engineer had been on site at this location before and was aware of the concerns
- The house on the right-hand side at this junction coming from Caragh had a high hedge that was also making it difficult for drivers to see onto the road. Would it be in the remit of Kildare County Council to have this removed.
- HGVs come off at this junction frequently

The District Engineer informed the members that Municipal District Office did not receive reports on minor accidents in the area only if a fatality had occurred. She said had looked at this junction and drivers behaviour does also come into play. She said the Municipal District Office would look at cutting back hedges. Mr D Hodgins informed the members that Kildare County Council did not



discuss third party information if provided. He said that the municipal district office did not have collision records on this junction and the report given for this motion was accurate.

Councillor P O'Dwyer asked Councillor T O'Dwyer to bring this up at the Local Community Safety Partnership.

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

KN05/1224 **Newbridge College**

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

That the council brings forward proposals to make safer the roundabout at the back of Newbridge College i.e. to make clear to all motorists the right of way at this busy roundabout.

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 the Municipal District office agree to carry out a technical assessment on the roundabout at the back of Newbridge College. All works are subject to budget and staff availability.

The members raised the following points:

- This was a very busy junction with a school and church in this locality and the students would regularly use the back gate to go to the local shop
- When coming from the Caragh side motorists were blindsided at the roundabout from the right side and this was causing a few near misses
- Questioned if there should have been a roundabout put in as it was more like a T-Junction
- This junction needed to be reassessed with regard especially to pedestrians and children

The District Engineer informed the members that motorists need to be aware to yield right of way.

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

KN06/1224
Tannery Park, Rathangan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Loughlin
That the council reinstates the litter bins that were removed from along the river (known locally as the pound) and at the canal footbridge leading to the playground and Tannery Park, Rathangan.

The motion was proposed by Councillor O'Loughlin and seconded by Councillor Doyle

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there is no budgetary capacity to add additional bins at any location in the municipal district at the current time.

Councillor O'Loughlin informed the members that the issues were that bins were removed a couple of years ago from this area due to vandalism. He said that there was a lot of traffic along the river as students would go there on their lunch breaks and if the litter was not dealt with straight away by the Tidy Towns volunteers it would end up in the river. He informed the members that there was previously a concrete bin by the canal but was removed but was unsure why it was removed. The Tidy Towns Committee said they would be willing to try and fund new bins for this area, but the issue would be emptying them. The District Engineer informed the members that the policy of Kildare County Council was not to put in additional bins but if Councillor O'Loughlin or the Tidy Town Committee were aware of any bins that were less used in another area, they could reallocate them to the areas in question. Councillor O'Loughlin informed the members he would talk to the Tidy Towns Committee and revert to the Municipal District Office.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor O'Loughlin and seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted.

KN7/1224
Ellistown GAA

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Loughlin
That the council installs rumble strips along the road outside the entrance of Ellistown GAA. This is a busy spot along a busy road as the club grounds also contain a creche and the community playground.

The motion was proposed by Councillor O'Loughlin and seconded by Councillor Heavey

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District (MD) office does not install rumble strips. The MD office agree to undertake a technical assessment on the road markings at this location, all works are subject to budget and staff availability.

Councillor O'Loughlin informed the members that Ellistown was a busy area with a GAA and Creche on this road and there was a lot of traffic coming from Rathangan and Clonbullogue. He said that heavy trucks also used this road as they could not go through Monasterevin due to HGV restrictions. He said that there needed to be a lot more warning signs on this road. The District Engineer informed the members that the municipal district office did not regularly install rumble strips especially in areas where there were residents due to the noise caused by them and that rumble strips did not last long. She said that there would be an overall look at roads in the new year and budget.

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

KN08/1224
Roundabout on the R445

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Balfe
That the council examines the feasibility of a roundabout on the R445 at the exit of Junction 14 of the M7 between Kildare and Monasterevin to enhance the safety of motorists at that location.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council is currently progressing a junction improvement project that is looking at ten junctions across the county. This junction can be considered for future iterations of this junction programme however only junctions that have been identified as locations of interest in the Collision Analysis for Regional Road Network work completed by the Department of Transport Support Office will be selected going forward. There is no funding or resources available to carry out a feasibility study at this location at this time.

