



Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 19 March 2025
in the Council Chamber

Members Present:	Councillors P O'Dwyer (Mayor), P Balfe, N Connolly, S Doyle, K Duffy, N Heavey, T McDonnell, T O'Dwyer, B O'Loughlin, C Pender, R Power
Officials Present:	Ms E Hanlon (District Manager), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Mr B Murnane (Executive Engineer), Daragh Conlan (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer), Ms P O'Rourke (Climate Action Coordinator), Mr L McNeela (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr Syl Merrins (Sports Partnership Coordinator), Ms S Farrar (Administrative Officer), Ms L Morgan (Meetings Administrator), Ms KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

As the Mayor, Councillor P O'Dwyer was attending the meeting online, it was agreed that the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Chris Pender would chair the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District March meeting.

As Councillor Pender was delayed the members agreed under Standing Orders Number 9 that Councillor Duffy would chair the meeting until Deputy Mayor Councillor Pender arrived.

KN01/0325
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.



KN02/0325

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 19 February 2025 and the progress report was noted.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 19 February 2025 be taken as read and the progress report be noted.

KN03/0325

Municipal District Road Works

The members received an update on the Municipal District Road Works

Road Resurfacing Works:

NTA:

Works are ongoing at St. Bridgid's School and surrounding areas in Kildare Town.

LPT:

Footpath improvement works ongoing on the R445 Kildare Town

Restoration Improvement / Maintenance:

Preparation of the restoration maintenance and improvement program.

Rathangan

Drainage: Gullies and lines were cleared in main street, R419 to Bracknagh, Roseberry and Ard Mhuire

Water cuts were opened at: R414 to Lullymore, Roseberry Newbridge, Thomastown and Dunbyrne Hill.

Patching: Potholes were patched at Dunmurray Road, Newtown R414, Feighcullen, Mount Prospect, Clongorey, Thomastown, Boston Hill, Rathangan Town, L3001 to Edenderry, R419 to Bracknagh.

Hedge cutting: Feighcullen, Allen Cross to Milltown, R414 to Monasterevin, Dunbyrne.

In addition to these works, new speed limit signs were changed in various locations.



Kildare

Patching: Beech Park, Dunmurray Road, L3010 Kildangan to Kildare Town, Rathmuck, Railway Bridge, Green Road, Old Green Road, Tully East, L7055 Nurney Road, Mullan Cross, Rathbride, Passlands, Kill Hill, Canal Road, Monasterevin, Southgreen Road and Newtown Kildare.

Water cuts: Rathmuck and South Green Road.

Hedge Cutting: Green Road, Old Green Road, South Green Road, Passlands, Baraderra, Mooretown, Redhills and R445 Kildare Town.

The Horse Crossing Bridge was repaired for the Department of Defense on the R445, partial collapse from Storm Eowyn.

New wheelchair sign fitted at the Credit Union parking bay at Kildare Town.

In addition to these works, new speed limit signs were changed in various locations.

Newbridge

Day to day litter picking, emptying bins, clearing of lanes and general maintenance of Newbridge Town and small villages around Newbridge.

Pothole Repairs: Military Road, the road around Curragh Golf course, Suncroft, Askinraw, Maddenstown, Tully East, Bougherguy, Pollardstown and the Ring of Roseberry.

Ailesbury Park was used to trial the new hotbox along with the plainer on the JCB with front brushes with a view of sending crews to permanently repair potholes.

Bollards Replacement: Dara Park and Rosconnell. Part of a fence in Rosconnell was also repaired.

Signs: Speed signs were replaced around Newbridge Municipal District 80>60.

Gullys: A new gully was put on the island at Dunnes Stores junction for a lying water issue, a new gully was connected to storm water drains at Cutbush to resolve on going water lying on the road edge. A gully lid and frame were repaired in a back lane at Lakeside Park.

Drains: Cleaned out drains at Martinstown Lane, also at Lakeside Park inlet and outlets were cleaned.

Kilcullen

Pothole repairs. Castlekealy, Gingerstown, Thomastown Caragh, Green Avenue, Old Kilcullen. Kilcullen Athy Road, Park Lane and Dunstown straight.

Hedge cutting Mylerstown Junction R448, Stephenstown Junction R448, Kilcullen Athy Road, Green Avenue, Ladytown to Rathasker, Commons Road and Two Mile House.

Gully cleaning and Watercuts R445 Naas side of Toughers roundabout. Watercuts Green Avenue, Cleaning Drainage pipes Newberry and Carnalway.

Washing road signage Milemill Cross and Carnalway Cross.

The report was noted.

KN04/0325 **LPT Schedule of Works 2025**

The mayor asked the members if the complete schedule of works 2025 could be approved today. Councillor Doyle proposed that the LPT allocation to Newbridge Library would be released subject to the appointment of a contractor through procurement, for delivery of the project, this was seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present.

Councillor Power asked if the LPT funding could be drawdown as of today as the minutes were approved. The District Manger informed the members that LPT funding under the schedule of works 2025 agreed at the February Municipal District meeting could be drawdown.

