



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 17 April 2024
in the Council Chamber**

Members Present: Councillors P Curran (Mayor), A Connelly, N Connolly, N Heavey, P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer, R Power

Remote Attendance: Councillors K Duffy, F McLoughlin Healy, C Pender.

Apologies: Councillor S Doyle

Officials Present: Ms E Hanlon (District Manager), Mr M McLoughlin (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer), Ms S Bookle (LCDC Co-ordinator), Ms E Price (Administrative Officer), Ms A Louw (Senior Staff Officer) Ms E Donnelly (A/Arts Officer), Mr C O'Toole (A/Administrative Officer), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

KN01/0424

Declarations of Interest

There were no 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.

KN02/0424

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 20 March 2024 and the progress report was noted.



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

KN03/0424

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024- 2029

The members received a presentation from Ms S Bookle LCDC Co-ordinator on the Draft Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024- 2029

Ms. S Bookle Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Co-ordinator presented a briefing, based on the draft LECP sent to the members on 01 March (recirculated 20 March). She had worked with Ms. J McNabb (Head of Enterprise) to prepare the plan. The purpose of the briefing was to:

- Inform members of the process to develop the LECP.
- For their consideration of the draft objectives (section 7) to ensure consistency with:
 - a) Kildare County Development Plan
 - b) Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
 - c) Consistency between the economic and community elements.

Process to develop the LECP

- Members were reminded that this was a statutory plan which commenced in February 2023. Detailed guidelines underpin the development of the plan.
- The economic element is overseen by the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning, Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and community element by the Local Community Development Committee. An advisory steering group was in place. All structures have met between six and eight times since commencement.
- The preparation stage concluded in July 2023, with a draft vision and four high level goals.
- Broad ranging consultation took place between July and November 2023, with over 1,300 people engaging. The final draft vision and high level goals were agreed in December 2023.
- The draft objectives were prepared and agreed by the LCDC and SPC in February.



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- Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) screenings were completed and the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) have considered the draft plan for consistency with the County Development Plan, RSES and consistency between community and economic elements and were recommending one change to the draft to include the retail hierarchy which was a very minor change. If the Municipal District members approve the draft plan for consistency, it would be presented for approval at the full council meeting in April.

The Members raised the following points:

- Were particularly impressed with how amendments/changes were made following consultation.
- Commended the team on the Draft Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan
- It was a comprehensive document and thanked the team.
- The plan was discussed at all SPC meetings and that there was consideration of all issues raised.
- Recommendations were given at the Regional Assembly to include retail hierarchy could this be included.
- Highlighted that while it was omitted the process to develop this plan from the bottom up with clear consultation was central to its development.
- Asked if work to support self-help groups in rural areas and promote community groups in Newbridge could be incorporated at this stage?
- Were there enough resources?

Ms S Bookle informed the members that while retail was not in the policy section of the plan, there were a number of objectives to support retail development in the county. The implementation plan was being finalised and supporting self-help groups could be discussed. She said that they did have resources coming into Kildare however, there were gaps and with more resources more could be done but needed to spend wisely.

Resolved: The members all agreed that the draft LECP was consistent with the County Development Plan, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and that the community and



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economic elements were also alligned and agreed to present the plan for approval at the full council meeting in April.

KN04/0424 Municipal District Road Works

Road Resurfacing Works:

The Municipal District office is currently preparing the Roads program for 2024.

Local Property Tax (LPT) / Paid Parking:

- Footpath is complete at Maryville Kildare town.
- Road overlay is complete in Pairc Mhuire.
- Footpath works are complete on Milbrook road Rathangan.
All 2023 LPT works are now complete.
- 2024 LPT programme of works is currently being prepared.

Roads Program.

Tender preparation ongoing for the annual roads Programme:

Tender awarded for works in:

- Rathangan – works have now commenced in Rathangan.
- Newbridge – Works have now commenced in Athgarvan.
- Milltown.

Kildare:

Roads were patched at: St Evins Park, Bishopsland, Maryville, Rathbride, Rathmuck and Redhills. Drainage works were completed at Redhill's, this included the installation of 6 - 18" twin wall piping to relieve flooding in the area. The Municipal District office are also installing a metal grating to ensure the drain remains clear of debris in the future. In addition to the works at Redhills, drainage issues were cleared at Rathbride Kildare town.

Timber fencing was repaired due to road traffic accidents on the R445 between Kildare and Ballymany and the R445 between Kildare and Monasterevin.



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New Welcome to Monasterevin signs were installed on the R445 on approach from Kildare town, Portarlinton, Kildangan, Ross Gloss, Ballykelly, and Rathangan. Welcome to Mountrice signs were also installed at Mountrice Cross.

Other works completed:

- Clearing footpaths after snowfall in early March,
- Cleaning of street benching in the area.
- Clearing of leaves in Kildare town, Monasterevin and Kildangan
- Removal of obsolete road signage.

Newbridge and surrounding areas:

These works are completed along with the day to day works litter picking, emptying bins road sweeping around town centre, back streets and lanes. The Municipal District office also remove trees and fallen debris from storms etc.

McGuinness Jetting Unit Works carried out at Main Street Newbridge, Maddens town area, Limerick Lane, Ramblers Court, Athgarvan school and Pitch and Putt Area.

Drainage Works: Maddenstown, Athgarvan.

The Municipal District office has created a new soak hole along the edge of Athgarvan Pitch and Putt course for the surface water on the main road to drain into ensuring soakage for years to come.

Scabbling Works: Allenview Heights, Morrystown, The Meadows, Lakeside, Moorefield Park, Moore Avenue, Treacy Meadows, Rathcurragh.

Pothole Repair were carried out in Athgarvan.

New poles were erected in Dara Park for speed ramps.



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Planing works: Main Street, Newbridge (near Aldi) - a permanent pothole repair was completed at location. The Municipal District office carried out work at the Priory estate to allow lying water on the road to reach the gully and replenished the double yellow lines.

Patching Unit Works were completed at Curragh Racecourse, back road to Kildare, Curragh Camp and Curragh View estate Brownstown.

Kilcullen:

Pothole Repairs works carried out on the R448, Green Avenue, Newlands. Harristown, Corbally, Brannockstown village, Castlekealy, Aliginstown, Chapel Lane Twomilehouse, Swordlestown.

