



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

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

**Remote Attendance:** Councillors K Duffy, S Ní Raghallaigh

**Officials Present:** Ms E Hanlon (District Manager), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Mr J Hennessy (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer), Mr P Henderson (A/Senior Architect), Mr C Cosgrove (Senior Executive Architect), Ms S Farrar (Administrative Officer), Mr C O'Toole (A/Administrative Officer), Mr L McNeela (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr N O'Riordan (Acting Chief Fire Officer), Ms M McCarthy (Administrative Officer), Ms G Allen (County Librarian), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Administrator), Ms KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

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**KN01/0724**

**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.

**KN02/0724**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the Annual Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 28 June 2024 and the progress report was noted.

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**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the Annual Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 28 June 2024 be taken as read and the progress report be noted.

**KN03/0724**  
**Municipal District Road Works**

**Road Resurfacing Works:**

Works are now completed at the following locations:

**Restoration Improvement**

- R445 Dual Carriageway
- Kildare – Tesco Junction
- Milltown
- Barnaran
- Blackberry Lane

**Surface Dressing**

- Knockaulin
- Ballysax Plains
- Blackrath, Athgarvan
- Tully East, Kildare
- Hawkfield

**Kilcullen**

Pothole Repairs: Hacklow, Browns Lane, Twomilehouse. Ladytown link road, Green Avenue, Carnalway, Brannockstown Village, Square Kilcullen.

Grass Cutting Junctions: Thompsons Cross, Lawlors Cross, Mullacash Cross, Chapel Lane Twomilehouse, Carnalway Cross, Mylerstown Cross, R448.

Erected poles for signage Newhall.

Removed damaged bollards from Caragh school.

Watercuts; Sunnyhill, Harristown, Coughlanstown.

## **Rathangan**

Footpath sweeping: Rathangan town

Lay by works: Ellistown GAA, L7007(R51YV02)

Grass and hedge cutting at the junctions and pre surface dressing works:

Newbridge to Milltown, Feighcullen Cross, Boston Hill to Whelan Cross.

Patching works: Rathangan - top of the town

Bollards: Yellow Lough Park

Grass and hedge cutting at the junctions: Paddy's Bridge and Black Trench Road.

Road sweeping: Boston Hill to Feighcullen bend.

Soakaway Hole Works: R419 Rathangan Town

Drainage cleaning and investigation: Temple Mills Estate, R51P034 and at the football pitch bend

## **Kildare**

Patching: Roads were patched at Oghill, Tully Road, Walterstown, Mullane, Quinsborough, Nurney Road, R415, Ellistown.

Signage: Junction upgrade signage at Ballykelly, Monasterevin - The team removed old signage from Ballykelly Junction, new chevron signs were erected at Barraderra, Old timber signs were removed at Rathbride,

Drainage: Drainage works have started at Ballykelly to ease flooding in the area.

Hedge cutting: Junctions and verges were cut back at Redhills Kildare Town, Rathmuck, Ummeras, Mountrice, R445 Kildare Town to Ballymany, Ellistown.

### **Additional works:**

A general cleanup to various laneways in Maryville. Bollards were repaired on the Dublin Road Monasterevin, Preparation for the Derby Festival began, including bollard and barrier placement as well as a cleanup after the event.

In addition to the works mentioned, we continue to collect refuse from street bins and litter pick on a daily basis as well as street sweep the area once a week, plus a footpath sweeper is in the area once a fortnight.



## **Newbridge**

These works are done along with our day to day works litter picking, emptying bins and road sweeping.

**Patching Unit:** Curragh Camp, Brownstown

**Clean up:** Ivy was removed and a general clean up on Market Square

**Grass Verge Cutting:** Great Connell, Tully East, Athgarvan to Kineagh Cross, Maddenstown, Standhouse Road, Askinraw Suncroft

**Road Repair:** Athgarvan, Kineagh,

**Weeding:** College Park back lane weeded and cleaned

**Surface Dressing:** Ballysax, Tullyeast, Athgarvan Kineagh,

**New Chevrons:** Tullyeast, Tougher Roundabout

**Hedge Trimming:** The meadows for poor visibility and across from Dunnes Store where low hanging trees /hedges were cut back on the public footpath

**Dual Carriageway R445:** Traffic Control was set up and the following works were done, Gullies were cleaned and jetted from Ladytown to Newbridge. The centre grass and hard shoulder verges was cut back for safety, road edging and maintenance works were completed on the Tougher roundabout.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that the vegetation at junctions was a problem for visibility.

The report was noted.

### **KN04/0724 Residual LPT**

The Mayor informed the members that there was €20,635 for Festival Grants from the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2024 that was not allocated.

The Members raised the following points:

- Suggested the funds be carried forward to next year for festival grants
- Maybe look at closing dates for applications
- Supported the roll over to next year
- Needed to push for discussions regarding festival closing dates

- This was originally a top up to match central funding to help with grants, but the closing dates were too late when allocating LPT so this festival grants monies would help with grants for the festivals taking place in the first quarter.
- Current closing dates for grants not working could they not be split?
- Could be a subject for SPC

Mr O'Toole informed the members that he would have concerns about running different grants at different times as there are so many different grants, this would not be viable.

