



**Minutes of Naas Municipal District Meeting
held at 3.30 pm on Tuesday, 10 October 2023
in the Committee Room**

Members Present: Councillor B Clear (Mayor), Councillors A Breen, C Kelly, S Moore, B Quinn and E Sammon

Attended Via Teams: Councillor F Brett

Officials Present: Mr E Ryan (District Manager), Mr D Reel (District Engineer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Ms S McCullough (Senior Executive Parks Landscape Officer), Ms P O'Brien (Senior Executive Officer) Mr A Gaynor (Business Adviser LEO Office), Mr J Hennessy (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Administrator), Ms J Fogarty (Meetings Secretary) and others.

NS01/1023

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.

NS02/1023

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Naas Municipal District held on Tuesday 12 September 2023 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by members that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday, 12 September 2023 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.



NS03/1023

Suspend Standing Orders

Councillor Kelly proposed to suspend standing orders for five minutes, this was seconded by Councillor Clear.

The members agreed to suspend standing orders for five minutes to discuss the following:

The members wanted to send their thanks and appreciation to the Naas Community Garda Gary Cogan who would be leaving the force at the end of the month for all his work in the Naas Municipal District over the years. Councillor Kelly suggested a thank you letter be sent to him on behalf of the members.

The members also agreed to send a letter to the IRFU wishing the Irish Rugby Team the best of luck from the Naas councillors in the quarter final of the Rugby World Cup and congratulating them on their achievement thus far as two members of the squad were from the Naas Municipal District.

The members wished to congratulate Naas Tidy Towns Committee on recently achieving another gold medal and acknowledge the success of Kildare County at the annual Tidy Towns awards 2023. They acknowledged the great volunteers for their support. Councillor Brett suggested that more LPT funding should be given to the Tidy Towns.

NS04/1023

Municipal District Road works

Mr D Reel updated the members on the municipal district road works. The report was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

Road Resurfacing

Naas Municipal District Restoration Improvement (RI) Works 2023

The following roads are included in the improvement works projects plan for 2023:



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- R407 – Sallins to Clane Road – Construction Stage
- L3012 – Monread Road, Naas – Complete
- L3012 – Millenium Park, Naas – Complete
- L29975 – Sarto/Pacelli Road, Naas – Complete
- R410 – Blessington Road (Crab Lane) – Complete
- L2014 – Kill village – Complete

Surface Dressing Works

The Naas Municipal District office propose to commence the surface dressing works programme for 2023 in June. The roads to be improved include:

- L 2019 – Arthurstown - Complete
- L2011 – Fishery Lane - Complete
- L6027 – Cromwellstown - Complete
- L6035 – Tipper East - Complete
- L2019 – Tipper South - Complete
- L6038 – Redbog - Complete
- L6028 – Cupidstown - Complete
- L6032 – Newtown - Complete

Footpaths

Tenders have been awarded for works at the following locations which will commence construction in the coming weeks:

- Roselawn (footpath improvements) - Complete
- St Brigid's Terrace, Kill (footpath improvements) - Complete
- River Lawns, Kill (footpath improvements) - Complete
- Mill lane raised table (footpath improvements) - Complete
- Sundays Well (footpath improvements) - Complete
- Ballymore Eustace (uncontrolled crossings) - Complete
- Blessington Road (footpath improvements) - Tender Stage
- Newbridge Road (well/green area) - Complete



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LPT/Carparks funded works.

The Naas Municipal District Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carparking works programme for 2023 is being developed in line with the 2023 allocation, as agreed with the Naas Municipal District Councillors.

- Hillview to Sallins Park footpath - Complete
- Sherlockstown Road, Sallins (raised table) - Complete
- Ashfield Park - Complete
- Kiltel Lane (road surface) - Complete
- R407 Sallins Village (footpath improvements) - Complete
- R407 Sallins Road, Naas (footpath improvements) - Complete
- Roselawn, Naas - Tender Stage
- Mountain View, Naas - Tender Stage

Drainage

The Naas Municipal District drainage programme for 2023 will be developed in line with the 2023 allocation from the Department of Transport.

- Monread Road Roundabout - Complete
- Whitechurch (Kill to Straffan Road) - Complete

Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works

The Naas Municipal District office have received funding from the Department of Transport for the following 2023 Safety Improvement Works. It is proposed to develop these projects with delivery by Q4 2023:

- R410 – Beggars End to Eadestown - Design Stage
- L2010 – Sherlockstown to Kileenbeg - Design Stage
- L6018/L6019 – Castlewarden Cross - Design Stage

The members made the following points:

- Congratulated and thanked the District Engineer on works completed
- Had the issues on the steep side of the canal bank been addressed.



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- Gully at the top of Chapel Lane flooded when it rained, could the council look at this?
- Blessington Road not in good condition, how often did it get cleaned?
- Shores on Sallins Road had collapsed.

Mr D Reel advised the members the following:

- That Waterways Ireland identified the issue on the canal in late August and had completed works to remedy this.
- The gully at the top of Chapel Lane would be investigated
- Blessington road was cleaned regularly, and the road would be resurfaced when the works were completed.
- The council would look at the shores on the Sallins Road.

NS05/1023

Naas Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2023

There were no applications for LPT allocations to be considered.

Councillor Moore stated that an approved request from his LPT for the Naas Cricket Club had not been yet received by the club.

Councillor Breen advised that hurling on the green had also not received the LPT contribution.

Mr E Ryan advised the members that he would liaise with Ms C Talbot the LPT coordinator for the Naas Municipal District on these requests and come back to them.

