



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District  
held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 16 October 2024  
in the Council Chamber**

---

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

**Remote Attendance:** Councillors K Duffy, R Power,

**Apologies:** S Ní Raghallaigh

**Officials Present:** Ms E Hanlon (District Manager), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Mr R Harte (Executive Engineer), Mr B Griffith (Facilities Manager), Ms E Donnelly (Acting County Arts Officer), Mr L McNeela (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr G Hooban (Executive Engineer), Ms S Farrar (Administrative Officer), Ms P O'Brien (Senior Executive Officer), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

---

**KN01/1024  
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.

**KN02/1024  
Minutes and Progress Report**

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

---

The mayor informed the members that a request had come in from Councillor Pender to amend the September minutes for Item KN27/0924 'Newbridge Swimming Pool' to add the following 'Councillor Pender highlighted that reports had previously been provided regarding this issue and expressed concern that the repeated mention of the former Monastery Liffey Lodge site was an attempt to pit members of the community against one another'. The Meetings administrator informed the members that he had no record of this statement, but the members had to agree to this amendment.

The members raised the following points:

- Did remember Councillor Pender saying this
- It was not customary or practice to add what the members said in the minutes under Standing Orders.
- The minutes should only be amended if it impacts on the decision
- Should not change the way minutes were done

Councillor Pender informed the members that he recognised that this was not custom practice but was an accurate account of what he had said. He said he was happy for the minutes not to be amended but would like it noted in the minutes for the October meeting.

Councillor T O'Dwyer asked for clarification on the progress report regarding KN19/0924, KN20/0924 'Curragh Plains', she informed the members that it shows on the report that there was no update but she was under the impression that meetings had taken place with Kildare County Council and the Department of Defence but there was no information given on the progress report. The District Manger informed the members she had enquired about this item on the progress report and was told there was no update as of yet but would notify the members when there was an update.

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 18 September 2024 be taken as read and the progress report be noted.



**KN03/1024**  
**Mayors Business**

The Mayor informed the members that she had received a request for Certificate of Recognition and this was agreed by the members. She said this was to congratulate the Community Games movement in Newbridge on its Golden Jubilee and recognizes the unique contribution made to community life in Newbridge, by its founding members, still going strong fifty years on, who along with other dedicated volunteers have inspired and organised young people to participate in a vast array of sporting, cultural, and creative talent competitions year on year bringing countless provincial and national titles back Newbridge over the past half century.

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that he had received supporting documentation regarding votes from the members.

**Resolved:** It was agreed by the members that a certificate of recognition be issued to the Community Games movement in Newbridge.

**KN04/1024**  
**Municipal District Road Works**

**Road Resurfacing Works:**

**Restoration Improvement is now complete except for**

- Rathbride Road Kildare
- Allen Cross
- R445 Kildare Town

**NTA:**

Tender awarded for NTA works St. Bridget's school and surrounding area in Kildare Town.

**Rathangan**

Sweeping: Footpaths and road in Rathangan Town

Drainage cleaning and investigation: Feighcullen Church

Litter picking and empty bins: Rathangan Town

Pothole Repairs Works: Killinthomas, Edenderry Road, Boston Hill (Feighcullen Bend), Whelan Cross and L3003 bend, L7006-1 Blakestown Road, Mountprospect Road.

Signs: New chevrons signs installed on Barretstown Road

Patching Works: Boston Hill L3002

### **Kildare**

Drainage: Issues with poor drainage and flooding were eased at Melitta Road Kildare Town, Duneany, R445 issue with flooding at McDonalds Farm was cleared, Ummeras Laneway drainage is ongoing.

Hedges: Hedges were cut back at Derrylea and Priest Lane, Kildare Town.

Signage: Old signage removed at Rowanville Kildare Town, ramp signs erected at Nurney Road L7055, traffic light sign replaced at R445 Monasterevin.

