



**Minutes of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District  
held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 16 February 2022  
in the Council Chamber**

**Members Present:** Councillor R Power (Mayor), Councillors A Connolly, N Connolly, S Doyle, K Duffy, N Heavey, F McLoughlin Healy, P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer, C Pender and M Stafford

**Officials Present:** Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr J Malone (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr G Hooban (Executive Engineer), Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Ms L Kennedy, Mr O Brady (Administrative Officer), Mr S Wallace (Parks Superintendent), Mr B Leonard (Meetings Administrator), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

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**KN01/0222**

**Declaration of Pecuniary or Beneficial Interests**

The Mayor asked if there were any declarations of Interest under Section 177 Of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended. There were no declarations of interest.

**KN02/0222**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday 19 January 2022 together with the Progress Report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by the members, with one member abstaining, that the minutes of the monthly meeting of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on Wednesday 19 January be adopted. The report was noted. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she would be abstaining from consideration of the minutes and progress report and any further minutes



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and progress reports until such time as Standing Orders were amended to allow her to make amendments at the Municipal District meeting.

### **KN03/0222**

#### **Municipal District Road Works**

To receive an update on the municipal district road works.

#### **Road Resurfacing Works:**

The Maps listed and the location of proposed Road Improvement and Road Maintenance works for 2022 were considered. These locations were chosen on their technical merit while trying to ensure an even spread across the Municipal District.

The LPT and Miscellaneous works were considered as follows:

#### **LPT:**

There are a number of 2021 LPT's projects to be completed, contractor will be on site in the coming weeks:

- Cutbush - Elms
- Dara Park
- Pedestrian crossing Carragh: works have commenced
- Cultery Road - Works have now commence on Cutlery Road, with upgrades to footpaths and an overlay on the public road.

#### **Miscellaneous Works:**

- Verge cutting ongoing across all areas of the MD.
- Footpath repairs in Pairc Mhuire
- Pothole repairs across the MD
- General Maintenance – water cuts, patching, gully cleaning.

Ms Cuddy also updated the members on the Liffey Bridge at Caragh. She advised that the works had now been signed off and that a contractor would be onsite the following Monday with an agreement that works would commence the following Wednesday or Thursday with a works duration of two weeks.



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The Mayor suggested that any queries for Ms Cuddy be taken offline. The members agreed. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Duffy that the report be noted.

### **KN04/0222**

#### **LPT Schedule of Works**

To agree and approve the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2022.

The Mayor apologised that due to ongoing works on the County Development Plan, the meeting to discuss the LPT had not yet taken place so this item would be listed again for the the March meeting. The members agreed.

### **KN05/0222**

#### **Members Nominations**

To agree and approve any remaining allocation of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District 'Members Nominations' 2021.

Ms L Kennedy advised the members that there were unallocated funds from 2021 amounting to €40k. In addition to this, some allocated funds were still unclaimed and other awards were dependent on the submission of application forms.

The members raised the following points:

- There was a lot of negative feedback in relation to online application forms
- The form was a deterrent to some groups, especially newer groups
- There was a need to simplify the form
- Some of the forms online were out of date

The Mayor requested that members speak to Ms Kennedy offline if they had any queries in relation to their own unallocated discretionary LPT.

### **KN06/0222**

#### **Taking in Charge Kildare**

The members considered a motion in the names of Councillor Doyle and Councillor Stafford.



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That the completion of the taking in charge process be prioritised for estates in Kildare Town having regard to the length of time some of the estates are waiting to complete the process and the serious issues that require remedy e.g. Loughminane Green, The Plains, The Curragh Plains, Coolaghknock.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Development Control Department informing the members that:

### **Loughminane Green**

As confirmed at the site meeting between Development Control, Cllrs. Doyle and Stafford, and the residents' representatives on Monday 07 February 2022, the Section 180 taking in charge (TIC) request which was delivered via registered post to Kildare County Council on 01/02/2022 did not meet the required threshold regarding the number of valid signatures. It was understood that the residents' representatives were currently addressing same. As discussed on Monday, 07 February 2022, Development Control had prioritised the investigation phase relating to the storm water system for 2022. The estate would have to be brought up to a taking in charge standard, prior to it being taken in charge. This would take a number of years (as discussed) and significant financial resources.

