



Minutes Naas Municipal District Meeting
held at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, 08 September 2026
in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara, Naas

- Members Present:** Councillor B Clear (Mayor), Councillor G Dunne (Deputy Mayor), Councillors A Breen, F Brett, C Kelly and S Moore.
- Apologies:** Councillor E Sammon.
- Officials Present:** Mr. D. Creighton (District Manager), Mr. M. McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Mr. Y. Khan (A/District Engineer), Ms. C. O'Grady (Executive Parks and Landscaping Officer), Ms M O'Dwyer (Administrative Officer), Ms. M. Dempsey (Administrative Officer), Mr. A. Dunney (Director of Services), Ms. A. Granville (Senior Planner), Ms. M. McCarthy (Administrative Officer), Ms. O. Harvey (Administrative Officer), Ms. E. Hanlon (Director of Finance), Mr. M. Byrne (Staff Officer), Ms. C. Brogan (LPT Coordinator), Ms. M. Richardson (Meetings Administrator), Ms. K. Leslie (Meetings Secretary) and others.
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NS01/0926

Declarations of Interest

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

NS02/0926

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the annual and monthly Naas Municipal District meetings held on 14 July 2026, along with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Brett and seconded by Councillor Moore that the minutes of the annual and monthly Naas Municipal District meetings held on 14 July 2026 be confirmed and taken as read.

The progress report was noted.

NS03/0926

Municipal Districts Works Programme

The members received an update on the Municipal District Road Works Programme.

Naas Municipal District Roadworks Update – September 2026

Road Resurfacing

Naas Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2026

The following roads are included in the improvement works projects plan for 2026:

• R448 Kilcullen Road, Naas	Tender Stage
• Oakfield Heights Estate, Naas	Tender Stage
• R445 Dublin Road, Naas	Completed
• L2025 Ballymore Eustace GAA Road	Completed
• L2014 Main Road, Kill	Completed
• L2026 Silverhill Upper Road	Completed
• L6038 Broquestown Road	Completed
• L2996 Abbey Street, Naas	To Commence
• L80117 Craddockstown Way Estate, Naas	To Commence

Surface Dressing Works

The Naas Municipal District propose to commence the surface dressing works pro-gramme for 2026 in June. The roads to be improved include:

• L6035 Tipper Road	Complete
• L6043 Craddockstown	Complete
• L2005 Kerdiffstown Road, Sallins	Complete
• L6050 Elverstown	Complete
• L6049 Greenhill Upper	Complete



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| • L20111 Delahunt Lane, Kill | Complete |
| • L60113 Bermingham's Lane | Complete |
| • L2007 Boherphilip, Kill | Complete |
| • L6014 Loughlin Lane, Kill | Complete |

Footpaths

Local Property Tax (LPT) Funded Works

The Local Property Tax (LPT) / Paid Parking funded road, and footpath works programme for 2026 is agreed by the Naas Municipal District Councillors. The following projects are being delivered as part of this programme:

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| • Poplar Square – Lawlors – Footpaths | To commence |
| • St Patrick's Park, Kill – Roads | Design Stage |
| • Monread Heights, Naas – Footpaths | Completed |
| • Sallins/Bodenstown – Footpaths | Completed |
| • Our Lady's Place, Pacelli and Sarto Road – Footpaths | Design Stage |
| • Dun na Riogh, Naas – Footpaths | Pre Construction Stage |
| • Kilteel Junction - Visual Speed Sensor | Tender Stage |
| • Oakfield Heights, Naas – Footpaths | Completed |
| • St. Brigid's Terrace, Sallins – Footpaths | Design Stage |
| • Millbrook Gardens, Naas – New Parking Space | Design Stage |

Drainage

The Naas Municipal District drainage programme for 2026 will be developed in line with the 2026 allocation from the Department of Transport.

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| • Barrack Street, Ballymore Eustace | Scheduled to Commence |
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Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works

The Naas Municipal District Safety Improvement Works is based on the 2026 allocation from the Department of Transport, as follows:

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| • R410 Blessington Road, Eadestown | Design Stage |
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- R410 West of Blessington Road, at Deer park Design Stage

The members raised the following:

- Would bollard or line marking works be carried out in tandem with resurfacing works on Abbey Street, Naas?
- When would line marking works be carried out on the Kerdiffstown Road, Sallins and the Rathgorragh Road, Kill?
- Councillor Kelly had received an email from the council in August to advise that the works on the Rathgorragh Road would be carried out the following day and had notified residents of same, but no progress had been made to date.
- What works were planned on the Kilcullen Road, Naas, and would the slips, trips and falls concerns relating to the Active Travel Scheme be addressed?
- Could the council confirm that Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works on the Blessington Road did not relate to Beggars End Crossroads, as there had been another multi-vehicle accident there earlier that day.
- Excellent work had been done on the Dublin Road, Naas, but the footpaths were in a very bad condition.
- When would works on Poplar Square, Naas be commencing?