The members agreed that the funds be rolled over to 2025.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Heavey that the funds be rolled over to 2025

#### **KN05/0724**

#### **2024 Speed Limit Review**

Mr Hennessy gave a presentation to the members on the 2024 speed limit review.

Mr Hennessy raised the following points:

Road Traffic Act 2024 - Passed by Oireachtas in April 2024

- The Act addresses key matters in road safety
- It legislates for lower default speed limits in line with the Department's speed limit review published in September 2023.
- Default speed limits would be lowered –
  - On national secondary roads, from 100km/h to 80km/h
  - On local roads, from 80km/h to 60 km/h
  - On roads in built-up areas from 50km/h to 30km/h
- No change to Default Speed Limits on National Primary (100km/h) or Regional (80km/h) Roads included in the Act.
- The Department of Transport had indicated that the Act will be "commenced" in phases.
- The first phase was the implementation of the local roads default from the current 80 km/h to 60 km/h.



- The aim of the speed limit review was to have safer roads
- The 80km/h on National Secondary Roads and 60km/h on Local Roads were introduced to prevent Fatal and Serious Injury Collisions from Head on Collisions
- Special Speed Limits are only for exceptions
  - Current Byelaws:

Subject to legal confirmation, where a special speed limit was currently applied to a local road, this won't change with the change in the default e.g. if a local road currently has a 50km/h Special Speed Limit, the change in default from 80km/h to 60km/h won't change that.

The members raised the following points:

- Great to see the speed limit review back
- Who was responsible for the ordering the signage
- Has there been communication with An Garda Síochána
- For the implementation of Jake's Law, was it all housing estates or just estates that are taken in charge.
- Was this integrated into the ABTA for Newbridge?
- Would there be a form of a public consultation?
- Welcomed the 60km/h on local roads
- Need to look at An Garda Síochána enforcing this regarding detection and control
- There were anomalies but the challenge would be in changing driver behaviour. The speed limit review would not tackle the problem without enforcement.

Mr Hennessy and Mr Hodgins raised the following points:

- Signage was being nationally procured by TII
- The speed limits would only come into effect in the estates taken in charge as these were public roads.
- There would be national and local communication and consultations with An Garda Síochána
- All Local Authorities in Ireland have been asked to review the speed limits before commencement in November



- All local roads would change from 80km/h to 60km/h unless there was a compelling reason for a road to have an increased speed limit
- Special speed limits would be kept in place
- In general, motorists needed to slow down and be aware of their behaviour
- A public consultation will happen in September once it had been discussed at all municipal district meetings
- Jake's Law would happen straight away as Kildare County Council were prioritising this for Q1 2025.

The report was noted.

#### **KN06/0724**

#### **St Brigid's Primary School, Safe Routes to School Scheme**

To note section 38 of the road Traffic Act 1994 - St Brigid's Primary School, Kildare Town, Safe Routes to School Scheme

Councillor Doyle raised the following points:

- On three separate occasions she had asked to meet on site, and no one had met with her.
- When would the works be commencing and finishing
- How many parking spaces would be lost
- People were stepping off the path because the width of the path was too narrow, and this was a very busy road
- The council needed to be open to make amendments after public consultations or the integrity and confidence of the public would be lost
- If the council are not going to meet the deadline, there would be plenty of time for amendments
- We need to exercise a walkway to school
- Asked for this to be put on the agenda for Protocol to discuss what was considered appropriate for public consultations

Councillor Duffy informed the members that he agreed with councillor Doyle and felt the department had no regard to feedback or consultations. He felt there was an unwillingness to take on board.

Mr Hodgins informed the members that a public consultation had to be completed and could not go to tender until sufficient funding. There were rules about consultations and could not extend the scheme as this could lead to losing funding. Mr Hodgins said he was not aware of a request to meet on site.

The report was noted.

#### **KN07/0724**

#### **Thompsons Cross Junction**

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

That the council carries out cut out and resurfacing repairs at Thompsons Cross Junction, Kilcullen.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office are scheduling patching repairs at Thompsons Cross, subject to budget.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that this junction was really busy and complex. It was the gateway to Newbridge from the Motorway. Trucks would stop here. She said there were a lot of potholes. She welcomed the patching repairs but asked if the municipal district office would consider more than just patch work. The District Engineer informed the members that there would be an overall review on this junction, but a private contractor would do patch repairs in the interim.

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

#### **KN8/0724**

#### **Part 8 Planning for Athgarvan**

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

That the council confirms if the existing Part 8 planning for Athgarvan is still in date to facilitate the delivery of the road widening project as listed on the Capital Programme.



The motion was proposed by Councillor and seconded by Councillor Pender

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council Roads Projects Team have reviewed the existing Part 8 Planning Permission and intend to proceed with this scheme in conjunction with the Municipal District office shortly. Tender documents will be prepared with the aim of procuring a contractor before the end of the summer. A further update can be provided in due course.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that this was positive news as this project had been going on since 2020. She said the residents in Athgarvan had been waiting 20 years for this road to be widened. It would be great that people would have a safe route with the option to walk or cycle this road. This was a good step forward. She also asked if there would be a contractor by the end of Summer 2024 and what would the timeline be. Councillor Power informed the members that he was asked by residents to find out if the Council were aware of a walled area that was meant to be left aside for this project? Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that the council were of this piece of land which was intentionally left for this. The District Engineer informed the members that the municipal district office would be looking at getting a tender together and that a Part 8 would not run out.

