



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 May 2025
in the Council Chamber**

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

Officials Present: Ms E Hanlon (District Manager), Ms B Cuddy (Municipal District Engineer), Ms N Smullen (A/Administrative Officer), Ms S Scully (Senior Executive Officer), Alex Dutczak (Executive Architect), Patrick Henderson (A/Senior Architect), Mr Aidan Martin (Project Manager), Ms C Talbot (Administrative Officer), Mr C O'Toole (A/Administrative Officer), Ms L Morgan (Meetings Administrator), Ms KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

**KN01/0525
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.

**KN02/0525
Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 16 April 2025 and the progress report was noted.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Balfe, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 16 April 2025 be taken as read and the progress report be noted.



KN03/0525

Municipal District Road Works

The members received an update on the Municipal District Road Works

NTA:

Works are continuing in Kildare town on Bride Street, final overlay, installation of remaining bollards and line marking. Estimated completion time is two weeks.

Restoration Improvement works:

Works are now complete in:

- Rathangan
- Chapel Lane
- R445 both side of the dual Carriage way
- Ring of Roseberry
- Suncroft
- Royston
- St. Patrick Terrace

Restoration Maintenance:

Works to commence in Kildare Newbridge in mid-June

LPT/ Paid parking

Works are now complete in:

- Conroy Park

Kildare Newbridge Municipal District Work undertaken during April:

Newbridge Area

Daily litter picking, emptying bins, clearing of lanes and general maintenance of Newbridge Town and small villages around the Newbridge area.

Drainage Works:

Curragh Racecourse - 2 new gullies were installed and connected into main storm water system also 20 meters of new drainage pipe on existing line was replaced.

New drainage was installed at Ballysax for water lying on road and directed to storm water drain, 2 gullies were cleaned, and liners were replaced on road edge.

New lid and cover replaced in Ballymany Park.

Scabbling Works:

Barrettstown Meadows and Standhouse Lawns.

Poles and Signs:

2 New poles and signs for new pedestrian crossing traffic lights on the Green Road were installed.

2 children at play signs erected in Anne Street and James Street.

Footpath repairs:

Cutlery Road trip hazards- sections of footpath were pulled up, the underlay was redone and compacted slabs re-laid.

2 concrete bays were broken out and replaced with new concrete at Standhouse Lawns.

Pothole Works:

Barrettstown Road:

Patching Works/ Road repair

Standhouse Lawns, Barrettstown Road, Brownstown/Suncroft Road.

McDonagh Pitch and Putt approach to Cattle grid was dug up and new layer of SMA was laid. 2

Laybys were scraped and re-laid at bottom of Curragh Racecourse. New springs were put on public gate at cattle grid Orchard Park.

Kildare Area

Roads were patched at Mullane Cross/Tully Road, Duneany Kildare town, Canal Harbour, Ferns Bridge R414 Monasterevin.

Footpath repairs were completed at The Plains, Kildare Town

Junction Bollards were erected at Gurteenoonna (Moore Abbey Wood) R417

Bollards removed and made safe following car accident at Supervalu, Monasterevin

Gully was raised at Silliot Hill L7024 Kildare Town

Debris Cleared at Killhill Monasterevin - Lorry lost a load of subsoil

Watercuts opened at Green Road, Old Green Road, Redhills following heavy rainfall



Rathangan Area

Street sweeping Rathangan. Street sweeping, Milltown. Footpaths sweeping. Road sweeping Gillian's Lane.

Litter picking Rathangan town centre, schools, church. Bin Emptying. Litter picking Yellow Lough

Road patching Kilmoney, Pothole repair Mount Rice. Mount Rice patch junction L70101/R414

Potholes Black Trench/ Ellistown

Repair of signs on the I3003, new poles and signs Clongorey.

Repair of signs Grangehiggins and Lock 22 canal

Repair of junction bollards R401 Clonbullogue. Bollards replaced at Main Street Rathangan

New ramp signs at traffic lights in Pembroke

Drainage works at Kilmoney

Water cuts and drainage at Feighcullen

Water cuts Feighcullen to Carty's Cross.

Clearing grass from centre of road at Gillian's Lane

Over hanging bows cut at Carty's Cross /Wheelams Cross

Yard work in preparation for installation of EV chargers.

