



**Minutes of Naas Municipal District Meeting  
held at 3.30 pm on Tuesday, 13 February 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), Ms P Pender (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Administrator), Ms J Fogarty (Meetings Secretary) and others.

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**NS01/0224**

**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.

**NS02/0224**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Naas Municipal District meeting held on 09 January together with the progress report.

Councillor Moore complimented the Housing Department on a recently circulated report and asked could it be reproduced on a quarterly basis.

Councillor Moore sought clarification on a report from the January meeting regarding the income from on-street parking where the income was given as 710k and expenditure of 409k, leaving a surplus off 300k.

Mr M McLoughlin advised he would investigate this and revert to the Councillor.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by members that the minutes of the monthly Naas Municipal District meeting held on 09 January be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.



**NS03/0224**

**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 will be 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:

- Johnstown (uncontrolled crossing) - Complete
- Gaelic View, Kill (footpath/ramps) - Complete
- Riverlawns, Kill (footpath) - Complete
- Rathasker Lane - Complete
- St Patricks Park, Kill - Complete
- Roselawn, Naas - Tender Stage
- Mountain View, Naas - Tender Stage

**LPT/Carparks Funded Works**

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

**Drainage**

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

**Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works**



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

Councillor Kelly asked when did the council hope to receive the allocation of funding from the Department of Transport?

Mr Reel advised that the council expected to receive the allocation by the end of the following week.

### NS04/0224

#### LPT 2023 allocations

The mayor informed the members that there were no allocations from the remaining 2023 LPT.

### NS05/0224

#### LPT Schedule of Works 2024

The members agreed the below items in relation to the Naas Municipal District Schedule of Works 2024 which included funds from LPT and pay parking.

<b>NAAS MD - LPT/CARPARKING FUNDED SCHEMES 2024 - List of Proposals</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Proposer</b>
Ballymore Rd to Ballycane - Raised Table Crossing	Footpath	Cllr. Bill Clear
Sallins Road - Raised Table Crossing	Footpath	Cllr. Bill Clear
Hillview	Road	Cllr. Carmel Kelly
Sallins Park to St. Brigids Tce.	Footpath	Cllr. Carmel Kelly



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Chapel Lane	Footpath	Cllr. Carmel Kelly
Johnstown Manor, Johnstown	Footpath	Cllr. Fintan Brett
Glendara, Kill	Footpath	Cllr. Fintan Brett
St Patricks Park, Kill	Road	Cllr. Fintan Brett
Kilheale to Glendara, Kill (PART)	Footpath	Cllr. Fintan Brett
Rathasker Heights, Naas	Road	Cllr. Anne Breen
Ashgrove, Naas	Entrance Road	Cllr. Anne Breen
Kerdiff Avenue, Naas	Footpaths	Cllr. Anne Breen
Traffic Calming - Ballymore Eustace	Raised Table/Traffic Calming	Cllr. Evie Sammon
Liffey Heights - Ballymore Eustace	Road/Footpath	Cllr. Evie Sammon
Gleann na greine	Footpath	Cllr. Bob Quinn
Poplar Square - Headons (PART)	Footpath	Cllr. Bob Quinn
Poplar Square - Lawlors (PART)	Footpath	Cllr. Bob Quinn
Lacken View	Footpath	Cllr. S Moore
Greenaun	Carparking	Cllr.S Moore

**NS06/0224**

### **A yellow box at Sallins Train Station**

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



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That the council install a yellow box at the entrance closest to the village, at Sallins Train Station.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Brett  
A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District Office will assess the provision of a yellow box junction at this location in line with the relevant technical guidance document.

The members made the following points:

- Members had met with Irish Rail who agreed with them that it was very difficult for the residents, some who were born in the Railway cottages, to get out of their houses.
- There were hundreds of cars entering and exiting there daily.
- There was a yellow box for 22 houses on the other side of the road.
- Pedestrians used this route to get to SuperValu, and that it was hazardous to walk this way.
- They requested this item remain on the Progress Report.

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

### NS07/0224

#### **Increase visibility for residents of the cottages**

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

That, in line with the works completed on the Railway Bridge in Sallins to increase visibility for the residents of the cottages on the Southern side of the bridge, the council do likewise for the residents and commuters on the station side of the bridge.

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



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A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that this location is not in the ownership of Kildare County Council. With the members agreement, the executive can write to Iarnród Éireann.