Gully cleaning completed at Swordlestown and Brannockstown.

Watercuts works at Dunstown straight, Twomilehouse Common, Knockbounce to Milemill and Green Avenue.

Washing road signage at R412 Brannockstown and Dunlavin.

Installation of road signage at Kennel Bridge.

Rathangan:

Drainage works completed at the following:

- Hill of Allen, Milltown at Hawkfield GAA.
- Two gullies fitted at Milltown at canal bridge.
- Works at L3003 Whelan Cross.
- Rathangan GAA soakaway extension works.
- Barrestown Road/Thomastown Road at (Paddy's Bridge) new gullies and 48m of drainage pipe going to the soakaway gully.

Pothole works completed at R414 Newtown, The Glebe, Rathangan town, Barrestown road, Ballintine Cross to Russellstown and Saint Patricks estate.

Signage works- R414 chevron sign fitting, relocating sign at Feighcullen, multiple junction location green bollards replacement/maintenance works.



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Hedge cutting at Feighcullen junction, R401 bend and R414 bend.

Footpath works carried at Rathangan GAA to replace the sharp corner with a curbed one.

Milltown ramp extension built at the end of the footpath at Jehovah's Witnesses Church.

The report was noted.

KN05/0424

ONE Deputation

The Members received a deputation from Mr C Kirwan Chief Executive Officer of ONE (Organisation of National Ex Service Personnel).

Mr C Kirwan gave a presentation informing the members of the following:

- The Department of Defence indicated in June 2000 that there were approximately 140,000 veterans of the Defence Forces at that time.
- He explained some of the causes for veterans being homeless.
 - Family breakdown.
 - Mental Health issues.
 - Substance misuse.
 - Institutionalisation.
 - Poverty.
 - Structural issues.
 - Suicide / Suicidal Ideation.
 - The differing impact of service on male veterans, female veterans, and veterans of differing sexual orientation.
- ONE prepares veterans for independent living.
- ONE objective was to:
 - Support the needs of Irish veterans by the provision of accommodation to homeless and other veterans in need of such domestic accommodation in its Veterans' Homes and the provision of other advice and support to veterans through its nationwide network of Branches and Veterans' Support Centres.



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- Comradeship
- Advocacy, to advocate with the Department of Defence, Defence Forces, and other elements of national and local government on behalf of veterans.
- Remembrance
- ONE was established 73 years.
- They have 33 Branches, 3 Area Councils and 15 Veteran Support Centres
- Four full time officers and hopes to have Seven by 2026

The members raised the following points:

- Thanked ONE for their presentation.
- Would help where possible.
- A previous motion had been submitted about identifying a premises in Newbridge for ONE and had there been any development on this?
- They had a family member in one of their shelters and complimented their services.
- Needed to continue to highlight the services of ONE.
- The Curragh Camp was not mentioned as a possibility for accommodation was there a reason for this?
- Could a type of development like McAuley Place in Naas be considered?
- Commended their goals.
- How did ONE achieve value for money?
- What would the capacity be for the potential Newbridge facility?
- What about the issues with army pensions

Mr C Kirwan informed the members of the following points:

- A Premises had been identified in Newbridge and positive engagement with Kildare County Council had been ongoing and this could be possible project for 2025.
- There were approximately 7,000 – 10,0000 veterans in Newbridge.
- The Curragh Camp had not been looked at as this was a military environment which could cause challenges to homeless vulnerable veterans as some of their issues extended from the military environment.



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- ONE wanted to enable homeless veterans to go into a vibrant area like Newbridge to help them achieve a level of independence.
- The homes for veterans had a house manager and chef that worked with the residents to help them try to live independently.
- The average cost to run a house was €65,000, residents contributed to the cost which was assessed based on individual incomes.
- Currently homes in the Dublin area are state funded. ONE will continue to pursue state funding for homes outside the Dublin area.
- The potential property in Newbridge they hoped that it could be a 5–6-bedroom home and were working with Kildare County Council.
- ONE was not involved in army pensions.

Councillor Power informed the members that Councillor Doyle had sent her apologies and on behalf of the Fianna Fáil party we would support ONE where possible. Mr C Kirwan thanked all the members for the opportunity to make the presentation and looked forward to working with them.

KN06/0424 Residual LPT

Councillor A Connolly proposed:

- € 5,000 to the Environment Section for Rathangan Tidy Towns towards the provision of storage unit/shed at Rathangan Cemetery.
- €1,000 to Milltown Tidy Towns towards Canal Festival expenses
- €1,000 to Rathangan Women's Shed towards the running of courses/demonstrations etc., throughout the year.
- €1,000 to Rathangan Boys Scouts for the purchase of canvas tents
- €10,500 to Rathangan GAA towards the removal of trees, the installation of extra car parking spaces to facilitate the extra footfall of personnel using the walkway.



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Councillor Power proposed on behalf of Councillor Doyle:

- €10,000 for Kildare Derby Festival to support Mural project in Kildare town.

Councillor Heavey proposed:

- €1,000 to OConnell Drive Residents Association toward development of a biodiversity area.
- €5,200 to Liffey Terrace Residents Association towards procurement of steel containers for amenity plants to define the area outside their front doors on the street.

Councillor Heavey had asked that the remainder of his 'members nominations' go to Kildare-Newbridge Municipal for Roads - footpaths improvement in Newbridge.

The District Manger informed the members that this could not be approved as Councillor Heavey had not an exact figure and there was no individual LPT just a contingency fund that the members could use.

Councillor N Connolly informed the members that at February's 2024 meeting he had proposed €500 to Dara Park Resident Association which was an error and should have been Grove Residents Association.

Seconded by Councillor Pender that this allocation be amended to pay Grove Residents Association.

Councillor P O'Dwyer asked if the members could be given a final breakdown of remaining LPT. The members were informed this would be sent to them.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillors A Connolly, Power, N Connolly, Heavey and seconded by Councillors Power and Pender and agreed by all members present that all the above allocations be approved.



KN07/0424

Mooney's Road Junction

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

That the council consider a three way stop design at the Mooney's Road Junction leading to the Ring of Roseberry and Hawkfield.

