



Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 15 July 2026
in the Council Chamber

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

Online: Councillors K Duffy and T O'Dwyer.

Officials Present: Ms S Scully (District Manager), Mr R Harte (Executive Engineer), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer), Ms S Farrar (Administrative Officer), Ms P O'Rourke (Climate Action Coordinator), Ms M Dempsey (Administrative Officer), Mr T Shanahan (Senior Executive Officer), Ms C Whelan (Staff Officer), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Administrator), KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

KN01/0726
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.

KN02/0726
Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 17 June 2026 and the progress report was noted.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Pender that the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 17 June 2026 be approved with the proposed amendemnets and the progress report be noted.

KN03/0726
Municipal District Road Works

Works Programme

Kildare Newbridge Municipal District (KNMD) Schedule of works

KNMD 2026 Roads Programme works:

RI works complete in June include:

- L-7030 Farrell's Cross to Cut Bush;
- L-7070 Walterstown Lower, Kildare;
- L-7010 Lackagh, Monasterevin;
- L-7034 Military Road, The Curragh;
- L-7002 Mount Prospect, Rathangan;

Surface dressing works carried out in June include:

- L3001 Edenderry Road Rathangan;
- L7055 Monasterevin / Nurney Road at Duneany;
- L7021 / L7020 at Mooretown;

Newbridge:

Works done do not include our day-to-day litter picking emptying bins, clearing of lanes and general maintenance of Newbridge town and small villages around Newbridge.

Patching: Curragh Racecourse Road.

Pothole repairs: Station Road and Boherguy.

Drainage: Cleaned and jetted lines at Moorefield Drive, Curragh View and Station Road.

Drop Kerbs: Pairc Mhuire and Moorefield Drive along with repairing collapsed pipes.

Hedge Cutting: St Marks School, Meadows, Athgarvan Road, Station Road and Tesco traffic lights.



Verge Cutting: Ballysax, Maddenstown and Old Kildare Road.

Spreading Chippings: Curragh to Suncroft, Cutbush to Farrell's Cross and Athgarvan Heights to Curragh Chase.

Scabbling: Old Connell Weir and The Grange.

Sweeper: Three days a week.

Kildare/Monasterevin:

Works done do not include our day-to-day litter picking emptying bins clearing of lanes and general maintenance of Kildare/Monasterevin town and small villages.

Patching: Rathmuck, Grangebegg, Oghill, Richardstown and Drogheda Road.

Drainage: New soak hole was opened at Kill Hill to ease flood issues at Loughminane.

Verge Cutting: R445 Kildare Town, Whitesland, L3004 Kildangan, R445 Monasterevin, Barraderra, Dunaney, Oghill, Passlands and Clogheen.

Signage: New IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter) sign was erected on the Dunmurry Road, stop sign was erected on the White Abbey Road. Directional arrows were installed on R445 Kildare Town.

Sweeper: One day a week.

Kilcullen:

Works done do not include our day-to-day litter picking emptying bins, clearing of lanes and general maintenance of Kilcullen and small villages.

Pothole Repair: L6009 Caragh.

Verge Cutting: Milemill Cross, Knockbounce, Mullacash junction, Liffey Bridge Caragh (both sides), Kanny Court, Logstown, Carnalway, Yellow Bog Church, Silliot Hill R448, Floods Cross L2030 and Halverstown Cross.

Drainage: Gully cleaning Mylerstown.

Bollards: Footpath Kilcullen.

Topsoil: Road Edge Mylerstown.

Spreading Chippings: Floods Cross – Newhall.

Sweeper: One day a week.



Rathangan:

Works done do not include our day-to-day litter picking emptying bins, clearing of lanes and general maintenance of Rathangan town and small villages.

Patching: Pond Road, Kilmoney South junction, Tully Lost & Mount Prospect.

