



**Minutes of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 20 April 2022
in the Council Chamber**

Members Present: Councillor R Power (Mayor), Councillors A Connolly, K Duffy, S Doyle, N Heavey, F McLoughlin Healy, P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer and M Stafford.

Apologies: Councillor C Pender, Councillor N Connolly

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Ms L Kennedy (LPT Co-Ordinator), Ms P O'Brien (Senior Executive Officer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Mr S Deegan (Senior Engineer), Mr O Brady (Administrative Officer), Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officer), Mr M McLoughlin, Mr O Brady and Mr G Maher (Administrative Officers), Mr K Oluwatosin (Senior Executive Planner), Ms O McGee (FOI Officer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Parks Superintendent), Mr B Leonard (Meetings Administrator), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

KN01/0422

Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

Declaration of pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended. There were no declarations of interest.



KN02/0422

Minutes and Progress Report

To approve the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 16 March 2022, the special meeting Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on Thursday, 30 March 2022 and to note the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor A Connolly and agreed by the members, with Councillor McLoughlin Healy abstaining, that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on 16 March 2022, together with minutes of the Special Meeting held on 30 March 2022, be adopted and the progress report noted.

KN03/0422

Municipal District Road Works

To receive an update on the municipal district road works.

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members of the following works:

Road Resurfacing Works:

- Maddenstown Works had commenced Monday 11 April
- Ladytown and Great Connell would be commencing over the coming days.
Nighttime works were completed on Military Road. This included Dunnes stores junction and McLoughlin Oil junction on the R445 just some linemarking to complete
- Works commenced on Standhouse Rd and Castlefish

Patching works carried out by Contractor in the following locations

- Russellstown
- Quinnsboro
- Gormanstown

LPT:

There were a number of 2021 LPT's projects to be completed



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Cultery Road - Works were ongoing on Cutlery Road, with upgrades to footpaths and an overlay on the public road.

Miscellaneous Works:

- Verge cutting ongoing across all areas of the Municipal District.
- Pothole repairs across the Municipal District.
- General Maintenance – water cuts, patching, gully cleaning.

Drainage:

- The Oaks Newbridge
- Knockaulin

Traffic Calming Works

- Hill of Allen
- Blackrath
- Gallaghers Cross

The report was noted.

KN04/0422

Members Nominations

The members considered the item to consider the remaining allocation of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Members Nominations 2021.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy advised that she was awaiting a response from the Chief Executive on a query and asked that Ms Kennedy follow up on this.

The Mayor confirmed no members nominations had been received.

KN05/0422

Togher Wood Monasterevin

To consider the taking in charge of Togher Wood, Monasterevin.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by the members that Togher Wood, Monasterevin be taken in charge.



KN06/0422

White Abbey Court Kildare

To consider the taking in charge of White Abbey Court, Kildare Town.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by the members that White Abbey Court, Kildare Town be taken in charge.

KN07/0422

Taking in Charge of Estates

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

That the council supply the meeting with an up-to-date list of housing estates within the municipal district awaiting to be taken in charge, date of application and present position on this list.

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

A report was received from Building and Development Control informing the members that the bi-annual report to Council was presented at the plenary meeting in December 2021. The data was set out by Municipal District. Attached was the data relating to the Kildare-Newbridge municipal district extracted from that report but excluding estates already taken in charge.

It was intended that the next bi-annual report would be presented at the plenary meeting in July 2022. The data on that report would also be set out by Municipal District and, per this motion, would include the date of receipt of a valid taking in charge request.

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

KN08/0422

Sustainable Travel and Active Travel Team Update

Mr Hodgins provided an update on the Sustainable Transport and Active Travel Team projects as follows:

1. Naas-Newbridge Inter-Urban Cycle Scheme



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Mr Hodgins advised that a 2-way cycle track would run from the Bundle of Sticks roundabout to the Pfizer roundabout with a timeline of 2-3 years referring.

2. Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Cycle Scheme

Mr Hodgins informed the members that this would be a permanent replacement of the current temporary scheme and would provide connections to the local schools. The cycle lanes would be brought from the Pfizer roundabout to the Curragh and to the railway station.

3. Vulnerable Road User Improvements at crossings & junctions

Mr Hodgins advised that access would be upgraded and would involve the retrofitting of existing junctions.

4. Safe Routes to School

Mr Hodgins informed the members that a school in Monasterevin had been chosen as a pilot and the works would be funded by An Taisce

5. Cycle Parking at Town Centres, Schools and Sports Clubs

Mr Hodgins advised that this was a countywide concept and would be funded by the National Transport Authority.

The members made the following points:

- Would any documentation be provided as it was a lot of information to process without a visual backup.
- In relation to the safe route to schools programme would there be another allocation in 2023.
- While the installation of the temporary cycle ways was a good idea to get some feedback from the public, the Municipal District now needed to find a forum to engage with people impacted by the decisions before any commitment was made to a permanent scheme.
- What was the selection process for the An Taisce Safe Routes to School programme.
- In relation to the allocation of €12m which had been provided across the county to begin the design process of all projects, what was the projected cost of the works and how much of the €12m funding would be left to go beyond the Part 8 process.
- It was crucial that there was an interface between the Sustainable Travel team and the Public Realm team.