Patching: Roads were patched at Canal Harbour Monasterevin, Mountrice, Kill Hill.

### **Kilcullen**

Grass cutting: Various junctions

Hedge Cutting: Victoria Bridge, Twomilehouse to Corbally, Whitehall Cross, Hacklow, Swordlestown, Lawlors Cross to Caragh, Sunnyhill.

Cleaning and repairing road signage at all junctions.

Pothole repairs: Kilcullen.

### **Newbridge**

Footpath Repairs: New footpath, pedestrian rails and tactile paving was installed from Kilbelin Estate connecting to the public footpath on Athgarvan Road, 2 new drop kerbs installed in Kilbelin Estate.

Liffey Hall concrete bay broke out and new bay installed

Trip Hazards: Newbridge Main Street.

Broken Bollards replaced on Cutlery Road.

Hedge Cutting: Tankardsgarden entrance to halting site.

Pothole repairs: Cedarwood Park.

The report was noted.

## **KN05/1024**

### **Local Community Safety Partnership**

The Mayor informed the members that the appointment of two representatives from the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District one from each LEA to be nominated for the Local Community Safety Partnership following the discussion from full council. The Mayor proposed that members would nominate a member from their own LEA and then vote on it.

Councillor Power nominated Councillor T O'Dwyer to represent Newbridge LEA and seconded by Councillor Pender. With no other nominations, Councillor T O'Dwyer was appointed to the Local Community Safety Partnership.

Councillor O'Loughlin nominated Councillor Doyle to represent Kildare LEA and seconded by Councillor Duffy. With no other nominations, Councillor Doyle was appointed to the Local Community Safety Partnership.

Councillor McDonnell informed the members that he did not agree with the new Local Community Safety Partnership as he felt it was taking away from all councillors the interaction, they previously had with An Garda Síochána and said all councillors needed to be in contact with An Garda Síochána.

Councillor Doyle informed the members that she would like to offer her appreciation of the local An Garda Síochána and the service they had provided through the former JPC.

**Resolved** On the proposal of Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by Newbridge LEA that Councillor T O'Dwyer be appointed to the Local Community Safety Partnership and on the proposal of Councillor O'Loughlin and seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by Kildare LEA that Councillor Doyle be appointed to the Local Community Safety Partnership.

**KN06/1024**

**Kildare Sports and Leisure Facilities Ltd**

The Mayor informed the members that the appointment of one elected member to Kildare Sports and Leisure Facilities Ltd had to be nominated.

Councillor Doyle nominated Councillor Heavey as she felt it was appropriate as there was a K Leisure in Newbridge, seconded by Councillor O'Loughlin. With no other nominations Councillor Heavey was appointed to Kildare Sports and Leisure Facilities Ltd.

**Resolved** On the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor O'Loughlin and agreed by all members present that Councillor Heavey be appointed to Kildare Sports and Leisure Facilities Ltd.

**KN7/1024**

**Green Road, Newbridge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer  
That the council considers installing traffic calming measures on the Green Road, Newbridge in particular near Curragh Chase/Langton Park section.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that all Traffic Calming measures require a technical assessment. The Municipal District Office agree to include this location for assessment, subject to budget and staff availability.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that when roads were improved people tended to drive faster. She said when driving up the hill the sight line was impeded, and this needed to be highlighted to motorists.

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



**Items 20 and 21 were taken with item 8**

**KN08/1024**  
**Bus Shelters**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer  
That the council progresses the two previously agreed for Kilcullen and Kennycourt following the recent meeting with the NTA confirming that funding had been allocated to Kildare County Council for bus shelters.

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

**Item 20**

**Bus Stop Brownstown**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Balfe  
Can the council please provide an update as to when the second Bus Stop at Brownstown will be constructed.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the locations for bus shelters currently on the list for examination in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District are:

- R416 Newbridge Road, Athgarvan
- Maddenstown Terrace, The Curragh
- Brownstown, The Curragh
- R416 Athgarvan Road, Newbridge
- R415 Rathbride Abbey, Kildare Town
- R415 Lourdesville, Kildare Town

However, Kildare County Council has received an audit of all bus stops in the county and an assessment of these locations will inform or amend the priority list. Other locations will be considered in due course, funding and resources permitting. It is not anticipated that any of these will be delivered until 2025.