Mr. Y. Khan advised the members of the following:

- Works on Abbey Street only included resurfacing and line marking and would not include bollards.
- The line marking works would be carried out as soon as possible after the resurfacing had been completed.
- Line markings on the Kerdiffstown Road and the Rathgorragh Road had to be carried out by the same contractors who had done the initial works, as per the procurement framework which the council was bound to.
- Contractors had been instructed to carry out these works and the council would continue to chase them up.
- The tender for works on the Kilcullen Road had closed on the previous Friday and they were awaiting response from the winning contractor.

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- These works would involve the resurfacing of the road from the municipal district boundary to the vehicular access to Killashee School and any upgrades to the Active Travel Scheme in the centre of the town would be a separate job.
 - Works on the Blessington Road related to additional signage at Glending and not the Beggars End Crossroads.
 - The Active Travel Team would be doing a scheme to address footpaths on the Dublin Road.
 - A meeting with the contractor for Poplar Square was scheduled for the following week and the council hoped that works would commence soon.

The report was noted.

NS04/0926

Remaining LPT Allocations 2025/2026

The members considered the remaining LPT 2025/2026 allocations for the Naas Municipal District Committee.

Councillor	Description	Amount
Cllr Breen	Feile Nás na Ríogh – 2 special needs Sundays for Santa in December 2026	€2000
Cllr Dunne	Ballycane Celtic FC – Maintenance of pitch at Ballycane	€2000
Cllr Breen	Dead Asset Productions – New Irish play written and directed by Ray McBride	€2000
Cllr Moore	DDI Fashionista Club – to support the cost of Sunday Afternoon Fashion Show that was held in the Osprey Hotel	€1000
Cllr Dunne	The Park Residents Association for maintenance of estate	€500



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Brett and agreed by all members present that the LPT allocations for the Naas Municipal District Committee be approved.

NS05/0926

Section 38 – Naas Town Centre Shopping Centre

The members noted the Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 (as amended) proposed provision of a signal-controlled pedestrian crossing at the following location:

Pedestrian entrance to Naas Town Centre Shopping Centre, Dublin Road, Naas.

The report was noted.

NS06/0926

Stop/Yield Signs at Arconagh Estate, Naas

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

That the council installs stop or yield signs at the junctions of Devoy Terrace and the ESB houses with the entrance to Arconagh Estate, Naas.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Dunne and seconded by Councillor Clear.

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office will assess these junctions to determine if additional regulatory signage is warranted. Any recommendations will be subject to technical assessment/ approval and available funding. In the meantime, the existing traffic management arrangements are considered adequate.

Councillor Dunne informed the members that additional signage was required for safety reasons as this was an access route, along with identification signage for the new houses built at the end of Devoy Terrace to assist delivery drivers.

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



NS07/0926

Yellow Lines at Gleann na Riogh Close, Naas

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Brett.
That the council installs yellow lines at Gleann Na Riogh Close, Naas adjacent to the junction with Monread Avenue for safety reasons.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Parking at this location is already prohibited under Article 36 of the Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations 1997, which outlaws parking within 5 meters of a junction / blocking a driveway. As a statutory prohibition is already in place, double yellow lines are not technically warranted. The Naas Municipal District Office will request targeted enforcement from the Traffic Warden Service and An Garda Síochána to address the illegal parking.

Councillor Brett informed the members that vehicles often had to exit this estate onto Monread Avenue on the wrong side of the road due to the bottleneck effect created by vehicles parked at this location and that residents' driveways were frequently blocked.

Mr. Y. Khan advised that as parking at this location was prohibited, Traffic Wardens and An Garda Síochána were authorised to issue fines already and the installation of double yellow lines was not necessary.

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

NS08/0926

Maintenance of "The Naas Ball"

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly.
That the council identifies funding and resources to carry out a full clean-up, conservation, and maintenance works on the public sculpture piece commonly known as "The Naas Ball". Specifically, that the works would include: professional cleaning of the sculpture to



remove dirt and environmental staining, inspection and minor repairs to address any damage or wear and protective treatment to help prevent weathering.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Dunne.