Pothole Repairs: Pond Road, Clonbollogue Road, Kilmoney South, Whelams Cross, Eillistown, Springfield Cross, Baronstown, Kiltaghan, Glebe, Lackagh, Shean Kiltaghan and Ard Mhuire.

Drainage: Newtown and Kiltaghan. Rathangan industrial estate new pipe for storm water.

Verge Cutting: Cooleland, Ballysooghan, Sheean, Rathangan Demesne, Edenderry Road, Spencer's Bridge, Farm Hill, Thomastown Cross, Kilmoney South Junctions, Lackage, Mount Rice and Pollardstown.

Signs: Reset sign at Lackagh ramp, Fordge slow bend, Milltown ramp/60km/children caution sign.

Footpath Repairs: Pomeroy Park removal of exiting footpath and reinstatement of new one. Rathangan Industrial estate removal of exiting footpath and reinstatement of new one. Milltown School repairs.

Line Marking: Yellow box and double yellow lines on Brackagh Road.

Sweeper: One day a week.

Councillor Duffy queried why the road sweepers were not out the last couple of weeks.

Mr R Harte informed the members of that he was unaware of there being an issue but would investigate.

Councillor Heavey enquired what scabbling meant?

Mr R Harte informed the members that scabbling was method used to chip or pound away a thin top layer of concrete like sanding.

The report was noted.



KN04/0726
Residual LPT Allocations 2025/2026

To agree the residual 2025/2026 LPT allocations for Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

- **Councillor Pat Balfe proposed to allocate**

- €1,000 to the Community Section, Kildare County Council, for Crockaun Way Residents Association to support a family event.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Connolly and seconded by Councillor Pender that the above allocations be approved.

KN05/0726
College Farm, Newbridge

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

That the council considers the installation of traffic calming measures for example chicanes or speed ramps, in College Farm, Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District office will carry out a technical assessment in College Farm with respect to traffic calming measures. All works are subject to budget and staff availability.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that there were approximately 350 housing units in this estate and had direct pedestrian connectivity to the train station which many people used. She said that there was a long road into the estate and this is where she felt it needed the traffic calming measures and happy that it would be looked at.

Councillor Pender informed the members that the long road into the estate needs to take priority as all other roads leading off this road were mainly cul-de-sacs.



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

KN06/0726
Tracey Meadows/ Rathcurragh

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
That the council reviews a location for a pedestrian crossing near Tracey Meadows/ Rathcurragh (Green Road), Newbridge to facilitate safe crossing for many pedestrians.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District Office agrees to carry out a technical assessment at this location. All works are subject to budget availability.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that behind Tracey Meadows and Rathcurragh was Langton Park with no safe pedestrian crossing around this area and with education facilities nearby there was nowhere to safely cross over the road. She said this needed to be looked at.

Councillor Pender informed the members that traffic calming measures in this area needed improvement, particularly considering the anticipated increase in traffic resulting from the Southern Outer Orbital Relief Road. He said that the road already experiences high traffic volumes and would benefit from access facilities. Councillor Pender highlighted that many children regularly travel to local shops, other amenities and educational facilities and expressed concern about the lack of a nearby pedestrian crossing.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that as far as she was aware there was a technical assessment already carried out due to the schools in this area. She said that pedestrians cannot cross anywhere along this road and there were footpaths along this road. Councillor T O'Dwyer said that this was raised for numerous years.



Councillor Doyle asked that the assessment would identify a location for this pedestrian crossing and be put on the progress report.

Councillor P O'Dwyer asked that this would be looked at now before the Southern Outer Orbital Relief Road.

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

KN07/0726
St. Bridget's Primary School, Kilcullen

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
That the council carries out repairs to the speed bumps at St. Bridget's Primary School, Kilcullen.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District office agrees to assess the speed bumps at St. Bridget's School Kilcullen and will carry out remedial works as required.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that these speed bumps were on the main Kilcullen/Newbridge Road and had sharp edges on them. She highlighted that with the school holidays this would probably be the appropriate time to carry out the works.

