

**Minutes of Naas Municipal District Meeting  
held at 3.30 pm on Tuesday, 11 January 2022  
on Microsoft Teams**

**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 D Reel (Municipal District Engineer), Ms P Pender, Mr D Mc Dermott (A/Senior Executive Officers), Ms V Cooke (Administrative Officer), Mr P Makhuza (Executive Engineer), Ms L Russell (Arts Officer), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms K O'Malley (Meetings Secretary) and others.

---

**NS01/0122**

**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.

**NS02/0122**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

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

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Sammon that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday, 14 December 2021 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

**NS03/0122**

**Mayors Business**

The Mayor extended his thanks and congratulations to the Naas Senior Football team on behalf of the Naas Municipal District Committee on their achievement in

---

reaching the Leinster final stating that although the team fell short on the day, they had given their supporters great enjoyment and pride.

The Mayor, Elected Members and the Municipal District Manager acknowledged the recent IBAL award received by the town of Naas as the cleanest town in Ireland and congratulated all the groups that contribute on a regular basis to keeping Naas litter free such as the Tidy Towns Volunteers, Kildare County Council's Environment and Roads Departments, the elected members and local businesses.

### **NS04/0122**

#### **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:

- The road resurfacing, drainage and low-cost safety improvement work programmes would be developed in line with the 2022 allocation from the Department of Transport and brought to the members.
- LPT projects from last year would be completed in the first two quarters of 2022.

In response to questions from the members, the Municipal District Engineer made the following points:

- In relation to drainage, the standard procedure was for problematic areas to be identified and general maintenance work to be carried out.
- Gully cleaning was time consuming and expensive but had to be carried out.
- Side entry gullys were trialled but also got blocked.
- The gullys on Abbey Lane would be examined.
- The bus stop outside Oldtown Demense would be examined as water was gathering there.
- He would revert to Councillor Clear in relation to bike racks for the Fairgreen and Swans.
- The footpath on Barrack Street in Ballymore Eustace would be examined as water was gathering there.

- Discussions were taking place with the Roads Projects Team in relation to road safety improvement works in Eadestown.

The Mayor stated that the Naas Municipal District Committee had contacted the Director of Services requesting a workshop with the Roads Department to discuss all the works that would be carried out in 2022 and timelines for the works. He asked that the Municipal District Engineer and A/Senior Executive Officer consult with the Director of Services to organise the workshop.

### **NS05/0122**

#### **Naas Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2022**

The Mayor stated that the LPT Schedule of Works 2022 had not yet been fully agreed and asked that the item be deferred to the February meeting. All the members agreed.

Councillor Kenny sought approval for the allocation of €525 to the Kildare Branch Autism Ireland Network. €500 to be allocated from Councillor Kenny's 2021 discretionary fund and €25 from Councillor Sammon's 2021 discretionary fund.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Kenny, seconded by Councillor Sammon and agreed by all the members that €525 be allocated to the Kildare Branch Autism Ireland Network.

### **NS06/0122**

#### **Taking in Charge of Osberstown Court, Sallins**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly. That the council update the members on the progress of the application to Irish Water on the Taking in Charge of Osberstown Court, Sallins ahead of pump station upgrade works commencing.

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

A report was received from the Building and Development Control Section informing the members that Development Control had not yet submitted the application.

Development Control had however been in touch with Irish Water in relation to the above Housing Estate. Irish Water had requested the council to include a financial report showing drawdowns on the bond monies expenditure for DC4107 Osberstown Court, Sallins as part of the application to Irish Water. Development Control had just completed the financial report and were now able to finalise the application. This report would help Irish Water to either agree or not agree with the council that the remediation costs for water services works deemed critical to the operation of the water services viz watermains, wastewater sewers and pump station works were Irish Water's responsibility. The Site Resolution Plan (SRP) would help both parties to reach an agreement. Irish Water was required, as part of this SRP, to decide whether the works they deem critical to the operation of the water services should be carried out before the estate was taken in charge or after the estate was taken in charge. If works must be done before the estate was taken in charge, scope and remediation costs for those water service works must be agreed as part of this SRP. There could also be wayleave related issues as well. Wayleave issues generally made the TIC process protracted and complicated. Despite Covid-19 challenges and increasing workloads, Development Control was endeavouring to progress the above estate as expeditiously as possible.