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Kildare County Council acknowledges the importance of maintaining public art installations within the county and recognises the contribution that the sculpture commonly known as "The Naas Ball" makes to the local area. The matter was referred to the Kildare National Roads Office, which has confirmed that maintenance of artwork and artistic features is not included within the scope of the Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contract (MMaRC). Any cleaning, conservation or maintenance works would therefore need to be separately commissioned and funded by Kildare County Council. The council will establish the appropriate section responsible for the management of this asset and will assess its current condition. Subject to the availability of resources and the identification of a suitable budget, the feasibility and cost of any required cleaning, repair and conservation works can then be considered. At present, no specific budget provision has been identified for these works.

Councillor Kelly welcomed the report and noted that this was an iconic piece and that identifying a department and a budget for the maintenance of art pieces should be looked at further down the line.

The members raised the following:

- The National Transport Authority was particular when it came to requests to decorate "The Naas Ball" for events yet shifted responsibility to the council when it came to its maintenance.
- The piece drew huge attention to the town.
- Was the Kildare National Roads Office under a separate budget to the council?
- It was important to find out who had ultimate responsibility as this matter was currently falling between a couple of stools.
- Could the council begin by getting some quotes?



Mr. M. McLoughlin noted that the National Roads Office was in agreement that this work needed to be done.

The District Manager informed the members of the following:

- The council's Arts Officer looked after the municipal collection of art pieces.
- Difficulty in assigning responsibility for the maintenance of artwork was specific to motorway pieces and was a national issue.
- A former architect of the council had taken ownership the last time maintenance works had been undertaken.
- The council provided the staff for the Kildare National Roads Office, but they were under a separate budget.

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

NS09/0926

Notification of Delayed/Postponed Project/Works

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

That the council officially notifies Councillors when timelines for projects/works in this municipal district are delayed/and or postponed indefinitely.

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that staff will endeavour to notify Councillors in a timely fashion when there is a delay to the reported timelines or postponement for agreed projects/works in the municipal district. Delays or postponement of projects/works can occur for a variety of reasons and at any time and can be outside the control of council staff.

Councillor Kelly advised that members did not need to know the reasons for delays but should receive some kind of notification to prevent them from inadvertently misleading members of the public.



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

NS10/0926

Double Yellow Lines at Dropped Kerbs

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

That the council considers the installation of double yellow lines in front of dropped kerbs in any future planning regulations and investigates the possibility of installing them in existing housing developments and towns in this municipal district to help facilitate access for wheelchair users and those with mobility issues.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Kildare County Council is committed to maintaining accessibility for all road and footpath users. As no specific locations have been identified in the motion, it is not possible to determine the extent or nature of the issue. If locations are provided, they can be assessed by the Municipal District Office and, where appropriate, referred to the Traffic Advisory Group (TAG) to identify the most suitable solution. Based on the information provided, it is not clear whether enforcement under existing parking restrictions is available or whether additional measures, such as double yellow lines, would be required. Roads Planning would be happy to engage further with the member outside of the meeting to discuss the concerns raised and to determine whether the use of planning conditions or the provision of double yellow lines would be appropriate in specific circumstances.

Councillor Breen agreed to engage with the Transport Department to identify specific locations that needed to be looked at.

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



NS11/0926

Noise Pollution from Distribution Centre, Johnstown Village

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breen.
That the council investigates environmental issues in relation to noise pollution near Johnstown Village from articulated lorries entering and leaving the Distribution Centre outside business hours causing excessive noise in the neighbourhood.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breen and seconded by Councillor Brett.

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that an unauthorised development file is open on this site in relation to potential non-compliance with conditions of the parent planning permission.

Councillor Brett informed the members that he had made an unauthorised development complaint in March in relation to this distribution centre, noting that engagement with the company in question proved difficult as calls were forwarded to their letting agent.

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

NS12/0926

Flooding on the R413, Ballymore Eustace

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Sammon.
That the council addresses the recurring flooding on the R413 in Ballymore Eustace, which originates from a natural spring and has impacted local residents following the resurfacing of the road, and outlines the remedial drainage measures planned to resolve the issue.

Councillor Brett agreed to propose the motion on behalf of Councillor Sammon, who was unable to attend the meeting. The motion was proposed by Councillor Brett and seconded by Councillor Kelly.

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office is aware of the recurring spring breakout issue on the R413 in



Ballymore Eustace. Following investigation, it is understood that the spring breakout is primarily associated with a natural spring in the area rather than the recent road resurfacing works.

While the resurfacing works have improved the condition of the carriageway, groundwater emerging from the natural spring continues to affect this section of road during certain periods of the year. The location has been inspected by engineering staff, and the matter is being assessed and as part of this assessment, Naas Municipal District Office will examine the existing drainage infrastructure in the area and, where necessary, arrange for the cleaning of gullies, drainage pipes and other drainage assets to ensure they are operating effectively.

