



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 15 January 2025
in the Council Chamber**

Members Present: Councillors P O'Dwyer (Mayor), P Balfe, N Connolly, 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), Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Mr C Cosgrove (Senior Executive Architect), Ms P Pender (A/ Senior Executive Officer), Ms L Morgan (Meetings Administrator), Ms KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

On the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by all, standing orders were suspended to allow the meeting to commence at 10:15 a.m.

**KN01/0125
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.

**KN02/0125
Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 18 December 2024 and the progress report was noted.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 18 December 2024 be taken as read and the progress report be noted.

KN03/0125
Municipal District Road Works

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

Road Resurfacing Works:

National Transport Authority (NTA):

Works are ongoing at St. Bridget's school and surrounding area in Kildare Town.

Footpath improvement works are ongoing on the Dublin Road (R445) Kildare Town.

Restoration Improvement / Maintenance:

Preparation of the restoration maintenance and improvement program.

Rathangan

Sweeping footpaths in Rathangan Town.

Litter picking and empty bins: Rathangan Town.

Pothole repairs and patching.

Cleanup after Storm Darragh.

Dealing with the severe weather, heavy snow and deep freeze.

Kildare Town

Hedges: Hedges were cut back at Ellistown, Oghil, Maryville, R445 Kildare Town to Monasterevin, Cherryville, Mooretown.

Footpaths were repaired and new drop kerbs poured at The Plains, Kildare Town.

Clean up after storm Darragh.

Repaired bollards on Main Street and Station Road, Kildare Town.

Dealing with the severe weather, heavy snow and deep freeze.

Kilcullen

Cleaning and repairing road signage at all junctions.

Pothole repairs within the Municipal District area

Cleanup after Storm Darragh.

Dealing with the severe weather, heavy snow and deep freeze.

Newbridge

Clean up after Storm Darragh.

Dealing with the severe weather, heavy snow and deep freeze.

Footpath repairs, litter picking and street sweeping within the town.

The report was noted.

KN04/0125 **LPT Schedule of Works 2025**

The members agreed to defer this item until the next Municipal District meeting

KN05/0125 **Twinning of Rathangan, Co Kildare with Freehold, New Jersey**

The members previously received a report regarding the proposed twinning of Rathangan, Co Kildare with Freehold, New Jersey.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Connolly and seconded by Councillor O'Loughlin and agreed by all members present that the proposed twinning of Rathangan, Co Kildare with Freehold, New Jersey be ratified.

KN06/0125 **Rathcurragh/Tracey's Meadows Estates**

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

That the council explores the possibility of a footpath from the Rathcurragh/Tracey's Meadows Estates, Newbridge side as presently there is no safe crossing to get to the footpath that runs on the opposite side of the road where two primary schools are located.

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 identifies merit in this request as there is a lack of connectivity in this location to two large schools, the proposal is a substantial project including land

take, extensive footpaths construction and additional pedestrian crossings. At present, there is no budget within the Municipal District for these works, however the Municipal District Office agree to prepare drawings and costings and will work with Councillor P O'Dwyer in relation to seeking funding.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that these housing estates were situated on the Green Road and on turning right out of the estates there was no footpath just grass and there was no pedestrian crossing. She said that there had been significant investment put into the road, but that a footpath was needed.

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

KN7/0125

Traffic Calming Measures

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

That the council carries out an assessment of need for additional traffic calming measures on the Dunlavin approach road to Brannockstown to include the junction at the Ballymore Road.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this location is included for assessment as part of the Restoration Improvement Program for 2025.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that she welcomed the report. She said that the Municipal District Office had done a lot of work addressing speed in rural villages such as Brannockstown, but it was an ongoing issue. She said that the District Engineer had been out, and this was looked at and slow down signs had been installed on sections coming in from Dunlavin to Brannockstown.

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

KN08/0125

White Abbey Road and Cleamore Road

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

Go ndéanfadh an Chomhairle measúnú riachtanas le haghaidh bosca buí ag cruinniú Bhóthar na Mainistreach Bán agus Bóthar an Chlaí Mhóir, i mBaile Chill Dara, áit a dtrasnaíonn siad bóthar an R445 Mainistir Eimhín.