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



KN08/0726
Saint Brigid's Avenue, Kilcullen

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
That the council considers the back access road in Saint Brigid's Avenue, Kilcullen for resurfacing in 2027 and in the interim put down some chippings to fill the pot holes.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District office agrees to list the back access roads in St. Bridgid's Avenue, Kilcullen for consideration in the 2027 roads programme. All works are subject to budget availability.

These back access avenues' will be listed for upcoming pothole repairs.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that the back access roads to St. Bridgid's Avenue were actually their main entrance to their homes. She noted that, to her knowledge, the roads throughout this estate had never been resurfaced. Councillor T O'Dwyer said that maybe all old estates needed to be looked at that have back roads but are actually resident's main entrances.

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

KN09/0726
Kelly's Farm, Lackagh Road, Monasterevin

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Duffy
That the council provides an update on the current status of proposals to improve the 'Y' junction at Kelly's Farm, Lackagh Road, Monasterevin, which has previously been identified as a location with poor sightlines and a history of road traffic accidents, and that this junction be prioritised for assessment and inclusion under the 2027 Low Cost Accident Scheme.

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



A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that road collisions are reported to An Garda Síochána and subsequently the Road Safety Authority (RSA) who provides collision data to the Department of Transport Support Office (DoTSO) which issues an annual Regional and Local Roads Network Safety Analysis Report for each County.

This report is an evidence-based assessment of collision data in the county and outlines potential Locations of Interest on the Regional and Local Road Network.

The report along with input from the Municipal District Engineer, submissions from members of the public, Elected Members and An Garda Síochána are used by the Local Authority when making funding applications to the Department of Transport (DoT) for Safety Improvement Schemes. The Council are currently reviewing and compiling potential Location of Interest schemes for inclusion in the 2027 funding application to the Department of Transport (DoT) Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads. This junction can be considered however, Locations of Interest, as identified in the Road Safety Analysis report will be prioritised by the Department of Transport (DoT) in their funding allocations.

The Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District will cut vegetation to ensure visibility of approach signage and sightlines at this junction.

Councillor Duffy informed the members the report was a broad aspect answer. He said that this was raised twelve months ago and was meant to be added to the list for the Low Cost Accident Scheme and wanted to know where it was on the list. He said that the report was not answering where it was on the list and it was more of a response like this was a new request. Councillor Duffy said he would appreciate an update on where this junction was on the list.

Councillor Balfe informed the members that he supported this motion as he has had numerous residents expressing concerns about this junction.

Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that he was not sure if it was on the list but would check and revert to the members. He said that on occasion if it was not priority, it often goes back to the municipal district office to do interim works. Mr M McLoughlin said that the list would often change due to other areas being identified as priority, so areas often move down the list as this occurs.



Councillor Duffy said he had no issue with it dropping down the list due to other priorities what he doesn't want was for it to drop off the list and be forgotten about.

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

KN10/0726
Cowpasture, Monasterevin

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

That the council undertakes an assessment of the rear and side roadway serving properties (details provided) at Cowpasture, Monasterevin, with a view to prioritising these estate roads for resurfacing under the 2027 Roads Programme, having regard to its severely deteriorated condition, the documented health and safety concerns raised by residents, and the significant number of elderly and vulnerable residents who rely on the estate road daily for pedestrian and vehicular access to their homes.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District office agrees to list the rear and side access roads at Cowpasture, Monasterevin for consideration in the 2027 roads programme. All works are subject to budget availability.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that this was similar to Councillor T O'Dwyer's motion with this being an older housing estate with the back access as their main entrance. He said this was a challenge with older estates and the maintenance of them and needed to be looked at as this estate had predominantly elderly people living here. He welcomed the report.

