

**Minutes of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.40 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 December 2016
in the Council Chamber, Aras Chill Dara**

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

Officials Present: Mr T McDonnell (District Manager), Mr N Morrissey and Ms Sonya Kavanagh, (Directors of Services), Ms Jacqui McNabb, (Head of Enterprise), Ms B Rea (District Engineer), Ms E Wright and Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officers), Ms V Cooke (Administrative Officer), Ms M Dalton (Meetings Administrator) and Ms E Price (Meetings Secretary).

Proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Kennedy, the Mayor suspended Standing Orders for 15 minutes at the outset of the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor Doyle, the Mayor further suspended Standing Orders until 10.40 a.m.

KN01/1612

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 16 November 2016 and the budget meeting on 26 October 2016 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor Kennedy that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 16 November 2016 of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting and the budget meeting held on 26 October 2016 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

KN02/1612

Matters Arising

Landscaping at Dara Park, Newbridge (KN21/1611)

In response to a query from Councillor Pender the District Manager informed the members that the Director of Services for the Environment Department was satisfied with the previous report

issued to the members and the Director confirmed he was also satisfied that the contractor will fully resolve all outstanding issues at this location.

In response to a query from Councillor McLoughlin Healy, the District Manager advised the members that he would further update them on the details of the Landscape Architect appointed to the Dara Park Project.

Traffic Survey on the Suncroft Road (KN11/1611)

In response to a query for Councillor Pender on the results of the Traffic Survey on the Suncroft Road which had been circulated, the District Engineer confirmed that the results showed a high number of vehicles travelling in excess of the 50 Kph speed limit and this issue will need further examination.

**KN03/1612
Promotional Video of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District**

The members were shown a promotional video of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District by Ms Sonya Kavanagh. She stated that it is intended that this promotional video would be used to market the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and is similar to videos being rolled out for all municipal districts in the county. The video includes examples of education, business and tourist attractions in the municipal district such as Newbridge College, Newbridge Silverware, Kildare Village, Harte's of Kildare, the Curragh Plains and the Japanese Gardens.

Councillor Stafford acknowledged the high quality of the video but expressed concerns that the video appeared to be concentrated on the towns of Newbridge and Kildare and not the overall municipal district. This was echoed by a number of councillors.

Councillor Doyle welcomed the video noting it would be a valuable tool in attracting potential investors to the municipal district.

Responding to the Councillors' concerns, Ms Kavanagh advised that this video is only a 90 second snapshot on some of the better known establishments in the municipal district and it is intended that this video would be the first in a series of videos which will be designed to promote the entire municipal district as a place to live, work, learn and a place to do business in accordance with the council's Corporate Plan. Ms Kavanagh also informed the members

that it is intended that further videos will concentrate on other areas within the municipal district and will further promote sport, tourism business and retail in the area and countywide.

The Mayor thanked Ms Kavanagh for the presentation.

KN04/1612

Introduction to the new Head of Enterprise

Ms Kavanagh introduced Ms Jacqui McNabb, the new Head of Enterprise and informed the members that Ms McNabb is currently visiting each municipal district and she would like to present to full council to explain the role of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO).

Ms McNabb addressed the members and stated she is looking forward to working with the members and she is intending to do an audit of businesses in the municipal district area with the intention of promoting the role of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and the services it can provide to entrepreneurs, new business start ups and existing or expanding businesses. Ms McNabb also requested that the members extend the services of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) to all local businesses in their constituencies.

The members welcomed Ms McNabb.

KN05/1612

Schedule of Municipal District Works

A report on the schedule of municipal district works was received from the municipal district engineer informing the members that sheep grids had been installed in the area of Athgarvan National School and that gates had been erected and the associated fencing was under construction. The report also informed the members that the construction of the footpath and pedestrian crossing between Brownstown and the Curragh Camp has been completed and that the contracts to install the traffic signals and public lighting will follow in due course. The report further advised that Local Improvement Schemes at Roseberry and Tankardsgarden, Newbridge have been completed.

