

**Minutes of Naas Municipal District Meeting
held at 3.30 pm on Tuesday, 12 October 2021 in the Council
Chamber, Áras Chill Dara, Naas**

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

Officials Present: Mr E Ryan (Municipal District Manager), Mr L McNeela (Municipal District Engineer), Ms P Pender (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms V Cooke, Ms A O'Malley, Mr M McLoughlin (Administrative Officers), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms K O'Malley (Meetings Secretary) and others.

NS01/1021

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.

NS02/1021

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Naas Municipal District held on 14 September 2021 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Brett that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 14 September 2021, of the Naas Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

NS03/1021

Matter Arising

Vacant Housing Report:

Councillor Kelly compared the Vacant Housing reports issued in September and October and queried how long it took for minor works to be completed. She asked if

the same houses listed in the September report under the minor works category were the same as were listed in the October report or had the repairs been carried out to some of the premises listed in September and some new premises added. Councillor Kelly had the same query with regard to the major works category.

The Meetings Administrator undertook to query this with the Housing Department and revert to the members with the information.

NS04/1021

Municipal District Road Works

A report on the municipal district road works was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting. The Municipal District Engineer made the following points:

- Junction upgrade works at Woodlands were complete apart from the raised pedestrian crossing.
- Works on the installation of a raised uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at Monread Avenue, Naas would be commencing the following day.
- Restoration improvement works on the L60671 St Michaels Terrace Naas, L2993 Railway Terrace Naas and L3012/L29937 Monread Road/Monread Avenue Junction would be commencing in the next two to three weeks.
- It was hoped to commence resurfacing works on the Newbridge Road (Jigginstown to New Caragh Road) in the coming weeks subject to agreement with Irish Water.

In response to a question from Councillor Brett, the Municipal District Engineer stated that the tender for works in Eadestown had issued and construction would commence in 2022.

The Mayor and members expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Municipal District Engineer for all his work and wished him well for the future.

NS05/1021

Update on LPT Expenditure

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

The following LPT allocations were considered by the members.

- €300 to Sarto Road Residents Association to purchase a lawnmower
- €1000 to Naas Carpe Diem Walkers group.
- €320 to Newtown Residents Association to purchase and install an outdoor cover for a defibrillator unit.
- €300 to Poulaphouca Paddlers for large buoyancy aids
- €500 to Ballymore Eustace History Society for the launch of a history book
- €300 to St Brigid's Park Residents Association for landscaping
- €250 to Ballymore Eustace Bandhall for a first aid kit
- €1000 to Ballymore Eustace Community Development Association for biodiversity/age action/resource centre
- €29,042 to Naas Christmas Lights Group for the purchase of three sets of an app-based lighting system for Naas Town (€20,000 previously allocated to the Wild Food Festival to be re-allocated to this project)
- €1000 to Lisa Ennis Community Worker for the Naas Municipal District area to hire a skip for Castlefen Residents Group
- €1000 to Sallins Business Association towards Christmas lights in Sallins

The Mayor confirmed with the members that the balance of the members discretionary LPT funds would be allocated to the Naas Christmas Lights Group and they all agreed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Sammon and agreed by all the members that the LPT allocations as outlined above be approved.

NS06/1021

Memorial in Athy

The Mayor informed the members that €12,000 per municipal district was being sought to design and construct a suitable memorial in St Mary's Cemetery, Athy to commemorate those buried there who had died in Athy's Workhouse and County Home.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Breen and agreed by all the members that €12,000 funding be provided by Naas Municipal District to assist in the design and construction of a suitable memorial in St Mary's Cemetery, Athy to commemorate those buried here who had died in Athy's Workhouse and County Home.

NS07/1021

Mayors Business

The Mayor asked that the Naas Municipal District Committee send a letter to Superintendent Oliver Henry on his successful management of the late-night Poplar Square issues and express the municipal district appreciations and those of the public, both those living in that area and those on the wider platform of seeing and viewing Naas Town in the best possible light.