The Municipal District Office will continue to monitor the situation and progress appropriate remedial measures, subject to technical assessment, funding availability and programme priorities, with the aim of improving drainage conditions and reducing the impact on local residents and road users.

Councillor Brett informed the members that flooding issues had gotten worse following resurfacing works and asked if the council could investigate whether there had been similar issues in other areas.

Mr. Y. Khan advised that the water table varied depending on the time of year and that resurfacing works had not had an impact on this issue. A surface water system was in place at this location and the council would examine the gullies and drainage infrastructure.

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

NS13/0926

Stairs Section of the Johnstown Pedestrian Bridge over the N7

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

Can the council confirm when the replaced stairs section of the Johnstown pedestrian bridge over the N7 will be re-opened?



A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Kildare National Roads Office (KNRO) has liaised with Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII's) Employers Representative who have informed KNRO that installation of parapet, concrete repair works, rewater proofing of stairs and application of anti-slip material surfacing have yet to be undertaken before stairs can be re-opened. It is expected that these works will be completed before December 2026.

The report was noted.

NS14/0926

Signage at Earls Court Roundabout, Kill

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Brett.
Can the council confirm if it plans to provide enhanced signage at the roundabout at Earls Court, Kill for safety reasons?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office will review the existing signage and road markings at the Earls Court roundabout, Kill, to determine whether any enhancements are required. Any additional signage deemed necessary will be considered in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual, subject to technical assessment and available funding.

Councillor Brett informed the members that he had received a large volume of complaints from the public regarding vehicles driving straight through this roundabout. This was a very busy junction due to proximity with the school.

The report was noted.

NS15/0926

HGV Restriction in Sallins Village

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breen.
Can the council provide an update on progress to restrict Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) travelling through the centre of Sallins Village?



A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the implementation of a HGV restriction in Sallins is dependent on the taking in charge of the Millenium Park Road and the subsequent reclassification of this road.

Once these are completed the implementation of a HGV restriction can be progressed. The process of taking in charge is well progressed and should be completed shortly.

Councillor Breen queried what the timeframe was for this.

Mr. Y. Khan advised that work was ongoing and once it had been completed, Millenium Park Road would be taken in charge and reclassified as a local road.

The report was noted.

NS16/0926

Road Safety Measures for Schools

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

Can the council provide an update on the progress of traffic calming measures, safe crossing points, and the roll-out of the Safe Routes to School infrastructure across Naas Municipal District schools still awaiting these measures as we begin the new academic year?

This item fell as Councillor Sammon was unable to attend the meeting.

NS17/0926

Status of LPT Funded Transport Projects

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

Can the council provide an update on the current status and delivery timelines for transport projects funded under the Naas Municipal District Local Property Tax allocations?

This item fell as Councillor Sammon was unable to attend the meeting.



NS18/0926

Age Friendly Seating at Devoy Terrace, Naas

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dunne.
That the council provides suitable age friendly seating at the green area on the Newbridge Road, Naas at the front of Devoy Terrace.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Dunne and seconded by Councillor Brett.

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that this will be considered for the 2027 Parks Works Programme. Confirmation will be required prior to any further consideration of the proposal that the residents in the area do not have any objections to the installation, and a location or locations are agreed with them.

Councillor Dunne informed the members that there was an aging population in the area who needed somewhere to rest when walking to and from supermarkets.

Ms. C. O'Grady noted that it was fundamental that any potential installation be agreed with residents.

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

NS19/0926

Weed Proliferation in the Lakes, Naas

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breen.
Can the council provide an update on any action taken to rectify the weed proliferation overgrowing the lakes in Naas?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that it is currently working with Naas Biodiversity Group to seek a solution to the siltation and nutrient enrichment of the water which is part of trying to rectify the weed proliferation.



Councillor Breen informed the members that she was not happy as this issue had been going on for four years and queried what could be done.

Councillor Moore requested that reports on the council's investigations be circulated to the members.

Ms. C. O'Grady advised that a topographical survey on the top part of the lake as well as trial hole investigations had been carried out. The Parks Department had met with Inland Fisheries Ireland and Naas Biodiversity Group to determine how best to progress. She noted that a substantial cost would be associated with this project and that the members would be kept updated.

The report was noted.

NS20/0926

Purchase of Market House, Naas Harbour

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

That the council gives serious consideration to the potential purchase of the building at Naas Harbour known as Market House, with a view to bringing this important property into public ownership and securing its future use for the benefit of the local community.

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

A report was received from the Strategic Property Management Department informing the members that the council has engaged with the owner of the Market House through its property agent. The current offer takes account of the anticipated cost of bringing this property back into productive use. It should be noted that this property is on the Derelict Sites Register.