Councillor Balfe informed the members that this was probably one of the busiest junctions off the N7. He said that other junctions off the N7 had roundabouts such as Ballybrittas. He asked what the criteria were needed to move this junction up in priority so it could be considered. Councillor Duffy informed the members that this junction was looked at previously and it looked like a roundabout was originally intended due to the way the fencing was curved. He asked should the NTA be looking at this or was it up Kildare County Council. Mr. D Hodgins informed the members that this was a local function of Kildare County Council. This junction can be considered for future iterations of this junction programme however only junctions that have been identified as Locations of Interest in the Collision Analysis for Regional Road Network work completed by the Department of Transport Support Office will be selected going forward. There is no funding or resources available to carry out a feasibility study at this location at this time.

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

KN09/1224

Illuminated Bus Shelters Boroharde and Willowbrook Nursing

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

That the council installs illuminated bus shelters on both sides of the Naas to Newbridge Road at Boroharde and Willowbrook Nursing Home to facilitate staff, visitors and the general public using these bus stops.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the location outlined in this motion is one of many locations across County Kildare that have been requested for upgrading. Kildare County Council, together with the National Transport Authority, is undertaking an audit of all bus stop infrastructure in all Municipal District areas and developing a priority list based on the requirements at different locations. It should be noted that hard standing areas were recently installed at this location to facilitate passengers and whilst Kildare County Council will work towards installing bus shelters at all relevant locations, the programme is ambitious and will require a significant amount of financial funding and time to progress both design and construction works at multiple locations.

The members raised the following points:

- There was a nursing home and a soccer pitch beside these bus stops that would be used by the public and staff.
- People felt vulnerable and exposed while waiting on a bus due to it being in darkness
- Could priority be given to providing lighting at these bus stops
- When would the priority list be done
- Kildare County Council needed to support vulnerable members of society and improve the access to public transport
- Could Kildare County Council install bus shelters and lighting for the moment
- Could a bus loop be used to collect and deliver on one side to help with the safety of the public
- The Loop/ depot was looked at a few years ago but nothing came of it, it would involve no pedestrian crossing

Mr D Hodgins informed the members that that there was now an Executive Engineer in place and support resources would be available to the engineer. He said at the moment there were hundreds of existing bus stops in Co Kildare that needed attention. He informed the members that the sustainable Transport Department were working with Local Link to determine safety of each local link stop. There were safety concerns on the dual carriage way where the two bus stops in the report

were for the public crossing this dual carriage way. The loop/depot was a complicated issue but was a topic of discussion.

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

KN10/1124
Thompsons Cross Kilcullen

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

Can the council detail the recommendations as outlined in the recent survey carried out on Thompsons Cross Kilcullen?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a feasibility and options report has been prepared as part of the Kildare County Council, Junction Improvement Project Phase 1B for Thompsons Cross. This report has identified six options for improvements at this junction and these will be reviewed by Kildare County Council in due course. It is likely that further design work will be required in order to progress improvement works at this location. It is unfortunate that there are no internal resources available to progress these works in the short term as the Roads Projects Team are managing several large capital projects that are at critical points at present.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that she did not accept the report and asked why the feasibility study that was carried out in October was being withheld. Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that he would talk to Mr D Conlan and revert with an answer.

The report was noted.

KN11/1224
Cowpasture in Monasterevin

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

Can the council confirm if planning is in place to complete the footpath between Hopkins Haven and Cowpasture in Monasterevin?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the progression of a footpath at this location has not been identified on any works programme and there are no plans for works here at the present time.

Councillor Balfe asked for clarification on whether this would ever be considered as children walk to school along this road. The District Engineer said it would depend on land availability and budget.

The report was noted.

KN12/1224

Footpaths Lakeside Park, Dara Park, Highfield and Allenview Heights

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

Can the council provide an update on footpath works that need to be carried out at Lakeside Park, Dara Park, Highfield and Allenview Heights, Newbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The Municipal District office will consider this in the Schedule of Works for 2025

Councillor McDonnell asked for clarification on when the report would be ready as there were wheelchair users using these paths, and they needed to be repaired. The District Engineer informed the members that the municipal district office had a limited budget for footpaths but would be looking at the budget in January. The revenue that the municipal district office received from LPT and pay parking had to be shared out. The cost was roughly €150 - €200 per metre for a footpath.

The report was noted.

KN13/1124
Tree Arborist

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
That the council provides a costing for using an independent tree arborist to carry out an assessment of trees in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District for the purpose of compiling a working list for our parks team to work from and members to budget for, the tender to include but not limited to all housing estates taking in charge, public spaces, special landscape areas and unique areas where houses are listed on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) records.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that a tender has been issued for a programme of tree works in the Kildare / Newbridge Municipal District. The content and cost of this will be advised to the members once tenders are received which is due by the end of the year.