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- Traffic chaos in Newbridge needed to be addressed and how would it be possible to introduce any permanent scheme without a Traffic Management Plan.
- The list of FAQs promised previously had still not been provided. If a briefing could be provided to the members at the time, why was there now a need to liaise with the NTA in relation to this.
- In the absence of communication, those impacted by the temporary cycle lanes should be given an opportunity to present their views to the members.
- Could a list of junctions to be upgraded be provided.
- Could timeframes be given for cycle parking and for projects to be brought to Part 8
- Could a map be provided showing the connectivity of the proposed cycle routes.
- Could a copy of the original draft Newbridge Traffic Plan which had been rejected by the Municipal District be circulated again.

Mr Hodgins provided the following replies:

- The safe route to schools programme was an An Taisce initiative and was determined by them. One school had been chosen from each Municipal District.
- An allocation of €12m had been provided across the county to begin the design process of all projects. As most of the works would involve main streets, they would be particularly disruptive. Once the design phases were completed, funding would be sought for the construction phase. It was envisaged that the problem would lie with resources rather than funding.
- There was an established CRM system and procedure for dealing with the public and anyone who sought to engage in relation to the temporary cycle lanes. There was no new information to provide as the same replies were being issued through CRM as had been provided to the members.
- There was no evidence that emergency service vehicles were being impeded by the temporary scheme but some hearsay reports had been sent to CRM.
- Mr Hodgins advised that in order to provide a map of the connectivity of the proposed cycle routes, the assistance of the NTA GIS system would be required.
- It was envisaged that projects which were in the design phase in 2021 would go to Part 8 in 2022.



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Mr S Deegan informed the members that his presentation in the next item would cover some other queries regarding traffic management.

KN09/0422

Roads Design Projects

The Mayor welcomed Mr Deegan, Senior Engineer from the Roads Design Team to the meeting. Mr Deegan thanked the members and delivered an update highlighting the following projects being carried out by the Roads Design Team:

- Newbridge Outer Orbital Ring Road
- Newhall Junction
- Transport Strategies
- Junction Programme
- Bridge programme
- Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn
- Roads input into planning applications
- Department of Transport Support Office

The members thanked Mr Deegan for his presentation and raised the following points:

- Could the term ABTA be clarified
- What was the cost for the Salt Barn and Machinery Yard relocation.
- Could a timeline be provided for a Traffic Management Plan in Newbridge.
- Does the collation of data feed into the Local Area Plan.
- What junctions fell under the Junction Programme
- Was there a breakdown on the 1800 planning applications referred to.
- Bridges in the ownership of Irish Rail were hazardous and required remediation, thus could regular meetings be held with Irish Rail regarding this.
- Could the presentation be circulated to members.

Mr Deegan replied that works had to fit into the capital programme and there would be huge schemes requiring 6-7 years to complete. Interim fixes would be organised by the municipal



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district office but works could also be investigated to see could they be delivered under a larger scheme. A full transport strategy was a highly detailed document and a traffic management plan formed part of this. The transport strategy had been sent out to tender with replies due on April 26. An ABTA or Area Based Transport Assessment was generally completed in 12 months. Projects would work in parallel e.g. in conjunction with planned cycle schemes.

The junctions which would be worked on under the Junctions Programme were Thompson Cross, Allen Cross and Newhall. As agreement had not yet been reached Newhall would probably require a Compulsory Purchase Order.

Mr Deegan informed the members that his presentation would be circulated when all municipal district committees had been briefed and provided his contact details to the members.

KN10/0422

LPT Schedule of Works

The members considered the item to approve remaining LPT 2022 allocations for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

The Mayor advised that the figure allocated to Kildare Access Network should be reduced by €15k due to this amount already being allocated by the Naas Municipal District Committee. Clarification was also sought on an amount for Public Realm activation.

Ms Hunt advised that Public Realm was a new team for the design and construction of public spaces but the use of the space was the missing piece, and the funding would be used to bring the spaces alive and show their potential.

Following a discussion and many suggestions as to where to allocate the referred to €15k it was decided to vote on the matter.

Councillor Doyle proposed that the amount be allocated to Brigid 1500. This was seconded by Councillor Stafford. With six members voting in favour and three voting against it was agreed to allocate the €15k to Brigid 1500.



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Councillor Duffy proposed that all other line items be accepted as they stood. This was seconded by Councillor Stafford. With six members voting in favour and three against it was agreed to accept all other line items.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Stafford and with six members voting in favour and three members voting against, €15k previously allocated to Kildare Access Network was reallocated to Brigid 1500.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Stafford and with six members voting in favour and three members voting against, all other line item allocations were accepted and approved.

(See Appendix 1 attached)

KN11/0422

Connectivity Pedestrian Crossing Curragh

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer. That Kildare County Council consider a connectivity pedestrian crossing to access the walking route towards the Curragh Racecourse as the present crossing is very close to the roundabout.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that given the location of the proposed crossing point it was recommended that a signal-controlled pedestrian crossing (push button unit) be provided at this location. As no current funds were allocated for the provision of the crossing, a future scheme / external funding would have to be identified.

Councillor P O'Dwyer queried the type of crossing and an estimated cost. Mr Hodgins advised that the crossing would be similar to the one on Main Street at the old credit union. It would have to be far enough from the roundabout so that it would not cause a traffic backlog. The cost would have to include bringing electricity to the site and some civil engineering works also.