The report was noted.

KN06/1612

Housing Development at Athgarvan Road

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

We were told at a recent meeting that works would commence on the old folks homes and the Athgarvan Road in October and to date no works have commenced. Can we know what the holdup is and when is the next start date?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the council have identified, and are in communication with, the preferred tenderer for the construction of the 13 units at Athgarvan Road Newbridge. The report advised that there are a number of queries to be answered by the tenderer before the final tender report can be completed and the Stage 4 application for approval to award a contract can be forwarded to the Department and it is hoped to have the final tender report before Christmas which, on that basis it is likely to be January when the council have approval to award a contract.

In response to a query from Councillor Aspell on the delay, the District Manager advised that the council, as requested by the Department had to reduce costs on this project and as a result further approval is awaited and it is hoped this approval from the Department would be received by the end of January 2017.

The report was noted

KN07 /1612

Proposed Double Yellow Lines at Monasterevin Road, Kildare Town

The members considered the report previously circulated to them by the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department in relation to proposed double yellow lines at Monasterevin Road, Kildare Town under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994. Ms Wright further informed the members that this motion is in response to unauthorised parking on the very busy road outside Tesco, Kildare Town and it is hoped if approved by the members that the process would commence early in 2017.

Resolved as agreed by all the members the proposed double yellow lines on the Monasterevin Road, Kildare Town, under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 be approved with the process to commence early in 2017.

KN08/1612

Taxi Stands in Newbridge

The members considered a report which had been previously circulated in relation to the proposed increase of Taxi Stands in Newbridge. Ms Wright informed the members that the Taxi Association were seeking to increase the number of taxi stands in Newbridge by two, 1 at the Eyre Powell Hotel and the second outside Michael Murphy's. Ms Wright advised the members that enforcement of unauthorised parking in taxi stands continues to be a problem at certain times including evenings and weekends and that the municipal district office has engaged with the Gardai on how best to address this issue. Ms Wright advised that one such solution being examined is the use of a tow-away service. Ms Wright informed the members that the current Parking Bye-Laws only allow for taxi stands in specific areas of Newbridge and if the members agree to alter the number of taxi stands then a review of the existing Parking Bye-Laws for Newbridge Town would be required which would include a public consultation period before the members would be asked to formally adopt any amendments.

Councillor Pender, noting the comprehensive report questioned the need for a further two spaces and asked if the members should compromise and agree to one extra space.

Councillors McLoughlin Healy and Power queried if it is possible to grant the extra space(s) for a period of time at which point the situation could be reviewed.

Councillor Doyle suggested this issue be included for consideration under any Traffic Management Plan for Newbridge and also suggested examining alternatives such as consultation with Management of the Whitewater Shopping Centre on the possibility of placing taxi stands at the turn about near the entrance to the Whitewater Shopping Centre.

Acknowledging the difficulty in justifying an increase in the number of spaces, Mr Morrissey agreed that certain times are very problematic for taxi drivers and confirmed the Roads Department will discuss the area of enforcement with APCOA, but noted taxis hovering can create further parking issues.

Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Kennedy proposed to amend the motion to increase the taxi stands by one space and the members agreed to vote on the following proposed amendments to the Newbridge Town Parking Bye-Laws 1) increasing the number of taxi stand

spaces by two places and; 2) increasing the number of taxi stand spaces by 1 place.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor Kennedy with three voting for and four against, the motion to increase the number of taxi stand spaces by two places was defeated.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor Kennedy with four voting for and three against, the members agreed to commence the process of amending the Newbridge Town Parking Bye-Laws with the intention of increasing the number of taxi stand spaces by one place.