	Project Details	KCC Central Funding €	Pay Parking Funding €	Retained LPT Funding €
		€ 3,781,520.00	€ 455,289.00	€ 1,207,865.00
	Carried Forward to 2025 (Festival Grants 2024)			€ 20,635.00
				€ 1,228,500.00
Roads	Roads/Footpath Projects	-	-	
	Roads Footpath Programme	-	€ 455,289.00	
	Local Road Maint (excel pay parking) *	€ 2,367,952.00		
	Footpaths	€ 68,335.00		
	Traffic Calming	€ 21,625.00		
	Signage	€ 21,625.00		
	Street Cleaning	€ 680,250.00		
	Public Lighting			
	Skate Park Kilcullen			€ 100,000.00
	Skate Park Kildare			€ 100,000.00
	Skate Park Monasterevin			€ 100,000.00
	Roads Sub Total	€ 3,159,787.00	€ 455,289.00	€ 300,000.00



Parks	Parks			
	Parks & Landscaping	€ 131,605.00		
	Public Realm Maintenance	€ 164,000.00		
	Playgrounds	€ 92,000.00		
	Tree Pruning in Housing and Open Spaces			€20,000.00
	Lakeside Park Masterplan to develop design for open space			€30,000.00
	Kilcullen Playground - Replace Climbing Board			€30,000.00
	Parks Sub Total	€ 387,605.00		€80,000.00
	Kildare Library Service			
Libraries	Newbridge Library, County Archives & Cultural Centre Capital Project			€300,000.00
	Music Generation			€10,000.00
	Libraries Subtotal	€0.00		€310,000.00
Community	Community			
	Festival Grants	€25,000.00		€20,635.00
	Community Grants - General Projects	€65,000.00		
	Contribution to Kildare Heritage	€50,000.00		
	Residents Association Grants	€31,480.00		€50,000.00
	Brigid 1500			€20,000.00
	Redevelopment of Kilcullen Social Older Persons Centre			€60,000.00
	Mural Project Kildare			€15,000.00
	St Patrick's Day Newbridge			€5,000.00
	St. Patricks' Day Monasterevin & Monasterevin Gordon Bennett			€9,500.00
	June Fest			€15,000.00
	Kildare Derby Festival			€20,000.00
	Rathangan Drama Festival & Bluebells & Buskers			€5,000.00
	Halloween Kildare			€5,000.00
	Manley Hopkins Festival (Newbridge)			€ 12,000.00
	Christmas Lights Kildare			€ 7,500.00
	Christmas Lights Kilcullen			€ 3,696.00
	Christmas Lights Rathangan			€ 5,546.00
	Christmas Lights Monasterevin			€ 5,126.00
	Community Subtotal	€171,480.00		€259,003.00
	Sports Partnership			€25,000.00
	Sports Partnership Subtotal			€25,000.00

Environment	Environment			
	Tidy Towns Competitions	€46,213.00		
	Sponsored Litter Bins	€16,435.00		
	Newbridge Tidy Towns			€25,832.00
	Kildare Tidy Towns			€16,974.00
	Monasterevin Tidy Towns			€13,141.00
	Rathangan Tidy Towns			€10,513.00
	Suncroft Tidy Towns			€6,245.00
	Milltown Tidy Towns			€6,245.00
	Kilcullen Tidy Towns			€10,513.00
	Caragh Tidy Towns			€5,354.00
	Brannockstown Tidy Towns			€2,664.00
	Ballysax/Cutbush Tidy Towns			€2,664.00
	Kildangan (Community Development Group)			€1,315.00
	Environment Subtotal	€62,648.00		€101,460.00
	Building Control			
	Taking in Charge of Estates			€100,000.00
	Building Control Sub Total			€100,000.00
	TOTAL	€3,781,520.00	€ 455,289.00	€1,175,463.00
	Balance	€0.00	€0.00	€ 53,037.00
	Allocated to/Detail of Project	Councillor	Opening Balance	Amount Allocated
	Total		€53,037.00	

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that the LPT allocation to Newbridge Library would be released subject to the appointment of a contractor through procurement, for delivery of the project and the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Schedule of Works 2025 be approved.

KN05/0325

Roads Capital Projects

The members received a presentation from Mr D Conlan on Roads Capital Projects.

Mr D Conlan informed the members of the projects that were happening around County Kildare

Project	Status
Maynooth Eastern Ring Road	Pre-tender stage
Celbridge Hazelhatch Link Road	Review of submission to ABP
Newbridge Southern Ring Road	Preliminary Business Case under preparation
Transport Strategies	Newbridge ABTA to be published shortly. Celbridge/Leixlip/Confey ABTA to be tendered and progressed in 2025
Junction Improvement Project	Reports Options received and under review
Bridge Remediation Project	Ongoing programme with works scheduled for 2025
Capdoo Clane	Road due to open in 2025
Murtagh's Corner	Project at detailed design stage
Athy Improvement Project	HGV restriction to be implemented followed by one way trial in 2025
Confey Barnhill Project	Early-stage preliminary project
Athgarvan Road Improvements	Detailed design to be finalised in 2025
Captains Hill Project	Detailed design stage ahead of Part 8 in 2025
M4 Footbridge	Developer led project with contribution from KCC and TII



Mr D Conlan informed the members of the following projects in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area:

- **Newbridge Southern Ring Road and Second Bridge**
 - Planning permission in place for second bridge and associated road. No decision on associated housing SHD application.
 - Preliminary Business Case was currently under preparation and will be submitted to the Department of Transport to seek funding for the delivery of the project.
 - Outstanding detailed design, procurement of a contractor and construction will follow once funding was in place to deliver the scheme. A more detailed programme will be provided at the appropriate time.
- **Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment**
 - The final report has been received from our consultants.
 - Briefing to be scheduled with the elected members shortly to brief on final report prior to publication.
- **Junction Improvement Programme Phase**
 - Thompson cross
 - Allen Cross
- **Bridge Remediation Programme**
 - Kildare-Newbridge
 - Newtown
 - Passlands
- **Athgarvan Road Improvements Project**
 - Part 8 Planning Permission in place for the provision of walking and cycling infrastructure and the improvement of the road surface from the Athgarvan Inn heading towards Newbridge to tie into works completed as part of Newbridge By-Pass.
 - Next phase was to arrange for the removal of existing trees and scrub in works area and agree and install appropriate boundary treatments along the boundary with the Millford Housing estate.