### **The Plains, The Curragh Plains, Coolaghknock**

This estate was a priority for Development Control in 2022. Significant works had been carried out to date to establish the condition of the below ground sewer infrastructure. The below ground sewer investigations to date included non-dig repairs, where these were possible to facilitate a CCTV survey. The non-dig repairs had finished, and a report and associated invoice was sent to Development Control on Monday 07/02/2022 by the provider. This would be analysed in the coming weeks. The remaining below ground infrastructure which was not addressed via non-dig repairs would require expensive dig repairs (excavations and pipe replacement). However, the works to date had utilised most of the bond. €48,300.72 remained of the original €284,000. A site resolution plan would need to be developed in 2022 and funding secured to action same. The estate must be brought up to a taking in charge standard, prior to it being taken in charge.



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Councillor Doyle thanked the Building and Development Control team for facilitating the onsite meeting.

The members raised the following points:

- These were legacy estates from the Celtic Tiger era prior to 2008.
- It was good to see additional staff assigned to the section.
- There was a need that the council be acutely aware of costings as historically the value of bonds had been inadequate.
- Final costings for the Plains needed to be provided and a means to recoup these identified.
- It was important to keep the pace going regarding Loughminane.
- If there was a need to progress problematic issues prior to Taking in Charge could LPT be considered.

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

### **KN07/0222**

#### **Newbridge Cycle Lanes**

To receive an update on the installation of cycle lanes in Newbridge.

Mr Hodgins briefed the members on the temporary cycle lanes recently installed in Newbridge under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act designed to current standards. The changes were being monitored and reviewed through engagement with the Customer Relations Management system. He advised that one parklet outside the butchers would not now be going ahead, and a landing area would be provided at the bus stop outside the Riverbank. Learnings from the temporary scheme would be incorporated into the permanent scheme.

As Councillor McLoughlin Healy had a motion on the agenda regarding the NTA, the members agreed to discuss the update and motion together.

The members raised the following points:



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- Many members had received online abuse over the issue and while they acknowledged the need for cycle lanes, there had been a very negative response since the introduction.
- Following conversations with access groups there were issues with disability bays and bus stops.
- While there was a need to segregate cyclists and pedestrians from traffic, it was unfair and unsafe to expect motorists to give way or wait while motorists of parked cars and in disabled bays exited their vehicles.
- A change in culture was needed and extra responsibility was being placed on motorists.
- Vulnerable road users needed to be protected.
- The piecemeal installation of the cycleways was unsatisfactory, and it would be helpful if the cycle lanes started and went somewhere, especially linking schools.
- Maps produced for public consultation did not show the impact of the infrastructure on the ground so could 3D modelling be used.
- A Traffic Management Plan was urgently needed for the town.
- The public consultation process was not robust enough and needed more engagement and that people who did not interact with social media needed to be catered for.
- Key information was difficult to find on the councils website.
- A written response from Kildare County Council should be provided to the public addressing the concerns.
- Could parking spaces be rearranged perpendicular to the street rather than parallel.
- Newbridge was a valuable and key retail destination thus its further potential needed to be considered.
- Any flaws identified now were only temporary and there would be scope to change or improve matters, before any permanent changes were made.
- Could a list of FAQs be provided to the members.

Mr Hodgins made the following points:

- The temporary scheme was borne out of Covid.



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- Feedback was being received in real time leading to a most intensive public consultation. All feedback received would help inform the design and operation of the permanent infrastructure.
- Criticisms had been received within 24 hours of the scheme opening and while there had been a lot of discussion, thousands of people had no issues and had accepted it.
- No difficulties had been reported by the emergency services and there had been no incidents or accidents reported.
- There had been one incident of two dumper trucks being unable to pass each other but this type of vehicle was inappropriate for a main street.
- The lanes were 6m wide which was standard for a main street.
- With the current climate change policy there was a need for sustainable transport and it was imperative to create a safer facility for children going to school.
- Feedback was still welcome on the project through the councils public consultation portal on the website.
- The scheme was not simply a case of drawing lines on a map, but had been created by highly qualified chartered engineer staff.
- He committed to providing a list of Frequently Asked Questions which he would respond to and review.

The report was noted.

### **KN08/0222**

#### **Traffic Management Project**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council explain how and why the design of the traffic management and public realm pilot project for Newbridge, for which approval was sought by the NTA from municipal district councillors at a meeting with the NTA 4 years ago (following 3 years of failed design applications by the council to the NTA) has been taken back by the council. Please include in the report confirmation of the invite to the NTA as requested in Q4 2021 to meet directly with Kildare-Newbridge municipal district councillors to explain what has happened since councillors and council officials met and signed up to the NTA plan over 4 years ago; and copies of minutes of the meeting with the NTA, and the report to my motion re the Traffic Management Plan in October 2017.