That the council carries out a needs assessment for a yellow box at the meeting of White Abbey Road and Cleamore Road in Kildare Town, where they intersect with the R445 Monasterevin Road.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Connolly 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 agrees to carry out assessment and subject to budgets if required the engineer will install same.

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

KN09/0125

Road Sweeper

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

Go ndeimhneoidh an Chomhairle do na comhaltaí na bealaí, na laethanta agus na hamanna a mbeifí ag súil leis an scuabadóir bóithre gach seachtain/mí ag gach láthair ar fud an Cheantair Bhardasaigh.

That the council confirms to the members the routes, days and times that the road sweeper is expected each week/month at all locations throughout the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office agrees to forward a copy of this information to all councillors in the coming weeks.

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

KN10/0125
St. Conleth's Car Park

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Pender
That the council reconfigures the access points to St. Conleth's Car Park by changing the current exit to pedestrian access only, while utilising the area near the entrance to accommodate an additional exit to improve traffic circulation, reduce congestion, and enhance pedestrian safety.

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

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that the Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) team have engaged with Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer and the Municipal District Engineer over the last 12 months with a view to progressing a pedestrian access from St. Conleth's Car Park to Main Street. Work is underway to finalise a design and costings after which SPPR will engage further with the Municipal District Engineer to progress the pedestrian access.

Councillor Pender informed the members that he acknowledged and valued the work already being done. He asked when discussing the pedestrian access had the option of cars exiting from the entrance side of the car park been considered.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that this was not considered when discussing the pedestrian access, there would be a segregated pedestrian access alongside cars exiting from the Town Hall side.

The members raised the following points:

- Did not believe that a shared exit should be accepted
- The cars parking spaces on the main road either on side of the car park exit were obstructing sightline when exiting
- It was felt that cars entering and exiting from the same place would cause congestion



- This needed to be looked at and pedestrians and cars needed to be separated as much as possible
- It was felt that if the existing exit for cars was pedestrianised that it would increase the usage of the Town Hall.
- Protection and safety were needed for pedestrians exiting the car park and Town Hall
- When looking at this request costs need to be considered
- Having a separate pedestrian exit from the car park was practical and cost less but the car parking spaces either side of the exit need to be removed

Councillor Pender asked if this could be put on the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor Balfe and agreed by all members present that this would be added to the progress report and that the report be noted.

KN11/0125 **Second Liffey Bridge**

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

That the council provides information on all outstanding issues for construction and opening of the second Liffey Bridge in Newbridge, to include proposed schedule for submission of Business Plan, putting finance in place, tendering and all other issues relevant to construction and opening of the bridge.

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 a consultant has been appointed to prepare a Preliminary Business Case for the remaining section of the Newbridge Southern Orbital Ring Road including the second bridge. This will be submitted to the Department of Transport in due course following internal review for consideration as part of a funding application for the delivery of this infrastructure. There are a number of other tasks to be completed thereafter however it is not possible to provide a timeline for these tasks at the present time. Kildare County Council will continue to keep the elected members updated as and when additional information is available.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that this was ongoing since 2019 and was disappointed that a business plan had not been prepared. He said that the people of Newbridge were waiting a long time for this second bridge. He said that nothing had happened in the two years since planning permission for the relief road/bridge was applied for. He said he hoped that within the next five years of his term he would be driving over the second bridge. Mr D Hodgins informed the members that the scheme was awaiting approval for funding and when the funding became available and provided to the Transport Department the team could proceed with the works. He said that a consultant had been appointed to put the business plan together and once this was done it would be sent to the Department to be approved.

