

Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Meeting
Held on Wednesday, 16 September 2015 at 10.00 a.m.
in Áras Chill Dara, Naas

Members Present: Councillor P. Kennedy (Mayor), Councillors W Crowley, S Doyle, M Lynch, F McLoughlin-Healy, F O' Loughlin, J Pender, S Power, M Stafford

Also Present: Mr.T McDonnell (District Manager), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officers), Mr B Keaney (Senior Executive Planner), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms B Loughlin (Heritage Officer), Mr D McNulty (Municipal District Engineer), Mr. JP Holligan, Ms V Cooke and Ms M McCarthy (Administrative Officers), Mr G Duff (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms A Aspell (Meetings Administrator) and Ms AM Gough (Meetings Secretary).

KN01/1509

Minutes and Progress Report

The committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2015, annual meeting of 15 July 2015 and joint special meeting of 27 July 2015, together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Stafford, that the minutes be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

Matters Arising

Taking in charge process for Orchard Park, The Curragh

Councillor Pender queried if the roads could be taken in charge separate to the water if the issue regarding the water was not resolved. Mr Kavanagh stated that the preferred option was to take everything in charge at the same time but he would check it out and revert back to the members.

Resolved: Mr Kavanagh to report back to the members if the roads in Orchard Park, The Curragh can be taken in charge separate to the water.

KN02/1509

Kildare Childrens' and Young Peoples' Services Committee Presentation

The members welcomed Ms Emma Berney Co-ordinator, Ms Jacinta Carey and Ms Jean Rafter, Committee Members of the Kildare Childrens' and Young Peoples' Services who gave a presentation on their plans and aspirations for the coming years. They requested feedback from the councillors to identify issues and looked for their support to achieve the goals that they have set for themselves.

Following questions from the members, the Mayor, thanked them for their presentation and wished them well with their plans. Each member was given a copy of the presentation and a summary of their report for 2015-2017 and the deputation withdrew from the meeting.

KN03/1509

Date for the draft budgetary plan

Resolved with the agreement of the members, that the Kildare-Newbridge draft budgetary plan meeting take place at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 October 2015.

KN04/1509

Downsizing Incentive Scheme

The committee considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle
That this council consider the promotion of voluntary downsizing to current local authority tenants who are currently over accommodated, through incentive schemes, and outlining economies of smaller suitable units.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Pender.

A report from the housing department was circulated to the members advising that the use of downsizing incentive schemes are widely used in the United Kingdom. They are used for council tenants who are living in accommodation suitable for families, have one or more bedrooms that they no longer need and are interested in downsizing or ending their tenancy. Tenants have the option of transferring to another social housing property or moving to the private sector. A financial incentive, which can vary in amount depending on the size of the dwelling that is being downsized is offered and in cases where tenants are in arrears is used to offset those arrears. Cork City Council have also developed a policy, The Downsizing Scheme for the Elderly, where persons over the age of 60 who own their own home, and who find their dwellings too large for their needs, may request the Council to purchase their

home in return for a life long tenancy in a senior citizen dwelling. Cork City Council's downsizing scheme for the elderly is also available for tenants of the Council who are over 60. The scheme aims to facilitate elderly tenants who wish to move to specialised accommodation for the elderly.

If the Councillors consider progressing either of these models of incentives, consideration would need to be given to the level of financial incentive being offered, the availability of suitable units to downsize to and the maintenance costs associated with bringing both the downsized property and the larger property up to current standards. There are also resource issues that would need to be addressed prior to commencing such a scheme.

Councillor Doyle stated if the housing department circulated a brochure to their tenants stating that downsizing is available that it might be beneficial

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by the members that the motion be carried

KN05/1509

St. Patrick's Park, Rathangan

The committee considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Lynch

That in light of the housing crises this council considers scaling back the demolition project in St. Patrick's Park, Rathangan and re-inhabit homes with families as soon as possible. We ask that this is done in conjunction with the new build of council homes and continue to seek the funding for same, however ask the relevant Government department if this funding can be used to bring empty homes up to a liveable standard as opposed to total demolition and that this is done as a priority.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by the members that Councillor Lynch submit an amended motion and the matter be adjourned to the October meeting.

KN06/1509

Use of properties in the Curragh Camp for Social Housing

The committee considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender

Can we have an update on previous calls to explore the possible use of empty properties in the Curragh Camp for social housing provision?

The members considered a report from the housing department consisting of a response received from the Department of Defence to the members on the ministers policy in relation to married quarters at the Curragh Camp.

Councillor Pender stated that this was an ongoing issue and the same response keeps coming back. She stated that the houses that were assessed were 100 years old the others are only half that. She stated that action needed to be taken with the amount of people on the housing list. Mr McDonnell stated that he had attended the Curragh and as far as he was aware the department of defence has plans for the land.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

KN07/1509

Newbridge Town Hall

The committee considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin-Healy

Can the council give a breakdown of the entire funding of the town hall works and where it has come from, including the reasons for the recent increased budget requirement, bringing the previous €400,000 budgeted for completion of the town hall (excepting exterior works) to €645,000, i.e. an extra €220,000?

Mr McDonnell informed the members that the funding came from Newbridge Town Council and Kildare County Council and there had been two contracts so far one for the roof and the second one that is ongoing for the interior. Councillor McLoughlin-Healy stated that she was planning a Christmas market in the town hall and has only now discovered that the two contracts already funded will not cover the seating. Councillor McLoughlin-Healy stated that she wanted a full breakdown of all the costs and funding for the Town Hall not just the seating

Resolved: that a report be prepared on how much the seating would cost for the town hall and where would the funding be coming from.

KN08/1509

Schedule of municipal district works

The municipal district engineer advised the members of the projects that had been completed and gave an update on the projects that a contractor has been appointed to and which projects were going to tender.

A report from the Environment Department was circulated to the members advising that all Local Property Tax monies (Tidy Towns- Kildare Newbridge District)- €49,000 had now been paid in full to groups.

Councillor Crowley thanked the Municipal District Engineer for his report and requested that the report be issued before the meeting in the future. Councillor Doyle enquired as to why the works which are funded from pay parking income are not identified on the parking tickets as she suggested. In reply to a query from Councillor Stafford the Municipal District Engineer stated that there would be a rolling programme for sheep grids as agreed earlier in the year.

In reply to a query from Councillor McLoughlin-Healy the Municipal District Engineer stated that money allocated by central government carries restrictions requiring that it be spent within a prescribed period.

Councillor O'Loughlin stated that Allenwood National School had made a submission for the provision of full traffic lights. The Municipal District Engineer stated that he would be meeting with the school to discuss this issue.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

KN09/1509

Amendment No.1 to the Newbridge Local Area Plan 2013-2019

The members considered the Chief Executives Report which had been circulated, on submissions to the proposed amendment to the Newbridge Local Area Plan 2013-2019.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor O'Loughlin, seconded by Councillor Kennedy, that Amendment No. 1 to the Newbridge Local Area Plan 2013-2019 be made and agreed by the members of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting and all motions and question that had not been dealt with were adjourned to the next meeting.

The meeting concluded.