Councillor Breen and Councillor Kelly met with an engineer from Iarnród Éireann who advised that a piece of the wall will need to be removed to lower the section to improve the sightline. There appeared to be a query regarding ownership of the bridge as the engineer had thought the bridge was in the ownership of Kildare County Council.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Clear and agreed by the members that the report be noted and that a letter issue to Iarnród Éireann.

### NS08/0224

#### Craddockstown Road as a 'Quiet Road'

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Moore  
That the council select the Craddockstown Road as a 'Quiet Road' for Speed Reduction and future 'Amenity Walking' in the east and southeast quadrant of Naas, requiring future mobility movements of that area to be accessed from the Ballymore and Blessington Roads but retaining Craddockstown Road as the historical 'Walking Road' to the Punchestown Racing Festival and for the development of 'Walking Sunday Festival Events'.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that it is intended that the Craddockstown Road be trialled as a Quiet Road in 2024. Parks are currently carrying out something similar in Old Kilcullen and Public Realm have now formally opened a shared road along the Grand Canal at Ardclough to Ponsonby bridges (part of Grand Canal Greenway). This type of work will inform the Quiet Road proposal.

Councillor Moore stated that he was happy with the report. He said that this road fell between two other roads which could be used for vehicular access to Punchestown and that Craddockstown Road should be left as a quiet walking road.



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

### **NS09/0224**

#### **Park and Ride' facilities**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Moore  
Now that Minister Ryan has decreed that the Naas Transport Mobility Programme was 'too ambitious' and his Pathfinder Funding Supports 'insufficient' due to 'unplanned high inflation costs' and he has proposed a longer programme time for objectives like the successful Kilcullen Road Scheme, that Naas municipal district members and Kildare County Council should take the 'elongated work sentence' as an opportunity to divert forward planning time from some road projects and into the provision of 'Park & Ride' facilities, to alleviate the problems that will arise with only serial plans in position to remove vehicles from the town centre but no alternative pre-planning into the provision of travel services or improved local vehicle movements that are not dependent on the Ministers goodwill or financial supports under his Pathfinder Programme.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that in the context of forward planning, Naas has an Area Based Transport Plan which has been incorporated into the Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027 which has a whole range of objectives for consideration and progressing. There are a number of projects that the Council is focused on at the moment in terms of delivery, one being the upgrade to Murtagh's corner. From a Planning perspective, there are a number of planning permissions close to the town centre, which may help determine how some of the parking is dealt with in the future.

Councillor Moore stated that with the loss of the Pathfinder funding the members needed to take some time and look around at the next jobs. He suggested having 5 or 6 done before 2025. He said that it was essential that a Park and Ride facility system be introduced and suggested Naas Racecourse as a location for one with a possible bus link to the town.



Councillor Quinn stated that members agreed the removal of Pathfinder was disappointing, but he disagreed that it had been too ambitious. He said in relation to parking in Naas there was ample parking with 600 council spaces in the town. He said a conversation was needed on how to get people to come into the town.

Councillor Sammon stated that the removal of parking on the weekend was a great idea, but they needed to be realistic, it was not ideal for weekdays.

Councillor Moore thanked S Deegan for the report but said there was no mention of any details of forthcoming projects. He advised that many of the car parking spaces currently available were on temporary development sites and said they needed to find a system to bring people in and out of the town.

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

### **NS10/0224**

#### **Costings of pedestrian crossings**

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

That the council commence design and costings of pedestrian crossings from Barker and Jones to Permanent TSB and Lawlors Hotel to Chapel Lane as safe walking routes, now that the pathfinder project has been withdrawn by the Minister of Transport.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that there are no resources (staff or funding) to prepare a redesign of the Sallins Road/North Main Street Junction and to progress the design and installation of an additional crossing at Chapel Lane. These initiatives were due to be delivered as part of the Pathfinder Project.

The members made the following points:

- The report was disappointing as there was a need to prioritise active travel.





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- The proposed pedestrian crossing from Barker and Jones to Permanent TSB should have been done years ago.
- The members had been shown drawings previously with pedestrian crossings shown on them.
- Had the topographical study been completed and, if so, could the drawings originally shown not be used now.
- Fairgreen had received a massive facelift and now Poplar Square was like the poor relation which was underutilised but it could be significantly uplifted
- How could a coherent plan be put together if smaller adhoc projects could not be done.
- Disagreed that Poplar Square was underutilised but it did require finishing.
- There was expectation that LPT would be used to provide local improvements
- Members needed to come together to deliver projects.
- The members had voted for the Poplar Square project in good faith.
- This Item to be put on the Progress Report

Councillor Moore stated that LPT should not be used to fund Capital Projects and he asked had the Minister responded to the council's letter regarding Pathfinder?