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 further to site visit, the Municipal District office have carried out an assessment and agree that the junction will benefit from improvement works. The Municipal District office agree to prepare a design and revert back to Councillor O'Dwyer. All works are subject to budget availability.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that this road was very narrow rural road and it had become a rat run for drivers and was now choked with traffic.

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

KN08/0424

Kilcullen for a public car park

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

That the council consider including the purchase of land in Kilcullen for a public car park when reviewing the Capital Budget in May 2024.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there are no plans to purchase land in Kilcullen for a carpark at the present time. The requirement for additional car parking will need to be considered in the context of the shift towards increased access to retailing by public transport, cycling and walking. The resources to



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deliver a carpark in the Capital Budget 2025-2027 will require an assessment in the context of other commitments and priorities already identified in the current programme and in the context of a review of the parking bye-laws for Kilcullen.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that Kilcullen was a vibrant town with independent small businesses and there was no public car park. She said that people coming from local rural towns/villages to Kilcullen for shopping, doctors, pharmacy must use their cars as walking/cycling would not be viable in these situations. She urged the council give this some thought. She emphasised the need to "Keep Kilcullen in Business".

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

KN09/0424

Baronstown Lane, Milltown

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

That the council carry out essential maintenance/restoration works on Baronstown Lane, Milltown as a matter of urgency.

The motion was proposed by Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor N Connolly

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office agree to include this location in our routine maintenance schedule.

Councillor A Connolly informed the members that she had raised this on a few occasions over the last five years. She had been out canvassing the last few weeks and noticed potholes and said the lane was in very poor condition.

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



KN10/0424

Pedestrian lights in the Newbridge area

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

That the council add additional time to pedestrian lights in the Newbridge area, in an effort to support vulnerable road users.

The motions were proposed by Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council, Sustainable Transport section fully subscribe to the hierarchy of road users, as set out by the Department of Transport with pedestrians, including people whose mobility is impaired, at the top of consideration when designing schemes. The section includes the Traffic Management team who, despite resource constraints, works closely with the National Transport Authority (NTA) funded team to develop solutions at signalised crossings that prioritise vulnerable road users.

In particular, new crossings and refurbishment of existing signalised crossings have been the priority for the team over the past few years and this will continue in this Municipal District area, subject to an appropriate funding stream. Options to reduce the width of crossings are considered when planning these works and this reduces the length of carriageway that pedestrians need to cross. This is the most effective way of prioritising pedestrians crossing the road by reducing the time needed to cross. Options to extend the timings of the "amber man" are included in Town Centre locations and kerbside detectors are used to facilitate this, when required.

Councillor Pender raised the following points:

- This motion was raised last year and still the same issue was there for people with a disability, sight impairment, sensory, physical and cognitive.
- Universal measures and national guidelines did not always work and this needed to be recognised.
- Access group and other organisations reported that for some individuals they would only get two-thirds of the way across the pedestrian lights in some areas.
- The council needed to look at additional time for the pedestrian lights.



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- The limitation was understood but sometimes there was a need to build a society around individuals.

Councillor P O'Dwyer asked if it depended on an area as to how the pedestrian lights were timed?

Councillor Pender informed the members he did not accept the report. Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that the guidelines were been followed but if there was specific location that they could look at to contact the department.

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

KN11/0424

Scoil Bride, Athgarvan.

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

That the council prioritise footpath upgrade and works at Scoil Bride, Athgarvan.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that these works have commenced on site, including footpath, drainage, junction and road surface improvement.

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

KN12/0424

Bishopsland, Kildare

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

That the council cut back any overgrown vegetation in the back lane of Bishopsland, Kildare at the rear of property (details provided).

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



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office have a very limited budget for hedge cutting/ verge cutting, we concentrate our works on public roads and junctions. At present there is no budget to carry out works at these locations.

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

KN13/0424

St Conleth's footbridge in Newbridge

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to review St Conleth's footbridge in Newbridge to include surface risk assessment?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council Transport Department are aware of the issues in respect of the surface at this location and are reviewing the most appropriate response. The members will be updated once a schedule of works is agreed.

Councillor P O'Dwyer asked for clarification if the boards on the footbridge had to stay as they were found to be slippery. Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that an assessment would be done.

The report was noted.

KN14/0424

L7020, Cherryville, Kildare

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

Can the council confirm any plans to carry out maintenance works on the L7020, Cherryville, Kildare?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the roads programme budget for 2024 is fully allocated, there are no plans at present to include this road.

The report was noted.

KN15/0424

Newbridge Machinery Yard

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

Can the council confirm the status of the Newbridge Machinery Yard and current plans in relation to possible community use?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the construction of the new Machinery Yard is nearing completion with a phased transfer from the existing property expected to be completed by Quarter 3 2024.

It was originally envisaged that the existing site would be sold to offset some of the costs of the new yard, however, given the central location of the site and the need for community services in Newbridge this decision is being revisited by Management Team. The Members will be updated when a final decision is made.

The report was noted.

KN16/0424

Playground in Rathangan

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

That the council investigate the possibility of extending and upgrading the playground in Rathangan to include a wheelchair swing.

The motion was proposed by Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor Power

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there is an existing basket swing in the playground which is considered fully accessible for all users and is inclusive. The provision of a wheelchair swing is exclusive. Best practice for accessible play equipment



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advocates for the use of inclusive equipment that can be used by all rather than exclusive equipment. If a wheelchair swing had to be incorporated into the playground it would require the removal of existing equipment. An expansion of the playground would require the removal of a significant number of trees to facilitate a swing. We would not be in favour of doing this and if another location was to be identified it would require the permission of the community group that own the park.

Councillor Connolly informed the members that she was not happy with the report. The playground in question had been opened since 2014 and needed some TLC as other playgrounds had more modern equipment. Could trees be removed to expand the playground? Mr S Wallace informed the members that installing a wheelchair swing could be looked at but it would mean removing existing equipment. There was a safety issue with wheelchair swing, but it could be considered. He said disability groups wanted inclusion not exclusion.

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

KN17/0424

Skate Park Kilcullen

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

Can the council confirm if it has progressed my previous request to install a skate park on council owned land in Kilcullen?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that a meeting will be arranged with the Councillor to review the area in question, but a preliminary review of the area indicates there is a very limited portion of land which is available and there are issues with how it would be accessed and fit with existing use of land by the GAA and for the industrial estate. Any potential use would also have to be discussed with the Economic Development Section as the site is intended for commercial use rather than recreation and amenity.