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

#### **KN09/0724**

#### **Barraderra and Cowpasture Roads**

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

That this council arrange an onsite meeting with the area engineer to review speed and safety measures along the Barraderra and Cowpasture Roads in Monasterevin.

The motions were 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 meet Councillor Duffy to discuss issues.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that these roads would benefit from the speed limit review. The roads were used as ratruns and with the growth of Monasterevin continuing this would only get worse. Implementation of speed limit for these roads needed to be investigated with other safety measures.

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

#### **KN10/0724**

#### **Salting Route on the R424**

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

That the council considers extending the salting route on the R424 (Portarlinton) from the Drawbridge to over the Passlands Bridge on safety grounds, given the height of the bridge.

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 currently treat 705KM of the Local, Regional and National Secondary Road network with road salt, during the winter maintenance season. This equates to the treatment of approximately 27.5 % of Kildare's Road infrastructure. This is higher than our neighbouring counties, who treat between 24-26 % of their road network. Kildare are currently at capacity with regards to the delivery of the winter maintenance service and are not in a position to add new routes.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that he appreciated the extent of roads being done but he asked if Mr Reel could meet to discuss this as he felt that this bridge was significantly high and was the first place to get ice on it and residents in this area had very little alternatives to avoid this bridge when travelling. Councillor T O'Dwyer asked what would be required to increase capacity? The District Engineer informed the member she would take Councillors Duffy's concerns back to Mr Reel and asked if he could meet with him and would revert back with answer. She also said there was a fine line when it came to increasing capacity as salt trucks could only carry a certain

amount of salt and routes were calculated on the rate of spread. She also said additional trucks and drivers was another issue when considering the delivery of winter maintenance service.

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

#### **KN11/0724**

#### **Brownstown Crossroads**

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

That the council conducts a traffic volume audit at Brownstown Crossroads to monitor and record traffic, particularly during early mornings, to alleviate congestion and improve safety.

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 there is an existing list of locations to be surveyed on foot of requests from each Municipal District Office and there are limited resources to carry out the surveys. This location can be added to this list and will be surveyed in due course.

Councillor Balfe informed the members that he was approached by residents in the area, and they felt that previous safety works that had been carried out at this junction had not improved the situation. He said in the last two months there had been six collisions at this junction. He said that congestion was another issue at this junction as vehicles were parked along the roadside when using local shops which impaired drivers when trying to cross at this junction. The safety of people walking also needed to be taken into considerations A survey needed to be carried out to alleviate congestion and improve safety. Councillor Doyle informed the member that this issue had been on agendas for many years. She said that the recent safety works had not resolved the issue but had helped. She said an effective assessment needed to be done to look at traffic lights or realignment. Mr D Hodgins informed the members he would look at this.

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

**KN12/0724**

**Big Belly Bins**

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

That the council considers the use of the Big Belly bins throughout the town as a source of advertising as part of future public consultations in the Newbridge area.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender 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 Transport Section will consider the use of Big Belly Bins for advertising as part of future consultations starting with the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment Phase 2 consultation that is due to commence shortly.

Councillor Pender informed the members that this was a good opportunity to utilise the bins for promoting public consultations such as the ABTA, LAP and speed limit reviews to create more awareness to the public on what was happening in their area.

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

**KN13/0724**

**District Taxi Association**

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

That the council facilitates a meeting between the Newbridge and District Taxi Association to discuss issues and opportunities related to local transportation services, to improve collaboration, and to address the concerns of the taxi industry in our community.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this is a matter for the Members to agree.

Councillor Pender informed the members that he was asked by the District Taxi Association if they could meet to discuss issues in Newbridge town related to local transport services. The members asked if this would be better to go to a SPC meeting or the ABTA as they felt it would be more beneficial. Councillor Pender informed the members that the SPC was for county issues where this was related to Newbridge. He also said that it would be good to hold discussion through the ABTA but felt it would be a good idea for them to give a deputation to the member so the members could understand their issues and to find out more about them and be able to advocate on their behalf.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that an invitation would be sent to the District Taxi Association to invite them to a meeting with the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District and that the report be noted.

#### **KN14/0724**

#### **Capital Projects**

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

That this council receives a report on planned capital projects for the municipal district for the period of this Council with details on proposed timelines for delivery of each project.

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

A report was received from the Head of Finance informing the members that the Capital Programme 2024-2026 identified the funding requirement, current project phase and estimated start date for the next project phase of each project identified together with the estimated requirement for future projects for 2027+. The Capital Programme outturn for the year 2023 was provided in Appendix 10 of the Annual Financial Statement. As part of the annual budgetary process, the Capital Programme 2025-2027 is being prepared at present and will be presented to the members for noting in November. As with the previous Programme, and agreed with the Finance Committee, it will identify timelines in respect of the current phase of the project and estimated start date of the next phase of the project. Capital Projects are required to go through various stages before construction commences which can often be longer than the three-year

Capital Programme and each stage is dependent on the availability of a relevant funding stream. All Directorates will be identifying priorities, funding and timelines in the preparation of this budget over the next three months and will be in a position to update the members at the end of this process.

