

**Minutes of Naas Municipal District Meeting held at 3.30 pm on
Tuesday, 08 June 2021
on Microsoft Teams**

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 L McNeela (Municipal District Engineer), Ms M Hunt, Mr L Dunne and Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officers), Ms V Cooke (Administrative Officer), Ms C Whelan (A/Administrative Officer), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms K O'Malley (Meetings Secretary) and others.

NS01/0621

Declaration of Interests

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

NS02/0621

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 11 May 2021 together with the progress report. The Mayor requested that when the agenda for the meetings were being issued, that a line be included to remind the members if they had anything to raise at the next meeting they must submit it in writing three days in advance of the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor Kelly that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 11 May 2021, of the Naas Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

NS03/0621

Matters Arising

Boating Slipway on the Corbally Canal NS24/0221

Councillor Moore asked if a letter had been written to Waterways Ireland and requested a copy of the letter. The Municipal District Manager stated that he was unsure whether a letter had been written in relation to this item and undertook to follow up on the matter.

Naas Municipal District Roadworks Report June 2021

In response to a question from Councillor Moore in relation to footpath works at Swans to Patrician Avenue, Naas, the Municipal District Engineer stated that the works were tendered as a package and awarded to the same contractor and were progressing well however he could not provide a more accurate timeframe at present as ongoing works in Woodlands, Naas were yet to be completed before works could commence on Friary Road and Swans to Patrician Avenue.

Business Promotional Group NS35/1220

With regard to the update provided by the Municipal District Manager in relation to Horse Sport Ireland and the creation of a dedicated horse bridleway in the municipal district area, Councillor Moore stated that bridleways should be separate to pedestrian and cycleways to ensure the safety of all users. The Municipal District Manager stated that no current dedicated pedestrian or cycle route had been identified as a bridleway

In relation to a question from Councillor Kelly, the Municipal District Manager informed the members that Horse Sport Ireland had agreed a deal to establish an arena in Newcastle however were interested in setting up a breeding and research facility in County Kildare.

Councillor Kelly asked when the first Farmers Market would be taking place in the Potato Market. The Municipal District Manager stated that this was a priority project for the town and the lease needed to be signed as soon as possible.

Councillor Kelly stated that she hoped the Courts Service would be staying in the centre of Naas Town and the Municipal District Manager informed the members that the priority was for the Courts Services to stay in the centre of the town and confirmed that there had been a meeting with the Courts Service and the council had expressed their support.

Traffic Issues at Pipers Hill Education Campus NS14/0421 & NS07/1020

Councillor Sammon asked if an invitation could be issued to a representative from the Bellingsfield Community Association to any meeting taking place on the matter.

NS04/0621

LPT Allocations 2020 and 2021

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that requests had been received for LPT funding to be allocated to the following projects:

- Naas Cricket Club: €1,000 each from Councillor Brett and Councillor Kenny's reserve LPT fund 2021 – total €2,000.
- The Paddocks Residents Association: €5,000 for a landscape project from Councillor Breen's reserve LPT 2021 fund.
- Naas Tidy Towns: €5,000 for eight heart shaped bike racks from the previously allocated LPT funds in 2020.

The Municipal District Manager confirmed with the members that the following LPT allocations agreed at the May 2021 meeting were from their reserve fund:

- €1,500 for the Outdoor Theatre in Naas.
- €3,450 for Greening of the lights on St Patrick's Day and virtual events.
- €150 for six posters for the Feel-Good Project – Eadestown.
- €418.20 for branding of the Community Bus

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by all the members that the projects outlined above be approved.

NS05/0621

Municipal District Road Works

The Municipal District Engineer updated the members on the municipal district road works, making the following points:

- The Contractor would be on site at Main Street, Kill and Osberstown Road, Sallins in the next week or two.
- Footpath works had commenced in Elmwood.
- Road resurfacing works had commenced on the L6021 Bishopscourt.
- A tender had been awarded for the Naas Municipal District Drainage Works Scheme 1 – 2021 and a programme from the Contractor was awaited.
- As part of the 2021 LPT funded works, surface dressing works at Sherlockstown and Bodinstown would be commencing the week beginning 21 June 2021 weather permitting, and preparatory road patching works had been carried out in advance of this.
- Bus Shelter works would be commencing next week on the Main Street, Kill Village, on the R407 opposite Chapel Lane in Sallins and at the Odeon Cinema on the Dublin Road in Naas subject to the members approval.