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The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Doyle.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the National Transport Authority met with the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District members regarding their proposed €10m project for the substantial redesign of Newbridge Main Street including public realm improvements from the bridge to junction at Dunnes Stores and also incorporated Cutlery Road which would see traffic diverted to Military Road with Main Street having a bus gate. The NTA proposal addressed the R445 main spine – Main Street Newbridge between Dunnes Stores/old Credit Union and the Liffey Bridge. As the traffic movement issues experienced by Newbridge expanded beyond the Main Street and impacted on all arterial roads entering and exiting the town, a Traffic Management Study encompassing the entire town was considered prudent. The Kildare Town Transport Strategy, expected to be finalised at the end of November, was finalised in January. With the Kildare Town Transport study now published, the project team are preparing to commence the Newbridge study.

The meeting referred to with the NTA, elected members and officials of Kildare County Council was held in-committee. There were no minutes taken. Contemporaneous notes may have been taken by the then Director of Services who no longer works for the local authority.

At the October 2021 meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District, a report was provided by the Transport Department advising that it was premature to issue an invite to the NTA at that time as the NTA would be the primary consultees in preparing the Draft Transport Strategy for Newbridge.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy accepted the report and comments from Mr Hodgins at the meeting and was happy to wait for the outcome of this. The Transport Strategy for Newbridge, once commenced, would take 12 months to deliver during which time the NTA would be involved in the consultation.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Doyle that a letter issue to the NTA to invite them for a discussion on the matter.





**KN09/0222**

**Watercourse/Drain**

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Stafford. That the council clean the watercourse/drain that runs parallel to the Grand Canal behind the filling station at Kildare Road, Rathangan.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor A Connolly.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that as per the agreement at the January Municipal District meeting, the Municipal District Office had agreed to investigate the ownership and would revert to the members in due course.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor A Connolly that the item be progressed via the progress report.

**KN10/0222**

**Technical Assessment L6080**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer. That the council carry out a technical assessment on the L6080 close to Sunnyhill Cottages travelling toward Knockaulin with a view to installing crash barriers given the frequency of vehicles crashing through the wall of a house on this road into the garden where children may be at play.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council had commenced work on development of a county wide priority list of junctions that required improvement due to safety or other concerns. Priority junctions would be examined in 2022 and a consultant appointed to assist in the development of preliminary designs for each junction. Once this was complete, planning consent would be sought to implement the schemes and they would progress to the



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delivery phase thereafter. This would be subject to funding and resource constraints. This programme would apply to junctions only where MD works had been exhausted and where it could be shown significant issues still persisted in terms of safety.

Councillor T O'Dwyer advised that this was not a junction but on two occasions cars had crashed into a garden where young children had been playing. A crash barrier was needed to stop traffic going through the fence. Ms B Cuddy stated that she would investigate this.

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

### KN11/0222

#### Henry Lane Newbridge

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

That Kildare County Council consider making Henry Lane in Newbridge a one-way system for vehicular traffic.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Council was about to commence the preparation of a Transport Strategy for Newbridge. The transport strategy would include an analysis on what roads and transportation measures would be needed in Newbridge in the future to accommodate growth of the town in a sustainable manner. The drafting of the transport strategy would be consultative in nature and once this transport strategy was complete, the transport measures contained therein would feed into the next iteration of the Newbridge Local Area Plan.

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



**KN12/0222**

**Hopkins Haven Estate**

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

That the council install a convex traffic safety mirror opposite the entry to Hopkins Haven Estate, Cowpasture, Monasterevin to provide residents a mechanism for improved visibility when leaving the estate given the reluctance to install speed ramps along Cowpasture.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that it was not the council policy to install safety mirrors at any location within the Municipal District, as they gave a false sense of security to the driver in relation to the distance and speed of on-coming cars.

Councillor Duffy stated that there were entrances to two different housing estates at a blind spot on this road and there was a need to do something to improve safety.

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

**KN13/0222**

**Footpaths Togher Grove**

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

That the council repair localised sections of footpath in Togher Grove Estate, Monasterevin that are in extremely poor condition and pose a trip hazard to residents.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Duffy 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 agreed to assess the estate and carry out repairs in line with available budget.

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



**KN14/0222**

**Moore's Bridge**

The members considered a motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly.

That Kildare County Council liaise with Irish Rail with a view to carrying out some repair works on Moore's Bridge.

The motion was proposed by Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Bridges Team would write to Irish Rail advising them of the repair works required on Moore's Bridge and request them to carry out the repairs.