He also asked that the Naas Municipal District Committee send a letter to Professor Philip Nolan of Maynooth University, wishing him well on his retirement and thanking him on behalf of Naas Municipal District for his enormous expert contribution to the control of Coronavirus through his chairing of the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) and thanking him for the role he played in the expansion of Maynooth University in County Kildare.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore and agreed by all the members that the two letters above be issued on behalf of the Naas Municipal District Committee.

NS08/1021

Meeting with Pipers Hill Stakeholders

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillors Sammon and Kenny.

That the council provide an update to members after every meeting with Pipers Hill stakeholders so that members can update residents.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Transportation Department would provide the Naas Municipal District members with a post meeting update.

The members made the following points:

- It was over two years since the ETBI closed the carpark and traffic levels had worsened.
- The residents were anxious to receive a report following any meetings that took place, informing them of the resolutions agreed at the meeting.

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

NS09/1021

Pedestrian Link from the Monread Road to the proposed Kerdiffstown Park

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

That the council commence a process to establish a pedestrian link from the Monread Road to the proposed Kerdiffstown Park to ensure such a link is in situ when the park opens to the public.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a revised Part 8 Scheme was being developed for the Naas to Kill Cycle Scheme. It was envisaged that this scheme would include cycle and pedestrian access from the end of Monread Road to Johnstown. From Johnstown, there was access to Kerdiffstown via the pedestrian bridge over the N7.

The members made the following points:

- To consider gaining access to the farmers bridge which did not seem to be in use.

- There was an opportunity to gain access from Monread and Maudlins which could be a safe route for children to get to the park and this should be considered.
- This route would make an ideal greenway.

The Municipal District Manager made the following points:

- There was an objective in the draft LAP to use that bridge and the disused sandpit north of it that would bring pedestrians right up to the edge of Kerdiffstown.
- There was a second route that could potentially be an option, along an agricultural track that headed eastwards.

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

NS10/1021

Gully Cleaning Programme

The Committee agreed to consider items number 8 and 18 of the agenda together.

Item number 8 – Motion Councillor Brett

That the council commences a programme of gully cleaning in areas of Naas susceptible to road flooding before the winter weather arrives.

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

Item number 18 – Question Councillor Kenny

Can the council confirm if it has a road gully and drain cleaning programme in place for the autumn to clear leaves and debris from roads to ensure continued surface water drainage in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District Office commenced its

programme of gully cleaning on 04 October. The programme runs for four weeks and in order to minimise the impact on traffic, it would focus on the quieter residential areas during the day and busier routes at night.

Councillor Brett and Councillor Kenny accepted the report.

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

NS11/1021

Sherlockstown Road Traffic Calming Measures

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly.
That the council assesses the Sherlockstown Road (along Straffan Way/Willouise/Sallins Wood estates, into the village), for additional traffic calming measures.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this location would be assessed in line with Kildare County Council's Traffic Calming Policy and any proposed measures would be subject to available funding and a Section 38 process if required.

Councillor Kelly made the following points:

- There were a lot of new houses on this road and it had become very challenging as cars were now parking on footpaths on the bad corner.
- Councillor Kelly sought the members support to consider traffic calming measures on this road when allocating funding.

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

NS12/1021

Segregated Cycle and Walking Lanes

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly.
That the council introduces segregated cycle and walking lanes along the Monread Road in Naas.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Monread Road formed part of the GDA Strategic Cycle Network for Naas Town which was being designed by Kildare County Council and funded by the National Transport Authority. The network envisaged a connected network of routes in the town and Kildare County Council was in the process of designing elements of it on the Kilcullen Road and the links to Kill and Sallins. Schemes currently being designed would be supplemented with other projects in accordance with the published Cycle Network and this would include the Monread Road. No timescale was available for progressing the design however, it remains on the list of schemes to be developed.

The members made the following comments:

- Since the Sallins bypass opened, there was less traffic on the Monread Road.
- The objective was to get children cycling and walking.
- The Monread Road and Sallins Road were wide enough for segregated cycle and walking lanes and should be prioritised.
- The NTA had funded 12 staff in Kildare County Council to progress projects of this nature.

