

**Minutes of Naas Municipal District Meeting held at 3.30 pm on
Tuesday, 18 February 2020
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 M Kenny (A/Municipal District Manager), Mr T McDonnell (Director of Services), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Ms P Pender (Administrative Officer), Mr D Reel (Municipal District Engineer), Ms P O'Rourke (Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator) and Ms K O'Malley (Meetings Secretary).

NS01/0220

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Mayor proposed to suspend standing orders at 3:30 p.m. for thirty minutes.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by all members that standing orders be suspended for thirty minutes until 4:00 p.m.

NS02/0220

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 21 January 2020 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Brett and seconded by Councillor Breen that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 21 January 2020, of the Naas Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

NS03/0220

Matters Arising

Councillor Moore thanked the elected members and officials of Kildare County Council for their support and condolences following the passing of his wife Agnes.

Pedestrian Crossing at the Dew Drop Inn, Kill NS06/0119, NS06/0719, NS05/1019, NS05/1119 & NS15/0120

Councillor Kelly brought the members attention to the second item on the progress report in relation to the Pedestrian Crossing at the Dew Drop in Kill and stated that Mr McDonnell Director of Services, Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department was present to provide an update.

Mr McDonnell informed the members that the council intended to wait until the traffic on the M7/N7 had settled down following the removal of the reduced speed limit before carrying out a traffic count in Kill Village to determine if a pedestrian crossing or other traffic calming measures were warranted. He asked the members to bear with him until the count was completed and a decision was made. Mr McDonnell stated that the members had informed him that the traffic situation in Kill was exasperated when an accident occurred on the N7.

The members stated that there was a Part 8 for a Naas to Kill Cycle Scheme that included three pedestrian crossings in Kill and pointed out that an upgrade of the N7 was complete however the volume of traffic in Kill and the surrounding areas had not reduced. They expressed their concerns in relation to the safety of users crossing the road noting that there had already been an accident in Kill and highlighted that there were 1,000 school going children in the village who had to cross the road to access the shops as the shops were all on one side of the road. The members noted that google maps diverted drivers through Kill and the surrounding areas when the N7 was busy with heavy traffic and stated that they could not understand why Ballymore Eustace had traffic lights for safe crossing of the road which was only busy at school times and Kill did not. The members confirmed that they were united on the issue stating that as Kill Village did not have any crossing, it should be made safer.

Mr McDonnell stated that the Part 8 was for the full scheme and the members were requesting specific elements of this scheme. He informed the members that he had visited Kill on a number of occasions at various times of the day and while there was pressure on the members from the public to provide a pedestrian crossing, there were also other villages requesting the same noting Sallins as one of them.

He stated that the absence of a controlled crossing with lights was the issue confirming that uncontrolled crossings in Kill were currently in place. He informed the members that in his opinion the Dew Drop was not the best place for a pedestrian crossing confirming that other works needed to be completed with it and noting safety issues with parking outside the shop where cars reversing onto the street had limited visibility. He confirmed that he intended to bring the matter to the Transportation SPC to consider a traffic calming policy.

The members stated that Sallins was slightly different as there were two crossings there and asked Mr McDonnell when he expected the traffic count would be carried out. Mr McDonnell stated that he expected it to be carried out at the end of March or immediately after. The members asked that the item remain on the progress report.

Telephone Exchange in Abbey Street NS24/1219

Councillor Moore requested a copy of the letter that was sent to An Post in relation to the Telephone Exchange and the reply received, as there were two buildings and he wanted to ensure the correct building was identified confirming that it was the building in the court yard he had referred to in his motion.

Lights at the Lakes in Naas NS09/1119

Councillor Moore referred to the response received on the progress report that stated the lighting was now back to full capacity. The problem had been identified and should a recurrence happen, the Public Lighting maintenance contractor would resolve the issue. He stated that the problem initially was the standard of the work to be carried out to resolve the issue and queried this with the Roads Department. Ms Pender stated she would query the matter and revert to Councillor Moore.