- The detailed design and procurement of a contractor for the main works will follow once this initial phase of works was complete.

The members raised the following points:

- Clarification if Millrace Bridge was Victoria Bridge.
- What was the prospect of completing works to Passlands this year noting that it had been 18 months since the damage was caused
- It would be helpful to see the capital spend in a pie chart format to be able to see the equitable investment across the county.
- The council needed to engage with Iarnród Éireann regarding bridges as there were so many crossing over railway lines.
- What was the update with the link road through Magee barracks.
- Would the council consider scheduling meetings with Iarnród Éireann.
- Was there a date for the ABTA to be published.
- Was there a timeline for removing scrubs in Athgarvan and would it be after nesting season.
- Has a design for Thompsons Cross been selected.
- Would it be possible to get presentations in advance of meetings going forward so the members could prepare questions.
- Why was Ladytown not included in the presentation.
- Were there any plans to upgrade Junction 14
- Would it be possible to look at prefabricated bridges especially for the ones that cross the railway lines as this would help with reducing the time for closing railway lines.
- Could the presentation be circulated to the members.

Mr D Conlan informed the members of the following points:

- Yes, Millrace bridge was Victoria Bridge
- The consent had been received from An Bord Pleanála and that the project team would be working to discharge the conditions attached to the consent with a view to tendering the remedial works and completing as soon as possible.
- There has been limited engagement with Iarnród Éireann to date.



- The council would be looking at Morristown and Sexes Bridges.
- Would seek confirmation from the Chairperson on what date would suit to schedule a briefing on the final report of the ABTA.
- Scrubs would be removed after nesting season had ended.
- There was no option identified on a design for Thompsons Cross.
- The budget for Ladytown was reduced this year as it was decided that this would not go ahead and would be closed.
- No plans to proceed at present with upgrades to Junction 14.
- The council were at the early stages with bridge works, the bridges had been identified but no decisions have been made on how works would be carried out.

Councillor Power and Heavey informed the members that they were disappointed about Ladytown and the members should have been notified about this update.

The report was noted.

KN06/0325

Sexes Bridge

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

That the council, in conjunction with Iarnród Éireann, explores the upgrade of Sexes Bridge to a two-way traffic and vulnerable road user facilities similar to the bridge at Newbridge Rail Station.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that the upgrade of both Sexes and Morristown Bridges have been included as measures in the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment. Kildare County Council will engage with Iarnród Éireann; however, funding and resources will need to be identified to progress this project.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that this bridge was originally a two-way bridge which then became a signal bridge as a temporary solution but has not changed and with a lot more traffic due to schools and sports facilities in the area the traffic was getting more congested. Councillor Pender informed the members that the traffic in this area was execrable and with further



development happening in this area traffic would only get worse. This bridge needed to be prioritised. Mr D Conlan informed the members that the Sexes and Morristown Bridges had been included in the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment. Kildare County Council would engage with Iarnród Éireann; however, funding and resources needed to be sought.

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

KN7/0325

Scoil Na Naomh Uilig, Rickardstown

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

That the council lists Scoil Na Naomh Uilig, Rickardstown for funding under the Safe Routes to School Programme.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that the An Taisce National Safe Routes to School Portfolio is funded by the National Transport Authority and the selection of schools is based on submissions made to An Taisce directly by schools across the country. The application for inclusion comes from the school initially and is then considered by An Taisce and the NTA in consultation with Council officials. Kildare County Council would support any school that applies for the scheme.

Councillor P O'Dwyer asked when the Safe Routes to School programme was due to be advertised. Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that she thought it would be helpful if An Taisce came in to talk to the members about how this programme operate and an update on how schools could proceed. Mr D Hodgins informed the members that with the members agreement he would contact An Taisce to invite them in to talk to the members to clarify on the process for the Safe Routes to School Programme. He said that there was a significant number of schools applying for this programme and some are still on round 1. He informed the members that Kildare County Council did look at Scoil Na Naomh Uilig but it was too big of a project to fund under NTA funding.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that the Transportation Department would write to An Taisce to invite them in meet with the members to discuss the Safe Routes to School Programme and the report be noted.

KN08/0325

Safe Routes to School

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
That the council makes a commitment to meet with the principals from the Patrician Primary and St. Conleth's schools in Newbridge to outline in detail the design and implementation of the proposed Safe Routes to School Round 2 Schemes as funded by the NTA.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that when a review has been undertaken of the proposals prepared by An Taisce as part of the Round 2 Safe Routes to School Project, Kildare County Council will meet with all stakeholders, including the principals of both schools to discuss and agree proposals to be brought forward to a public consultation process for implementation.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that the process involved a presentation and a survey with no real interaction. She said the school had received the application during a busy time and didn't fully understand the process and they had safety concerns. Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members she remembered asking where the cycling lanes were going to be, she thought it was a silly question back then but now she wonders was it, as the temporary cycle lanes were still there and still not going anywhere. She said when the council were not leading a project like this it ended up back with them when things went wrong. She said it was a great initiative but only if it was done correctly. Mr D Hodgins informed the members that it was important that all stakeholders were included in the process to make it work properly. He said he hoped to bring a Section 38 forward for consultation. He said that Kildare County Council would meet with the school. He informed the members that the department would talk to the members before a public consultation.