NS06/1023

Christmas Pay Parking Arrangements

The members considered the Christmas parking arrangements in the Naas Municipal District for 2023.

Councillor Kelly proposed that the Christmas parking arrangements for 2023 follow what had been agreed for 2022 ie. Suspension of pay parking in Hedermans, Abbey Street, New Row and the Fairgreen off street carparks only from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. from 01 December



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2023 to 31 December 2023 inclusive. On street parking and enforcement of illegal parking was to operate as normal. This was seconded by Councillor Sammon

Councillor Quinn asked if this was a statutory item? He stated that he would prefer if it was not a statutory item. He said given the councils climate action targets, he was against the suspension of pay parking and queried if it was having the desired effect. He proposed that it be removed going forward and suggested if councillors wanted to bring it up again next year they do so as a motion instead.

Councillor Moore stated that he was happy to leave the item as it was.

Councillor Sammon stated that this was a Municipal District and not a town council and suspension of pay parking over the Christmas period would give a little back to the people.

Councillor Brett advised that this was a reserved function and not a statutory item. He maintained that he would like to leave the parking as it was with no suspension but would go with the majority.

Councillor Sammon reiterated that Apcoa should still check these car parks for illegal parking and should also enforce the one or two hour rule as appropriate to ensure the turnover of spaces.

Mr D Hodgins stated that the Climate Action 2023 was about looking at decarbonising. He advised that the council should be looking at ways to reduce these incentives and that this practice should be phased out over time.

Councillor Quinn stated that nowhere else suspended paid parking. He said there was no competitive advantage and no competitive disadvantage either to the suspension of pay parking.

Councillor Kelly stated that it was a small token of given back to the people. She stated that when public transport was improved from smaller towns and villages in Kildare the item could be discussed.



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Following a vote by the members, with five members voting in favour, one voting against and one abstaining it was agreed that pay parking would be suspended.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Sammon with five members voting in favour, one voting against and one abstaining that pay parking would be suspended in Hedermans, Abbey Street, New Row and the Fairgreen off street carparks only from 9.30 a.m to 5.30 p.m from 01 December 2023 to 31 December 2023 inclusive. On street parking and enforcement of illegal parking was to operate as normal.

NS07/1023

Section 38 – Proposed Traffic Scheme at Eadestown

The members considered and agreed that the Road Traffic Act 1994 – Section 38 – Proposed Traffic Calming/ Safety Improvement Scheme at Eadestown, Naas to proceed to Section 38.

Councillor Quinn advised that following on from a recent motion in his name to make St John's Lane one-way he had been advised that a Section 38 would need to be initiated and enquired if the process could begin.

Mr D Hodgins agreed that a Section 38 could be initiated.

The report was noted.

NS08/1023

School Zone Programme for Sallins National School

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly
That the council consider Sallins National School for inclusion in the School Zone Programme this year.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Sammon

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that Sallins National School is not selected as a school in either Round 1 or Round 2 of the An Taisce / National Transport Authority's Safe Routes to School Programme. The council does not have an input into the schools selected.



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Councillor Kelly asked how Sallins National School could be added to the programme? She stated that the road leading to the school was a quiet road before but now was busier than ever with Kerdiffstown Park and the Golf club.

Mr D Hodgins informed Councillor Kelly the school needed to contact An Taisce directly.

Councillor Clear stated that all schools were contacted to apply for Safe Routes to School Programme but only Ballycane had applied to An Taisce.

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

NS09/1023

Yellow box at the junction entrance/exit to Aylmer Park

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breen
That the council provide a yellow box at the junction entrance/exit to Aylmer Park from Monread Avenue, Naas

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breen and seconded by Councillor Quinn

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District office will assess the provision of a yellow box junction at this location in line with the relevant Technical Guidance document.

Councillor Breen stated that there were approximately 200 houses there and the residents were finding it difficult to get in and out of the estate. She enquired about a timeline for the assessment.

Mr D Hodgins informed that members that there was a technical guidance document to consider. He stated that this was a significant junction and queried were these all day queues, or just at peak times?



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Councillor Kelly asked when the assessment would take place. She stated that the traffic volume had increased and the area was being used as a rat run between the Sallins Road and the Monread Road. She stated that she had requested this be investigated back in 2019.

Councillor Quinn stated that there were other locations in Naas that should be considered for a yellow box and that yellow paint should not be a budget breaker.

The District Engineer advised the members that an assessment would be done in the next four weeks?

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

NS10/1023

Second entrance/exit to the Piper's Hill

The members agreed to take items 10 and 13 together.

Item 10:

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breen

That the council provide a second entrance/exit to the Piper's Hill area, to help alleviate the serious traffic congestion being experienced by residents in the area.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breen and seconded by Councillor Sammon

Item 13:

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

Can the council confirm the current situation regarding the traffic management study carried out by KWETB at Pipers Hill given the serious traffic congestion in the area. Has Kildare County been provided with the study if so, can it be shared with the members?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that Kildare County Council, Roads Planning section has no objection to the



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proposed road improvement works within the campus as submitted by the consulting engineers on the Traffic Study carried out for Kildare Wicklow Educate Together Board (KWETB) which from the council's analysis will help in dealing with the traffic issues within the campus. A planning application will have to be submitted by the KWETB for the proposed works.

The onus is on the KWETB to deal with this matter.

Councillor Breen stated that this motion had been considered several times in the past. She said there were around 1500 children attending the school. She stated that the residents who lived there were affected by the traffic in the morning.

