

**Minutes of Naas Municipal District Meeting held at 3.30 pm on  
Tuesday, 15 December 2020  
in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara, Naas**

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

**Officials Present:** Mr E Ryan, (Municipal District Manager), Mr T Drennan (A/Municipal District Engineer), Ms C Barrett (A/Director of Services), Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officer), Ms P Pender (A/Senior Executive Officer) Mr B O’Gorman, Mr M McLoughlin (Administrative Officers), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr J Malone (A/Senior Executive Engineer), Mr S Cummins (A/Senior Engineer), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator) and Ms K O’Malley (Meetings Secretary).

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**NS01/1220**

**Suspension of Standing Orders**

The Mayor proposed to suspend standing orders at 3.30 p.m for five minutes to deal with urgent business.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Sammon and agreed by all members that standing orders be suspended for five minutes until 3.35 p.m to deal with urgent business.

**NS02/1220**

**Urgent Business – Casual Trading Bye-Laws**

The members considered the following motion for the purpose of dealing with urgent business as per section 16 of the Naas Municipal District Standing Orders in the name of Councillor Brett.

That the council commence a review of the casual trading bye-laws in the Naas Municipal District.

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

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Sammon and agreed by all members that a review of casual trading bye-laws in the Naas Municipal District be commenced.

**NS03/1220**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 17 November 2020 together with the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor Breen that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 17 November 2020, of the Naas Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

**NS04/1220**

**Matters Arising**

**NS24/1219 & NS03/0220 Former Telephone Exchange in Abbey Street**

Councillor Kelly welcomed the positive update provided on the progress report by the Municipal District Manager in relation to the Former Telephone Exchange in Abbey Street.

**NS09/1020 Provision of Bus Shelters at Locations in Naas and Sallins**

Councillor Kelly stated that she was pleased with the progress report received on this matter.

**NS18/1019 Bus Bay at Hunterswood, Sallins**

Councillor Kelly confirmed that this was already installed.

**NS05/1220**

**Municipal District Road Works**

A report was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting. Mr Drennan, A/Municipal District Engineer read out the report and provided any available additional updates to the members.

In response to a question from Councillor Clear in relation to what works were being completed in Woodlands, Mr Drennan stated that the junction would be tightened, and some footpath works would be completed in the estate.

Councillor Breen stated that the residents had a meeting the previous night and confirmed that Mr Wallace would be contacting residents in January in relation to the trees.

Councillor Brett thanked the Naas Municipal District Engineer and his team for the volume of work carried out stating that works had been completed on a lot of A and B category roads, and some C category roads with the help of LPT funding and noted the excellent work undertaken.

**NS06/1220**

**Update on LPT Expenditure 2020**

The members noted the report on LPT expenditure 2020 which was circulated to them in advance of the meeting (see Appendix A attached).

**Trees at Monread Heights**

A request for €337.50 LPT 2020 funding was received from Councillor Sammon to pay the Parks Department for the removal of trees at Monread Heights. This was in addition to the €2,500 LPT 2020 funding approved at the November meeting of the Naas Municipal District.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Brett and agreed by all the members that €337.50 LPT 2020 funding be paid to the Parks Department for the removal of trees at Monread Heights.

**Text Alert System**

A request for €8,500 LPT 2020 funding was received from Councillor Brett to assist the County JPC in establishing a countywide text alert system.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by all the members that €8,500 LPT 2020 funding be paid to the County JPC to establish a countywide text alert system.

**Memorial Gardens**

Councillor Moore asked that the figure allocated to the memorial gardens next year be adjusted.

The Mayor confirmed with Councillor Moore that it was next year's allocation he was referring to and stated that this would be considered when the LPT allocation for 2021 were being discussed by the members.

**NS07/1220**

**Transfer of all Unspent 2020 LPT Funds into 2021**

The members considered the transfer of all unspent 2020 LPT funds into 2021.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Sammon and agreed by all the members that all unspent 2020 LPT funds be transferred into 2021.

**NS08/1220**

**Naas Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2021**

The members agreed to adjourn this item to the next meeting of the Naas Municipal District.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by all the members that this item be adjourned until the January 2021 meeting of the Naas Municipal District.

**NS09/1220**

**Corporate Policy Group**

The members considered the appointment of a member to the Corporate Policy Group. The Mayor stated that he attended the last meeting of the Corporate Policy Group in his capacity as Mayor of Naas Municipal District as a member of the Naas Municipal District had yet to be appointed. The members nominated Councillor Brett to the Corporate Policy Group and he proposed that the role on the Corporate Policy Group rotated to each incoming Mayor of the Naas Municipal District, the members agreed.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by all the members that Councillor Brett be appointed to the Corporate Policy Group for his term as Mayor and the nominee to the Corporate Policy Group be rotated to each incoming Mayor of the Naas Municipal District.