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

KN12/0125

Livestock

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

That the council provides information and advice to residents of Brownstown, The Curragh and surrounding areas to report the presence of livestock on their properties so that they may be removed by the responsible agencies.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office have responsibility for the management of the roads through the Curragh, as part of these, 26 cattle grids have been installed at strategic locations. The Kildare-Newbridge Office have been granted a Capital Budget starting in 2025 for the upkeep of these 26 grids. The aim is to upgrade three grids per year over the coming years. There is no budget to install new grids. A new grid will cost in the region of €80,000. The Department of Defence are the responsible body for making contact with farmers who having grazing rights on Curragh Lands and Kildare County Council has no role in the management of sheep.

Councillor Balfe informed the members that he had received information from the Department of Defence informing him that it was Kildare County Council that looked after this issue. He said it was disappointing that nothing had been done as this was a long-standing issue. He said he was now getting calls from residents in the Ballysax area and Suncroft regarding this problem. He informed the members that the existing cattlegrids around the Curragh area were working. He asked if there was a way of giving residents information on how to contact someone when livestock were in the estates. He asked if he could meet with the District Engineer to find a way to support the residents. The District Engineer informed the members that it was down to budgets for the cattlegrids as they were expensive and the maintenance on them was difficult. The 2025 budget for the upkeep of the cattlegrids would allow for the upgrade three grids per year over the coming years. She said that there were two issues with installing cattlegrids at these areas, the first being that the services underground were too high, and the second reason was that there was an old property at one of the locations which would not be ideal. She said she would organise a meeting with Councillor Balfe to discuss this issue.

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

KN13/0125

Lighting

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey
That the council outlines the protocol for providing light to urban, village and other settlements in our municipal area, to include responsibilities of statutory/ other bodies to provide a full ongoing service.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that when a request for additional lighting is received, the Public Lighting section will request a location map highlighting the area of concern so that the correct location is assessed. The request for additional lighting is logged on a Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS) Register and assessed as follows:

(A) Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Areas, Sites of special Scientific Interest, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, rural locations which are currently unlit – No new lighting schemes be considered under any circumstances.

(B) Areas of low district brightness (rural locations outside of A) – infill lighting will only be considered where infrastructure is readily available. Additional lighting schemes will only be considered if engineering solutions for vulnerable road users are being installed. The Municipal District Engineers are best placed to assess and provide any engineering solutions.

(C) Areas of medium brightness (urban locations). Areas of high district brightness (urban centres with high night – time usage). - Lighting installations should be progressed subject to funding being available and the request's (KLIPS) ranking. If it is determined that additional lights will be provided, a quotation is requested from the Public Lighting Maintenance Contractor. Once the funds are made available a Purchase Order is given to the Maintenance Contractor to install the lights. If a new connection is required, the Public Lighting Section will submit an NC4 Application Form to ESB Networks for the new connection.

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

KN14/0125
Seven Springs Housing Estate

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McDonnell
That the council provides a footpath from Seven Springs Housing Estate, Newbridge to the Curragh.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this would require acquiring land and detail design. There is no budget available for these proposed works.

Councillor McDonnell informed the members that this side of the town was getting built up and there was no access to the Curragh for people to be able to walk there. He asked if this could be included

in the Newbridge Local Area Plan. He said that there was a new estate built with some of the access on this back road which was causing more traffic use on this road. Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that on the 04 February 2025 the Newbridge Local Area Plan would be open for submissions, and he could submit this request then.

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

KN15/0125
Lakeside Park/Watercress Manor

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McDonnell
That the council widens the road from Lakeside Park/Watercress Manor to the Meadows Roundabout, Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the upgrade of this section of road and the widening of the bridge over the railway line has been included in the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment which is currently being finalised, and which will inform the Newbridge Local Area Plan (LAP). There is no funding in the capital programme or the resources available to deliver this infrastructure upgrade at present.

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

KN16/0125
Orbital Ring Road

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
Can the council confirm if the Orbital Ring Road at Lidl, Newbridge is fully taken in charge by Kildare County Council?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a section of the road has been taken in charge and the process for taking the remaining 700 metres in charge will be completed shortly.

The report was noted.