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



KN11/0726
R414 Rathangan Road

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

That the council undertakes a Road Safety Audit and traffic assessment on the R414 Rathangan Road at the entrance to Monasterevin approaching Ball Alley Crossroads and the adjoining Oldgrange Manor housing development and outlines any existing or proposed traffic calming and road safety measures that will be implemented to mitigate the impact of the ongoing and future phases of this residential development on all road users.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that there are no plans for any works at this location at the present time. The Transport Department will investigate the matter and if works are necessary, will review the matter pending finance and resources.

Councillor Balfe informed the members that he was disappointed with the report. He said even with the new development and their planning conditions it was still a poorly sighted junction. He understood that the planning requirements for the new development had footpaths and cycle lanes but would not take away the blind corner on the approach.

Councillor Connolly informed the members he had highlighted this during his last term for the low-cost accident scheme.

Councillor Duffy queried if the new development had implemented traffic calming measures as part of their planning conditions. He asked that the council take a proactive approach with the developer regarding their road improvements and these works not to be left to last.

Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that he would talk to the Roads Planning Team about this.

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



KN12/0726
New Bus Stop

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

That the council writes to the National Transport Authority requesting that a new bus stop be provided at Curragh Farm, Newbridge, to serve Curragh Farm, Pairc na Manach and the surrounding residential area.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that this is a matter for the Elected Members to agree. Correspondence will issue to the National Transport Authority requesting the bus stop, if agreed by the Elected Members.

Councillor Pender informed the members that there was significant development in this area and a bus route in this area would allow access to the other end of the town and also to the Curragh plains. He said that there was already a bus route along this road so this should meet the criteria.

Resolved on the proposals of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that the council writes to the National Transport Authority requesting that a new bus stop be provided at Curragh Farm, Newbridge, to serve Curragh Farm, Pairc na Manach and the surrounding residential area and that the report be noted.

KN13/0726
Cycle Lanes

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

Can the council confirm if there are plans to extend the cycle lanes from Buckley's Cross to meet the cycle lane at Pfizer, Newbridge?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that this is not currently on the 2026 work programme.

Councillor P O'Dwyer if the members could get a cost for this.



Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that costing might not be the issue but would check and revert to the members.

The report was noted

KN14/0726
Morristown Bridge, Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
Can the council confirm if any correspondence has been received from Iarnród Éireann in relation to the meeting with Kildare County Council and the upgrade of Morristown Bridge, Newbridge (ref KN07/1125)?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that no correspondence has been received from Iarnród Éireann in respect of this bridge. The Transport Department will continue to engage with Iarnród Éireann in respect of railway bridges in Newbridge

Councillor P O'Dwyer wanted to check if Iarnród Éireann had received the original letter.

Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that the Transport Department are in constant engagement with Iarnród Éireann.

The report was noted

KN15/0726
Pedestrian Crossing on Grey Abbey Road

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Balfe
Can the council provide an update on when the signalised pedestrian crossing on Grey Abbey Road, Kildare adjacent to the CMWS building, will be commissioned and brought into operation, and advise if there are any outstanding works or issues that are delaying its activation?



A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District office applied for a new connection application with the ESB on 28 August 2025 and are awaiting these works to be carried out.

Councillor Balfe asked if there was a timeline and does the department continue to engage with ESB.

Mr R Harte informed the members that he would follow up on this request.

The report was noted.

KN16/0726

Traffic Calming Signage Cowpasture Road, Monasterevin

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

Can the council provide an update on the anticipated timeframe for the installation of the traffic calming signage on Cowpasture Road, Monasterevin, and confirm whether the works remain on schedule for completion?

A report was received from the Library Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District Office expects to install this traffic calming signage towards the end of 2026.

Councillor Balfe queried the nature of the signs which would be put in place and requested it be a priority before the schools return after the summer holidays.

The report was noted



KN17/0726

Pedestrian Crossing Newbridge Cemetery Car Park

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

Can the council provide an update on a pedestrian crossing at the cemetery on the Athgarvan Road, Newbridge to the cemetery car park?