## **Item 21**

### **Bus Shelter Toughers**

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

Can the council provide an update on the installation of the bus shelter at the stop across from Toughers? Specifically, what is the current status of this project, and when can residents expect its completion?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Transport Department are in discussions with the National Transport Authority (NTA) in respect of a timeline for the delivery of the bus stop.

The report was noted.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that the members had received a briefing from the NTA in May 2023 and at that meeting she had raised a number of queries including bus shelters. She said that the NTA confirmed that if Kildare County Council compiled a list of priority bus shelters and submitted them to the NTA that they would fund them. A list was compiled of bus shelters, and it was confirmed to her by Kildare County Council that the three locations she had asked for which were Cnoc na Greine, near Esker Lea in Kilcullen and Kinneagh Cross. She said that the NTA confirmed they were allocating €500,000 to Kildare County Council to deliver bus shelters but the bus shelters she had asked for were not included on the list but there were two new bus shelters that had not been included in the previous list circulated. She asked how two new bus shelters made the list over other bus shelters that were previously committed to and what criteria was used in determining priority bus shelters. She informed the members that the bus service from Kilcullen through Kinneagh and Athgarvan was a 7-day service with a night service she believed that this service warranted the provision of a bus shelter.

The members raised the following points:

- Plans had been circulated which included bus shelters at Toughers but only one side had been done
- The bus shelter at Toughers was getting great use and if we want people to be using public transport, bus shelters were needed to keep the public dry while they waited.
- The opposite side of Toughers was in pitch black without a bus shelter





- Bus shelters for Newbridge near the convent had been brought up at previous municipal district meeting but these had not been put on the list either.
- It was odd that the council only delivered a bus shelter on one side of the road
- What makes a bus shelter a priority

Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that there were over 500 bus shelters to be installed in the county. Priorities were changing all the time, and he acknowledged delays. He said the Transport Department were not looking at new bus shelters for 2024. He informed the members that the opposite side of Toughers would be done but with a pedestrian crossing to go in as well that's what was making it a challenge. The three bus stops in question were on the list but just not an immediate priority.

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

#### **KN09/1024**

#### **Traffic Calming Policy**

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

That the council reviews its Traffic Calming Policy with regards to the review, design and implementation of standardised/minimum standards of traffic management measures where regional roads pass through villages and settlements within this Municipal District, examples include Kildangan, Mountrice, etc.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council Traffic Calming Policy was approved by Kildare County Council in September 2020 and was reviewed in 2022.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that he was really asking to standardise traffic management measures in all villages and settlements and was using Kildangan and Mountrice as an example. He accepted the report, but the report did not really answer his motion. He asked that

this could be referred the Transport SPC to be reviewed. He asked what minimum standards were coming into villages and towns. Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that this was an item to be put on the Transport SPC.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that the Traffic Calming Policy be reviewed by the Transport SPC, and report be noted.

**KN10/1024**  
**Morris Crossroads**

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

That the council installs signage to warn drivers of the hidden cross, Morris Crossroads caused by dip in the local road?

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The Municipal District Office agree to assess this location, if deemed necessary the Municipal District Office will agree to installing signage at this location.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that this stretch of road from Morris Crossroads before Cherryville from the Lackagh direction had a dip in the road and needed signage to make drivers aware.

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

**KN11/1024**  
**Ard Mhuire to the Bog Cross**

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

That the council erects lighting from Ard Mhuire to the Bog Cross (about 5 lamp posts) to complete the illuminated walkway around Rathangan

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the public lighting section has requested the Public Lighting Maintenance Contractor to provide a quotation. The work will be carried out depending on its KLIPS ranking and availability of funds.