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

NS13/1021

Installation of a Temporary Surface for Walkers and Cyclists

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Clear.
That the council works with Waterways Ireland to install a temporary surface for walkers and cyclists from Osberstown Bridge along the canal as far as the Sallins Scout hut, to facilitate children travelling from Sallins to their new secondary school opening in Millennium Park in December.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council were currently working to deliver the Naas Sallins Greenway which would provide a link from Basin Street in Naas past the Sallins Scout Hut and on to Sallins Train Station. Work on the delivery of the scheme was at the design stage at present and it was proposed to brief the elected members on the details of the scheme before the end of the year. Following this, the scheme would be progressed through the Part 8 process in early 2022. Following careful consideration it was not possible to install a temporary surface along the canal bank as requested. Such works would require the diversion of limited resources and funding away from the delivery of the Naas Sallins Greenway which would ultimately delay the delivery of this project. Furthermore, there was no public lighting along the proposed temporary track and the proposal would also lead to vulnerable road users being directed onto a busy junction at Osberstown Bridge. It was also noted that the existing road network provided a safe means of access to the new secondary school in Millennium Park pending the completion of the Naas Sallins Greenway.

The members made the following points:

- The last piece of the Sallins Bypass was incomplete
- Solutions to the problem were required both short and long term and the request in the motion was for a short-term solution to be implemented.

- 200 metres of soft surface should be installed to facilitate children travelling to school
- The new secondary school in Millennium Park would be opening in December and this would result in traffic congestion at the school.
- Installing a temporary surface in advance of a Part 8 project had been carried out previously in a Dublin Local Authority
- Caution should be taken when using the Osberstown Bridge as it was an extremely dangerous bridge and the wall had moved following a collision.
- Heavy Goods Vehicles should be banned from the Osberstown Bridge and that section over the canal.

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

NS14/1021

Pedestrian Marking on Footpaths

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Sammon. That the council puts pedestrian markings on the footpaths at Dunnes Stores and St John's Lane, Naas.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Sammon, 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 both locations identified with a view to improving pedestrian safety and give consideration to potential future footpath upgrade works.

Councillor Sammon stated that the motion was submitted following the report from the Naas Access Group on Make Way Day.

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

NS15/1021

Positioning of Signposts at Junction 9a

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kenny.
That the council review the positioning of signposts at the new junction from the Sallins bypass Southbound at Junction 9a, as the sign for the M7 Northbound is very close to where the lanes diverge resulting in late notice to get into the correct lanes approaching the junction resulting in drivers who wish to go to Naas being forced onto the M7.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the contractor had advised the council that a solid line between lanes would be painted for 50m ahead of diverging nose on Sallins Bypass southbound carriageway and an additional set of lane marking arrows would be added indicating lane destinations.

The members made the following points:

- Junction 9a was not yet complete for cyclists.
- With the opening of the new secondary school there would be an increase in traffic in that area.
- Was there a possibility that a blue nosing marker could be erected to highlight the motorway turn.

Ms Pender stated that she would contact Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and ask if this was possible.

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

NS16/1021

Streetlight in Kingsfurze Avenue, Naas

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breen.
That the council considers the installation of another streetlight in the cul-de-sac adjacent to (details provided) Kingsfurze Avenue, Naas for the benefit of the residents.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breen, seconded by Councillor Kenny.
A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Public Lighting Section would visit the location of the requested new streetlight, and it would then be assessed using a priority system within Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS). Lighting schemes would be scored on various factors and placed within KLIPS according to that score. The lighting within KLIPS would be installed as and when funds became available and depending on where the request sits within KLIPS. It should be noted there was currently no budget available to progress and new installations at this time.

The members made the following points:

- There was an existing lamppost at the location and queried the cost to put a light on the lamppost.
- The KLIPS system was a queuing system and the installation of a light would be dependent on where the requests was placed within KLIPS, following assessment of the location.

Ms Pender stated that an assessment would need to be carried out in order to provide an indication of the costing and confirmed that she would revert to the members with this information.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breen, seconded by Councillor Kenny that the report be noted and Ms Pender to revert to the members with a costing following an assessment.