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

KN12/0422

Proceed to next Business

The Mayor stated Councillor Pender was unable to attend and had requested that he propose his motion and then proceed to the next business, as per Standing Order 19 and request to have his motion adjourned to the next meeting

Councillor Power proposed Councillor Penders motion

That the council carry out a public lighting audit of the laneways and streets in Newbridge identifying where the council is responsible for providing lighting and where private management companies are responsible”.

Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer seconded the motion and the Mayor then proposed that the members proceed to the next business and this was seconded by Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer and agreed by the members.

The Mayor stated Councillor Pender was unable to attend and had requested that he propose his motion and then proceed to the next business, as per Standing Order 19 and request to have his motion adjourned to the next meeting

Councillor Power proposed Councillor Penders motion

That the council engage with the relevant authorities to remove, repurpose, purchase or upgrade the public telephone booths throughout Newbridge Town that have fallen into complete disuse or disrepair.

Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer seconded the motion and the Mayor proposed that the members proceed to the next business. This was seconded by Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer and agreed by the members.

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that Councillor Penders motions would be adjourned to the May agenda in accordance with Standing Order 19, and the reports on Councillor Pender's questions would be noted.



KN13/0422

Southern Relief Road and Second Bridge Newbridge

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

That the council provide a report on the provision of the Southern Relief Road and the Second Bridge for Newbridge to include information on options being considered for possible public/private partnership(s), options for financing the work necessary to bring the plan to Part 8 public consultation stage and the likely time frame to bring the project to Part 8 public consultation stage.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Stephen Deegan Senior Engineer would be present at the meeting and would be giving an update on all the projects in this Municipal District under his remit.

Councillor Heavey stated there was a great need for a second bridge in Newbridge and that he did not believe that all of his queries had been covered in Mr Deegan's presentation so his questions were still unanswered.

The members raised the following points:

- Were there any synergies that could be used to expedite a second bridge.
- Has phase zero previously referred to by the NTA, now been completed.
- What element of the process was commercially sensitive?
- Would the SHDs in the area contribute?

Mr Deegan informed the members that various options were being investigated and consultants identified. The potential for agreement was there and answers to the final planning piece would be known in the next eight weeks. He stated Glenveagh would be delivering some aspects and the other developer was currently unknown. The approach would be developer led and the bridge itself would provide the missing piece of the connectivity between the two. The SHDs were outside the remit of the council and were



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currently with An Bord Pleanála who would negotiate what would be delivered by the developer.

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

KN14/0422

Resurfacing Kildangan

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

That the council include the final laying of the top road surface coat between Kildangan National School and Kildangan GAA which has been unfinished for several years as part of the Rural Roads program.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office was proposing to use 2022 LPT funding for rural roads across the Municipal District that would not for a long time meet the criteria for Restoration Improvement Grants due to lack of traffic volumes or location. It was proposed to bring forward a number of roads for approval by the councillors. It was agreed to include the request under this criterion subject to agreement of councillors.

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

KN15/0422

Mullaghroe Crossroads

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

That the council freshen up the line marking and install green bollards at the Mullaghroe Crossroads, Rathangan Road, Mountrice to improve visibility and safety.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy.



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office agreed to install the delineator post and include line marking on the schedule subject to budget.

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

KN16/0422

Repairs Allen Cross

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford. That the council carry out the necessary repairs and maintenance work at Allen Cross particularly where the road is unravelling in sections approaching the junction.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this area was included in routine patching program. Due to the nature of the road and the heavy vehicles using it, this location required constant maintenance. It was planned to include this location in the restoration program for 2023.

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

KN17/0422

Leinster Street Rathangan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford. That the council construct a footpath at Leinster Street, Rathangan at the Rath and liaise with the landowner regarding a replacement boundary at this location.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were no plans to construct a footpath at this location. The existing footpath had been upgraded and extended across the road in 2020, which included several courtesy crossings and a centre island as a traffic calming measure.



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Councillor Stafford informed the members that the stone wall had previously fallen down and been replaced by a post and wire fence but the area needed better boundary treatment. He advised that there was a need for a footpath at this key location.

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

KN18/0422

Morristown Bridge

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

Can the council confirm if there has been any opportunity to consider a traffic management plan to improve safety on the Morristown Bridge in Newbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members to please see Newbridge ABTA study area below, with Morristown Bridge shown. The bridge was within the study area, as such, traffic management at this bridge would be included within the scope for the Newbridge ABTA. This project was currently out to tender and the tender submission deadline is 26th April. Measures brought forward in the TS would then be incorporated into the next iteration of the Newbridge LAP.



Figure 1.1: Newbridge ABTA Study Area

Councillor P O'Dwyer thanked Mr S Deegan for meeting her onsite and queried if any temporary measures such as traffic lights could be installed. Mr Deegan advised that even with the installation of temporary safety measures, the area would still be hazardous so would not be considered. The bridge was in need of remediation.

The report was noted.



KN19/0422

Feasibility Study Pedestrian Crossing

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer. Can the council, having regard to a motion I raised at the May 2021 Municipal District Meeting asking for a feasibility study to be carried out at the junction of Lakeside Park and Allenvue Heights Newbridge, identify a suitable location for a pedestrian crossing and provide an update on when the feasibility study is likely to commence?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Traffic Management Section had commenced reviewing locations where pedestrian crossings facilities had been requested. As there were a number of these requests in the County it would take some time to assess them all – this location was listed for assessment and would be assessed before the summer school break. If the members required any update, they could contact the Traffic Management Team by e-mail trafficlights@kildarecoco.ie

The report was noted.

