



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District  
held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 18 September 2024  
in the Council Chamber**

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

**Remote Attendance:** Councillors R Power, S Ní Raghallaigh

**Officials Present:** Ms E Hanlon (District Manager), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Ms M O'Brien (Administrative Officer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer), Mr D Reynolds (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr P Henderson (A/Senior Architect), Ms P Pender (Senior Executive Officer), Ms M McCarthy (Administrative Officer), Ms S Farrar (Administrative Officer), Ms P O'Brien (Senior Executive Officer), Ms F Smith (Acting Staff Officer), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

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**KN01/0924**

**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.

**KN02/0924**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 17 July 2024 and the progress report was noted.

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**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 17 July 2024 be taken as read and the progress report be noted.

**KN03/0924**  
**Municipal District Road Works**

**Road Resurfacing Works:**

Works not completed at the following locations:

**Restoration Improvement**

- Nurney Road, Monasterevin
- Rathbride Road, Kildare

**Surface Dressing**

- Surface dressing programme is now complete for the 2024 season.

**National Transport Authority (NTA):**

Tender issued for NTA works at St. Bridget's School and the surrounding area in Kildare Town.

**Rathangan**

**Drainage cleaning and investigation works:** Hill of Allen Road, Hawkfield and Feighcullen Church.

**Grass and hedge cutting** at the following junctions:

- Feighcullen Church to Lullymore Road, Kildare Road,
- Barretstown Road, Edenderry.
- Rathbride Cross Road, Ellistown Road.
- Ring of Roseberry, Lullymore Road to Barnaran
- Paddy's Bridge and Roadstone Bend.

**Signage:** New signage and flexible bollards installed at Canal Bridge Milltown, additional signage at Ellistown bend / Thomastown West, Milltown and a stop sign on Barretstown Road.

**Patching works:** Clonbullogue Road, Kildare Road and Barretstown Road.

**Bollards:** pencil bollards were installed at Milltown School.

## **Kildare**

**Hedge cutting:** Grass verges and hedges were cut back at Mooretown Cross, Dunmurray Road at the Railway Station and Kildare Rugby Club, Old Road at Saint Bridget's Park, Ball Alley, R445 Monasterevin, Cow Pasture, R445 at Hazel Hotel, Clogheen, Passlands, Portarlinton Road, R445 Kildare Town, R445 to R413 Kildare/ Curragh Bucket Road junction and Hybla lane.

**Signage:** Cleaning the signs at Rathmuck junction, Ferns Bridge, Ballykelly – Canal Harbour, Duneany Cross, R445 Tesco Junction, Ros Glas, Redhills, Lackagh, Nurney Road, Grey Abbey Road, South Green Road, Kildare town, Green Road, Kildare, L3010 Kildangan to Kildare town, Newtown Kildare, Mountrice, Ummeras and Derrylea.

**Drainage:** Drainage issues were rectified in the following locations: Ball Alley, sheep grid at Rathbride was cleared of debris, gullies and lines jetted at Nurney Road L7055, Kildangan Road R417, Old Mill Race, Monasterevin, Saint Evins Park, Ardevan Monasterevin, The Pastures, Mill Stream, Little CowPasture, Tougher Grove, Woodview, and The Grove.

**Patching:** Roads were patched at Clogheen, Ball Alley, Passlands, R445 Kildare – Monasterevin and Tully Road Kildare.

**Signage:** New signs were installed at Rathmuck, Kildare as part of the Junction Upgrade Scheme. New stop sign was installed at Meadow Road, Kildare town and new parking signs at the square Kildare town.

**Footpath Repair:** A footpath in Woodview was repaired.

**Solar Signage:** Poles were erected at Rathbride for the installation of solar illuminated speed limit signage and were erected at Mellita Road, Tully to allow for the installation of solar illuminate horse crossing signs.

## **Kilcullen**

**Grass cutting:** Halverstown Cross, Floods Cross, R448, R413 Kinneagh.

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

**Road Signage:** Cleaning and repairing road signage at all junctions.

**Pothole Repairs:** Caragh.



## **Newbridge**

**Patching:** Roads were patched at Brownstown, Curragh Camp, Ballymany Road, Athgarvan Road, Cutbush, Martinstown.

**Grass Verge Cutting:** Pollardstown, Blackberry Lane, Ring of Roseberry.

**Drainage Works:** New gully was installed at Suncroft and a new gully with soak hole created between Kineagh/Athgarvan with new road edge markings and a gully repaired at Dunne Stores Junction.

