

**Minutes of Naas Municipal District Meeting held at 3.30 pm on  
Tuesday, 15 October 2019  
in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara, Naas**

**Members Present:** Councillor C Kelly (Mayor), A Breen, F Brett, B Clear, V P Martin, S Moore and E Sammon.

**Officials Present:** Mr E Ryan (Municipal District Manager), Mr M Kenny (Senior Planner), Ms S Kavanagh (Director of Services), Mr K Kavanagh, Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officers), Ms F Millane (Financial/Management Accountant), Ms P Conlon (Senior Executive Planner), Ms P Pender, Ms M McCarthy (Administrative Officers), Mr D Reel (Municipal District Engineer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator) and Ms K O'Malley (Meetings Secretary).

**NS01/1019**

**Municipal District Manager**

The Mayor welcomed Mr Eoghan Ryan, the new Naas Municipal District Manager to the meeting.

**NS02/1019**

**Vote of Sympathy**

The Mayor extended her sympathy to Councillor Anne Breen on the loss of her Sister Lavina Cullen.

**NS03/1019**

**Congratulations**

Councillor Moore congratulated Naas GAA on their recent success winning four hurling championships. He also commended Dara O'Shea from Two Mile House who is part of the Irish U21 Soccer Team competing in the European Football Championship.

**NS04/1019**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 17 September 2019 together with the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breen and seconded by Councillor Sammon that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 17 September 2019, of the Naas Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

**NS05/1019**

**Matters Arising**

Councillor Moore stated that he had requested an update on several items at the last meeting that had not been provided to date.

**Filter Light at Ballycane Road/Craddockstown Road (NS16/0919)**

Councillor Moore requested an update on the Craddockstown Junction before the next meeting in November.

**Naas Town Team (NS24/0919)**

Councillor Moore requested a report on what the Town Team was.

**Naas Working Together Group (NS33/0919)**

Councillor Moore stated he had requested that an invitation be extended to the Naas Working Together Group to give a presentation to the Naas Municipal District Members and was informed that as the request was submitted via a question on the municipal district agenda this was not the correct process and a motion must be submitted. It was proposed that the Naas Working Together Group be invited to meet the members at 2.45 pm before the Naas Municipal District November meeting.

**Resolved** on the agreement of all the members that the Naas Working Together Group be invited to meet the members at 2.45pm on 19 November 2019.

**Pedestrian Crossing at the Dew Drop Inn, Kill (NS06/0719 & NS06/0119)**

Councillor Moore asked if the temporary pedestrian crossing that was installed in Kill and had recently been removed could be re-instated as there was still an issue with traffic in the village.

Mr Reel stated that this was a matter for the Director of Services, Roads, Transportation and Public Safety and the Project Team and confirmed that he would relay the request to them.

**NS06/1019**

**Strategic Housing Development Newtown, Kill**

Ms Conlon gave an overview of the planning application for 103 houses and 44 apartments on the west side of Kill on Hartwell Road. She stated that pre-planning meetings were held between the applicant and Kildare County Council on 24 January 2019 and a tri-partite pre-planning meeting was held with An Bord Pleanála on 02 May 2019. Ms Conlon stated that Kildare County Council expressed its concerns at the tri-partite pre-planning meeting regarding density and confirmed that it would be examined in the assessment and recommendation in the Chief Executives Report. She informed the members that the Chief Executives Report to An Bord Pleanála was due by 07 November 2019 and the case was due to be decided by 02 January 2020 noting that this can be extended due to Christmas closure. The members raised their concerns in relation to density of the proposed development, implication of the proposed development on the volume of traffic on the Hartwell Road, sewerage, childcare facilities, chimneys and the use of fossil fuels, parks and open spaces, access gate to Kill GAA Club, outdoor gym/playground, community hall and car charging points and solar panels. Ms Conlon stated that the elected members views would be included in the Chief Executives Report and informed the members that public submissions could be made to An Bord Pleanála by 17 October 2019.