The Mayor informed Councillor Moore that the Minister acknowledged the correspondence but no meeting had been organised.

Mr M McLoughlin advised the members he would work with Mr D Hodgins in prioritising projects to get them finished.

The members requested this item remain on the Progress Report.

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

### NS11/0224

#### One way system for Basin Street

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



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That the council commence a one-way system for Basin Street, Naas with a footpath on one side as this area is a significant pinch point and hazard for pedestrians particularly children walking to school.

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 there are plans to close the junction of Basin Street and Abbey Street and these will be included in the proposed Part 8 public consultation drawings for the Naas-Sallins Greenway Scheme. The plans will compliment any proposed urban realm enhancements to Basin Street and the Harbour Area.

The councillors made the following points:

- Could a Section 38 be used here
- The footpaths there were not fit for purpose.
- Capacity issue was a concern.
- Members were still waiting for the Section 38 on Johns Lane
- The Court Service was also an issue, a cohesive plan was needed.
- If it was made a one-way system, would it tie in with the Sallins Greenway?

Mr M McLoughlin advised the members that he would bring their comments back to the active travel team.

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

### NS12/0224

#### Car park signage in Naas

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

That the council take immediate action to significantly improve car park signage in Naas. The new signage should confirm on approach roads, locations of public and private car parks, and the number of available spaces in the town.



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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that since the issue of the provision of variable message signage (VMS) and tactical signs for car parks in Naas was discussed in December 2021, no capital funding has been identified to implement this technology.

The revenue budget for the maintenance of existing Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) including traffic signals is insufficient to cover the scope of the contracts for existing infrastructure and therefore the provision of new additional technology is not anticipated in the short term.

Councillor Quinn stated that there was significant parking in Naas, however if people tried to use google maps for information regarding locations it was not there. He suggested a mobile phone app such as Parkopedia.ie would be a simple and cost-effective solution.

Councillor Sammon stated that she brought this motion to the council in 2021 and was advised that the cost would be in excess of 1 million and there was no budget for it. At the time a discussion had taken place regarding using the Apcoa app to locate car parks but this had not progressed. All car parks in the town were situated behind the Main Street and visitors to the town had great difficulty locating them. She stated that she would not agree to the removal of any more spaces without VMS or a park and ride facility.

Councillor Brett said there was no doubt better signage was needed and suggested that the private carparks could contribute to the cost of it.

Mr M McLoughlin advised the members that the department would explore a technology solution and come back to them.

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

**NS13/0224**

**Install a footpath**



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The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Brett  
That the council install a footpath from the Kilheale Estate to the Glendara Estate, Kill  
entrance.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District office will review this request. Please note that the provision of this footpath will be dependent on funding being made available.

Councillor Brett stated that Kilheale is the largest estate in Kill with over 300 homes. He said installing this footpath would make it safer for children to cross to the school. He said permeability routes need to be looked at.

Councillor Clear stated that Cavan Development should install the footpath as it was a perfect permeability route.

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

### NS14/0224

#### Disabled parking bay

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Brett  
That the council install a disabled parking bay in Johnstown Village.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that subject to the agreement of the members, the Transport Department will initiate a Section 38 process at an appropriate location.

Councillor Brett stated that the disabled bay at the back of the shop was not useful as the area was used for deliveries and that it needed to be on the main street.



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

### **NS15/0224**

#### **Signage in Sallins for Car Parking**

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

Can the council confirm if there are plans to install signage in the centre of Sallins Village indicating the location of the two car parks?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that there are no plans at present to install signage in the centre of Sallins Village indicating the location of the two car parks, however this can be reviewed.

Councillor Kelly stated that the Greenway was a huge success, but people were not aware of the locations of car parks, so a review was needed as soon as possible with possibly the addition of finger post signs.

The report was noted.

### **NS16/0224**

#### **Rathasker Road one-way system**

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to reverse the decision to make the Rathasker Road a one-way system?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that there are no plans at present to review the one-way system.

Councillor Kelly stated that the residents had requested that the decision to move to a one-way system be reversed.

The report was noted.

### **NS17/0224**

#### **Remove four parking spaces**

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



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Can the council outline the mechanism required to remove four parking spaces at the front gate of St Corban's NS and at the side of SuperValu, in the interest of children safely traveling to and from school every day?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the removal of parking spaces can be carried out by a suspension of the pay-parking byelaws at this location which requires the approval of the members by resolution. There is a revenue cost implication in respect of this action. This can be made permanent as part of the next review of the parking byelaws.