**Footpath Repair:** Brownstown, Mount Carmel and Kilbelin Avenue.

**McGuinness Jetting and cleaning:** Barrettstown Road, Rowan Terrace towards The College, Wellesley Manor, Allenvue Heights, Standhouse Lawns, Morrinstown Road, Athgarvan, Brownstown, Pfizer roundabout, College Farm, Moorefield Road, Connell Drive.

**Town Works:** Loose kerbs on Main Street, Newbridge were repaired, replaced damaged bollards on Cutlery Road, reflector stripes were put on railings at Morrinstown Cross.

**Clean up:** Full clean-up was carried out on Sex's Bridge this included litter picking and all hedges were cut back.

**Signage:** Signs changed at Brownstown, Tully East and Standhouse Road. Signage cleaned at The Curragh, Pollardstown, Brownstown.

**Tree Trimming:** Works carried out around bus stop and footpath near Pfizer roundabout, between Finleys and McDonalds, and at the junction across from Circle K garage.

The report was noted.

### **KN04/0924 Residual LPT**

Councillor Doyle informed the members that she would like the LPT coordinator to circulate a breakdown of LPT that was not drawn down or not applied for. She also asked if the allocation for Christmas activity could be processed. The members confirmed the Christmas lights allocation had been already carried out. The District Manager informed the members that all LPT had been allocated and that any monies that had not been drawdown by the end of the year could be reallocated then.



### **KN05/0924**

#### **Parking Pass Scheme**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillors Balfe and Pender  
That the council implements a parking pass scheme specifically for emergency first responders, including Community First Responders (CFR) in this municipal district, to allow them to park in designated areas when responding to emergencies. This pass should grant temporary parking access without the risk of penalties, ensuring that first responders can efficiently and safely attend to emergencies in a timely manner.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there are no provisions in road traffic legislation to permit this. Official emergency vehicles such as ambulances are exempt under the Road Traffic Legislation in the event of attending an emergency. There is also an appeal process in place where persons or organisations can appeal fines which will be considered.

The members raised the following points:

- Were approached by the Community First Responders (CFR) about this issue
- There was a pass brought in during covid for emergency services and maybe something like that could be used.
- CFR had received fines when out on an emergency call and the appeal was unsuccessful
- The members passed Bye Laws. A scheme should be implemented
- CRF were volunteers and used their own vehicles
- Recognition for their time as they had proven that they have saved lives
- CFR did not need the stress of receiving a parking ticket when trying to save lives
- This was a worthwhile motion, but the members needed to decide how to deliver this
- Perceived issues with giving out passes
- Show logbook when an appeal was needed to waive the fine
- Would welcome some measure to support CFR



- Everyone that attends an emergency logs details but needed to be mindful of GDPR if the members were going down the route of showing them Logbook for an appeal.
- If we had an appeal process for CFR, we wouldn't be in this situation exercise good judgement
- Demonstrate the value of their good work
- Appeals could be fair if Kildare County Council put in the instructions
- Understood the approach to using the appeals process but that there be a specific appeals process for CFR, but CFR had a lot of paperwork as it was and did not need the extra work.
- Understand the reservations of using passes but this was a serious role, and the volunteers took it seriously.
- The appeals process had not worked for some CFR
- This item to remain on the Progress Report.

Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that Kildare County Council acknowledge of the hard and serious work that CFR do. Passes had never been provided by Kildare County Council and is not a route that we would like to go down. The appeals process could be the proactive way. He asked Councillor Pender if he could get details on the appeals that were refused and to see what happened and go forward from there on using the appeals process.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor Balfe and agreed by all members present that this would remain on the progress report and that the report be noted.

#### **KN06/0924**

#### **Melitta Park**

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

That the council investigates public area boundary issues in Melitta Park, Kildare Town (bottom of estate bounding Magee Barracks), with a view to securing adequate boundary?

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare Newbridge Municipal District office agree to meet onsite and investigate all options subject to budget availability.