**NS07/1019**

**Municipal District Road Works**

Mr Reel, Municipal District Engineer updated the members on the municipal district road works. He stated that the Naas Municipal District had substantially completed

the first programme of footpath improvement and associated works at the following locations within the Naas Municipal District:

- The Gables, Kill (footpath improvements) – complete
- The Park, Naas (footpath improvements) – complete
- Sallins Road, Naas (footpath improvement) – complete
- St. Brigid's Avenue, Kilcullen (road and footpath improvements) – complete
- Relocate Bus Stop, Sallins – complete
- Sallins Controlled Pedestrian Crossing improvements – complete
- Newbridge Road, Naas footpath works – complete
- Resurfacing of Abbey Street Car Park, Naas – complete
- Hazelmere road repairs – complete
- Main Street, Naas – Construction Stage
- Brannockstown Footpath – complete

He informed the members it was hoped that the tender would be awarded in the coming days for the next programme of footpath improvement works at:

- The Paddocks Naas
- Hazelmere, Naas
- The Gables, Kill
- Elmwood, Naas
- R407 Main Street, Sallins

In relation to footpath works on the Killashee Road towards Pipers Hill School, Mr Reel stated that the funding allocated by the members was not enough to complete the works and confirmed that it would go to tender to get a detailed cost and following that process it would be further assessed.

Mr Reel informed the members that the first package of works (Works Package 1) was now complete. It included the following works locations:

- Section A: L6039 Crab Road

- Section B: L20113 Bishops court, Kill
- Section C: L20102 Alasty
- Section D: L6012 Sherlockstown, Sallins
- Section E: L60601 McLoughlins Lane, Boleybeg
- Section F: L6035 Naas Rugby Club to the Red House
- Section G: L6043 Craddockstown
- Section H: L2004 Digby Bridge

With regard to the second package of road improvement projects, Mr Reel stated that works were now complete. It included the following works locations:

SECTION A: L6011 Turnings-Sherlockstown-Daars

SECTION B: L20042 Blackhall, Clane

SECTION C: R407 Bodenstown-Clane

SECTION D: L6076 Castlefish (Nicholastown)

SECTION E: Bishopshill, Ballymore Eustace

SECTION F: Dunshane

SECTION G: Walterstown, Sallins

SECTION H: L2023 Punchestown, Naas

SECTION I: L200610 Osberstown Cottages, Sallins

Mr Reel informed the members that the contract had been awarded for the third package of road improvement projects and it was hoped the contractor would be on site by the end of October. It includes the following works locations:

- Main Street, Ballymore Eustace
- Tipper Road, Naas
- Abbey Bridge, Naas

In relation to the fourth package of road improvement projects, Mr Reel stated that works were at tender stage with construction to commence in November 2019. It includes the following works locations:

- R407 - Sallins

- Chapel lane, Sallins

Mr Reel informed the members that the Naas Municipal District Office was at tender stage with regards to the replacement of the Vehicle Restraint Systems at Alexandra Bridge, Clane.

In relation to the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme for Corbally Crossroads, Mr Reel stated that construction would be commencing tomorrow 16 October 2019 and thanked the landowners for their assistance as the works could not be completed without their co-operation.

Councillor Moore queried the money allocated to works at Green Avenue stating that €20,000 was allocated in 2018 and in 2019. Mr Reel stated that the funding allocated in 2018 to Green Avenue was spent and confirmed the funding allocated in 2019 had not yet been spent. He stated that the Green Avenue area would be moving from the Naas Municipal District to the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District and the unspent funding would be transferred also.

Councillor Sammon queried if the footpath works being carried out in Ballymore Eustace outside Headon's pub were connected to the Ballymore Eustace Main Street Works. Mr Reel stated that the old channel ran along this area and confirmed that when Ballymore Eustace Main Street was examined there was a drainage issue.

In relation to the shared footpath on the Killashee Road, Councillor Martin welcomed that it was going to tender and queried when he could inspect the tender and when the works would begin. Mr Reel confirmed that it would be going to tender in the coming weeks and stated that the council had a framework of contractors for this type of contract and he expected that the tender would be turned around in a couple of weeks. He further stated that locating the funding for the scheme to begin would be a matter for the Director of Services and confirmed that his own function was to get the tender completed.