In response to queries from the members, Mr Makhuza made the following points:

- Information on when the application would be submitted was not available at present.
- Osberstown Court was a priority, and he was working with Irish Water in relation to it.
- A discussion with the members on its progress could take place again between the middle and end of February.
- The report was referring to wayleaves from the developer or property owner which should have been transferred.

Councillor Kelly stated that unless the housing estate was taken in charge, Jakes Law could not be implemented in this estate. She thanked Kildare County Council

for helping with some issues in the housing estate even though the housing estate was not taken in charge.

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

**NS07/0122**

**Review of Parking Byelaws for Naas**

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

That the council initiate the process of reviewing the Parking Byelaws for Naas.

The motion was proposed by Councillors Kelly and seconded by Councillor Clear.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the review of Naas Parking Bye-Laws was listed on the programme schedule of bye-law reviews. Members were advised that parking bye-laws should not be reviewed unless substantial amendments were proposed. Pay Parking and the Roads Design technical team were currently preparing the Draft Bye-Laws for Kildare and Newbridge. The team would move through the remaining areas in the following Order: Monasterevin; Celbridge; Leixlip; Kilcock; Castledermot; Athy; Maynooth; Sallins and Naas.

A review of the Taxi Bye-Laws was carried out simultaneously if relevant to the area. In preparing a draft document an assessment was carried out on the town taking into consideration the Section 38's approved by the members and implemented as well as consultation with other departments such as Public Realm, Age Friendly, Access Officer, Active Travel, the Municipal District Engineers Office etc. Drawings were then prepared and presented to the members for their input. Drawings were then redrafted and amended and brought back to the members for approval before going on public display and commencing the statutory process. Delivery of the above programme schedule was dependent on resources, as Roads Design technical team provide support to all sections within the Transportation directorate.

The members made the following points:

- There were a number of areas in relation to parking that needed to be updated.
- There were too many issues outstanding within the municipal district with regard to parking bye-laws that necessitated a review.
- A timeline or date would be helpful, and could the matter be added to the briefing that the members had requested with the Roads Department.
- Things had substantially changed since the bye-laws were last adopted and the priority was now with pedestrians and active travel.
- Issues with disabled spaces had been identified by the access group.
- There were changes in the town such as Poplar Square becoming pedestrianised and the sale of the Shopping Centre which would have an impact on parking spaces, therefore it might be worthwhile waiting to assess the impact of these changes before making amendments to the bye-laws.

The Mayor stated that the members and the executive needed to work together on the matter and the Municipal District Manager undertook to follow up with his colleagues in the Roads Department in relation to a briefing or workshop.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillors Kelly and seconded by Councillor Clear that the report be noted and the Municipal District Manager to follow up with his colleagues in the Roads Department in relation to a briefing or workshop.

### **NS08/0122**

#### **Crossing at the Sycamore Estate, Naas**

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

That the council install a pedestrian crossing or raised table uncontrolled crossing across the Sallins Road at the Sycamores Estate, Naas.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was no funding available for the provision of a

crossing at this location. The area should be examined as part of the Sallins Road Cycle Track Scheme and to examine it in advance of a comprehensive project would be considered premature.

Councillor Clear made the following points:

- This was a desire line for people crossing the road towards the school and on the opposite side when leaving the school.
- There were four lanes on Wolfe Tone Street making it difficult to cross safely.
- The issue on the Sallins Road was that there was only a footpath on one side.
- The scheme designed for the Sallins Road did not include a crossing at this location or on Wolfe Tone Street but it was badly needed.

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

#### **NS09/0122**

##### **Entrance to Dunnes Stores**

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

That the council install signage and road markings at the entrance to Dunnes Stores, advising people not to block the footpath with their vehicles, thus forcing people onto the road.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District Office would review this location and assess possible road markings to advise of the footpath location.

The members made the following points:

- There had been reports of vehicles blocking the footpath.
- Dunnes Stores were happy to erect signage on their side advising drivers not to block the footpath.