Kilcullen area

Pothole Repairs.

Herbertstown to Corbally. Floods Cross to Victoria Bridge. Carnalway to Coughlinstown. Giltown to Kennycourt.

Watercuts.

Dunstown. Flemington. Gormanstown to Kennycourt. Giltown. Hacklow. Carnalway to Coughlinstown. Green Avenue.

Cleaning Road Signage

Halverstown Cross. Mylerstown Cross. Milemill Cross. Old N9.

Gully Cleaning.

Halverstown Cross. Bishop Rogan Park Kilcullen. Mylerstown. Kennycourt.

The report was noted.



KN04/0525
Residual LPT Allocations

The following Councillors nominated for LPT allocations:

Councillor Suzanne Doyle

- **Allocation of €1,000 Kildare Town/ Corps Nud, France, Twinning Committee**
€1,000 to Corps Nud, France, Twinning Committee, Kildare town, celebrating 30 years of successful twinning and friendship.
- **Allocation of €3k from the Mural**
€3K of the allocation identified for mural in Kildare Town be reallocated towards Gordon Bennett Festival.

Councillor Chris Pender

- **Allocation of €3,000 to Samhain Newbridge**
€3,000 be allocated to Samhain Newbridge through the Community Section, in line with the Council's Festival Grants framework. This support will assist with operational and programming costs, helping to grow and sustain this important local cultural event.
- **Allocation of €1,120 to Support Interagency Work in Rosconnell**
€1,120 be allocated to the community worker/Tenants Liaison Officer currently coordinating interagency work in the Rosconnell area of Newbridge. This funding will support continued engagement and community development initiatives that are having a meaningful impact at local level.
- **Allocation of €700 for Newbridge Family Resource Centre for support to Inbetweeners Group.**
€700 be allocated to go to the Age Friendly Co-ordinator in Community for Newbridge Family Resource Centre for support to Inbetweeners Group, which works with women aged 50 and over. This group provides an inclusive, supportive space focused on connection, wellbeing, and community engagement for older women in the Newbridge area.

Councillor Pender informed the members that he could confirm that the previously allocated LPT monies to the Arts Officer for a proposed mural and this money was still with the Arts Officer and he would like to relocate this LPT. The District Manager informed the members that this allocation



would have to be brought forward to June's Municipal District Meeting. The mayor informed the members that going forward regarding LPT nomination the members need to have their nominations in before the Agenda Reports are published as this gives all members time to see what is being put forward and they would not be accepted on the day of the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillors Duffy and Balfe, both seconded by Councillor O'Loughlin and agreed by all members present that all the above allocations be approved.

KN05/0525

Moore Abbey Court and Woodview Estates

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillors Kevin Duffy and Pat Balfe.

That the council installs a yellow box at the entrance to Moore Abbey Court and Woodview Estates, Monasterevin because of the new traffic lights at New Lodge Cross and traffic congestion preventing cars from accessing/exiting these estates.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that the objective of a yellow box is to prevent traffic from blocking Junction. Criteria/Conditions: Requires evidence of all day blocking and significant queues (greater than 3 vehicles at any time) persisting in the off-peak period. Not permitted for private entrances. Yellow box road markings are provided to aid traffic flows at a cross junction where static traffic in the junction is affecting efficient cross flow of traffic. The application of a yellow box is also appropriate where traffic that is blocking a junction is causing a traffic hazard. A yellow box may also be warranted at junctions where there is evidence of all day blocking, not just at peak times. The side road traffic flows should be significant to warrant the application of the Yellow Box in this way. A yellow box is not appropriate for an individual entrance and is only considered at the intersection of two public roads.

Based on the above criteria, there are no plans to install yellow boxes at requested locations.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that work was ongoing in this area and was holding up the active travel scheme. He said Moore Abbey Court was Taken in Charge and traffic builds up at the

entrance causing congestion. He asked that the yellow box be reconsidered. Councillor Duffy said that Jonathan Hennessy was originally looking after the overall scheme in this area. Councillor Balfe informed the members that a couple of motions had come up before about the R445, he said it was like a car park along this area especially with school runs. The District Engineer informed the members that it was not a through road at these estates but would talk to Jonathan Hennessy on this matter.