NS06/0621

To note the Date and Venue of the Annual Meeting

The Meetings Administrator proposed that the Annual Meeting of the Naas Municipal District Committee take place on Tuesday 13 July 2021 at 3.00 pm in the Council Chamber followed by the monthly meeting at 3.30 pm.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by all the members that the annual meeting of the Naas Municipal District Committee take place on Tuesday 13 July 2021 at 3.00pm in the Council Chamber.

NS07/0621

Taking in Charge of Rochford Abbey, Kill

The members considered the proposed Taking in Charge of Rochford Abbey, Kill.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by all the members that they approved the Taking in Charge of Rochford Abbey, Kill

NS08/0621

Section 38 Uncontrolled Crossing at Monread Avenue L-29937, Naas

The members considered the Road Traffic Act 1994 – Section 38 proposed construction of new raised uncontrolled crossing at Monread Avenue L-29937, Naas to proceed to a Section 38.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by all the members that the Road Traffic Act 1994 – Section 38 proposed construction of new raised uncontrolled crossing at Monread Avenue L-29937, Naas proceed to a Section 38.

NS09/0621

Section 38 proposed New Bus Shelter and Bus Lay-by

The members considered the Road Traffic Act 1994 – Section 38 proposed New Bus Shelter and Bus Lay-by at the following locations:

- Clane Road, Sallins (Opposite Chapel Lane), Road Number R-407, (North Bound)
- Main Street, Kill (Opposite St. John's Church of Ireland), Road Number L-2014, (East Bound)
- Dublin Road, Naas, (Odeon Cinema Bus Stop), Road Number R-445, (East Bound)

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by all the members that the Road Traffic Act 1994 – Section 38 proposed New Bus Shelter and Bus Lay-by at the locations outlined above be approved.

NS10/0621

Corbally Branch Canal

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

That the council, either directly or in conjunction with Waterways Ireland discussions, confirm the following:

- a) if an illegally constructed bridge/barrier wall on the Corbally Branch Canal can be removed or must be allowed to remain
- b) if a modern system of water underpass, could be advanced, to overcome the blockage by the Naas-Newbridge Road, as a solution to any future consideration to the re-opening of the Corbally Canal Line and
- c) if an expanded volume of water can be sourced and supplied to the Naas-Corbally Branch in the event of an agreed promotion of new marinas, boat flotillas or daily boat traffic into Naas Harbour or of an extended canal to Corbally.

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that Kildare County Council was currently progressing the following greenway/blue way projects in the county;

- Royal Canal Greenway
- Grand Canal Greenway
- Grand Canal Greenway link from Naas Harbour to Sallins
- Barrow Blueway

Once the Grand Canal Greenway and the link from Naas Harbour to Sallins had been completed, the Corbally Branch would be examined in partnership with Waterways Ireland.

In relation to item a) of the Motion, there was no enforcement action open to the Planning Authority in respect of the bridge in question on the Corbally branch as this structure was in place in-excess of 7 years.

The members made the following points:

- There was a shortage of water to service the water through the Naas branch and the water levels reduced when a number of boats arrived together.
- To check if the unauthorised structure was in the ownership of a state authority.
- What were the timelines for the completion of the various stages of this project?

Ms Hunt made the following points:

- The Grand Canal Greenway from Aylmer Bridge to Sallins had a nine month construction period and workers would be on site in September 2021. The detail design for Sallins to Clonkeen was being worked on in tandem with these works.
- Naas to Sallins Greenway would be proceeding to Part 8.
- Research would be required to establish who owned the land that the structure was situated on and when the construction commenced.

The Municipal District Manager thanked the members for their contribution and stated that as matters progressed, he would continue to work with Waterways Ireland.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Kelly that the report be noted and Ms Hunt to carry out research to establish who owned the land that the structure was situated on and when the construction commenced.

NS11/0621

Banning of HGV's

The committee agreed to consider items number 9 and 17 of the agenda together.