KN17/0125
Hopkins Haven Housing Estate

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

Can the council provide a schedule of footpath repair works to Hopkins Haven Housing Estate, Monasterevin?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office is preparing the footpath program for 2025 and will include this location for consideration.

The report was noted.

KN18/0125
Urban lighting

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

Can the council provide an explanation as to how the Roseberry Area in Newbridge was deprived of Urban lighting for as long as it was in December 2024?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the average length of time from report to repair/replacement is four weeks.

However, where ESB attendance is required, the length of time from report to repair/replacement may be longer as was the case for the Ring of Roseberry, Newbridge. This situation was made worse by Storm Darragh such that ESB were overwhelmed with the resulting additional workload from the storm. We have requested the Public Lighting Maintenance Contractor to increase the number of electricians available so that the repair turnaround timelines can be reduced.

The report was noted.

KN19/0125
Road Widening Athgarvan

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

Can the council confirm when works are starting on the road widening from Athgarvan Cross to the Newbridge side of Athgarvan?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council hope to progress this scheme in 2025 however there is no timeline for the commencement of works at present.

Councillor McDonnell asked for clarification on whether a timeline could be provided. The District Engineer informed the members that this would be a joint project between the Municipal District Office and the Transport Department, and it was hoped to start progressing this year to put a plan together. The Municipal District Office would be taking on the work hopefully in the second quarter of this year.

The report was noted.

KN20/0125
Monasterevin Community Garden projects

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Balfe
Can the council provide details of existing Monasterevin Community Garden projects and responsibilities for each?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there are two areas of open space in Monasterevin which are managed by Monasterevin Tidy Towns. These are the Wildlife Garden located beside the Fire Station and the small park beside the Railway Bridge. There are no areas identified in the town at present to provide allotments/ community garden. The report was noted.

KN21/0125
Children's Play Facilities

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heavey
Can the council provide updated information on the provision of adequate children's play facilities in Newbridge?



A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the natural play area in Liffey Linear Park was completed and opened for use in December. It is planned to progress a play area in Moorefield Park this year and also to commence the preparation of a masterplan for Lakeside Park which will inform the development of a playground there also. The report was noted.

KN22/0125

Part 8 at 1484, Castle Park, Kildangan, Co. Kildare

Mr Cosgrove gave a presentation to the members on the Chief Executives Part 8 report for the Proposed Residential Development at 1484, Castle Park, Kildangan, Co. Kildare, W34X008. Planning Reference No.: P82024.12”

Mr Cosgrove raised the following points:

- This property was a Housing Maintenance vacant dwelling.
- The project would be funded by Housing Maintenance.
- The house had been designed to universal design standards for a person with mobility issues.
- Proposed works included a single storey extension to the side and rear of an existing single storey bungalow.
- Extensive alterations to the internal layout for the benefit of a local family with special needs
- There were 3 submissions
 - Two from Kildare County Council internal departments
 - One from Public Representative -Councillor Chris Pender
- The dwelling was within an existing residential Infill zoned area.
- The dwelling had rear access via a rear laneway.
- The house required an entire fabric retrofitted upgrade to be brought up to today’s Part L thermal performance and BER requirements.
- The proposal would provide for a 4-bedroom, 7-person house.

The members raised the following points:

- What was the budget for this development?

- What was the cost going to be for the extension?
- What was the target BER rating?
- Would there be solar panels on the house?
- Concerns over the level of cost but aware this was needed
- Solar panels would be beneficial as it was very difficult getting an A BER rating in existing homes
- Concern over flat roof as this brought its own challenges

Councillor Pender informed the members that he had put in a submission due to the concerns of antisocial behaviour as there was an existing laneway to the rear of the house accessed via the estate next to the property, but he had spoken to the family, and saw no difficulties

Mr Cosgrove informed the members of the following:

- There was no budget, this would be done by Housing Maintenance
- Due to the estimated costs of the project reaching an excess of €120,000 this project needed to be submitted as a Part 8 submission by Kildare County Council Architectural Services.
- The new extension floor area would be 66.5m² and would approximately cost €206,000.
- There were no solar panels being installed.
- As it was an existing house the BER rating would be B1/B2.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Connolly and agreed by all members present that the Chief Executives Part 8 report for the proposed Residential Development at 1484, Castle Park, Kildangan, Co. Kildare, W34X00 be approved.