KN20/0422

Footpath Improvements Dara Park, Elm Park

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Doyle. Can the council confirm if Dara Park and Elm Park, Kildare Town are on the programme of works for footpath improvements?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that it was proposed that the LPT for 2022 would concentrate on rural roads, therefore at this stage it could not be confirmed if works would be carried out at these locations. If budgets were available at the end of the year the areas could be included for consideration.

The report was noted.



KN21/0422

Footpath Link

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

Can the council provide a progress report on the delivery of the footpath link to the Curragh on Melitta Road?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office were currently in discussion with the Landowner who was proving to be very amenable. They were in the process of preparing a budget document and discussing same with the NTA as the Municipal District had no available budget funding for this work.

The report was noted.

KN22/0422

Monasterevin Fire Station

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

Can the council outline what progress is being made with regard to the relocation of Monasterevin Fire Station?

A report was received from the Acting Chief Fire Officer informing the members that as the members were aware, a site had been identified for the relocation of Monasterevin Fire Station. This site was part of a larger business park development proposal, on which no site activity had commenced. Lines of communication remained open with the developer and should progress be made; the members would be kept informed.

The report was noted.

KN23/0422

Parking Meters Kildare Town

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford.

Can the council confirm if there are any proposals to replace the parking metres in Kildare Town which appear to be malfunctioning with increasing frequency in the past six months?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Department could confirm that all parking machines in County Kildare would be replaced with coin and card machines. Kildare Town and Newbridge would be the first towns in which the new machines would be installed. The new machines had already been ordered and it was expected that the machines would arrive and be installed around June 2022.

Councillor Stafford advised that the issue was countywide, and clarity was needed around what a motorist was to do if a machine was out of order.

Mr Hodgins advised that he would pass on the councillor's query to the pay parking team. The report was noted.

KN24/0422

Hill of Allen

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford. Can the council furnish an update on any progress on the discussions with CRH plc regarding the car park and pedestrian access to the Hill of Allen?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Car Park was in private ownership. Kildare County Council looked into the possibility of purchasing this car park and making it a public car park, however this would have included major road works and CPO of private land to provide adequate sight lines etc. There was no funding available to proceed with this matter. The report was noted.

KN25/0422

FOI Requests

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle. That the council provide a report on the number of FOI requests received from 2019 to date that relate to this municipal district, the number of people these emanate from and the call on resources to service same.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Duffy.



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A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that the FOI Act 2014 provided that every person had the following rights:

- the right to access official records held by Government Departments or other public bodies as defined by the act.

The table below set out the number of FOI requests processed by KCC per annum from 2019 to date:

YEAR	# OF REQUESTS
2019	156
2020	158
2021	160
2022 to-date	44

Requests were not recorded by municipal district as requests can vary from a request for personal records to records held in relation to services provided at a county level.

KCC were required to produce a disclosure log of non-personal FOI requests which was available on the Council website [here](#). The disclosure log provided the details of the different categories of people submitting the requests.

In relation to the call on resources to service FOI requests, KCC had appointed FOI decision makers across the organisation to process requests relevant to their departments. KCC also had a dedicated FOI liaison officer as a first point of contact for requesters and to provide advice to the council's FOI decision makers. Where FOI requests were considered too voluminous or would be considered to "cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with or disruption of work (including disruption of work in a particular functional area) of the FOI body concerned" a FOI decision maker could apply an exemption to the request.

The legislation also mandated for the charging of fees where the FOI requests would take staff time for the search, retrieval and copying of records.

More information in relation to FOI was available on Freedom of Information Central Policy Unit website [here](#) and on the Council website [here](#).



The members raised the following points:

- What did the term 'client' encompass.
- While some FOI requests were a good idea, some were not as they were voluminous to the extreme and the resources could be put to better use elsewhere.
- The significant number of FOIs and the charges imposed said something about the organisation and ease of access to records. Unanswered questions from members were leading to FOI requests and the focus should be on providing the information and not escalating to FOI.
- FOI requests should be a standing item on the Chief Executive's Report annually with a full list made available to members.
- There had been a change in culture to one of distrust. It had become a culture in the municipal district to be 'addicted to outrage' and this was not in the public interest.
- Had an increase in the number of FOIs processed occurred since 2019.

Ms McGee advised that there had been a year on year increase in the number of FOI requests. The term 'client' referred to a member of the public. Legislation mandated for the charging of fees where the FOI requests would take staff time in the search, retrieval and copying of records. She advised there were currently 30 decision makers throughout the council. Where an FOI request was considered too voluminous, a request could be made to narrow the search or it could be refused altogether.

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

KN26/0422

Encampment of Vehicles

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

That the council, following the recent unauthorised encampment of vehicles in Newbridge, confirm what measures they are planning to take to prevent this happening again.

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



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A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Housing Department monitored incidents of unauthorised encampments. Where the encampment was situated on council owned lands, enforcement notices were served on occupants. Legal follow-up was progressed where appropriate. Assistance from the Council's Housing Support Teams (including Social Workers) was provided. Where such incidents occur on privately owned lands it is a matter for the landowner.