**NS08/1019**

**Draft Budgetary Plan 2020**

Ms Millane gave a brief overview of the draft budgetary plan 2020. She stated that the general municipal allocation varied from council to council noting that The Department did not provide guidance. Ms Millane stated that when the members decided to increase the LPT by 7.5%, the impact was to ring-fence €4,889,290 of discretionary funding to the municipal districts and this money was included in the general municipal allocation. She informed the members that they may reallocate funding provided for their municipal district from the headings set out in the draft budgetary plan having due regard to the impact their decisions will make to those services. In relation to pay parking, Ms Millane stated that surpluses must be spent in the Roads Department as stated in the Act. She stated that the legislative requirement was that following consideration of the draft budgetary plan, the municipal district members shall, by resolution, adopt the draft budgetary plan with or without amendment. The Chief Executive shall take account of any budgetary plan adopted, but if the members do not adopt a budgetary plan the Chief Executive may take account of the draft budgetary plan as presented. The purpose of the draft budgetary plan was to provide each municipal district with an opportunity to allocate its portion of the general municipal allocation according to its priorities.

Councillor Kelly noted an allocation of €14,000 for sponsored litter bins and asked what sponsored litter bins were. Mr Dunne explained that they were bins provided to housing estates and cemeteries throughout the county and the €14,000 was a contribution towards the charge for emptying them by AES.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Breen and agreed by all the members that the draft budgetary Plan for 2020 be adopted.

**NS09/1019**

**Capital Works Programme**

Can the members be provided with a list of the proposed capital works programme for the Naas Municipal District for 2020-2023?

A report was received from Mr Kenny informing the members that this was being collated and would be forwarded to all members with the statutory budget document. The report was noted.

**NS10/1019**

**Housing Unit Completions**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Martin. How many housing unit completions were there in 2017 and 2018 in the Naas Municipal District and how many completions are anticipated by end of this year in the municipal district, in the context of the Core Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy of the County Development Plan?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the issue of completions numbers for the years in question had been referred to Building Control.

In relation to the Core Strategy and settlement hierarchy, the population projections and resultant housing delivery targets would not be allocated for each Municipal District. However, Table 3.3 of the County Development Plan sets out a % of allocated growth per settlement type and a new dwelling target based on this allocation is also provided.

Councillor Martin asked when a response from Building Control could be expected. The Meetings Administrator informed Councillor Martin that a request had been made for a member of the Building Control Section to attend the meeting and he conveyed his apologies to him as that had not occurred. The report was noted.

**NS11/1019**

**Review of Naas Parking Bye-Laws**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Clear. That the council commence the review of the Naas Parking bye-laws as it is now past the mid-term point of the current bye-laws.



The motion was proposed by Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Sammon.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Section advised that a review of any parking bye-law should not take place unless there were significant amendments proposed such as extending enforcement days, times and significantly extending the area of enforcement. It was also advised that a review should not commence for at least five years since the commencement of its enforcement. A review of any parking bye-law may also incur unnecessary significant costs.

Councillor Clear stated that under the Road Traffic Act, Parking Bye-Laws could be reviewed after the mid-term point. He outlined several parking issues that concerned him and confirmed these were the reason he was requesting a review. Councillor Kelly stated that a review of the bye-laws would incur significant costs and could also impact on other projects. She suggested the matter be discussed offline. Councillor Clear asked if there was another way the parking issues could be resolved. The Municipal District Manager stated that he would investigate the matter and come back to the members.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Sammon that the report be noted and the Municipal District Manager to investigate the matter and come back to the members.

### **NS12/1019**

#### **Bus Shelters at Naas Hospital and Roseville**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Clear. That the council request the National Transport Authority to install two bus shelters, one at Naas Hospital and the other on the Dublin Road at the entrance to Roseville as these are busy stops and are very exposed to the elements.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Brett.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council would write to the National

Transport Authority requesting the installation of a bus shelter at Naas Hospital and at Dublin Road (Roseville entrance).

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Brett and agreed by all the members that the report be noted.

**NS13/1019**

**Gully on the Castlewarden Road**

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

That the council carry out repairs to a gully on the Castlewarden Road (left hand side) about 80 metres from the Golf Club entrance.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Sammon.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District Office would carry out repairs to the gully, as requested.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Sammon that the report be noted.

**NS14/1019**

**Watch House Cross**

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

That the council apply to the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme for Watch House Cross on the R411/L2023.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Brett.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Low Cost Scheme programme for 2020 had already been submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTaS) for their consideration. This junction is in a 60kph zone and has already received improvements in recent years in terms of advanced warning signage and road

markings. The Naas Municipal District Office will review the signs and lining at this location.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Brett that the report be noted.