Naas to Sallins Road at the turn to Monread (Monread Heights) NS12/1219

Councillor Moore stated that designs needed to be checked and requested that the item remain on the progress report.

NS04/0220

Municipal District Road Works

Mr Reel, Municipal District Engineer updated the members on the municipal district road works. He stated that restoration improvement works on the R411 Ballymore Roads, Naas, LP2008 Clownings(Ardclough), LP2019 Huttonread(Holmestead Saddlery Road), LS6047 Coughlanstown, LS6048 Mullaboden Road, LS6049 Morganstown, LS5050 Elverstown/Glenmore and restoration maintenance works on the R411 Ballymore Eustace Road, LS6056 Ballymore Eustace to Blessington, LP2010 Sherlockstown to Painstown, LP2004 Blackhall, Clane and LS6021 Castlewarden to Blackchurch would form the main part of the works programme in the Naas Municipal District.

Mr Reel informed the members that works had commenced on the construction of the shared footpath/cycle track on the Killashee Road.

In relation to the bus shelter in Johnstown, Mr Reel stated that tenders were about to commence for three bus shelters, one in Johnstown and two in Naas, one opposite Sheehy Motors and one at the ALDI Distribution Centre.

Councillor Moore congratulated Mr Reel on his involvement with works on the Coughlanstown Road.

Councillor Clear asked if trees would be removed when works in Sarto Park were being completed. Mr Reel stated that the works would take place from Ploopluck Bridge towards the library and informed the members that at present it was not proposed to remove trees but if there were roots in the way of the works, the Roads Department would speak to the Parks Department regarding this. He confirmed that the current width of the footpath would be maintained during the work.

Mr Reel stated that the entrance to Killashee was 30 metres wide and informed the members that they proposed to have two crossings of approximately six metres with a small island in the middle which would make the crossing significantly safer than it was at the moment noting that as result of the current width of the entrance, drivers take the turn very quickly therefore the intention was to tighten the turn so drivers would proceed at a reduced speed.

Councillor Moore stated that there was no school sign identifying the Multi Denominational School at Killashee. Mr Reel stated that he would check this.

NS05/0220

Naas Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2020

The Mayor asked if this item could be deferred. The Meetings Administrator informed the members that the Naas Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2020 (including the agreed list of roads projects) needed to be agreed before the end of March.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Breen and agreed by all the members that the item be deferred to the March 2020 meeting.

NS06/0220

Local Link Presentation

Mr Kerry, Local Link Manager briefed the elected members on rural transport. He informed the members that Local Link Kildare/South Dublin currently operated 291 scheduled trips on 45 routes creating over 2000 passenger trips a week, confirming that they were reasonably happy with the spread and cover they had achieved in this area. He outlined the scheduled services provided in 2019 including connector services to Maynooth University stating that it had risen 4.7% on 2018 and noting that the benefit of the Local Link brand could now be seen. Mr Kerry informed the members that the Bookabus Services was established in 2019 and 1140 service trips were delivered under this banner that provided 22,870 passenger trips. In total the scheduled and bookabus services in 2019 recorded 131,897 passenger trips. He outlined the bookabus customer locations and informed the members of the annual once off social fund which was also available to Local Link through the

Department of Transport noting that 47 groups and individuals received funding for transport through the fund, 7 of which were for individuals who needed assistance travelling to medical appointments. Mr Kerry provided details of the regular rural services funded under public service obligation and stated that all regular rural services would incorporate evening/nighttime services on weekend schedules.

In response to a question from Councillor Moore regarding the timetabled turn around time of the Athy to Newbridge route of one and a half hours and if there had been any requests received to extend this service to Naas, Mr Kerry stated that the working time initiative and drivers hours had to be taken into consideration. He informed the members that a tenfold increase in time saved was required for people to consider leaving their cars at home and using the services.

Councillor Moore asked if Local Link received financial support from Kildare County Council and Mr Kerry confirmed that it did not. Councillor Clear asked if Local Link had looked at other services that were provided by private companies to identify the gaps. Mr Kerry stated that they were aware of the gaps, confirming that tools such as local transport plans were needed and noting that Local Link did not have the same resources as Kildare County Council.