The members raised the following points:

- The problem was a perennial one and there was a need to tackle it as it was happening as the enforcement process took time and resources.
- The onus should be on landowners to use bollards to protect their land.
- The council needed to be more robust in the protection of lands in its ownership.

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

KN27/0422

Vacant Units listed for Minor Maintenance

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer. That given the excessive length of time that some people in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District are waiting to be allocated a house or apartment, the council, as an emergency one-off measure to help address the crisis, allow people move into vacant units that are currently listed for minor maintenance works on the understanding that these works will be carried out after they move in.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Housing Maintenance undertook an inspection of all vacant units prior to undertaking any repair work in advance of re-tenanting. Units where only minor essential works were required were prioritised to facilitate a quick turnaround. Units that required essential works, even if minor in nature needed to have those works carried out prior to occupation.



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Unfortunately, a high proportion of units were returned in poor condition and required significant remedial works to bring them up to the standard required for tenanting. This could include electrical, heating and carbon alarms which required full certification prior to allocation. KCC would bear full responsibility for any health and safety or insurance issues arising from units which would be considered incomplete.

The members raised the following points:

- In privately owned houses, safe and minor works are done while the house is occupied.
- Would it be possible to have a pilot scheme organised to test this scenario.
- Some houses are on the maintenance list for extended periods and are deteriorating in the meantime.
- Trades are very busy and expensive at the moment so could works be put off for 12-18 months but allow people to move into the homes in the interim.
- There should be an incentive scheme for tenants to give back properties in good condition.
- Allocations needed to be notified in advance by maintenance of when a house would be ready for allocation to speed up the process.

Mr Brady informed the members that quick turnarounds were prioritised and he would refer to the maintenance team regarding what works were involved currently. There was a potential health and safety issue if properties were not properly inspected. There was also an insurance concern regarding tenants undertaking works themselves.

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

KN28/0422

Part 8s Monasterevin and Kildangan

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor N Connolly. Can the council confirm when will the Part 8 process begin for housing units to be built in Monasterevin and Kildangan?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Stage 1 approval had been received for 16 units at St Evins Park, Monasterevin. Detailed acoustic



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assessment of the proposed unit design was being undertaken with possible design modifications before a Stage 2 application could be submitted to DHLGH for approval to proceed to Part 8.

Sites at Crosskeys and Castlepark, Kildangan which had been identified were in pipeline for delivery under Housing of All but detailed feasibility studies in preparation of Stage approval application to DHLGH had not yet undertaken due to resources constraints within capital team.

The report was noted.

KN29/0422

Newbridge Town Hall

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

Can the council confirm the reservation policy for Newbridge Town Hall and how the needs of Community Groups versus commercial enterprises are balanced against each other, including costings and pricing structure for same?

A report was received from the Facilities Manager informing the members that Newbridge Town Hall is currently booked through facilities on a first come first served basics.

Facilities currently have two separate pricing structures, one for commercial and a subsidised rate for community use.

The report was noted

KN30/0422

Dara Park, Newbridge

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

Can the council confirm what are its various departments plans for works to be carried out in Dara Park, Newbridge in 2022?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development informing the members that the Parks and Community team was working with the residents to install some seating at the lake in Dara Park/ Lakeside Park. Regular grass maintenance was continuing on the large open space at the lake and family resource centre along with



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removal of some of the large Poplar trees which are causing issues with the footpath and cycle lane running from the Family Resource Centre towards Station Road. Permission had also been granted to the Family Resource Centre for a small expansion of the sensory garden to grow vegetables at the rear of the centre.

The report was noted.

As it was approaching 1 o'clock, the Mayor proposed a suspension of Standing Orders to continue and conclude the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members, Standing Orders were suspended until 1.30 pm

KN31/0422

Public Realm

Ms Hunt advised the members that the update had previously been circulated to them and she would take any questions or comments.

The members raised the following points:

- Public realm needed to be aware and have input into the strategic housing development planned for Kilcullen.
- Rathangan and Kilcullen appeared to have gone to Part 8 without healthchecks or a masterplan whereas Monasterevin seemed to have fared better from a blank canvas.
- Was the Heritage Centre, Kildare included in the brief.
- Was anything being planned for the Curragh communities.
- In relation to the renewal plan where was the lighting which was mentioned being installed.
- The benches which had recently been installed in the Cultural Quarter, Newbridge, did not sit well in the area.
- Going forward what would be the level of parking facilities. Were there plans to remove any more spaces.

Ms Hunt provided the following replies:

- The Public Realm section was aware of the proposed strategic housing development in Kilcullen.



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- Healthchecks were done as a data gathering exercise and following this a masterplan was developed. The Kilcullen community had undergone a community led version. In Rathangan once Market Square was up and running a masterplan would be done for the rest of the town.
- The Heritage Centre in Kildare was architecture led and under time pressure. The project may be slowed if it was done in conjunction with Market Square.
- Curragh communities were not on the current work programme.
- The renewal plan for Newbridge went from the bridge to beyond Tesco and looked at improving the area. The cultural quarter was the area from the Riverbank to the library.
- The lighting in Newbridge mentioned as part of the renewal plan had been installed on Market Square.
- The nine parking spaces in question had been removed on a temporary trial. No others were currently envisaged but if this changed, a Part 8 would be required.