**NS15/1019**

**Overhead Cables on Chapel Street**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Sammon. That the council cost the undergrounding of the overhead cables on Chapel Street, Ballymore Eustace.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Brett.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that due to limited resources, the Naas Municipal District Office is not in a position to develop designs, plans and costings for this project. But as an outline estimate, Kildare County Council spent in excess of €300,000 completing the section of undergrounding between the Credit Union and Dunnes Stores on Main Street, Naas (100 metres length).

Councillor Sammon expressed her disappointment with the report and stated that she would discuss the matter further with her fellow councillors.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Brett that the report be noted.

**NS16/1019**

**Single Yellow Line in St Corban's Place**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breen. That the council consider installing a single yellow line in St Corban's Place, on the road to the left-hand side leading to the four new houses built recently to ensure proper traffic flow in and out of the estate.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breen, seconded by Councillor Moore.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the request had been referred for assessment and a report would follow.

Councillor Breen expressed her concerns noting that people were parking in the eight spaces on the left hand side of the entrance of the estate without having to pay and stated that with the four new houses that had just been built there could be six to eight more cars parking at this location. Councillor Kelly stated that the item could be left on the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breen, seconded by Councillor Moore that the report be noted and the item to remain on the progress report.

### **NS17/1019**

#### **Bike Parking**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breen. That the council seek funding from the Transport and Sustainability Fund for Europe to install more secure bike parking in appropriate locations around the town similar to the one installed in Abbey Street car park.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breen, seconded by Councillor Sammon.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council installed a 'SMART Bike Locker' system in Abbey Street in Naas providing twelve units with secure locking facilities for cyclists. Lockers are booked and paid for on demand for a short or extended term using the 'Cyc-Lok' app. Funding for this project was provided by the National Transport Authority and the system became operational just over a week ago. The units will be monitored over the next few months to assess the uptake of the project.

Councillor Breen asked if more secure bike parking similar to the one installed in Abbey Street car park could be installed in Hedermans car park, the council car park and at Sallins Train Station.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breen, seconded by Councillor Sammon that the report be noted.

**NS18/1019**

**Bus Bay at Hunterswood, Sallins**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly.  
That the council mark out the bus bay at Hunterswood, Sallins with clear signage and road paint.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Brett.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that subject to confirmation from the NTA that the location in question was a scheduled bus stop, the Naas Municipal District Office would arrange for the bus stop to have road markings.

Mr Reel stated that he had received confirmation from the NTA that the location in question was a scheduled bus stop and he would arrange the painting of road marking.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Brett that the report be noted.

**NS19/1019**

**Schemes in the Naas area in 2020**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear.  
Can the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department confirm that when in discussions with the National Transport Authority on funding for schemes in the Naas area in 2020, that the Dublin Road, Kilcullen Road and the Naas Sallins Greenway will be the top three priorities for funding or inform the members if the council propose or discuss alternatives, given the rejection of the proposed Naas Relief Road by elected members?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members the 3 projects – Kill to Naas (Dublin Road), Kilcullen Road and the Naas Sallins Greenway would form part of our discussions with the National Transport Authority when deciding on the Countywide NTA Programme for 2020. The report was noted.

**NS20/1019**

**NTA Allocations for Naas Municipal District**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear. Can the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department inform the elected members of the National Transport Authority allocations for this municipal district for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 and provide details of individual cycle schemes, the funds allocated, what was spent and what is left over?

The following report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department:

**Report:**

Project	2017 €	2018 €	2019 €
Dublin Road Corridor Improvements – Naas	100,000	400,000	1,000,000
GDA Cycle Network Design in Naas	80,000	75,000	150,000
Cycle Route – Pipers Hill	20,000	0.00	0.00
Secure Bicycle Parking	20,000	20,000	15,000

National Transport Authority funds which are not spent are not carried over.

Councillor Clear expressed his dissatisfaction with the report and requested a report of what had been spent.

Ms Pender stated that she would provide the members with a breakdown of what had been spent.

The report was noted.

**NS21/1019**

**Street Lights**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Sammon. Can the council advise how long, on average, it takes for a street light bulb to be replaced in this municipal district once it is reported out of order?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that it was Kildare County Council policy to retrofit street lights to energy efficient LED lighting once a fault had been reported. As the retrofit process takes longer to complete than bulb replacement, the time period for repairing a street light had been extended. It was envisaged that street lights would be repaired within 28 days from the date the fault was logged, however, depending on the number of faults, it may not be possible to have all repairs completed within the specified time frame.