Councillor Sammon stated that the road was owned by Ballymore Properties and the rest was owned by the KWETB. Traffic problems in the area had significantly increased when KWETB closed their car park. She advised that a short-term solution which involved some reconfiguration and painting was currently at phase 1 and had been approved for department funding with an expected contract delivery of May 2024. A long-term solution which involved creating a second entrance at St David's School for buses only had not yet been approved. She stated that Kildare County Council could not solve the issue of traffic congestion at this location as the council did not own the land and that it was disingenuous to suggest the members can do anything about it. It also gave false expectation to the residents.

Councillor Clear stated that the council had control over the Active Travel Scheme and the idea of children needing to be dropped at the school gate needed to stop.

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

NS11/1023

Local Link Area manager

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Brett
That the council invite the Local Link Area manager Alan Kerry to our November meeting to discuss the establishment of a sustainable mobility hub in Naas and an integrated local link service for the Town to be ready on completion of the proposed Pathfinder project.



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The motion was proposed by Councillor Brett and seconded by Councillor Clear

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the establishment of sustainable mobility hubs is not a function of Local Link but one for the council to consider and develop. The issue can be discussed at the Transportation SPC and in particular at the Sustainable Transport Forum.

Local Link provide a rural transport service as part of the Transport for Ireland (TFI) Public Transport Network funded by the Rural Transport Programme.

All routes provided by Local Link have to go through an assessment and approval process with the National Transport Authority (NTA).

A local link service in the town is an issue for consideration by the NTA in the first instance.

The members made the following points:

- The councillors must be seen to be working with service providers like Local Link.
- Commence process for a discussion with the stakeholders as part of the Pathfinder Project.
- The public could only be encouraged to use the park and ride option if it was dependable.

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

NS12/1023

Cleaning of gullies

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

That the council commence the cleaning of gullies in known" flood prone" areas in the Municipal District in advance of the winter.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Brett and seconded by Councillor Sammon



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A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District office is currently undertaking a gully cleaning programme across the Municipal District area.

Councillor Brett was happy to accept the report.

Councillor Sammon stated that a gully had been installed on Pudding Lane in Ballymore but the water was still not draining adequately and a second gully may be required and asked for it to be investigated.

The District Engineer advised Councillor Sammon he would arrange an onsite visit to investigate the issue.

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

NS13/1023

McInerney Lands

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear
Can the council provide an update on the current situation regarding the McInerney lands by Mill Lane, Naas. Has the process of CPO been progressed?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the council is in discussion with our legal advisors on the optimal mechanism to progress the transfer which could include a CPO process. The members will be updated once a mechanism is agreed.

Mr. E Ryan advised the members that he had spoken to the Director of Transportation and said that they were not satisfied that a CPO would resolve the floating charge issue and that the council would continue to keep the pressure on our legal team to resolve issues.

The report was noted.



NS14/1023

Pedestrian crossings at Poplar Square works

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Sammon
Can the council confirm if there has been any further engagement with the National Transport Authority (NTA) regarding the pedestrian crossings that were to be part of the Poplar Square works?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the council appointed a multi-disciplinary service provider team to develop the detailed design of the approved Part 8 Scheme in 2022 and sought an allocation of €320,000 from the NTA for the Poplar Square Improvement Scheme in 2023 to cover the contractual commitment for the project. The scheme included permanent public realm improvements to increase the permeability across the Dublin Road and at the junction with the Sallins Road.

An allocation of €30,000 was received from the NTA for 2023 and as a consequence, the contract for the consultants was terminated by the council as the project cannot be progressed without the support of the NTA or an alternative funding source. No further engagement is envisioned with the NTA in this regard.

Councillor Sammon stated that she was disappointed with the report. The Public Realm Team had shown the members drawings with pedestrian crossings on them as part of the Poplar Square Scheme. She stated that at the time members had negotiated for a fourth pedestrian crossing and this had been agreed.

The report was noted.

NS15/1023

Pathfinder Project funding

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Quinn
Following on from written correspondence from Minister Eamon Ryan to Kildare County Council dated 1 September 2023, can the council confirm that it has applied to draw down the initial seed funding it requires in order to kickstart the Pathfinder Project for Naas, and confirm the date to initiate the Part 8 (public consultation) process in this regard?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the email sent by Minister Ryan's officials was received on 13 September.



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This letter confirmed that the allocation would not be an additional provision of funding in 2023 but would involve an application to the NTA for a redistribution of existing active travel funding from the council's 2023 allocation. In December 2022, the council requested an allocation of €1,000,000 from the NTA to progress the Naas Pathfinder Project, however, this was rejected at the time.

The council met with the NTA on 19 September and discussed the scheme and a potential funding application. The council has discussed a reallocation with the NTA and is confirming what project will have funding deallocation as a result. The council can confirm that it has initiated the NTA application process but that it is not possible to estimate a date for public consultation at this time. The immediate step for the council is to procure topographical and traffic surveys and to appoint a consultant in accordance with the requirements of NTA's Project Appraisal Guidelines.

Councillor Quinn said that he was disappointed with the report and stated that the Pathfinder project was the first thing he looked at when he became a councillor for the Naas Municipal District. He suggested that this would most likely be the biggest project Naas would be part of in over two decades. He stated that he made direct representation to Minister Eamon Ryan and the report was not in line with the minister's views. He asked if a meeting was needed with the Chief Executive, the Directors of Services and the District Manager.

Mr D Hodgins responded that last year a request for over €16 million for projects including €1 million for the Pathfinder project was applied for and expected from the NTA. The amount allocated was €9.8 million with nothing provided for the Pathfinder project.