Councillor O'Loughlin informed the members that there was a 3km route that was used for walking and this part was the only section that was not lit up and it was on the outskirts of the town. He said it was great to see people using it but as it was coming into the winter and the evenings were getting darker earlier, he felt it would not be utilised as much. He asked for clarification on what KLIPS was.

Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS) was a priority list for public lighting. He said that there were limited resources but there had been more and more requests. He would circulate the list of priorities.

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

#### **KN12/1024**

#### **Rathangan Youth, Arts and Recreational Community Centre**

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

That the council takes control of the Rathangan Youth, Arts and Recreational Community Centre (RYARC) carpark as during the day it is being used as the town carpark.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Rathangan does not operate under parking byelaws. The Transport Department would not recommend the introduction of parking byelaws in Rathangan at this time nor is it feasible to take over the operation of a site in private ownership outside of parking bye-laws.

Councillor O'Loughlin informed the members that this was a local community centre with the car park being used by the public for everyday use and with the volume of traffic the car park had potholes. The yard now needed maintenance and asked could the council tarmacadam this yard. The property is privately owned but the car park was used by the public. The Meetings Administrator informed the members that he believed this was brought up previously by another councillor and would go back and check the report on this and believed it was not in favour as this was privately owned.

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

**KN13/1024**  
**Connolly's Chemist, Kildare Town**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle  
That the council uses a Section 38 to deliver a disabled bay in front of Connolly's chemist, Claregate street, Kildare town.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the delivery of a disabled parking bay at this location would be problematic. There is insufficient room to allow for the additional 0.9 metre circulation space required for parallel parking and the close proximity to the crossroads in particular, as drivers would be required to exit vehicles into the traffic flow.

Councillor Doyle informed the members that she did not accept this report. She said that there was a disabled bay at the other end of this road and did not see what the difference was. She said she would be happy to meet with the district engineer to discuss this. It was a busy pharmacy and with a disabled bay outside it would make it convenient for vulnerable road users. Councillor Doyle requested since there was a delay in the Parking Bye Laws that a Section 38 should start next month unless the parking Bye Laws had started. Councillor Pender informed the members that he did recognise the issue in the report but there had to be a safe location for a disabled bay for vulnerable users to be able to conveniently access basic necessities especially a pharmacy.



Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that this was a desk top assessment, and he would talk to the district engineer on her return. Councillor Doyle informed the members that she could not wait on Parking Bye Laws, and she said she had met the Municipal District Engineer before and there was no issue on a technical side.

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

#### **KN14/1024**

#### **Parking Byelaws for Kildare Town**

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

That the council provides a progress report on Parking Byelaws for Kildare Town?

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Transport Department was reviewing its work programme for the updating of parking bye-laws at present and will prioritise Kildare town to ensure consistency with the County Parking Policy adopted by the members in December 2022.

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

#### **KN15/1024**

#### **Low-Cost Accident Scheme**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillors Balfe and Pender

That the council includes the R415 between the Kilmeague and Milltown specifically around the coordinates 53.211676, -6.863879, for consideration as part of the Low-Cost Accident Scheme or other similar programmes

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The Municipal District office agree to assess and if suitable, we will put the location forward for consideration as a Low-Cost Accident Scheme.

Councillor Pender informed the members there were numerous accidents around this area and an assessment was needed. He asked if this could be put on the progress report.

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

### **KN16/1024** **Feasibility Study**

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

Can the council provide a status update on my previous motion asking the Council to carry out a feasibility study into linking Corbally Harbour to Newbridge to Pollardstown Fen and on to Milltown Canal feeder as a first step to developing a 50km amenity canal loop?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Corbally Canal / Liffey Valley Enhancement Project Feasibility Study

A feasibility study is currently being prepared to explore the potential for the provision of a link from Naas to Newbridge via the Corbally Canal and a new link to the River Liffey corridor. The feasibility study is being part-funded by the national Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS). The feasibility study is also considering a link southward to Kilcullen along the River Liffey. Further links from Newbridge northwards are outside the scope of the current feasibility study, however this 50km amenity loop is included in the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment that is currently being finalised. A feasibility study to explore these further links can be considered in the future subject to funding and resources.