NS17/1021

Parking on the Footpath and Roadside on the Sallins Link Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breen.
That the council investigate the occurrence of parking on the footpath and roadside on the Sallins Link Road, as a result of football matches taking place and which is presenting potential road safety problems.

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 the Naas Municipal District Office would investigate this issue and would liaise with stakeholders including An Garda Síochána regarding enforcement.

The members made the following points:

- Could bollards be erected at the location.
- For safety reasons, could a temporary carpark be provided for players to park.
- A carpark was being worked on at the former machinery yard that the contractor had been using and was nearly ready for use
- An Garda Síochána had visited the site and issued parking fines.
- Sallins Celtic were aware of the issues and had asked visiting teams not to park there but to use the former machinery yard
- A carpark was planned for Sallins Park when completed.

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

NS18/1021

Transport Services Stopping at Naas Post Office

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Moore.
Can Kildare County Council provide the total numbers on a twenty-four and any day of a mid-week basis, with chronological timings of all national transport buses/airport buses/special route buses/Blessington-Naas buses/school buses/train link buses/

private visitor buses and any transport services that stop at Naas Post Office and the Town Centre Naas location, going in both directions from that site?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that engagement would be necessary with a range of sources to collate the information requested and this would take some time.

Scheduled services can be obtained from the NTA. A survey of the location over a 24 hour period could also be arranged, however funding would need to be identified to cover the costs.

Ms Pender confirmed that readily available information could be examined and relayed to the members.

The report was noted.

NS19/1021

Road Markings and Signage along the Osberstown Road

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

Can the council confirm if there is a plan to provide or reinstate road markings and signage along the Osberstown Road with the junction of Osberstown Bridge and the canal?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the road markings at this location would be refreshed. A review of existing signage would be carried out and new signage would be installed if warranted.

The report was noted.

NS20/1021

Sequencing of Traffic Lights at the Murtagh's Corner

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to examine the sequencing of traffic lights at the Murtagh's Corner junction in Naas and the adjacent pedestrian crossing on South Main Street to avoid danger to pedestrians from traffic turning left from New Row

onto South Main Street on a green filter arrow, onto a red stop light at the pedestrian crossing?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Traffic Management Team would examine the sequencing and revert back to Councillor Kenny with a response.

The report was noted.

NS21/1021

E-scooters and Bicycles on Footpaths

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

Can the council confirm what action can be taken with regard to E-scooters and bicycles using footpaths in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Governments Legislation Programme Autumn Session 2021 was published 28 September 2021. Within the schedule were a number of legislative items that were deemed 'Priority Legislation for Publication, this session (Autumn 2021)'. The Road Traffic (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill was included in the Priority Legislation schedule and would provide for traffic management on M50, motor insurance database and other road traffic matters as well as provisions relating to e-scooters and scramblers. The Bill had yet to be enacted. It was illegal for e-scooters to be used on public roads, pavements and cycle paths. Concerns regarding the improper use of e-scooters and bicycles on footpaths should be referred to Garda enforcement.

The report was noted.

NS22/1021

Vermin Infestation at St Brigids Terrace, Sallins

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

That the council investigate a serious vermin infestation at St Brigids Terrace, Sallins, particularly the lane ways and properties, and devise a plan to eradicate the vermin.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Housing Section had not been made aware of a serious vermin infestation at St. Brigid's Terrace but the issue would be investigated. In autumn it was normal and natural that vermin were more visible when tillage and other sources of rural foods are harvested, rural sources of food become scarce and weather temperatures drop. During this period, it was especially important that everyone ensures that household and all other forms of refuse are properly stored and disposed of to ensure that vermin cannot gain access to it for food or warmth.

The members made the following points:

- St Brigids Terrace was a local authority estate that had a serious vermin issue with rats travelling house to house through the walls.
- The house at the centre of this problem was privately owned therefore there was nothing the council could do about it.
- There was a contact in the HSE trying to address the issue and their details would be provided to Councillor Clear.
- Kildare County Council's Environment Section had visited the location but as the rubbish was accumulating at the back of the house it was not visible and therefore has been referred to the HSE.
- The section of the HSE that usually arranged clean ups had not been carrying out house visits due to Covid-19 but had now recommenced however there was a backlog.
- Welfare Officers were working with the residents of the property in question.