**NS10/1220**

**Taking in Charge of Housing Estates**

The members considered the taking in charge of the following housing estates:

- i) Straffan Way, Sallins.
- ii) The Mews, Whitethorn Grove, Kill.
- iii) Earls Court, Kill.
- iv) Furness Wood, Johnstown.
- v) Monread Close, Naas.
- vi) The Maudlings, Naas.

A report was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Sammon and agreed by all the members that the list of housing estate above, in the Naas Municipal District, be taken in charge.

**NS11/1220**

**Part 8 Projects in the Naas Municipal District**

Ms Barrett and Mr Cummins updated the members on the Part 8 projects in the Naas Municipal District.

In relation to the Naas to Sallins Greenway, Kilcullen Road to Naas and Naas to Kill projects, Mr Cummins stated that these would start to progress as funding had been secured.

In response to questions from the members the following points were made:

- The Naas to Sallins Greenway project would be brought for Part 8 approval in 2021, most likely in quarter four. It will have to go through the detail design process following the Part 8 process, this will take approximately another year from now.
- In relation to the Naas to Kill and the Kilcullen Road projects, the NTA are reviewing the design, the tender document would be prepared in early 2021 and when the tender is awarded the project will progress to detail design stage, the procurement process will take approximately three months. A consultant will be appointed in the early half of next year.
- There are not enough resources to progress the Dublin Road scheme at present, but it would be next in line when resources are available. It needs to go back to the design stage and design modifications need to be made as there are no longer plans for an inner relief road.
- A cycle scheme takes between 36 to 48 months to complete.
- The information provided was the progress available to date and what can be delivered with the resources available.

In response to a question in relation to progress on cycling access from Caragh to Naas, particularly with Naas Community College opening next year, Mr Cummins stated that he would examine this.

The members requested a further update on the Part 8 projects in three months.

**Resolved** that a further update on the Part 8 projects would be provided in three months' time.

#### **NS12/1220**

##### **TAAG**

In relation to TAAG items, the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informed the members that at September plenary meeting, a report issued to members advising that TAAG was no longer operational and the procedure for dealing with the items contained within TAAG was included in the report. All items had been extracted for each municipal district and they were now being considered by the Municipal District Office and the Traffic Section to identify projects that needed further assessment. For items on the TAAG list that had been dealt with or would not progress further, a response would issue.

Councillor Moore asked if the members could be issued with the list for the Naas Municipal District. Ms Pender confirmed that the list would be circulated in the new year.

#### **NS13/1220**

##### **Installation of Ramps at Arconagh Housing Estate**

The members considered the Road Traffic Act 1994 - Section 38 proposed installation of ramps in Arconagh Housing Estate.

Councillor Moore expressed his concern that the ramps would turn out like the ones at the hospital which were more of a danger as the paint had eroded and they were not visible to driver, noting that that people stopped at the level part of the crossing and drivers do not know why they were standing there.

Mr Drennan stated that the council had to follow the guidelines and confirmed that they could examine the possibility of using a round top instead of a flat top.

Councillor Brett suggested that the ramps at Furness Manor be examined as they worked well.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by all the members that the Road Traffic Act 1994-Section 38, proposed installation of ramps in Arconagh Housing Estate be approved.

### **NS14/1220**

#### **Car Free Day on Sunday**

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

That the canal car free day on Sunday continue until 31 of July 2021.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to consider and agree. There was no objection from the Naas Municipal District Office.

Councillor Clear stated that the residents had asked for additional signage which was provided, and any other issues had also been resolved, noting that the canal car free day had been a success.

Councillor Breen stated that it was important to seek the views of the residents as they were worried about casual trading in the area. She also stated that additional bins were required and confirmed that she did not want to agree to extending the canal car free day unless these issues were resolved.

Councillor Kelly stated that the bins needed to be emptied more frequently along the canal.



**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by all the members that the canal car free day on Sunday continue until 31 of July 2021.

**NS15/1220**

**Yellow Box at Mill Lane and Sallins Road Junction**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Clear.  
That the council install a yellow box at Mill Lane and Sallins Road junction, Naas.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District Office would assess this junction in line with the Kildare County Council procedures criteria associated with yellow box junctions.

Councillor Clear stated that the residents would be happy as they had issues exiting at that junction.

The members highlighted that this item had been raised by them a number of times and Councillor Moore thanked Ms Pender for the resolution. Ms Pender informed the members that it would be assessed however there was no commitment at present for the installation of the yellow box.

The members requested that the item remain on the progress report.

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

**NS16/1220**

**Relocation of Disabled Parking Bay at Canal View, Sallins**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly.  
That the council begin a Section 38 to relocate a disabled bay across the road at Canal View, Sallins.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that if they were in agreement, the process associated with Section 38 of The Road Traffic Act 1994 would commence.

Councillor Kelly informed the members that she had a petition signed by the residents and confirmed that there were 80 residents and business around that square. The petition was given to Ms Pender.

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

**NS17/1220**

**Charity Fund Raiser on the Sallins Bypass**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly.  
That prior to the official opening of the Sallins bypass that permission be granted by the council for a charity fund raiser on the bypass (details to be agreed) for local sports clubs and organisations subject to Covid-19 guidelines.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the NRO would take the request to the Department of Transport and the Contractor for the project. The members would be informed of their decision.