Clarification from the NTA advised that any funding for Pathfinder would involve a reallocation of funding from another project.

Councillor Quinn stated that according to the Minister this project was ready to progress and queried was the issue with the NTA.

The District Manager stated that the report was the official response and the problem was funding. The council did not receive the requested funding from the NTA. He stated that if the report was not in line with the Minister's views perhaps there was a miscommunication between the Government and the NTA.

The report was noted.



NS16/1023

Water pooling issues outside Barker and Jones

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Quinn

Can the council confirm if there are any plans to rectify the water pooling issues outside Barker and Jones, in Poplar Square, both on the road and footpath?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District office plan to undertake works to alleviate this issue in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

NS17/1023

Salt bins at designated areas

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

Can the council confirm if it will make available salt bins at designated areas prone to icing but not on Salting routes this winter? Designated areas supplied.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that Kildare County Council operate the Winter Maintenance Plan, treating approximately 680km of road in the county. The provision of salt bins countywide is not included in the Kildare County Council Winter Maintenance Plan due to the staff resources required to maintain this service, associated costs, and potential liability issues.

Councillor Brett stated that there were four areas that were prone to frost and asked could this be reconsidered on a once off basis?

The District Engineer stated that the report stood, advising that there were 10 trucks and 25 drivers required for salt routes and resources were already over stretched. The focus would be on salting the key routes.

The report was noted.



NS18/1023

Morell Rise tree pruning

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly
That the council include Morell Rise in this year's tree pruning programme.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Moore

A report was received from Mr. S Wallace, A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer informing the members that

Morell Rise is included in the tree pruning programme. It is hoped to have the work completed by the end of the year.

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

NS19/1023

Cost and booking details for Kerdiffistown Park

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kelly
Can the council confirm if the booking system and the cost details have been fixed for Kerdiffistown Park?

A report was received from Mr. S Wallace, A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer informing the members that the charges for use of the All-Weather Pitches are attached below. We have contacted all the clubs that submitted an expression of interest to advise them of the charges and requesting they confirm their preferred booking slots based on what they submitted. The clubs have 2 weeks to return these, and we will use these to confirm bookings for the pitches. It is planned to have the initial allocations made by the end of October so the pitches can start to be used after the official opening. It may take a few weeks beyond the end of October to complete bookings if a number of clubs are looking for the same time slot. Currently based on the expression of interest there is more requests for time slots than are available across all the pitches. Once the initial allocations are made K-Leisure will be the contact for bookings. A specific website will be available for bookings.



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Allocations will be made using the following criteria.

- Geographic locations. The priority will be as follows 1. Naas Municipal District 2. Kildare County 3. Outside Kildare
- Clubs with limited access to pitches.
- Clubs who can demonstrate that they encourage and support female participation.
- Clubs who engage in opportunities for accessibility and inclusivity for all including persons with disabilities.
- Club membership size
- Sporting Code

Full Size Pitch (FS)								
FS Peak*	half FS Peak*	FS Off Peak**	half FS Off Peak**	FS Weekends***	FS peak Outside Kildare rates*	FS off peak Outside Kildare rates**	FS Weekends Outside Kildare	Changing Room (CR) option
€120.00	€60.00	€80.00	€40.00	€100.00	€180.00	€140.00	€150.00	€30.00
5 a side Pitch (5 as)								
5 (as) peak*	5 (as) off peak**		5(as)Weekends***	5 (as) peak Outside rates*	5 (as) off peak Outside rates**	5(as) Weekends Outside Kildare		CR option
€80.00	€60.00		€60.00	€90.00	€70.00	€70.00		€30.00
Schools - flat rate								
€50								€30.00
*Peak hours, Mon - Fri 5pm - 10pm inclusive								
**Off Peak hours, Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm inclusive								
***Weekend rate, Sat - Sun 9am - 9pm inclusive								
(half pitch is half peak or off-peak rate - excl. schools which is flat)								
All fees based on hourly rate								

Councillor Kelly raised the following points:

- The facility was magnificent but could prove price prohibitive for local clubs
- If Sallins GAA were to book the 8 slots a week they would require, this would equate to €36k per year.
- Local clubs should not have to pay for the upkeep of the park.
- Requested that the price for local clubs be reduced.
- If prices were not reviewed the park could remain a showpiece



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Ms S McCullough stated that the Parks Department had spoken with other Local Authorities around the pricing in detail and a lot of work had been put into the pricing structure. She stated that she would bring the comments back to Mr S Wallace.

The report was noted.

NS20/1023

Playground for Ballymore Eustace

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

Can the council confirm if a playground for Ballymore Eustace will appear on the Capital Program for 2024?

A report was received from Mr. S Wallace, A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer informing the members that the project is under consideration for inclusion in the programme for 2024-26 which is currently at draft stage. The final programme including sequencing and priorities will be discussed with councillors as part of the annual budget.

Councillor Sammon stated that needed to be included to the Capital Programme 2024. She said that residents of Ballymore Eustace had been waiting over 30 years for a playground. The land and the planning permission had been secured for it and just the funding was needed now to progress.

The report was noted.

NS21/1023

Fan zone on Poplar Square for Rugby World Cup

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

That the council investigate the feasibility of setting up a fan zone on Poplar Square at times of Ireland games for Rugby World Cup. Using mobile TV screens and some seating this would create a fantastic addition to this public realm space.

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

A report was received from Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the Sports Partnership and Community teams would not have the staff or resources to successfully organise and run a Fan Zone as suggested. The scale,



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logistics and time required to organise such an event would mean that planned programmes and initiatives would have to be put on hold or cancelled. An event of this kind is more suited to event management companies in conjunction with the National Governing Body concerned.

