



**Minutes of Naas Municipal District Meeting  
held at 3.30 pm on Tuesday, 12 March 2024  
in the Council Chamber**

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

**Officials Present:** Mr E Ryan (District Manager), Mr D Reel (District Engineer), Mr M McLoughlin (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer), Ms S McCullough (Senior Executive Parks and Landscaping Officer), Ms C O'Grady (Executive Parks and Landscaping Officer), Mr M Hearn (Staff Officer), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Administrator), Ms J Fogarty (Meetings Secretary) and others.

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**NS01/0324**

**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.

**NS02/0324**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

To adopt the minutes of the monthly Naas Municipal District meeting held on 13 February 2024 including proposed amendment and to note the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by members that the minutes of the monthly Naas Municipal District meeting held on 13 February be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.



**NS03/0324**

**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**

The Naas Municipal District Restoration Improvement (RI) and Restoration Maintenance (RM) works programme for 2024 is being developed in line with the 2024 allocation from the Department of Transport.

**Footpaths**

A tender has been awarded for works at the following locations which will commence construction in the coming weeks:

- Roselawn, Naas - Construction Stage
- Mountain View, Naas - Pre-construction Stage

**LPT/Carparks Funded Works**

The Naas Municipal District Local Property Tax (LPT) / Carparking works programme for 2024 Has been developed in line with the 2024 allocation, as agreed with the Naas Municipal District Councillors.

- Poplar Square - Haydens – Footpath Pre-Construction Stage
- Ballymore Road to Ballycane - Raised Table Crossing Pre-Construction Stage
- Sallins Road - Raised Table Crossing Tender Stage
- Chapel Lane, Sallins – Footpath Tender Stage
- Sallins Park to St. Brigids Terrace – Footpath Tender Stage
- Johnstown Manor, Johnstown – Footpath Tender Stage
- Glendara, Kill – Footpath Tender Stage
- Gleann na Gréine – Footpath Tender Stage
- Liffey Heights - Ballymore Eustace – Road Tender Stage



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### Drainage

The Naas Municipal District drainage programme for 2024 will be developed in line with the 2024 allocation from the Department of Transport.

- Wolfestown Design Stage
- Naas Road, Ballymore Design Stage

### Safety Improvement Works

The Naas Municipal District Safety Improvement Works is based on the 2024 allocation from the Department of Transport, as follows:

- R411 – Bends at Donode Little.

Councillor Kelly thanked Mr D Reel for the report and requested an update on Eadestown Traffic Management.

Mr D Reel advised that the roads department had completed a section 38 there and public consultation was ongoing. The department were going out to tender after road markings and signage were complete. He informed the members that a section 38 had commenced on the Naas Road into Ballymore Eustace and should be completed by the end of April. It was hoped to tender both projects together for delivery around May or June.

### NS04/0324

#### LPT 2023 allocations

The members considered the below LPT 2023 allocations for the Naas Municipal District Committee.

Sallins Sunshine Club - Age Friendly activities (Cllr Breen)		€	2,000.00
Sallins Sunshine Club - Storage Units (Cllr Kelly)		€	2,000.00
Sallins Tidy Towns (Cllr Kelly)		€	2,000.00
Sallins Amenity Lands - Portaloos (Cllr Kelly)		€	2,000.00
Monread Bowling club (Cllr Brett)		€	1,000.00
Leinster Rugby Regional Dev Program (Cllr Sammon)		€	2,000.00
Ballymore GAA - scoreboard (Cllr Sammon)		€	1,000.00
Castlefen Residents Association (Cllr Kelly)		€	1,000.00
Castlesize Residents Association (Cllr Kelly)		€	1,000.00
Naas Community Sponsorship Grp (Cllr Breen)		€	2,000.00



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**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by all the members that all the above requests received for LPT funding be approved.

### **NS05/0324**

#### **Naas Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2024**

See Appendix A attached.

### **NS06/0324**

#### **Invitation of the Mayor to travel to St Davids**

The members noted the approval for the Mayor to accept an invitation to travel to St Davids in Wales to celebrate St David's Day.

The Mayor told the members that he really enjoyed his time travelling to St Davids, stating that it was a very interesting place. It had a strong bond with Naas town, and he highly recommended people visited there. He stated the process for becoming a councillor in St Davids was different to how it was done here, councillors were co-opted over there rather than elected.

### **NS07/0324**

#### **2024 NTA Active Travel Grants**

The members received a report on the 2024 NTA Active Travel Grants Allocation in advance of the meeting. The Mayor informed the members that Mr D Hodgins was unable to attend the meeting and advised if they had any queries or questions, they could email them onto him and he would respond.