KN23/0125 **CPO Derelict Properties**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Connolly
An féidir leis an gComhairle breac-chuntas a thabhairt ar an dul chun cinn atá á dhéanamh maidir le gach Ordú Ceannaigh Éigeantaigh ar cuireadh tús leis ó Eanáir 2023?

Can the council outline the progress being made with all Compulsory Purchase Orders of derelict properties that have been commenced since January 2023 in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the table below outlining the current position on properties where compulsory acquisition has commenced in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District:

Property	Notes
82 Roseberry Hill, Newbridge DS-2020-26	CPO is complete, refurbishment works expected to begin in March/April 2025
Leinster Street Rathangan -DS-2018-02	CPO has been put on hold, KCC have met and had discussions with the owners regarding their plans for development of this property and the adjoining site on Leinster Street the former Garda Station DS-2023-28, they expect to submit a Planning Application early this year. The CPO will be withdrawn when works commence, the owners are aware that KCC will proceed to CPO on this and the adjoining property if development does not commence.
101 Loughminane Green, Kildare Town	CPO has been put out on hold after discussions with the property owner, the property owner has commenced refurbishment works and intends selling the property. The CPO will be withdrawn when the property sale is complete.
O' Modhrain Hall, Newbridge - DS-2007-N03	An objection was received for this CPO, and it is currently with An Bord Pleanala for decision

The report was noted.

KN24/0125
Cultural Quarter Project

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Connolly
An féidir leis an gComhairle an dul chun cinn atá á dhéanamh le tionscadal na Ceathrún Cultúrtha sa Droichead Nua a dhearbhú?
Can the council confirm the progress being made with the Cultural Quarter project in Newbridge?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that the project elements supported by the URDF funding previously awarded to the Newbridge Cultural Quarter have been completed, which included the Part 8 for the Newbridge Library. Funding has been identified to progress the Newbridge Library development, and a briefing on the project was presented to the elected representatives by Gillian Allen, County Librarian in November 2024. The progression of the Newbridge Library will now form part of the SPPR work programme, commencing in Q1 2025.

Councillor Connolly requested a copy of the November 2024 report.
The report was noted.

KN25/0125
Derelict Cottages

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor O'Loughlin
Can the council confirm what is the status of/plan for the row of derelict cottages in Kildare Town known as Fairview Cottages?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Fairview Cottages are registered on the Derelict Sites Register DS-2007-K08. The properties are in Private Ownership, there is ongoing correspondence between Kildare County Council and the property owners regarding plans for the site.

The report was noted.

KN26/0125
Twinning Freehold, New Jersey

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Loughlin
That this council receive a presentation at the next municipal district meeting from a member of the Rathangan twinning group on the twinning arrangement with Freehold, New Jersey and the progress to date.

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

The members were in agreement that a previous presentation from Rathangan Twinning Group was sufficient, and no further presentation was needed.

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

KN27/0125
Riverbank Arts Centre

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender
Can the council confirm if the Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge is considered a county wide project and if county wide development contributions are being used for same?

A report was received from the Library Services informing the members that Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge is a significant piece of Kildare County Council's social infrastructure and will be allocated development levies both from Kildare-Newbridge and on a county wide basis.

The report was noted.

KN28/0125
County Library

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender
Can the council confirm if the County Library, Newbridge is considered a county wide project and if county wide development contributions are being used for same?

A report was received from the Library Services informing the members that the proposed capital project will include Newbridge Library, Kildare County Archives and Cultural Centre. The ground and first floor will replace the current Newbridge Library and provide space for expanded services that will include meeting rooms and space for events and exhibitions. The second floor will hold the Kildare County Archives and the Kildare Local Studies Collections. Therefore, the proposed building will be a combination of Newbridge Branch Library that will be used primarily by the Newbridge community and the close environs and a County Archives facility that will bring users from across the county and further afield.