The members made the following points:

- Members could consider organising a Fan Zone themselves, possibly for the final.
- The grounds at Áras Chill Dara would be a good location.
- The Potato Market would be an obvious place for it.

The District Manager stated that he was open to the idea of using the Potato Market however the universal toilets might not be available.

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

NS22/1023

Site Specific Traveller Accommodation

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

Can the council provide an update on any progress with Government Departments with its proposal to construct a Halting Site or Site Specific Traveller Accommodation on a Community Zoned Site near Primrose Gardens, on the Naas Southern Ring Road?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the council is commencing preparation for a new Traveller Accommodation Programme 2024 – 2029 over the coming months (subject to DHLGH guidance).

The draft plan will provide details of the actions the council will take to meet the current and future accommodation needs of members of the Traveller Community within the county.

It is expected that this plan will be presented to the council in Q1 2024.

Councillor Moore stated that his concern was that Naas United who had over 400 members were currently using this land as their main pitch and there was already a shortage of pitches in the area. He noted that sites at Fishery Lane and the Dublin Road had previously been suggested before the site on the Southern Ring Road was put forward.



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The District Manager advised that he would be happy to liaise with the members on the matter.

The report was noted.

NS23/1023

New Business Forum

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Quinn

That the council supports in principle the establishment of a 'New Business Forum' on a pilot basis that looks at attracting a broader retail and hospitality business within the Naas Municipal District.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Quinn and seconded by Councillor Sammon

A report was received from the Economic Development, Local Enterprise Office informing the members that in terms of specific business representative bodies Kildare Chamber have long worked in partnership with the Local Authority to advance and support our mutual goal of local economic development. They also play an important role in stimulating and promoting business and employment and have done so since the all-county chamber came into being.

The council benefits from the strong relationship and engagement it has developed with the business community in Naas through the initiatives and actions deployed by the Enterprise and Economic team of Kildare County Council. Businesses can contact any member of staff with a request for support or direction, so we do not envisage been directly engaged with a dedicated Naas Business Forum.

The vacant commercial property incentive scheme as per attachment:

The vacant commercial property incentive scheme was introduced to encourage the use of vacant commercial premises within the county. This scheme incentivises new businesses to occupy vacant premises by lowering entry costs in the form of a range of grants and mentoring opportunities.



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The Scheme is open to newly established retail businesses setting up within town centres, existing retail businesses relocating or expanding from outside the areas or an existing retail business maintaining their current location and expanding into a new location within the Town Centres.

The scheme includes a potential package of 11 different financial and mentoring opportunities for businesses.

Shop Front Grant Improvement & Accessibility Scheme

Business Incentive Scheme

Façade Enhancement Scheme

Early payment Incentive Scheme

Shop Fit Out Grant Scheme

Retail Enhancement Support Programme

Get your business online

Green your Retail Offering

Digital for your Retail business

Lean Your Business

Complimentary Financial / HR Advice Session

All of the above grants/schemes are subject to individual terms and conditions.

We can provide large A1 size signage on request to any owner of a vacant property to be placed in vacant property windows (as per graphic attached)

In addition, this year to date Kildare County Council's Economic Development Department has helped 33 Businesses in Naas enhance their online presence to the value of €79,203.01 In addition engaging with and supporting 20 businesses for Shopfront and Retail Merchandising Grant 2023 to the value of €36,019

Recognising that retail and hospitality is challenging across the Country we have further broad range of retail support initiatives County wide.

- Information Seminars 10am + 7pm on 21 March 2023 (Online)
- Eco-Innovate in Retail with Ruth Larkin and Stewart Nelson on 22 May 2023 (Merits) + 1 to 1 Retail Clinic afterward.



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- Focus on Retail Staying Profitable with Higher Costs & Increasing Competition with Miriam Simon and Stewart Nelson on 26 June 2023 (Merits) + 1 to 1 Retail Clinic afterward.
- Retail Series with Ruth Larkin (Lark Bridal), Miriam Simon (Retail Powerhouse), Ciara Shanahan (ORB Media) and Michael Keogh (Entrepreneurs Academy). These will be held every Monday of October (2,9,16 and 23 from 7:30-9pm)
- 2 October - Visual Merchandising with Ruth Larkin,19:30-21:00 How to align and connect with your core customer and maximise conversion through your interior window display and store exterior.
- 9 October - Peak and Prep with Miriam Simon, 19:30-21:00 Making the most of the Autumn and Winter: A retailers guide to a strong PEAK trade. This is a very commercial session with easy tips that can be applied to support stronger trading for retailers, salons, or hospitality businesses.
- 16 October - Trends and the Future of Retail with Ciara Shanahan from Orb Media, 19:30-21:00 Looking to the future of retail and trends with:
 - Omnichannel: How audiences are changing.
 - Subscription as a service
 - Immersive experiences
 - VR/ AR for retail.
 - Modern customer loyalty
- 23 October- Social Media/ Digital Marketing with Michael Keogh 19:30-21:00 Creating a Retail Digital Marketing Strategy to optimise your online brand. Create a bespoke Retail Digital Marketing plan for your business to attract your ideal customer and speak to their needs. Utilise the mass resources available across the web in support of your business growth plan.

Noting the above, and our long-standing working relationships with the Kildare Chamber of Commerce, the Council is not in a position to support the establishment of additional forums across the County.

The members made the following points:

- The council needed to attract established businesses to Naas.