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

**KN07/0924**  
**Traffic Audit Kilcullen**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer  
That Kildare County Council carries out a comprehensive traffic audit in the town of Kilcullen and the approach roads into Kilcullen to include but not limited to traffic volume, vehicle movement, peak times, pinch points, speed, type of vehicles, for the purpose of informing current live and future planning, in particular through the traffic light junction on Main Street, Kilcullen.

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 Kildare County Council do not currently have the capacity to carry out a comprehensive traffic audit for Kilcullen. This request can be considered in the context of future studies to be completed as part of the development of an updated Settlement Plan for the town, subject to resources.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that she had concerns as there was only one junction coming into Kilcullen and the traffic volume was growing and lanes could be widened. This needed to be flagged for future developments and to have a solution in place for the future. Councillor Pender informed the members that the speed through Kilcullen was quite high. With an increase in development and traffic post Part 8 there was a serious need for an audit to be done for safety.

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

**KN8/0924**

**Light Goods Road Cloncurry to Cappanargid**

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

That the council designates the short road from Cloncurry (the bottom of Willie Winns Lane) to Cappanargid (Carthys Cross) a light goods road.

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 there are no plans to reduce the road to light goods vehicle use only.

The Municipal District office agree to install signage notifying road users of the narrow bridge ahead. This will give advanced warning to the articulated vehicles.

Councillor O'Loughlin informed the members that there was about 4km of rural road where articulated vehicles had no way of turning around as they could not cross the bridge and had to reverse back to turn around in a local farmers yard.

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

**KN09/0924**

**Street Light Milemill, Brannockstown**

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

Can the council provide a status update on a previous motion I raised, asking for the installation of a public street light in the Milemill, Brannockstown area where the distance between two existing public lights would indicate there is a light missing?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Public Lighting (PL) Section has requested a quotation from the PL maintenance contractor. The provision of lighting will depend on the request's Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Scheme (KLIPS) ranking and availability of funds.

The report was noted.



**KN10/0924**  
**Bus Shelters**

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

Can the council provide an updated list of proposed bus shelters for this municipal district, including their expected timelines for completion, ensuring to outline the procedure and criteria for adding future locations to the program of works?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the prioritisation of bus stops is carried out in accordance with criteria set down by Transport for Ireland (TFI) /National Transport Authority (NTA) i.e. primarily based on the level of demand and volume of services operating at the location. Due to a number of staff changes during 2024, priority was given to progressing capital schemes and it is expected that a schedule will be prepared in early 2025 once agreed with the NTA.

Councillor Balfe asked for clarification if there was a previous list that he could see of proposed bus shelters and what was the criteria for adding bus stops to the list. Mr M McLoughlin informed the member that Active Travel were working on a report but there was a backlog at the moment but would get criteria and circulate to the members. The Meetings Administrator reminded the members that the NTA were coming into meet with the members on the 30 September and if they had any questions to submit them before the meeting.

The report was noted.

**KN11/0924**  
**Works Programme for 2025**

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to include Frenchfurze Road, Kildare from the motorway to Maddenstown, on the road works programme for 2025?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District office will include this road for consideration as part of the 2025 Budget. The schedule will not be prepared until early 2025.

The report was noted.

## **KN12/0924**

### **Playground**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer  
That the council considers commencing the process of the installation of a large playground at the lands around Dara Park, Lakeside Park, and Highfield in the absence of a Masterplan to expedite this amenity that is required in a town with a population of over 24,000 people.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that it is not proposed to install a playground on the open space in Dara Park, Lakeside Park, and Highfield without preparing a masterplan. Without a masterplan any development will be uncoordinated. A masterplan will maximise the use of the space and where best to locate facilities within the space.