A report was received from the Library Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District is currently focused on the summer delivery of the 2026 Roads Programme. There are no recent updates on the Athgarvan Road pedestrian crossing project.

The report was noted

KN18/0726

Scoil na Naomh Uilig, Newbridge

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

Can the council provide an update on the road safety concerns raised at Scoil na Naomh Uilig, Newbridge including the request for interim protective barriers/bollards at the school entrance, any discussions with the school and An Garda Síochána, and the next steps and expected timeline?

A report was received from the Library Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District office plan to have some minor measures in place before the start of the upcoming school year. The Kildare County Council Road Safety Officer has been in contact with An Garda Síochána in respect of the next steps in the process.

Councillor Pender asked if there was an indicative timeline and would it be possible before the schools are back.

Mr R Harte informed the members that temporary bollards would be in place before the school starts back.

The report was noted



KN19/0726

Second Bridge and Southern Relief Road

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heavey
Can the council provide an outline of the schedule of stages to complete the second bridge and Southern Relief Road in Newbridge following the recent announcement of Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund (HIIF) grant funding to Kildare County Council?

A report was received from the Library Department informing the members that planning is in place for this project along with funding following the recent Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund announcement.

The next stage is to complete the detailed design for the scheme and work on this has commenced and is due to be completed by Q1 2027.

It is hoped to issue a tender for the construction of the scheme thereafter with a view to commencing works onsite in Q3 2027 with works to be completed in 2028.

The report was noted

KN20/0726

Playground Kildangan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Balfe
That the council undertakes a feasibility study to identify a suitable location and assesses the viability of providing a public playground in the village of Kildangan, having regard to the needs of the growing population and the importance of ensuring that social infrastructure keeps pace with residential development.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that it will not be possible to carry out a feasibility study in the current year. The work can be considered for next year's works programme.



Councillor Balfe informed the members that this was originally put forward when it was part of Athy Municipal District. He said the reason for this motion was on receipt of a letter he received from a new resident voicing her concerns over no playground for her child and other children in the area and having to travel to bring their children to a playground.

Councillor Duffy questioned if the feasibility study included looking for land or was this already available? He asked if there was a view to where this could be located and mentioned that there was land across from the Cross Keys pub.

Mr S Wallace informed the members that they had not identified land and this would be part of the feasibility study. He said it would need to be a central location. He highlighted that the land across from the pub was on a busy road. He said the team would look at and try to get cooperation from landowners in the area.

Councillor Balfe highlighted that as far as he was aware land was offered before.

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

KN21/0726
Car Park Spaces College Park, Newbridge

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

That the council removes some green area in College Park, Newbridge to create car park spaces to help small businesses in Eyre Street.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District does not have the resources to construct additional parking spaces at this location. The reallocation of open space for parking is only considered in exceptional circumstances and is not the preferred option.



Councillor McDonnell informed the members that business on Eyre Street was struggling with not enough car spaces. He asked if this could be put in the Town Plan to save businesses in this area.

Councillor Pender informed the members that he did not believe this was a good idea as there was not much green space in the town centre and would be wrong to take away this green space from residents and the public that was being used more. He said other areas needed to be looked at.

Councillor Power informed the members that Eyre Street has been discussed on numerous occasions and did not think decisions on this area should be considered alone but as part of a whole scheme with a broader approach.

Councillor McDonnell informed the members that he was not asking for all the green area to be taken away but enough for a few parking spaces.

Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that the turnover of parking spaces could be looked at in this area

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

KN22/0726
Market Square, Newbridge

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

That the council adds the crown lifting of the trees in Market Square, Newbridge to the tree works programme, to improve pedestrian clearance, visibility and public lighting.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the trees will be considered for the next tree pruning programme.



Councillor Pender informed the members that there were three public lights in this area but they cannot be seen when it was dark, they were just lighting up the trees, he said pruning them would help.