Councillor Clear noted that it was good to see engagement, as he had tried working with the owner in the past to little success and the building was a blight on the harbour. He commended the Parks Department on their painting of bollards and benches in the area.



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

NS21/0926

Affordable Housing at Barracksfield West, Naas

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Sammon.
That the council provides an update regarding the timeline for the affordable housing development at Barracksfield West, Naas, specifically outlining the circumstances surrounding the duration between the opening of the application portal and the final move in dates for purchasers, and detailing any measures being taken to streamline this process for future phases and similar housing developments.

Councillor Brett agreed to propose the motion on behalf of Councillor Sammon, who was unable to attend the meeting. The motion was proposed by Councillor Brett and seconded by Councillor Dunne.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the sales for the first phase of the development at Barracksfield are progressing, the applications portal for the second phase is opened and the applications are being assessed. As with all house purchasers there are several steps in advance of sales closing. The snagging and de-snagging process will vary depending on the purchaser. For the Kildare County Council equity share to be released there is documentation required to be submitted by the purchaser's solicitor. Purchasers may also have a Help to Buy requirement.

A timeline for the closing of a sale will be different for each purchaser; however, all purchasers have regular communications with the Affordable Housing Team in Kildare County Council and with the Land Development Agency (LDA).

The applications for the second phase of scheme are now being assessed, and a number of offers have issued. The most recent portal sought additional mandatory documents, and this has streamlined the application process.



Councillor Brett advised that the members had all received an email from a constituent detailing the lengthy timeline they had experienced. Many people availing of this scheme had given notice to their current landlords that they then had to seek extensions on.

Councillor Dunne noted that getting purchasers into their new homes would have a domino effect as it would then free up more tenancies. Councillor Clear expressed disappointment with the LDA's delivery of housing.

Ms. M. O'Dwyer advised that she would bring their comments back to the Affordable Housing Team.

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

NS22/0926

St. Ita's Place Estate, Naas

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

Can the council outline the current position on both the houses and residents of St. Ita's Place Estate in Naas and clarify the role and responsibility of the housing body?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the housing body will be contacting tenants about their housing options and possible transfer to alternative accommodation. The housing body is responsible for the maintenance of the properties until all tenants are transferred.

Councillor Dunne informed the members that winter was coming and that tenants had been living in dreadful conditions for far too long. They were wary of investing any money into improving their homes as they had consistently been told that the transfer was imminent.

The report was noted.



NS23/0926

St. David's Castle, Naas

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

Can the council confirm the current position regarding St David's Castle in Naas, and when can the elected members expect to see a clear plan for its future use and development?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team informing the members that tender documents will be prepared in the coming weeks to procure a consultant to develop a feasibility study for St. David's Castle. This is a specialist project with conservation at the heart of the project requirements. As previously reported to the Naas Municipal District, the completion of the study will help identify a pathway for the future use and development of the site.

Councillor Breen noted that bollards at the site had fallen into the road.

The report was noted.

NS24/0926

Feasibility Study on the Naas-Corbally Canal

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

That the council invites Waterways Ireland to share the cost in 2027 to carry out a Feasibility Study on the possible re-opening of the Naas-Corbally Canal, where the basic infrastructure and sustainable water feeder supplies are already in existence, as a 'returned to use waterway' for boating and water sports, in conjunction with its already approved future use as a walking-cycling Greenway, for the benefit of a future, 2040, Naas-Newbridge hinterland population of more than 120,000 people.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the intent of this motion is acknowledged, and the potential recreational, tourism and active travel benefits associated with the Naas-Corbally Canal corridor is noted. Unfortunately, it is not considered feasible at this time for the Planning Department to commit financial or staffing



resources towards the preparation of a further feasibility study for the reopening of the canal as a navigable waterway. The commencement of the Planning and Development Act 2024 has introduced significant new statutory plan-making requirements, including the review and preparation of a new County Development Plan and the integration of a wide range of statutory plans, strategies and policy frameworks into a single coordinated planning framework. These requirements place substantial demands on existing Forward Planning resources and are currently the focus of the Department's work programme.

In addition, the new legislation requires the preparation of an Integrated Overall Strategy and alignment with National Planning Statements, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, climate action requirements, infrastructure planning, settlement plans and other statutory planning obligations as part of the County Development Plan review process. Given the scale and complexity of these statutory obligations, together with the programme of Development Plan reviews, settlement plans and related variations currently underway, the Planning Department does not have the capacity or resources to undertake or co-fund an additional feasibility study of this nature at present.