Item number 9 – Motion Councillor Moore

That the Naas Municipal District and Kildare County Council Roads Section consider a banning of HGVs using the town section of the Blessington Road (R 410) from its junction with the Ballycane Road to its junction with the Dublin Road (R445) and

from entering the Racecourse Road through the Gallops and other internal residential developments within the Racecourse Complex, in favour of re-routing to/from the M7 via the Naas Inner Relief Road and Newbridge Road (R445).

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that they were happy to discuss the routing of HGV traffic around Naas as part of the reclassification of roads in Naas and the delivery of roads projects in the town.

Item number 17 – Question Councillor Clear

Can the council confirm that a plan is in place to implement the five-axel truck ban in Naas and Sallins which appeared as an action in the Naas and Sallins Transportation Strategy?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the placement of weight restrictions on a road under *Article 17 of the Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations, 1997, (S.I. 182) Weight Restriction on Vehicles Entering a Road*, is an executive function carried out following consultation with An Garda Síochána. The Transportation Department were happy to discuss the routing of HGV traffic around Naas as part of the reclassification of roads in Naas and the delivery of roads projects in the town.

The members made the following points:

- Residents in the Racecourse Road area had concerns about alternative routes for trucks.
- Concerns in relation to the volume of trucks passing through the town.
- Concerns in relation to cyclist safety being compromised due to the number of HGV's.

The Municipal District Manager stated that he intended to set up a meeting with the residents of Racecourse Road.

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

NS12/0621

EV Charging Stations in Sallins

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

That this council be updated on when EV charging stations will be installed in Sallins.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a County and City Managers Associations (CCMA) EV group had convened to provide a Guidance Document for local authorities. The outputs from the Dublin EV Project would inform the workings of the group to provide guidance in:

- The preferred types of locations and infrastructural requirements for different locations i.e. on-street; municipal car parks; municipal buildings etc.
- What funding sources are available to the local authorities
- Procurement considerations
- The inclusion of EV objectives in the review of the County Development Plan and future LA Climate Action Strategies

On receipt of the Guidance Document a Policy Document for Kildare would be prepared in consultation with the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC to progress the installation of EV Charging points around the county.

The members made the following points:

- Were no guidance documents previously in place for the installation of EV Charging Stations.
- Could the members get a timeline for receipt of a copy of the documents.
- Would a review of parking bye-laws be required when the guidance document was received?
- EV Charging Stations were available in Naas however none were available in Sallins apart from at the Railway Station.

Ms Whelan informed the members that she would relay their comments to the Engineer in the Transportation Section.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Moore that the report be noted and Ms Whelan to relay the members comments to the Engineer in the Transportation Section.

NS13/0621

Sunday Car Free Day

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Clear.
That the council extend the car free day on Sundays on the canal, for 12 months.

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

A report was received from the Environment and Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the proposed extended 12 months canal road closure in Naas was likely to attract additional footfall to the area, and it could potentially lead to an increase in littering. Members would need to consider the resource implications (personnel & funding) for increased street cleaning/bin collection service should this occur. Considering the points raised in the report provided by the Environment Section and if the members were in agreement, the Transportation Department could commence the Temporary Road Closure statutory process.

The members made the following points:

- It was a fantastic addition to the town and a significant amount of people were using it.
- The canal was busy everyday not just Sunday's, but it was great to have at least one car free day.
- The emphasis in the LAP was to make the canal car free except for residents.
- Making the canal car free permanently would have to go through the public consultation process.
- The additional bins provided over the weekend on the canal had made a difference.

The Municipal District Engineer outlined the process involved in closing the canal on a Sunday and stated that the Part 8 for a permanent closure of the canal was currently being developed by the Roads Design Team.

All the members agreed to the extension of the car free day on Sundays on the canal, for 12 months.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Sammon that the report be noted and that the process commence to extend the car free day for 12 months

NS14/0621

Ramps on the Kilcullen Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Brett.
That the council install two ramps as a safety measure on the Kilcullen Road at Bluebell.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this location would be considered for traffic calming measures in line with Kildare County Council's Traffic Calming Policy and subject to

funding. The Municipal District Engineer would discuss this location with Councillor Brett.

The members made the following points:

- It was understood that a potential raised crossing was being considered at this location and it would be great if this, or other forms of speed reduction measures, could be introduced as cars were driving very fast in the area.
- Proper traffic management measures were not in place on the Kilcullen Road where works being undertaken by the ESB.