The members raised the following points:

- Push forward the playground without the masterplan
- It was nearly 4 or 5 years ago the masterplan was talked about and there was still none.
- Why did we need to wait we have the land
- Not happy to wait on a masterplan very disappointed in this
- There was a need for a playground
- What was the implication of not having a masterplan and how long would a masterplan take
- The members gave €30k last year towards the masterplan but were told it could not be delivered.
- It seemed there was no additional benefit to a masterplan, and it was waiting for a masterplan which was causing the delay with delivering
- The challenge for this municipal district was the need for amenities but had no time to deliver them
- The members had seen from another report that a masterplan had no statutory value
- Kildare County Council owned the land so what was the issue and delay. Clarity was needed



- This needed to be put back to the Chief Executive it was not good enough that communities were lacking infrastructure
- The pace was too slow
- Was it mandatory to have a masterplan
- They needed to work with Parks Department who looked after five municipal districts
- This item to remain on the progress report

Mr S Wallace made the following points:

- Doing ad hoc work did not work
- Priorities needed to be agreed for this municipal district
- Cherry Avenue was not delivered because there were no resources, and it was a huge challenge when there were no priorities agreed.
- Had to finish four other playgrounds in Newbridge first so could not commit to anything at the moment
- This was a huge open space and needed to be looked at properly and a masterplan was needed.
- There was no one design for playgrounds every area is different
- Needed to plan appropriately, there has to be order.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all members present that this item remains on the progress report and that the report be noted.

#### **KN13/0924**

#### **All-Weather Sports Playing Area**

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

That the council builds an all-weather sports playing area on the basketball court at Lakeside Park, Highfield, Dara Park, Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there is no objection in principle to building an All-Weather Playing Area on the open space at Dara Park,

Lakeside Park, and Highfield. However, the best location needs to be considered as the current location has been a location for antisocial behaviour. Similar to the playground the location and design of an All-Weather pitch would need to be considered in the context of a masterplan for the open space. Funding to deliver an All-Weather Playing Area would also need to be identified.

Councillor McDonnell informed the members that this area was a deprived area and had worked on different projects here over the years. There are multiple estates surrounding this area and there was nothing for children of different ages. It needs to be a priority, and the area needed to be upgraded, this was imperative. A sensory playground was also needed and a recreational area for older children they needed something to do too.

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

#### **KN14/0924**

#### **Dog Park in the Newbridge Area**

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

That the council conducts a feasibility study to explore the potential for establishing a dedicated dog park in the Newbridge area. This study should include an assessment of suitable locations, estimated costs, and community interest, with the aim of providing a safe and accessible space for dog owners and their pets.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that a works programme for the Parks Section was set out at the start of the year. This remains our focus and there is no scope within it to carry out this work. Any progression of this beyond the current year would have to consider existing commitments to projects and progressing them and what the members want prioritised. Additionally, the municipal district has the Curragh as large area of open space located centrally with the municipal district which provides a suitable safe access for dog owners, and this may negate the need for any feasibility study.

Councillor Pender informed the members that not all people could get to the Curragh to be able to use this area. He said he would discuss again when there were more resources in the Parks Department.

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

### **KN15/0924**

#### **Monitoring, Repairing, and Maintenance of Playgrounds**

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

That the council provides reports related to the monitoring, repairing, and maintenance of Kildare County Council playgrounds in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District on a quarterly basis and that a helpline or dedicated email address be established/provided to report damage or dangerous equipment.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that this year we have completed an annual independent inspection, and one inspection carried out by our own staff. A summary of these will be provided to the municipal district members. Another inspection is due shortly. The findings of these reports form the basis for maintenance and repairs within the playgrounds. Approximately €80k is spent in this municipal district annually on maintenance and repairs. In addition to these inspections all the playgrounds receive a weekly visit or have basic maintenance carried out to them via local arrangements. Any issues related to damage or dangerous equipment can be reported to [customercare@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customercare@kildarecoco.ie) or [parks@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:parks@kildarecoco.ie) or phone the Parks Section at 045-980553.

The members raised the following points:

- This was the second biggest issue raised when talking to people during the local elections
- Difficult challenge trying to upkeep the old equipment and getting new equipment in
- Would it be beneficial if the members had a designated meeting with the Parks Department to talk about budgets and priorities
- Did the Parks Department need a forward planning team

- Communication was key
- Caragh playground had keyholders with good commitment and when a person from the community identified a problem the keyholders reported it to the Parks Department and would be resolved as soon as possible
- Sometimes issues with the equipment well due to antisocial behaviour
- Thanked the Parks Department for all their hard work

Mr S Wallace informed the members that the Parks Department took safety very seriously. They had over 300 repairs at the moment. Kildare Towns playground had repairs and replacements happening now. He said the pressure at the moment was new playgrounds.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Balfe and seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all members present that a designated meeting would be held with the Parks Department and the members and that the report be noted.