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

KN23/0726

Monasterevin to Portarlinton Brownway

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

Can the council provide an update on the Monasterevin to Portarlinton Brownway feasibility study following the public consultation and the next steps and timeframe?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the final report is due from the consultants the end of this month. The next steps are to arrange meetings with stakeholders to inform them of the outcome and then to prepare a business case and submit it to TII for consideration and progression of the proposal.

The report was noted

KN24/0726

New Play Area at Moorefield Park, Newbridge

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

Can the council provide an update on the plans for the new play area at Moorefield Park, Newbridge and confirm when the works are expected to begin and be completed?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the contractor appointed to do the works has indicated a start date of mid-October.

Councillor Pender queried what was the delay?



Mr S Wallace informed the members that it was due to the workload of the contractor, and this was the reason for the delay.

The report was noted

KN25/0726
Car Parking Spaces at Lakeside Park, Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McDonnell
That the council installs car parking spaces at Lakeside Park, Newbridge in front of the lake to help residents with serious parking issues in that area.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District does not have the resources to construct additional parking spaces at this location. The reallocation of open space for parking is only considered in exceptional circumstances and is not the preferred option.

Councillor McDonnell informed the members that this area in front of the lake was very narrow and congested. He said there was a bay area that already existed there and asked if this could be continued and it was exceptionally tight especially when trying to turn your car.

Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that the municipal district office would look at this area but there was no commitment and was not straight forward.

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



KN26/0726
Taken in Charge Kilbelin,

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey
That the council to investigate and explain how ownership of access road to four cottages (details provided) Kilbelin, Newbridge all built by Kildare County Council on a two acre site transferred from Land Commission in 1940s came to be vested in the name of one person whose descendent now wishes this road (presently accessing 13 houses) be taken in charge.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the ownership of this access road will be investigated and members will be updated.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that an anomaly of houses erected by public bodies in this area but the road was left as private. He said there was a situation now with 13/14 houses which would be a housing estate with a bad road leading to the estate which the owner of the road does not have the funding to fix this road.

Councillor P O'Dwyer said that LIS and CIS were attempted in the past but neither scheme would work here.

Ms S Farrar informed the members that this road had its own folio and seemed to be a mapping error. She said that this was being investigated.

Mr M McLoughlin apologised that there should have been a report from the Transport Department also but informed the members that they would be willing to have discussions with owner.

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



KN27/0726
Rooftop Solar Pilot

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

That this municipal district calls on the council to scope a publicly owned rooftop solar pilot across council buildings in Newbridge, structured so that energy savings repay the capital cost over time, and to report to members on the funding options available to deliver it, including invest-to-save borrowing, development contributions, and SEAI and EU supports, with the model designed for replication across other towns in the county.

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

A report was received from the Climate Action Department informing the members that the Energy Office are currently preparing a tender for appointment of a Solar PV contractor/partner to roll out Photovoltaic panels across all suitable Kildare County Council owned buildings in the County. The intention is to publish the tender no later than end Q3 2026 with a view to rolling out thought out 2027.

We are currently carrying out informal market engagement to determine the best funding options.

Councillor Power informed the members that it was a really good idea that the pilot scheme was county wide. He said that he asked for solar because this pays for itself and the money saved could go towards roads or things such as public pools. He asked if it was possible when the tender goes out that local contactors would be looked at, possibly a few clubbing together on a project.

Ms P O'Rourke informed the members that this pilot scheme would save money to allow for other works in the county and keep carbon footprint low. She said they were accessing buildings at the moment.

Councillor O'Loughlin informed the members that this was a worthwhile scheme.

Councillor Power asked for a breakdown of buildings and asked if it would not be worthwhile working with other bodies such as schools for this scheme.



Ms P O'Rourke informed the members that other bodies such as schools came under a different funding scheme but said that they could work with them to educate them.

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

KN28/0726
Market Square area of Newbridge

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

Can the council provide details of what is planned for the Market Square area of Newbridge in the upcoming Newbridge Town Plan.