KN32/0422

Tree Preservation Order

Ms M Hunt informed the members that a notice had been placed in the Leinster Leader in relation to a proposed Tree Preservation Order on 20 trees at Caragh, and a public consultation process had led to three submissions.

The members raised the following points:

- There was a section on preserved trees in the County Development Plan so why were the trees in this area not listed there.
- What was the process if landowners refused access to their lands.

Ms Hunt advised that this process fed into the preserved trees section on the County Development Plan. If a landowner refused access to their lands the council had powers via a court order.

KN33/0422

Kildare Retail Outlet Village

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



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That the council provide details of what retail space within the Kildare Retail Outlet Village is devoted to sale of food and beverages, and what are the plans to deliver meaningful permeability to Kildare town centre from the Kildare Retail Outlet Village.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Duffy.

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that all planning applications were assessed on their merits and in accordance with the zoning matrix as set out in the Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2012-2018. The Local Area Plan was currently under review. A full survey of Kildare Retail Outlet Village would need to be carried out to determine the ratio of uses.

The Strategic Projects & Public Realm team were actively pursuing the development of a new pedestrian link from Kildare Retail Outlet - Phase 3 to Kildare Market Square.

Councillor Doyle queried what the function of town centre zoning was if a plethora of food outlets were allowed to open up in retail parks. The food element should have been symbiotic with town centres but instead they were being eroded as attention was not being paid to the number of food outlets opening in retail outlets. Plans needed to be acted on and not merely endured.

Ms M Hunt stated that she would pass on Councillor Doyle's comments to the Senior Planner.

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

KN34/0422

Parklet Sites Newbridge

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

That as an alternative to losing 9 parking spaces along Main Street and to support continuity for sustainable traffic as proposed in the Pilot Sustainable Traffic Plan for Newbridge, the council gives serious consideration to siting proposed 'parklets' on wide enough' footpaths as a better option from multiple perspectives.



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

Ms Hunt advised that Public Realm were working with Sustainable Transport on this scheme. The parklets would encourage people to use the local cafes without being attached to any particular business. She requested that the parklets be given a chance as they are to see would they have the desired effect.

The members raised the following points:

- Concerns were expressed regarding where the plan was leading. Newbridge had very wide footpath and parklets could be reallocated to these footpaths rather than removing parking spaces.
- The provision of cycle lanes can improve retail spend by as much as 30%.
- There had been a mixed reaction to the temporary scheme but it was generating fear, and strong information was required to counteract these fears.

Ms Hunt advised that Sustainable Transport had the lead on this and she would speak to Mr Hodgins in relation to public feedback.

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

KN35/0422

Newbridge Cultural Quarter

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

Can the council provide a detailed update on the status of each element within the Newbridge Cultural Quarter project outlining, what stage the project is at, what elements are ready to start and a sequential timeline for each element thereafter?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that as per the Public Realm Quarterly update provided at this meeting, please see extract attached from the Quarterly update which set out the current position in respect of each element of the



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Newbridge Cultural Quarter project.

Location & Project Description	Current Estimated Value	Dec 2021 Update	Current Position	Grant Funding Awarded & Source	LPT Contribution	Next Steps	Timeline for completion of project.
Newbridge - Cultural Quarter	€656, 412	See below by element	See below by element	€492,000 URDF	€164,412	See below by element	See below by element
Newbridge - Cultural Quarter County Library redevelopment	See above	Design team have commenced work on Library Part 8 design.	Part 8 plans progressing well. Internal meeting between design team and reporting departments held. Feedback being incorporated into Part 8 proposals.	See above	See above	Library Part 8 to be published mid-2022.	Part 8 to come before Kildare Newbridge MD for approval/ rejection/ modification in Autumn 2022.
Newbridge - Cultural Quarter Climate Action Training Centre of Excellence	See above	Feasibility Study in respect of potential Climate Action Training Centre of Excellence in St Conleth's Square commissioned.	Work ongoing on Feasibility Study.	See above	See above	Draft Feasibility Study to be circulated to MD Members and members Briefing to be scheduled May 2022.	June 2022
Newbridge - Cultural Quarter Market Square and Public Realm Improvement Plan	See above	Benches installed, urban play area and planters installed on Market Square.	Use of Market Square being monitored to gauge best future use/ design development for this area. This in turn will inform style and material of public realm improvements for Georges Street and area	See above	See above	Awaiting the making of Casual Trading Byelaws so as to inform future design for this area.	Dec 2022

The report was noted.

KN36/0422

Landscaping Belin Woods to Linear Park

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

Can the council confirm if there are any alterations to the landscaping plan for the link from Belin Woods to Liffey Linear Park including the provision of a boardwalk and if so, what processes did these go through?



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A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that no proposals or plans had been submitted to Planning to amend or vary the landscaping plan for the link between the Belin Woods development and Liffey Linear Park, or for the provision of a boardwalk between same. KCC Roads Planning Section would be checking compliance in relation to roads and VRU infrastructure in the usual way with the Developer Glenveagh and would report accordingly to the Planning Department.

The report was noted.

KN37/0422

Pedestrian Connectivity Liffey Linear Park to Liffey Walkway

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

Can the council confirm if there is to be variation from the pedestrian connectivity infrastructure from Liffey Linear Park to Liffey Walkway along the length of Belin Woods Estate as originally authorised in the planning permission granted to Ardstone ref 18302141 for development of these lands in Newbridge?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that to date, no proposals or plans had been submitted to amend or vary the pedestrian connectivity from the Liffey Linear Park or Walkway with the Belin Woods development.