Councillor Kelly asked what the criteria was for identifying new routes as residents of Ballymore Eustace, Eadestown, Rathmore and Kill had queried a link to the Luas in Saggart. Mr Kerry informed the members that 99% of what Local Link did was achieved by developing relationships, confirming that need was identified by listening to what people wanted and stated that by working with elected members who represent local communities, the need for new routes could be identified.

NS07/0220

Lighting of Naas Ball

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly. That the council begin the process of engagement with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to ensure the Naas Ball is turned green for Saint Patrick's Day.

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

A report was received from the Meetings Administrator informing the members that a request had been sent to the NRDO to ask the NTA to light up the Naas Perpetual Motion for St Patrick's Day.

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

NS08/0220

Safe Crossing for Pedestrians at the Osberstown/Sallins Road Junction

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

That the council provide a safe crossing for pedestrians who use the Naas bound bus (which serves the residents of Osberstown Cottages/Oldbridge/Hunterswood) at the Osberstown/Sallins Road junction.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the request had been placed in TAAG and the location shall be assessed as to whether 1) a pedestrian crossing could be provided in accordance with technical guidelines/standards and 2) a warrant exists for a pedestrian crossing (& possible type of crossing) at this location. The members would be informed when the assessment had been carried out.

Councillor Kelly requested a copy of the technical guidelines/standards and stated that there was a bus stop at the Osberstown junction servicing people from White City and Oldbridge but there was nowhere for them to cross the road safely noting that this was a regional road and the closest crossings was approximately 270 meters towards the Waterways where you had to cross three sets of traffic lights. She stated that there was another crossing 325 metres away at Millennium but that it was not reasonable to ask people to walk to either of these crossings to get to a bus stop. Councillor Kelly asked that an assessment be carried out as quickly as possible.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Clear that the report be noted and a copy of the technical guidelines/standards be issued to Councillor Kelly.

NS09/0220

Salting of the Kilteel to Eadestown Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Brett. That the council commit to salting the Kilteel to Eadestown Road via Rathmore during frosty weather due to a massive increase in commuter traffic.

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 Kildare County Council's salting trucks, operating in the area in question and like all other salting trucks working in other areas, were running at full salting capacity at present. This precludes the council from making any changes, no matter how small, to the salting routes in this area, or to any of the other ten salting routes.

Councillor Brett stated that there had been four accidents on these roads last week noting that they were very busy roads on high ground and needed to be assessed urgently for salting.

Councillor Kelly asked if the use of salt bins had been considered.

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

NS10/0220

Yellow Box on Monread Avenue

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Brett. That the council provide a yellow box on Monread Avenue at the entrance to Aylmer Park.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this item had been referred to TAAG for assessment and the members would be informed when the report was complete. TAAG procedures and policies were currently under review to enhance the TAAG process and deal with queries in an expedient manner.

Councillor Brett stated that traffic exiting in the morning could not access Monread Avenue.

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

NS11/0220

Pedestrian Crossing at Bank of Ireland, Main Street, Naas

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

That the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department increase the crossing times from 6 seconds to 10 seconds at the pedestrian crossing at Bank of Ireland, Main Street, Naas to facilitate elderly and disabled persons.

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 the pedestrian crossing at the Bank of Ireland was a Pelican Crossing. In accordance with regulations/rules of the road the Green Man time (set at 7 seconds) was considered an invitation to cross the road, the time allowed to cross the road was a combination of the Flashing Green Man & Flashing Amber Man which was set at 10 seconds. Therefore, a pedestrian had potentially up to 17 seconds to cross the road (or a minimum of 10 seconds if they abide by the rules of the road) – the allocated crossing times were in accordance with current regulations and were considered sufficient for this location.

Councillor Clear stated that this issue had been highlighted by the access group as they felt there was not enough time to cross the road. He asked that the lights be altered to ensure that when the light flashed amber for the pedestrians to cross, the amber light for the traffic did not flash at the same time.