The Kildare Library Service headquarters and the County Librarian's Office has been located in Riverbank Arts Centre for over 20 years. So, the new building will not be considered a "County Library" which would traditionally have included a centralised special collection, specialised services and Library Service Administration offices.

But the County Archives and Kildare Local Studies Collection element of the project is considered a countywide service.

Under the Kildare Capital Programme Newbridge Library, Kildare County Archives and Cultural Centre have both levies collected in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and levies classed as countywide levies assigned to it.

The report was noted.

KN29/0125 Development Levies

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

That the council provides a detailed breakdown of the development levies collected in the municipal district, including information on the specific projects that these levies are earmarked to contribute towards. This should include allocations for local infrastructure improvements such as libraries, playgrounds, and recreational spaces.

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

A report was received from the Finance Department informing the members that the Development Contribution Scheme for 2023 – 2029 was adopted by members at the Council meeting held on

the 19 December 2022 and came into effect for seven years from the 01 January 2023.

Development contributions are an important part of funding capital projects across the county. They are collected on a countywide basis and not broken down by each municipal district area, the contributions collected are apportioned in accordance with the Scheme.

At the Budget meeting held on the 18 November 2024 the members noted the Capital Programme 2025-2027, the programme sets out the proposed countywide capital projects for the period. The document breaks down the projects under the following headings:

- Housing and Building Programme
- Transport and Mobility
- Surface Water and Flood Relief Programme
- Community and Civic

Each of these headings provides details of each project under the following columns:

Description: Project name.

Municipal District: Relevant Municipal Districts project relates to. If it's for overall countywide it is marked as CO.

Current Phase: This is the phase the project is currently at.

Est Date Next Phase: The period that the project is estimated to move to the next phase.

Years 2025 – 2027: Best estimate of expenditure by year, at the point in time, that the capital programme is being compiled, based on the information on hand

Development Contributions 2025-2027: This is the expected development contributions to be collected in the next three years.

Loans: These are loans that the Council will have to draw down to fund the project. These loans are dependent on central government approving them.

Grants: These are the estimated grants from central government, but these are not guaranteed in many projects cases when the programme is been compiled.

Revenue/LPT Provision: This is funding from the revenue budget and from Municipal Districts LPT to specific projects.

Development Contributions Collect: This is development contributions collected in previous years that have not been spent but have been building up a fund for a specific project.

Other: This is funding from other sources e.g. land sales, other bodies contributions etc

Unidentified Funds: This is where it is proposed to progress the project but at this point in time how the project will be funded is unclear.

Please note that the members were given a full briefing on the Capital Programme in September 2024. The Capital Programme 2025-2027 identifies the funding requirement, current project phase and estimated start date for the next project phase of each project identified together with the estimated requirement for future projects for 2028+. The Capital Programme outturn for the year 2023 was provided in Appendix 10 of the Annual Financial Statement. The capital programme outturn for 2024 will be presented to the members as part of the Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 2024 when completed.

Councillor Pender informed the members that the reason he had looked for a breakdown was to see where all levies were being allocated and to check that big projects in a Municipal District such as the library project in Newbridge were not just using their own Municipal District levies and other Municipal Districts were contributing as much.

The members raised the following points:

- Felt that small rural villages such as Brannockstown were not getting the benefit from the levies as they seemed to be used on bigger projects
- Could a percentage of levies not go towards small areas?
- The library presentation which was only given to Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District when seeking funding, should have been presented to all Municipal Districts as they would be putting funding toward this also
- There was a perception that all levies collected in the area stayed in the area, but this was not the case
- Small rural towns were not benefitting from levies.