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

NS15/0621

Yellow Box at the Junction of Hillside Drive and the Sallins Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breen.
That the council install a yellow box at the junction of Hillside Drive and the Sallins Road.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this location would be assessed to determine if a yellow box was warranted in line with Kildare County Council's policy for the provision of yellow boxes.

The members made the following points:

- There was a need for a yellow box at the junction of Hillside Drive and the Sallins Road as residents were finding it difficult to enter and exit in the mornings and evenings.
- Could a copy of the policy on yellow boxes be circulated to the members?
- That Cherry Grove and other locations along the Sallins Road be included.

The Municipal District Engineer made the following points:

- The Municipal District Office were working through a long list of requests for the installation of yellow boxes and were carrying out traffic counts.
- Yellow boxes would be installed where they were required.
- He would check if the document in relation to Kildare County Council's policy for the provision of yellow boxes could be circulated to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breen, seconded by Councillor Kelly that the report be noted and the Municipal District Engineer to check if the document in relation to Kildare County Council's policy for the provision of yellow boxes could be circulated to the members.

NS16/0621

Public Conveniences in the Naas Municipal District

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kenny. That post covid and with the increasing emphasis on an outdoor summer, the council identify best practice for the provision of fully accessible public conveniences in the Naas Municipal District and develop a proposal accordingly.

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 this topic was discussed at length at the April plenary council meeting with an agreement reached to refer the matter to Management Team for further discussion.

The members made the following points:

- Now that more outdoor amenities were open, issues in relation to littering and the need for public toilets should be addressed in the Naas Municipal District.
- Public toilets could be made available in the new Library when completed.
- An overall strategy should be considered to bring facilities back into use.
- The Gardaí and APCOA Wardens had no toilet facilities when on patrol.

The Municipal District Manager stated that public buildings in the council's ownership were being considered and informed the members that it was hoped that the toilets at Naas Potato Market could be upgraded to a part time accessible public toilet.

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

NS17/0621

The Moat Hill, Naas

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Moore
Can the council confirm if it has plans for an elongating of Abbey Lane in Naas and providing a more public accessible and circumventive viewing of The Moat Hill?

A report was received from the Municipal District Manager informing the members that the council had no specific plans for the elongating of the Abbey Lane in Naas to circumnavigate the Moat Hill. The proposal would require further assessment and investigation, including a desktop review of older historical maps, an assessment of the historical urban morphology in the area and a review of the changing land ownership pattern in the area. While the proposal may have great merit from a tourism and cultural perspective, its feasibility would need to be considered and other issues would need to be considered such as security, safety and passive surveillance/overlooking to ensure that it was not a black spot for anti-social behaviour.

The report was noted.

NS18/0621

Card Payments on Parking Meters

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kelly.
Can the council confirm if it has plans to extend the payment options on parking meters in the Naas Municipal District to facilitate card payments?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that they could confirm that following a public

procurement mini competition they were currently working with contractors to roll out an on-line parking permit system. Once this was established, the Roads Section plan to prepare a schedule of works to replace all parking machines across the county to include card payments. However, the number of parking machines may be reduced as the Roads Section currently had a pay by phone parking payment option which was available for all pay parking towns in the county, which was the preferred option of payment as it significantly reduced the cost of machine maintenance and cash collection as well as significantly reducing the risk of damage and theft.

Councillor Kelly queried the timeline for the roll out of the on-line parking permit system and if this would require a review of parking bye-laws. Ms Whelan stated that she would relay Councillor Kelly's comments to the Parking Section and revert to Councillor Kelly regarding the timeline.

The report was noted.

NS19/0621

Installation of Ramp on the Toberton Road

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

Can the council confirm if it has plans to install a ramp on the Toberton Road, Johnstown, near the Toberton Wood Estate?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was an existing ramp situated to the western end of Toberton Road. There were no plans at present to install additional ramps at this location, however additional traffic calming measures could be considered in line with Kildare County Council's Traffic Calming Policy and availability of funding. The Municipal District Engineer was happy to discuss this issue further with Councillor Brett.

The report was noted.