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

NS23/1021

Commercial Incentive Grant Scheme

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Sammon.
Can the council confirm how many applications have been received under the Commercial Incentive Grant Scheme?

A report was received from the Finance Department informing the members that 2021 was the first year of implementation of the Commercial Incentive Grant Scheme. As Councillor Sammon was aware applicants were given the option of applying for it in the year in which they commence operations in a previously vacant (specific rules apply) premises, or, if it was more advantageous, in the first full year of operations. As such, the council expect that there will be significantly more interest in the scheme in 2022/2023. Nonetheless, in the period 01 January 2021 to 30 September 2021 there were five applications for the grant. One of these was withdrawn. One was linked to a unit that was split; - as a result Kildare County Council was awaiting some paperwork from the applicant before it could be finally assessed. Three applications were currently being processed and were expected to be paid once the paperwork was finalised.
The report was noted.

NS24/1021

Town Planning Consultants

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Moore.
That the council engage Town Planning Consultants to devise and present a technology based range of proposals, to include options on building profiles, colour schemes, shop fronts, town lighting system and street infrastructure, themed to suit a selection of different activity sectors of the town for the foreseeable future, that will be of assistance to landlords and planners to meet the challenges of a modern retail

and community living and give a facelift boost to the historic and county town of Naas.

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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that in 2021, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team (SPPR) applied to the URDF and were successful in securing funding of €3,496,374 for Naas town. The aim of the URDF application was to secure funding to initiate the transformative regeneration of Naas Town Centre in a plan-led, evidence based, urban design and economic focussed approach. The realisation of this proposal would require the preparation of a Naas Town Renewal Masterplan for the historic core of Naas that would include urban block structures defined by Main Street, Corban's Lane, Friary Lane and Friary Road. This core historic area included the curtilage of St. David's Castle, Church of Ireland Presbytery, in addition to a range of under-utilised town centre sites. Placeshaping, liveability and connectivity was at the forefront of this proposal, which would require the development of a Naas Town Renewal Masterplan with an urban design, public realm, economic and transportation focus. This would be informed by the Urban Regeneration Strategy and the Naas/Sallins Transport Strategy which were prepared as part of the Draft Naas Local Area Plan 2021 - 2027. While it was envisaged that the Masterplan would incorporate the entire town centre area, it would have a particular phased priority on three interlinked Core Regeneration Areas (CRAs) located within the historic core of Naas town centre and two key Transportation and Public Realm interventions on the north and south access points to main street. It would also acknowledge and develop the relationship between and integration of The Canal Quarter and the Naas Library and Cultural Centre (both previously awarded funding under the URDF First Call) and the Grand Canal Greenway. The Masterplan would facilitate the integrated urban development of the town centre through the significant enhancement and reinvigoration of main street and would set the framework to commence the enhancement and reimagination of the historic core so that it becomes an attractive, vibrant and connected place in which people choose to live

and work, invest in and visit. SPPR will appoint an Urban Designer led multidisciplinary design team to work with them in the realisation of the above. The masterplan would be informed by an urban design analysis/health check and would include a Public Realm Strategy that may also include details on colour schemes, shop fronts and town lighting systems. It was envisaged that the Naas Town Renewal Masterplan would be delivered incrementally over a 5-10 year period with the commencement of the procurement for consultants, studies, assessments, and plans that form part of this proposal in Quarter 4 of 2021.

The members made the following points:

- The members had been working with businesses in the town however Naas was unusual in that the vast majority of shops units were leased and therefore alterations could not be made by the lease as they did not have ownership of the properties.
- Following the announcement of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund, queries had been received looking for information on the scheme.
- Technology was available that could show the appearance of buildings if alterations were made to the front of them.
- A lot of work was being completed however it was very slow, 5 – 10 years was too long.
- The general appearance in the canal area was deteriorating.
- The towns of New Ross and Cobh were given as examples of how streetscapes could be developed.