- A solution was required and road markings on the footpath and signage could be installed in the short term prior to a long-term solution being carried out.
- A commitment was given at the October meeting that an assessment would be carried out at Dunnes Stores and St John's Lane.
- This matter should be added to the agenda for the briefing with the Roads Department.
- The issue of cars blocking the footpath forced pedestrians and vulnerable road users onto the road.
- There was a lack of space at Dunnes Stores and parking was the issue.
- The entrance and exit system at Dunnes Stores did not appear to be working and a one-way system should be considered.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Kenny that the report be noted and the matter added to the agenda for the members briefing with the Roads Department.

### **NS10/0122**

#### **APCOA App**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Sammon. That the council write to APCOA asking that a map of all disabled parking spaces in Naas be added to their App.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Apcoa Connect app was designed for the use of paying for parking. As there was no charge for parking in a disabled bay when the motorist had displayed valid disability badge, disability bays could not be added to the app. However, the Roads Section was currently in discussions with Apcoa with regards to an app that would identify locations of all disability bays in all parking bye-law towns in the county, with the intention to possible development and inclusion of locations of other facilities/services.

Councillor Sammon made the following points:

- Limerick City had an app and had recently added all the disabled parking spaces to it therefore drivers were aware in advance of travelling where spaces were available.
- If other things could be added such as the location of all car parks that would be very beneficial also.

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

### **NS11/0122**

#### **Traffic Merging Sign**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Brett. That the council instruct the contractor on the Sallins bypass to erect a traffic merging sign on the slip road exiting the N7 North, towards Sallins.

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 the council would investigate the request for additional signage on the exit slip at Junction 9A that joins the Sallins Bypass.

Councillor Brett stated that he was happy with the report.

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

### **NS12/0122**

#### **Learner Driver Teaching and Testing Areas**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Moore. Can the council confirm if the Department of Transport, Driver Section, advises them in relation to Learner Driver Teaching Areas and Driver Testing Areas in the Municipal District, as some housing estates in Naas have been unfairly selected for 16 hour daily/365 days per year usage, and is the council aware of any plans for this commercial business function to be technologically upgraded and transferred to Simulators or Simulated Sites ie. at Mondello Car Race Track?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Road Safety Officer liaised with the RSA's Chief ADI Examiner today, 22 December 2021. The RSA do not set the driving routes for Approved Driving Instructors. ADIs were self-employed and operate their Motoring Schools independently of the RSA. The RSA do however use roads and junctions in a number of housing estates in Naas as a test route for RSA Driving Testers. These were the officials who test the driver, after learner drivers have had their lessons from an Approved Driving Instructor.

Most tests occur between 08.15am to 16.15hrs, and during daylight hours. Any occurrence of driving training in housing estates in the evening time or at weekends may possibly be those undertaken by ADI Motoring Schools. The Chief ADI Examiner noted there were a high number of ADIs in Naas and a lot of motoring schools in the area which may account for the volume and frequency of learner drivers using certain estates within the town. There may also be an increase in lessons due to the backlog as a result of previous covid restrictions and limitations for ADIs. The RSA had written to ADIs previously outlining similar concerns and queries raised with them using housing estates. ADIs were Garda vetted and re-tested by the RSA every two years.

The RSA use set routes in Naas for their Driving testers, and these estates were chosen due to the various manoeuvrability, hill starts, roundabouts, road types and junctions etc which provide for a realistic road environment for the driver to be tested in. Many driving instructors commonly use the same routes as driving testers do. The Chief Examiner noted the frequency of driving tests in Naas would be approximately 8 or 9 during Covid restrictions or at least 6-7 on any given weekday.

Kildare County Council was advised that simulated sites such as Mondello Park, as mentioned, cannot be considered as a substitute for driving lessons as drivers need to use real road environments, scenarios and infrastructure for their lessons and tests. Virtual or simulators will not provide the same, or safe experience for learner drivers.

The report was noted.

**NS13/0122**

**Construction of Footpath at the Petrol Station in Sallins**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear.  
Can the council give an update on the construction of the footpath at the petrol station in Sallins, and will it be constructed as part of the Sallins interim/permanent measures proposed for the town?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that improvement works to the footpath at the junction of Main Street Sallins and Chapel Lane, and the garage, were included as part the proposed works for Sallins. This footpath would provide a suitable quality surface for pedestrians and enhance the demarcation between the footway and the road thereby improving safety for all road users. This footpath was included in the Section 38 "Sallins traffic calming and cycle track scheme" approved in November 2021. Construction of the footpath would follow after the Irish Water scheme which was scheduled to take place adjacent to the Garage. The footway was expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2022.