Notwithstanding the above, should Waterways Ireland wish to independently examine the long-term potential of the Naas-Corbally Canal corridor, Kildare County Council would be willing to engage and provide planning policy input as appropriate where existing resources allow.

Councillor Moore requested the support of the members in writing to Waterways Ireland and that the council's reports on the preferred strategy for the re-opening of the canal be forwarded to them. The canal consisted of 8 ½ km of water with no locks and was ideal for water sports.

Councillor Brett offered his support, noting that this was an untapped resource and that there had been a commitment from data centre developers to invest money into developing this area.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by all members that the report be sent to Waterways Ireland and that the report be noted.



NS25/0926

“P Data Centre” Zoning in the Naas Local Area Plan

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

That the council considers commencing the statutory process to vary the Naas Local Area Plan, with a view to reviewing the existing “P Data Centre” zoning designation on lands at Jigginstown/Maudlins, Naas.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Clear and seconded by Councillor Dunne.

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the current Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027 was adopted on 21 October 2021, following a very comprehensive public consultation process and was supported by a wide-ranging evidence base. The plan came into effect on 01 December 2021.

The existing “P Data Centre” zoning designation on lands at Jigginstown/Maudlins, Naas in the Naas Local Area Plan was considered as part of the statutory process to prepare the Local Area Plan and reflects the strategic planning framework for the town, including the need to provide for a range of employment-generating land uses and maintain a balanced approach to economic development.

The lands at Jigginstown/Maudlins occupy a strategically important location within the economic development structure of Naas and form part of the overall supply of lands available to support investment, employment creation and economic growth. The retention of a range of employment zoning objectives, including those facilitating data centre development, contributes to the flexibility and resilience of the local economy and ensures that Naas can respond to evolving investment opportunities.

Any proposal to alter an established zoning objective should be informed by a comprehensive evidence base, including an assessment of land use requirements, economic development needs, infrastructure capacity, energy considerations, environmental impacts, consistency with regional and national planning policy, and the potential implications for the overall settlement strategy for Naas. Such analysis has not been undertaken to date and there is currently no planning evidence demonstrating that the



existing zoning objective is no longer appropriate. In the absence of a robust planning justification demonstrating a material change in circumstances since the adoption of the Naas Local Area Plan, it is considered that the existing zoning remains appropriate and that an amendment of the Plan is not warranted at this time.

Councillor Clear thanked the Kildare Data Centre Awareness Campaign, who had held a public meeting on this matter the week before. He had previously held a benign view of data centres, but this had changed after seeing the significant odour and noise emissions from the data centre in Clondalkin.

Councillor Breen supported the motion, noting concerns surrounding excessive water and electricity usage potentially causing an increase in household energy costs and undermining the council's climate goals. Councillor Dunne also supported the motion, citing reports that noise could travel up to 2 km and the impact this would have on local residents.

Councillor Brett noted the following:

- There had been very little objection to “P Data Centre” zoning when the current Naas Local Area Plan had been adopted.
- Diligence surrounding water and electricity usage had been done at the time.
- This was slightly premature and should be dealt with after a planning application had been submitted.
- The best way forward would be to allow the process to go to An Coimisiún Pleanála.
- This was a sizable proposal and it would cause serious disruption if planning permission was not granted as Microsoft was a huge employer.

The District Manager advised the members that this motion could not be considered at municipal district level, reiterating that the situation had not changed since the adoption of the Naas Local Area Plan.

Councillor Clear requested the support of the members to refer this motion to Full Council. This was agreed by all members present.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Dunne and agreed by all members that the motion be referred to Full Council and that the report be noted.

NS26/0926

Remains Located at Gallows Glen, Naas

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

Can the council provide an update on the results of the examination of the remains of almost 200 skeletons, that were removed to a Cork laboratory after being located at Gallows Glen in Naas earlier this year and advise if there are any plans to have the skeleton remains returned to Naas and buried with dignity and respect in a Communal Grave in the local cemetery?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the excavation referenced above was carried out under the supervision of the National Monuments Service (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage). As such any analysis and/ or arrangements for interment/ burial is a matter for the appropriate Department Officials.

Councillor Moore informed the members of the following:

- The 1798 Rebellion had essentially started in Naas and, after it failed, many of those involved had disappeared.
- There were indications that bodies had been dumped on some occasions and that some had their hands tied behind their backs.
- They deserved to be buried with respect.
- A location had been identified in St. Corban's Cemetery.

The report was noted.