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

KN09/0325
New Signage

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

That the council installs a combination of missing and new signage in Kilcullen to include:

- i) a Naas right and Carlow left Regional direction sign on the R448 at the Logstown Junction.
- ii) a direction sign on the R448 as you approach the Logstown Junction from Naas to indicate the left turn goes to Ballymore/Dunlavin.
- iii) an advance direction sign on the R448 Naas approach road into Kilcullen - currently there is one at the Cattle Mart, Church Car Park, Conroy Park, however once you pass the village of Two Mile House there is no advance direction signage.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that the Municipal District office agrees to review locations in question and will revert to Councillor O'Dwyer. The Municipal District engineer will replace missing signage and, subject to budget, install additional signage, if required.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that joggers and cyclists had approached her about this issue as drivers who were familiar with the area would not realise the signs were missing or needed. She said that when there were incidents on the motorway, motorists would divert through Kilcullen instead which was causing a lot of congestion, but she said if drivers were aware of alternative routes they might be inclined to use these alternative routes, but without signage this was not possible. She informed the members that this could be a simple fix to a bigger problem and small tweaks could help.

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



KN10/0325
Rathview Grove

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Loughlin
That the council installs a fence along the main road R401 at Rathview Grove (part of Ard Mhuire)
Rathangan.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that there is no budget available to carry out the requested work.

Councillor O'Loughlin informed the members that this was an older estate in Rathangan with a small crescent green running alongside the main road which was a concern for residents when children were playing on the green. He asked the if it was possible if the Municipal District could look at the area in question to see the issue. Mr B Murnane informed the members he would meet with Councillor O'Loughlin onsite.

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

KN11/0325
Mountrice Cross

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Loughlin
That the council reviews the junction at Mountrice Cross, Monasterevin with a view to increasing sight lines.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that the Municipal District office will be installing signage at this location in the coming weeks to identify the location as a crossroads more clearly, they agree to look at the location in relation to sightlines, but there is no available budget to carry out any additional works in 2025.



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

KN12/0325

Low-Cost Accident Scheme

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

That the council includes Farrell's Cross at the junction of Suncroft Road and Brownstown Manor on the Low-Cost Accident scheme to improve the safety at this junction.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that the Municipal District office agrees to include this location for consideration.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that there were frequent accidents at this location and a review was a priority.

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

KN13/0325

Climate Adaptation Funding

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

That the council seeks climate adaptation funding to rectify the Bog Road (L1002) in Quinsboro, Monasterevin from the entrance to Umeras Bog to the Offaly border.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that the L1002 is not included in the Climate Change and Adaption Resilience works programme for 2025. Kildare County Council Transport Department will include this location on the list for consideration for the 2026 programme.



Councillor Duffy informed the members that this location was near the Offaly border and in poor condition. He said it was a bog road and in the dry weather there were sinks and drops in the road and it was making driving conditions difficult. He asked if the Municipal District could give it immediate attention with some repairs. Mr B Murnane informed the members the Municipal District would review works.

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

KN14/0325

Southern Relief Road, Great Connell, Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey
That the council provides an update on the completion/ submission of a business plan necessary for the completion of the Southern Relief Road, Great Connell, Newbridge.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor Pender
A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that there has been no update since the previous motion on the subject.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that he had concerns over the lack of progress with a second bridge. He said traffic was very busy in Newbridge and it was perceived that the second bridge would be a big help. He informed the members that it was a number of years since the second bridge had received planning permission and asked why the business plan hadn't been developed. Councillors Pender and P O'Dwyer informed the members that they would like to see it progress and were anxious to get it done. Mr D Conlan informed the members that the business plan was progressing and once finished Kildare County Council would seek funding from the Department of Transport. He said that this was the process that had to be followed, and the department were progressing through it. Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that planning permission was only granted in November 2023.

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



KN15/0325
R414 and Drogheda Steet

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

That the council examines the feasibility of the construction of a pedestrian crossing at the Junction of the R414 and Drogheda Steet, Monasterevin to enhance pedestrian safety at this location, including students attending the primary schools along this road.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that this junction forms part of the Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme which is currently at the Preliminary Design Stage and when a layout for the junction is agreed with the National Transport Authority, the scheme will be brought forward for a public consultation process.

Councillor Balfe informed the members that this area of road was of concern, and he felt it was not down to driver behaviour. He said that he acknowledged that the school in this vicinity was still a building site and that there was only one footpath on one side of the road in this busy area. He informed the members that he welcomed the report. Councillor Duffy asked if the Department could press on the NTA to progress this. He asked if there was an indication of a timeline for a Part 8. Mr D Hodgins informed the members that the department was ready to meet with the NTA again to seek approval and it was hoped within the next month they would have an update.

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

KN16/0325
Bridge on the R424 Monasterevin to Portarlinton Road

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

That the council examines the safety measures of the approaches to the bridge on the R424 Monasterevin to Portarlinton Road following concerns and reports of several incidents from residents along this road.

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



A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that the Municipal District engineer will meet to discuss safety concerns on site.