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- There were many vacant units and a greater variety of businesses were needed to fill them
- A masterplan was needed to identify what was missing and create a focus at local level
- There was a plethora of business types missing in the Municipal District
- A need for a retail forum similar to what was in Fingal County Council

Mr A Gaynor advised the members that the council were identifying empty properties year on year and were engaging with business owners. He advised he would bring the comments back to Ms J McNabb.

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

NS24/1023

Taking in charge of Primrose Gardens

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

Can the council provide an update on the taking in charge of Primrose Gardens, Naas?

A report was received by the Building and Development Control Department informing the members that Development Control continue to engage with the Developer. To date significant information remains outstanding. Development Control are currently exploring options to escalate matters with a view to expediting a turnaround in remediation works on site.

Councillor Breen stated that she was not happy with the response as it was the same answer as before. She asked could the council take legal action against the developer.

Mr J Hennessy advised the members that a formal warning letter had issued to the developer. He stated that the developer's solicitor advised that his client had been surprised to receive a letter. Though the developer had engaged there had been no significant action. Mr Hennessy advised the members that formal enforcement was being considered. The report was noted.



NS25/1023

Naas Library

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Clear
That, given the acute shortage of community spaces in Naas, the council reconsider using the old Naas Library for the county archives. We have many community groups without a home including Naas Women's Shed, Down Syndrome Ireland, Alzheimer Cafe to name but a few. Could the archives be located at an alternative location that might be more suitable for this type of storage. If the archives are to be located at the old library how long will this be for.

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

A report was received from Ms G Allen, A/County Librarian informing the members that the Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives service (LSGA) had to leave the old County Library Newbridge building back in 2020 under emergency conditions due to the deterioration of the building and to avoid damage to the collection. The staff and the collection relocated to rented accommodation in Kildare Town pending the availability of the library building at the Harbour, Naas. Since then, physical access to the collection for historians, researchers, student and tourists has been closed. The rented unit is also no longer suitable for safe storage for the precious collection.

Locating the Local Studies and Archives to the former library building will ensure a safe, temperature-controlled storage facility guaranteeing the survival of the collection. It will also be a customer facing service open 6 days per week to anyone conducting research on Kildare and its history, genealogy and family tree research or for anyone requiring access to the Kildare County Council Archives. The building in the centre of Naas is an ideal temporary location to reintroduce access to the collection for members of the public and tourists after three long years without this important service.

The Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives team will work in the building identifying and conserving Kildare related historical materials, providing research facilities and support to historians and students as well as attracting tourists who are tracing their family ancestors to County Kildare.



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Operating from a central, accessible location will also allow the Local Studies Librarian and Archivist to host programmed events, talks and exhibitions of material from the collection for the public and tourists. The LSGA team will also be able to again facilitate school visits for both primary and secondary schools throughout the school year which they have been unable to do for the last 3 years.

The plan agreed with Kildare County Councils senior management is that the LSGA service will move into the Naas Library building on an interim basis until the new capital project for the County Library and Archives Capital Project in Newbridge is completed.

The council has worked with some of the groups identified in the motion, in an effort so support them in identifying a new/permanent home. The new library at the refurbished Town Hall will have numerous meeting rooms that can be booked by community groups. The council remains open suggestions in relation to the longer-term use of the old library for community related uses following the completion of the County Library.

Councillor Kelly queried where the Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives Service would move to at the end of the three years.

The District Manager advised that it would be moving to the Newbridge Library after the 3 years. He stated that he wanted to highlight that although a Part 8 had been agreed it was hoped to secure URDF funding. Newbridge Library would be a priority project.

Councillor Quinn stated that it was a shame that the building would be out of circulation for 3 years. He said it was an excellent building and asked could the council not identify a different building to use?

The District Manager stated that the council were down 10% on resources at the minute and if the original building had not been damaged by a leak there would not be a problem.

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



NS26/1023

Compulsory Purchase Order Market House

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Sammon
That the council use its powers under the Derelict Sites Act to compulsory acquire
The Market House, Harbour View, Naas for a community use, social enterprise/s and/or
commercial use that will seek to animate the waterfront in line with the objectives of the Naas
Local Area Plan 2021-27 and rescind the decision arising out of Motion 21 NS19/0223 from
the February 2023 meeting of the Naas Municipal District.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Sammon and seconded by Councillor Kelly

A report was received from Mr E Ryan, District Manager informing the members that the
Municipal District is happy to consider the use of the derelict sites act for the purpose
outlined.

Councillor Sammon requested that the members agree to rescind the decision arising from
motion NS19/0223 from the February 2023 meeting. She said a great use of the building
would be a water-based hub/ Kayaking Club for community use.

Councillor Breen asked was it a protected structure and how much would it cost for the
renovations.

The District Manager stated that he had spoken to the Conservation Architect and received
some insight. Some funding was available from derelict sites and grant aid but it would also
require central funding and LPT.

Councillor Moore stated that he was happy to support this motion. He said members were all
tired of what had happened with the ownership over the last number of years and the council
needed to take the opportunity if it was available.

Councillor Quinn said he did support the motion but the council should be cautious about
acquiring it if there was no plan. He asked if it was acquired how much time and how much
money would it cost?



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Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by the members that the decision arising from motion NS19/0223 be rescinded and the council use its powers under the Derelict Sites Act to compulsorily acquire The Market House, Harbour View, Naas for a community use, social enterprise/s and/or commercial use that will seek to animate the waterfront in line with the objectives of the Naas Local Area Plan 2021-27.