The report was noted.



KN18/0424

Affordable housing scheme

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
That the council consider implementing an affordable housing scheme element in all future residential developments in Kilcullen to give local families the opportunity to purchase a house in Kilcullen.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that as advised in the Chief Executive report the council is progressing feasibility studies for the delivery of two direct build social and affordable projects in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District, 32 affordable units are planned for Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare Town and 40 affordable units are planned for Rickardstown, Newbridge.

The council is engaging with developers regarding the potential of delivering affordable turnkey units across the county, including in Kilcullen, to date no agreement has been reached to deliver units in Kilcullen. We will continue to explore all opportunities for affordable delivery, and we have an open call for expressions of interest. The Members will be updated on schemes through the monthly Chief Executives Report.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that she worked closely with individuals on housing queries, and some felt excluded from being able to purchase a house in Kilcullen. She told the members that the council found it hard to deliver that last affordable housing scheme. She was aware there was limited zoning to be offered but needs needed to be met. She felt the council held all the cards when it came to affordable housing. There needed to be a wide range of variety for people for resizing/downsizing. Councillor Power informed the members that there had been huge work done to alleviate the pressure, but it was important that this issue was raised. Ms E Price informed the members that the council were actively seeking expressions of interest. She said that there was resizing/downsizing policy in place and if there were specific queries that Councillor T O'Dwyer had she could make contact.



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

KN19/0424

St Patricks Park, Rathangan

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

Cén dul chun cinn atá á dhéanamh maidir le hathghiniúint Pháirc Phádraig, Ráth Iomgháin?

Can the council confirm what progress is being made with the regeneration of St Patricks Park, Rathangan?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the tender for St Patrick's Park was uploaded to e-tenders 22 March 2024. Following a request from a number of tenderers to extend the period to price the tender, an Extension of Time for the return date has been extended to the 13 May 2024. We expect to commence the assessment process following this date, unless a there is further Extension of Time. To date there is good interest being shown in this tender.

Councillor N Connolly informed the members that he would discuss this offline and there had been a lot of interest in the progress of its development.

The report was noted.



KN20/0424

Arts Awards and Bursaries for 2024

The members approved the Arts Awards and Bursaries for 2024 for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

Arts Act Grant 2024				
First Name	Last Name	Municipal District	Brief summary of the proposed project	Award €
Caroline	Darby	Kildare / Newbridge	Platinum Clubhouse and artist Emily Rainsford will collaborate to create a wall-hanging for our clubhouse around the theme of mental health recovery. Alongside this, each participant will create their own handmade book. This project will be carried out in Spring/Summer 2024 in the Platinum Clubhouse.	1500
Cian	O'Náirigh	Kildare / Newbridge	We would like to stage a rehearsed reading of a new play Seift in the Riverbank Arts Centre. Seift is a bilingual play about political grifting, the repurposing of language and history, and the co-optation of nationalist symbols for political movements.	1200
Crooked House	Theatre Comp	Kildare / Newbridge	Fráomhacha is an inclusive theatre project with people with disabilities from the Kare Association from Kildare and international volunteers. By varying videos and theatre play will be created from each participant's life and commonalities, using elements of object, documentary and physical theatre. it will run from June to December 2024.	2050
Dale	Leadon-Bolger	Kildare / Newbridge	To develop a feature length screenplay of my film When Horses Run. Set on the Curragh of Kildare, this story will provide a realistic portrait of the life of the jockey, whereby intense highs are juxtaposed with catastrophic lows in the quest for victory.	2000
Kate	Murphy	Kildare / Newbridge	To support International Artist Residency with Air Guinguada - Spain & Sasso Residency - Switzerland	1600
Liadain	Butler	Kildare / Newbridge	We would like to explore traditional irish herbal remedies while making a 2mtrs mosaic in the Community gardens in Kildare. It will be designed and started in two workshops with the body of work being carried out by the artist with drop in workshops available to the public.	1500
Marta	Iwanowska	Kildare / Newbridge	This comic project focuses on a fictional story of young people wrapped up in a mystery, with diverse cast of characters. It will be aimed at the 12+ age range, featuring designs based on the local area with themes of growing up, grief and camaraderie between unlikely friends.	1000
Noel	Hensey	Kildare / Newbridge	The Arts Act Grant is being sought to: i) Fund my participation in two international group exhibitions at: SET, London, U.K. and OUTPOST, Norwich, U.K. ii) To undertake mentoring with Ceri Hand, from the company Artist Mentor, to develop my art practice and career	2000
Olga	Anacka	Kildare / Newbridge	Learning from my recent exhibition Patching Femininity, I intend to reengage with this work and explore further the subject of a female body. My aim is to create new objects which will provide enhanced participatory experience in upcoming exhibiting opportunities.	800

Arts, Health & Wellbeing Award				
First Name	Last Name	Municipal District	3. Provide a brief summary of your proposed project	
Crooked House	Theatre Comp	Kildare / Newbridge	The Bingo of Life is an art project with the elderly from Newbridge Day Care Centre. It aims to signify their life stories and create connections through reminiscence theatre workshops conducted by art and health professionals. It will run from April to October, culminating in a participatory theatre performance.	4000
Lauren	Hamilton	Kildare / Newbridge	I propose to develop an existing body of work on female health, through the mediums of photography and moving-image. Staring in May, I plan to begin working collaboratively with women in Ireland experiencing conditions such as endometriosis. This work aims to elevate diverse voices and raise awareness in our community.	1500



Kildare County Council

Culture Night Commission Award 2024				
First Name	Last Name	Municipal District	Brief summary of the proposed project	
Kildare town	Community garden	Kildare / Newbridge	Culture Night @ Kildare Town Community Garden A lively evening of music, fun, creative workshops and traditional skills all in the beautiful surrounds of Kildare Town Community Garden. Interactive workshops, live music and demonstrations from local artists including: Beeswax candle making Botanical Printing Furniture Making Planting Seeds Come explore our gardens and meet our members!	2030
Emerging Visual Artist Award, in partnership with Riverbank Arts Centre				
First Name	Last Name	Municipal District	Brief summary of the proposed project	
Fiyin	Oluokun	Kildare / Newbridge	A series of collages reflecting on the lives of the African diaspora in Ireland. How class and races affects how people move through the world: jobs taken, places lived in (direct provision) etc. Aiming to explore identity between two worlds, finding a home in a "foreign" land and integration	2500