Councillor Balfe informed the members that there had been a number of reports regarding incidents at this bridge. He said more signage was needed. He informed the members that the extent of the arch on the bridge was causing issues and said that the residents would consider rumble strips if it helped.

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

KN17/0325
Newbridge Cemetery

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McDonnell
That the council installs a pedestrian crossing on R416 Athgarvan Road, Newbridge at the Newbridge Cemetery to access the car park.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that there is no budget available for these works.

Councillor McDonnell informed the members that he felt it was important to have a pedestrian crossing from the cemetery to the car park as people needed time to get across this busy road. He asked that this be dealt with as a priority and how funding could be sought.

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

KN18/0325
Victoria Bridge/ Millrace, Caragh

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
Can the council provide any update on the proposed road safety measures at Victoria Bridge/ Millrace, Caragh?



A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that Kildare County Council have appointed a consultant to prepare a preliminary design for improvements at this location. This process is ongoing, and a further update can be provided once a design has been received.

The report was noted.

KN19/0325

Carnalway

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

Can the council confirm if Carnalway is suitable to be identified as a designated bathing location?

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that the location at Carnalway is not suitable as a Designated Bathing Area as it is not located on public lands. In addition, Kildare County Council do not have a budget to cover the necessary water quality assessments and health and safety requirements to put a DBA in place.

The report was noted.

KN20/0325

Mountrice Cross, Monasterevin

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

Can the council confirm if it there are plans to install a bus stop at Mountrice Cross, Monasterevin?

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that Mountrice Cross, Monasterevin has been identified as a proposed stopping location for the new Route 888 bus service. Kildare County Council will be engaging with the National Transport Authority and other stakeholders as part of the design process for a new stop at a suitable location in the area.

The report was noted.



KN21/0325
Kilmeague Village

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heavey
Can the council clarify the municipal district boundaries of responsibility for maintenance and design of the four roads leading into the road junction at the bottom of Kilmeague village?

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that this location is within Clane Maynooth Municipal District.

The report was noted.

KN22/0325
Public Lighting

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender
Can the council provide an update on the public lighting situation in Roseberry, Athgarvan, and Kilcullen, including details on any planned upgrades, maintenance schedules, and timelines for addressing any outstanding issues?

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that in relation to

- Roseberry, Newbridge: Kildare County Council are liaising with ESB to come up with a plan to remove the switch wire and have the lights on individual photocells so that a fault in one light does not affect the whole estate.
- Athgarvan: This has been resolved, and the new lighting infrastructure is now operational.
- Kilcullen: ESB have advised that they will be on site within the next two weeks.

The report was noted.

KN23/0325
Lurg Lane

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Balfe
Can the council confirm if submissions were made to install cattle grids at Lurg Lane between the L6080 and the R413 towards Kinneagh Crossroads?



A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that the Municipal District office is not aware of submissions, but it should be noted that there is no budget available at present for any additional cattle grids.

Councillor Balfe asked for clarification on how submissions were received and asked for this to be rechecked as he was aware of one submission that had been sent in. Mr M McLoughlin informed the members that the Municipal District receive submissions through CRM and would check if any had been received recently.

The report was noted.

KN24/0325

Roundabout at Dominican College, Newbridge

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

Can the council confirm if it has any plans to redesign the present roundabout at the back of Dominican College, Newbridge at the convergence of traffic from Sexes Bridge, Newbridge with traffic from Clongorey/ Caragh direction, in view of excessive speeds which are often observed as there is currently no raised central island.

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that this is not a project on the Road Capital Programme and thus there are no plans for the Roads Capital Project Teams to develop a scheme at this location.

The report was noted.

KN25/0325

Parking Spaces in Kildare Town

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

Can the council explore the use of underutilized parking spaces in Kildare Town that could be managed by Kildare County Council in provision of additional spaces in Kildare Town.

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that Kildare County Council Transport Department has met members of the local business community in



Kildare Town to discuss parking and is now advancing a review of the parking bye-laws. As part of this review, considerations will be given to implement measures to encourage the best use of parking by prioritising disabled and elderly users, encouraging a greater turnover of town centre spaces and giving consideration to additional parking if a suitable location emerges. The Transport Department is willing to discuss all options for additional parking, notwithstanding the prioritisation of pedestrians and encouragement of active travel measures in town centres.

The report was noted.

KN26/0325

Parks Works Programme 2025

A report had been circulated to members prior to meeting on Parks Works Programme 2025 and a review of 2024 Park Works Programme.

The members received a presentation from Mr S Wallace on the Parks Works Programme 2025.

Mr S Wallace informed the members that all works listed on the projects and operations programmes are in order of priority. Projects are part of 30 projects across the county and 30 operational works. He informed the members about the Parks Work Programme for 2025 highlighting the ongoing work under four different headings:

- **Projects**
 - Cherry Avenue – consultant appointed to prepare detail design and hoped to have this by the end of the summer
 - Monasterevin to Portarlinton Feasibility Study
 - Old Kilcullen Heritage Route – Part 8
 - Moorefield Park – mini playground
- **Operations**
 - Tree Works (Tree Works Programme to be developed)
 - Grass Maintenance (retendered and all areas mapped on GIS, carry on reduced mowing)
 - Tree Planting – Oct – Dec
- **Planning – this was an area the Parks Department had become more involved in.**
 - LRD Applications / Planning Applications/ Compliance / Part 8s
 - Taking in Charge



- Local Area Plans
- County Development Plan – Parks Assessment Criteria & Amenity Infrastructure
- **Administration**
 - Over 1100 CRMS
 - Legal Works
- **Staff Structure**
 - One member of staff involved in planning to cover a wide range of applications and also involvement in forward planning issues. There was an increasing workload and demand.
 - Hope to increase outdoor staff by two members.
 - Project team hasn't got up and running as there has been long term absences.
 - It has been difficult getting a technician so now going to try it as a graduate post.