NS27/1023

Finance for Cemetery Canopy and Cleanest Town in Ireland Monument

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Moore
That the District Manager ensure that supporting finance of €20k for a Cemetery Canopy and €20k for a Cleanest Town in Ireland Monument are procured in the 2024 County Capital Expenditure to supplement the members LPT support of €25k for each project.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor Sammon

A report was received from Mr E Ryan, District Manager informing the members that he discussed the 2024 Capital Budget with the members at the June Monthly meeting – and requested suggestions. Currently, the Management Team are finalising the Capital Budget for 2024. The current focus of Management Team is to really focus on delivering significant capital projects across each of the Municipal Districts that will have the greatest impact – economically, socially and environmentally – rather than focus on smaller projects that may divert both funding and limited staff resources away from the priority target projects. From previous discussions with the members, it was felt that a public art piece would be more fitting than a monument and to this end €20,000 has been allocated in this year's LPT for the 'Cleanest Town Art Piece' and the council's Arts Officer had committed to progressing same at the end of Quarter 3, 2023. In relation to the proposed cemetery canopy, more details on this proposal should be provided, so that the proposal can be properly evaluated – including whether it should be fixed or portable (with details of proposed location/context/purpose) - as there are a wide range of innovative outdoor solutions that could be ordered quickly, be aesthetically pleasing and would not require to be identified on a capital budget.



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Councillor Moore stated he did not want a plaque. A monument would be more appropriate. Regarding the canopy very few tenders had been received. He suggested it be re-tendered to achieve a better result. He stated he was looking for something more permanent than umbrellas.

The District Manager stated that the tender received was for a substantial sum and the spend would have to be justified. He advised that the Arts Officer was currently on secondment but that the assistant Arts Officer could give a briefing on options. He said the Arts Officer had identified that €20K would not get a large piece but maybe a smaller piece could be identified.

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

NS28/1023

Viability of the Potato Market

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breen
Can the council provide an update on the future viability of the Potato Market as a marketplace given the disappointing uptake of market stalls?

A report was received from Mr E Ryan, District Manager informing the members that The Potato Market is a venue for both community/cultural use and for the weekly Naas Farmers Market. The space was vacant and over-grown for many years before the council engaged with the owners, secured a lease and secured funding for conservation works. The space has been used for a number of events throughout the year, including St. Brigid's Day/Brigid 1500, St. Patrick's Day, the Wild Food Festival and the Liam O'Flynn Feile. The question from the member refers to the disappointing uptake of market stalls, however the reality is that the market was at or near capacity when it first commenced in last November. While numbers declined, there is renewed interest from stall holders and the council continues to get enquiries – with a new stall due to commence this Saturday. The council met with the stall holders to explore how, collectively, we can support and promote the market and a list of action points were formulated and these are being implemented and include for example, temporary signage erected on approach roads (in place), signage at the gate (ordered with temporary signage in place), a number of brown tourist signs (some of which are in place),



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development of a new social media account and a nominated PR person. In addition, the council have recently advertised on MAST (Markets Alive Support Team Ltd) – the main insurance provider for stall holders in Ireland. Once we reach a critical threshold, we intend to have a formal official opening and Kildare County Council's Communications Team will develop a communications strategy around the event. Ultimately, it is up to the community to support the market if they wish to see it continue. Any enquiries can be made to thepotatomarket@kildarecoco.ie

Councillor Breen thanked the Mr E Ryan for the report. She stated that the Potato Market had been successful until January this year when it had seen a drop off in the number of stalls and the previous week there were only four stalls.

The District Manager stated that the footfall was not there to encourage stall holders to stay. He said there was active interest in it recently, with two enquiries that week. Naas Farmers Market had created their own facebook page which was generating interest.

The report was noted.

NS29/1023

Family Resource Centre

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Sammon
That the council identify a building in Naas suitable for a Family Resource Centre.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Sammon and seconded by Councillor Clear

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the Family Resource Centre (FRC) programme is Ireland's largest family support programme delivering universal services to families in disadvantaged areas across the country. A central feature of the FRC programme is the involvement of local people in identifying needs and developing needs-led responses. While Kildare County Council is very supportive of the FRC programme and work closely with Tusla, the programme is outside of the remit of Kildare County Council. FRC's are supported and funded by Tusla through the Department of Children. There has not been an expansion of the current programme in recent years, and it is not clear if this will occur in 2024.



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Councillor Sammon stated that although Naas could be considered an affluent town there were pockets of deprivation and there was a desperate need in Naas for a resource centre. The Newbridge Centre was turning away people from Naas. She said there has been no national funding since Catherine Zappone's time. She stated that Co Kerry has 11 centres funded by the government and that some centres in the country had received National Funding after they had been set up.

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

NS30/1023

Informally ban election posters within urban centres

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Quinn
That the members and council agree to informally ban election posters within urban centres in this Municipal District. Instead, we nominate a select number of designated areas within our towns and villages for election material to be displayed which is in keeping with good environmental management practices.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Quinn and seconded by Councillor Kelly

A report was received by the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that this is a matter for the members themselves to consider.

It should be noted that this would be an "informal" agreement which cannot be enforced. It should also be noted that there may be candidates who are not current councillors who may or may not comply with the suggested proposal.

Posters may only be erected for a certain specified time period before an election. This time period is either (a) 30 days before the poll date or (b) from the date the polling day order for the election has been made, whichever provides the shorter period of time. Posters must be removed within 7 days of polling day.

The requirements for election posters are set out under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009.



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The Road Traffic Acts also contain requirements in relation to maintaining clear lines of sight for road users which may impact on where posters can be placed, e.g., not on road signs, at traffic junctions or on roundabouts where they may cause road safety risks.