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

KN06/0525

Caragh Primary School and Caragh Lawns

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
That the council examines the path linking Caragh Primary School and Caragh Lawns to see if it is possible to make it universally accessible for all leading into Fr. Kinsella Park.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that there would appear to be minor repair works required at this location, consisting of a drop kerb and small area of tar. It is agreed that the Municipal District Office will carry out the proposed works.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that this was a small development in Caragh. She thanked the municipal district office for their response.

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

KN7/025

Lumville Cross, Newbridge

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

That the council commits to engaging in road safety improvement works at Lumville Cross, Newbridge, and to progressing the delivery of enhanced footpath connectivity along the Green

Road. As part of this process, the council and the Municipal District Office should engage with all relevant authorities, including the Defence Forces, to ensure a collaborative approach to improving safety, accessibility, and active travel links for the benefit of residents and visitors.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that at present, the Municipal District Office has no plans or budget available for works at the requested location.

Councillor Pender informed the members that this area was causing consistent issues, and he recognised there was a budget/funding issue, but this area was originally on the Low-Cost Accident Scheme. He asked if a plan could be prepared and have it ready to go when funding became available.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that on 15 June 2022 she had a motion in regarding the Lumville Junction and in this report, it had said that Lumville was not on the current list of 10 junctions, but Thompsons Cross and Newhall Junction were but to date they had not been done. She asked where has the money gone for these junctions and could the money be reallocated. She informed the members that she doesn't believe that any of the 10 junctions were done.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that she had previously asked about a footpath from the Curragh Roundabout to Lumville but was told the land belonged to the Department of Defence. The District Engineer informed the members that this project was bigger than the municipal district office. She said she would pass this request for information back to Daragh Conlan.

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

KN08/0525
R424 Portarlinton Road

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

That the council installs warning signs on either side of the canal humpback bridge on the R424 Portarlinton Road given the gradient of the bridge and adjacent residential road.

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 agree to install signs, as requested, at this location.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that the humpback bridge had a steep incline and decent and drivers would not be aware of this. He said that this was also for the safety for the residents in the area.

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

KN09/0525
L7004/ Glenaree Bridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Loughlin
That the council follows up on its commitment to put signage along the L7004 to divert articulated trucks away from the untraversable Glenaree Bridge.

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 agrees to investigate suitable signage and install same at this location.

Councillor O'Loughlin queried if there was a timescale for this.

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

KN10/0525
Caragh NS

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey
That the council consults with Caragh NS Management to update sustainable traffic arrangements as pupils arrive at and depart from the school.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that access and egress to schools is the responsibility of the Department of Education.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that this school has gone from 300 to a 500-pupil school and there were no proper facilities for buses, and this could happen with slight changes at the school. Councillor Power informed the members that come September there would be a new facility in the school for special needs pupils which would bring more school buses. He said something was needed before September. Councillor Power asked if there were school bus byelaws. The District Engineer informed the members that if a meeting was organised with the school she would go out and meet with them and Councillor Heavey. Councillor Power asked that he would also be present at this meeting.

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

KN11/0525
Highfield Estate

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McDonnell
That the council installs a yellow box at the top of Highfield Estate, Newbridge.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McDonnell and seconded by Councillor Doyle
A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that the objective of a yellow box is to prevent traffic from blocking a Junction Criteria/Conditions:
Requires evidence of all day blocking and significant queues (greater than 3 vehicles at any time) persisting in the off-peak period. Not permitted for private entrances. Yellow box road markings are provided to aid traffic flows at a cross junction where static traffic in the junction is affecting efficient cross flow of traffic. The application of a yellow box is also appropriate where traffic that is blocking a junction is causing a traffic hazard. A yellow box may also be warranted at junctions where there is evidence of all day blocking, not just at peak times. The side road traffic flows should be significant to warrant the application of the yellow box in this way. A yellow box is not

appropriate for an individual entrance and are only considered at the intersection of two public roads. Based on the above criteria, there are no plans to install yellow box at requested locations.

Councillor McDonnell informed the members that a yellow box was needed here as there was a backup of traffic and people cannot get in or out of this housing estate. He said that the traffic lights had improved this area and was happy to see this. He asked if a roundabout was out of the question. The District Engineer informed the members that this area does not meet the criteria for a yellow box.