Ms Pender stated that she would revert to the Roads Department with Councillor Clear's comments with a view to altering the lights in line with the traffic lights at Nolan's Butchers confirming that an assessment had been completed and driver behaviour was a big part of the problem. Councillor Clear asked that the matter remain on the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Brett that the report be noted and Ms Pender to revert to the Roads Department with Councillor Clear's comments. This item to remain on the progress report.

NS12/0220

Name Plate for Meadow Court Estate in Naas

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Brett.
Can the council confirm if it has any plans to provide a name plate for Meadow Court estate in Naas?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was a sign on the main road providing direction to the estate. Residents may apply to the Community Section for a grant to provide a name plate.

The report was noted.

NS13/0220

Barrier to restrict access to Finlay Park

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Brett.
Can the council confirm if it has any plans to provide a barrier on the north side of the Canal Bridge on the old Caragh Road to restrict access onto Finlay Park?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this matter could be considered as part of the future road improvement works for the old Caragh Road and access to Finlay Park development.

The report was noted.

NS14/0220

Ground Walk Study from Friary Road Naas leading into Poplar Square

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Moore. Can the council confirm if the Municipal District Engineer carried out a ground walk study of a narrow footpath fronting the hotel side of Friary Road Naas, leading into Poplar Square, to evaluate the dangers of the sloping camber and unsuitability of the tiled surface for pedestrians and people with disabilities?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District Office were aware of the current situation with regards to the footpath. There were proposals to improve the footpath at this location and they form part of the Poplar Square/Dublin Road Scheme which had previously progressed through the Part 8 process.

The report was noted.

NS15/0220

Car Free Day on road From Tandy's Bridge to Osberstown Bridge, Naas

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear, Can the council inform the members what is involved in having a car free day every month on a Sunday on the road from Tandy's Bridge to Osberstown Bridge, Naas?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a formal road closure procedure required specific dates, times and detours. There was a cost and resource implication to having staff manage a road closure on the weekend.

The report was noted.

NS16/0220

Hanging of the John Devoy Portrait

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Moore. That the John Devoy portrait given to Naas Town Council by the Officer Corps of John Devoy Barracks, be now moved and hung, with an accompanying accreditation, in the foyer area of Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas until a final viewing place is decided.

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

A report was received from the County Librarian informing the members that the John Devoy portrait given to the then Naas Urban District Council by the Officer Corps of John Devoy Barracks in 1998 was currently in the Local History & Archives Collections of Kildare Library Service in Newbridge. The portrait was removed for safekeeping on 23 January 2020 from Naas Town Hall by the staff of Local Studies & Archives, in advance of planned building works for the new Naas Library capital project commencing in the near future. The portrait had two accreditations attached to it at present i) A plaque at the bottom of the portrait reads “Presented to Naas U.D.C. by the Officers of Devoy Barracks to mark the occasion of the closure of Naas Barracks, Naas 21 Sept 1998” and ii) A smaller plaque at the top of the portrait reads “John Devoy 1842-1928 presented by Officers of the Mess 14 May 58”. The artist O’Connor had also signed and dated the painting itself. If the members were in agreement, the portrait could be rehung in a suitable location in the Áras.

Councillor Moore stated that he was pleased with the report, confirming that it would be suitable to hang the portrait in the foyer of Áras Chill Dara and display the history with it and the members agreed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Breen that the report be noted and the portrait rehung in a suitable location in the Áras.

NS17/0220

New Naas Cricket Club

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breen.
That this council consider a presentation at the March meeting of the Naas Municipal District, from the new Naas Cricket Club with regard to the provision of a suitable playing field.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breen, seconded by Councillor Martin.
A report was received from the Meetings Administrator informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Breen stated that this was a new cricket club seeking a playing field in Naas and confirmed that she had spoken to staff in the Parks and Kildare Sports Partnership Department but there was no available space to offer them and asked that they be invited to present to the members.