Councillor T O'Dwyer made the following points:

- This motion was put forward so that the members could be helpful and to work with the Parks Department
- There were constant requests from the members to the Parks Department regarding trees
- The members just seem to be firefighting with the Parks Department over this
- It would be better if there was a plan in place to know what was happening regarding tree pruning, planned or urgency works that the members could keep the public updated
- The work being done was very ad hoc

Councillor Pender informed the members that this time of the year the public are always asking about tree pruning/works. He said the pruning schedule they had received was not accurate. Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that the Parks Department were under severe pressure. The District Manager informed the members that in Budget 2025 there had been money allocated for tree management in the Parks Department, and they were working on a tender.

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

KN14/1224

Lakeside Park, Dara Park Lands

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

Can the council confirm when the report for the planned revamp of Lakeside Park, Dara Park lands will be available to look at?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that a masterplan is required for the amenity lands in Lakeside Park. This will be considered for next years works programme, but any timeframes will have to be considered in the context of completing existing commitments first.

The report was noted.

KN15/1224

Newbridge Library Development

That Kildare County Council ensure there is a designated heritage space with a permanent military display to acknowledge the link to the barracks at this end of Newbridge included in the design for the proposed new Newbridge Library Development.

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

A report was received from the Library Department informing the members that the Library Service will commit to providing a permanent exhibition to mark the importance of the historic location of the new Newbridge Library, County Archives and Cultural Centre on the grounds of what was the Newbridge Military Barracks. The Design Team are aware of the importance of the heritage and history of the site and will work with the County Librarian, the County Archivist and the Local Studies Librarian to ensure a suitable acknowledgement will be designed and installed.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that this was a good report and would be a tremendous addition to Newbridge as there was history of Military on the site of the new

Newbridge Library Development. She said that there was a strong military presence in Newbridge, and it would be nice to see people coming from afar to see a designated heritage space with a military display. Councillor Balfe informed the members it was important to remember the military.

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

KN16/1224

Record of Protected Structures

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

Can the council confirm if there is a mechanism to update the current Record of Protected Structures (RPS) records for Brannockstown, Carnalway, Kennycourt, Milemill and Kilcullen to name and detail the extent of natural stone walls, gates, pillars, railings, as part of the curtilage of a protected structure to prevent the erosion of the character and heritage of these locations?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that there are provisions within the current planning legislation to address the addition (and where required) deletion of structures from the Record of Protected Structures (RPS), however these provisions may be subject to change with the commencement of the new Planning and Development Act 2024, which is imminent. While these provisions provide a mechanism for the addition and (where required) deletion of structures from the Record of Protected Structures, detailed analysis would be required in accordance with legislative requirements to assess a structure, to identify the characteristics of special interest which would merit its inclusion. At a basic level the Act requires that a protected structure be of special interest under one or more of the following categories:

- a) Architectural
- b) Historical
- c) Archaeological
- d) Artistic
- e) Cultural
- f) Scientific
- g) Technical
- h) Social

It should be noted that these categories are not mutually exclusive; for example, a structure may be of historical, as well as architectural, interest.

A structure, as referenced above, is defined by the Act as 'any building, structure, excavation, or other thing constructed or made on, in or under any land, or any part of a structure'. In relation to a protected structure, the meaning of the term 'structure' is expanded to include:

- a) the interior of the structure
- b) the land lying within the curtilage of the structure
- c) any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors, and
- d) all fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of the above structures.

It is considered that natural stone walls, gates, pillars, walled gardens and other appropriate structures are afforded protection through the existing provisions of the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and indeed the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members she was not happy with the report and might submit it as a motion.

The report was noted.

KN17/1224
Pollardstown Fen

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

That this council writes to the National Parks and Wildlife Service to request that upgrade works be carried out at Pollardstown Fen walkway and to include the provision of a jetty in any plans.

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

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



Councillor McDonnell informed the members that people had approached him about a jetty. He asked if Kildare County Council had any involvement in this. Councillor Doyle informed the members that there was a lot of activity happening in this area. There was a group of people that looked after this area and maybe the members should consult with them before writing a letter. She suggested that the members should invite the group in to see what their ambitions were. It was agreed by all members that they would hold off on writing the letter to the National Parks and Wildlife Service until they had consultation with the group looking after this area.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McDonnell and seconded by Councillor Heavey and agreed by all members that a letter would be written to the National Parks and Wildlife Service after the consultation and that the report be noted.

The meeting concluded.