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

KN12/0525
Athgarvan Road

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer
Can the council confirm if the Road Safety Audit Stage 3 has been carried out following completion of the road works on Athgarvan Road?

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that a Road Safety Audit Stage 3 has been carried out on the completed works on the Athgarvan Road. Discussions are currently taking place between Kildare County Council and the developer, Glenveagh, in relation to the final design detail of some additional traffic calming works that are recommended to be undertaken on the Athgarvan Road. The members will be updated on the additional traffic calming works that will be carried out on the Athgarvan Road as soon as possible.

The report was noted.

KN13/0525
Allenview Heights

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McDonnell
Can the council confirm if it has carried out an assessment of footpaths in Allenview Heights, Newbridge, with a view to carrying out remedial works?

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that there are no plans or funds available for works at this location in the 2025 budget.

The report was noted.

KN14/0525

Streetlights Back Lanes of Lakeside Park, Dara Park, Newbridge

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to liaise with the ESB to ensure adequate streetlights in the back lanes of Lakeside Park, Dara Park, Newbridge?

A report was received from the Transportation Department informing the members that these proposed projects will require funding to be identified and works prioritised prior to developing detailed designs. There is no funding in the 2025 budget for these works.

Councillor McDonnell asked if the lights could be done one at a time instead of altogether. Ms Smullen informed the members that this area was referred to KLIPS and has been looked at but could not be done one at a time.

The report was noted.

KN15/0525

Mountain View/Blackrath Ridge Estates, Athgarvan

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

That the council clarifies who will be responsible for the maintenance of the new green areas created at the entrance via Mountain View Estate to Blackrath Ridge Estate, Athgarvan.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the residents in both housing estates will be responsible for the maintenance of the new green areas.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that Blackrath Ridge Estate was a new estate and the entrance for this estate was coming in from Mountain View Estate, but the residents of Blackrath Ridge Estate do not see the green areas as theirs as it was closer to Mountain View.

She said the Mountain View Estate was an old estate and the residents had worked hard with architects about green spaces in this area so it was manageable to maintain by the residents in Mountain View and they take pride in their estate but now with the green spaces that had been put in for Blackrath Ridge Estate it was overgrown and not being maintained. Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that this needed to be addressed quickly, and Kildare County Council had a role to play at least until the residents in Blackrath Ridge Estate had established a resident's association. Kildare County Council are maintaining some housing estates, and this was not right that Kildare County Council pick and choose which estates they would maintain. Councillor Doyle informed the members that there was not a consistent approach with housing estates that the council maintain, it needs to be fair and evenly and how could this be done. Councillor Duffy informed the members that this had gone to SPC.

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

Item 30 was taken after item 15.

KN16/0525
Old Kilcullen Walkway

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
Can the council give a timeline update on the Part 8 for the proposed Old Kilcullen Walkway?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the Council is currently awaiting screening for AA and EIA to be completed. The Council hopes to advance this Part 8, by mid to late June.

The report was noted.

KN17/0525
Brownway

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Duffy
Can the council provide an update on the route assessment for the Monasterevin to Portarlinton Brownway?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that consultants have been engaged to carry out the feasibility study. They are currently preparing baseline information relating to potential routes.

Councillor Duffy asked for clarification on the timeline of when this would be brought back to the members. Ms Smullen informed the members she would talk to the Parks Department and revert. The report was noted.

KN18/0525
Cherry Avenue Town Park

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

Can the council confirm that it will protect and prioritise the delivery of the Cherry Avenue Town Park project in Kildare Town on the council-owned lands identified within the broader area referenced by the Land Development Agency (LDA)?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the Council have engaged consultants to prepare detailed design for Cherry Avenue Town Park. This will inform the initial construction phase of works to deliver the park. Any construction works will be subject to available budget.

The report was noted.