Councillor Moore queried how the grant payments worked, was the work carried out first and then the funding claimed?

Mr D Reel explained that the contractor would send in an invoice to the council, and this was paid subject to approval. Once the contractor was fully paid the council could then draw down the funding from the department.

Councillor Clear stated that not enough funding was being received for the works required. Councillor Quinn said that the 2024 allocation was disappointing compared to previous years, stating that it was a step backwards. He said that the completion date for roadworks on the Kilcullen Road had now moved to mid-April and this was impacting local businesses.



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He stated that he had a motion in December regarding a meeting with the Roads Department and the NTA and sought an update on this meeting.

Councillor Moore stated that he had a motion in November requesting the use of the Fairgreen as a temporary carpark to help the traders in the area. He queried why were the contractors allowed to use it.

Mr E Ryan stated that there was a difference between using the area for heavy machinery and a public car park and that the two were not comparable.

The report was noted.

### **NS08/0324**

#### **Extend the crossing time at Bank of Ireland**

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

Given that the priority is now with vulnerable road users, the council extend the crossing time at Bank of Ireland, Naas removing the simultaneous flashing yellow lights, flashing man and yellow vehicle light for the crossing as it is very wide and vehicle speeds are significant at this point and there is not enough time to cross the road before the man starts flashing.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the refurbishment and upgrading of the existing signalised crossings on Naas Main Street were included in the Naas Pathfinder Project. The measures would result in a narrower Main Street, widened footpaths to assist vulnerable road users to move more easily along the town's main thoroughfare, more planting and seating together with shorter crossing times for pedestrians at existing pedestrian lights. Unfortunately, as discussed with the elected members, there is no funding for these works at present and the works do not form part of the agreed Capital Programme of Works.

Should an opportunity arise to secure funding then the Traffic Management Section will actively investigate what measures could be delivered at this location.

Councillor Clear stated the simultaneous flashing lights were the issue and asked had the time on the lights been reduced stating there was a very short time to cross. He suggested the yellow man to not flash at the same time as the yellow vehicle light.



Councillor Brett asked were there plans to narrow the crossing point when the shopping centre opened?

Mr M McLoughlin advised the members that he had spoken with the senior engineer who informed him that the lights are designed and functioning correctly to the guidelines. He said it was about striking a balance between pedestrians and keeping the traffic flowing.

Councillor Clear suggested that the Transport committee apply for funding to design a new crossing.

Councillor Sammon suggested the motion be put to a vote with all the members agreed. A vote was taken with all members voting in favour.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by the members that the report be noted, and with all members voting in favour that the crossing time be extended, and flashing lights removed.

### **NS09/0324**

#### **Design and cost a footpath from Bodenstown graveyard**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Clear  
That the council design and cost a footpath from the Bodenstown graveyard to the roundabout at the Sallins bypass. This would facilitate people who no longer drive being able to get to the graveyard to visit their deceased relatives.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District office will assess this proposal and advise on the potential cost for this project. The length of proposed footpath is in excess of 620 metres. Please note that there is no funding allocated to this project at present.



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Mr D Reel advised the members that a footpath from Bodenstown Graveyard to Sallins bypass would need significant funding and resources and could cost approx. €60k. and that it would be difficult to sidestep another project for this.

Councillor Kelly stated that she had raised this motion two years before and the cost then was estimated at €50k.

Councillor Clear said that the developer of the graveyard paid a levy, asking could this be used to fund a footpath as it was a safety concern.

Mr M McLoughlin stated that development levies funded the capital programme.

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

### NS10/0324

#### List of the Active Travel Schemes

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly  
That the council provide a list of the Active Travel Schemes within the municipal district and number them according to most likely to be started and/or completed in 2024 now that the Active Travel Investment Grants Draft 2024 Allocations have been announced.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the details of the Active Travel Investment Grants for 2024 are attached. The completion of the Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme and the Holy Child National School, Ballycane (SRTS) are the schemes in this Municipal District area that are due to be at construction stage in 2024.

Councillor Kelly advised that she was not happy with the report. She stated that the members had been given the same list for the last few years. She queried what was happening with Sallins Active Travel Scheme and Monread Road.



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She queried why there were only two projects / schemes in this Municipal District this year even though Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme was almost complete. She stated that the funding was available and asked was it a resource issue.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that the funding was for feasibility and design and not for construction.

Councillor Kelly advised that the members needed to meet with the NTA, stating that funding had been received but the scheme was not progressing. She said if the funding was there, it should be used for something else.

Mr M McLoughlin advised the members that the NTA would only come to Full Council meetings.

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

### **NS11/0324**

#### **Installing a full set of lights at the junction of Morell Road with Monread Road**

The members agreed to take item 11 and 12 together.

#### **Item 11:**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Brett  
That the council examine the feasibility of installing a full set of lights at the junction of Morell Road with Monread Road, in light of the increase in vehicular traffic in this area.

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

#### **Item 12**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Sammon  
That the council move the pedestrian traffic lights on the Monread Road to the Morell Road Junction to allow cars to enter and leave the estate.

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





A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the installation of traffic signals at this location would require significant civil engineering works and involve the widening of the carriageway to accommodate right turning vehicles off the Monread Road. There is no funding available to progress these works.

The members made the following points:

- Pedestrian lights were being used by motorists on Monread Road to get out of the estate.
- New coffee shop there was bringing in more traffic.
- Funding should not be an excuse.
- It was a serious problem especially in the morning time.
- A pedestrian crossing had been installed for Tesco.
- A crossing at this location would encourage Active Travel and €100k was in the pot.
- Requested this be added to the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposals of Councillors Brett and Sammon, seconded by Councillor Clear and agreed by the members that the report be noted, and it be added to the progress report.

### **NS12/0324**

#### **Bus shelter/stop at Monread Park**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breen  
That the council engage with the relevant authority to provide a bus shelter/stop at Monread Park for the safe use by school children travelling to the Gael Scoil, St David's and Piper's Hill Schools.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that Kildare County Council provides bus shelters for public service operated bus routes across the county with the agreement of the National Transport Authority (NTA).



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There are no examples of Kildare County Council providing bus shelters for school bus services.

Councillor Breen stated that there were about 50 children left standing outside the creche in the rain waiting on the school bus. A bus shelter would be appreciated there.

Councillor Quinn suggested if the request was amended to state it was for public use could the issue be proceeded.

Mr M Mc Loughlin said funding and resources were scarce and bus shelters needed to be prioritised.

Mr Reel advised that a new bus shelter could cost around €30k or more depending on its location.

Councillor Kelly stated that she fully supported the motion and that all members had received emails from parents about this issue. The children were also standing on the grass, which could be wet and mucky and asked was it possible to put an element of a footpath there?

Mr Reel advised the members that the Municipal District office could investigate placing some concrete in the area for the children to stand on.

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

### NS13/0324

#### **Works on the Truce Road to Tipperkevin**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Sammon  
That council carry out works on the Truce Road to Tipperkevin (slope at the Seasons) to include a surface change for icy conditions, "DEAD SLOW" and "Concealed Entrance" signage.

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



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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 will assess this location for signage at the bend in question. Please note that there are a number of signs at this location advising motorists of alignment and speed. The section of road in question is within the 50kph speed limit area. Due to limited resources, the Naas Municipal District office is not currently proposing any surfacing upgrades at this location.

Councillor Sammon stated that she was happy with the report. She said there was also a speed issue in the new estate and suggested that maybe the developer could help.

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

### **NS14/0324**

#### **Parish car parks in Sallins**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Quinn  
That Kildare County Council enter into discussions with the Parish Finance Committee with a view of leasing part of, one or both of the Parish car parks in Sallins, to help offset the proposed removal of 24 parking spaces as part of the proposed Greenway Link.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces Directorate Department are aware of the parking issues in Sallins. The development of the Sallins Amenity Lands includes a car park and access links from these lands to the Greenway. Kildare County Council are willing to discuss options with third parties, however any arrangements with third parties will require an amendment to the parking byelaws in Sallins and would be subject to normal arrangements for managed car parks.

Councillor Quinn stated that there were already existing car park spaces in the parish carparks, 60 in one and 38 in the other. He suggested opening discussions to acquire some of them.



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He said there were also about 30 permit parking holders in Sallins paying €500 per year for parking. If the council leased some spaces, it could help remove one of the burdens to passing the proposed Greenway link.

Councillor Sammon suggested negotiating a price with the parish to lease some of these spaces and revert back to the council with the proposed amount.

The members requested this item be put on the progress report.

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

### NS15/0324

#### Active Travel Projects

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

Can the council confirm what Active Travel Projects, will now be deferred to sequential and separate new applications for NTA Funding as a result of Minister Ryan pulling the Pathfinder Funding for the 'Too Ambitious' Naas Programme?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the National Transport Authority (NTA) was not directly involved in the funding of the Pathfinder Project. As a consequence, the decisions made by the Department of Transport does not affect the NTA's Active Travel Investment Grant allocation for Kildare County Council.

Councillor Moore stated that the answer given was disingenuous. He said the answer was on the investment grants and not what projects would go ahead. He mentioned that the money came from the Department of Transport and not the NTA. He requested the question be brought back and answered again.

Mr E Ryan informed the members that all projects were deferred.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that he would bring the question back and a reply would be circulated to the members.

The report was noted.



**NS16/0324**

**Two pedestrian crossings on the Blessington Road**

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

Can the council confirm when the two pedestrian crossings on the Blessington Road, Naas will be switched on, given that phase one of the Stonehaven Estate is now occupied and children from this estate are going to school?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that Kildare County Council have contacted the Developer, Ballymore Homes and were advised that the toucan crossings are awaiting the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) power supply to be activated.

Councillor Clear stated that he was worried the lights had not been switched on yet as it was a busy road and advised the members that he would contact the ESB himself.

The report was noted.

**NS17/0324**

**Cherry Grove and Hillside Drive**

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

Can the council confirm if the estates of Cherry Grove and Hillside Drive been assessed yet for the provision of yellow boxes?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District office have assessed both housing estates in accordance with the technical guidance document and determined that yellow box junctions are not required at these entrances.

Councillor Kelly asked when was the assessment carried out?

Mr D Reel advised that it was last assessed in November 2022.

Councillor Kelly stated that no assessment had been carried out since the new housing estate was built and asked could it be reassessed?

Mr D Reel advised Councillor Kelly that he would meet with her at the location and reassess it.

The report was noted.



**NS18/0324**

**Sallin's bypass used as a "truck stop".**

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

Can the council confirm if the NRO office are aware that the Sallins bypass verges on the Clane side are becoming a favourite "truck stop" using both sides of the road to stop and rest, causing issues for pedestrians and motorists alike?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the National Roads Office (NRO) are aware and have previously brought this to the attention of An Garda Síochána who have spoken to some of the drivers as they are illegally parking and it is an enforcement issue. An Garda Síochána have been very helpful and have moved trucks on when they see trucks parked up. Kildare County Council will continue to liaise with An Garda Síochána. There is a footpath and cycleway on the opposite side of the road, pedestrians should be discouraged from walking in the hard shoulder. Pedestrians and cyclists are encouraged to use the footpaths and cycle lanes where provided.

The report was noted.

**NS19/0324**

**Mechanism to warn truck drivers that certain local roads are unsuitable.**

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

Can the council update members on the previously raised issue of contacting Google to seek a mechanism to warn truck drivers using google maps that certain local roads are unsuitable for use by them?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the resolution of this issue is not straight forward. Google maps is operated by a private company and is one of a number of navigation services in operation. The reporting mechanism used by google is primarily to address errors and does not have a feature to address whether roads are appropriate for particular classes of vehicle, nor can the system distinguish the type of vehicle being driven. It is incumbent on road users to assess the appropriateness of a road and any weight restrictions that may be in place or planning conditions in respect of haulage routes that may be in force.

Councillor Brett said that he was disappointed with the report. He advised that google maps had no problem updating regarding delays and question why it couldn't advise that a road



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was unsuitable. He stated that walls that had been built 300 plus years ago were being damaged. He said that the council removed the 3-tonne limit signage that was put up by residents there.

The report was noted.

### **NS20/0324**

#### **Speed Limit Review guidelines**

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

Can the council confirm if any update has been received from Government on the Speed Limit Review guidelines?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that with the members agreement, Kildare County Council will request an update on this matter.

The members agreed that Kildare County Council request an update on this matter.

The report was noted.

### **NS21/0324**

#### **Parks Works Programme 2024**

The members received a presentation from Mr. S Wallace on the Parks Works Programme 2024 for their consideration.

Mr S Wallace mentioned some highlights in the programme:

- The Monread playground
- Tree works, over 1500 trees across 800 locations.
- Kerdiffstown Park

He stated that he was hoping to meet with the members in a month's time to run through reports regarding the De Burgh conservation plans. He said that he had received a lot of calls regarding tree cutting from both those who wanted it and those who did not. He informed the members that his department had to tender for the landscaping on the Carragh Court Roundabout. He introduced the staff from the Parks Department and reminded the members that if they had queries, they could use the CRM system and the relevant member of staff would look after the query.



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Councillor Moore asked why the tree pruning was done so late. He said there were concerns that it was the start of the nesting season.

Mr S Wallace said that there was a lot of area to cover across the 5 Municipal Districts with 3 to 4 thousand trees across the entire county. He also said the availability of contractors was an issue.

Councillor Kelly thanked Mr Wallace for a very comprehensive report and enquired about Kerdiffstown Park and the timeline for it to open?

Mr S Wallace advised that no opening date had yet been agreed but after opening a series of works would be ongoing in relation to bookings and maintenance.

Councillor Quinn stated that there was no communication between the department and residents regarding trees being removed and suggested that the Parks department liaise with the Public Participation Network (PPN) to help inform residents when these works were being carried out. He asked what impact the 100k from LPT would have on the Sallins Amenity Lands as the current provision of funds seemed inadequate.

Mr S Wallace said he took the point about communication and would contact resident's associations who were going to be affected by the removal of any trees. Regarding the Sallins Amenity Lands an estimated €4.5m would be required. For phase one a sports capital grant and Town and Village renewal funding of half a million euro each had been secured. This would get the project started with works to wetlands and platforms for pitches. It was hoped to secure large scale sports infrastructure grant, but bridge funding would be required.

Councillor Quinn stated that unless a grant was received the Sallins Amenity would not be completed.

Councillor Clear asked about the security fencing that was around the DeBurgh estate?





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Mr S Wallace advised that a temporary security fence was put up because of dangerous park works being done and to stop unauthorised access there and said a more permanent fence would be put up.

The members received a presentation from Ms. P O'Rourke, Climate Action Co-ordinator in relation to Open Space Management – Alternative Maintenance and Biogas Dashboard.

- Timeline Highlights 2019 to 2024.
- Ms. Sophia Couchman, PHD Student, Maynooth University and was part of a collaborative project with Maynooth University, Trinity College, Teagasc, National Biodiversity Data Centre and Kildare County Council.
- All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2024 - Council Conference would be held on 13 June 2024 and Tickets were €20.
- National Biogas would like to use research data to update the public.
- Grass to Gas - €50,000 funding approved.
- GIS Data was renewed this year.
- A pipeline was put in place last year at the Newhall Depot and installation of a pumping station for medium to large vehicle was now being investigated.
- Climate Action Plan supports delivery of up to 5.7 TWh (Terrowatt Hours) of indigenously produced biomethane by 2030.
- National Biomethane Strategy, Public Consultation, closed 27 February 2024.
- National CAP 2024, Public Consultation would close on 5 April 2024.
- Top 5 Counties, Kildare was the lead County.
- Test sites at Wonderful Barn, Monread and Parc na nOg.
- Data collected through drone, satellite and ground based management data.
- Completed Data - Q2, Start Q3 2024.
- Awareness Awards – Ms. Leah Berry and Ms. Sophia Couchman – Athlone Institute of Technology.

Councillor Clear enquired how far away they were from developing a biogas vehicle?



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Ms P O'Rourke advised that discussions were ongoing about the development of a biogas vehicle.

### **NS22/0324**

#### **Access to the DeBurgh Lands**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly  
That the council confirm if it has decided how many members of the public will be granted access daily to the DeBurgh Lands once open, if they will be allocated specific time slots and when will the online system be up and running.

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

A report was received from Mr. S Wallace, A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer informing the members that It is intended that the initial access numbers will be 100 and that access will be for the whole day. This will be reviewed once opening commences. A date for the online booking will be available once we can confirm an exact date for opening.

Councillor Kelly asked would an opening date be given at the April meeting. She said that there were concerns that it would not be open for the summer and also concerns were raised regarding parking, suggesting putting recommended places to park nearby on the online system.

Mr S Wallace advised the members that he would have an offline meeting with them regarding the timeline. Recruitment of staff was underway. He said he expected it would be a free full day ticket. He advised there would be no public parking as creating a car park would delay the project by at least another year, understanding that people have been waiting over 20 years for it to open. He stated that there would be accessible parking for people with disabilities.

Councillor Quinn asked if it would be open 7 days a week, was it a single entry only and could it be scheduled for morning and afternoon slots? He questioned what would happen in October regarding the Masterplan.



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Councillor Sammon asked if dogs would be allowed in? She suggested that if the carpark in Áras Cill Dara was going to be opened that this could be used for parking and the public could be directed to walk down by the canal.

Councillor Clear advised that accessible parking was welcomed and queried if cycle parking would be provided given the proximity to the Greenway.

Councillor Moore queried if the McInerney Lands could be included in the Masterplan to provide temporary parking as there was already an opening there.