NS27/0926

Heritage Week Programme of Events

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

In the light of the recent Heritage Week and the publishing of a beautiful Kildare County Council booklet on almost 100 events to which the public were invited, wherein the historic



Naas Town had only two single person events listed, can it be explained how these events are selected and if historians, caretakers, curators, custodial groups or knowledge and informed people are invited to assist with a promotion attendance to explain the historic, natural and industrial heritage, cultural, social or landmark featured values of Naas Town? Or, is it left to local interest groups or individuals to offer themselves as organisers of a walking/visiting/ talking promotion of events in their areas or has this type of community involvement been abandoned in favour of the downloading of an Audio Guide?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that Heritage Week events are coordinated nationally by the Heritage Council, with the programme of events in County Kildare being compiled from submissions received from a wide range of organisers, including community groups, historical societies, voluntary organisations, local institutions, museums, individuals and local authority services through an online portal hosted by the Heritage Council (<https://www.heritageweek.ie/get-involved/organise-an-event>). The inclusion and geographical distribution of events within the Heritage Week programme is therefore largely dependent on the number and nature of event proposals submitted by local organisers. Kildare County Council does not select events for individual towns or limit participation in any area. Rather, all eligible events submitted through the Heritage Week process are promoted as part of the countywide programme. The Kildare County Council Heritage and Nature Team actively encourage participation from historians, custodians, heritage groups, cultural organisations, community associations and individuals with specialist knowledge of local history, archaeology, built heritage, industrial heritage, biodiversity and cultural traditions. Such contributions are an important part of Heritage Week and help to showcase the rich and diverse heritage of towns and villages throughout the county.

The Audio Guide initiative referred to is intended as an additional means of engaging people with local heritage and is not a replacement for guided walks, talks, exhibitions or other in-person heritage events. Community-led and expert-led heritage activities continue to form a central part of Heritage Week programming, and groups or individuals who wish to organise future events are encouraged and supported to do so through the national Heritage Week framework.



Councillor Moore remarked that this required a proactive manager approach and that Naas should endeavour to have 10 or 15 items for Heritage Week every year.

The report was noted.

NS28/0926

Residents' Association Grant Scheme

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

That the council's budget allocations for 2027 to Residents Associations (RAs) in Naas Municipal District be reviewed upwards to cater for

- a) cost inflation since last review,
- b) the increase in both the number of towns and villages within the municipal district and the number of Residents' Associations across the Naas area, all of which must now share the same overall annual funding allocation,
- c) the removal of support funding for residential project supports, environmental improvements, tree pruning, annual children's games-day, rubbish removal skips and insurance support.

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

A report was received from the Finance Department informing the members that the Residents' Association Grant Scheme operates within an annual budget approved by Elected Members and does not provide for automatic increases linked to inflation or the number of participating Residents' Associations. Any increase in the funding allocation for Residents' Associations would require consideration as part of the annual Council budget and municipal district draft budget process and would be considered in the context of overall resources available for 2027.

Additionally, an allocation from the Naas Municipal District retained LPT for 2027 could be used to supplement the Naas Municipal District residents' association grants for 2027.



The Residents' Association Grant Scheme is administered in accordance with the Kildare County Council Grants Schemes Policy and is specifically intended to support Residents' Associations with maintenance costs within their estates.

Therefore, regarding item c) of this motion, it should be noted that the Residents' Association Grant Scheme provides flexibility for residents' associations to undertake initiatives that contribute to the enhancement of their estates and the local environment. Accordingly, the council would support the use of grant funding for environmental improvement works within an estate, including tree pruning, where such works are aligned with the objectives of the scheme and comply with the relevant terms and conditions, however, no additional funding would be made available.

Regarding insurance costs, these are considered operational or running costs for a residents' association and, in accordance with Kildare County Council Grants Policy, operational expenditure is not eligible for funding. If insurance costs were to be deemed eligible in the overall Grant Policy, it would result in a massive reduction across all applications in the level of funding to actually implement maintenance, etc.

In respect of rubbish removal skips, as Kildare County Council facilitates the collection of waste arising from organised estate clean-up activities up to twice annually, at no cost to participating residents' associations, there is currently no requirement for grant funding for this purpose. Waste generated by individual households does not fall within the scope of these clean-up initiatives and remains the responsibility of individual residents.

The request for additional funding for Residents' Association Grants for 2027 is noted and will be considered in the context of competing priorities, increased costs and available resources in the preparation of Kildare County Council's 2027 Annual Revenue Budget.

Councillor Moore raised the following:

- The allocation of funding to residents' associations (RAs) had not increased since the addition of various towns and residential groups to the pot with the formation of the Naas Municipal District.
- Members were required to prop up RAs with LPT allocations.