The members raised the following points:

- The bridge was being damaged by inappropriate vehicles such as HGVs travelling over it but there was a bigger issue with safety.
- The bridge needed widening in some sections.
- Horse riders were also causing a safety issue in the area.
- Signs with reflective paint would not solve the issue.

Ms B Cuddy stated that the bridge was owned by Irish Rail. Any discussions regarding widening of the bridge would have to involve Kildare County Council, Irish Rail and the Department of Defence who owned the surrounding lands.

Mr Hodgins stated that he would speak to Mr Deegan in relation to starting this process.

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

**KN15/0222**

**Realignment Works Old Grange Monasterevin**

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

That Kildare County Council carry out road marking or other realignment works at the Junction at Tiggerz Den Creche (Eircode W34 R265) in Old Grange, Monasterevin, to



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prevent cars coming from Ballalley Cross (the R414) from having to stop in the middle of the road to achieve line of sight, while trying to proceed towards Canal Harbour.

The motion was proposed by Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office agreed to review this location as part of our line marking program subject to budgets. There are no plans to carry out realignments works within the Municipal District.

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

### **KN16/0222**

#### **Motorhome Parking Facilities**

That the council provide overnight parking facilities for motorhomes, commonly known as Aires, within the Municipal District.

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

A report was received from the Meetings Administrator informing the members that it did not appear the council currently had plans to provide standalone overnight parking facilities for motorhomes within the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District. The members may be aware of a question asked by the Athy Municipal District members recently around the council installing metered power and water points for mobile campervans in areas around the Dominican lands or the back of Emily Square. The Public Realm team reported that they would assess the potential to incorporate proposals for metered power and water points for mobile campervans into the Dominican Lands Masterplan which was currently being developed. Public Realm also noted it could be considered by the Barrow Blueway Steering Group as part of the Barrow Blueway, including in Athy.

A query had gone to Kildare Failte to establish if they had any plans to provide these type of parking facilities within the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District, and the members would be kept updated.



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Councillor N Connolly stated that in his opinion Kildare County Council should consider the proposal seriously as there were 4 publicly owned Aires in the Republic of Ireland which were very successful and that a trial could be run in a public car park at night.

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

### KN17/0222

#### Footpath Millview Estate to Mill Lane

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford.

That the council continue the footpath from Millview Estate to Mill Lane, Milltown along the R415 which forms part of a very popular recreational loop walk.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor N Connolly.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was no funding budgeted at present for these works, however they could be considered under LPT funding with the agreement of the councillors.

Councillor Stafford stated that this was a popular route and only a small section of footpath was required.

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

### KN18/0222

#### Parking Spaces at Riverbank

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

That this council requests the removal of standard parking spaces outside the Riverbank to allow the safe pulling in of buses.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor Duffy.



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the removal of parking spaces on Main Street was an issue being considered as part of the monitoring phase of the Temporary Cycle and Seating Infrastructure Project on Main Street and Edward Street, Newbridge. The needs and priorities of road users in terms of the defined hierarchy in the GDA Transport Strategy 2022-2042 (pedestrians, cyclists, public transport, goods vehicles, private motor vehicles) were being referenced in this regard.

Councillor Stafford stated that he was loathe to see the removal of any parking spaces, especially at a venue such as the Riverbank and queried whether the adjacent car park could be made available to patrons in the evening.

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

### **KN19/0222**

#### **Public Consultation**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Pender. That this council asks that public consultation for projects in the municipal district are done in an inclusive manner ensuring both online and in person engagement.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that for all statutory processes, Kildare County Council advertised the works in two local papers, advertised on the website and all our social media sites and used the online consultation portal for submissions and links to the works. They also welcomed submissions by email or post. For Part 8 developments, in person information evenings were held with the public prior to development taking place.



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A second report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that prior to covid 19 restrictions, all public consultation on Public Realm projects were by way of in person workshops, surveys, and consultation events.

However, as a result of the pandemic, all consultation carried out by the Public Realm team moved online with the use of surveys and interactive consultation rooms through KCCs Consultation Portal which proved very successful. With the lifting of restrictions, the Public Realm team would be running hybrid consultations, i.e. both online and in person.

A report was also received from the Libraries Department informing the members that during the Covid-19 restrictions consultation carried out by the Library and Arts team moved online with the use of surveys and consultation through the council's Consultation Portal. We had a hugely successful response to the consultation survey for our Library Development Plan. With the lifting of restrictions, the Library and Arts team would develop hybrid consultations, i.e. both online and in person

A further report was received from the Community, Culture and Economic Development Department informing the members that during the Covid-19 restrictions consultation carried out by the Community and Parks teams moved online with the use of surveys and consultation through the council's consultation portal. With the lifting of restrictions, the Community and Parks teams would use hybrid consultation processes when required.