KN19/0525
Part 8, Station Road, Kildare Town

A presentation was presented to the members on the Chief Executives Report P82024.15 for the proposed development at Station Road, Kildare Town, Co Kildare

The following points were made during the presentation:

- Demolition of existing single storey cottages
- Construction of proposed 30 no. units
 - 10 One bedroom
 - 14 Two Bedroom
 - 6 Three bedroom
- 9 universal design units



- Density per ha 60UPH
- Bicycle Parking 64
- Car Parking 26
- 2- or 3-bedroom duplex maisonette
 - Own door access via external stair
 - Large private terrace
 - Dual aspect living space
 - No overlooking to rear or adjacent units
- 2x 1 bedroom or 1x 2-bedroom garden apartments on ground floor
 - Large garden to rear
 - Own door access
 - Threshold zone houses bins and bike parking
- Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District Councillors
 - 1 submission – Suzanne Doyle
- Prescribed Bodies – 1
 - Uisce Eireann
- Internal Departments - 4
 - Fire Service
 - Parks Department
 - Environment Department
 - Roads Department
- Public Submissions - 5
 - 5 Received

The members raised the following points:

- Every bathroom should be a universal design.
- A percentage of units should have Scandinavian dry rooms.
- Was it concrete between the first and second floor.
- Would like to see the schematics of Dara Park and Campion Crescent estates to see proposed facades facing directly onto the boundaries.



- There was a critical shortage of houses for older people and for downsizing and the private sector were not delivering on one- and two-bedroom units.
- The council need to allocate sensitively
- Going forward the council should start looking at putting in lifts and embrace this to give people a quality living environment.
- Would reducing the three-bedroom units to two-bedroom units' impact on the funding?
- The site was a good location and very central.
- Why was there not a higher density of units.
- A sense of community with only one- and two-bedroom units and this would be a unique project to show off in years to come.
- This was an impressive concept.
- Was this being seen as a mini retirement village.

The architect team raised the following points:

- All units have level access showers.
- All units have access to a private external space for drying; the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) would not provide funding for Scandinavian drying rooms.
- Yes, there was concrete between the first and second floor units.
- The design of the units is such that there are no windows above ground floor level in any of the proposed facades facing directly onto the boundaries, eliminating overlooking issues.
- First floor external patio areas are furnished with 1.8m high masonry walls where facing neighboring gardens.
- The council does not support installation of lifts or shared internal spaces; all units are own door access basis.
- The units were designed that chair lifts could be installed if needed.
- Taking away the three-bedroom units would no longer be in keeping with the needs assessments for Kildare Town.
- The density of units was appropriate for the area as this was a historical location.

- No this was not a retirement village it was a mixed development with the lower ground right sizing.

Councillor Doyle informed the members that she would be happy to propose the Part 8 with the following amendments:

1. That the estate be called Cobblers Courtyard
 - Agreed by all members present
2. All units be a maximum of two-bedroom units
 - Agreed by all members present
3. To pilot 50% of the units having Scandinavian dry rooms
 - Agreed by all members present

The District Manager informed the members of the following:

- There was a naming estate policy and procedures in place which must be followed.
- Recommended that the members do not reduce the three-bedroom units to two-bedroom units as there was a need in the area for three-bedroom units
- Recommended that the members accept the Part 8 as presented without amendments.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all members present that the Chief Executives Report P82024.15 for the proposed development at Station Road, Kildare Town, Co Kildare with the proposed amendments, the estate be called Cobblers Courtyard, all units be a maximum of two-bedroom units and pilot 50% of the units having Scandinavian dry rooms be approved.

KN20/0525 **Blueway**

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

That the council put in place an action plan to update access and parking along the Blueway at Feighcullen, Glenaree, Rathangan, Clonbrin, Umeras, Ballykelly and Monastervin which is a vital amenity with huge tourism potential.

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

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that the Barrow Blueway Placemaking Plan (BBPP) was developed by Meinhardt on behalf of the Barrow Blueway Project Partners, Kildare County Council Waterways Ireland and Laois County Council, funded through Kildare LEADER. The BBPP, sets out a series of programmed and (indicatively) costed actions to maximise the success of the Barrow Blueway as a local, national and international attraction in accordance with the Blueways Ireland Accreditation Criteria of: Experience, Safety, Technical, Conservation and Environment, Access and Sustainability. The purpose of the BBPP is to set out a 'shopping list' of programmed and (indicatively) costed actions to meet the Accreditation Criteria, noting the focus of the BBPP is on land-side actions and primarily associated with mobility and infrastructure. Car parking requirements are considered in the plan and gaps where they exist are highlighted. The placemaking plan is available to download

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=barrow%20blueway%20Placemaking%20plan&qs=n&form=QBR E&sp=-1&lq=0&pq=barrow%20blueway%20placemaking%20plan&sc=12-31&sk=&cvid=2BFB87687641416A8A6B2D939CEE8789&ntref=1>

Any additional parking requirements, identified in the plan are outside the scope of the current funding. Additional resources and funding are required and are currently not in the Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) Work Programme.