The report was noted.

**KN17/1024**  
**Oghill Rail Bridge**

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

Can the council provide any suggestions/options that could be implemented to improve the safety at the Oghill rail bridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that due to the constraints of the proximity to the railway bridge and walls, there are very limited options to the Municipal District Office. We can upgrade road markings and signage at this location.

The report was noted.

**KN18/1024**  
**Cattle Grid**

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

Have the council considered putting a cattle grid at Brownstown on the Suncroft road to try and control the persistent problem of sheep roaming off the Curragh? If so, what was the outcome?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office have investigated this on several occasions, the ideal location has a number of underground services that prohibit us from installing it at this location. It should be noted that there are approximately 34 cattle grids on the Curragh that the Municipal District Office have responsibility for maintaining. They cost between €50k and €80k to replace and there are at least three that require replacement in 2025.

The report was noted.

**KN19/1024**  
**Pedestrian Crossing at Prestonbrook, Millbrook Road Rathangan**

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

Can the council please provide an update as to when the pedestrian crossing at Prestonbrook, Millbrook Road Rathangan will become operational.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that we are waiting on the ESB connection to be processed.

Councillor Balfe asked for clarification if there was a timeline for this connection. The Executive Engineer informed the members that it was in the hands of the ESB and had no timeline. The report was noted.

### **KN22/1024 Road Projects**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender  
Can the council provide a comprehensive geographic breakdown of all road projects undertaken in this Municipal District over the last five years. This report should include details on project locations, funding allocated and funding source e.g. Municipal District Budget, LPT, NTA, etc?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Transport Department circulate the Roads Programme to the elected members on an annual basis outlining the budgets for the relevant year including Municipal District funding. The outturn for the Capital Programme by year and by Municipal District is included in Appendix 10 of the Annual Financial Statement, also issued to members on an annual basis. The Agresso financial system and our pavement management system provide additional budget control and project management information, however, it would take a considerable investment of resources to extract the information requested by the councillor on a Municipal District level.

Councillor Pender informed the members that he had only received a report from 2023 – 2025 but had asked for the last five years. He said he had asked for these reports as he was looking to see where the allocated funding was being spent. Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that he would circulate the missing years.

The report was noted.





**KN23/1024**  
**Recreational Facility in Monasterevin**

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

That the council includes in their next workplan the feasibility of the provision of an additional youth recreational facility in Monasterevin in the form of a skatepark or similar type space.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there is no objection in principle to carrying out a feasibility study for a youth recreational facility in Monasterevin. However, there are existing commitments to projects in the MD

- Development of Cherry Avenue
- Additional playgrounds in Newbridge
- Improvement works along the towpath in Newbridge Linear Park
- Part 8 Old Kilcullen Walking Route
- Feasibility Study Monasterevin to Portarlington

These works will continue into 2025 and will have to be advanced and or completed before any other projects can be considered. Additionally, a budget would also have to be identified to develop any youth recreational facility.

Councillor Balfe informed the members he worked with young community groups and felt that there was a need for a recreational facility in Monasterevin for older children. The playgrounds in Monasterevin were adequate but not for older children.