Councillor Kelly stated that she was happy with the report.

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

**NS18/1220**

**Pedestrian Crossing on the Craddockstown road (L6043)**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kenny. That the council audit and clarify the status of undefined pedestrian road crossing points within the Naas Municipal area, for example the delineated speed ramp crossing from Naas Fairgreen to the Ballymore Road lakes on the Craddockstown road (L6043).

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that following discussions with Councillor Kenny the Naas Municipal District Office confirms that the road crossing in question was an uncontrolled crossing. With regards to having the pedestrian crossing upgraded to a controlled pedestrian crossing, the Traffic Management Section had carried out an inspection of the pedestrian crossing and it was considered that an uncontrolled crossing point at this location was appropriate given the traffic v's pedestrian volumes, the presence of traffic calming and the speed limit in the area.

Councillor Kenny confirmed that he was happy with the report.

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

**NS19/1220**

**Priority of Dedicated Cycle Lanes**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kenny.  
That the council clarify the priority of dedicated cycle lanes on major roads which intersect with minor road junctions for example Rathasker road junction with South Ring Road (R447).

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that junction priority for dedicated cycle lanes depended on the existing infrastructure on site. At the junction of Rathasker Road and the South Ring Road, the segregated cycle lane ends and then recommences on the far side of the junction. In this case it is shown that the cycle lane is not running as part of the main road through the junction. This is also shown in the case of the pedestrian footpath that run adjacent to the cycle lane which leads to an uncontrolled crossing point, giving priority to the motorists on the Rathasker Road and to turning movements off the South Ring Road. An example of cycle infrastructure giving priority to dedicated cycle lanes on major roads intersecting minor road junctions is at the Kilcullen Road – Esmondale Estate intersect. At this junction, the stop bar for motorists exiting Esmondale Estate is set back behind the cycle lane and footpath to allow for greater inter-visibility. The inclusion of red surfacing bordered with broken white lines and the step down of the cycle lane onto the carriageway indicate the priority of the cyclist. Awareness from both cyclist and motorist at these potential conflict zones is essential.

Councillor Kenny stated that following discussion with the Municipal District Engineer he understood the distinction between the various type of cycling lanes.

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

**NS20/1220**

**Aylmer Bridge to Sallins Grand Canal Greenway**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Sammon. That the council explores how Johnstown could benefit from the Aylmer Bridge to Sallins Grand Canal Greenway route.

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that the Strategic Project and Public Realm Team in collaboration with the Environment Section and the Climate Action Team would examine the feasibility of possible connections from Johnstown to the Grand Canal Greenway.

Councillor Sammon stated that there was a good opportunity for a looped walk noting that it would be great if Kerdiffstown could also be examined as part of it.

Councillor Clear supported the motion stating that it was a great idea.

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

**NS21/1220**

**Replacement of Sidewalk Sandwich Boards**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Moore. Can the council confirm what has happened to the carry over agreement between Naas Town Council, Town Traders and the Community of Naas that multi-directional, colour finger-post signs, officially recognised as identifying the general direction of 1) Hospitality Sites, 2) Official Services Sites and 3) Tourist Sites, would replace sidewalk Sandwich Boards?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer, David Reel would contact Councillor Moore directly to discuss further.

The report was noted.

**NS22/1220**

**Pedestrian Crossing at Hollywood Park**

The member considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear.

Can the council confirm has the pedestrian crossing at Hollywood Park been altered to make pedestrians wait longer to cross?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Traffic Management Section could confirm that no modifications had been carried out at this pedestrian crossing. The crossing was fitted with Motion Vehicle Detectors (MVDs) which detect the presence of traffic – if the push button was pressed for the pedestrian phase and vehicles were present the traffic signal controller would allow traffic to flow until a gap in traffic or up to a pre-set time. If no traffic was present the green man would be called almost immediately. Therefore the ‘wait time’ for pedestrians may vary depending on the local conditions at that time. This method of control was considered the optimum balance between traffic flow and pedestrian safety. The Traffic Management Section recently instructed our traffic signals maintenance contractor to attend the site and it was found to be functioning normally.

The report was noted.

**NS23/1220**

**Absence of Footpath at Sallins Petrol Station**

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

Can the council confirm what is the current situation regarding the absence of a footpath at the petrol station in Sallins?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District Office previously procured a contractor to provide a footpath at this location but were stopped by the landowner adjacent to this property. It is proposed to re-engage with the landowner to see if a compromise can be achieved. Any assistance from the councillors in this regard would be appreciated.

The report was noted.

**NS24/1220**

**Sightlines Exiting St Conleth's Place onto the R448 Kilcullen Road**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kenny. Can the council confirm if it has reviewed the visibility and sightlines for vehicles exiting St Conleth's place onto R448 Kilcullen Road when the immediate parking bays on the west side of the road are occupied?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District Office would assess sightlines at this location. This may require the removal of parking bays.

The report was noted.

**NS25/1220**

**Briefing on Section 40 of the Data Protection Act**

The members considered the receipt of a briefing from the Data Protection Officer on Section 40 of the Data Protection Act.

**Resolved** on the agreement of all the members that a briefing be received via Microsoft Teams from the Data Protection Officer on Section 40 of the Data Protection Act.

**NS26/1220**

**Number of Transfer Requests**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kelly.  
Can the council confirm how many transfer requests have been received by Housing Section from residents of (details provided)?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that there were currently 29 active transfer requests from residents for the estate in question.

The report was noted.

**NS27/1220**

**Tenant Purchase Scheme**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Sammon.  
Can the council advise how many houses were sold under the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme in the Naas Municipal District since the scheme commenced?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that there had been three properties sold in the Naas Municipal District since the start of the Tenant Purchase Scheme 2016.

The report was noted.

**NS28/1220**

**Vacant Commercial Properties**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Sammon.  
Can the council confirm the number of vacant commercial properties in the Naas Municipal District?

A report was received from the Finance Department informing the members that In cases where the property was vacant at the date of the making of the rate, the liability lies with the person entitled to occupy the property (i.e. the owner, or where there is a lease the leaseholder). Commercial rates were due even if a property was



vacant. However, in certain specified circumstances, a vacant property may qualify for vacancy relief. This is applied on the account after the end of the financial year and is subject to the following conditions:

- Receipt of completed vacancy relief application form. This can be downloaded at <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/CommercialRates/HowDoIApplyForVacancyRelief/>
- Inspections of the property by the Revenue Collector, and/or another nominated member of the Finance Department.
- Recommendation from the relevant Revenue Collector in the area.
- Submission of required documentation e.g. confirmation that premises is available for letting/undergoing additions/amendments. These documents should be provided, where possible, by a third party e.g. the letting agent/architect/builder.
- Approval by the Head of Finance.

For the year 2019 in the Naas Municipal District, 220 ratepayers had vacancy relief applied to their accounts. The council would not have a listing of all vacant properties in Naas Municipal District as this would be constantly changing and the exercise to applying vacancy relief to ratepayer's accounts is carried out in January each year.

The Commercial Incentive Scheme will be available to businesses occupying previously vacant premises from 01 January 2021. The scheme details will be on the website in January 2021. The application form will be available online and the scheme advertised once the 2021 bills issue.

The report was noted.

**NS29/1220**

**Naas Town Team**

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Moore.

That the council provides a comprehensive report to the members of the Naas Municipal District on the engagement of an individual outside consultant to survey the social, physical, commercial and cultural structures of the Town of Naas during the years 2018-2019-2020.

- to include the guidance given to the consultant,
- details of the recommendations from that consultant and how they will be implemented
- confirmation of the cost and source of funds for the survey.

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

A report was received from the Municipal District Manager informing the members that the Town Team evolved from an URBACT Project that was supported by EU Funding; a prerequisite was that an URBACT Local Group be formed – Naas URBACT Team. Through this initiative, it was clear that there was community enthusiasm, voluntary and business support to keep the momentum towards a renaissance development process in the town. The URBACT Team was managed by Mary Kane of the County Kildare Leader Partnership and URBACT evolved into the Naas Town Team to comprise the many relevant voluntary groups which play key roles in active citizenship. This initiative conformed with the principle of a Town Team, which was espoused by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in a document entitled 'A Framework for Town Centre Renewal', prepared by the Retail Consultation Forum. The Town Team comprises leadership from council members, council officials and Naas citizens and businesses and a key role of the town team is to provide a mechanism through which the aims and objectives of the voluntary sector would be communicated to the council.

An Acting Town Coordinator, John Higgins, was hired to chair and facilitate the active citizen group and he was later replaced by the current Municipal District Manager. He was approached due to his track record and having been involved in many other community coordination initiatives, and following receipt of a proposal, he was chosen – his role/guidance was to coordinate the Town Team. He did not make specific project recommendations, rather his role was to engage with the various community representatives and identify emerging projects of interest and specific initiatives which the Town Team were interested in, in order to promote the town.

There were four main pillars of activity under the Town Team, including (1) Economic Development/Enterprise/Infrastructure; (2) Retail and Service/Tourism/Heritage; (3) Public Realm/Spatial Strategy; and (4) Social Programme/Education/Sports. A list of projects emerged from these working groups, including support for projects being led by Kildare County Council. These projects included things such as: Naas Shopping Centre Redevelopment; Shopfront Improvements, Derelict Sites, Empty Premises, St David's Castle, De Burgh Lands, Purple Flag Project; Poplar Square, Naas Greenway Network, Naas Shopping Promotions, Naas Town Hall & Cultural Quarter; Festivals and Events, The Moat Theatre; Tidy Towns, Sports Facilities, Naas Men's Shed, Fairgreen Sensory Park, Garda Liaison, etc. The members will be aware of the implementation of some of these initiatives and the on-going work programmes and funding applications and/or LPT funding approval for a number of initiatives, which by and large continues as work in progress or has a reiterative ongoing element to their progression and implementation. The Town Team engaged with Waterford Institute of Technology's Architectural Department on a student project that prepared a Draft 'Health Check' for the town. This student team did some survey work and their report provided a commentary on the social, physical, commercial and cultural structure of the town, a copy of which will be provided to the councillor/s. This survey work and the report of the students was provided free of charge.

Councillor Moore thanked the Municipal District Manager for the comprehensive report and expressed his dissatisfaction with people being handpicked to take up a role in the Town Team. He suggested going forward that people be nominated in a type of election similar to the workings of a Community Council as this was the natural way in which to elect people to represent the town.

The Municipal District Manager informed the members that he was open to any suggestions from them.

Councillor Brett informed the members that he had previously been involved in URBACT as part of his role as Mayor of Naas Municipal District at the time and confirmed that huge work was done by URBACT that was now coming to the surface. He also confirmed that a lot of funding for projects came from the URBACT group.

Councillor Kelly recommended that the members research the project "ACT" that County Cork were receiving great plaudits on, noting that it sounded exactly like the work the Town Team were currently undertaking.

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

### **NS30/1220**

#### **Decorative Presentation of the Capital Town**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Moore. Can the council confirm what has happened to an agreed motion from the Naas Municipal District Committee that a Decorative Presentation of the Capital Town for Seasonal/Festivals/Special Events/Celebrations would be prepared, to include a permanency of suitable street infrastructure, lighting, mini-flag pole-holders, national & international flag stands, roof top flag poles on official buildings to be retained in safe storage by the local authority?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Projects & Public Realm Department informing the members that a funding application was submitted to the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund in May 2020 for the development of Naas Town Renewal Masterplan which would include a Public Realm Strategy for Naas. The Public Realm Strategy would identify a palette of materials for Naas Town centre to include high quality paving, street furniture, lighting, location and detail of any flagpoles to be erected. Any flags erected must be in compliance with the Kildare County Council's Flag Policy. A decision on this funding application is imminent, and if successful, work will commence on the Naas Town Renewal Masterplan and Public Realm Strategy in early 2021.

The report was noted.

### **NS31/1220**

#### **Litter Bins in the Naas Municipal District**

The committee agreed to consider items number 28, 29 and 33 of the agenda together.

#### **Item number 28 – Motion Councillor Moore**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Moore. That the council takes into account the current necessary promotion of high value leisure and amenity walk facilities in and around Naas, i.e. canal and lakes areas and the requirement that additional litter bins and servicing of same are part of that promotion and that badly organised servicing or lack of binning facilities is deemed to be unacceptable, and this issue be actioned as a priority by the local authority.

The motion was proposed by Councillors Moore, seconded by Councillor Kelly.

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the Environment Department would liaise with the Parks Department regarding the provision of street bins in the amenity areas highlighted. As part of the current review of the Litter Management Plan, a review of the provision and servicing of street litter bins would be undertaken within the municipal district and would

commence in early 2021. Members would be kept informed of progress. It may be possible to remove bins from less frequented areas and reallocate these to the areas identified. (Previous report NS26/0920 also refers).

### **Item number 29 – Motion Councillor Breen**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breen. That the council considers and reviews the current status of waste bins provision in Naas Town with respect to size of the bins, the number of bins and the frequency of collection and emptying.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that as part of the current review of the Litter Management Plan, a review of the provision and servicing of street litter bins would be undertaken within the municipal district and would commence in early 2021 and members would be kept informed of progress. It may be possible to remove bins from less frequented areas and reallocate these to the areas identified.

### **Item number 33 – Question Councillor Kelly**

Can the council confirm that as part of the county wide review on the emptying of litter bins if the council has considered plans to increase the frequency of the collection service to include a weekend pickup in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members as part of the current review of the Litter Management Plan, a review of the provision and servicing of street litter bins would be undertaken within the municipal district would commence in early 2021 and members would be kept informed of progress. It may be possible to remove bins from less frequented areas and reallocate these to the areas identified.

A discussion ensued amongst the members and the following points were made:

- Bins on the canal were full and litter was being dumped, possibly due to bins being located too far apart or not being emptied frequently enough
- Bins were too small, larger bins were required
- The possibility of providing signs asking the public to take their rubbish home with them
- The provision of eco-friendly, solar powered and compostable bins
- Bins were not emptied on Saturdays, Sundays or Bank Holidays
- The big belly solar bin at Poplar Square is out of order for a long time and needs to be repaired
- The public had a personal responsibility to leave places clean after them

Mr O’Gorman stated that an undertaking was given to review the way in which the street sweeping service in the county including Naas was carried out. He confirmed that litter bins would be looked at as part of this. In relation to events taking place he stated that it was important to work together with the organisers of events to put suitable measures in place to prevent litter. He informed the members that the Litter Management Plan would be coming back to full council in January. The members requested an update as matters progress.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Moore and Breen, seconded by Councillor Kelly that the report be noted and the members updated as matters progress. The big belly solar bin at Poplar Square to be repaired.

### **NS32/1220**

#### **Inspection of Property**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breen. That the council take action to rectify the situation with regard to the building at (details provided).

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that

the Environment Department was arranging for an inspection of the property identified. Enforcement action under the derelict sites/dangerous structures legislation would be considered (if deemed appropriate).

Councillor Breen stated that there were slates falling off the roof of a building on the Fairgreen near the former Sarah Floods pub site and queried who was responsible if the slates injured a member of the public.

Mr O’Gorman confirmed that a report on the building was awaited.

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

### **NS33/1220**

#### **Proposed Changes to the Naas Water Supply**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Sammon. That the Naas Municipal District seeks a briefing from Irish Water on the proposed changes to the Naas water supply.

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

A report was received from the Water Services Department informing the members that the council, as agreed at full council in June 2020, formally wrote to Irish Water seeking a presentation on the matters at hand or, alternatively, to address a joint meeting of the relevant municipal districts. A reminder was subsequently issued, and the matter raised again with Irish Water at a senior management meeting (Tier 2). Regrettably, there had been no response to date. Copies of relevant correspondence were attached.

Councillor Sammon made the following points:

- Irish Water were planning to pump water from Srowlands Treatment Plant, Athy to serve Ballymore Eustace, Brannockstown and Naas areas which



currently received its full water supply from the Ballymore Eustace Treatment Plant.

- She had contacted Irish Water to find out what areas would be affected and to get maps but had been unsuccessful in obtaining this information from them.
- The public had a right to know what areas would be affected as it was going to be a huge issue for the people of Naas when the changeover occurred as although the water is safe to drink it is significantly harder water.

The members supported Councillor Sammons motion stating that a letter had issued to Irish Water requesting that a presentation be given and asked the Municipal District Manager if he could contact Irish Water demanding a briefing before 21 December 2020.

The Municipal District Manager stated that he would speak to the Director of Services, Water Services and Environment Department and decide what the best course of action was. Councillor Sammon stated that she would provide the Municipal District Manager with details of the person from Irish Water who had been on KFM, stating that she had written to this person a number of times but to no avail. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Kelly that the report be noted and the Municipal District Manager to speak to the Director of Services, Water Services and Environment Department and decide what the best course of action is in seeking a response to the request for a presentation from Irish Water.

### **NS34/1220**

#### **Christmas Tree Recycling 2020**

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

Can the council confirm if it has a designated collection point for dis-used Christmas trees for the Naas Municipal District area?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the Environment Department had made arrangements for Christmas tree recycling at

the Fairgreen, Naas from Saturday, 04 January to Saturday, 18 January 2021. Only trees should be left at the designated area

The report was noted.

### **NS35/1220**

#### **Business Promotional Group**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Moore. That due to the failure of the National Development Plan to identify Central Kildare as an Economic Growth Corridor and the lowering of Naas Town in economic classification to only be a Key Town instead of a Growth Town leading to a serious local area identity vacuum, and the consequential need for a focussed promotion of Naas Town as a sustainable Economic Hub, that the Municipal District Manager assist the Naas Municipal District Committee to form a Business Promotional Group to spearhead the promotion of Naas as a suitable Area for specialist Government services, new Internet Shopping Warehouses, Brexit Related Clearance Centres and sites for high profile Global Companies like Microsoft, needing readily accessible site locations, with available energy and other general services for technological businesses, as these opportunities are slipping under the radar to other designated mid-east regions.

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

A report was received from the Municipal District Manager informing the members that the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) identified Naas as Key Town. These were classed as large economically active service and/or county towns that provide employment for their surrounding areas and with high-quality transport links and the capacity to act as growth drivers to complement the Regional Growth Centres. Within the settlement hierarchy of the Mid-East Region, there is only two areas with a higher ranking: Drogheda identified as the sole 'Regional Growth Centre', as well as the capital city and its environs ('Dublin City and Suburbs'). The other 'Key Towns' in the Mid-East Region include Maynooth, Navan, Swords, Bray and Wicklow/Rathnew. The RSES identified this hierarchy based on

an evidence driven asset-based approach in the development of the Settlement Strategy.

Notwithstanding the rank order, Naas is ideally located within the region with easy access to Dublin and close to the M7, M8 and M9 corridor serving the regional cities of Waterford, Cork and Limerick. In 2020, Naas has seen more house completions than all of Dublin 1, 2, 3,4, 5,6, 7 & 8 combined (CSO). It is not accepted that Naas suffers from a local area identity vacuum. The town and its environs continues to experience very strong interest in investment and the council is engaged in a number of very significant pre-planning projects (including early high level discussions) in relation to state of the art logistics and warehousing operations (including operators expanding or currently supporting the on-line shopping market) in addition to a number of other expanding sectors. There is also interest in Naas from a number of data centre operators/providers. With the opening of the new Junction 9A, we expect to see further interest in the town. As regards, the provision of government services, the Naas Municipal District Manager has also promoted Naas with the OPW, and there are active lines of communication between Senior Management and the Head of LEO, the Chamber of Commerce, IDA and Enterprise Ireland so as to promote and respond quickly to any economic development interests.