The Municipal District Manager made the following points:

- As part of the process Kildare County Council were asked to make a return to the Department and following on from that, a review would be carried out. He confirmed that contact from the Department was awaited.
- He had been briefed in the technology being introduced for planning application and it would be explored and considered.

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

NS25/1021

Fairgreen Street East

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Moore
Can the council explain why so many premises, sites and sections of Fairgreen Street East in Naas are being left derelict over many years, their owners un-prosecuted and no compulsory upgrade issued, or compulsory purchase order made, in light of their derelict and unsuitable conditions?

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that there were no protected structures in that section of street and as such it was not possible (under the Planning and Development Act, 2000) to issue a Section 59 notice to require works to be carried out in relation to endangerment of a protected structure; nor was it possible to issue a Section 71 notice (Power to acquire a protected structure). Compulsory purchase (Section 213/216 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000) usually takes place to allow a public infrastructure project to go ahead for the common good or to give effect to or implementing an objective of its development plan or local area plan. The Council would need to be clear as to why it was purchasing such structures, what it would do with the structures and would need to secure appropriate funding for their acquisition and redevelopment. The proposed redevelopment of the Naas Shopping Centre and the completion of the link street from Main Street/New Row with Corban's Lane (as required under the original planning permission) was likely to have a significant impact on this area in time.

A report was also received from the Environment Department informing the members that the Environment Section would be pleased to investigate this. If the Councillor could give some additional specific information, that would be very helpful. There was a formal definition of a 'derelict site' included in the Derelict Sites Act 1990 which would apply in such cases. If, upon investigation, any site was deemed to come within such a definition, there were a range of legislative options available to the Council in cases where the owner remains non-compliant.
The reports were noted.

NS26/1021

Incomplete Creche Facility at Willouise, Sallins

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear.
Can the council confirm the status of the incomplete creche facility that remains unbuilt at Willouise, Sallins as required by its planning permission?

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that permission was granted for 78 residential units and a creche under planning reference no. 16/254. No commencement notice had been lodged in respect of a creche to date. The permission was extant until 20 January 2022, however the Council would review the position and make a determination as to what action, if any, was warranted.

The report was noted.

NS27/1021

Morrell Flood Relief Scheme

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Brett.
Can the council update the members on the progress to date on the Morrell Flood Relief Scheme?

A report was received from the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that the construction of the Morell Flood Management Scheme was progressing, with works ongoing in Turnings and Tuckmilltown. Works would continue through the winter, with the main focus being the construction of flood defence walls. Embankment construction would recommence in Quarter 2 of 2022. Further details of the scheme could be found at www.morellfms.ie.

The report was noted.

NS28/1021

Derelict Sites in the Naas Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear.
What is the current status of each derelict site and planned actions for the sites in the Naas Municipal District?

A report was received from the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that the the Environment Section had a dedicated team who dealt directly with derelict sites and had systems in place to track complaints, carry out investigations and ensure follow up. All complaints were investigated, and statutory notices were issued where a property was deemed derelict (formal definition of a derelict site is contained in the Derelict Sites Act 1990). The initial steps would usually involve the service of a statutory notice [Section 8] on property owners to put the onus on them to carry out the works required to address any dereliction. Most cases were resolved in this way. The Council was also happy to engage with the owners in a constructive way in order to resolve matters. A few cases were also progressed through the Courts. Cases which were not resolved in accordance with the foregoing would be entered on the Derelict Sites Register. The number of such entered onto the register was never a full indication of overall activity under this heading and there was often confusion around this. Similarly, there was often a misunderstanding regarding the definition of dereliction, for example, a 'vacant' building was not necessarily 'derelict'. There was currently one site in Naas Municipal District on the Derelict Sites Register, with a further seven under active investigation/resolution. A presentation on the standing operating procedures and issues involved was made to the Naas Municipal District last year and the Environment section would be more than happy to repeat this. Indeed, it was also since made to the SPC and was well received.

In response to a query from Councillor Clear, the Municipal District Manager confirmed that he would make contact with the owner of Market House.