NS20/0621

Traffic Wardens

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breen.
Can the council confirm if Traffic Wardens are obliged to wear face masks in the course of their duties in this Municipal District when interacting with the public?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that both APCOA and Kildare County Council Wardens had masks/face coverings provided which they were required to wear, when approached by members of the public and were within the 2m social distance requirements. The Wardens also carry gloves and hand sanitizers and were required to comply with the appropriate safety measures set down in Public Health Guidelines. To reduce the use of the pay parking machines, the observation period, before and after a ticket expiration, was increased from 15 minutes to 30 minutes to allow those carrying out business in towns to do so without having to worry about parking fees. Kildare County Council provides a pay by phone parking app service to the public (Apcoa Connect) on which payment for parking could be made in all pay parking towns in County Kildare through a computer or a smart device.

In response to a question from Councillor Breen regarding the frequency of cleaning the pay parking machines, Ms Whelan stated that she would find out and revert to Councillor Breen with the answer.

The report was noted.

NS21/0621

Site Opposite Caragh Court

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Sammon.
That the council conduct a cleaning operation of the site opposite Caragh Court and erect a fence at the entrance to the site to prevent future dumping and bonfire material gathering.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that a once-off cleaning operation of the site was undertaken earlier this year. The site was secure and not at risk from unauthorised vehicular access as it was encircled by a berm. As there had been no funding allocated for the erection of fencing or for the ongoing removal of illegally dumped refuse or litter, a further cleaning operation of the site would not be undertaken.

The members made the following points:

- Dumping would continue to be an issue at this location until it was fenced off.
- Funding to fence off the site would be better than finding funding to have it cleaned up.
- The site was subject to Planning and a timeline in relation to this was requested.

Ms Cooke made the following points:

- The site was secure against vehicular access
- The cleaning operation undertaken earlier this year was a once off occurrence
- The Housing Department did not have funding and resources to clean up illegal dumping on a small scale.
- The Part 8 for the site was at stage one and it would be 12 months or so when the Housing Department were in a position to move on with it.

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

NS22/0621

Temporary Suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws

A report circulated to the members in advance of the meeting and Ms Hunt made the following points in relation to the report:

- The Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team had secured funding for the roll out of temporary measures such as the provision of parklets and outdoor seating areas for use by the public in the towns across the county.

- The temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws including enforcement may be required when providing the proposed outdoor seating areas on a temporary basis in the coming weeks, the Municipal District Engineer would be consulted in the roll out of the temporary measures.
- Expressions of interest had been received from a number of businesses for the provision of parklets for their customers use at locations across the municipal district and in order to do this a Section 254 licence (under the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended) was required.
- S254 licence applications were reviewed by the Municipal District Engineer and the Public Realm Team who provide a report to the case planner for a full planning assessment of the proposal.

Ms Hunt asked the members to consider granting approval for the following two scenarios for the period 07 June 2021 to 30 November 2021:

- 1.The temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws including Enforcement at various locations across the municipal district to enable the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team to provide outdoor seating/parklets for general public use (subject to available funding).
- 2.The temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws including Enforcement at various locations across the municipal district to enable businesses to re-open for outdoor dining through the provision of parklets/outdoor seating for the exclusive use of their customers (subject to a full planning assessment and S254 licence approval).

The members asked for a list of the S254 licence for the municipal district that had been received

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by all the members that the temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws including Enforcement in various locations across the municipal district area to facilitate the re-opening of businesses subject to S254 licence approval be approved. Ms Hunt to circulate a list of Section 254 Licences that have been received

NS23/0621

St David's Castle Section 59 Notice

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Moore.
Can members of this committee be supplied with copies of any correspondence and reports emanating from recent works at St David's Castle?

A redacted copy Section 59 notice issued to the owner of St David's Castle was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

The report was noted.

NS24/0621

Residential Developments Granted Planning Permission

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear.
Can the council confirm how many residential developments have been granted planning permission in the Naas Municipal District in the last seven years but have not commenced building?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department informing the members that the current Draft Naas LAP, table 3.4, provides that there were 877 residential units that had been granted planning permission but had not commenced.

The report was noted.

NS25/0621

The Monastery, Friary Road

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breen.
Can the council confirm if a planning application has been submitted for the work currently being carried out at the Monastery, Friary Road which is a Protected Structure?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department informing the members that no planning application had been received to date for the Monastery, Friary Road.

Councillor Breen stated she was surprised that an application had not been submitted for the entrance.