The report was noted.

KN38/0422

Pre-Planning Meetings

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

Can the council confirm that pre-planning meetings are still taking place and in particular, for one off houses in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that preplanning meetings continued to take place and were facilitated via phone, email and Microsoft Teams. 77 preplanning meetings had been facilitated countywide year to date, of which 39 were for one off houses.

The report was noted.



KN39/0422

Cemetery Wall Suncroft

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

That the council provide an update and timeline on the repair of the cemetery wall in Suncroft?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that preparation of tenders was underway and it was envisaged to have a contractor commence works in May.

The report was noted.

As it was approaching 1.30pm and on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members, standing orders were suspended until 2pm in order to conclude the business.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members, Standing Orders were suspended until 2pm in order to conclude the business.

KN40/0422

Alchemy Developments SHD Riverside Newbridge

Mr Kenny Oluwatosin, Senior Executive Planner outlined details of the application to the members.

Following the presentation, the members raised the following points:

- The junction into Riverside Manor is difficult to navigate and already at capacity. There should be a link to Logstown Road. There were concerns raised about site access and an Garda Síochána had also raised concerns regarding overcapacity of the junction and the safety of pedestrians and road users.
- The lack of car parking spaces is an issue as public transport services are limited.
- The 58 space creche was not viable on the site.
- Zoning should not allow the change in density from the first phase to this phase.
- The connecting path did not connect with Linear Square.



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As it was approaching 2pm and in order to conclude the business of the meeting, on the proposal of Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members, standing orders were suspended until 2.15pm.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members, Standing Orders were suspended until 2.15pm to conclude the business of the meeting.

KN41/0422

Community, Festival and Resident Association Grants

To consider Community, Festival and Resident Association grant awards assessed by the Economic, Community & Cultural Development Department for 2022 for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

Prior to discussion the members made the following declarations under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

The Meetings Administrator advised these declarations would be forwarded to the Ethics Registrar in accordance with the Act.

Councillor Duffy	Monasterevin Community Centre
Councillor P O'Dwyer	Newbridge Access Group
Councillor Power	Caragh Tidy Towns
Councillor Stafford	Rath Players, Kildare Drama, Rathangan Community Association and Rathangan Scouts

The members raised the following points:

- It was disappointing to see that Old Kilcullen did not receive funding for their festival
- Kilmeague was not under the remit of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and should be moved to the Clane-Maynooth area.
- What was the definition of a festival and why did some groups receive the full requested amount while others only received half.
- €24k allocated for Newbridge Christmas Lights. What was the amount in previous years.
- Christmas Lights should be a completely separate application.
- As applications for grants were coming from volunteers there was a need to look at the practicalities as it was currently a laborious process.



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- Could grants be paid out more than once a year.

Mr J Shannon provided the following replies:

- Smaller grants had been paid out during Covid but it had been decided to fund larger projects this year.
- A standard amount had been paid towards Newbridge Christmas Lights since the abolition of town councils.
- Kilmeague would be moved to Clane-Maynooth municipal district and Old Kilcullen Area Community Association would be reassessed with this amount.
- As an amount of €25k was to be allocated for festival grants, there would be too much work and not enough resources for the process to be undertaken more than once a year.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by the members that the Community, Festival and Resident Association grant awards be allocated as presented, with the exception of Kilmeague Tidy Towns which was in the Clane Maynooth Municipal District and the funding of €300 previously allocated the wrong Municipal District to Kilmeague Tidy Towns be reallocated to Old Kilcullen Area Community Association. (see appendices 2 and 3)

KN42/0422

Arts Awards and Bursaries

The members considered the Arts Awards and Bursaries for 2022 for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Heavey and agreed by the members that the arts awards and bursaries as presented be allocated. (Appendix 4)

KN43/0422

Riverbank Theatre and Newbridge Town Hall

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

That Kildare County Council actively engage with local youth community groups in Newbridge with a view to offering out and making better and more frequent use of both the Riverbank Theatre and Newbridge Town Hall.



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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development informing the members that Newbridge Town Hall was regularly used by local youth groups including girl guides, choir groups and music groups. The facility was currently being used by Newbridge Women's Shed and other Age Friendly programmes. The community team would continue to promote the use of the facility with the various groups in Newbridge. Riverbank Arts Centre was committed to promoting early engagement with and access to the arts. The centre was open to engaging with community groups and youth organisations throughout Kildare, and had created offsite programmes for specific youth groups, in addition to the arts programme in the venue. The centre welcomed contact and specific requests from local youth community groups and schools/educational organisations (from Pre-School to Post-Primary). The Riverbank Arts Centre was happy to provide any additional information that was useful in illustrating their current policy, programme and plans in relation to outreach and engagement with young people.

The members raised the following points:

- More should be done to encourage local drama. It was not easy or cheap to find space for small shows in a theatrical environment. Workshops were provided for schools but not for local groups.
- There should be more synergy between Riverbank and Newbridge Town Hall. Riverbank was too small for musical theatre but hopefully the redevelopment would enhance this. Perhaps a partnership with a professional theatre company needing rehearsal space could be investigated.
- Groups are paying significant rents for other locations when council facilities are available.
- Commitment was there from Riverbank and a lot of work was done with school groups. Could a partnership with a local youth theatre group be investigated.