Executive Coaching for Creative Professionals Award				
First Name	Last Name	Municipal District	Summarise why you wish to apply for this award and the benefit(s) to your practice	
Lauren	Hamilton	Kildare / Newbridge	This award would nurture and ground me as an artist, through setting goals to develop and maintain a successful career. Through coaching I aim to achieve awareness of my needs in both the creative and business realms, aspirations and my drive for creating work.	600

Local Publishing Award				
First Name	Last Name	Municipal District	Brief summary of the proposed publication, including title	
Greg	Hallahan	Kildare / Newbridge	Stone Med: Journey Through Kildare's Ancient Prehistoric Embark on a mystical exploration of Kildare's ancient landscapes with 'Stone Med,' a captivating travel art book. Through eco-friendly illustrations, delve into the beauty and intrigue of long stones, stone circles, and ancient wells, accompanied by rich history, coordinates, and fascinating stories.	650

Research and Think Award				
First Name	Last Name	Municipal District	3. Provide a brief summary of your proposed body of research/thinking	
Dominic	Thorpe	Kildare / Newbridge	I will deepen my thinking and research on how merging performance art and drawing can productively address the embodied nature of trauma experiences. I will particularly focus on the complex but important area of perpetrator trauma occurring in current ongoing situations of violence, including war, gangland crime and forced migration.	2500

Tyrone Guthrie Centre Bursary Award				
First Name	Last Name	Municipal District	Brief summary of your proposed body of work at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre	
James	Smith	Kildare / Newbridge	I will develop scores for both strings and brass which will accompany already recorded music. I will utilise software and the pianos provided in the space, reacting to both the recordings captured in June 2023 and the large workspace provided.	400
Roisin	Ni Neachtain	Kildare / Newbridge	I am working towards a collection of surrounding poetry as witness, ekphrastic poetry surrounding women's mental health and disability and women's trauma through the myth of Medusa	400

Youth Arts Award				
First Name	Last Name	2. Confirm your Muncipal District	3. Provide a brief summary of your proposed project	
Wayne	Fitzgerald	Kildare / Newbridge	Georgina Kemmy will facilitate an 8-week project exploring nature as an art medium through hands-on workshops that use inspiration from our local hedgerows and trees. Workshops including: Jewellery making Tree Pencils Tie-dying with plants Cyanotype Printing Workshops will take place in various sites around Kildare including The Scout Den, Cherry Avenue, Kildoon Woods and Kildare Town Community Garden	2500



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Ms. E Donnelly informed the members of the embargo in relation to the details of the Arts Awards and Bursaries for 2024 for the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District. The details of these awards should not be publicised until the end of the month. This was to allow time to present proposals at each Municipal District meeting and also to allow time for the applicants to receive their individual responses.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Power seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by the members that the Arts Awards and Bursaries for 2024 for the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District be approved.

KN21/0424

Bye-laws

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor N Connolly
Go leagfadh an Chomhairle amach an t-amlíne don athbhreithniú ar fhodhlíthe éagsúla laistigh den Cheantar Bardasach.

That the council outline the timeline for the review of various bye-laws within the Municipal District.

The motion was proposed by Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor Curran

A report was received from Transport, Environment and Corporate Services Departments informing the members that

Parking Bye-Laws, the statutory time frame for public display is a minimum of four weeks followed by a two-week period for receipt of submissions. The review of parking bye-laws requires a considerable amount of preparatory work including survey work in each town and the preparation of maps. Once the public consultation commences, the assessment of submissions received may require further investigation or amendment prior to consideration by the members. At present, three towns in the municipal district have parking bye-laws – Kildare, Newbridge and Monasterevin. The review of bye-laws in these towns will require clarity in respect of proposed public realm works prior to commencement and will also depend on the review of parking bye-laws in a number of other towns in other municipal districts which are scheduled to commence prior to these. It is not envisaged that any of these parking bye-laws will be reviewed during the lifetime of the current Council.



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Environment Bye-Laws, the council cemetery byelaws came into force in March 2019. There is no statutory requirement nor any plans to review them at present.

Alcohol Bye Laws, Byelaws were made on 30 November 2020 prohibiting the consumption of intoxicating liquor on streets and in public places in the County.

These apply county-wide and were made by Kildare County Council.

The Bye-Laws came into force on 30 December 2020 and are enforced by An Garda Síochána and administered by Kildare County Council. It is not proposed to review these Bye-Laws at present as they are deemed to be fit for purpose.

Casual Trading Bye Laws, Casual Trading Bye Laws were made by this Municipal District in May 2022. It should be noted however that article 89 of the Bye Laws states, "...the Council shall not later than five years from the coming into operation of the Bye Laws conduct a review of fees."

That period has not yet elapsed, and in any event, regulations prohibit the Council using the fee to recover more than the administrative costs of managing the licence and application process, and the members were reluctant to place disincentives to attracting new traders, so the fees are at a very competitive level. In no instance to date has the fee been stated to be a barrier by any applicant. However, in practical terms, with various Public Realm projects in town centres in the district at varying stages, it would be the intention to review the byelaws, when there is complete and final clarity on the Part 8s and where the new developments have impacts on designated casual trading areas. It is apparent that in coming months clarity may emerge as Part 8s are adopted and proceed to construction. Given that there was an extremely extensive review of these bye-laws in 2022, necessitated to achieve compliance with new regulations, the review process should be more curtailed and would take approximately 3-4 months (subject to members approval and Municipal District meetings timetables) and to no complexities or legal challenges arising during the process.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor Curran and agreed by all members present that the report be noted.



KN22/0424
Voter Registration

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

Can the council provide information on any issues that arose in relation to voter registration in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District in the lead up to the previous referendum and plans in place to prevent future occurrences?

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that As members will be aware, from previously circulated presentations, Kildare County Council engaged in a very extensive voter registration campaign during 2023.

Almost 10,000 electors have been added to the Register of Electors for the County since the start of 2023, with almost half added in the lead period to the March referendum. This is an historic increase to voter registration numbers processed in a short period of time. The Register is now continuously rolling, and this number increases daily.