#### **KN16/0924**

#### **BMX Pump Track**

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

Can the council provide an update on any previous discussions, studies, or assessments that have been conducted regarding the potential establishment of a BMX Pump Track within the municipal district, including any identified suitable locations or estimated costs?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that recent discussions have been held with Councillor O'Dwyer in relation to a pump track for Kilcullen but there isn't a suitable site to provide it. Estimated costs for it are €50k upwards depending on the scale of the pump track and design.

Councillor Pender asked for clarification if there had been talks before with former Councillor McLoughlin Healy regarding a BMX Pump track. Mr S Wallace informed the members that there were previous discussions for Newbridge, but it was for a BMX track not a pump track as a pump track and BMX track are two different things.

The report was noted.

**KN17/0924**

**Tree Pruning Program**

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

Can the council provide an update on the 2024 tree pruning program in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and confirm if there is a draft 2025 program for Members to review and provide feedback?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the 2024 programme has been completed with the exception of one location on Tougher Road in Monasterevin which requires a switch out from the ESB. We plan to prepare a programme for 2025 by the end of the year. This is largely based on requests received through the year. Once we have tendered this, we can provide a draft for members to review before works start. The extent of works is determined by the tender prices we receive and the budget available to complete these.

Councillor Duffy asked for clarification if the tree pruning program had been fully completed besides Tougher Road for 2024. Mr S Wallace informed the members that the this had been completed besides Tougher Road.

The report was noted.

**KN18/0924**

**Part 8 Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare Town**

Mr D Reynolds gave a presentation to the members on the Chief Executives Part 8 report P82024-06 for the proposed residential development at Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare Town

Mr D Reynolds raised the following points:

- This was a proposed mixed tenure development which means both social and affordable housing were proposed on the site.
- The delivery of the social housing was proposed as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) project whereby the PPP Company will design, build finance and operate the site for 25 years under a license agreement with Kildare County Council.



- The site would remain in the ownership of Kildare County Council, this was different to the traditional capital delivery stream.
- The affordable housing portion of the scheme will be delivered by Kildare County Council directly through contract/developer agreement.
- This site was one of two sites in Kildare out of a total of 17 sites in the overall project which are currently being designed and lodged into the planning system at the moment in association with the NDFA National Development Management Agency.
- To date Kildare County Council have completed PPP housing schemes at Craddockstown, Naas B1 (Eustace Demesne) and Nancys Lane, Clane (Cluain Ailbhe) on B2 and were currently in procurement stage for a site at Ardrew, Athy in Bundle 3 which was hoped to start on site next February.
- The site location was off Melitta Road adjacent to the Curragh in lands zoned Phase 2 Residential in the most recent Kildare Town LAP
- This land was owned by Kildare County Council and was a greenfield site.
- The site was accessed from Connagh Road past an existing Kildare County Council housing estate.
- The proposal was for 99 social housing units and 32 affordable housing units and a new creche facility with capacity for 60 children. 131 units in total.
  - 42 x 1 bed
  - 36 x 2
  - 42 x 3 bed
  - 8x 4 bed
- There were four Traveler specific units proposed on the site. The houses would be the same as a standard social house with added access to the side for travelling caravan.
- These were designed in accordance with department guidance. As part of the PPP these units would be managed by the PPP Company for the 25-year period.
- There was a strong requirement for 1 bed units in Kildare County Council social housing needs demand assessment in all areas of Kildare.
- The proposed creche which would be provided as part of the first phase of the development
  - 5 classrooms were provided, storage, staff room, office space, level access shower.



- Bike storage and parking as well as drop off area adjacent to the existing roundabout.
- Kildare County Council received 8 submissions in total on Part 8
  - 0 submissions were received from Public Representatives
  - 4 submissions were received from the Internal Departments of Kildare County Council
  - 2 submissions were received from prescribed bodies
  - 2 submissions were received from members of the public.