The members raised the following points:

- They were aware that the Parks Department were overwhelmed
- Could a skate park could be delivered quickly
- Could the municipal district office take on the responsibilities of this from Parks as this department had a lot of projects to finish
- Members previously requested a meeting with Parks to try and prioritise projects it would be helpful if this could go ahead and might help with managing community's expectations

- The meeting would also help the members know their budget for projects ahead of allocating money next year,
- Could the meeting also include the municipal district office
- Could the council look at outsourcing the provision of the skatepark using LPT funding
- A meeting was needed as soon as possible to put a structure in place and know where the municipal district stood.
- Councillor Pender was on the other side of the Newbridge Skatepark when being developed and said that trying to get it up and running was very difficult.
- The council needed to prioritise services for young people
- The members knew what the constraints were, and they needed another way forward to drive this delivery

Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that he would take all the comments on board and agreed to give a presentation to the members in the new year. The District Manager informed the members that the Parks Department had outlined their priorities and without funding for a skatepark this could not be developed. The members requested that a meeting take place with the Parks Department and the Municipal District Office before the end of the year before the members started allocating LPT and would help form their decisions before allocating LPT.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Balfe and seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all members present that a meeting would be arranged with the Parks Department and the Municipal District office before the end of the year and that the report be noted.

### **KN24/1024** **Housing Grants**

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

That the council provides clarity on workings of both private households and council tenant grants to help manage people's expectations. In the case of private households when will grants be approved from time of receipt and in the case of Priority 1 council tenants when will their works be carried out and how many Priority 1 cases in this municipal district were approved and listed for works in 2024

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that The Housing Department administer four grants schemes as follows

Private households: - Housing Adaptation Grant, Housing Mobility Aid Grant, Housing Aid for Older persons

Council Tenants: Disabled Person Grants

We received funding of €4.8 million to deliver the grants programmes in 2024 and have sought additional funding of €250,000 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to increase the number of Disabled Person Grants in 2024, a decision on this awaited. Funding is awarded on a county wide basis, we do not allocate amounts per municipal districts.

The January Chief Executive Report provided a comprehensive overview of the grants programme and is appended for your convenience.

In April 2024 the Grants team emailed all Elected Members to advise that we are only accepting emergency Housing Aid for Older Persons application, such as heating system repairs, emergency structural and electrical repairs. The other schemes remain open for applications.

Approval of Private Grants - Housing Adaptation Grant and Mobility Aid Grant:

On receipt of a valid application– only works recommended by an Occupational Therapist (OT) can be approved.

A Minimum of two quotes are required. Approval on average 6-8 weeks from submitting valid application. This is dependent on applicants sending in quotes in a timely manner.

Housing Aid for Older Persons Private Grant – 6 month waiting list due to high demand. New applications restricted to emergency works only i.e. failure of a heating system, emergency roof repairs, electrical works. To be reviewed in 2025.

Priority 1 works for Disabled Person Grants has a waiting period on average of 6 months depending on the size of the works. Extensions take 6-12 months and only a limited number can be carried out in 1 year. Depending on cost departmental approval is needed which further delays works.

The number of Priority 1 works carried out in the Kildare – Newbridge Municipal District for 2024 year to date is 18 at a cost of €316,248.00 excluding VAT.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that she was confused as to what applications were being accepted because in June of this year an application for a new boiler replacement had not been accepted with the application being returned without being processed, then in July of this year another application was accepted and the name kept on a list. She asked for clarity on the situation to be better able to advise people and help people to manage their expectations. She asked about council tenants that were priority one and how many were on the list. And for anyone on a priority two the wait was longer as the Council had to work through priority one first before moving on to priority two cases. This was really worrying because priority 1 people were in some cases palliative or at end of life and time was against them. She asked what applications were being accepted. Councillor T O'Dwyer asked if there could be an open and closing date to help manage and budget applications. Councillor P O'Dwyer asked how do you move from each priority and was the criteria for priority listing done at a local or national level.

Ms S Farrer informed the members that this was a national scheme, and it was the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage that set out the priority criteria. She said that the council were not dealing with priority 3 at the moment as there was no budget and only dealing with priority 1 applications. She informed the members that the Council were currently only accepting emergency housing aid for older persons applications such as heating system repairs, emergency structural and electrical repairs. Windows and doors repairs were currently not being accepted. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted.