As the members will be aware deadlines apply to registration prior to an electoral event, and despite print, social media, website, and national campaigns by Government (especially the Electoral Commission) about deadlines, it was notable that significant numbers of applicants applied after the deadline.

To reduce the likelihood of this, the Council has been running radio adverts regarding voter registration since April (these will run into May) and will be supplemented by print, social media etc also.

Additional staff have also been deployed to the Registration team in advance of the local elections. We also intend opening on Saturdays in May prior to the deadlines for the local elections.

Prior to the Referendum deadlines, all valid applications submitted that related to the person's right to vote at the Referendum, i.e. new registrations, applicants coming of age from the pending electors list, changes of citizenship, were processed.

The LGMA develop and maintain the online registration IT system, ChecktheRegister.ie, that are used in voter registration by 26 Registration Authorities, and development work is ongoing, taking on board learnings from the voter registration experience of the Referendum. While Kildare County Council inputs to this process, the progression of development work is not in its control.



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As members will know, Kildare County Council operates a phone line on polling days, to assist both the public and presiding officers with any queries regarding voter registration.

Kildare's Register Team's debrief following the Referendum involved a review of the calls received on March 8 and also consideration of contacts with applicants in the weeks prior to the Referendum.

It was evident that there is considerable misunderstanding by some persons regarding the registration process (and that this is an experience nationally), and to address this, Kildare County Council has produced an additional candidates guide on Canvassing and Voter Registration for the local elections 2024, summarising the more prevalent issues, and the appropriate response that candidates can give, to assist the public.

Kildare County Council is the only local authority that has taken this action and has shared this guidance with all other local authorities.

We hope this resource will assist all candidates in helping the public to take the correct and timely action that they must, in order to ensure they can have their say in the Local Elections 2024.

This is now published on the Local Elections 2024 page of our website.

The report was noted.



KN23/0424

Heritage Grant Scheme 2024

The members considered the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2024 allocation for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

No	MD	Name of Group	Project Details	Allocated
1	Kildare	Kilcullen Community Action	Cleaning of sculpture of 'St. Brigid Feeding the Poor' at St. Brigid's Well	1,500
2	Kildare	Dunmurray Rise Residents Association	2 day Nature Camp for children during Heritage Week	1,300
3	Kildare	Bishopsland Awareness Committee	To improve and maintain the aesthetics of the overall estate while maintaining the integrity	900
4	Kildare	Cill Dara Historical Society	Series of monthly talks to include The Natural and cultural History of Wolves in Ireland, From Malin Head to Mizen Head - a journey around the Sea Area Forecast, Richard Oulahan - forgotten Kildare Poet and Patriot	1,200
5	Kildare	Blueway Art Studio / The Passlands Cemetery Committee	Collect and preserve oral memories and oral history of The Passlands Cemetery through recordings and make them accessible for future generations through the Co Kildare archives	1,500
6	Kildare	Rathangan Tidy Towns	Cutting back two large, overgrown cherry laurel trees near the river bank and raising awareness about the problems this plant may cause.	1,000
7	Kildare	Monasterevin Tidy Towns	Joint project between St. Mary's Lane Residents Assoc and Monasterevin TT to conserve and repair the heritage railings, piers, gate and tethering rings on the boundary	1,500
8	Kildare	Curragh Military Museum	To add to the current collection of DF equipment and British Army Equipment. Purchase of a Dial Sight to complete the centre display in the museum which replicates the scene from the firing on the Four Courts in June 1922.	1,500
9	Kildare	Milltown Tidy Towns	To install visual equipment in the Heritage Centre. Historical Trail finger signs. Information panel. Research	1,500
Total				13,100

Councillor Pender declared conflict of interest, he disconnected from the meeting while it was considered.



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Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Power seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by the members that the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2024 for the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District were approved.

KN24/0424

Planning reference 19/745

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

Can the council confirm if planning condition number 2.1 of planning reference 19/745, to receive a detailed design for the proposed refurbishment of the existing traffic signals at the junction between L2032 and R416 Athgarvan Crossroads has been submitted to Kildare County Council?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that no compliance submissions been received to date in relation to Planning application 19/745.

Councillor T O'Dwyer asked for clarification if the developer had been contacted?

The report was noted.

KN25/0424

Bord Na Mona

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

Can the council confirm at what stage the listing of the former Reading and Recreational Officers Quarters with Bord Na Mona ownership is at, under the Record of Protected Structures?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that a Planning Authority may add or delete a structure from its Record of Protected Structures (RPS) through either a review or variation of its development plan as set out in Section 12 of the Act or under prescribed procedures laid out under Section 55 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). Both of the above are statutory processes which require a Planning Authority to determine the special interest of the structure under one or more of the following categories;



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

A Planning Authority, through a detailed assessment of individual structures, must decide whether a structure is worthy of inclusion in the RPS by identifying the characteristics of special interest which would merit its inclusion. As with all statutory processes, these are subject to challenge through the courts. Given that the Record of Protected Structures was recently reviewed as part of the broader 2 year review of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029, there are currently no proposals to add (or delete) structures to the RPS.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that she had submitted a motion on this in 2022 and stated that Bord Na Mona had started the redevelopment and had concerns that the council had missed the opportunity to add to the Record of Protected Structures the former Reading and Recreational Officers Quarters.

The report was noted.



KN26/0424

Community, festival and resident association grant awards

The members considered the community, festival and resident association grant awards assessed by the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department for 2024