Councillor Doyle informed the members that if the members agreed she would like a dedicated meeting on the Capital Programme. She said that there were critical issues for the constituents of Kildare Newbridge regarding the infrastructure that needed to be talked about in advance. The District Manager informed the members that she would be happy to have a meeting with the members between September to November before the budget was presented in November.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by all members present that the members would have a dedicated meeting on the Capital Programme before November and that the report be noted.

#### **KN15/0724**

#### **Athgarvan Crossroads**

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

That the council gives an outline of speed control measures it may consider to improve safety, in light of the concerns of residents and others at Athgarvan Crossroads.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there are traffic lights at this junction, the Municipal District Engineer is unsure of the speeding issues. These traffic lights are scheduled for an upgrade as part of the planning condition of the development at the junction.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that some residents had concerns about this crossroad as it was within two meters of residents' houses and there had been a few close calls when coming from the Kilcullen to Newbridge side. Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that this problem had been looked at previously and slow down feedback signs had been installed. She

also said that there was no pedestrian crossing on the Curragh side of the crossroads and maybe a tabletop could be looked at for this area.

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

**KN16/0724**  
**Feighcullen Cross**

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

That the council addresses safety issues and sight lines at Feighcullen Cross, Rathangan.

The motion was proposed by Councillor O'Loughlin 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 is happy to meet with the local landowners to discuss possible solutions if Councillor O'Loughlin arranges same.

Councillor O'Loughlin informed the members that it was good to see the hedging cut back, and he would be happy to talk to the landowner to arrange to meet. The District Manager informed the members that she would be happy to meet with the landowner.

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

**KN17/0724**  
**Allen Cross**

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

That the council addresses safety issues at Allen Cross.

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 this is a tender awarded to surface Allen cross and update the line marking at the location, these works will be carried out in the coming months.

Councillor O'Loughlin informed the members that this was a busy cross with trucks passing through all the time due to quarries in the area. He was delighted to see that works would be carried out in this area.

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

#### **KN18/0724**

##### **Pigeon Lane to the T-junction on Monasterevin Road**

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

Can the council provide a report on the function of traffic lights from Pigeon Lane to the T-junction on Monasterevin Road, with details on how traffic queuing times might be improved?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this issue will be investigated by the Traffic Management Centre staff.

The report was noted.

#### **KN19/0724**

##### **Lackagh school**

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

Can the council provide a timeline for the installation of pencil bollards at Lackagh school, Monasterevin?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there has been funding allocated for bollards. If Councillor O'Loughlin arranges a meeting with the school, we can agree a location for same.

The report was noted.



**KN20/0724**  
**Dara Park, Newbridge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Power  
That the council undertakes to clear a weeded area in Dara Park, Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the location and the extent of the work required would have to be inspected before this work could be committed to. Any works required will have to be considered in the context of the existing works programme in the area.

Councillor Power informed the members that he had spoken to Mr Wallace about the exact location.

The members raised the following points:

- Antisocial behaviour was happening openly in this area
- It was unacceptable to the residents living there
- It was felt that by cutting back the weeds and clearing the area it would help with the issue
- Additional steps needed to be taken by An Garda Síochána
- By clearing the area, it would help limit the antisocial behaviour
- It was a missed opportunity years ago to develop this area in question.

Mr Wallace informed the members that this would be organised in the next couple of weeks.

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

**KN21/0724**  
**ORIS**

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

Can the council provide an update on the ORIS funded Brownway Engineering Study between Monasterevin and Portarlinton?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that a tender to procure consultants to carry out the feasibility study is under preparation, and we plan to advertise this by the end of the Summer.

The report was noted.

### **Items 22 and 23 taken together**

#### **KN22/0724**

#### **Monasterevin AFC**

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

Can the council provide an update on the plans for the land known as the field adjacent to the train station at the back of Togher Road, next to the Monasterevin AFC Togher Road Facility?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the field is currently zoned for amenity and recreation. It was intended to facilitate Monasterevin AFC to use the land for additional playing facilities and to prepare a plan for use of the area for amenity and recreation. However, it will not be possible to consider these proposals any further until ongoing legal action relating to the lands are completed.

The report was noted.

#### **KN23/0724**

#### **Monasterevin AFC**

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

Can the council provide an update on the lease agreement with Monasterevin AFC for the Togher Road Facility?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that we have requested our legal representatives to revise the lease agreement for Monasterevin AFC. This will be forwarded to the club once completed.

Councillor Balfe asked for clarification on a timeframe of when the club would receive their lease agreement. Mr Wallace informed the members that the lease agreement was back with the council's solicitors, so he was unable to give a timeframe.

The report was noted.