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

### **KN20/0222**

#### **Safety Measures Thomastown Road**

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

That the council implement immediate additional safety measures along the Thomastown Road, Caragh and examine what additional features may be introduced in the medium-longer term.

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





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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the road referred in the motion is 2.2km from Caragh to Thomastown Road and was a narrow rural road for part, was part walled, had a rail crossing / bridge and had many rural entrances. The speed limit was currently set at 60 or 80kph depending on location. Road improvement proposals associated with all, or part of the route were not currently on the Roads Design Capital Project Plan. A project of the scale envisaged would require a significant input of funds and resources to deliver.

If the motion was referring to the specific R409 / Thomastown Road junction, Kildare County Council had commenced work on development of a county wide priority list of junctions that required improvement due to safety or other concerns. Priority junctions would be examined in 2022 and a consultant appointed to assist in the development of preliminary designs for each junction. Once this was complete, planning consent would be sought to implement the schemes and they would progress to the delivery phase thereafter. This would be subject to funding and resource constraints. This programme would apply to junctions only where Municipal District works had been exhausted and where it could be shown significant issues persisted in terms of safety.

The members raised the following points:

- Traffic on this road was very heavy with HGVs travelling from the quarry
- What could be done in the short term
- Some hedgecutting needed to be done in the area.
- Line marking on the road need to be expedited urgently.

Ms B Cuddy advised that the road markings would be looked at but hedge cutting was the responsibility of the landowners.

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

### **KN21/0222**

#### **EV Charging Points**

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



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Can the council confirm if it has plans to identify and install electric charging points at key locations in this municipal district eg. Athgarvan, Two Mile House and Kilcullen to cater for visitors and tourists requiring access to e-charging points.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a copy of the Guidance Document issued by the CCMA EV group was previously circulated to all members and the matter of developing a policy document for Kildare currently sat with the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC. The committee was currently awaiting the publication of a strategy document due to issue from the four Dublin local authorities which would assist in the formulation of a policy document for the County.

The report was noted.

### **KN22/0222**

#### **Technical Assessment Kildare Road, Rathangan**

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

Can the council confirm if a technical assessment has been carried out on Kildare Road, Rathangan and if not, can it give a timeline as to when this assessment will be carried out?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there had been no technical assessments carried out by the Municipal District Office. There were a number to be carried out, but due to shortage of staff at present, there was no timetable available currently.

The report was noted

### **KN23/0222**

#### **Technical Assessment Martinstown Lane, Ballysax**

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

Can the council confirm if a technical assessment has been carried out on Martinstown Lane, Ballysax and if not, can it give a timeline as to when this assessment will be carried out?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there had been no technical assessments carried out by the Municipal District Office. There were a number to be carried out, but due to shortage of staff at present, there was no timetable available currently.

The report was noted.

### **KN24/0222**

#### **Car Parking in Estates**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford.

Can the council confirm the criteria for providing additional carparking spaces through removing green areas in both council owned estates and private estates in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the provision of additional carparking spaces, through the removal of green areas, in private estates was a matter for the developer and required engagement with the planning process. For Council owned estates and estates which are taken in charge, removing green areas to provide parking must be cognisant of the required public open space standards set out in the County Development Plan and Local Area Plan. Once the standards could be achieved, a Part 8 process could commence allowing for public consultation. Where the estate was near a town, consideration should also be given to including the area in the Parking Bye Laws to ensure proper enforcement of the parking, otherwise it was open to use by members of the public.

The report was noted.

### **KN25/0222**

#### **Land for Bus Shelter**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council provide an update on the plans and engagement with the Charity Regulator regarding the transfer of land from the Cross and Passion to the council for the bus shelter at Kilcullen.



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Council's solicitors had advised that they are still awaiting the consent of the Charities Regulator. This could take several months to issue. The council had instructed our solicitors to issue a reminder to the Charities Regulator.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy sought clarification on whether the solicitors could be asked to make contact with the Charities Regulator monthly, until the matter was resolved.

The District Manager advised that he would follow-up with the relevant staff.

The report was noted.