The Mayor confirmed that the meetings timetable would be examined, and the new Naas Cricket Team invited in to present to the members at a suitable date.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breen, seconded by Councillor Martin that the report be noted and an invitation to issue to the new Naas Cricket Team to present to the members, once a suitable date has been identified in the meetings calendar.

NS18/0220

Reception for Gary Cully

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kelly.
Can the council consider a civic reception for Gary Cully the new Lightweight Irish Champion?

A report was received from the Meetings Administrator informing the members that Municipal Districts may by resolution decide to receive a deputation or in this instance make a presentation (Standing Order number 21 refers). A motion needs to

be submitted for the March agenda seeking a resolution of the members for this reception.

The report was noted.

NS19/0220

Plans for the current Naas Public Library Building

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

Can the council advise the members what is the plan for the current Naas public library building when it is vacated?

A report was received from the Facilities Manager informing the members that there were no set plans for the building at present. The members asked that this item remain on the progress report.

The report was noted.

NS20/0220

Urban Regeneration and Development Grant Funding

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

That the council identify the option of choices in Naas Town for Urban Regeneration & Development grant funding under the second call for applications by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, to allow the members debate, input and support.

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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that the following two projects in the Naas area were successful under the first call of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund;

- The redevelopment and rejuvenation of Naas Town Hall to provide a library and cultural centre. Funding of €4,445,243 received towards this shovel ready project which will see works commence in 2020.
- Technical assistance to develop area known as Canal Quarter in Naas, as the cultural and creative district of Naas. €195,000 funding received to

develop this concept to shovel ready stage, with work on this concept commencing in Quarter 1 2020.

A number of potential applications were currently being considered which would complement the ongoing Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) funded applications listed above.

Councillor Moore stated that he was seeking information on the second call for applications and asking that the members be allowed to debate, input and support the applications. Mr Kenny stated that staff were examining projects in the Naas area and would be discussing this with the members. He informed the members that the closing date was the end of March and that an informal meeting with the members would take place before that.

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

NS21/0220

Temporary Wooden Hoarding

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breen. That the council examine the current condition of the temporary wooden hoarding surrounding the old site that was previously Sarah Flood's Public House at St Corbans.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breen, seconded by Councillor Clear. A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that as this was private property, the responsibility for the temporary wooden hoarding lies with the owner. Councillor Breen stated that the hoarding was ready to fall down and she would like the council to issue a letter to the owner as it was a danger.

Mr Kenny stated that contact had been made with the receivers and confirmed that they were assessing it and the council were following up with them.

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

NS22/0220

Dog Fouling in the Sarto Park Area

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

That the council install covert CCTV in Sarto Park, Naas due to extensive dog fouling in this area.

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

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department informing the members that the processing of data through CCTV posed a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals, the council must have a legal basis for the processing of personal data through the use of CCTV. The use of covert CCTV in Sarto Park for the purpose outlined in the notice of motion was not considered a necessary and proportionate measure (required by Article 35 of the GDPR) for the monitoring of dog fouling in the area nor was it considered a prudent use of public monies in this instance. Cameras placed so as to record external areas would need to be positioned in such a way as to prevent or minimise recording of passers-by or of another person's private property. Recognisable images captured by CCTV systems are "personal data" and are subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Acts. Use of CCTV systems to monitor neighbours or passers-by can be difficult to justify and could involve a breach of the Data Protection legislation. Article 5 of the GDPR requires a data controller, i.e.: Kildare County Council, to be transparent when processing an individual's data; the use of recording mechanisms to obtain data without an individual's knowledge goes against this principle. Covert surveillance must be focused and of short duration and only specific (and relevant) individuals/locations should be recorded and must be backed up by relevant legislation.

In addition to the cost and legal issues around GDPR and potential breaches of privacy, the operation of CCTV in these circumstances gives rise to several practical and operational difficulties. These include, for example, limitations with regard to the site area to be covered, the resources required to review surveillance footage, and the subsequent identification/ recognition of any people captured in the images.

The council is prepared to work with the local Residents Association in addressing the issue of dog fouling but does not propose the use of covert CCTV in so doing.