The report was noted.

**NS22/1019**

**Trees on Private Property**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Sammon. Can the council advise what procedures are in place when there are safety concerns about trees on private property that overhang on to public roads in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that trees on private property were the responsibility of the landowner. If a tree has been identified as in danger of falling, Kildare County Council could write to the landowner requesting them to take action under section 70 of the Roads Act 1993.

Councillor Sammon stated that she was seriously concerned that the trees would fall and informed the members that the owner in question had been written to on three occasions but had not taken action. She queried what the next step was. Mr Wallace stated that he was reluctant to get involved with the matter considering the cost to the council and given that the trees were on private property but agreed to arrange an inspection of the trees.

The report was noted.

**NS23/1019**

**Grand Canal Greenway Project**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kelly. Can this Municipal District Committee receive an update on when work will commence on the Grand Canal Greenway project (Hazelhatch to Sallins)?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that this project was now moving to procurement for detailed design. Once the design has been finalised, the members would be advised of the construction schedule including construction commencement date. Councillor Kelly queried if the preparation of plans for the provision of a foot and cycle bridge over the canal in Sallins was included. The Meetings Administrator undertook to get an answer for Councillor Kelly on this.

The report was noted.

**NS24/1019**

**Extra Car Parking at K-Leisure**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Moore. Can the members be provided with the details and date for the construction of the extra car parking spaces at K-Leisure and Naas Sports Centre.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Director of Services, Roads Transport & Public Safety was currently in the process of identifying someone to oversee and manage this project.



Councillor Moore queried if someone could be identified quickly. Ms Pender stated that this was a human resources issue and confirmed that as soon as a technical person was identified the project would be progressed. Ms Pender undertook to get back to Councillor Moore regarding this item.

The report was noted.

**NS25/1019**

**Affordable Housing**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Moore. That the council consider the new option available to it to have affordable houses built on four lots/28 acres of available Naas land for Naas applicants, by transferring those lands to the new Government Land Development Agency who can fast track the planning issues that have prevented Kildare County Council from building any houses in Naas over the past five years.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Breen.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the following table outlines the current status of the four proposed social sites in Naas. The Housing Department has plans for both the Rathasker Road and Caragh Road sites and would not propose that they are given over to the Land Development Agency. The Old Sewerage Farm site does not currently have sufficient access to the site for a residential development and the council consider it would be premature to give this site to the Land Development Agency at this time. The Devoy site is owned by the Housing Agency and is currently with the Land Development Agency. It should be noted that while the Land Development Agency (LDA) can utilise the Strategic Housing Development (SHD) process for Housing Agency lands, lands owned by Kildare County Council would have to go through the Part 8 process.

Location	Units	
Craddockstown Public Private Partnership	74	Construction underway. Expected delivery April 2020
Rathasker Road	70-100	Consideration is being given to incorporating the adjacent site under the control of an AHB as a joint proposal to maximise the potential of the site and to offset the cost of remediating the site and to provide a greater range of unit types. Expect to launch Part 8 Q1 2020
Caragh Road	50 est	The Housing Department consider that both social and affordable housing can be delivered on this site. The Council are awaiting guidelines to issue from the Department for Affordable Housing. Consideration to the funding source for the affordable element will have to be addressed prior to progressing the project.
Old Sewerage Farm	To be confirmed	The site has restricted access at present which will have to be addressed before housing can be considered for the site.
Devoy Park	200	This site is owned by the Housing Agency and is included in the Land Development Agency's portfolio. When the design is complete the LDA will go through the SHD process for planning.

Councillor Moore expressed his disappointed that Kildare County Council had not built any houses in the past 15 years in Naas. He stated that Kildare County Council had failed with regard to the five sites inherited from Naas Town Council.

Ms McCarthy stated that the sites Kildare County Council own were difficult sites noting that remediation works were required at the Rathasker Road site costing a considerable amount and confirmed it was hoped that the Caragh Road and Rathasker Road site would progress soon.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Breen that the report be noted.

### **NS26/1019**

#### **Lands on the Clane Road, Sallins**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kelly. Could this Municipal District Committee receive an update on the status of the lands on the Clane Road Sallins (between Des Kellys and Castlesize)?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that preplanning, Arboriculturist, Civil Engineering and Assessment Screening reports were currently being prepared for the site and it was intended that the planning application for this site would be lodged before the end of November 2019.

The report was noted.

### **NS27/1019**

#### **Planning Authority Assessment of Needs for Investment**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Martin. How does the Planning Authority assess the need for investment in schools, creches, playgrounds, recreation facilities, local health services, traffic demands and water supply given the high rates of growth experienced in the Naas Municipal District in recent years?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the requirement for schools, childcare facilities, recreational facilities and other social and physical infrastructure for a particular area was assessed in consultation with internal and external stakeholders and state agencies such as Irish Water and the Department of Education during the preparation of the County Development Plan and Local Area Plans.

The report was noted.

**NS28/1019**

**Installation of a Reverse Vending Machine**

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

That the council supports and as far as is feasibly possible, takes proactive steps to facilitate the installation of a reverse vending machine in Naas to incentivise people to recycle plastic bottles/containers.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Breen.

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment had commissioned a review to establish the best way to reach a 90% collection target for beverage bottles including examination of a deposit and return scheme and would consider the outcome of this review and any necessary actions from it, once completed. It was suggested that the proposal submitted under this motion be forwarded to the Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for consideration when a new SPC scheme was in place and the SPC Committees were operational.

Councillor Martin stated that he would look forward to discussing this matter at the Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee SPC meeting as he was the Chair of the committee and hoped that the Carrickmacross case could be replicated including the recycling of cans.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Breen that the report be noted.

**NS29/1019**

**Bonfires**

The committee agreed to consider items number 25 and 27 of the agenda together.

**Item number 25 – Motion Councillor Brett**

That the council engage with and support community groups in the Naas Municipal District to ensure that only one bonfire is constructed in each town or village at Halloween and that it is well supervised.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Moore.

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the Environment Department did not support the burning of any waste in bonfires. The disposal of waste by uncontrolled burning was an offence under both the Air Pollution Act, 1987 and the Waste Management Act, 1996 as amended. Waste material should not be provided by householders for the purpose of burning in bonfires. The Council's Litter Report Freephone is 1800 243 143.

**Item number 27 – Question Councillor Breen**

Can the council confirm if it has plans in place to deal with bonfires over Halloween?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that in the past few years the council has liaised with the local Gardaí to prevent Bonfires in Monread. The only area that the council are aware of, where there is a problem is Ballycane, where the bonfire is organised by locals and is not authorised by Kildare County Council, but which the council have to clean up at considerable cost every year. It is the policy of Kildare County Council that no bonfires are permitted.

A further report was received from the Chief Fire Officer informing the members that the Fire Service would respond when alerted to burning bonfires. An assessment would be made of each fire, where fires threaten lives, property or infrastructure they would be extinguished.

A report was also received from the Environment Department informing the members that the Environment Department did not support the burning of any waste in bonfires. The disposal of waste by uncontrolled burning was an offence under both the Air Pollution Act, 1987 and the Waste Management Act, 1996 as amended. Waste material should not be provided by householders for the purpose of burning in bonfires. The Council's Litter Report Freephone is 1800 243 143.

Councillor Brett stated that he was trying to replicate what was done in Athy and move away from bonfires to a community type event where there was no anti social behaviour and no mess to be cleaned up. Councillor Breen agreed with Councillor Brett stating that bonfires were illegal and should be supervised if going ahead. Councillor Kelly stated that the bonfire at Ballycane was supervised by An Garda Síochána last year and ran smoothly and confirmed that it would be supervised again this year. Councillor Moore supported the motion and stated that he did not agree with bonfires. Councillor Clear suggested that the members write to the Garda Superintendent requesting that staffing levels be at the same level as last year and if overtime is required it should be paid.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Moore that the report be noted and a letter issue to the Garda Superintendent requesting that staffing levels be at the same level as last year and if overtime is required it should be paid.

### **NS30/1019**

#### **Culvert Cleaning on the Morrell River in Johnstown Village**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Brett.  
Can the council confirm when will culvert cleaning commence on the Morell River in Johnstown village prior to the onset of winter?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that culverts in Johnstown would be cleaned before the end of October.  
The report was noted.

**NS31/1019**

**Litter Bin Ballycane Hill**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breen.  
Can the council confirm when will the litter bin at the top of Ballycane Hill which has been out of service for a considerable time, be replaced or removed as it continues to be an eyesore?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the particular bin was removed temporarily due to a site specific issue. A new location in the vicinity was being considered and arrangements to relocate the bin would be made.

Councillor Breen confirmed that the bin had been restored.  
The report was noted.

**NS32/1019**

**Shop Owners Grant Aid Support Scheme**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Martin.  
That the council provides a grant aid support scheme in this municipal district to encourage shop owners to:

- (i) Construct traditional type wooden shopfronts
- (ii) Use Irish language signs/signage on the shop fronts (using if at all possible, painting sign writers to do the proposed work)

The motion was proposed by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Breen.

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office informing the members that Kildare County Council's Economic Development SPC supported shop owners/retailers under the Shop Front Improvement and Accessibility Grant Scheme. This Scheme provided grant aid for shop owners/retailers for the improvement of their frontage under the following:

- Support and encourage the retention of original shop front features

- Encourage the reinstatement of architectural or historic features that would have formed part of the buildings design and character
- Provision of improved pedestrian access to support accessibility for all
- Repair and repainting of shop fronts
- Repair/replacement or installation of signage on the shop fronts. Support for Irish language signage would also be welcomed and provided if this was part of an application. However, I have looked into further support that could be provided externally for Irish language signage. Foras na Gaeilge provide such financial support under their Business Support Scheme 2019 - <https://www.forasnagaeilge.ie/funding-schemes>. Under this scheme they support up to 50% of eligible costs however any applications for the 2019 scheme would have to be made immediately. I contacted Foras na Gaeilge this morning and have been advised that their 2019 budget for this scheme will run out in the near future due to the volume of applications that have already been approved.

Each Municipal District received an allocated a budget of €40,000 in 2019 for the Shop Front Improvement and Accessibility Grant Scheme. The current total of applications received throughout the county are 77. There have been 29 shop front grant applications received from the Naas Municipal District to date and the full budget has now been allocated.

Councillor Martin stated that the procedure on how to apply for a shop front grant was clear. He also stated that he hoped Naas could reach the same level as Adare in resurrecting the craft of sign writing noting that sign writing was in a different league to what was printed and hung up.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Breen that the report be noted.



**NS33/1019**

**Planting of Pollinating Flowers**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Moore. That the council consider a working agreement with Naas Residents Associations to reduce large non-games areas by 25% with the planting of pollinating flowers, financed by an appropriate reduction in grass cutting grants.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Brett.

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that Kildare County Council would encourage all residents associations to reduce the area of grass being cut fortnightly or weekly to more pollinator friendly practises. This may involve a number of initiatives outlined in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan such as delaying grass cutting in early Spring, less frequent grass cutting, introduction of wildflower areas which are cut and collected once or up to 5 times per year. These methods would be considered more practical and cost effective than trying to plant wildflower areas because sowing wildflower seed does not always produce a diverse meadow. Additionally the grants given to residents associations are modest relative to the cost of grass cutting in estates and the retention of 25% would not finance the planting and maintenance of a wildflower area. If this is to be brought into practise it may be best to consider it on a pilot basis. Any work involving the Parks Department to assist with this would have to be considered in the context of the staff and financial resources available and an existing number of large scale projects within the municipal district that still have to be realised.

Councillor Moore stated that he hoped that land not being used for sports would be used for the planting of pollinating flowers noting that would be the way forward in an attempt at going greener and would help the bee and honey industry also.

Councillor Brett stated that the money allocated to residents associations that went to a contractor to cut grass, could be used to encourage the sewing of wild flowers instead.

The Municipal District Manager stated that guidelines for residents associations would be beneficial and confirmed that he would investigate that with the Heritage Team.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Brett that the report be noted and the Municipal District Manager to investigate the possibility of guidelines for residents associations with the Heritage Team.

**NS34/1019**

**Kilcullen Christmas Lights**

Councillor Kelly sought the members agreement to allocate €6000 to Kilcullen for Christmas lights.

**Resolved** with all the members in agreement that €6000 be allocated to Kilcullen for Christmas lights.

**NS35/1019**

**Decade of Commemoration**

Councillor Kelly stated that a nominee was required from the Naas Municipal District Committee to the Decade of Commemoration Committee.

**Resolved** on proposal of Councillor Moore and agreed by all the members that Councillor Breen be nominated to the Decade of Commemoration Committee.

The meeting concluded.