### **KN26/0222**

#### **Millford Estate, Athgarvan**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council confirm if it has a plan in place currently to manage the traffic, noise and congestion disruption arising from current construction at the corner site in Athgarvan including whether a yellow box at Millford Estate is being considered to facilitate residents to exit their estate and include in the answer consideration of the likely impact of other planned developments in the area, that are likely to exacerbate the issues.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the planning conditions for the development under construction would reflect the limits on noise pollution and what traffic management was in place. Any traffic management on the public road would be dealt with through the Municipal District office in compliance with planning permission. Yellow boxes were only recommended where a public road met a public road, there were no plans to install a yellow box at this location.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy queried the details of the plan and if there was a link to it, noting there was often a backlog of traffic in the area which warranted a yellow box.

Mr D Hodgins advised that a yellow box would not be enforceable, but a "Keep Clear" box may be a solution. He advised that he would discuss this with the Planning Department.

The report was noted.



**KN27/0222**

**Community Space, Rickardstown**

The members considered the following motion in the names of Councillors P O'Dwyer and T O'Dwyer.

That Kildare County Council consider allocating approximately 2.7 acres for a Community Space on Folio number KE35230F Rickardstown, Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that in advance of progressing proposals for development of land at Rickardstown, the Housing Department was open to a discussion with regard to the sale/lease of some lands from this landbank for community use. A process for expressions of interest would need to be considered.

Ultimately the sale/lease of council owned lands would be a matter for the elected members to consider at plenary council.

The members raised the following points:

- The lands in question were currently zoned residential but they would like a portion to be considered for community use.
- There was a need to identify key areas where hubs could be offered around the town for use by community and sports clubs. This could also alleviate traffic issues in the town.
- With the current climate emergency open recreation space was a priority.
- Could an audit of Kildare County Council lands be used to identify suitable spaces.
- "Teen Spaces" have been very successful in other countries and now in areas of South Dublin.

Mr O Brady stated that the motion needed the backing of the community. The issue would be open for discussion through the Architects Department prior to any development.

Councillor P O'Dwyer advised that she could raise the issue by way of a motion for full council.

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



**KN28/0222**

**Newbridge Town Hall**

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

Can the council confirm when Newbridge Town Hall is reopening for public use?

A report was received from the Facilities manager informing the members that facilities were currently taking provisional bookings for the Newbridge Town and the building was available for use.

Councillor P O'Dwyer queried why the bookings were still provisional. The District Manager advised that he would follow-up on the matter.

The report was noted.

**KN29/0222**

**Lands for Serviced Sites**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Power.

Can the council provide information on any undeveloped land in its ownership above 0.5ha within or adjacent to the boundaries of any small town, village or rural settlement in the municipal district in order to progress the development of serviced sites in the county.

A report was received from the Community, Culture and Economic Development Department informing the members that a list was attached of Kildare County Council sites measuring 0.5 ha plus, in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

Please note the following:

- The list had been generated from the Property Interest Register, which was a work in progress. As such, the list was not complete or exhaustive.
- The list excludes unregistered sites and sites registered in the Registry of Deeds.
- The list excluded sites acquired for road improvements and cemeteries, as these plots were not available for any other purpose.



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The list included part-developed and undeveloped sites. A detailed breakdown of current use would take a number of weeks to prepare. In addition, the maps contained in the Property Interest Register dated back to 2018 and may not reflect the exact position on the ground.

Queries in relation to the current and future use of specific sites were best addressed to the Director of Services in the acquiring section, who would have the most up to date and accurate overview. Where the acquiring section was not known, queries could be referred to the Property Interest Register team through the CRM system.

### Kildare County Council Sites of 0.5 hectares plus in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District \*

Location	Location	Location	Acquiring Section
Coolaghknock Glebe Kildare	5.2991	Lands partly undeveloped and zone C2 New Residential. Adjacent C1 lands described below to be developed before C2 lands.	Housing
Coolaghknock Glebe Kildare	2.8636	Lands zoned C1 New Residential and currently proposed for inclusion in Social Housing PPP Programme	Housing
Crosskeys Kildangan	2.2389	KCC lands only partly zoned (A- Village Centre) in the Kildangan Village Plan.	Housing
Bonaghmore Rathangan	3.8583	Lands between the St. Patrick's Park and Beechgrove estates. Restricted access to the public road	Housing
Beechgrove Rathangan	6.8700	Folio ref KE15636F Beechgrove, Rathangan. Partly developed for social housing with remaining lands used for amenity.	Housing
Avondale Kilcullen	9.9600	Partly developed lands at Avondale. Kilcullen. Remaining undeveloped lands mainly zoned open space and amenity	Housing



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		and partly zoned industrial and warehousing in Kilcullen LAP	
Bishopsland Kildare Town	11.8199	Lands at Bishopsland, Kildare fully developed.	Housing
Rickardstown Newbridge	14.394	Lands include folio ref's KE35230, KE14382F adjacent to existing Rosconnell estate and school. Lands currently under consideration for mixed tenure development.	Housing
Athgarvan Newbridge	1.3507	Existing Part 8 approved for development of 18 social housing units at Mountainview, Athgarvan	Housing

**\* List not exhaustive and excludes roads, cemeteries, unregistered sites and properties registered in the Registry of Deeds.**

The report was noted.