The members raised the following points:

- How many parking spaces would there be
- Delighted to see four traveller specific units
- Acknowledged the work that had been done
- The creche should be managed by the PPP
- A creche can be challenging to get up and running in an estate
- It was great to see physical files to be able to look at the plans properly
- Would the estate be taken in charge after 25 years
- What was the difference between the traveller units and the other housing units

Mr D Reynolds informed the members of the following points:

- There would be 186 parking spaces provided but not all adjoining premises
- After 25 years it would be taken in charge by Kildare County Council
- The creche would be built by PPP and then handed over to Kildare County Council
- The difference between the traveller units and the other units is that the added access to the side for travelling caravan.

Councillor Doyle proposed the following amendments this was seconded by Councillor Pender and after a lengthy discussion they were agreed by all members present

1. That a landmark mature tree be planted at entrance to Dev, ideally to frame creche.  
(Lebanese Cedar/ Oak or other appropriate)

2. That the principle of creche be designated to run as a community creche model be specified in Part VIII
3. That the rear boundary of creche be extended to perimeter of site to extend outdoor area of facility.
4. That the new development be named to acknowledge the equine heritage of the area and preferably an appropriate horse of note.
5. That the public open area on right hand side of site be delivered in an optimal public use manner, that minimise the use of mounding but to include the installation of a 5 aside/ basketball muga with secure fencing and hard surface.
6. That the garden sheds design includes a Perspex type roof that optimise light filtration, supporting use of space as a laundry drying area.

Councillor Doyle also asked the following items would be considered and included in the tender

- That traffic calming in the way of chicanes be installed from the entrance of Melitta road through to end of spine road in proposed development.
- That a minimum of 11 additional car parking spaces be delivered along the approach road to new development on the boundary of mounding in Collaghknock/ Connagh estate

Mr D Reynolds informed the members that only matters within the curtilage of the development could be conditioned under the Part 8. He suggested the following addition to item 2 of Councillor Doyles amendment that 'subject to Kildare County Council finding a suitable and qualified operator' this was agreed.

**Resolved** On the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all members present that the Chief Executives Part 8 report P82024-06 for the proposed residential development at Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare Town be approved with the following amendments,

1. That a landmark mature tree be planted at entrance to Dev, ideally to frame creche.  
(Lebanese Cedar/ Oak or other appropriate)



2. That the principle of creche be designated to run as a community creche model be specified in Part VIII subject to Kildare County Council finding a suitable and qualified operator.
3. That the rear boundary of creche be extended to perimeter of site to extend outdoor area of facility.
4. That the new development be named to acknowledge the equine heritage of the area and preferably an appropriate horse of note.
5. That the public open area on right hand side of site be delivered in an optimal public use manner, that minimise the use of mounding but to include the installation of a 5 aside/ basketball muga with secure fencing and hard surface.
6. That the garden sheds design includes a Perspex type roof that optimise light filtration, supporting use of space as a laundry drying area.

### **Items 19 and 20 taken together**

#### **KN19/0924 /KN20/0924**

#### **Curragh Plains Plan**

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

That Kildare County Council provides the members with a detailed update on the current status of the Curragh Plains Plan to include the makeup of the Task Force and the implementation plan and structure going forward to implement the plan as per the recommendations from the report.

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

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

Can the council provide an update on the status of The Curragh Plains Management Plan?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that Kildare County Council is collaborating with the Department of Defence to complete a Draft Conservation Management Plan for the Curragh Plains. The Draft is in the final stages of review. Once completed, it will be presented to the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence, Micheál

Martin. To progress to the next phase, amendments to legislation, funding allocations and resources need to be prioritised. The structure of the organisation(s) tasked with the future Management of the Curragh Plains will also need to be determined. A briefing to the elected members of this Municipal District will take place once the Draft Conservation Management Plan is completed.

The members raised the following points:

- This was originally raised in 2021 and very disappointed that there was no urgency for this plan
- What was Kildare County Council's next stage would the members be notified when the department sign off on it
- What involvement would Kildare County Council have going forward
- During the summer there were illegal encampments on the Curragh Plains, and it was being used like a commercial site, this issue needed to be managed and sorted
- This was a complex issue and needed to be addressed
- Concerns over the amount of money put into consultations and nothing being done
- There was more complexity but needed to be sorted
- It was a complex site with a lot of interested parties, could it be broken up to be managed by different parties as it was such a vast area.
- The Curragh Plains were significant to Kildare with valuable amenities to the community.
- Could a briefing be given to the members
- To be put on the Progress Report

Ms P Pender informed the members that there were two meeting coming up in the next couple of weeks. They were at the final stages of review to the Draft Conservation Management Plan and once agreed it would go to the Tánaiste and Minister of Defence. She said that there would be recommendations on management of the Curragh Plains put into the report. She said a briefing would be given to the members.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that this item remains on the progress report and that the report be noted.