Community Grants 2024 for approval Kildare Newbridge M.D.				
No.	Group Name	Project	Grant Requested	Proposed Grant
1	4th Kildare Town Scout Group	Concrete floor and a shelving unit to store equipment	€2,200	€1,430
2	Bishopsland Awareness committee	Annual summer camp	€3,000	€1,300
3	Collaghknock Glebe Residents Association	Fun days / summer camp .	€1,850	€720
4	Curragh Community First Responders	Defibrillator and heated wall unit	€1,550	€1,000
5	Curragh Family Resource Centre	Summer camp project	€2,900	€1,700
6	Curragh Youth Project	Junior Leadership Programme	€1,670	€700
7	Dunmurray Rise Residents association	Gazebo for events and speaker/PA system	€2,000	€1,150
8	Féile Bride Festival Committee	Féile Bri-de	€3,000	€1,000
9	Friends of Pollardstown Fen	Take small groups of interested parties to the heart of the Fen	€1,500	€700
10	Irish United Nations Veterans Association Post 11	Erect a monument in memory of Members of the Defence Forces and An Garda Síochana	€1,699	€935
11	Kilcullen Community 4 Climate Action	Public meeting titled Why being in Nature is good for you.	€300	€300
12	Kilcullen Community Childcare & Education Centre	Defibrillator	€1,500	€1,000
13	Kilcullen Town Hall & Heritage Co. Ltd.	Coffee mornings in the town hall.	€460	€300
14	Kildare 7th Rathangan Scouts	Canadian canoes	€3,000	€1,285
15	Kildare Community Games	Kildare Community Games 2024	€1,500	€1,000
16	Kildare Derby Festival	The Legends Museum	€2,000	€780
17	Kildare Environmental Network	Guest speakers, tree talk and movie	€1,670	€670
18	Kildare Irish Figure Dancing Council	Health & safety training	€3,000	€875
19	Kildare Town Active Retired	Social outings	€3,000	€1,000
20	Kildare Town Community Garden	Purchase of extra hardwearing gardening tools	€3,000	€1,800
21	Kildare Town Knitting Group	Buy wool to knit blankets and small items for residents in local nursing homes.	€600	€500
22	Kildare Town Projects for Cill Dara Irish Dance Group	To run a Faiseanna that invites intercultural dance traditions	€2,110	€500
23	Kildare Town Projects for Cinema Club	A week of cinema during Halloween 2024	€2,900	€1,100
24	Kildare Town Projects for Pooch Parade	Dog show and doggie dedicated market	€2,000	€750
25	Kildare United Indians for Social Harmony & Integration (KUSHI)	Social events and workshops	€2,290	€750
26	Kildare Wildlife Rescue	Pre-formed moulded plastic ponds for swans habits after they	€954	€500
27	KTYP Climate Action group	Gardening workshops	€2,750	€900
28	Lackagh Parents Association	Biodiversity garden	€3,000	€1,500
29	Newbridge Malayali Association	Language class and cultural arts classes for youth members	€3,000	€1,500
30	Liffey Bridge Club	Computer tablets	€2,845	€1,430



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31	Lily Guides	Attend the International Camp being held in Kildare 2025.	€3,000	€1,000
32	Monasterevin Bridge Club	Trolley to store bridge tables securely.	€300	€300
33	Monasterevin Drama Group	Acting workshops with a local Speech and Drama Teacher	€600	€500
34	Monasterevin Mens Shed	New workbenches	€500	€500
35	Monasterevin Parent, Toddler and Baby Group	Events and equipment	€2,120	€800
36	Monasterevin Women's Shed	Introduction to craft of needle felting.	€2,995	€1,000
37	Monasterevin Youth Action	Purchase of technological equipment	€2,680	€900
38	Newbridge Christmas Lights	Christmas lights in Newbridge	€24,000	€24,000
39	Newbridge & Kildare Samaritans	Laptops	€3,000	€650
40	Newbridge Bad Lippspringe Twinning	Flags, bunting, banners.	€1,140	€500
41	Newbridge Womens Shed	Equipment for classes in craft flower arranging etc	€3,000	€1,000
42	Newbridge Family Resource Centre	Facilitators in art, theater, mindfulness	€3,000	€1,000
43	One Town One Voice Singers Kildare Town	Essential equipment to maintain the social aspect of the group	€1,403	€665
44	Rath Players	Purchase lights for drama festival.	€600	€600
45	Rathangan Community Association Ltd,	Replace the fascia and repoint and repair stonework on the bell tower.	€1,500	€900
46	Rathangan first responders	Equipment	€998	€600
47	Rosconnell Junior Leaders Group	Training to become junior leaders	€2,390	€420
48	South Kildare Photography Club	Purchase equipment for the studio	€496	€400
49	Suncroft Community Development CLG	Procure essential garden tools and equipment	€1,208	€790
50	The Kilcullen Market	Christmas market	€1,750	€500
51	The Peoples Market Monasterevin	Events in the community	€2,850	€1,100
52	Bishopsland Awareness Womens Shed	Sign language 6 week course and materials.	€2,150	€1,300
			Total for Approval	€68,500
			Budget	€68,500
			Balance remaining	0



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Festival Grants 2024 for approval Kildare Newbridge M.D.				
No.	Group Name	Project	Grant Requested	Proposed Grant
1	Bishopsland Awareness Community	Integration festival to celebrate social inclusion	€1,950	€500
2	Brannockstown Community Group	Annual community gathering to light up the village Christmas tree,	€150	€100
3	Cill Dara Old Vehicles Club	Gordon Bennett event	€2,000	€700
4	Curragh Family Resource Centre	Family fun day	€1,800	€500
5	Dunmurray Rise Residents association	Annual Nations Celebrations Day	€1,325	€800
6	June Fest	Community theatre and arts project	€2,000	€800
7	Kilcullen Community Action	Family event highlighting bio diversity and a talk on the flora/fauna of the valley.	€2,000	€700
8	Kildare Drama Festival	Annual Drama Festival	€2,000	€700
9	Kildare Irish Figure Dancers	Showcase of dance and workshops.	€2,000	€250
10	Kildare Traveller Action	Series of events to celebrate Traveller culture and heritage.	€2,000	€700
11	Milltown Tidy Towns	Canal Festival	€2,000	€500
12	Monasterevin Community Centre	Events in conjunction with Streetfest.	€2,000	€500
13	Monasterevin Hopkins Society	Gerard Manley Hopkins Festival	€2,000	€700
14	Monasterevin StreetFest	Streetfest community event.	€2,000	€900
15	Monasterevin Tidy Towns CLG	MONSTERevin Halloween Trail	€2,000	€700
16	Monasterevin Women's Shed	Yambombing	€1,989	€400
17	Monastreevin Tidy Towns CLG	Festival in Moore Abbey Woods.	€2,000	€700
18	NFRC Community Building Launch	Launch of new community building	€2,000	€450
19	Old Kilcullen Area Community Association	Picnic on the green	€1,200	€500
20	Rathangan Drama Festival	Drama Festival	€2,000	€700
21	Ryston Sports and Social Club	Ryston Halloween Spooktacular	€2,000	€700
22	ShamrockSpring	Community celebration of Irish grown wool	€2,000	€500
23	Silken Thomas Players	Annual drama festival	€2,000	€700
24	South Kildare Photography Club	Photography exhibition in Ryston	€1,275	€400
25	St Patricks Day Parade Monasterevin	St. Patrick's Day Parade	€2,000	€600
26	Suncroft Senior Citizens	Social event for members	€2,000	€300
			Total for Approval	€15,000
			Budget	€15,000
			Balance remaining	€0