The Municipal District Manager informed the members that a warning letter had been served and further follow up was planned.

The report was noted.

NS26/0621

Bye-Laws for the Control of Dogs

The members considered the joint following motion in the name of Councillors Kelly, Brett, Breen, Sammon, Clear and Kenny.

That the council implement bye-laws for the Control of Dogs in the Naas Municipal District under the Local Government Act 1994.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that Legislation already in place (ie the Control of Dogs Act 1986) stipulates that *“the owner or any other person in charge of a dog shall not permit the dog to be in any place other than the premises of the owner, the premises of another person in charge of the dog, the premises of any other person with that person’s consent, **unless** such owner or person in charge of the dog accompanies it **and** keeps it under effectual control”*.

Stray dogs were dogs that were in a public place and were not accompanied by the owner or a responsible person. Dogs that were not under proper control were also considered stray dogs. Owners could receive an on the spot fine if their dog was not under proper control. Stray dogs may also be seized by the Gardaí or dog warden.

Dog wardens had the power to:

- Request the name and address of anyone suspected of an offence under the Control of Dogs Act.
- Seize and detain a dog
- Enter any premises (other than a residence) to seize and detain a dog.

An owner could be arrested by a Garda if they do any of the following:

- Obstruct a dog warden in the course of their work.
- Refuse to give their name and address to a dog warden.
- Give a false name and address to a dog warden.

As reported previously, the wardens often rely on people reporting stray dogs to act as a witness for the matter to proceed and there was often a reluctance among members of the public to go to this level. There was also the realism that instances of straying dogs could occur outside of the times when wardens were on duty. The concerns of the members and the wider community were understood in this matter. The council would arrange to raise the matter with its service provider, the ISPCA. If the members had any areas of immediate concern in the municipal district, the warden service could be requested to carry out patrols in those areas with a view to impounding any dogs found to be straying/in breach of the legislation (see attached example of signage in Monread Park).

The members raised the following concerns:

- Dogs off leads in public
- Dog fouling
- Owners not taking responsibility for their dogs
- Lack of designated dog parks

The members asked how they could help with the issue and suggested the introduction of a social media campaign to encourage dog owners to clean up after their dogs and to always keep their dog on a lead. They asked that the signage to remind owners of their responsibilities be updated.

Mr Kavanagh undertook to speak to the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent in relation to the signage.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillors Brett, Breen, Sammon, Clear and Kenny, seconded by Councillor Moore that the report be noted and Mr Kavanagh to speak to the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent in relation to the signage.

NS27/0621

Drinking Water Fonts

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kenny.
Can the council confirm the designated locations selected for the proposed municipal drinking water fonts to be installed in the Naas Municipal District, to incentivise plastic bottle reuse?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the Parks Section was not aware of any designated locations for drinking fonts in the Naas Municipal District. There was no budget identified to install or maintain drinking fountains. If a budget could be identified, locations within parks and playgrounds could be considered. If other locations were identified outside of parks and playgrounds, other Departments would have to be involved in their delivery and maintenance.

Councillor Kenny stated that he believed there was an LPT allocation for the provision of water fonts in the municipal district. The Municipal District Manager stated that €10,000 LPT funding had been allocation for water filling stations in the municipal district from 2020 LPT funding and undertook to examine the matter further and revert to the members.

The report was noted.

NS28/0621

All Ireland Pollinator Plan

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kenny.
Can the council confirm its plans to further promote and assist Residents' Associations and community groups to make changes needed in landscape maintenance practice, that is in line with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department informing the members that the Heritage Office were working with communities across County Kildare to prepare Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP) to assist in guiding and informing residents' associations and community groups in landscape maintenance practices and wider biodiversity management tools. The completed LBAPS were available on the council website with further plans being rolled out for 2021.

A report was also received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the Community Section awards open space maintenance grants to residents' associations annually on application. It was our understanding that generally these funds were used for grass-cutting of any green areas within estates, usually via payments to landscaping contractors. Extensive information on the importance of biodiversity and good practices to encourage it were available at

<https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/AllServices/Heritage/BiodiversityandNaturalHeritage/>

Future applications for open space maintenance grants would include a reference to encourage residents' associations to examine the information available at this link and to consider implementing aspects of the council's Biodiversity Plan where possible.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.