Ms O'Brien advised that Riverbank had other partnerships besides school groups and other networks. She would bring ideas back to the Riverbank to publicise more. Newbridge Town Hall was open to groups and had a lot of demand from choirs and music groups. She would



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see if there was a way of having Newbridge Town Hall and Riverbank Theatre working more in tandem.

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

KN44/0422

Playground site Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer.
Can the council provide an update on progress on the site location for the playground in Newbridge?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that an analysis of the questionnaire issued before Christmas was currently ongoing and this would inform the choice of locations or location for additional play facilities in Newbridge.

The report was noted.

KN45/0422

Rathangan Playground

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor A Connolly.
Can the council confirm when the improvements works due to take place in Rathangan playground will be carried out?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that it was hoped to complete the installation of new rubber safety surfacing under the swing units in Rathangan Playground by the end of June.

The report was noted.

KN46/0422

Playground Works

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor N Connolly.
Can the council confirm what works are planned in playgrounds in the Municipal District in 2022?



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A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the following playground works were planned for 2022

Item	Description of Works
Playgrounds	Continue regular maintenance & safety inspections in existing playgrounds Retender for maintenance contractor
Additional Newbridge Playground	Complete analysis of survey to inform additional playground. Tender for design of natural playground
Newbridge Playground	Install new entrance and communications board
Communications Boards	Install pilot scheme of communications boards
Rathangan Playground	Install wetpour surface underneath Swings

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.



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Appendix 1

Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022						
Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District						
April 2022						
	Project Details	KCC Central Funding €	Pay Parking Funding €	Total Agreed LPT	Spent/Transfer €	Unspent Budget €
		€ 2,518,613	€ 332,817	€ 1,625,867		
Roads	Roads/Footpath Projects					
	Roads/Footpath programme		€ 332,817	€ 554,817		
	Additional Rural Roads Projects			€ 77,543		
	Local Road Maintenance (exc. pay parking)	€ 1,425,842		€ -		
	Footpaths	€ 68,335		€ -		
	Traffic Calming	€ 21,625		€ -		
	Signage	€ 21,625		€ -		
	Street Cleaning	€ 650,000		€ -		
	Taking In-Charge					
	Taking In-Charge of estates			€ 100,000		
Roads Sub Total	€ 2,187,427	€ 332,817	€ 732,360	€ -	€ -	
Economic, Community & Cultural Development	Community					
	Festival Grants	€ 25,000		€ 90,000		
	Community Grants	€ 55,823		€ -		
	Contribution to Athy/Kildare Heritage	€ 50,000		€ -		
	Residents Association Grants	€ 19,376		€ 55,000		
	Community Outreach Programmes relevant to MD			€ 18,000		
	Garda Youth Diversion			€ 8,500		
	Respite for Families			€ 3,500		
	HeadsUp Programme			€ 15,000		
	Members Nominations			€ 192,500		
	Community Sub Total	€ 150,199		€ 382,500	€ -	€ -
	Economic Development, Planning & Heritage					
	Public Realm Contribution			€ 130,000		
	Tourism Materials Newbridge (via INTO Kildare)			€ 6,174		
	Community Monuments Programme			€ 15,000		
	Biodiversity Grants & Training for Res Assoc			€ 10,000		
	Shop Front Grants			€ 10,000		
	INTO Kildare			€ 15,000		
	Kildare Access Network			€ 10,000		
	Kildare Craft Hub Feasibility Study			€ 30,000		
	Econ Dev, Planning & Heritage Sub Total	€ -		€ 226,174	€ -	€ -
				€ -		
	Libraries & Arts					
	Music Generation			€ 30,000		
	Brigid 1500			€ 20,000		
Brigid 1500 (K/N MD specific)			€ 37,500			
Mother and Baby Home			€ 12,000			
Decade of Commemoration (annual work program)			€ 11,875			
Coiste Gaeilge			€ 1,000			
Libraries & Arts Sub Total	€ -		€ 112,375	€ -	€ -	



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Environment	Climate Action					
	Climate Innovation Fund			€ 25,000		
	Sustainable Energy Community Action			€ 5,000		
	Tidy Town Groups					
	Tidy Towns Competition	€ 17,447		€ -		
	Sponsored Litter Bins	€ 16,435		€ -		
	Newbridge			€ 25,538		
	Kildare			€ 17,438		
	Monasterevin			€ 13,500		
	Rathangan			€ 10,800		
	Suncroft			€ 6,416		
	Miltown			€ 6,416		
	Kilcullen			€ 10,800		
	Caragh			€ 4,500		
	Brannockstown			€ 2,700		
Kildangan (Community Development Group)			€ 1,350			
Environment Sub Total	€ 33,882		€ 129,458	€ -	€ -	
Recreation & Amenity	Recreation & Amenity					
	Parks and Landscaping	€ 66,605		€ -		
	Playgrounds	€ 80,500		€ -		
	Gyphosate Reduction			€ 13,000		
	Tree Works			€ 15,000		
	Tree Planting			€ 15,000		
Recreation & Amenity Sub Total	€ 147,105		€ 43,000	€ -	€ -	
TOTAL	Total LPT Funding 2022	€ 2,518,613	€ 332,817	€ 1,625,867	€ -	€ -
BALANCE			€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -