

**Minutes of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.15 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 July 2016
in the Council Chamber, Aras Chill Dara**

Members Present: Councillors P Kennedy (Mayor), M Aspell, S Doyle, M Lynch
M McCabe, J Pender, M Stafford, S Power.

Officials Present: Mr T Mc Donnell (District Manager), Ms B Rea (District Engineer), Mr D McNulty, (Project Manager, Capital Delivery Housing Programme)
Ms E Wright and Mr G Halton, (Senior Executive Officers), Mr S Wallace, (Senior Parks Superintendent), Mr J Doyle, Mr J.P. Holligan, Mr B O'Gorman, Mr Mark McLoughlin and Ms S Scully, (Administrative Officers), Ms M Dalton (Meetings Administrator) and Ms E Price (Meetings Secretary).

KN01/1607

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 15 June 2016 together with the progress report.

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

Councillor Kennedy sought permission from the Mayor and the members to change item number 42 to a motion and item number 12 to a question as these had been submitted in reverse order by mistake.

Resolved the members agreed item number 42 would be taken as a motion and item number 12 would be taken as a question.

Matters Arising

Lake behind Newbridge Family Resource Centre (KN20/1605)

In response to a query from Councillor Pender, it was confirmed that the meeting which has been arranged with the residents on Wednesday 27 July 2016 at 12.30 p.m. is a separate meeting from the normal 3 monthly residents meeting.

**Pedestrian Crossing at the Orchard Park, The Curragh (KN09/1602) &
Bus Shelter, Pedestrian Crossing and Footpath from Brownstown to The Curragh
(KN06/1604), (KN02/1605)**

Acknowledging the list circulated of proposed National Transportation (NTA) Projects by the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department, Councillor Pender asked when the meeting between the council, the National Transportation Authority (NTA) and a delegation of members as had been agreed at full council would take place.

Ms Wright said that the members would be advised when a date for the meeting has been agreed.

NTA Coca Cola Bike Scheme & Cycle Route

In response to a query from Councillor Lynch in relation to the proposed cycle route for the south of the county, Ms Wright advised the members that the roads department will confirm the exact location.

Councillor Lynch also asked for a copy of the letter that had issued to the National Transportation Authority (NTA) in relation to the Coca Cola Bike Scheme be circulated to the members.

Walkway at Moore Avenue (KN02/1603 & KN04/1604)

The members received a report from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising them that it is anticipated that following successful completion of the tendering process, the council will be in a position to commence works in September/October 2016 and the estimated construction time is 12-16 weeks.

Councillor Doyle thanked all involved in this project and acknowledged, in particular, the tenacity and persistence of the Moore Park Residents in resolving this issue.

Mortgage to Rent (MTR) (KN04/1606)

Councillor Pender accepted the progress report to the members in relation to the statistics on Mortgage to Rent (MTR), however, she clarified, that the members were seeking a briefing on the procedures involved in Mortgage to Rent (MTR). The District Manager advised he would arrange a briefing for the next municipal district meeting.

Roadworks at Train Station, Kildare Town (KN03/1605)

In response to a query from Councillor Doyle on the timeframe for works at the train station in Kildare, Ms Wright advised that tenders are due back on Friday.

KN02/1607

Schedule of Municipal District Works

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department on the schedule of municipal district works.

KN03/1607

Social Housing Project at Bishopsland, Kildare Town

The members received a briefing on the Social Housing Project for Bishopsland, Kildare Town from Mr McNulty. The report advised that the plan has been modified to include six 1 bed, six 2 bed, eighteen 3 bed and four purpose built 4 bed units. The members were advised that current timelines propose that the Part VIII design will be finalised this week, advertised by the end of July and submitted to the members for approval by the end of October, 2016. In the interim, the tendering process had commenced to shortlist contractors which it is hoped, could be appointed before the end of December 2016 with a possible start date in early 2017.

Councillor Doyle suggested that the Link Road should be named as soon as possible to avoid issues and also queried the heating system to be used in the units. Councillor Stafford asked if the green area on the plans will form part of the site and if the boundary between neighbouring areas would be solid.

In response Mr McNulty advised that the heating systems currently being considered are gas/air-to-water as a primary system and stove heating as a secondary system in each unit, whichever is most cost effective. The Project Manager also confirmed the green area in the plans will form part of the site and the boundary wall would be solid, as would each rear garden would have a 2 metre high back wall with side timber panelling.

KN04/1607

**Establishment of Representative Group for
Input on Design and Planning of New Builds**

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

In light of proposed capital investment in development of local authority housing in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District, that we establish a representative group of longstanding tenants of local authority housing in the municipal district area to seek inputs and recommendations on the design and planning of new local authority housing in the county and furthermore that we review the range of issues frequently raised in the up keep and maintenance of current stock and seek to implement design strategies that might mitigate against same.

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

A report was received from the Capital Housing Section advising the members that whilst it recognises the valid intention of the motion, it did not believe there is a need for such a group to be set up within the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District. The report advises that the development of any housing scheme involves a number of stages whereby the process itself takes on board consideration from various interest groups to ensure the best outcome can be achieved and that the Capital Housing Section believes the current level of consultation allows for the successful delivery of projects and any introduction of additional considerations may delay the delivery of projects without adding value to the end project.

Councillor Doyle said she believed the establishment or meeting of a group of existing local authority tenants would be extremely beneficial as they are the 'end' user of these units and they may provide practical insight to the design of any potential units. The District Manager suggested the County Development Plan might be more appropriate for this idea, however he advised that the Housing Officials would meet with Councillor Doyle to discuss further.

Resolved that the report be noted and a meeting be arranged with Councillor Doyle.

KN05/1607

Housing Needs Assessment

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

That the members of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District agree to refer the following motion to full council - That the members formally object in writing, to the direction from the

Minister in June to remove applicants who are in Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), on a transfer list or in receipt of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) from the housing needs assessment.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department advising the members that the Housing Needs Assessment determines whether a housing applicant is in need of housing at a point in time and if housing applicants are housed in either RAS properties or in properties with the assistance of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), then the person at that moment in time is deemed to be housed. The report also advised that the applicants remain on the transfer list and are still considered for social housing when vacancies occur. The report further advised that the council is obliged to carry out the assessment in accordance with the legislation, but if the members are in agreement the motion could be referred to full council.

A discussion ensued between the members and Councillor Pender expressed concerns that funding is allocated based on need and that the Housing Needs Assessment may only identify a net figure which may lead to reduced funding. The District Manager pointed out that the Housing Needs Assessment needs to be completed by 21 September 2016 which is in advance of the next full Council meeting but suggested the Housing Section could write to the Department on behalf of the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor Lynch that the report be noted and that a letter issue to the Minister on behalf of the members.

KN06/1607

Yellow Box at College Park/Station Road Junction, Newbridge

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

Can a full yellow box be positioned at the College Park/Station Road Junction to allow easier and safer movement of traffic? This is due to density of traffic especially during school term.

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department advising the members that the municipal district office will add this location to the list of road markings to be carried out in Newbridge.

KN07/1607

Mechanical Street Cleaning in Newbridge

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

Is it possible to increase the frequency of mechanical street cleaning in Newbridge in conjunction with more regular weed spraying with residual weed killers, in order to keep the town at its best at all times?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department advising the members that at present, the municipal district office has access to a mechanical street cleaner on Mondays and Thursdays weekly and that street cleaning is carried out from the Liffey Bridge through to Ballymany each Monday. The report also advised that there is one operative carrying out litter picking and street cleaning daily in Newbridge, and that bins are also emptied daily. The report further advised that other areas in the town and the remainder of the district are scheduled for cleaning on a rota basis thereafter. The municipal district office advised that in recent times, they have engaged a contractor to carry out path sweeping in the town on Saturday mornings also, particularly after festival events.

Noting the report Councillor McCabe asked if would be possible to look for a permanent cleaning crew. The district engineer said she would examine the issue.

KN08/1607

Seating for the Town Hall, Newbridge

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

That funding is found for seating for Newbridge Town Hall. Currently, groups who wish to use the venue, have to borrow chairs from surrounding towns to hold an event. There are specific interlocking chairs needed per Health and Safety requirements in order to use the venue and these are not readily available on loan.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McCabe and seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Senior Executive Architect advising them that an amount of €60,000 was included in the overall budget for furniture and fittings for the refurbishment and reuse of Newbridge Town Hall and that this funding is still available, however the report advised that suitable seating that complies with the requirement for loose seating in places of public assembly needs to be identified and procured and that there is a maximum occupancy capacity of 300 people permitted in the hall.

In response to queries from Councillors Aspell and Lynch on the use of other types of seating as a temporary measure, Mr Halton advised that Fire Regulations stipulate the use of a certain type of seating and that this type of seating was proving to be extremely costly and that the council or the management board could not compromise on this but they are looking to find a solution.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McCabe and seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted.

KN09/1607

Replacement Windows and Doors in Local Authority Houses & Rent Accruals

It was agreed by the members to take items 6 and 7 on the agenda in the name of Councillor Aspell as they are related.

Item 6 – Question – Councillor Aspell

Can we receive a report in relation to local authority housing in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area for the years 2013-2016 inclusive to include the following information; (a) the annual budget allocation for the replacement of windows and doors in council housing stock in the Kildare-Newbridge municipal district; (b) the number of housing units in the Kildare-Newbridge municipal district that have had the windows/doors upgraded in each of these years?

Item 7 – Question – Councillor Aspell

Can the members receive a report on the figure for rent accrued from local authority housing in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District for 2013-2016 inclusive?

A report was received from the Housing Department advising the members of the annual department budget allocation for county for the years 2013 to 2016. A further report was received from the Finance Department advising the members of the annual rent collections and arrears for the county from 2013 to 2016.

In response to query from Councillor Aspell as to why no monies were allocated for the replacement of windows and doors in 2013 and 2014, the District Manager advised that the members were responsible for determining the programme groups during the budget process each year.

KN10/1607

Anti-Social Behaviour Policy

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

Can the council outline its policy in relation to Anti Social Behaviour, the number of tenants that were evicted (in recent years) due to such behaviour and if some indication could be given as to the extent of the problem in the Kildare-Newbridge area?

A report was received from the Housing Department advising the members that the Anti Social Behaviour Policy was adopted by the members in 2010 and is currently under review by the Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). It is hoped a further update on this will issue to the members later in 2016. The report advised that over the last three years there were three voluntary surrenders where anti social tenants were in the process of being evicted for anti social behaviour. In addition to this there were five cases transferred to resolve issues in the interest of estate management and one excluding order preventing a visitor from entering one of the council's estates due to anti social behaviour. The report advised that the majority of the cases are generally minor in nature, e.g., neighbour disputes, breaches of tenancy agreements regarding the condition of the property etc. and that these matters are usually dealt with through either mediation in the cases of neighbourhood disputes or transfers. The report further advised the current procedures up to and including legal action to deal with anti social behaviour.

KN11/1607

NAMA Properties

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

Has the Council been offered any NAMA Properties in the Kildare-Newbridge municipal district area or if they have any interests i.e. Long Term Leases, Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) or Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) tenants in any of the NAMA properties in the area and if so are there any opportunities to secure possession of these properties?

A report was received from the Housing Department advising the members that NAMA units are sourced by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government and The Housing Agency. The report further advised that the council does not have specific details, locations or addresses of such properties and that a number of approved housing bodies are in the process of negotiating the purchase of completed and partially completed units.

In response to a query from Councillor Pender in relation to the possibility of the council buying units in a specific development, the District Manager advised that the council are only buying properties with vacant possession as this avoids taking over private tenancies. The District Manager also advised that the council does not compete against other bidders in order to avoid inflating prices.

KN12/1607

Safety Rails at Allenwood School

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

That the council replace the safety rails at the school in Allenwood that were taking out during roadworks and for this work to be carried out as a priority before the summer break is over.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the municipal district office will arrange for the barrier to be re-instated at Allenwood Boys School.

In response to a query from Councillor Aspell in relation to the timeline for the works, the District Engineer advised that the bollards have been in place for over two weeks.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted.

KN13/1607

Traffic Calming Measures at Dominic's Park, Newbridge

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

That the council implement traffic calming measures in Dominic's Park such as double yellow lines and signage to stop illegal parking in this area.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that Dominic's Park is within the enforcement area of Newbridge Pay Parking Bye-Laws, however a decision was taken to exclude this area from enforcement of the Bye-Laws for health and safety reasons and for the personal safety of the wardens. The

report further advised that following this, there have been a number of requests to enforce illegal parking in Dominic's Park and it was advised that enforcement of illegal parking applies to all motorists, including residents. The report advised the members that subject to agreement in writing from all residents, the council will enforce illegal parking in Dominic's Park and that the Roads Section is awaiting a signed agreement from the residents.

Councillor Aspell asked if bollards, speed ramps or signage could be placed in Dominic's Park to prevent or discourage illegal parking and double yellow lines which would entitle the Gardai to enforce illegal parking.

Councillor Stafford acknowledged that a survey is ongoing of estates currently experiencing similar problems with illegal parking.

In response to a query from Councillor Aspell, Mr Doyle advised that discretionary enforcement is not an option and any enforcement of pay parking would need to be subject to agreement of the residents.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted and the members be updated when the review of illegal parking in estates is complete.

KN14/1607

Car Parking at Ballymany, Newbridge

The members agreed to amend the following item to a question. The question was considered in the name of Councillor Kennedy.

Can this council look at ways to prevent car parking on the footpath at the restaurant at Ballymany cross placing bollards at that would cure the problem?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the placement of bollards may conflict with the proposed outdoor seating area to the left of the restaurant and the development of the cottage to the right. The report further advised that the municipal district office is available to meet and discuss the issue with Councillor Kennedy.

KN15/1607

Footpaths at Eleson House, Kilmeague

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

That an update be provided in relation to footpaths outside Eleson House, Kilmeague.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that as the works are of a specialist nature, the municipal district office has sourced suitable contractors, however, there are financial issues to be resolved.

Noting the report, Councillor Power said it would be helpful when members are considering motions such as this, that the costs involved are also outlined in the reports.

In response to a query from Councillor Stafford on the possibility of drawing funds from Heritage grants, the District Engineer advised she is exploring all avenues in relation to funding.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted.

KN16/1607

Traffic Calming at Bang Up Lane, Kildare

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

That the council install the appropriate traffic calming measures on Bang Up Lane, Kildare particularly at the junction between the lane and Bride Street.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor Kennedy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the municipal district office will examine the area and report back to Members at the next municipal district meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor Kennedy that the report be noted and the members be updated at the September municipal district meeting.

KN17/1607

Pedestrian Crossing at the Primary Care Centre, Kildare Town

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

That this council make contact with the Health Services Executive (HSE) and owners of the new primary care centre in Kildare Town to access the possibility of a pedestrian crossing at the site.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor Power

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the planned Traffic Management Study of Kildare Town, in addition to the future development of the former National Stud lands, will all contribute to an assessment of the existing road layout at Hospital Street, (R445). Road improvement works, including the requirement for pedestrian crossings will be identified as part of this study.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor Power that the report be noted and the requirement for a pedestrian crossing be reviewed in conjunction with the planned Traffic Management Study of Kildare Town.

KN18/1607

Cleaning Crew in Kildare Town

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

Can we have a report on feasibility of putting a Saturday cleaning crew into Kildare town?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that due to a shortage of resources, the municipal district office is not in a position to carry out street cleaning on a Saturday in Kildare Town.

Acknowledging the report, Councillor Doyle asked that the municipal district office consider this issue under the 2017 budget.

KN19/1607

Line Painting at the Junction of Cutlery Road and Edward Street, Newbridge

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

Can a white line be put in the middle of the road at the junction of Cutlery Road and Edward Street to help vehicles deciding to turn left or right?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the municipal district office will add this location to the list of road markings to be carried out in Newbridge.

In response to a query from Councillor Kennedy, the District Engineer advised a timeframe of approximately three weeks.

KN20/1607

Traffic Calming Measures at Dag Welds Cross.

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

In view of the number of motor accidents at Dag Welds Cross, can the council indicate what measures it might propose to reduce that number?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the requested reduction of the speed limit at this location will be included by the Roads Design Section in the upcoming countywide speed limit review. Subsequent progress of any works would be contingent on resources and the identification of a funding source.

Councillor Power noted the report and asked for a more detailed report on the type of works and costs that might be involved.

KN21/1607

Sight-Lines at Feighcullen Cross, Rathangan

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

Can the council conduct a review of the sight-lines at Feighcullen Cross, Rathangan and carry out the necessary works to improve road safety at this location?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the municipal district office will examine the junction and report back to Members at the next municipal district meeting.

Councillor Stafford clarified that the area in question is at Pluckerstown looking up towards Boston Hill, Rathangan.

KN22/1607

Warning Signage at School Bus Stop at Lullymore, Rathangan

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford.
Can the council erect the appropriate warning signage at suitable locations advising motorists of the presence of the school bus stop at Lullymore, Rathangan?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that the municipal district office will inspect the route during the school term and report back to Members in due course.

KN23/1607

Irish Prison Service – Cleaning of the Curragh Plains

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Lynch.
That we call on the Director General of the Irish Prison Service and the Minister for Justice to make available low level prisoners or those near the end of a minor sentence to be put to use to clean up any litter and rubbish dumped on Curragh Plains on a semi-regular basis under supervision by the Irish Prison Service and in addition, call on the local court service and the Probation Service to consider when giving out community service sentences to include the clean-up of the Curragh Plains within this. Thistle cutting should also be examined in conjunction to litter picking. Correspondence should be sent to all relevant bodies above and also to the Defence Forces and the Curragh Rangers to ensure agreement by all parties.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section advising the members that this is not a matter for the council. The members should consider referring the motion directly to probation service and copying to the Joint Policing Committee (JPC).

A brief discussion ensued from the members and it was agreed by all the members that the motion be referred directly to the Probation Service.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by the members that the motion be referred to the Probation Service.

KN24/1607

Briefing on Pay Parking

The members received a briefing on Pay Parking from Mr James Doyle. The report outlined the Observation Period and advised that where there is no valid Pay and Display ticket displayed on a vehicle, a 15 minute observation period applies prior to the purchase of or on the expiry of a valid pay and display ticket and that this is indicated on each parking machine. This 15 minute observation period only applies to vehicles parked in a designated parking bay and does not apply to any other situation.

The report also outlined the Appeals Process and advised that the Appeals Policy was adopted by the Elected Members in 2013 and is available on council's website. The members were advised that appeals can be viewed instantly together with all photographs of the alleged offence by scanning the bar code at the bottom of the fine with a mobile phone (where permitted by the phone) and that all decisions on appeals are made in accordance with the Appeals Policy. The members were advised that the Appeals Process is a 2 stage process:

Stage 1: Appeals must be received, in writing, from the registered owner within 28 days from the date of issue of the fine and all appeals must be sent to the Parking Fines Section or to the designated email address indicated on the parking fine and each appeal must include all supporting documents as outlined in the Appeals Policy. All appeals received by post to Kildare County Council are logged and sent to the Contractor. Stage 1 appeals are decided by the Contractor in accordance with the Appeals Policy and a decision will issue within 14 days of receipt of the appeal.

Stage 2: Re-appeals must be received within 56 days from the date of issue of the fine. Re-appeals must be received in writing to Parking Fines Section, Kildare County Council or by email to the designated email address indicated on the parking fine. Each re-appeal must include all supporting documents as outlined in the appeals policy as adopted by the Elected Members or any further documents/information requested by the Contractor in the Stage 1 appeal. All re-appeals received by post to Kildare County Council are logged and sent to the Contractor to be recorded. Stage 2 appeals (re-appeals) are decided by Kildare County Council in accordance with the Appeals Policy and a decision will issue within 14 days of receipt of the re-appeal. Mr Doyle also advised the members that the appeals received are subject to audit.

Following a number of queries from the members on the number of appeals received to date and the current status of the pay parking review and cost benefit analysis, Ms Wright advised the members that the results of the review should be available for the September meeting.

Councillor Doyle suggested a separate in-committee meeting might be more appropriate to allow full discussion on the review and the appeals statistics but asked that the data be circulated at least two weeks in advance of any meeting.

Resolved that the report be noted and an in-committee meeting be arranged to discuss the pay parking review and the appeals statistics and any data in relation to these issues be circulated at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

KN25/1607

Limiting Vehicular Access to Cemeteries

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

That the council will by bye-law or otherwise limit or prevent vehicular access to cemeteries in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District where cars are causing damage to headstones or grave surrounds or take such other appropriate action to prevent damage occurring.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor Kennedy.

A report was received from the Environment Section advising the members that it should be possible to introduce measures such as additional kerbing and/or bollards to protect vulnerable areas within cemeteries in the municipal district area. The report advised that there are plans in place to introduce kerbing on the main access road into St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge and this will be monitored to assess the effectiveness of such a measure.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor Kennedy that the report be noted and the Environment Section to update the members on progress of kerbing at St Conleth's Cemetery.

KN26/1607

Newbridge Town Hall

It was agreed by the members to take items 25 and 45 if the agenda together as they are related.

Item 25 – Adjourned motion – Councillor Lynch

That this council does not accept that the Town Hall, Newbridge cannot be internally divided and to suggest the same is farcical. If the need is identified, the council should not object to their own planning permission at the location. The option should be kept open to internally divide the building (modular, permanent etc...) if the need is identified.

Item 45 – Question – Councillor Lynch

What is the status of the phase 3 development of Newbridge Town Hall, the timelines and has funding been secured for same? If funding has not been identified or guaranteed where are we seeking to draw the funds from and will be issues with this?

The motion was proposed by Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor Kennedy.

A report was received from the Architects Department regarding the subdivision of the Town Hall, advising the members that the Town Hall in Newbridge is a Protected Structure of regional importance and an important piece of the historic fabric of Newbridge and that the hall was originally the church attached to the military barracks and, as such was an open hall. The report advised that the recent refurbishment works to the hall sought to both repair and restore the hall and to bring the building back into public use, existing partitions and suspended ceilings were removed and the quality of the original hall restored and as currently laid out, the existing subdivision retains the restored full height windows and opens up the view of the timber ceiling and trusses, and allows an appreciation of the full volume of the hall, providing unique public space in Kildare finished to a high standard. The report further advised that while it is technically possible to subdivide the Town Hall the full impact of doing so needs to be carefully considered, particularly in relation to the issues such as fire safety and fire exit strategies, acoustics, quality of space and visual impact, noting that subdividing the hall would likely to be costly.

A further report from the Architects Department regarding Phase 3 of the development works at Newbridge Town Hall advised the members that works on Phase 2 were completed in May 2016 and that Phase 3 of work to the hall, covered under the Part 8 that was granted for the overall work to the hall, included public realm works to the side (west) and front (north) of the hall. The report advised that work to the side involves changing the car park exit to a pedestrian only zone and work to the front of the hall involves removal of the existing wall and railings and providing a public space between the hall and the main street including the

provision of level access from the fire exit adjacent to Bradbury's cafe (currently serviced by a temporary stairs). Phase 3 works are also intended to link Georges Street with the front of the Town Hall to improve the quality of the public realm at that point along the main street. The report advised the members that as part of Phase 2 works it was necessary to repoint the exterior of the hall and that this work, though substantially improved the overall appearance of the hall, the cost of this work has reduced the funding available in the budget and additional funding will need to be identified to allow Phase 3 work to be completed further noting that the scale of work involved will necessitate the development of detailed design and a public procurement process for the main contract once funding has been identified.

A discussion ensued between the members and responding to Councillor Lynch's query on whether certain groups might be prohibited or excluded from using the facility if sub-division of the hall is an issue, Mr Halton advised that the management board have sought feedback and will continue to seek feedback from groups large and small, who have used/will use the hall to ensure the facility is used to its full potential subject to the maximum number of people allowed to use the facility at any one time under fire safety regulations which is 300 people but that the management board are keeping an open mind when considering any applications. Mr Halton explained the board of management would also need to consider costs to sub-divide the unit if an application to do so was received and what that cost would be to the user further acknowledging that as a protected structure, sub-division of the hall may also be prohibited.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor Kennedy that the report be noted.

KN27/1607

Feasibility Study for Swimming Pool in Newbridge

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

Can we carry out a feasibility study alongside K-Leisure to assess the practicality and financial viability of setting up a public swimming pool in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District, most suitably in the town of Newbridge?