Councillor Quinn stated that the principal of the school would like to see four spaces removed and asked could standing orders be suspended to discuss a suspension of pay parking bye-laws to remove the four spaces temporarily.

The Mayor informed Councillor Quinn that standing orders could not be suspended and that he would need to resubmit his request as a motion.

The report was noted.

### **NS18/0224**

#### **Cycle lanes on the Dublin Road**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Brett  
Can the council provide an update on the provision of cycle lanes on the Dublin Road, Naas.  
A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the detailed design for the Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme is nearing completion and will await funding from the National Transport Authority to fund the construction of the scheme as part of the Active Travel Funding Allocation for 2024.  
The report was noted.

### **NS19/0224**

#### **Tree's at Maudlins Avenue and St Martins Avenue pruned**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Quinn  
Can the council confirm a precise date for when the mature trees on both Maudlin's Avenue and St Martin's Avenue, Naas will be pruned?  
A report was received from Mr. S Wallace, A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer



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informing the members that the trees on Maudlins Avenue will be pruned in the next 4-6 weeks. This will also involve the removal of a number of trees which are shading light standards. No works are proposed in St Martins Avenue as it is considered the trees do not require pruning.

Councillor Quinn stated that the timeline the members were previously given had passed. Mr S Wallace advised the members that the programme takes time, and the contractor was onsite, and the estimate time was 4 – 6 weeks.

The report was noted.

### **NS20/0224**

#### **Sallins Health Check**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear  
Can the council confirm the status on the Sallins Health Check, a project which will outline a blueprint of how Sallins will look going into the future and outline when it will be presented to the members and the public.

A report was received from the Public Realm Section informing the members that the Sallins Town Renewal Plan is undergoing a review considering the projects delivered and proposals out on public consultation. The pedestrian bridge has now been installed on the Greenway for example. The Part 8 proposal for the Grand Canal Greenway Phase 1 and 2 is currently on display, with public consultation closing on February 22. SEA/AA screening is also underway. Once the screening process is completed and the project proposals are ready for inclusion in the document a draft will be presented to Management Team and the elected representatives in advance of publication. The document is a conceptual document, with the projects identified possibly requiring further planning consents, design and publication consultation before progressing. It is not a statutory document, however planning applications received and projects to be undertaken in Sallins will be cognisant of the proposals and recommendations included in the Town Renewal Plan.

Councillor Clear asked was there a timeframe for when the review would be done.

Ms P Pender advised that it will be carried out in the next 4-6 weeks.

The report was noted.

### **NS21/0224**



**Vacant property refurbishment grants**

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

Can the council confirm how many vacant property refurbishment grants were approved in the Naas Municipal District last year?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that:

- There were 2 vacant property refurbishment grants approved in 2022.
- There were 22 vacant property refurbishment grants approved in 2023.

From which 3 payments have been made to applicants for properties in the Naas Municipal District to date.

Councillor Sammon stated that Kildare County Council have had the most grant payments of any Local Authority and this was great to see.

The report was noted.

**NS22/0224**

**Letter to Bishop Nulty**

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

That the members agree that a letter issue to Bishop Nulty offering their encouragement and support in favour of the consultation to migrate from single sex schools to co-ed schools for both St Corban's NS and Mercy Convent. The support is offered from a climate action perspective, as going co-ed will eliminate a lot of unnecessary journeys for many parents with children in both schools, making our streets safer, less polluted, and quieter every morning.

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

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that if they agree the administrator will issue a letter to Bishop Nulty.

Councillor Quinn made the following points:

- There were unnecessary journeys being made and this was about meeting climate change targets.





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- Consultations had been had about removing carbon emissions, this would encourage fewer cars.
- There was merit in migrating to Co Ed schools for Climate Action. It was happening throughout the country and there was no reasonable policy to preclude the migration.

Councillor Moore said that it was wishful thinking and suggested that it be left between the Bishop and legal representation to sort out.

The members put the motion to a vote with 4 members voting for the motion, 1 member abstaining and 1 member voting against the motion.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Brett and agreed by the members that the Meetings Administrator issue a letter to Bishop Nulty and that the report be noted.

### **NS23/0224**

#### **Master Plan for the McInerneys Lands**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Moore  
Can the council consider initiating a Master Plan for the future use of the Lands previously known as 'McInerneys' that will include facilities for local community groups in need of base activity centres and appropriate accommodation?

A report was received by the District Manager informing the members that the Council will consider initiating a Master Plan for the future use of the McInerney Site once the lands have fully transferred over to Kildare County Council. It is likely that this will be initiated as part of the Masterplan for Old Town Demense. The masterplan is expected to follow the Conservation Management Plan in Q1, 2025.

The report was noted.

### **NS24/0224**

#### **Provision of a PPSN**

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



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Can the council confirm if the provision of a PPSN is a requirement to check or join the electoral register.

A report was received by Corporate Services informing the members that the provision of a PPSN is not a requirement to check or join the electoral register. In instances where a person wishes to join the register but not provide their PPSN, they should attend their local garda station or local authority with photo ID and complete an ERF1 form. Once identity is confirmed and the form witnessed and stamped it can be processed by the local authority. ERF1 forms can be downloaded at [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) or requested from the Register Of Electors team within Kildare County Council.

When a person is checking their registration on [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie), they will need their Eircode or street name/townland, first and last name. The same information is required if a person is contacting the Register of Electors team to check their registration.

Mr B McGrath informed the members that there was a new polling station in Holy Child School Ballycane and the polling station that was previously in Kill GAA had now been moved to Scoil Bhríde in Kill.

The report was noted.

### **NS25/0224**

#### **Process for being removed from the electoral register**

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

Can the council clarify the process for someone being removed from the electoral register.

A report was received by Corporate Services informing the members that the process to remove someone from the Register of Electors is set out in the Electoral Reform Act 2022.

Where a person, on inspecting the register of electors has on reasonable grounds, formed an opinion that information in the register or an entry in the register relating to details of an elector is or are inaccurate, the person may submit a third-party claim to the registration authority by completing a TCP 1 form. The registration authority will seek to substantiate the claim by writing out to the elector to be removed on three separate occasions.

An elector themselves can look to be removed from the register in writing. Kildare County Council will then establish the bona fides of the request and remove them accordingly.



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Where an elector is moving address, the process will involve removing them from the register at their old address.

The report was noted.

### **NS26/0224**

#### **Number of applications for the Commercial Rates Incentive**

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

That the council outline the number of applications for the Commercial Rates Incentive Scheme for 2023 in this municipal district and the number of those applications which were successful.

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

A report was received from the A/Head of Finance informing the members that the Commercial Rates Incentive Grant (for customers moving into properties vacant for more than two years) consists of a rates-based payment across three years - 75% of rates charge in year one, 50% in year two and 25% in year three.

Once approved, the grants are paid after the rates bill for that year has been paid. Since the commencement of the Commercial Rates Incentive Grant Scheme in 2021, a total of 23 applications have been received.

- Six have been refused/ withdrawn.
- Year one payments have issued for four grants.
- Six applications are in progress (awaiting further information)
- Two applications were received during 2023.
- Three applications will commence year one payments in 2024.
- Two applications have been received in 2024 and are undergoing validation.

Councillor Sammon stated that people would be more incentivised if there was a rates waiver. She said an overhaul was needed on how the council dealt with the incentive.



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Councillor Clear stated that a half a dozen businesses had closed since December. He said they were at a critical point with businesses that could not trade for much longer and requested a timeline for the application process.

Councillor Sammon advised that she would circulate a copy of the schemes to all the members.

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

### **NS27/0224**

#### **Primrose Gardens**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Moore  
Can the council confirm what determinations have now been made with regards to the outstanding works in Primrose Gardens, Naas?

A report was received by the Building and Development Control Department informing the members that an unauthorised development notification has been served on the developer of Primrose Gardens and the legal process is on-going. We are not able to discuss any details of this action in a public forum as this could be prejudicial to the legal case.

Councillor Moore advised that he accepted the sensitivity and that the details could not be discussed in a public forum but requested that the members be updated on the situation by email or other method so they knew what was happening.

The report was noted.

### **NS28/0224**

#### **Community facilities in Kill Village**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear  
Can the council confirm what plans are in place or to be put in place to facilitate greater community facilities now that Kill Village has reached a population of four thousand people,



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including but not limited to, extra school places, doctors' surgeries, crèche places, a community centre and parks?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the Volume 2 of the Kildare County Development Plan (KCDP 2023-2029 sets out a settlement plan including a series of specific policies, objectives and actions for the town of Kill. While Kildare County Council is not the responsible agency for the provision of school places, doctor's surgeries etc, Section 2.4 of Volume 2 includes an assessment of the provision of social infrastructure within the town and notes that the school had capacity within the current facility.