**KN25/1024**  
**Picnic Benches**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer  
Can the council confirm if it plans to upgrade the picnic benches on Main Street Newbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office have no budget in 2024 to upgrade the benches in question.

Councillor P O'Dwyer asked for clarification from the municipal district office if the picnic benches were the responsibility of the municipal district office as Public Realm had said it was. Mr R Harte informed the members that it was not their responsibility.

The report was noted.

**KN26/1024**  
**Newbridge Town Hall**

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

That the council updates the reservation policy of Newbridge Town Hall to ensure that the facility is accessible to community groups wishing to host once-off weekday evening events that promote civic engagement activities.

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

A report was received from the Facilities Department informing the members that Newbridge Town Hall is currently booked through facilities on a first come first served basis. Facilities currently have two separate pricing structures, one for commercial and a subsidised rate for community use. Community Groups are facilitated on that basis. This has provided an ongoing nearly full utilisation of the building, and the associated revenue is collected by Kildare County Council.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that the Newbridge Town Hall was a victim of its own success. She asked if it was possible to make one day available every week to help community groups?

The members raised the following points:

- Newbridge Town Hall was a massive unique space
- Councillor Pender had suggested before that an online booking system should be developed so people could see what days were available
- The perception was that it was a Kildare County Council Hall rather than a community town hall as the public had no idea who was using it and this needed to be improved
- The hall should not be for commercial ventures, it should be for the community and used by the community

- What percentage of the space was being used
- Could the policy for the town hall be circulated to the members

Mr B Griffith informed the members that unfortunately there was only one town hall in Newbridge. The hall was benefiting the community and not businesses. He said there were a lot of community events being held in the hall. He said that freeing up one day a week was not going to solve the problem. A number of groups had pre booked the hall every week and if facilities were to take make one day available every week some group was going to lose out. Facilities would recommend other places to people that they could not facilitate. He said they were managing the best they could. He informed the members that 70% of bookings were pre booked.

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

#### **KN27/1024**

#### **Riverbank Arts Centre**

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

That the council provides an update on the current status and timeline for the redevelopment of the Riverbank Arts Centre.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that The Riverbank Design Team are currently working on preliminary design and the submission for Part 8 Planning. A funding stream has yet to be identified to progress the redevelopment plans to the detailed design and construction phase.

Councillor Pender informed the members that the Riverbank development had been coming down the line but had not seen any development. He said that Part 8 for the library was happening aswell and felt that it would benefit to have both happening at the same time. He said he would like to see progress on the redevelopment. The members should be involved in the early stages of Part 8's if permissible under the legislation before they came to the members for approval as he felt it might prevent changes at a later stage.



Ms E Donnelly informed the members that she could not speak on the Part 8 for the library as this was separate. She said that the preplanning had taken place, and the documentation was being worked and were looking to move forward as soon as possible She said that a consultation plan would be presented to the members when ready.

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

### **KN28/1024** **Kildare-Newbridge Draft Budget Plan 2025**

Under Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 requires that a draft budgetary plan for the municipal district to be prepared under the direction of the chief executive and submitted for consideration by the municipal district members for each municipal district. This draft budgetary plan contains the discretionary funding which is made available to municipal district members The total provision allocation for the General Municipal Allocation for 2025 is €20,788,655, of which €5,085,749 is based on the retained LPT as voted for by Members in September.