Councillor O'Loughlin informed the members that he would hope the council would encourage more from Kildare LEADER. He said water facilities would be great and bike hire. He said there was huge potential on this Blueway.

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

KN21/0525
Newbridge Town Renewal Plan

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

Can the council confirm when the Newbridge Town Renewal Plan is due to commence?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that the design team are currently finalising the options in the plan at present and have arranged a Works in Progress review with Kildare County Council for the 21 May 2025. Details for the next stage will emerge from this meeting.

Councillor P O'Dwyer asked for clarification on who the design team was? Mr Martin informed the members that the design team was Metropolitan Works. There would be a public consultation hopefully going out on the 16 June 2025 and would hope that the final draft would be ready by the end of July. Councillor P O'Dwyer asked if the members could be briefed before it goes out for public consultation.

The report was noted.

KN22/0525
Vacant House/Derelict House

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

Can the council clarify at what point does a vacant house in this municipal district become a derelict house?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that every vacant property that comes to the attention of the Town Regeneration Section is thoroughly investigated and a site inspection takes place to determine the status of the property.

If the property is deemed to be derelict as defined by the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (see definition below) the Derelict Sites Procedure begins and a Section 8(2) is issued giving notice of the Local Authority's intention to enter the property on the Derelict Sites Register and allowing a specified time for the owner to submit representations on their behalf, the Local Authority considers any representations before deciding to issue a Section 8(7) notice and entering the property the Derelict Sites Register.

Definition of derelict site.

3.—In this section “derelict site” means any land (in this section referred to as “the land in question”) which detracts, or is likely to detract, to a material degree from the amenity, character or appearance of land in the neighbourhood of the land in question because of—



- (a) the existence on the land in question of structures which are in a ruinous, derelict or dangerous condition, or
- (b) the neglected, unsightly or objectionable condition of the land or any structures on the land in question, or
- (c) the presence, deposit or collection on the land in question of any litter, rubbish, debris or waste, except where the presence, deposit or collection of such litter, rubbish, debris or waste results from the exercise of a right conferred by statute or by common law.

Under the terms of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, for a property to be deemed derelict and eligible for the €20,000 grant top up, there is strict criteria, the property must be registered on the Local Authority's Derelict Sites Register or the applicant is required to submit an independent report confirming that the property is structurally unsound and dangerous.

The report was noted.

KN23/0525 **Rathangan Town Centre Renewal Plan**

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

Can the council provide an update on the status of the Rathangan Town Centre Renewal Plan, including details of its current implementation, any progress made to date, and whether any funding sources have been identified or applied for to support and advance the delivery of the plan?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that The Draft Rathangan Town Renewal Plan has commenced; a workshop has been completed, and an art competition organised through the schools. We currently have an estimated completion date for the plan of Q3 2025, subject to resources being available. Applications for funding will progress once the plan is in place, as the Town Renewal Plan will improve our marking scores when schemes are being assessed.

Councillor Balfe asked for clarification if the Rathangan Town Centre Renewal Plan was adopted. The members clarified they had adopted the plan three years ago. Mr Martin informed the members he would check and confirm this.

The report was noted.

KN24/0525
Machinery Yard Site

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillors Pender, P O'Dwyer and T O'Dwyer

That Kildare County Council outlines to the Land Development Agency (LDA) the strategic importance and central location of the former Machinery Yard site in Newbridge as outlined in submissions to the LAP and recognises its potential to significantly benefit the community and local economy. Given the current relocation of depot operations, the council resolves to support councillors plans to designate and reserve this site explicitly for mixed-use redevelopment, with a primary focus on community-focused amenities, such as a public indoor swimming pool, multi-purpose community hub, or recreational facility and incorporating appropriate residential development.