Councillor Clear stated that he met the Sarto Park Residents and they showed him the amount of dog fouling in the estate, most of it caused by the dogs of one owner and confirmed that he was under the impression that the matter was now dealt with.

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

NS23/0220

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Mayor proposed to suspend standing orders at 5:30 p.m. for thirty minutes to enable the meeting to conclude.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Sammon and agreed by all members that standing orders be suspended for thirty minutes until 6:00 p.m.

NS24/0220

Broken Bins in the Naas Area

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear. Can the council inform the members how many bins in the Naas area are broken and need to be repaired?

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department informing the members that there was a total of 175 bins in Naas town and the surrounding area. Litter bins, particularly those in areas with low passive surveillance, were prone to damage and abuse. The volumes of domestic waste, ash, dog fouling, etc could make the bins prone to rust due to leaching, e.g. of vegetable wastes which damage steel liners and doors. Bins in and around the busy areas of the town e.g bus stops, Poplar Square, etc were emptied daily and occasionally twice daily. A survey last year showed that approx 25% of bins contained domestic household waste, with 50% of bins containing a mixture of household and street litter. A further survey would be carried out of all bins in the

coming months with a view to examining whether most bins were fit for purpose including the suitability of their location. The proposed survey would provide up to date information on the numbers of bins in need of general repairs/replacement, and would afford an opportunity to both examine possible investment in repairs and replacements, and potential efficiencies in streamlining the overall number. The report was noted.

NS25/0220

Parks Works Programme 2020

Ms O'Rourke updated the members on the Parks Works Programme 2020. In relation to Sallins Amenity Land, she informed the members that the tenders had been assessed and letters would issue to the tender bidders shortly.

Ms O'Rourke informed the members that landscape design works would take place this year noting that it was brought forward from last year. In relation to replanting Kilcullen Roundabouts, she stated that this was due to take place in Spring. Ms O'Rourke informed the members that two chess boards would be installed at the lakes in Naas and stated that the brief for the conservation plan for the De Burgh Lands was 90% ready. In relation to the tree policy, she informed the members that there was a large body of work involved as council departments were to be consulted.

The members welcomed the report.

NS26/0220

Open Space Management in County Kildare Presentation

Ms O'Rourke gave an overview of the open space management in County Kildare and how open spaces were currently maintained stating that grass cutting currently took place between March and October with two cuts per month and pitches cut weekly. She informed the members that meadows were mown once or twice per year and three applications per site on average with herbicide mainly Glyphosate based for weed control. She stated that plant pruning took place at the start and end

of growing season and hedge cutting took place annually or bi-annually. Ms O'Rourke stated that tree works such as planting, pruning and removals was also carried out. She outlined the areas of concern and the current environmentally friendly practices undertaken by Kildare County Council. Ms O'Rourke informed the members of other potential mitigating measures and their pros and cons and gave details of a trial that was carried out in Dunlaoghaire/Rathdown. She stated that there was a need to educate people and outlined the ways in which the community could participate. She informed the members that a balance was required that would provide biodiversity and stated that scientific research was also required to assist with combatting climate change noting that the council would be seeking €50,000 for a scoping document. Ms O'Rourke stated that we need to enable change together and would welcome the elected members support in this regard.

The members thanked Ms O'Rourke for her comprehensive and informative report.

NS27/0220

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Mayor proposed to suspend standing orders at 6:00 p.m. for five minutes to enable the meeting to conclude.

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 6:05 p.m to enable the meeting to conclude.

NS28/0220

Lighting at Naas Skateboard Park

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Moore. Can the council confirm if it has any plans/costings to install lights around the site of the Naas Skateboard Park as skaters are now back using Town Centre sites during the long and dark evenings because the designated site is unlit.

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that no costings had been sought for lighting at the Naas Skatepark.

There had been no previous requests for this. There was no provision in the current years budget to install lighting or to meet the running costs. For information, the downside to providing lighting was that it could attract anti-social behaviour.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.