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that he would inform the Director of Services in the Environment Department that the members wished to receive the presentation on the standing operating procedures and issues involved.

The report was noted.

NS29/1021

Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant

The Committee agreed to consider items number 28 and 29 of the agenda together.

Item number 28 – Question Councillor Sammon

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Sammon.
Can the council confirm if they have met with Irish Water regarding the failure at Ballymore Eustace water treatment plant?

Item number 29 – Question Councillor Breen

Can the council inform the members on how safe the drinking water in the Naas Municipal District is, considering the recent issue with water quality in relation to problems associated with the supply from Ballymore Eustace?

A report was received from the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that the plant in Ballymore Eustace was operated by Dublin City Council on behalf of Irish Water. As soon as Kildare County Council became aware, senior staff were in contact with the Irish Water regional lead and received assurances that the issue which arose was fully resolved. Kildare County Council has been fully satisfied that the water supply has been, and continues to be, fully compliant with the Drinking Water Regulations. Please note that responsibility for drinking water quality rests with Irish Water subject to oversight by the HSE. In response to a query from Councillor Breen, the Meetings Administrator undertook to ask the Environment and Water Services Department how often the water was tested and revert to the members with the answer. The report was noted.

NS30/1021

Famine Graveyard

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Moore. That in light of the Government's deferment on a decision to agree any national or county based monument to covid victims and in light of the upcoming 175 year anniversary of the 1847 Famine, that Kildare County Council seek the input by way of a public competition, into a proposal to design a multi-faced column monument to be located in the poorly enhanced Famine Graveyard in Naas, to commemorate victims of covid, famine, wars, road accidents, suicide and still births, and that the site be developed as a County Memorial Park.

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

A report was received from the Municipal District Manager and the Director of Services for the Economic Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the motion had some merit and was discussed by the Directors of Planning and Strategic Development and the Director of Community and Economic Development. The Council had a Civic Memorial Policy which sets out specific criteria and guiding principles and it encourages different ways to commemorate groups, events and persons. The Civic Memorial Technical Committee would consider all applications deemed to be valid under the terms of this policy. In relation to the number of themes being commemorated, it may be too complex to incorporate all of these into one monument or location. The executive was proposing to hold a public consultation exercise to ascertain the public sentiment and views as to the group or groups that should be commemorated, the nature of the commemoration (monument, sculpture, memorial park, etc.) and location. Some budget had been allocated by the Naas Municipal District Members towards the proposal and it would need to be determined if this was sufficient to provide a monument and or other commemorative feature/event/memorial park. Councillor Moore welcomed the report

The members made the following points:

- This was a great advancement, and it would be welcomed if a proposal could be brought to the members soon.
- Over 1000 people had died in the Naas Workhouse during the Famine.
- A number of people who died during the Famine were buried in Tipper Graveyard.

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

NS31/1021

Halloween Celebrations

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to liaise with An Garda Síochána and local groups on the management of Halloween celebrations in this municipal district?

The following reports were received in response to the question.

A report from the Chief Fire Officer stated that while the Fire Service will respond to any reports of fire during the Halloween period we have no role in the management of Halloween celebrations.

A report from the Parks Section stated that the Parks Section will work with the Gardaí and local groups in relation to bonfires.

A report from the Housing Section stated that the Housing Section continuously liaises with An Garda Síochána and with local groups regarding the management of council housing estates in all municipal districts.

A report from the Environment Department stated that in recent years, the council has been discouraging the use of bonfires in favour of more innovative community led activity. This impetus has generally been successful as incidents of anti-social behaviour have waned. In this context, there have been some positive initiatives at local level in a number of towns. The emergence of the annual Halloween festival in Athy (with sponsorship from the municipal district), for example, has certainly gone from strength to strength and has become a focal point for a more diverse and positive range of local celebrations. A similar initiative in Leixlip is also worth noting. The reports were noted.

NS32/1021

Masterplan for Sallins Amenity Land

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kelly.
Can the council provide an update on the Masterplan for Sallins Amenity Land?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that work on preparing a Part 8 application was ongoing. We hope to be in a position to advertise it by end of November.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.