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

A report was received from the Director of Corporate Services informing the members that while the council notes that the Land Development Agency has identified the Machinery Yard site in Newbridge on their Register of Relevant Lands, the site remains under the control of the council. It is only where the council or a relevant public body decides to dispose of relevant public land that the body must give notice under Section 53 of the Land Development Act and offer the land for sale to the Agency within the period of 12 months immediately prior to the disposal. The site is still in operation and is by no means a vacant site. Forward Planning Team will consider all options for these lands during the preparation of the Settlement Plan for Newbridge and any draft plans or amendments will be available to the public and the elected members in advance of any decision.

The members raised the following points:

- Had seen a document showing that the LDA had marked the Machinery Yard as a possible site for housing.
- It was important that the site be used for community and that council work with members to get what was needed for this site.
- Would have no issue with a pool on the lower ground and residential on upper floors.



- The town needs social infrastructure.
- Opportunity for the members to designate it during the Newbridge Local Area Plan.
- Designating this building is key.
- Need facilities for children.
- The members need to work towards getting specifically what they need for this site.
- Could this be put on the progress report.

The District Manger informed the members that this building was still being used by Kildare County Council. The LDA put this site on their register, not the council.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillors T O'Dwyer that it would be put on the progress report and the report be noted.

KN25/0525
Post Office Building, Curragh Camp

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

That the council writes to the Department of Defence to enquire as to the proposed future use of the now closed Post Office Building on the Curragh Camp.

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

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

Councillor Balfe informed the members that the Curragh Post Office holds a significant place in both Irish history and architecture. Constructed between 1899 and 1900 it was one of the first purpose-built Post Offices in Ireland. Councillor Balfe said that whilst the building is no longer in use as a post office, it remains an important landmark. The Curragh Post Office ceased operations on 19 July 2019, marking the end of 119 years of service to the military and local community. He said the Post Office was once a hub of life on the camp, a place of connection, communication and of vital community spirit. To preserve the building that has served the country since the 19th century, is to

ensure future generations understand the role the Curragh Camp played in our national development – militarily, socially and culturally.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Balfe, seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all members present that the members write to the Department of Defence to enquire as to the proposed future use of the now closed Post Office Building on the Curragh Camp and report be noted.

KN26/0525
Machinery Yard

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

Can the council confirm (exact date) when the Land Development Agency (LDA) first contacted Kildare County Council about their interest in the Machinery Yard site in Newbridge and what department was contacted.

A report was received from the Director of Services Corporate informing the members that the LDA GIS page shown here: <https://lda.ie/public-lands/register-of-relevant-lands/map> includes the Newbridge Machinery yard site included on the Register of Relevant Lands. It is evident from the mapped sites that the LDA have done a detailed and comprehensive trawl of all (or virtually all) known public sites, which includes other state-owned land (for example, the Intreo Centre/Department of Social Protection/OPW, Bord Na Mona site, An Post and public open spaces). The Council is not aware of the LDA's criteria for the inclusion of sites. The council has no record of providing the LDA with any list with this site included, however, the LDA did mention the site at a meeting with officials in May 2024, at which time the LDA were advised that the site remained operational.

Councillor T O'Dwyer asked for clarification on who attended the meeting with the LDA. The District Manger informed the members that she would find out and revert.

The report was noted.

KN27/0525
Water Tower

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender
Can the council provide an update on the current ownership status of the Water Tower in Newbridge, including whether any steps have been taken or are planned to claim ownership of the site on behalf of the Council, and if so, what progress has been made to date?

A report was received from the Property Interest Register Department informing the members that the site of the Water Tower is leased from the Minister for Finance under a 99-year lease which will expire in 2036. The Water Tower structure is managed by Kildare County Council. There are currently Kildare County Council IT masts on the structure. It is a protected structure (industrial heritage). Legal advice is being sought on the best way forward with this matter.

Councillor Pender informed the members why he was only getting this information now when he has asked the numerous times since 2019 and hadn't been given this answer before. He said he would speak to Ms Lyons offline.

The report was noted.