The members praised the work being done, and raised the following points:

- Was the boardwalk from St Conleths still being looked at?
- The developer in Mountain View Estate has still not installed hedges as part of their planning conditions
- Was the budget €250,000 for the Moorefield Playground?
- Had the residents in Moorefield Park been consulted on the new park?
- Had the survey for Lakeside Park started?
- Was the Moorefield playground a mini playground?
- The playground in Moorefield was too small, Newbridge needed a playground fit for purpose.
- A Tree Planting Policy would be welcomed but there were elements that could make a huge difference such as the aesthetic, which was important, and not allowing developers to install random selection of trees.
- Was there funding for Monasterevin/Kilcullen and Kildare Skate Parks?
- The members had raised issues before on what tree works had been done or asked to be done, would it be possible to get sight of the list before going out to tender to check what areas were on it?



- If the members could be cognisant of the plan for the Moorefield Playground.

Mr Wallace provided the following replies:

- The underpass from St Conleths was still being considered.
- The Parks Departments were looking at a Tree Policy.
- It was aimed for the cost to be around €100,000 for the Moorefield Playground
- A masterplan had to be developed for Lakeside Park
- Yes, Moorefield Playground was a mini playground and would come back to the members to brief them once a tender was approved.
- The residents in Moorefield Park were not consulted.

The members received a presentation from Ms. P O'Rourke, Climate Action Co-ordinator in relation to Open Space Management - Alternative Maintenance.

Ms P O'Rourke highlighted the following timelines to the members:



Year	Alternative Maintenance Actions
2019	•formulate a plan of action
2020	•Communications strategy with pilot sites established, •mandate by people to move forward
2021	•MU masters research commenced, •Partners 10 LA's and WI •Waste grass experiment
2022	•Master research continues with practical and controlled experiments, •Advance exploration of circular economy, •Further research potential exploration.
2023	•Report/Manual Alternative Maintenance •GAA joins as partner •PHD commence
2024	•Terrain AI - Commence Phase 2 Grass to Gas •PHD ongoing including carbon calculation model •Wicklow Co Co Joins as partner
2025	•Grass to Gas Dashboard has 2 project summary - April Full Council Meeting •PHD final year Alternative Maintenance

Ms P O'Rourke informed the members of the following:

- **Transect surveys were completed**
 - Agricultural Sites and Town Park sites were used
 - Overall abundance of insects significantly higher on rural sites.
 - Bumblebee and Butterfly abundance significantly higher on rural sites. Hoverflies and solitary bees the same.
- **Transect and Pan Trap surveys combined for Richness**
 - Overall richness of insects significantly higher on rural sites.
 - Butterfly and Hoverfly significantly richer on rural sites
- **Pollinator and plant species networks on Agricultural v's Town Park sites**
 - Bramble was really important on both sites for pollinators.



- Ragwort and buttercups were important on Agricultural sites.
- Thistle species and white clover on Town Parks.
- **Assessing the impacts of glyphosate and its alternatives on vegetation and the soil microbiome, using 6 different treatments**
 - T1: Control
 - T2: Roundup Flex (glyphosate)
 - T3: Nomix (glyphosate)
 - T4: Strim/Mow
 - T5: New Way (acetic acid)
 - T6: Hot Foam

Vegetation surveys and soil samples taken for DNA extraction for Bacteria and Fungi

- **The main issues with the road verge experiments**
 - There was a small gap between the cycle lane/footpath.
 - This area at approximately 2cm wide and was proving difficult to clear of vegetation.
 - Uneven quantities of vegetation in previous experiment
 - In October 2023, another set of experiments were conducted on the intersection alone using 5 treatments.
- **Results 2024 - post treatment 9 weeks and 18 weeks**
 - 9 weeks - All significant in comparison to the Control, especially the Hot foam and Roundup Flex.
 - 18 weeks - All still significant except for the Nomix.
 - Roundup Flex most effective, followed by Hot foam.
 - Hot foam had a higher abundance of saprotrophs potentially decomposing greater quantities of dead vegetation after 12 weeks post treatment
 - The Hot foam seemed to show different groupings of fungi under the hot foam treatment than the rest of the treatments after 12 weeks.
 - Nomix also seemed to show slightly different groupings too.
- **The team wanted to know how our management practices of public open spaces are connected to Carbon capture and emissions.**
 - This was explored by analysing the soil organic carbon levels in soils treated with different plant control approaches.



- These included, glyphosate, no mix, new way (acetic acid)
- Used soil from the Kinsealy Experiment
- The results showed that Organic C increased over the 14 weeks (expected) in all treatments except Rup and No Mix- Glyphosate affecting carbon storage?
- Killing plants removes their ability to capture C but may also result in C release from soil.
- The main story about the Carbon work was that as the season progresses the amount of organic C increases in the soil.
- This was seen for all treatments except the two glyphosate ones.
- This could mean a few things, but the message could be that not only does glyphosate remove the plant it also removes the ability of the plant to capture carbon and perhaps accelerates the release of carbon from the soil too.
- It was preliminary but definitely worth following up.