Mr S Wallace stated that there would be cycle parking available. He said that the lands would be opened Saturday and Sundays only to start with from early Summer to October and that dogs would not be allowed due to the sensitivity of the woodlands. Access at McInerney Lands was owned by the nursing home so this would not be feasible.

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

### **NS23/0324**

#### **Installing a small carpark off the Morell Road**

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

That the council examine the feasibility of installing a small carpark off the Morell Road at the sportsground in the estate to facilitate teams that train and play on the adjoining pitches.

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

A report was received from Mr. S Wallace, A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer informing the members that the feasibility of installing additional car parking to access the park will be considered as part of developing a masterplan for the park. This will include considering Morell Road.

Councillor Brett said that he accepted the report. He advised that he had some worries regarding the safety of children walking along there. He stated it was very busy when football teams were playing there and parking in the area.



Councillor Clear stated that he counted up to 60 bikes there at the weekend while there were games on.

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

### **NS24/0324**

#### **Basketball Court for use by the public**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breen  
That the council provide an outdoor area to facilitate a Basketball Court for use by the public as there is an absence of this type of facility in the town of Naas and there is an interest/demand for it.

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

A report was received from Mr. S Wallace, A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer informing the members that Kildare County Council have no objection in principle to providing a basketball facility in Naas. The most feasible location is Monread Park. The inclusion of a court or half court will be considered as part of the development of a masterplan for Monread Park.

Councillor Breen stated that the request came from an 11-year-old boy who had received over 100 signatures on a petition for a free practice basketball court.

Councillor Brett stated that he fully supported the motion and asked could the volleyball court be used as the markings were similar.

Councillor Clear said that he thought funding had been given to Kingsfurze residents to resurface the tennis court and for a basketball hoop.

Councillor Moore informed the members that the residents in Kingsfurze were not agreeable to the court being used by the public, so funding had not been granted.



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Councillor Quinn queried how long it would take for Monread Masterplan as he was concerned it was quite a while away.

Mr E Ryan informed the members that he would check the records, noting that it was his understanding the funds would have been given on the basis it could be used by everyone.

Councillor Breen advised that she would contact Kingsfurze Residents Association regarding this.

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

### **NS25/0324**

#### **Tree works programme**

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

That, in light of the extensive tree works programme announced by Kildare County Council recently, Kildare County Council guarantees to replace every felled tree at the earliest planting opportunity. Where it's been removed because of damage to footpaths or blocking public lighting, an area is identified in close proximity to the original location. In doing so, Kildare County Council categorically commits to undertake any future tree remediation works long before nesting season.

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

A report was received from Mr. S Wallace, A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer informing the members that an annual programme of tree planting is carried out in each municipal district. This aims to replant where trees have been removed and identify new locations for tree and hedgerow planting. If it's not feasible to replant where trees have been removed, then alternative appropriate locations are identified. Immediate replanting is not always possible as sometimes 2-3 years have to be allowed for roots to breakdown to allow replanting. The budget available to replant is also a consideration and the watering requirements to establish trees particularly semi mature trees which are the sizes required for most planting situations.



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It is not possible to commit to carrying out tree works outside of bird nesting season.

Implementing a programme of tree works across the county is a large logistical exercise due to a number of factors. These are:

- Large volume of requests received annually.
- Quantity of trees requiring work. Approximately 3000-4000 per year.
- Time and resources required to assess the requests received and compile a works schedule.
- Procurement of the works
- Availability of Tree Surgeons
- Weather
- Requirements to manage other works and projects across the county.

The majority of pruning and felling works are carried out on street trees which do not in the majority of cases have nesting birds due to the open nature of the crowns. If pruning or felling works have to be carried out within nesting season contractors are instructed to leave trees which have nests until outside the nesting season. Any works required to hedgerows or trees in hedgerows are carried out outside of the nesting season.

Councillor Quinn queried was it deliberate that trees with open crowns were used in these areas.

Mr S Wallace advised that nesting birds needed compact growth for protection so were unlikely to nest in these areas.

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

### **NS26/0324**

#### **Removing shrubbery**

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

Can the council examine the cost involved in removing shrubbery from the northside of the Johnstown motorway footbridge which may be required as an anti-social behaviour remedy?

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



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informing the members that the location will be assessed to see what works are required and the cost of these.

The report was noted.