The Members were advised throughout the development plan process that a land use plan was limited in terms of the budgetary/financial provisions related to the delivery of facilities, however, does include standards and phasing "triggers" for the delivery of same in tandem with new developments.

The KCDP sets out clear policy and standards associated with the delivery of both childcare and recreation amenity facilities within developments in Chapter 15 *Development Management Standards* which was adopted by the Elected members on the 9 of December 2022 and came in to effect on the 28 of January 2023. The Plan has been informed by a series of guidelines issued by the Minister under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). The Section 28 Guidelines relating to Childcare Facilities require 1 childcare facility for 20 children for every 75 housing units. The Plan is required to comply with the requirements of the Ministerial Guidelines issued under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

The following policies and objectives are of note with respect to the provision of community, childcare and amenity facilities.

SC O15 of the CDP requires that community facilities are provided on a phased basis in tandem with the provision of new housing or other large-scale developments. In cases where there is a deficiency of a certain type of infrastructure as part of the development proposal, the frontloading of such infrastructure will be required as part of the first phase of development and must be fully operational prior to the occupation of any residential unit on the subject site. Such deficiencies should be identified in the Social Infrastructure Audit



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prepared by the applicant to accompany the planning application. Where the Planning Authority is not satisfied with the information supplied as part of the Social Infrastructure Audit or where inadequate measures are proposed to address any identified shortfalls in social infrastructure as part of a proposed development scheme, a planning application for new housing developments or large-scale developments may not be favourably considered.

Related to the above, SC O16 requires applicants for residential schemes of 20 units or greater to submit a Social Infrastructure Audit which shall determine how the capacity of the assessed infrastructure will be affected by the proposed increase in population. Where a deficit is identified, the developer will be required to make provisions/submit proposals to address such deficits.

SC O17 also requires that social infrastructure audits submitted in accordance with SC O15 of this Plan include:

- (a) a map of educational, community, childcare, healthcare, sporting, and open space/play facilities within a 10-15 minute (800-1200 metre radius) walk of the proposed development. SC O17 also requires that the audit should identify public/non-fee paying and private/fee paying facilities and highlights. Such audits may consider, where appropriate, services which are accessed by car. Capacities must be confirmed with supporting documentation submitted from service providers in order to verify the assessment as set out in the audit.
- (b) Include an assessment of the availability of or the provision of a new neighbourhood centre.

Section 15.5.2 *Childcare Facilities* of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029, outlines that as part of the undertaking of a Social Infrastructure Audits, for developments proposals (residential and/or commercial), the onus shall be on the developer to demonstrate that there are adequate childcare facilities to cater for the proposed development.

In doing so the developer must clearly outline:

- on a map, the location of each childcare facility relative to the proposed development



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- the total number of childcare spaces on offer at the subject childcare facility with a clear breakdown of the various types of childcare that are available in each identified facility and
- details of any remaining capacity in each facility. This information must be supported, in writing, by each of the childcare facilities identified in (i) above and must be confirmed by the Kildare County Childcare Committee.

Where it is demonstrated that there are inadequate childcare facilities to cater for the proposed development, developers must incorporate a childcare facility as part of the overall development proposal, in line with the Childcare Guidelines (or any subsequent revisions to same). The County Development Plan also requires that childcare facilities are provided in large-scale employment centres with an excess of 100 employees.

With regard to recreation amenity facilities within developments Section 15.6.6 *Public Open Space for Residential Development* of the KCDP identifies that the provision of accessible open space is a key part of high-quality green infrastructure for communities.

The CDP states that public open space must be carefully designed as an integral part of the layout of all residential schemes/mixed schemes from the outset, being addressed at the initial design stages.

The report was noted.

### **NS29/0224**

#### **Bottle Banks**

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

That the council secure a permanent location for the bottle banks that have been removed from the Ballymore Eustace Road.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the recycling banks at Fairgreen were removed to enable the Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme and associated public plaza area to be constructed.



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The banks are currently stored and can be reinstatement to an alternative location, once this has been identified.

The members made the following points:

- The location needed to be somewhere accessible by car and where there was suitable access.
- Both Millenium Park and Naas Retail Park had CCTV.
- Could Fairgreen car park be trailled as a new location but without the clothes bank.
- The bottle banks needed to be relocated to an existing bottle bank location and it was pointless looking elsewhere.

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

The meeting concluded.