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that the Newbridge Town Renewal Plan is at draft stage only and therefore it is premature to pre-empt the final project proposals which will emerge from the remaining stages. A recent presentation to our Senior Management Team and elected representatives of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District accepted the draft proposals in their current format. The plans will now be presented to the public by way of an in person public consultation event scheduled for Friday, September 04 from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in Newbridge Town Hall.

Councillor McDonnell queried if there could be changes made to the Newbridge Town Renewal Plan.

Ms M Dempsey informed the members that when it goes out to public consultation suggestions can be considered as it was still in draft form.

The report was noted



KN29/0926

Yeomanstown / Victoria Bridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillors Heavey and Power
That the council issues a report on how improvements to safety and access to and from River Liffey could be provided for local swimmers at Yeomanstown near Victoria Bridge.

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

A report was received from the Sports Partnership Coordinator informing the members that for the Council to grant official bathing designation to any location, the following factors should be considered, all of which would attract significant capital and operational costs:

The facilities currently available at the site, such as parking, toilets and related amenities;

The overall accessibility of the site;

Site capacity and usage levels;

Emergency access and response

Lifeguard provision

Any potential safety concerns, including:

- River currents.
- Changing water levels
- Water quality.
- Road infrastructure; and
- Safe access for pedestrians and cyclists to and from the site.

As matters stand there is no funding in place for the proposal and it is not listed on the current capital programme.

In addition to financial barriers there are other issues.

Members will be aware that the location is problematic from a viewpoint of safe pedestrian and cycle access.

Initial consultation with Water Safety Ireland also indicates significant water safety concerns for the location.

Swimming in the Liffey, which, as we know from the intense rainfall of recent months, is not recommended. The rainfall levels of the Winter months necessitated flow release from Poulaphouca Reservoir, which has significant impacts downstream.



National and international climate models indicate that Ireland can expect warmer and wetter summers, with at times intense sudden rainfall, further generating a range of complicating factors making bathing in the Liffey inadvisable.

Members will note the recent heatwave saw press releases and social media messaging from a range of public bodies regarding the risks associated with swimming in unsuitable environments, and the Council thanks those members who played a part in sharing this message with communities, to help reduce risk to life.

In many cases swimming in freshwater can in fact be more dangerous than sea swimming for a range of reasons.

Having considered the factors outlined above, the site at Yeomanstown does not currently meet the required conditions for official bathing designation and in fact the Council will be erecting further no swimming signs and would again appreciate the members cooperation in delivering this safety message.

Kildare County Council would be willing to contact Water Safety Ireland and commission an official risk assessment of the site but is flagging that a range of factors are strongly suggesting this is a dangerous location and swimming should be discouraged rather than encouraged here.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that for generation locals have learned to swim here, including himself, and as there was no public pool in Newbridge people, young and old were choosing to swim here until there was an alternative. He asked if this area would be made safe to get in and out of the water.

Councillor Power informed the members that he appreciated Syl Merrins answer and have to be conscious of his report. He said it was regrettable that the council did not have the capacity to help. He said swimming happened in the weir of the Liffey and was a great community activity. Councillor Power asked if any small features could be added to make swimming safer and to take a European approach to this situation.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that this was a very busy area with swimmers and asked that lifebuoy rings would not be removed.



Mr T Shanahan informed the members of the following:

That he wished to notify of a correction to the report related to the aspect of climate change, being as follows: “Climate models indicate that Ireland can expect warmer and wetter winters with hotter summers resulting in increased drought risks. Increases in weather bombs and heat domes results in greater water flows or droughts, flooding, eutrophication and further generating a range of complicating factors making bathing in the Liffey inadvisable.”.