### **KN24/0724**

#### **Part 8 St Johns Convent, New Street, Rathangan**

Mr C Cosgrove gave a presentation to the members on the Chief Executives Part 8 report P82024.02 for the proposed residential development at St Johns Convent, New Street, Rathangan, Co Kildare

The members raised the following points:

- The Development was welcomed and thanked the Housing department for the presentation and the work they had done.
- Could it be confirmed if the development would be 100% age friendly
- Would the carpark spaces be private and would they be monitored
- Would the new residents going into this development be from the Kildare County Council Housing list
- This was a perfect location for age friendly housing
- Definitely need more independent living spaces
- PR was good from Kildare County Council.
- Kildare County Council also had a role to play in supporting those with drug and mental health issues.
- Had using the footprint of the existing building been considered from a cost point of view
- Who would be maintaining the cemetery that was onsite.
- What was the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Sophia Housing Association
- Ryans Field in Newbridge would be similar to this development, and they had a site manager, would this be the same on this development
- If the residents care needs changed would there be medical support?

Mr Henderson raised the following points:

- He could not say for 100% that it was age friendly but that was the intention of this development.
- He was aware that Sophia Housing Association had a history of housing vulnerable people, but this would not be the case with this development.
- The priority was Kildare County Councils housing list and would work with the health Homes Officer on allocating houses.
- He was not sure how Sophia would manage the supports but would find and let the members know.
- It would have cost a lot more to renovate the existing building and changing an 8 bedroomed house to individual units would not have worked
- The cemetery would still be looked after by the nuns
- He was not sure about the SLA but would revert back to the members on this

**Resolved** On the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor O'Loughlin and agreed by all members present that the Chief Executives Part 8 report P82024.02 for the proposed residential development at St Johns Convent, New Street, Rathangan, Co Kildare be approved.

**Standing orders were suspended for five minutes proposed by Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all members.**

#### **KN25/0724**

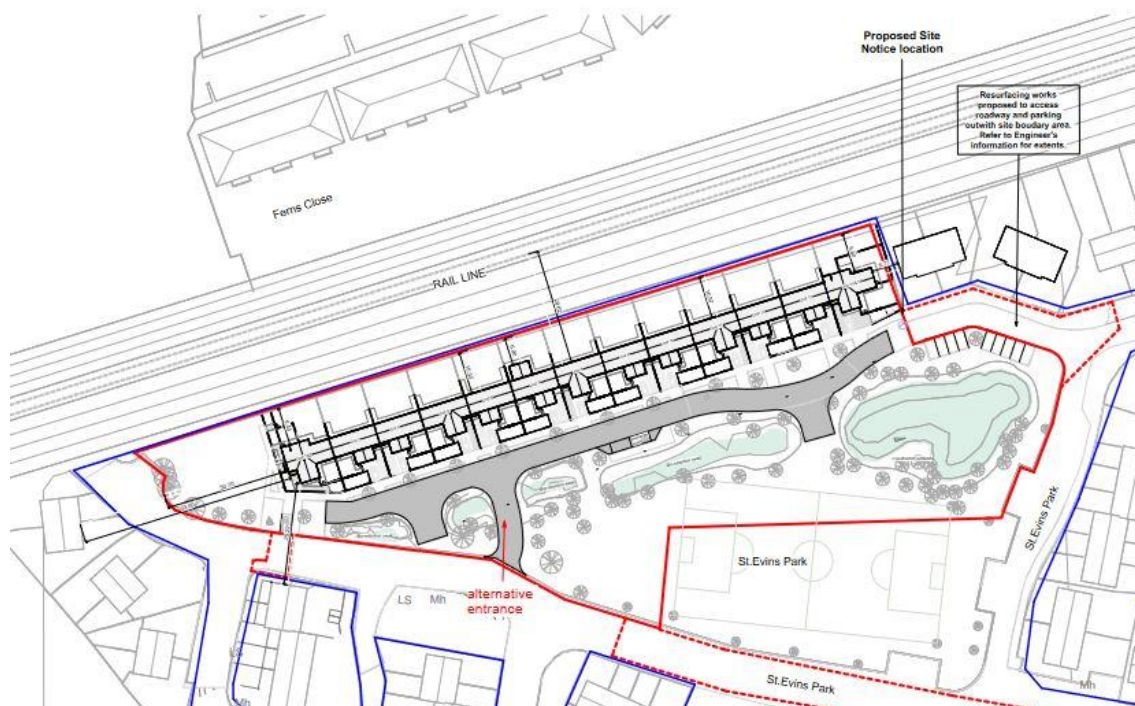
#### **Part 8 St Evans Park, Monasterevin**

Mr C Cosgrove gave a presentation to the members on the Chief Executives Part 8 report P82023.06 for the proposed residential development at St Evans Park, Monasterevin, Co Kildare Councillor Duffy informed the members of three amendments that he proposed to the St Evin's Park Part 8 proposal.

That the St Evin's Park, Monasterevin Part 8 be amended so that:

1. Access Road be relocated to the top of the green
2. Green space reconfigured to retain the playing field
3. Removal of the 2 x 1 bed apartments on the first floor at each end of the scheme (retaining the ground floor accessible apartments only).

**OPTION B-  
ALTERNATIVE**



The members raised the following points:

- Acknowledged the hard work that had been done on the Part 8
- Were disappointed with the process of the Part 8
- Amendments would be supported
- There was only one access to the estate
- The development was not as central as shown
- The overall design was different to the existing dwellings
- Residents felt cynical about the communication with them from Kildare County Council

- The access road had been identified in the submissions but had not been taken into consideration
- The two-story apartments were questionable, could there not be a universal design instead
- Use alternative design for road access
- Supported initiative but resident's concerns had to be taken into consideration
- The Council needed to make allowances for amendments
- The design of the road that was potentially going to be used was coming off the back of another access road and was narrow for the volume of traffic that could potentially be using it
- There are no apartments in the existing estate but there are one-bedroom bungalows
- Would have concern in reducing the number of units

Mr Henderson raised the following points:

- The amendments put forward would compromise the Part 8 scheme as there were significant changes which would leave it open to challenge
- The access road as stated was safest place from a roads point of view.
- To put in bungalows on either end of the development would cause sound problems and that was why they were designed like that.

Following this discussion Councillor Duffy proposed the following amendments to the members on the St Evin's Park Part 8 proposal, seconded by Councillor Balfe and agreed by all members present.

That the St Evin's Park, Monasterevin Part 8 be amended so that:

1. Access Road be relocated to the top of the green
2. Green space reconfigured to retain the playing field
3. Convert the 4 x 1 bed apartments at each end of the scheme to 2 x accessible houses.

**Resolved** On the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Balfe and agreed by all members present that the Chief Executives Part 8 report P82023.06 for the proposed residential

development at St Evans Park, Monasterevin, Co Kildare be approved with the following amendments,

1. Access Road be relocated to the top of the green
2. Green space reconfigured to retain the playing field
3. Convert the 4 x 1 bed apartments at each end of the scheme to 2 x accessible houses.

### **KN26/0724**

#### **Housing Maintenance**

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

Can the council provide a report detailing the number of council properties in Newbridge, whether leased or owned by the council, that have requested housing maintenance in the last two years. This report should include, the nature of the maintenance requested, the period of time individuals were waiting from report to completion, broken down by housing estate?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that a detailed report has been prepared by the Housing Maintenance team detailing the Local Authority and Leased Properties requests logged and closed for 2021 and 2022 for the Newbridge and Kildare LEA (attached). The report is broken down monthly by repair category. Details in relation to exact timelines of individual repairs are not currently available. However, there is a new Adjust Housing Maintenance System being developed and rolled out to all Local Authorities which will be more reflective of response/repair times.

The report was noted.

**Items 30, 38 and 39 were all taken after Item 26**

### **KN27/024**

#### **Public Realm Projects**

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

Can the council give an update of Public Realm projects scheduled for development and investment in Newbridge?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that the Masterplan for Newbridge is currently in development with a Public Consultation expected in Q3 2024 and delivery of the draft Masterplan in Q4 2024. The project has been delayed while awaiting the publication of the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) which may have an effect on the deliverability of the draft project proposals within the Masterplan document. Once published, the projects within the Masterplan will be selected and prioritised subject to funding availability and necessary planning processes if required. The report was noted.

**KN28/0724**

**Rathangan Town renewal plan**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor O'Loughlin  
Can the council give a progress report on Rathangan Town renewal plan?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that The Rathangan Town Renewal Plan is currently being prepared by the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team. Baseline data analysis and mapping is ongoing. Tenders have been awarded for SEA and AA Screening Reports and Traffic Survey Request for Tenders are also due to be issued. It is proposed to carry out the first of two public consultation workshops on 01 August 2024 in Rathangan Library. Invites to relevant parties and advertising of the event are due to be circulated before Monday 15 July 2024. An online survey will be conducted in tandem with this first stage of public consultation for the purposes of gathering valuable local information and ideas. Submissions will be invited at the second stage of public consultation once the draft is prepared.

The report was noted.

**KN29/0724**

**County Library, Newbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender  
Can the council confirm if the County Library, Newbridge project is being put forward as part of any funding applications?



A report was received from the Library Department informing the members that the Library Service has been approved for €3m capital grant funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development. This is the maximum capital funding the Department can provide. However, if Kildare County Council receives any other funding from Central Government this €3m must be returned. We still await an update from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding the next Urban Regeneration and Development fund (URDF) call out. The hope is the URDF will be able to provide a greater amount towards the project which was costed at €18m in 2023. The Senior Executive team will make the decision on which Kildare Projects will be submitted for URDF funding if and when the next call out is announced. There are no other funding opportunities currently available to Kildare County Council for the County Library and Archives Capital Project.

The report was noted.

#### **KN30/0724**

#### **Illegal encampments on The Curragh**

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

That the council engages with the Department of Defence and An Garda Síochána to seek an interagency response to the issue of illegal encampments on The Curragh.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Kildare County Council cannot take action on illegal encampments on the Curragh Plains as this is not Council owned lands. If the members are in agreement, the Council can write to the Department of Defence and An Garda Síochána in relation to this matter.