The report was noted.

**NS14/0122**

**Woolpack Road L2023**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kenny.  
Can the council confirm if they plan to review the sightlines, signage and road markings at the turn on the Woolpack Road L2023 into Punchestown Racecourse which has become much busier since the onset of Covid vaccination and testing at the site?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was reasonable visibility at the entrance to Punchestown racecourse, the Naas Municipal District Office was happy to discuss any signage proposals with the respective parties and would assess the road markings on the public road as part of the programme of works for 2022.

The report was noted.

**NS15/0122**

**Street Furniture on Cycle Lanes and Footpaths**

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

Can the council ensure that when metal gateway or junction marker poles and other street furniture are required to be installed on cycle lanes and footpaths, they do not inhibit active travel and have sufficient illumination and reflection affixed?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Projects and Public Realm Section informing the members that the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team were committed to working with the relevant internal departments in Kildare County Council and local community groups such as CKAN to ensure that public realm interventions were designed to universal design standards and complementary to active travel and sustainable mobility.

The report was noted.

**NS16/0122**

**Parking in Naas**

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

Can the council outline the possible funding streams for Variable Message Signs (VMS) and tactical signs for parking in Naas?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were no capital funding sources available for the provision of Variable Message Signs (VMS) and tactical signs for parking. It should be noted that the revenue budget allocation does not sufficiently meet the needs of existing equipment.

The report was noted.

**NS17/0122**

**Pedestrian Crossings and the Dublin Road Part 8**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Sammon. Can the council confirm if they have received a response from the NTA regarding pedestrian crossings and the Dublin Road Part 8?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the 2022 Programme of Works had not been approved by the NTA to date. However, it was expected that an allocation for the approved Dublin Road Scheme would be included.

The report was noted.

**NS18/0122**

**Planting of Tree**

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

That the council plant a tree on the grounds of Áras Chill Dara to commemorate the handing over of the Naas Army Barracks by the British Army to the Irish Army in May 1922, latterly known as Devoy Barracks and now the current site of Áras Chill Dara, complimenting the commemorative benches installed.

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

A report was received from the Meetings Administrator informing the members that if they agreed, this would be referred to the Decade of Commemoration Committee for consideration.

The members made the following points:

- This motion was tabled in the interest of commemorating the history of the town.
- If a tree was being planted could it be a Chill Dara Oaktree.

- The members agreed that the matter be referred to Decade of Commemoration Committee.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breen and Kenny, seconded by Councillor Moore that the report be noted and that the Meetings Administrator would inform the Decade of Commemoration of the members request.

### **NS19/0122**

#### **Social and Affordable Houses at Caragh and Rathasker Roads, Naas**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Moore. That the council provide an up-to-date report to members on advances made or approvals sought from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, on Kildare County Councils proposals to construct social and affordable houses at Caragh and Rathasker Roads, Naas, since these housing schemes were 'identified' as 'in progress ' in May 2019 and the lands have remained unused for more than 20 years.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that with regard to the Rathasker Road Site, in March 2018 Kildare County Council applied for Stage 2 approval (approval to go to Part 8) from DHLGH for a development of 48 social housing units on the site at Rathasker Road. At that time the council was approached by Cluid, who were acquiring control of the adjacent St Ita's site with a view to coordinating development to maximise the potential of both sites. Cluid had prepared a number of design proposals and had engaged with Kildare County Council in connection with this development. As the site consists of made ground, extensive site investigation works were undertaken. The results of these site investigation works indicate that the abnormal costs associated with developing the site, based on current design proposals were prohibitive and Kildare County Council were currently engaging with DHLGH regarding proposals to address these costs.

In relation to the Caragh Road site, in August 2021 Kildare County Council applied to DHLGH for Stage 1 approval for 73 units (approval for design expenditure) and approval was received from the Department on 14 October 2021. Kildare County Council are in the process of preparing tender documentation for appointment of design team and preparation of a stage 2 application (approval to go to Part 8) and it is intended that a Part 8 application would be made in Quarter 3 2022.

Councillor Moore made the following points:

- The 73 units on the Caragh Road site were taking a long time to be progressed.
- Would first time buyers be eligible for sites on the Caragh Road?