The total provisional General Municipal Allocation for the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District is €4,989,385 (€4,116,827 in 2024)

The members raised the following points:

- Should the members consider how they allocated funding to Public Realm and the Municipal District office as Public Realm developed the concept.
- As a Municipal District we seemed to be down money under every heading pro rata
- Kildare Newbridge was larger than any other Municipal District
- The council needed to start looking at Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District, the district was growing, and more investment was needed
- How could the members support Departments
- Resident Association grants still the same which had to be topped up every year with LPT
- Not aware of any sponsored litter bins, where were they
- The Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office was understaffed and no senior engineer in place this was not acceptable

- There was €8k for Playgrounds would this be for maintenance of preexisting playgrounds
- Overall Kildare-Newbridge Municipal district was up on this year's budget
- Would support the draft budget
- Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District make up 25% of the council
- The member's priority was to support the area office and deliver the tangibles
- Was the system being applied too crude
- Road Sweeping for Kilcullen comes out of Naas budget, why were they split?
- With the new speed limit review would the signage for this be coming out of the budget
- LPT was down from last year

Ms E Hanlon informed the members of the following points:

- Budget for each municipal district is based on Kilometre of road etc
- LPT was agreed by the members with 50% shared evenly then the remaining 50% was based on the number of members in each municipal district
- According to AIRO Kilcock was the largest growing town and Naas was the largest growing municipal district
- Staff retention was an issue, but the council was doing its best
- Signage for the speed limit review would be a separate budget
- There was increase in street cleaning of €60k
- The budget for playgrounds was for maintenance
- The management of staff was an executive function.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by all members present that the Kildare-Newbridge Draft Budget Plan 2025 be adopted without amendments.

**KN29/1024**  
**Hillcrest Estate Kilcullen**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer  
Can the council provide a status update on the taking in charge of Hillcrest Estate Kilcullen as to what stage it is at, next steps, anticipated works and timelines?



A report was received from Building and Development Control Department informing the members that the taking in charge of Hillcrest, Kilcullen forms part of the Development Control Legacy team portfolio. It is included in the priority list for progressing for taking in charge and is currently under review by the team.

The report was noted.

#### **KN30/1024**

#### **Allen Court, Allen**

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

Can the council outline all outstanding issues with the unfinished estate in Allen Court, Allen.

A report was received from the Building and Development Control Department informing the members that Allen Court estate is serviced by standalone Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure (DPI). Allen Court requires capital investment to repair and complete the DPI. From 1 January 2024, Uisce Éireann, as the national water authority, have been assigned responsibility for the remediation of DPI. Should you have any queries with respect to the longer-term remediation of this infrastructure, your query should be directed to Uisce Éireann at:

[Operations@water.ie](mailto:Operations@water.ie)

The roads, footpaths and public lighting and associated infrastructure also require investment. In the absence of a Developer, Kildare County Council are responsible for this infrastructure. However, Kildare County Council have not received a valid taking in charge request from the Developer or the property owners, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The report was noted.

#### **KN31/1024**

#### **Sports Campus**

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

That the council outlines the steps necessary to develop a Sports Campus in Newbridge and to include how the necessary finance might be procured.

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

A report was received from the Community Department informing the members that Kildare County Council is undertaking a survey of sporting organisations and recreational groups in County Kildare that participate in active and passive recreational activities, including those that host activities (e.g. schools, leisure centres, community centres and gyms), to inform us about themselves, their membership, where they undertake their activities, the level of activity and what they need in place to ensure that they can operate effectively. The survey will help Kildare County Council understand the level of current recreational provision and identify any shortfalls that need to be addressed to meet the existing needs of the county.

The results of the survey will help to develop a number of sports and recreation strategies for Kildare County Council which will inform decisions including project development and funding for such projects.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that the provision of a community space was a huge issue as far as he was concerned. He asked if he could have the exact steps necessary to develop a sports campus in Newbridge. He asked when the survey would be completed and what were the stages. Councillor Pender informed the members that he recognised the importance of the survey for sports facilities. Ms P O'Brien informed the members that the closing date for the survey was Friday 25 October. She said that there were three plans happening at the moment and they would help identify what the gaps were, what was already in place and what community spaces were available. She said the steps would be that once the survey was completed then the department would need to assess what the needs were and then needed to consider funding streams. Ms P O'Brien informed the members that the council were looking at a community space with a sports facility in it and once it was all finalised the members would be updated and would announce soon.

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

The meeting concluded.