**KN22/0924**

**Social Houses and Apartments**

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

Can the council confirm how many social houses and apartments have been allocated to non-Irish born people in the last 5 years in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that allocations to social properties are made in accordance with the Allocation Scheme for the Provision of Social Housing, which is based on time on the list, with certain applicants afforded priority status due to for example to homelessness, disability. Data on the nationality of tenants allocated a Kildare County Council property is recorded based on the following classification: Irish, European Economic Area, Non-European Economic Area, and this information is provided in the table below, no such data is collected in relation to Approved Housing Body tenants, however it will be broadly similar.

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Irish</b>	137	120	109	96	175	78	715
<b>Non-EEA</b>	4	11	6	1	21	4	47
<b>EEA</b>	20	18	15	17	60	18	148
<b>UK*</b>	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	161	149	130	114	257	100	911

\*Up to March 2021 UK housing applicants were included in the EEA category.

The report was noted.

**KN22/0924**  
**Hill of Allen**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Loughlin  
That the council investigates the new fencing erected by Roadstone at the pedestrian entrance along the path and around the tower on the Hill of Allen. It is ugly and aggressive, more fitting for the Prison Service than a place of natural beauty and an important heritage site.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the process for reporting potential Unauthorised Development (UD) is through the completion of a UD Complaint Form. On receipt of a completed UD Complaint Form, a new UD file is opened and referred to the Senior Executive Planner (SEP). The SEP assess the contents of the complaint, and the file is then referred to the Case Officer for further investigation. Each UD case is unique with a different set of circumstances, all of which are considered at referral stage. In order to protect the integrity of the Council investigate procedures and to prevent the possible prejudice of the case, Unauthorised Development cases will not be discussed in the public domain.

Councillor O'Loughlin informed the members that more fencing went in recently around the Hill of Allen and he felt that Roadstone were separating people from the Hill of Allen.

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

**KN23/0924**  
**Athgarvan Village Renewal Masterplan**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor O'Dwyer  
Can Kildare County Council explain how the Athgarvan Village Renewal Masterplan issued in January 2024 will be taken into consideration and implemented by the planning department when adjudicating on all current and future planning applications in Athgarvan?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the Athgarvan Village Renewal Masterplan is a non-statutory document. Applications for development where relevant are referred to the SPPR Team for comment. While the plan can indeed be referenced at the early stages of the process, unlike the CDP and various other statutory plans the Planning Authority cannot compel compliance with same.

The report was noted.

### **KN24/0924**

#### **Unauthorised Development Reports**

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

Can the council provide detailed information on the number of Unauthorised Development reports received within the municipal district over the past 12 months, including the locations of these developments and the current status of 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 31 August 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>	190	325	115	5	223

\* Figures to 31 August 2024

The report was noted.

**KN25/0924**

**Monasterevin Bank of Ireland**

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

Can the council provide an update on the development of plans for the repurposing of the Monasterevin Bank of Ireland?

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office informing the members that Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub Capital funding for the proposed development of the former Bank of Ireland building has been secured. Architectural consultancy led services have been procured. Initial design and the preparation of Part 8 statutory process documents have commenced. Architectural lead will carry out

- Work Stage 1; Initial Design and Feasibility
- Work Stage 2; Developed Design (including Part 8)
- Work Stage 3; Scheme Design (to planning/FSC/DAC)
- Works Stage 4; Production and Tenders.

The report was noted.

**KN26/0924**

**Dredging of the River Barrow Special Area of Conservation**

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

That the council prioritises the dredging of the River Barrow Special Area of Conservation (SAC) between the Monasterevin Town Bridge to the Passlands Bridge as part of the 2025 program given the significant in river overgrown that is impeding the navigation of the river.