In relation to the suggested formation of the Business Promotional Group, the County currently has an Economic Forum which is Chaired by Mr Padraig McManus and comprises of key stakeholders from IDA, Enterprise Ireland, County Kildare Chamber of Commerce, Maynooth University and leaders of Industry that are based in Kildare. The Forum is supported by the Chief Executive, the Director of Service for Economic Development and the Head of Enterprise. The work of the Forum is ongoing but a Draft Economic Strategy for the County (Kildare 2025) has now been brought to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC for consideration. This 5-year plan will set out clear economic objectives for the County and will be aligned to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

Councillor Moore made the following comments:

- Mid Kildare had done very badly out of the National Development Plan and RSES noting Naas Town status had been reduced from a regional major town to a key town.
- Central Kildare had a railway line and a Motorway.
- Attracting businesses to the area was a very competitive field noting that Naas needed its own promotion team to attract business and promote the town.
- There were a huge number of companies seeking distribution warehouses for online shopping and Naas was ideally located.
- If Naas did well all the other municipal district towns would also benefit.
- The condition for recognising status that required third level education needed to be removed or should be satisfied if there was a third level education facility within one hour of the town.

Councillor Brett highlighted the appeal Millennium Park had in terms of economic growth and attracting businesses to the municipal district and stated that this would be further enhanced with the opening of Junction 9a.

The Municipal District Manager made the following comments:

- As Municipal District Manager he wanted to see the town of Naas doing well and supported all the objectives the members had in promoting Naas.
- In terms of an economic corridor, the M7, M8 and M9 were the busiest roads in the country.
- He was regularly approached by Jacqui McNabb, Head of LEO informing him that a request has been received from businesses seeking suitable land for development.
- He is in regular contact with the IDA Regional Manager and confirmed that care had to be taken where businesses were located.
- A number of entities were interested in Naas
- The facts speak for themselves, more housing completions in the Naas area than in all of Dublin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 combined

- Naas has a very attractive offer not just in terms of accessibility but also in terms of amenities.
- The fact that there was already one university in Kildare it was unlikely that another would be built however the MERITS Building would be part of what Naas had to offer.

Councillor Moore stated that the Court Service were considering moving out of Naas and asked the Municipal District Manager to consider getting in touch. The Municipal District Manager stated that he had made efforts to contact the Court Services and would try again.

Councillor Moore asked for a report from the Municipal District Manager in relation to Naas, similar to the Chief Executives report, to be issued every quarter. The Municipal District Manager said he would consider the request.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Kelly that the report be noted. The Municipal District Manager to consider providing the members with a quarterly update, similar to the Chief Executives report. The Municipal District Manager to contact the Court Service.

### **NS36/1220**

#### **Community Gardens or Allotments**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kenny. Can the council confirm if it has any plans to develop a community garden or community allotments within the Naas Municipal District?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that there were no immediate plans to develop a community garden or allotments in Naas. This would be subject to identifying suitable sites for them, finance to develop them and interested voluntary organisations to manage them.

The report was noted.

**NS37/1220**

**Correspondence**

The Mayor read out a letter thanking the members for the allocation of funding to the Maudlins Pyramids.

The meeting concluded

Appendix A:

**Schedule of Municipal District Works 2020**  
**Naas Municipal District**  
**Adopted 16/06/2020 and Amended 21/07/20, 15/09/20, 20/10/20**

		KCC Central Funded €350,895	Retained LPT Funding €916,740	Pay Parking Funding €553,941	Total MD Funding €1,821,576	LPT Expenditure to Date	
<b>Roads Maintenance</b>							
<b>Road Projects</b>							
<b>Roads, Transportation and Public Safety</b>	Glenmore to Elverstown renovation			50,000	50,000	50,000	
	Athgarret Rd junction with Nunslan			77,000	77,000	77,000	
	Mullaboden Road			50,000	50,000	50,000	
	Dowdenstown (L6049)			60,000	60,000	60,000	
	Clownings, Straffan			75,000	75,000	75,000	
	Tandys Bridge			10,000	10,000	0	
	Green Avenue (Note: Kildare/Newbridge MD)		20,000		20,000	0	
	<b>Footpath Projects</b>						
	Kilashee, Naas			60,000	60,000	60,000	
	Ashgrove, Naas			20,000	20,000	20,000	
	Footpath at Canal/Church Ave, Sallins			14,000	14,000	14,000	
	Swans to Patrician Avenue, Naas		30,000		30,000	0	
	Corban's Lane / Friary Rd, Naas			16,000	16,000	0	
	Ashgrove-Monread Avenue, Naas			25,000	25,000	25,000	
	Woodlands Entrance, Naas			15,000	15,000	0	
	Moat Lane markings		1,059	2,941	4,000	0	
	Sundays Well/ Lakelands footpaths, Naas			12,000	12,000	12,000	
	Morell Rd, Naas			12,000	12,000	12,000	
	The Sycamores, Naas			15,000	15,000	15,000	
	Sarto Road, Naas			10,000	10,000	0	
	Woodlands, Naas			10,000	10,000	0	
	Open space drainage, St Patrick's Pk, Kill			10,000	10,000	0	
	Small works, Johnstown Manor			14,000	14,000	0	
	Bridge Strike at Turnings			10,000	10,000	0	
	Interactive speed signs Sherlockstown & Kilcullen Rd			5,000	5,000	0	
	<b>(a) Roads, Transportation sub-total</b>			<b>70,059</b>	<b>553,941</b>	<b>624,000</b>	<b>470,000</b>