### **KN30/0222**

#### **Removal of Hedgerows Athgarvan Road**

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

That the council prepare a report on the removal of hedgerows on the Athgarvan Road in 2021 to establish what work was agreed to vs works undertaken, timelines of removal of the hedgerow, reporting of this to the council and engagements between developer and council on the matter and lastly what lessons have been learned.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Pender.

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that on foot of complaints received by the Planning Department in late February 2021, the issues raised were referred to the Parks Section and were also investigated by the Planning Department. However, as planning permission was granted by An Bord Pleanála for a Strategic Housing Development on site, reference SHD 18302141, the removal of the





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hedgerow did not require planning permission, nor was its removal a breach of any condition of this permission granted by An Bord Pleanála. Therefore, there was no planning enforcement action open to the Planning Authority in respect of the removal of the hedgerow.

The Parks Section contacted Glenveagh Homes following receipt of the complaint regarding the removal of the hedgerow. An onsite meeting was held on 30 March. The company agreed to submit a landscape plan for the site to include replanting of the boundary. The submission of this information was further followed up at meetings with them during the year in April, August, October and November. The proposal for replanting was formally submitted in January. This included replanting of a beech hedgerow along the road frontage and a woodland mixture of planting behind it. This proposal was currently being reviewed and a response would be issued to the information submitted before the end of the month. Regarding lessons learned, planning applications and associated landscape plans that are now submitted by developers were requested to indicate how the landscaping proposals related to the installation of services and other infrastructure planned for the site and that there was no conflict between the two.

The members raised the following points:

- Was the hedgerow inside the planning application boundary?
- There should be a minimum specification on the maturity of the hedging with a stipulation that it should be replanted as necessary until the hedging takes hold.
- Could the landscape plan be circulated to members.

Mr S Wallace stated that as part of the taking in charge process, a walkthrough was done on the landscaping but there was an issue with staff resources. He advised that the hedge was outside the planning permission boundary but should not have been removed and that he would arrange for the landscape plan to be circulated to members.

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

### **KN31/0222**

#### **Curragh Plains**

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



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Can Kildare County Council provide the members with a status update and details of the next steps on the Curragh Plains Public Consultation Process?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the draft Conservation Management Plan had been reviewed by the Project Steering Group and was now being refined by the Consultant team. Work on the next stage in this project, which was the development of an Interpretation, Branding and Wayfinding plan, had commenced. Once initial concepts and ideas were agreed, these would be brought to the public for comment/feedback, along with the Conservation Management Plan. This consultation would take place through the online forum established during the initial consultation process. It was expected that both the Conservation Management Plan and the Interpretation, Branding and Wayfinding Plan would be complete by the end of June 2022.

The report was noted.

### **KN32/0222**

#### **Market Square Rathangan**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford.

Can the council confirm when it proposes to commence the Market Square redevelopment in Rathangan?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the project was currently at detailed design stage and would progress to tender once the detailed design had been completed. Subject to funding, construction works would commence in Quarter 1 2023.

Councillor Stafford requested that a copy of the design be circulated to members.

The report was noted.

The Mayor stated he had to leave and asked the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Pender to take the Chair.

### **KN33/0222**

#### **URDF Funding**

The members considered the following question on the name of Councillor Pender.



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Can the council confirm what if any plans it has ready to submit for upcoming URDF funding relevant to this municipal district?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that work was progressing on the Part 8 for the redevelopment of the County Library (to include a Cultural Centre and County Archives) in Newbridge, with a view to having Part 8 approval in place before the next call for URDF funding was announced.

As there was no representative present from the Planning Department, the District Manager advised that he would follow-up on this.

The report was noted.