The members praised the excellent work being done, and raised the following points:

- What was the feedback from the Municipal District offices for alternative methods for the paths.
- There seemed to be a real problem with the competition for Tidy Towns when it came to keeping natural areas; they seemed to be losing points for this.
- Could the suggestion of changing the name of Tidy Towns to something else to reflect biodiversity be raised.
- What was Hot foam and why was carbon rising when Hot Foam was being used?
- How much was it costing to use the Hot Foam and how much were the machines?
- What was the downside to Hot Foam?

Ms P O'Rourke provided the following replies:

- There was very good communication with the Municipal Districts and positive response.
- Hot Foam was water that was heated to 87 degrees and then mixed with foam agent concentrate to produce foam before being applied. The foam was sprayed on the plants and insulates for about one minute to breakdown the plant.



- The Hot Foam killed the roots unlike other weed killers that just weaken the roots so with the root gone there was nothing to hold the carbon in place and this explains why there was carbon release.
- The Hot Foam was provided by using two trailers one with the boiling water and the other with the foam and a long hose.
- The cost three years ago was 7-10 thousand euro providing you had your own trailers
- The downside to the Hot Foam treatment was the slow process and effect.

The report was noted.

KN27/0325
Playground Moorefield

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

Can the council advise if it is possible to have funding earmarked for a playground at Dunnes Stores transferred to Lakeside Park, Dara Park regeneration area?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the delivery of a playground in Lakeside Park will require a number of steps. These are

1. The preparation of a Masterplan for the lands
2. Part 8 to approve the Masterplan
3. Tender design and construction of a playground
4. Construction of the playground

This is likely to take two years to complete. When the original request to provide additional play spaces in Newbridge was made, a proposal was outlined to deliver smaller play areas in addition to what might be possible in Lakeside Park. It is planned to progress Moorefield this year which will add the final additional smaller space while Lakeside Park is being progressed.

The report was noted.



KN28/0325
Multi-Unit Developments

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

That the council provides a report in tabular format detailing its property holdings and financial commitments in Multi-Unit Developments (MUDs) within the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District, including (a) A list of MUDs where Kildare County Council owns properties, (b) The total number of units in each MUD and the number and percentage owned by the council, (c) The total value of management fees paid by the council per MUD.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Housing Maintenance Team are currently developing a portal for Multi-Unit Developments (MUD's) which will provide the reports requested in this motion.

The Housing Department would welcome for this motion to be referred to the Housing SPC.

Councillor Pender informed the members that as the council were moving towards the purchase of apartment blocks, and the majority were approved bodies, he had concerns about social housing votes when it came to management fees where there were private owners. He informed the members that he was on the SPC Housing committee and would be happy to put this forward.

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

KN29/0325
St Johns Convent, Rathangan

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

Can the council provide an update on progress with the Sophia housing at St Johns Convent, Rathangan.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the proposal for social housing development at St Johns Convent, Rathangan was submitted for Stage 3 approval



to DHLGH on 06 February 2025. The contract tender will follow in Q2 with construction commencing this year.

The report was noted.

KN30/0325
Kilcullen Market Square

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

Can the council provide an update on the progress of the Kilcullen Market Square project, including details on any recent developments, timelines for delivery, and any challenges that may be impacting its progression?

A report was received from the Public Realm Department informing the members that Kilcullen Market Square received Part 8 approval a number of years ago. The next steps include procurement, preparation of tender document, detailed design and construction. In 2023 costings for this project were updated in line with inflation, bringing the estimated cost to €1.4m. It is expected that tender returns will be significantly higher than that estimate. This project has been included in the Capital Programme for 2025-2027 to progress this project with €1.4m in development contributions allocated over the 3 years. Securing alternative parking is a priority, as car parking cannot be removed from the Square until an alternative location is available.

The report was noted.

KN31/0325
Newbridge Town Hall

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

That the council provides an update on the motion passed in July 2019 regarding the investigation and development of an online enquiry and booking system for Newbridge Town Hall to include:

- Details of any progress made since the motion was passed.
- Any challenges or obstacles identified in implementing the system.
- The current status of the project and an estimated timeline for completion.

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



A report was received from the Property, Procurement and Facilities Department informing the members that Facilities are currently looking at a system used by other council departments which would allow members of the public see what slots are booked and what are available for booking. We propose that from next year on, we only allow people to book for six months and then they have to rebook. This will give other groups the opportunity to book previously booked out slots. Councillor Pender informed the members that he was happy to see a booking system being developed and felt it would help reduce Facilities workload with regards to this.

The members raised the following points:

- Was it possible for the signs on the railings outside the Town Hall to be removed?
- Could the booking system be used for other buildings that required booking and not just for the Town Hall?
- Welcomed Community groups using the facilities, but would there be a drop in revenue income if businesses could not book in advance of six months as a lot of groups require stability for their businesses?
- The Town Hall needs to be utilised in a community manner instead of a business manner.
- Could this item be put on the progress report?

Ms C Lyons informed the members that she had given instructions to her team that no advertising would be allowed on the railings except when the community/business group was using the Townhall and then removed when finished. She said that a good point was made about business groups needing stability and would look at this.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members that this item be put on the progress report and the report be noted.

KN32/0325 **Kildare County Council Land**

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

That the council examines land in its ownership within the municipal district that is surplus to requirements, frequently creates a cost in maintenance and protection from UD that might be of use to community organisations or appropriate landowners for purchase or transfer where



appropriate. That funds from sale of same be ring-fenced to deliver objectives of the municipal district in Recreation and Amenity and Transport.