### **NS27/0324**

#### **Financial support grant aid from the new THRIVE**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Moore  
That Kildare County Council now seek a suitable level of financial support from the 100% available grant aid from the new THRIVE, European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), State and EU Fund to transform its publicly owned, heritage building, known as the Naas Water Tower, for Naas a key growth town qualifier, to transform it into a Municipal Gymnasium to cater for boxing, other contact sports, netball games, gymnastics and other indoor games and possible large indoor meetings for a town of 30,000 without similar public facilities.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the The Naas Water Tower is not within an Architectural Conservation Area; therefore, it is not considered to be a Protected Structure or a Heritage site. In this regard, the site proposed does not meet the funding criteria for the THRIVE fund.

Councillor Moore stated that he read the paperwork and protected structure was not mentioned in the details. He said that the building had been there since 1904 and that the town needed an indoor facility. The lands on either side of the structure were owned by the County Council.

Mr E Ryan advised that the grant supported significant architectural conservation or a protected structure. The process was very detailed with a significant marking system.

Councillor Moore requested that this be revisited should another site not be found for the application.



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

### **NS28/0324**

#### **Development of St. David's Castle**

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

Can the council update the members on what future plans there are for the development of St. David's Castle and Grounds in light of this being a protected structure with a medieval history?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the URDF application granted for the Naas Municipal District, included background assessments for the St. David's Castle site. A Conservation Management Plan is currently being developed by our Heritage Team with the agreement of the landowner.

Councillor Breen said that she had concerns regarding what was happening with the castle as no works currently being done, asking was it up for sale? She said that it would be ideal as a smaller version of Kilkenny Castle.

Mr E Ryan stated that it was not up for sale, what it was going to be used for he was not sure this was up to the owner. He said there had been interest from an approved Housing Body with positive engagement.

The report was noted.

### **NS29/0324**

#### **Procurement of land for a future Town Stadium and Sports Park**

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

That elected members of Naas Municipal District agree to request the procurement of land for a future Town Stadium and Sports Park, with multiple sports pitches, gymnasium and indoor facilities for all netball games and large meetings and set aside approximately €100k per year from the additional discretionary Local Property Tax funding collected from Naas Municipal District householders, who are the very people who need this facility.

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





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A report was received from Mr E Ryan, District Manager informing the members that the proposal is in line with LPT guidelines and additional facilities will be required over the coming years in order to serve the fast-growing population of Naas. It is a matter for the elected members to decide on how LPT is allocated.

Councillor Moore made the following points:

- Massive shortage of sports facilities due to the increased population
- Landowners were holding onto lands.
- Would the executive look favourably towards a contribution?
- €1.3 million was given to the Merits building, the members should be allowed use development levies to purchase land.
- He asked that the members get involved.

The members made the following points:

- Agreed with motion fully, but €100k would not be enough.
- If re-elected building a fund should be the priority
- The members should not impose a commitment onto the new council.
- The motion was not lacking ambition, there had been nothing tangible to show from LPT.
- Forward planning was important.
- There was a long list of projects incomplete, would like to see these projects finished first.
- They needed to complete 2024 projects first and they should improve on what they had first.

Mr E Ryan said that this was an interesting discussion, thinking long term had merit. The challenges were a growing population and land being so expensive. A stadium would be a multi-million-euro project but by building up a fund would be in a stronger position to bid on lands.



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

### NS30/0324

#### Commercial rates payers in arrears

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Quinn  
Can Kildare County Council confirm the number of actively trading commercial rates payers in arrears of less than 2 years (in aggregate amounts), and greater than 2 years (in aggregate amounts) within the Naas Municipal District, and the total number of commercial rates payers in the Naas Municipal District that should qualify for the Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) grant?

A report was received from Ms E Hanlon, Director of Service, Finance Section informing the members that the 2024 commercial rates demand issued in February 2024. Payment options include direct debit, standing order, EFT, via the local authority payment app or in the cash office in Aras Chill Dara. Kildare County Council's (KCC) revenue collectors work with individual customers to put payment plans in place where arrears have accrued.

The Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) grant was announced by the Government in Budget 2024 and includes a package of €257million for small and medium businesses across Ireland. The rollout will be managed by the local authorities and funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE). It is anticipated that 4083 businesses in Kildare (including 643 in Naas) will be eligible. The attached information is currently available on KCC's website and will be publicised in local newspapers on week commencing 25 March 2024.

#### Grant Amounts:

For businesses with a 2023 rates bill of less than €10,000, the grant is 50% of their rates.

For businesses with a 2023 rates bill of €10,000 to €30,000, the grant is €5,000.

For businesses with a 2023 rates bill of over €30,000, they are ineligible for the grant.