Ms E Hanlon informed the members that levies were collected on a countywide basis then they were split with a percentage for countywide projects and then the remaining balance was split between Municipal Districts. The library in Newbridge was now Newbridge Library and not a County Library and funding for this would come from Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

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

KN30/0125
Record of Protected Structures

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
That the council updates the current Record of Protected Structures (RPS) records for Brannockstown, Carnalway, Kennycourt, Milemill, Kilcullen and Athgarvan 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.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that AHA10 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 sets out an objective to "review and amend on an ongoing basis the Record of Protected Structures and make additions, deletions and corrections as appropriate over the period of this plan". The addition of structures to the RPS is a statutory process which is required to be accompanied by a detailed expert analysis including (not limited to) a series of assessments, recordings and mapping to identify areas of special interest under one or more of the Architectural, Historical, Archaeological, Artistic, Cultural, Scientific, Technical or Social categories. The addition (and/or deletion as the case may be) is an extremely litigious procedure which is subject to challenge through the courts and therefore requires requisite specialist expertise and supervision throughout.

The Elected Members will be aware that the Executive Architectural Conservation Officer post in Kildare County Council remains vacant despite recruitment campaigns in February and October 2024. As a result of this and a significant nationwide shortage of appositely qualified professionals in the private market, a number of conservation related projects are behind schedule in order to prioritise the progression and completion of time bound external grant aided projects. The Kildare County Council Planning Team are in discussions with the Department regarding a future review of the RPS and further updates will be provided to the members when same is available.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that there were over 50 trees in Brannockstown that were not listed at a protected structure site and were causing issues for a landowner and putting pressure on them to remove the trees. She said that when a protective structure was being listed

the surrounding walls, trees etc should also be named so it did not cause planning issues and when walls were knocked there was no process in place to restore them. Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that an external body was required to be hired to carry out this role until the position can be filled. Kildare County Council needed to ensure that when a protective structure was damaged, it was replaced.

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

KN31/0125
Orchard Park Housing Estate

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

That the council provides the most up to date information in relation to a timeframe for the taking in charge of Orchard Park Housing Estate from the Department of Defence outlining details of works that have been completed and those that remain outstanding.

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

A report was received from the Building and Development Control Department informing the members that Development Control held a meeting with the Property Management Branch (PMB) of the Department of Defence (DoD) in 2021 regarding the taking in charge of Orchard Park and two other DoD estates in Kildare Town. The PMB were advised that they would need to furnish As Constructed Drawings (ACDs), CCTV surveys, water and public lighting audits to facilitate an initial review of the estate. The PMB were also advised that the DoD estates would need to be brought up to a taking in charge standard.

It was acknowledged that there may be obstacles to fully taking in charge the Orchard Park, Curragh as the estate appears to be connected to the private DoD water supply, foul sewer and surface water sewer systems. We await the ACDs which will clarify what has been constructed. Development Control await the submission of the ACDs, CCTV surveys and audits from the DoD. Development Control contacted the PMB again in 2022 and again in 2023 and the PMB have advised they are progressing matters on their end. The PMB advised that they have upgraded the public lighting and road surface in the estate. At this point in time the onus remains with the PMB

to progress the taking in charge of the estate. Development Control will reach out to the DoD to seek an update on the current position.

Councillor Balfe informed the members that he welcomed that there was still ongoing communication. He asked how much of a risk was it having a private water system. He said that the Resident Association informed him that the Property Management Branch were not planning on doing any more work. He said this was going on too long. Mr McNeela informed the members that the services were tied to the Department of Defence and was looking at maybe leaving these services with them. He said that the Property Management Branch had taken on work such as resurfacing and lighting. He said there had been no engagement with the Property Management Branch and no works were planned until the taking in charge. He advised it was up to the Property Management Branch. Councillors Duffy and Doyle asked if the Department of Defence could allocate money to Kildare County Council to get work done.

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

KN32/0125
Walshestown Abbey Estate

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
Can the council confirm if it has agreed a site resolution plan with Uisce Eireann for Walshestown Abbey Estate?

A report was received from the Building and Development Control Department informing the members that Development Control have submitted a site resolution plan to Uisce Éireann. On receipt of confirmation to proceed, it is intention of Development Control that works will be tendered in 2025.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.