The members made the following points:

- Cable ties left behind were very unsightly.
- The members needed to agree a boundary
- Letters to issue to all political parties to inform them what was informally agreed.
- Investigate the possibility of erecting billboards in public car parks to display posters.
- Request Tidy Towns write to all parties requesting they comply with the agreement to ban posters in urban areas.

The District Manager advised the members that the council did not have the powers to enforce this and agreed to ask Tidy Towns to write to each of the parties to request them not to put up posters in designated zones which were agreed as Naas Town, Kill, Sallins and Ballymore Eustace..

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

NS31/1023

Letter to all Farming Organisations

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Moore
That the council issue a letter to all Farming Organisations and Landowners in the upper catchment area of the rivers supplying the water to the Naas Lakes Area, reminding them of the seasonal restrictions and water course set back lines when spreading slurry and other nutrient-rich fertilisers and identifying the pollution damages to the Naas Amenity Lakes during 2023.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor Clear



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A report was received by the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that Kildare County Council actively works to ensure that all farmers are complying with the European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, known as the GAP Regs.

This involves farm inspection across the county and directions to farmers as required.

The council also works to raise awareness across the farming community through information and press releases around various topics and farm activities.

Recently the council issued a press release to highlight the upcoming closed season for land spreading.

Farmers are not permitted to spread slurry from the 8 October until the 12 January.

This restriction is in place in order to prevent nutrient loss to the rivers and streams which would pollute the waterbody.

Any instances of land spreading of slurry during this period will be investigated and the appropriate sanction taken.

Details of the press release are below:

Kildare County Council is reminding farmers and agricultural contractors that the spreading of organic fertilizers is prohibited in County Kildare from 8 October until 12 January.

In addition, farmyard manure is prohibited from being land spread or stored on lands from 1 November until 12 January.

Unauthorized land spreading practices can be reported to Kildare County Council -

<https://kildarecoco.ie/YourCouncil/CustomerService/ContactUs/>

Councillor Moore stated that the Naas Lakes were over rich with nutrients and the same issue was occurring with the lakes in the De Burgh estate. He suggested the council write to farming organisations requesting they remind members of the regulations.

Councillor Clear stated that some farmers would do the right thing, but some farmers won't. He said the water quality of the lakes was declining.



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Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Clear and agreed by the members that a letter is to issue by the Environment Department and that the report be noted.

NS32/1023

Erecting Flags to support our Irish Rugby World Cup Team

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

Can this Council consider erecting Flags in this Municipal District to support our Irish Rugby World Cup Team?

A report was received by the Meetings Administrator informing the members that an application should be submitted to the Corporate Services Department (email: meetings@kildarecoco.ie) in order to be considered by the Cathaoirleach, the Chair of the Protocol and Procedures Committee and the Chief Executive in line with the council's flag policy.

The report was noted.

NS33/1023

Ringfenced Community Development Contributions

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

Can the council confirm the levels of ringfenced Community Development Contributions (Levies), ringfenced for future community amenities, facilities, sports grounds, recreational, public parks or community infrastructure in Naas Municipal District from Local Housing and Non-Housing Developments Levies, in the years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 and what is the present level of that fund in 2023?

A report was received from Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the table below shows the total development levies received to date which have been allocated to Community, Economic Development, Recreation and Amenities projects in the Naas municipal district since March 2004 to the current capital programme.

All levies have been assigned to various projects within each of the directorates as indicated in the Capital Programme.



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Community & Economic Development			
	Contributions Spent	Contributions Committed	Total
Broadband	3,240	-	3,240
Naas Area Community Project	136,930	-	136,930
Johnstown Garden Centre Land	65,000	-	65,000
Mauldins Avenue Community Centre	26,105	-	26,105
Johnstown Community Centre		200,000	200,000
Naas Public Lighting	22,358	-	22,358
Naas Community Facilities		526,808	526,808
Monread Community Centre		93,298	93,298
Economic Hub - MERITS	1,200,000	-	1,200,000
Total Contributions - 2004 to Current Capital Programme	1,453,633	820,106	2,273,739

Recreation & Amenity			
	Contributions Spent	Contributions Committed	Total
Burial Grounds	484,296	126,048	610,344
Caragh Playground	62,315	-	62,315
Caragh Parish Field		25,000	25,000
De Burgh Demense	250,405	1,424,595	1,675,000
Eadestown Playground	43,790	-	43,790
Kilcullen Library Accessibility Works	40,000	-	40,000
Kilcullen Playground	145,628	-	145,628
Library Improvements	65,000	300,000	365,000
Moat Theatre	150,000	155,000	305,000
Monread Park Improvements	22,820	463,070	485,890
Municipal Fund	72,000	-	72,000
Naas Area Recreational and Play Amenities	785,817	455,720	1,241,537
Naas Landscaping Roundabouts	111,136	151,849	262,985
Naas Library Refurbishment Works	50,000	-	50,000
Naas Town Hall Library	1,500,000	1,000,000	2,500,000
Naas Pool	2,433,230	-	2,433,230
Open Space Strategy	-	100,352	100,352
Playground Development		286,128	286,128
Lakes		50,000	50,000
Sallins Amenity Lands	377,917	732,083	1,110,000
Sallins Playground	34,902	-	34,902
Swimming Pool Energy Efficiency	45,000	-	45,000
Total Contributions - 2004 to Current Capital Programme	6,674,256	5,269,845	11,944,101



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Councillor Moore asked Ms P O'Brien for specific yearly details on the report and advised that he would put it back on the agenda next month.

The meeting concluded.