Councillor Pender declared conflict of interest, he disconnected from the meeting while it was discussed and considered.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that she was under the impression that resident associations could not apply for festival grants as well but had noticed that a resident's association



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had been approved a festival grant and wondered on what grounds this was awarded? When applying for these grants it was not clearly stated that you could not apply for both. She asked previously and asked again if a presentation could be given to the members on how the grants were awarded as clarity was needed. Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that some were getting double funding as they had received money from LPT. Mr C O'Toole informed the members that the residents association in question that received the festival grant also was a Project Estate which had a community worker from the Community Department assisting in developing this estate and this type of project would be exempt from the rules. When the committee were awarding the grants, they would not be aware if the groups had received LPT funding. Applications were taken at face value.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor N Connolly, with one members abstaining and agreed by all other members present that the community, festival and resident association grant awards for the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District were approved.

KN27/0424

Swimming pool in The Curragh

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
That the council contact the Department of Defence to request access to the swimming pool in The Curragh for schools and other groups.

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

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

The members raised the following points:

- Formerly the public had access to The Curragh swimming pool.
- There was no public swimming pool in Newbridge and had depleted since The Gables had closed only leaving Keadeen which was a hotel group.
- Swimming was a major factor in some individual lives.



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- Rural smaller Schools used to greatly benefit from The Curragh Swimming pool in the past but now there was an increased cost and a financial burden on schools and families using private facilities.
- St Marks special school would have previously used The Curragh swimming pool also but it had now created an issue with cost
- It was a vital skill for children.
- Swimming had positive knock-on benefits.
- It was felt that people travelling to other towns to use their swimming pool were taking up local people's places because there were not enough pools.
- There was a demand for children learning to swim.
- There seem to be a capacity issue.
- Sinn Féin TD John Brady had written to the Department of Defence in January 2023 asking for access to The Curragh swimming pool to be considered.

Councillor P O'Dwyer asked if the members could review the letter before it was sent to the Department of Defence.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by all members present that the members of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District write to the Department of Defence to request access to the swimming pool in The Curragh for schools and other groups and that the report be noted.

KN28/0424

Upcoming elections

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

Maidir leis na toghcháin atá le teacht ar an 7 Meitheamh, go ndeimhneodh an Chomhairle aon láithreacha sa Cheantar Bardasach inar chuir na bailte slachtmhara áitiúla nó aon chomhlacht eile in iúl gur mian leo fanacht saor ó phóstaer.

With regard to the upcoming elections on June 7, that the council confirm any locations in the Municipal District where the local tidy towns or any other body have expressed the wish to remain poster free.

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



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A report was received from Corporate Services informing the members that The Corporate Services Department has not yet received any written communication from Tidy Towns Committees in this District related to election poster free areas. Corporate Services Department is however liaising with these groups seeking their written position on this matter. Candidates should note that any such request of a Tidy Towns Committee is voluntary for candidates and cannot be enforced by the Council.

As is stated on the Council's information for candidates related to election posters, available on our Election webpages:

In cases where the Council's Local Election Team has received a written officially agreed position from the Chair of a Tidy Towns Committee, regarding that Committee's preferences regarding locations where election posters are erected, this will be communicated to candidates when they attend for approval of their nomination with the Returning Officer, which opens at 10.00am on Saturday May 11 2024 and ends at 12.00pm on Saturday May 18 2024. Members should be aware that as the Minister has signed the Order for the local elections the statutory dates related to election posters are now set. Posters can be erected from Wednesday May 8, 2024, and must be removed by midnight Friday June 14, 2024. The full election posters candidate guidance is available on the Council's Local Elections 2024 webpages.

The members raised the following points:

- Posters did assist new candidates.
- Shouldn't be limited to certain locations.
- Corporate Policy Group had met for the previous elections in May to discuss election posters but was felt this was too late it needed to be earlier.
- Could the members discuss the recommendations received at the May meeting?
- It was detrimental to new candidates.
- This was discussed at Protocol.
- Promoting democracy and local democracy was important.
- The erection of posters was very important to make people aware of the upcoming elections.



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- Aware that there were concerns about cable ties not been taken down.
- Respect Tidy Town groups but should not be influencing where the election posters should be displayed.
- Aware that the adjudication happens in June for the Tidy Town groups.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that and that the report be noted.

KN29/0424

Freehold Twinning Committee New Jersey

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

That the Members agree to meet a delegation from Freehold Twinning Committee New Jersey led by Mayor Kevin Kane at our May Municipal District meeting.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Curran and seconded by Councillor A Connolly

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

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Curran and seconded by Councillor A Connolly and agreed by all members present that a meeting with a delegation from Freehold Twinning Committee New Jersey be arranged for the Kildare Newbridge May Municipal District meeting and that the report be noted.

KN30/0424

Loughminane Green, Kildare Town

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor N **Connolly**

Cén dul chun cinn atá á dhéanamh maidir le hoibreacha faoisimh tuilte i bhFaiche Loch Mín, Baile Chill Dara?

Can the council confirm what progress is being made with flood relief works in Loughminane Green, Kildare Town?



Kildare County Council

A report was received from the Flood Risk Management Section informing the members that topographical and ground investigation surveys are underway for a number of proposed retrofit projects in Kildare Town, including Loughminane Green. Once completed the information gathered in these surveys will be used to finalise detailed design for sustainable surface water management schemes, with priority being given to design options that maximise improved biodiversity. The aim of these schemes will be to relieve the surface water flooding at these locations. They will provide best practice examples of retrofitting sustainable surface water design solutions to increase capacity of existing networks and provide adaptability for climate change.

Councillor N Connolly informed the members that he was disappointed that no progress had been made and not a lot happening. He said the council could be looking at other options for now. The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.