Councillor Doyle informed the members that

The members raised the following points:

- These illegal encampments on The Curragh had become a tradition which was getting worse every year
- It was not sustainable as there were now skips and porta loos on site.

- There was no grazing for the sheep
- An Garda Síochána were exasperated as the Department of Defence own the land and can't enforce anything without legal proceedings.
- A meeting needs to be held with Environment, An Garda Síochána and the members of Kildare Newbridge Municipal district.
- B&B in the area had to close because of this matter
- The plan that was put in place for the Curragh Plains was being destroyed
- The Department of Defence were not protecting the Plains
- A plan needed to be put into action
- Concerns that the Department of Defence were not the appropriate body to be looking after the Curragh Plains
- All other stakeholders were getting the backlash from the public when the Defence Forces was in control.
- Joined up thinking was needed

Councillor Doyle asked that a letter be sent to the Minister of Defence asking for an in-committee meeting to try and resolve this ongoing issue.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by all members present that a letter be sent to the Minister of Defence to arrange a meeting with Kildare Newbridge Municipal District and that the report be noted

#### **KN31/0724**

#### **Courthouse in Newbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer  
Can the council confirm if the insurance monies received from the fire at the Courthouse in Newbridge are being held for allocation by this Council?

A report was received from Head of Finance informing the members that insurance monies received from the fire at the Courthouse in Newbridge are allocated to the development of the Library Headquarters in Newbridge.

Councillor T O'Dwyer asked when it was agreed that the insurance monies were allocated to the development of the Library Headquarters. Ms E Hanlon informed the members that it was agreed several years ago.

The report was noted.

#### **KN32/0724**

##### **Newbridge Town Council LPT**

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

Can the council confirm if there are any reserves being carried forward from the old Newbridge Town Council including but not limited to LPT allocated and unspent available to this Council?

A report was received from the Head of Finance informing the members that there are no unspent funds carried forward from Newbridge Town Council.

The report was noted.

#### **KN33/0724**

##### **Taking in charge of Brownstown Manor**

The mayor advised the members that a report had been circulated to members prior to meeting and that it was the recommendation of the Building and Development Control Department that Brownstown Manor (Phase 1), Curragh, Co Kildare (Ref.6511) be taken in charge.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that Brownstown Manor (Phase 1), Curragh, Co Kildare (Ref.6511) be taken in charge.

#### **KN34/0724**

##### **Fire Station in Monasterevin**

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

That the council explores identifying an alternative location for the Fire Station in Monasterevin on council-owned land in the town's environs.

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

A report was received from the Fire Service Department informing the members that the acquisition of a site for a new fire station location in Monasterevin has been at the forefront of fire service planning for a number of years, dating back to 2017 when we completed a thorough examination of all council owned land. Unfortunately, this did not offer any suitable sites at that time. In the interim period since, the fire service had reached agreement on a site in a proposed business park on the Dublin Road, but this development has not progressed, and we believe is now unlikely to do so. Noting this, we are now currently in discussions with a view to progressing the acquisition of a separate site in Monasterevin. In the interim, the fire service remains open at all times to suggestions by members of the Municipal District, or by approach from landowners to discuss sites which may be available.

Councillor Balfe informed the members that it was 2017 when a location was last considered. Monasterevin was a growing town, and the fire station needed a new location. Councillor Doyle asked if a site was acquired previously. Mr O’Riordan informed the members that no money had been exchanged when a site was previously sought. Councillor Balfe asked for this item to be put on the progress report.

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

### **KN35/0724**

#### **Unauthorised Developments**

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

Can the council provide an update on the number of unauthorised developments in the municipal district in 2024 compared to the same period last year and the status of each?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the below table contained Unauthorised Development statistics for the County for the period 2019 to the 30 June 2024.

	<b>New Cases</b>	<b>Warning Letters Issued</b>	<b>Enforcement Notices Served</b>	<b>Legal Proceedings</b>	<b>Files Closed</b>
<b>2019</b>	238	356	184	33	162
<b>2020</b>	268	360	159	22	136
<b>2021</b>	268	434	81	10	150
<b>2022</b>	205	357	128	26	250
<b>2023</b>	241	358	178	18	200
<b>2024</b>	133	263	75	4	196

The report was noted.

### **KN36/0724**

#### **Unauthorised Developments**

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

Can the council provide a report on the number of unauthorised development files open in the municipal district with details of how long they are in system, number of complaints associated with each and history of compliance (to include current site, all other related sites and historic cases) associated with developer in each case?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that The Planning Department's Unauthorised Development (UD) System does not provide a breakdown of Unauthorised Development (UD) cases by Municipal District. Members have previously been provided with statistics of Unauthorised Development cases for the county. Please be advised that we cannot discuss Unauthorised Development cases in the public domain. Please see below Unauthorised Development statistics for the County for the period 2019 to the 30 June 2024.