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

A report was received from Flood Risk Management informing the members that Drainage maintenance works carried by the Council include silt and vegetation management, aquatic vegetation cutting, bank protection, tree cutting, branch trimming, bridge and structural repairs, in specific drainage districts across the county. In-stream works with machinery are limited to the



months of July, August and September. Due to the width and depth of the River Barrow, it's designation as a Special Area of Conservation and limited access to the riparian zone, standard machine maintenance has not been possible in some sections. To resolve this, The Council are piloting the use of a weed cutting boat on the Barrow this year. Similar boats are used by Waterways Ireland. Weed cutting, when carried out over a number of years, may reduce the likelihood of vegetation regrowth. The boat is currently working close to Dunrally bridge (see photos below) and is scheduled to move to Monasterevin in mid-September.



Pre-weed cutting



Post-weed cutting

Councillor Duffy informed the members that this whole river was choked by weeds. He said he took it from the report that the area in question would be done by mid-September. Councillor Balfe informed the members that this was a recreational area for a local kayaking club but were unable to use it at the moment and had to move to Athy, this area needed to be done. Councillor O'Loughlin asked what the reason was for the growth. If this did work, it would be positive. Ms F Smith informed the members that she would bring their queries back to Ms E O'Brien and would revert back to the members with the answers. Councillor Duffy informed the members he looked forward to an update mid-September.

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

**KN27/0924**

**Newbridge Swimming Pool**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McDonnell  
That Kildare County Council provides a site in Newbridge to build a swimming pool.

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

A report was received from the Community Department informing the members that there is currently no provision in the capital programme to provide a swimming pool in Newbridge and it is not within the current work programme of the department. The priority of Kildare County Council is to provide a swimming facility in North Kildare.

Councillor McDonnell informed the members that the former Monastery Liffey Lodge could be a site that could be used for a swimming pool. He said the first step is to secure a site. Councillor Pender informed the members that the former monastery was bought by housing and not to give people of Newbridge false hope of what this building would be used for. Councillor Heavey said that it was his belief that there was commitment the use of the former building would be a community facility. The District Manager informed the members that there was no funding in the Capital Programme at the moment. She said the Local Area Plan would be coming up and maybe this could be used to identify locations for a swimming pool.

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

**KN28/0924**

**Community Recognition Funding streams**

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

Can the council confirm if there were any applications submitted to include Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District for Community Recognition Funding streams recently announced?

A report was received from the Community Department informing the members that Community Recognition Fund

The Community Recognition Fund was first introduced in 2023 to recognise the huge efforts made by communities in welcoming and supporting people coming to Ireland. Through the 2023 allocation, funding of €50 million was approved for some 900 projects in support cities, towns and villages nationwide. Based on the continued impacts on communities throughout the country and the need to support these communities in welcoming new arrivals, a further €50 million is being provided under the Community Recognition Fund 2024.

Kildare County Council (KCC) invited all community groups in the county to participate in the Community Recognition Scheme, interested parties were required to submit an expression of interest form outlining a proposed project.

The proposal must demonstrate that the funding is specifically targeted at and invested in, those cities, towns and villages where the highest level of new arrivals are located and where a clear need for investment has been identified.

#### CRF 2023

As part of the Community Recognition Fund 2023, €768,005 was awarded to Kildare to support the projects approved under this funding stream, with 10 successful projects located countywide. A total of €440,000, which represented almost 57% of the overall 2023 fund, was awarded to the Newbridge/ Kildare MD to assist with the development of the Newbridge Family Resource Centre.

#### CRF 2024

As part of the Community Recognition Fund 2024, €788,506.65 has been awarded to Kildare to support projects approved under this funding stream. Projects funded under the Community Recognition Fund 2024 must be capital in nature, deliver medium-long term benefits for the communities, have all permissions in place and be capable of being delivered over the course of 2025 and 2026. The minimum level of funding for an individual project is €50,000 with a maximum of €500,000 applying. Each project is subject to Department approval

The Department has approved projects of €513,800 in Kildare to date. An additional project proposed for the Newbridge /Kildare Municipal was not approved by the Department for funding in the original submission as all relevant permissions were not in place at the time of submission.

There will be further opportunities for funding under this scheme in the coming months.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.