A report was received from the District Manager advising the members that no provision has been made in the Capital Programme to fund a feasibility study in this regard. Separately, the council has been advised by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport that the

Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme is closed to new applicants, and that there is no Capital Fund for the provision of swimming pools. Mr McDonnell further advised the members that they could look at this issue again in terms of funding during the budget process. Councillor Lynch asked the District Manager if contact could be made with K-Leisure to carry out a feasibility study.

KN28/1607

List of Kildare-Newbridge Estates to be Taken in Charge

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

That the council provide a list of the estates in the Kildare-Newbridge area that remain to be taken in charge and the details regarding the outstanding issues that need to be addressed by each estate before the process can be completed also be provided.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Planning Department advising the members that the Building and Development Control section has already committed to updating the 2012 report later this year and the website will be updated with the finalised report and in the interim resources will be directed towards finalising the taking in charge of the fifty four estates advertised for taking in charge in 2015. The report advised that as each estate is finalised, a recommendation to take each estate in charge will be put to the relevant municipal district committee for consideration of the members and that the priority remains dealing with developers, receivers, bond providers and other stakeholders and inspecting the provision of infrastructure in active sites to secure the satisfactory completion of housing developments to taking in charge standard.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted.

KN29/1607

Tree Planting

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

That the council indicate the approximate number of trees it planted in the Kildare-Newbridge area during 2015 and the proposed number for this year, when is it proposed to develop a tree policy?

The motion was proposed by Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Kennedy.

A report was received from the Parks Section advising the members that the programme for tree planting is compiled each year from requests received during the year and is carried out during the late winter and spring. The report advised that in 2015 75 semi-mature trees & 600 saplings were planted in the Kildare-Newbridge Area and in 2016 90 semi-mature trees & 1700 saplings were planted. The report further advised that a further 10 semi mature trees are proposed for the main street in Rathangan this year, however, implementation of this is subject to our ability to excavate and construct tree pits along the main street and the completion of other works around the county. The members were advised that list for tree planting for 2017 will not be finalised until the end of the current year.

In response to a query from Councillor Power, Mr Wallace advised it is hoped to develop a tree planting policy late in 2016 or early 2017 and guidelines would determine planting where trees cannot be pruned and pruning where trees cannot be planted.

Resolved that the report be noted.

KN30/1607

Integrated Services Providers (ISP) Forum

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

That an Integrated Service Providers Forum be established in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District, with the express focus of combating issues of anti social behaviour in residential areas.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department advising the members that the Council have an anti-social behaviour policy for Council owned estates, however if the Members consider that this is a broader issue they may refer it to the Joint Policing Committee.

A discussion ensued between the members and it was agreed that Mr Halton would examine the piloting of an Integrated Service Providers (ISP) Forum and report back to the members at the October Municipal District Meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Kennedy that the report be noted and an update on the piloting of an Integrated Service Providers (ISP) Forum be given to the members at the next municipal district meeting.

KN31/1607

Boardwalk at St Conleth's Bridge

The members considered the following adjourned questions together in the name of Councillor Power.

At our February meeting, it was reported that a study would be undertaken to examine the suitability of a boardwalk at St Conleth's Bridge, can the council provide details of the deliberations and progress made in this regard?

In view of the wonderful asset that is the Liffey and the potential it provides for the town, can the council outline its plans to further develop the river bank between St Conleth's bridge and Newbridge College?

A report was received from the Parks Section advising the members that it is planned to complete an outline design for a boardwalk between St Conleth's Bridge and Newbridge College and then seek cost estimates for consulting engineers to develop the detailed design for the proposal. This work is planned for the end of 2016.

KN32/1607

Sale of Magee Barracks

The members considered the following adjourned question in the name of Councillor Doyle. Can we have follow up on request to Department of Defence for payment of community gain/compensation from sale of Magee Barracks in Kildare town?

A report was received from the District Manager advising the members that a letter has issued to the Department of Defence and the members will be updated once a response has been received.

KN33/1607

Skateboard Park, Newbridge

The members considered the following adjourned question in the name of Councillor Lynch. What is the status of the skateboard park consultation for Newbridge so that the agreed and budgeted 2015 project which has already been delayed, does not roll into 2017 and the public can have their say on same?

A report was received from the Parks Section advising the members that it is proposed to launch the Part VIII for the skatepark in Newbridge in late August.