### **KN34/0222**

#### **Dumping on Curragh Plains**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council provide a report of the impact and outcome of dumping on the Curragh Plains including the duration of the dumping, the impact on the area, any environmental testing carried out internally or externally, any internal or external investigations or efforts to identify those responsible and any remediation arising from dumping at the following locations: across from Donnelly's Hollow beside the Military Graveyard, behind Donnelly's Hollow on the golf course side, behind the prison on the Curragh Camp and other locations. Please include the terms of reference for and report of the mediation with Department of Defence grounds or provide grounds for the council withholding information from its own members.

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members of the following:

Please also refer to the discussion on foot of Notice of Motion Ref: KN32/1022 at the January monthly meeting of this MD. I am further to advise as follows:

1. Area behind Donnelly's Hollow (golf course side)

As stated at the last meeting, the Department of Defence had agreed to remediate this site as per the mediation agreement. Regrettably, in light of the terms of the Mediation Act 2017 (Section 10), it was not possible to share the mediation information. He would,



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however, keep the MD informed regarding progress generally and as the matter proceeded to resolution.

### 2. Area beside Military graveyard

This was a historical Council landfill, one of 28 countywide entered in the Council's 'Section 22' Register. These generally related to the pre 1970s period and accorded with Irish law at the time. All 'historical' landfills had been subject to environmental assessment wherein this particular site was deemed to be of low risk and accordingly further interventions were very unlikely to be necessary. The 'Section 22' Register was publicly available. Summary details were also outlined in the monthly Chief Executive's Report.

### 3. Lands behind the prison

The Council was not aware of any issues at this location.

It should be noted that the management of the Curragh rested with the Department of Defence in accordance with relevant legislation. While the Council did possess the necessary enforcement powers, really such matters rested with the Department of Defence and the Council should only have to intervene if there were compelling reasons for so doing.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy raised the following points:

- She had been contacted recently regarding the lands behind the prison.
- Could reassurances be given, and possibly water testing done to ensure there was no contamination from the area beside the military graveyard.
- Had a potential crime been committed here.
- Members should have access to the mediation report as there were exemptions to the confidentiality clause.
- While she supported the spirit of the mediation process there was no visibility as to why Kildare County Council and the Department of Defence were at odds.

Councillor Stafford stated that while the water pollution issue was very historical and appeared to be local folklore, assurances should be given that there was no contamination. He respected that the mediation process was confidential and advised that there may be



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further consequences for Kildare County Council should this confidential process be breached.

The District Manager thanked Councillor Stafford for his comments. He stated that the area beside the military graveyard was a former landfill. Environmental assessments had been carried out and the area posed no environmental risk. He advised that he would need to seek legal advice regarding exemptions to the confidentiality of the mediation agreement.

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

### **KN35/0222**

#### **Cemetery Works**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor N Connolly. Can the council confirm what works are planned for cemeteries throughout the Municipal District this year?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the 2022 programme of works in cemeteries was currently being finalised and councillors would be advised of details when this had been completed.

The District Manager advised that Newbridge Cemetery would be prioritised and works at Barrettstown would be started soon.

Councillor N Connolly queried whether works at Newbridge Cemetery would include a columbarian wall. The District Manager advised it would.

The report was noted.

### **KN36/0222**

#### **Graffiti and Vandalism**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender. Can the council confirm if the issues of graffiti and vandalism throughout Newbridge have been reported and recorded for follow up and cleaning?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that any complaints of this nature made through our CRM system were automatically recorded. The Department did not hold a separate record in relation to



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cleaning of graffiti. The removal of graffiti from private property was the responsibility of the property owner. Complaints about vandalism were a matter for An Garda Síochana. The report was noted.

### **KN37/0222**

#### **Communication Boards**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer. Can the council provide an update on the installation of Communication Boards within the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District?

A report was received from the parks Department informing the members that the council planned to seek quotations from graphic designers for the design of pilot communications boards in the following couple of months and to install the boards then, including one at Newbridge Playground. The report was noted.

### **KN38/0222**

#### **Indoor Play Facilities**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor N Connolly. Can the council confirm if there are any barriers to prevent the council from providing public indoor play facilities within the municipal district, given the demise of several private providers in the County due to spiralling insurance costs?

A report was received from the Community Culture and Economic Development Department informing the members that there were considerable barriers preventing the Economic Community and Cultural Development Department from providing public indoor play facilities. Unfortunately, the resources were not available to run, maintain and supervise such a facility should a location be identified. The Community Department would also be liable for the same insurance costs as any private company attempting to provide this service. The department continued to prioritise its current work programme focusing on outdoor spaces that enable play.



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Councillor N Connolly stated that he had submitted a further list of questions to Mr McDermott and he would share the replies when they were available.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.