KN28/0525
Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2025

The members considered the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2025 allocation for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

The twelve Kildare Newbridge projects proposed for approval are:

Kildare Newbridge	Newbridge Family Resource Centre	Supplies for We Grow Community Garden Project	€1,311.00
Kildare Newbridge	Cill Dara Historical Society	History and heritage talks in Kildare and Print Calendars	€1,500.00
Kildare Newbridge	Curragh Military Museum	Purchase of additional campaign medals	€1,500.00

Kildare Newbridge	Wild Kids Forest School	Host two free public facing events to celebrate Wild Child Day	€1,350.00
Kildare Newbridge	Kildare Town Walking Tours	Run 40 guided walking tours of Kildare.	€1,000.00
Kildare Newbridge	Irish Peatland Conservation Council	Monitoring surveys for the dragonflies and damselflies on Lodge Bog	€1,500.00
Kildare Newbridge	Kildare Town Community Garden	Making birds nests and feeders from foraged and recycled materials using heritage techniques.	€1,000.00
Kildare Newbridge	Kilcullen Community Action	Two Interactive workshops for children	€1,400.00
Kildare Newbridge	Monasterevin Tidy Towns	To offer four sessions of immersive learning in the natural environment free to the participating children (56), under 12 years, on Wild Child Day, a valued component of Heritage Week	€1,345.50
Kildare Newbridge	Liffey Hall Residents Association	Community day to teach how to plant for biodiversity and unveil a seed library	€600.00
Kildare Newbridge	Clongorey and District Community Association	Restore and preserve the original Lawrence Collection photographs of the Clongorey Evictions	€1,500.00
Kildare Newbridge	Kilcullen Town Hall and Community Centre	Interactive workshop for children	€1,350.00
Total			€15,356.50

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by all members present that the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2025 allocation for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District be approved.

KN29/0525

Monasterevin Fashion and Textile Hub

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

Can the council provide an update and timeline on the Monasterevin Fashion and Textile hub?

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office informing the members that Bat and Swift survey commenced early May. Draft construction tender documents are currently under review prior to publication mid Q2. Fire Safety Certificate has been submitted and is awaiting approval. All of this is currently on schedule.

The report was noted.

KN30/0525

Football Pitch

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

That the council provides a football pitch on council ground for Newbridge Rovers Soccer Club.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there are no recreational lands in Newbridge which are available for Newbridge Rovers. Therefore, we are not in a position to provide a football pitch for the club.

Councillor McDonnell informed the members that before the redevelopment of Lakeside Park there used to be a football pitch. He asked if this could be considered in the plans for the Lakeside Park area. The District Manager informed the members that this could be considered in the Masterplan for Lakeside Park. Councillor McDonnell asked if there was any update on this. The District Manager informed the members that she would revert with an update.

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

KN31/0525
Centre for the Development of Young People

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey
That the council outlines its plans for bringing forward a centre for the development of young people in Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Community Department informing the members that the Community Section have secured a property in Newbridge and 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. We 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. An expression of interest will take place once the building is ready for use.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that he proposed that the members be included in talks regarding this. He said he wanted it noted in the minutes that he had previous motions in regarding the former Monastery, Liffey Lodge regarding the use of the building but not land around this that it would be for community use.

Councillor Pender informed the members that the Community Department should be engaging with the young people for the youth services as well as the other stakeholders as he felt their voices were extremely important to this. Mr O'Toole informed the members that he would bring back this information from the members regarding the identified property. He said significant funding was needed.

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



KN32/0525
Residents' Association Grant Scheme

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

Can the council confirm whether a review has been undertaken of the Residents' Association Grant Scheme, specifically noting any increase or decrease in applications in recent years, and whether the issue of Residents' Associations with limited or no access to green space being disadvantaged in the grant process has been highlighted or addressed?

A report was received from the Community Department informing the members that the Residents Association Grant Scheme represents a contribution towards open space annual maintenance costs and is calculated based on the open area maintained by each Residents Association. The current scheme is in the early stages of implementation and the Community Department plan to evaluate the scheme in the coming months which will include an analysis of applications, and the level of grant funding awarded to each group.

The funding applications received for Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District have been consistent with approximately 60-70 applications per annum being received since the new scheme commenced. Resident Associations with limited or no access to open space are not being disadvantaged in the grant process as they would not have the same financial requirement as larger estates regarding annual maintenance costs.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.