KN34/1607

Taking in Charge of The Plains & Loughminane Estates, Kildare Town

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

Can we have a progress report on the taking in charge of The Plains, Kildare and all associated estates within this development and Loughminane Estate in Kildare town?

In relation to the Plains/Coolaghknock Estates, A report was received from the Building Control Section advising the members that the Building/Development Control Section has called in the bond (c. €300,000) for this estate. The report advised that initially, the bond provider engaged with the Council on the basis that they would complete all outstanding and remedial works required to bring the public infrastructure in the estate up to taking in charge standard, however after much investigation and negotiation on the extent of the works, the bond provider has indicated that they no longer intend to take on the works involved and instead they are going to pay the bond monies to enable Kildare County Council/Irish Water attend to the outstanding works required. This position was first indicated by phone on 13/5/2016 and confirmed by e-mail on 24/6/2016. A further e-mail was received on 14/7/2016 apologising for the delay and undertaking to have the matter resolved in the next week. The members were advised that when the council receives the bond money, the Building/Development Control Section will engage with the Residents Association on this matter.

In relation to Loughminane Green a report was received from the Building Control Section advising the members that despite the fact that this estate is not in charge the Building/Development Control Section has been informed that Water Services has been maintaining the pump station in the estate since the flooding event some years ago. The report advised that in order to progress the taking in charge of this estate, the residents should submit a request to have the estate taken in charge in accordance with the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

KN35/1607

Giant Hogweed

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

Have the council been made aware of or have they identified any occurrences of Giant Hogweed in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and if so what are the procedures to eradicate it and to make people aware of it.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department advising the members that when the municipal district office becomes aware of instances of hogweed in their area, their procedure is to engage a contractor to remove it on a case by case basis. The district engineer further advised the members that there are different types of hogweed and that common hogweed is not infectious but she would ask the Overseers to be aware of possible infectious types when on their rounds.

KN36/1607

Fix Your Street

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Pender.
That the council provide regular assessments on the number of reports submitted under the various categories through the Fix Your Street website, paying particular attention to illegal dumping.

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

A report was received from Corporate Services Section advising the members that Fix Your Street has been integrated with the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System and reports will be made available to the members as requested.

Following a request from Councillor Pender for a report, Ms Dalton advised that the Corporate Services Section will liaise with the Environment Section in relation to Fix Your Street cases which relate to illegal dumping and will circulate the report once available.

Resolved that the report be noted and the report from Fix Your Street in relation to illegal dumping in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District be circulated to the members.

On the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor Kennedy Standing Orders were suspended at 1.00 p.m. so that all items on the agenda could be dealt with.

KN37/1607

The Gateway Scheme

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford.
Can the council identify the number of placements on the Gateway Scheme in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and indicate if the council proposes to engage more participants?

A report was received from the HR Department advising the members that there are currently 13 Gateway employees based in the Newbridge area office and 9 based in the Kildare area office, totalling 22 in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District. With regard to taking on new employees, the Gateway scheme is currently on hold. No further names have come from the Department of Social Protection and SIPTU has withdrawn its support from the scheme. The district engineer clarified these numbers are 18 and 5 respectively.

KN38/1607

Chain of Office and Mayors Allowance

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

That the members agree to look at using the previous Newbridge Town Council chain of office for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Mayor, the names of the Municipal Mayors could be inscribed on the back of the previous Town Council's Mayors names and also that we look at reinstating the full payment to the Municipal District Mayor.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kennedy and seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Corporate Services Section advising the members that this is a matter for the members themselves. Ms Dalton further advised the members that the cost of re-instating the chain previously used by Newbridge Town Council would be considerably cheaper than commissioning a new chain of office.

A brief discussion ensued and the members agreed to vote on re-instating the chain of office of the former Newbridge Town Council to be used by the Mayor of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District with 4 voting in favour and 3 against. The members also agreed to vote on re-instating the full annual allowance of €12,000 to be allocated to the Municipal District Mayor with 4 voting in favour and 3 against.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Stafford and voted in favour by the members that the old chain of office of Newbridge Town Council be re-instated and the full annual payment of €12,000 to the Municipal District Mayor be re-instated.

The meeting concluded.