- He acknowledged that swimming infrastructure in the county needed to expand with the population and that an assessment of this was ongoing and would be finalised by the Planning Department later this year.
- From a safety point of view, it would be irresponsible to promote swimming as it was not an official bathing area and in fact there were “no swimming” signs erected precisely as it is unsafe.
- In addition, the Transport Department had safety concerns regarding use in the area. Victoria Bridge has been an area that has been problematic
- It would be a major responsibility if Kildare County Council were to designate this place, as designation would require continuous water testing, lifeguarding, safe and accessible parking and other costs, that there were no funds for.
- Conversation had taken place with Water Safety Ireland regarding risk assessment in the Liffey generally, and other assessments in the Liffey had deemed swimming unsafe.
- The issue of lifebuoys being removed in this area and other areas was disgraceful and the Department was continually replacing them, and he thanked elected members who had shared and liked posts to social media on this serious issue and asked for continued support on water safety issues, especially in light of recent deaths in other counties and near misses in Kildare. He asked that the media, members and the public promptly report missing lifebuoys at watersafety.ie/ringbuoys
- It was agreed that Water Safety Ireland would be requested to carry out a risk assessment at the location in question but that obvious concerning risks existed.

Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that there would be a realignment of this road at Millrace and swimming in this area could not be recommended due to the safety risks.



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

KN30/0726
Pollardstown Fen

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Loughlin
That the council confirms the requirements for extracting water from the Curragh Aquifer, including whether a licence is required, the authority responsible for issuing such licences, and the arrangements in place to ensure compliance, in light of reports of falling water levels at Pollardstown Fen.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that all water abstractions $\geq 25\text{m}^3/\text{day}$ (registration threshold) are required to be registered with the EPA unless they are otherwise exempt.

All water abstractions $\geq 2000\text{m}^3/\text{day}$ (licensable threshold) are required to be licensed by the EPA. Licence requirements for water abstractions between $25\text{m}^3/\text{day}$ and $1999\text{m}^3/\text{day}$ are determined by the EPA

Councillor O'Loughlin informed the members he was worried about the water levels as this level has not been this low and the Curragh Aquifer has existed over a thousand years. He asked where the water was going and do the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) follow up on matters like this.

Councillor Pender informed the members that he recently seen an article of the Curragh Aquifer levels dropping. He asked had a license had been issued? This area needed to be protected and monitored.

Ms C Whelan informed the members that as far as Mr Ibrahim was aware he did not know water levels had dropped.



Councillor Doyle informed the members that this needed to be identified and follow up with the EPA and said a letter should be written to the EPA about this issue.

Proposed by Councillor O'Loughlin, seconded by Councillor Heavey and agreed by members present that the motion be amended to read, That the council writes to the Environmental Protection Agency to confirm the requirements for extracting water from the Curragh Aquifer, including whether a licence is required and the arrangements in place to ensure compliance, in light of reports of falling water levels at Pollardstown Fen.

Resolved on the proposals of Councillor O'Loughlin and seconded by Councillor Doyle that a letter issue to the EPA and that the report be noted.

KN31/0726
Fr Moore's Well

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Loughlin
That the council assesses the condition of the stream at the entrance to Fr Moore's Well, Rathbride and determines whether it is feasible to redirect, clean, or otherwise improve the flow of water, ahead of the 200th anniversary celebrations of Fr Moore's death later this year.

The motion was proposed by Councillor O'Loughlin and seconded by Councillor Power.

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the stream that feeds the well is not part of a drainage district and is outside of the remit of the drainage maintenance team. The alteration or redirection of a watercourse is not advisable. If maintenance is to be undertaken by the riparian landowner, it should comply with the OPW guidance on drainage maintenance and construction which is available

here: https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/media/filer_public/b0/5a/b05a1126-7de1-4921-bdb2-1c2579470171/environmental_guidance_-_drainage_maintenance_and_construction_2019_web_part-1.pdf



Councillor O'Loughlin informed the members that since the motion had been submitted the drains have been cleaned.

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

The meeting concluded.