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- With the expansion of Naas, it was important to keep up the standards of estates.
 - A recent decision at Full Council meant that Naas would be receiving less of the share of LPT.
 - RAs had seen a depletion in membership and contributions in recent years.
 - Could the council find a way to cover insurance costs for RAs that came under the Kildare Public Participation Network (PPN), similarly to the current arrangement with Tidy Towns organisations?

Ms. E. Hanlon advised that contributing to RAs was an appropriate use of the members' individual LPT, and that consideration would be given to this matter in the upcoming budget process. The insurance arrangement with Tidy Towns was a national scheme and she was unsure if this could be extended. She noted that the council was bearing the cost of this.

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

NS29/0926

Acquisition of Lands for Sporting Facilities

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear.
Given the extensive residential development planned across the Naas Municipal District over the coming years, and the requirement that 50% of development levies collected locally be spent within the area, has Kildare County Council developed a strategic plan to identify and purchase suitable lands for additional sporting facilities, including pitches and facilities for GAA, soccer, basketball, cricket, bowls, hockey and athletics, to ensure that sporting and community infrastructure keeps pace with population growth?

A report was received from the Strategic Property Management Department informing the members that The Development Contribution Scheme provides for the allocation of a proportion of development contributions towards Open Space, Recreation, Environment, Public Realm and Community Facilities within specific municipal districts (35%), together with an additional allocation for countywide projects.



While Kildare County Council does not currently have a standalone land acquisition strategy for sporting facilities, the need for additional recreational, amenity and community infrastructure is guided by the policies and objectives of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and its Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy, which seek to ensure that the provision of open space and recreational facilities keeps pace with population growth. The Active Recreation Infrastructure Audit prepared by the Land Activation Team sets out the high-level recreation needs in the main settlements up to 2040.

The council remains alert to opportunities to acquire strategically located lands for sporting, recreational and community purposes where these are consistent with identified needs, represent value for money and can support the long-term delivery of amenities for local communities.

Land acquisition is only one element of infrastructure delivery, with significant additional investment required for design, development and ongoing management. Consequently, development contributions are also required to support the delivery of existing and planned recreation and amenity projects on lands already in council ownership within the municipal district.

Recent amendments to the County Development Plan place increased emphasis on the provision of developer supported social and community infrastructure in tandem with new residential development, including through the planning and delivery of Key Development Areas that form a central part of recent Settlement Plan variations, ensuring that future growth is accompanied by appropriate supporting facilities.

Additionally, and outside of the statutory planning process, the Executive has continually highlighted, at national level the need for funding for social infrastructure to be delivered in tandem with this residential development.

Councillor Clear remarked that people were spending ferocious amounts of money for housing in the area and that the community infrastructure should reflect this.

The report was noted.



NS30/0926

Provision of CCTV at Dumping Blackspots

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

That the council agrees a funding stream with the Naas Municipal District elected members to provide multiple CCTV systems for use at dumping blackspots in the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Environmental Protection Department informing the members that There is no dedicated funding stream available for CCTV. A request was made to each municipal district at the beginning of the year for LPT funding. CCTV systems are being prioritised for the municipal districts with funding approval.

Applications for CCTV schemes may also be considered for funding under the Anti-Dumping Initiative through the Circular Economy Fund when applications reopen in 2027.

Any future deployment of CCTV within the municipal district will be subject to the completion of the required statutory processes (including the national guidelines and code of practice relating to the prevention, detection and prosecution of waste and litter offences using CCTV) and will be considered on a site-specific basis, having regard to proportionality, effectiveness and cost.

Councillor Brett raised the following:

- Thousands were spent on cleaning up illegal dumping.
- Recent occupants of a site in Sallins had left the place in a very bad state.
- The Data Protection Officer needed to be proactive in informing members what could be done, rather than simply identifying roadblocks.
- If the council identified funding, the members would match it.

The members raised the following:

- There was an absence of community CCTV.
- Could money be allocated in the budget for a mobile CCTV system that could be moved around to various problem areas?



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- What did reports from the trial period in Athy indicate?
 - Funding should only be allocated if prosecutions could be guaranteed.

Mr. M. Byrne informed the members of the following:

- Community CCTV was distinct from the CCTV piloted in Athy which specifically targeted litter.
- They had found the initiative to be very effective, with 90 fines having been issued.
- Funding had been provided by Athy and other municipal districts. Naas Municipal District had not allocated any funding.
- A live feed had been established at a bring bank in Athy the previous Friday, and they had already caught one perpetrator.
- If the members identified a funding stream and locations with a proven history of dumping, the Environmental Protection Department were happy to engage.
- Capturing vehicles on camera was the best, most robust means of identification.

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

The meeting concluded.