	<b>New Cases</b>	<b>Warning Letters Issued</b>	<b>Enforcement Notices Served</b>	<b>Legal Proceedings</b>	<b>Files Closed</b>
<b>2019</b>	238	356	184	33	162
<b>2020</b>	268	360	159	22	136
<b>2021</b>	268	434	81	10	150
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<b>2023</b>	241	358	178	18	200
<b>2024</b>	133	263	75	4	196

Councillor Doyle informed the members that she would like to have an in-committee meeting with unauthorised development to discuss this issue further, she asked what criteria was used to prioritise cases and queried how many cases are related to the same individual. Ms M McCarthy informed the members that she would be happy to have an in-committee meeting with the members. She said that all cases are GDPR sensitive, and every case was different and have a nuance with them. The department was committed to putting additional sources in. The report was noted.

**KN37/0724**

**Christmas Lights LPT**

Christmas Lights Local Property Tax Awards 2024

<b>Kildare/Newbridge MD. - Local property Tax 2024 -Christmas Lights</b>	
<b>Group</b>	<b>Proposed Allocations</b>
<b>Rathangan</b>	<b>€3,000</b>
<b>Kilcullen</b>	<b>€4,000</b>
<b>Monasterevin</b>	<b>€5,500</b>
<b>Kildare</b>	<b>€7,500</b>
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>€20,000</b>

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Power that the proposed Christmas lights allocations for 2024 be approved.

**Items 38 and 39 were taken together**

**KN38/0724**

**Former Monastery Liffey Lodge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey  
That the council gives an outline of measures it may consider for transitioning of the former monastery in Liffey Lodge, Newbridge to community use.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Liffey Lodge, Patrician House, Newbridge W12 CP82, was purchased with Housing funds and is currently being used to accommodate Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection fleeing the war in Ukraine. This use is expected to continue in the short term to ensure continued occupation and protection of the building until a suitable community use is established as part of the overall strategy for the site. The site is included in the council's Housing Delivery Action Plan as a location for Age-Friendly Housing, which will provide much-needed right-sizing opportunities in Newbridge. As indicated in the Newbridge Local Area Plan (LAP) the land to the rear of the site is appropriate for older peoples' housing. Surveys of the site are ongoing and once the information is compiled sketch proposals for older person-specific housing will be prepared. The development of an expression of interest (EOI) for community use will seek to identify a suitable use for the existing building that will complement the establishment of older person-specific housing on the site.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that the property in question was formerly a residence of the Patrician Brothers in Newbridge and while it was originally intended for community use the Housing Department were currently using it accommodate Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection fleeing the war in Ukraine which he thought was just a hub. He told the members that he was informed that there were not as many refugees from Ukraine coming into the country now and properties were now empty. He said that community facilities were badly needed in Newbridge.

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

#### **KN39/0724**

#### **Former Monastery Liffey Lodge**

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

That the council reverses its decision on the use of the former monastery in Newbridge and considers using as a youth facility.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Liffey Lodge, Patrician House, Newbridge W12 CP82, was purchased with Housing funds and is currently being used to accommodate Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection fleeing the war in Ukraine. This use is expected to continue in the short term to ensure continued occupation and protection of the building until a suitable community use is established as part of the overall strategy for the site. The site is included in the council's Housing Delivery Action Plan as a location for Age-Friendly Housing, which will provide much-needed right-sizing opportunities in Newbridge. As indicated in the Newbridge Local Area Plan (LAP) the land to the rear of the site is appropriate for older peoples' housing. Surveys of the site are ongoing and once the information is compiled sketch proposals for older person-specific housing will be prepared. The development of an expression of interest (EOI) for community use will seek to identify a suitable use for the existing building that will complement the establishment of older person-specific housing on the site.

Councillor McDonnell informed the members that he felt there were not enough places for the youth, and this should be considered for the existing building. He asked if the Ukrainian refugees could be moved to Floods Cross as this was going to be used to accommodate Ukrainian refugees.

The members raised the followings points:

- The property was originally bought by the Housing Department
- Newbridge needed more community services
- What budget was used in the original purchase of Liffey Lodge
- The site was identified in County Development Plan to accommodate older people like McAuley Place, Naas and Ryans Field, Newbridge

Ms Farrar informed the members that the Housing Department did purchase Liffey Lodge, Patrician House, Newbridge with the proposal of using it for older people, this had not changed, and the existing building would be used for community use. She said that there was a Service Level Agreement in place currently with Peter McVerry Trust until March 2025 but there were ongoing works regarding the site in the background.

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



**Standing orders were suspended for 20 minutes on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Power.**

**KN40/0724**

**Swimming pool for Newbridge**

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

That the council outlines any plans it has to provide a swimming pool for Newbridge.

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

A report was received from Kildare Sports Partnership informing the members that the three-year capital programme does not have a financial provision for a swimming pool in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District. Kildare County Council are exploring the possibility of a Popup Pool in the area, but this will be subject to the provision of a funding source, (i.e. LPT) and subject to the Department and Swim Ireland work programme.

Councillor McDonnell informed the members that with the Gables closed there was no public swimming pool in Newbridge. He asked if there was another way of getting funding for a pool and how much would it cost for a swimming pool. The members discussed the possibilities of seeking a public-private partnership with some of the large businesses in the town but advised that there would be a significant cost involved for a private enterprise. The District Manager informed the members that she would not be able to give an exact figure as there was so many factors to take into consideration when calculating this.

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

The meeting concluded.