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

A report was received from the Property, Procurement and Facilities Department informing the members that the Property Management Section currently does not have the capacity to carry out such an undertaking as raised in motion. Currently the management of land is up to each department within the Council. It is intended that the Roads, Housing and Parks will continue to manage their landbank. However, as part of our active Land Management Plan we anticipate that the remaining sections will be managed centrally through the Property Management Section in the future, subject to resource availability.

Councillor Doyle informed the members that the council needed to establish pockets of land that could be utilised and generate much needed revenue. Unauthorised Development was a big issue and this might help. The council could establish expression of interest also. Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that she recalled Mr McLoughlin had agreed to carry out a complete audit on what land Kildare County Council had. She asked if this could be checked?

Ms C Lyons informed the members that the department were working on the active Land Management Plan and hopefully this would help. She said that if Mr M McLoughlin had said he would carry out an audit on land it would probably be for the Transportation Section.

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

KN33/0325

Newbridge Local Area Plan

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

That the council outlines the timetable of meetings and schedule to complete Newbridge Local Area Plan.

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



A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that as advised to the Elected Members at a briefing on the 22 of January 2025 revised legislation relating to the plan making process is imminent (Planning and Development Act, 2024) and therefore no schedule is currently available.

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

KN34/0325
Bord Na Mona

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
Can the council provide an update on the Protected Structure process of the former Reading and Recreational Officers Quarters of the Bord Na Mona building which was submitted as a motion in July 2022 and as a question in April 2024.

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that additions and deletions to the Record of Protected Structures is a meticulous statutory process which is required to be accompanied by detailed analysis prepared by a person with the requisite architectural conservation expertise and experience, to assess a structure, to identify the characteristics of special interest which would merit its inclusion on the RPS. The Elected Members will be aware from the briefing on Planning Functions on the 22 of January 2025, that the specialist Executive Architectural Conservation Officer post in Kildare County Council remains vacant despite recruitment campaigns in February and August 2024. As a result of this and a significant nationwide shortage of suitably qualified professionals in the private market, a number of conservation related projects are behind schedule in order to prioritise the progression and completion of time bound external grant aided projects. Further updates will be provided when available.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that her question was not answered, just the background given.

The report was noted.



KN35/0325
Orchard Park

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

Can the council provide an update in respect to the taking in charge of the Orchard Park Estate from the Department of Defence and the suggestion put forward with a view to contacting the Department to provide the funding so that the council might complete the outstanding works.

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that Development Control contacted the Department of Defence Property Management Branch in relation to Orchard Park in mid-January. A response was received that a CCTV survey has now been carried out of the underground services and that further information is awaited from the Defence Forces Directorate of Engineering. Development Control will continue to liaise with the department regarding this matter.

Councillor Balfe asked for clarification if the Department of Defence were willing to let the council fund the work. Mr L McNeela informed the members that the Department of Defence had agreed to bring the estate up to standard for taking in charge. He said this was progressing but was not your typical taking in charge.

The report was noted.

KN36/0325
Unauthorised Development

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

Can we have a report on level of UD in this municipal district, with details of outcomes, number of cases where the council are engaging with same entity or person and system to monitor same.

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 or by Town. As previously advised to all Elected Members, 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 of December 2024.

	New Cases	Warning Letters Issued	Enforcement Notices Served	Legal Proceedings	Files Closed
2019	238	356	184	33	162
2020	268	360	159	22	136
2021	268	434	81	10	150
2022	205	357	128	26	250
2023	241	358	178	18	200
2024	256	437	140	8	300

The report was noted.

KN37/0325
Pop-Up Pool Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McDonnell
That the council provides a temporary swimming pool for Newbridge e.g. pop-up pool.

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

A report was received from the Kildare Sports Partnership informing the members that the provision of a Swim Ireland Popup Pool is not in the Kildare County Council/Sports Partnership budget for 2025.

Councillor McDonnell informed the members that this was an ongoing issue and was unacceptable as a pool was needed for the children of Newbridge. He asked would it be possible to make contact with the Department of Defence to see if the swimming pool in the Curragh could be used. Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that herself and Councillor P O'Dwyer had identified the old machinery yard as a location for a swimming pool in the Newbridge Local Area Plan as it was a central location. Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that it was agreed last year for school children to use the Curragh swimming pool, but she had talked to the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Department of Defence who had informed her that the issue was human resources as they did not have Lifeguards. Councillor Pender informed the members



that there were other submissions identifying sites elsewhere in the town and he asked that the letter from the Department of Defence be re-circulated showing agreement. Mr S Merrins informed the members that the council had made representation to the Department of Defence. He said LPT and local funding was needed for a pop-up pool. He informed the members that the pop-up pool was a great success in Celbridge.

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

KN38/0325 **Youth Facility**

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

Can the council confirm what process will be used to identify the management of the property recently purchased for a youth facility.

A report was received from the Community Department informing the members that the Community Section are currently working with the Capital Team to identify and cost all necessary works required to bring the youth building in Newbridge up to standard. We are currently trying to source funding for the works that will be identified. The intended use of the property is for a youth facility which will serve as a safe and inclusive space for young people in the area. The development of the youth facility will be a collaborative effort, and we are working with our community workers, Kildare Sports Partnership and local community groups and organisations with a focus on the provision of youth services to identify groups/organisations who are best placed to manage the facility.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.