## Kildare County Council

Project							
Environment	Tidy Towns Irrigation Naas		10,000		10,000	0	
	Naas	15,000	14,000		29,000	14,000	
	Kill	3,500	1,700		5,200	1,700	
	Sallins	3,500	1,700		5,200	1,700	
	Ballymore Eustace	2,200	1,700		3,900	1,700	
	Johnstown	2,075	1,700		3,775	1,700	
	Sponsored Litter bins	14,000			14,000	0	
	Composter for Sallins - Feasibility		2,000		2,000	0	
	Abbey Graveyard Sign - Naas		2,000		2,000	0	
	Cemetery Canopy - St. Corban's, Naas		25,000		25,000	0	
	Johnstown Graveyard		8,000		8,000	8,000	
<b>(b) Environment sub-total:</b>			<b>40,275</b>	<b>67,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>108,075</b>	
Community & Recreation	Golf Academy Craddockstown		8,000		8,000	8000	
	Castlewarden Golf Club Juvenile Academy		8,000		8,000	0	
	Naas United FC		7,000		7,000	0	
	Naas Hurling Club		1,000		1,000	1000	
	Community Grants (General)	104,000			104,000	<b>104,000</b>	
	Residents Associations Grants	49,620	75,000		124,620	<b>124,620</b>	
	Paddocks Residents Association		5,000		5,000	5000	
	Eadestown Field Day		1,500		1,500	0	
	Landscaping Mountain View/Paddocks, Naas		3,000		3,000	0	
	Memorial Park (Fairgreen/Craddockstown)		7,500		7,500	0	
	Canal Locks & Lighting		12,000		12,000	0	
	Fr Flanagan Boxing Club		3,000		3,000	0	
	Drama - Sallins		2,000		2,000	0	
	Drama - Kill		5,000		5,000	5000	
	Drama - Moat Theatre		15,000		15,000	10000	
	Christmas Lights - Naas		20,000		20,000	37000	
	Christmas Lights - Ballymore Eustace		5,000		5,000	5000	
	Christmas Lights - Sallins		5,000		5,000	5000	
	Naas Ball		1,500		1,500	861	
	Water Filling Stations - Schools		10,000		10,000	0	
	Water Filling Stations - Naas, Sallins, Johnstown		20,000		20,000	0	
	No Planet B Project		1,000		1,000	1000	
	Meadow Court Estate - signage		200		200	0	
	Wild Food/Christmas Festival		20,000		20,000	0	
	Community Bus		30,000		30,000	0	
	Johnstown Community Association		6,000		6,000	0	
	Bike Racks: Swans and Sallins Town Centre		6,000		6,000	0	
	4G Pitch CBS Naas		100,000		100,000	0	
	Playgrounds	49,000			49,000	0	
	Parks & Landscaping	100,000			100,000	0	
	<b>(c) Community sub-total</b>			<b>302,620</b>	<b>377,700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>680,320</b>
							<b>306,481</b>



## Kildare County Council

Planning & Public Realm	Public Realm		76,500		76,500		76,500
	Naas Purple Flag Contribution		1,500		1,500		0
	Plaques - Naas		6,000		6,000		0
	Covid Repsonse /Contingency		20,000		20,000		0
	Heritage - Mausoleum		10,000		10,000		10,000
	Heritage - Biodiversity		3,000		3,000		3,000
	Devoy Barracks Gates		7,500		7,500		7,500
	Naas Farmers Market		2,500		2,500		0
	Twinning	8,000			8,000		0
	Extend Greenway Feasibility Study		10,000		10,000		0
	Greenway Signs		2,000		2,000		0
	Capital Fund Urban Regeneration/Open Space)		247,181		247,181		0
<b>(d) Planning &amp; Public Realm sub-total</b>			<b>8,000</b>	<b>386,181</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97,000</b>
Libr	Coiste na Gaeilge		1,000		1,000		0
	Decade of Commemmorations		12,000		12,000		0
<b>(e) Library &amp; Arts Service sub-total</b>			<b>13,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL (a)+(b)+(c)+(d)+€</b>			<b>350,895</b>	<b>914,740</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>432,281</b>