The schedule of the grant rollout is as follows:



DATE	Grant Scheme Element
23 Feb:	A letter issued with each rates demand to advise re eligibility and an estimated start date of March/ April (attached item 31a).
7 March:	The attached information sheet (item 31b) will be available on KCC's website.
12 March:	A letter will issue to all eligible customers on how to apply for the grant.
15 March:	The ICOB portal will open for customers to apply and upload their details including their bank statement header.
8 April:	KCC will begin processing grants.
22 April:	KCC will begin the payment of grants.

**The deadline for applications for the ICOB grant is 1 May 2024.**

While eligibility for the grant includes the requirement to be rates compliant, customers who have arrears but are in an agreed payment plan (which addresses both current rates and arrears) will be deemed by KCC to be rates compliant. Rates customers who have queries on their accounts should be directed the relevant revenue collector (contact details are on each rates demand) or the rates office on 045 980 656.

Councillor Quinn stated that since December 2023 six businesses had closed down with one new business opening. This needed to be addressed noting that as businesses closed it gave consumers less of a reason to come into the town to shop local. He requested more information on the number of businesses in arrears of more than two years and less than two years as in the original motion.

Ms E Hanlon advised that it would take some time to collate this information for the councillor as the information was collected on a countywide basis and not per municipal district but would look favourably on any business seeking to put a payment plan in place.

The report was noted.



**NS31/0324**

**Cemex Site masterplan**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear  
Can the council confirm if Applegreen, owners of the Cemex site on the Dublin Road, Naas, have, with the council, completed the masterplan and if this will be progressed to a planning application soon?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the URD 1.13 of the Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027 required the preparation of “a Traffic Modelling and Access Strategy for lands zoned Mixed-use at the Junction 9 (Maudlins) Key Development Area within 12 months of the adoption of the local area plan, in consultation with relevant stakeholders including Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the owners of the KDA lands. This Strategy has been prepared and published by KCC.

URD 1.14 of the LAP requires “that any application for development within the Junction 9 (Maudlins) Key Development Area (KDA) be accompanied by a Masterplan to include a shared/agreed vision, to be prepared by the owners of the KDA lands and informed by the Traffic Modelling and Access Strategy required under URD 1.13”. No planning application has been received to date.

Councillor Clear said that the Tidy Towns were being held to ransom by the current site’s condition and would never win unless something was done. He stated it was like having a ghetto on their doorstep with graffiti and antisocial behaviour and was having an adverse effect on the town.

The report was noted.

**NS32/0324**

**Status of Tipper Graveyard**

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

Can the council provide an update on the condition and status of Tipper Graveyard?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the vegetation clearance has now been completed at Tipper Graveyard. The Heritage Team will continue to work with the Tipper community group throughout 2024 and it is anticipated that



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an application will be made by the community group for Community Monuments Funding in 2025.

The report was noted.

### **NS33/0324**

#### **Poulaphuca Water Treatment Plant**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Moore  
Can the council confirm how much of the Naas Domestic Water requirements is now supplied from the Poulaphuca Water Treatment Plant and if any is supplied from the South Kildare Barrow water treatment plan?

A report was received from the Water Services Department informing the members that they are advised to contact Uisce Eireann directly via their dedicated email support address at tor by phoning 0818178178, or raise it at their next dedicated Councillors Clinic which takes place online on Monday 26 June at 11a.m.

Councillor Moore said that he was surprised at the response stating that the planning section should be up to date on what areas were being supplied. He asked for this question to be reverted back to the relevant department for a more informative answer.

The report was noted.

### **NS34/0324**

#### **Opening of Kerdiffstown Park**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Quinn  
Can Kildare County Council confirm what is causing the delay in the opening of Kerdiffstown Park, and if there are any additional costs anticipated with this delay?

A report was received by the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that the Kerdiffstown Landfill Remediation Project commenced in November 2020, with a contract date for completion of construction set for April 2025. The project is at the final stages of development and remains ahead of the original schedule.

The landfill infrastructure element of the works is currently in the final stages with snagging and commissioning works currently taking place on site. It is expected that 'Substantial Completion' of these works will be reached in the coming weeks. At that stage, full running of the park and ongoing landfill management, will move from the contractor, Wills Bros, to Kildare County Council.



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Kildare County Council can then carry out final preparations for the park to open to the public.

Councillor Quinn stated that the members were previously told it was anticipated to be open in October 2023, now being told April 2025. He asked what the Health and Safety concerns were, querying were there issues of gases or leachate adding that 61 million has been spent on the project but issues were not being shared with the members.

Mr M Hearn advised that he would bring the question back to the department and seek clarification.

The report was noted.