Ms Cooke made the following points:

- The Housing Department were working closely with the Department to try get things moved on as best and quickly as they could on both sites.
- She would check if first time buyers would be eligible for sites on the Caragh Road and respond directly to Councillor Moore.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Kenny that the report be noted and Ms Cooke to check and respond directly to Councillor Moore in relation to whether first time buyers would be eligible for sites on the Caragh Road.

### **NS20/0122**

#### **Maintenance of Riverview Apartments, Naas**

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

Can the council confirm why the general maintenance and management on common corridor areas /windows/ chimneys/ bin storage area and dog restrictions, ceased to operate in Riverview Apartments, Naas for the past number of years?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Naas Town Council and Kildare County Council never had a management company providing maintenance services in any of its properties. Over the years different

tenants took charge and cleaned their hallway/landing and common areas in Riverview Apartments and this continues to be the case. The same level of maintenance is undertaken, by the council's Maintenance staff, to this building as was undertaken on all Kildare County Council housing stock. Tenants of Council properties were allowed to have a suitable pet and this also applies to the tenants of Riverview Apartments.

Councillor Moore expressed his dissatisfaction with the report and queried if the council had a pet policy that tenants of its properties had to adhere to as it appeared that people were keeping pets locked away. Ms Cooke undertook to bring the matter to the attention of the relevant Tenant Liaison Officer and revert to Councillor Moore. The report was noted.

**NS21/0122**

**Houses Purchased by the Council**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear. Can the council update the members on the status of the houses that the council purchased in *details provided*, Naas and when will they be renovated?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that following on from the publication of Housing for All, A New Housing Plan for Ireland and subsequent delivery targets set by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Kildare County Council was examining all property and land in its ownership which may be suitable for development or renovation. The report was noted.

**NS22/0122**

**Temporary Suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws**

The Mayor asked if this item could be deferred to the February meeting and a list of the locations for the proposed temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws be made available to the members for the February meeting.

The Municipal District Manager undertook to have a list of the locations available to the members for the February meeting.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by all the members that this item be deferred to the February meeting and the Municipal District Manager to have a list of the locations available to the members for the February meeting.

## **NS23/0122**

### **Policies of Integration and Climate Change**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Moore. That all Community, Residential and Artistic Groups in this municipal district that apply for Local Government or LPT Grants, be required to submit details on how they promote policies of Integration and Climate Change in their organisations.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that all community and festival grants applications were assessed by experienced staff of the Community Section. This process included a scoring system under a number of headings such as community involvement, value for money, innovation etc. depending on the scheme. Specifically, areas such as environmental sustainability and community integration were considered when marking applications and this would continue for future years. If necessary, the council would amend the application forms to ensure applicants indicate how their proposed projects would address these issues as they might pertain to their particular areas of activity.

A report from the Arts Officer was also received informing the members that on the application forms for funding in 2022, applicants for the suite of arts and Creative Ireland awards would be asked to provide details of measures, actions and themes relating to (a) diversity and inclusion and (b) climate action. It should be noted that these may not apply to all applicants. The Creative Ireland bursary awards 2022 names climate action as a theme for applicants to consider.

The members made the following points:

- They were seeking that Climate Action and integration be identified in grant applications being considered.
- As stated in the report this may not apply to all grant applications.
- This motion highlighted the type of action that needed to be taken at present.

Mr McDermott made the following points:

- This did not apply to all grants being considered however community and festival grants were the main grants every year and Climate Change and Integration would always be taken into consideration when assessing these grants.
- The forms had been amended and would be going live in 2022. Two questions in relation to Climate Action and Integration had been added.

Ms Russell made the following points:

- As already indicated, this would not apply to all grants but if the question was asked it would make people think more about Climate Change and Integration.
- 2022 was the second year using the online application system which had worked well last year.

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

### **NS24/0122**

#### **Trees in Mountain View**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breen, Can the council confirm if there are plans to survey the trees in Mountain View with a view to safety?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that a survey of the trees in Mountain View could be

arranged. However further information was needed regarding what trees were being requested to be surveyed and what the safety concerns were.

In response to the report, Councillor Breen asked that a survey of the green area beside number 63 be carried out as there were a number of trees that needed to be trimmed.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.