KN09/1612

Road Signs for Greenmount Park, Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council replace the 'Stop' sign, erect a 'Children at Play' sign and grit (or provide salt for gritting) the dangerous bends at Greenmount Park.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor McCabe.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District engineer inspected the Greenmount Park housing estate and noted that there is a STOP sign already at this location. The report also advised that it is recommended that the estate makes a submission for inclusion in the next tranche of estates to be considered in 2017 for a 30km/h speed limit in the context of Jake's Law. The report further advised that it is not the policy of the municipal district office to provide salt in housing estates.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated the current STOP sign is illegible and requested that the sign be either cleaned or replaced.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor McCabe that the report be noted and the Roads Department to re-examine the STOP sign at this location with a view to cleaning or replacing it.

KN10/1612

Yellow Boxes in Newbridge

The members agreed to consider item 9 and item 12 of the agenda together.

Item no 9 - Motion Councillor McLoughlin Healy.

That the council provide a yellow box at Ballymany crossroads to prevent the gridlock happening at the traffic lights.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Kennedy.

Item no 12 – Motion Councillor McCabe.

That the council look at installing more yellow boxes at junctions. With the heavy seasonal traffic, it has become more apparent that major traffic jams are being created at junctions with no yellow boxes (the junction at McLoughlin's Garage, Newbridge in particular).

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Road Design Section would examine this in consultation with the Municipal District Engineer and report back to the members. A further report was received which also informed the members that Seasonal traffic results in traffic challenges in all towns in the county but advised that this issue could be examined as part of the broader "Integrated Movement Plan" for Newbridge.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy noted that the lack of a yellow box at McLoughlin's Garage causes serious issues for traffic turning onto the Green Road at Newbridge.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillors McLoughlin Healy and McCabe and seconded by Councillor Kennedy that the report be noted and the Roads Department examine placing a yellow box at McLoughlin's Garage, Newbridge and include a yellow box strategy in any Integrated Movement Plan for Newbridge.

KN11/1612

Road Markings at the Bull Ring Cross, Christianstown

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

That the council repaint the road markings at The Bull Ring Cross, Christianstown and erect warning signs on the approach roads to the junction where appropriate.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office would inspect the above location and provide a response at the January meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor Kennedy that the report be noted and the Municipal District engineer inspect The Bull Ring Cross and provide a further update to the members in January.

KN12/1612

Traffic Calming Measures in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

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

That the council place an embargo on speed bump installations and look at alternative traffic calming measures in the municipal district, in view of the difficulties they cause for ambulances and emergency vehicles.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) is examining traffic calming as part of its work programme and a report would be provided to the members following consideration by the SPC of all issues arising with regard to traffic calming and speed reduction measures.

A brief discussion ensued among the members and the members agreed that the motion should be referred to the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

In response to a query from the Mayor, the District Manager confirmed that any member raising a motion to any Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) will be invited to attend that meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McCabe and seconded by Councillor Kennedy that the report be noted and the motion be referred to the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

KN13/1612

Closures of Public Roadways, The Curragh

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

That this council officially contacts the Department of Defence advising them that road closures on a public roadway are causing members of the public significant difficulties and that they should adhere to the Defence Act 1954, which issues the guidelines on this.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin-Healy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the authority to close off roads in the area of The Curragh is vested in the Department of Defence in accordance with the Defence Act 1954. If the members are in agreement, a letter can be sent to the Department of Defence outlining the impact of the temporary stoppage of traffic during manoeuvres on local traffic/residents in the vicinity.

Councillor Lynch noted the closing of roads without sufficient notice causes inconvenience for those seeking local access.

A discussion ensued among the members and the members agreed to amend the motion as follows:

‘That the council contact the Department of Defence requesting clarification of the change in previous custom and practice of alerting traffic travelling through the roadway at the back of the Flagstaff Hall that manoeuvres are taking place while allowing access to local traffic.’

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin-Healy and agreed by all the members that a letter issue to the Department of Defence with the amended motion.

KN14/1612

Public Right of Ways

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

That the council outlines its policy on how it determines public right of ways, the official conditions to be met to say a walkway is a right of way, and what occurs in the event there is unauthorised closure of same.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Department in consultation with the Planning Department will provide a report to the members at the January meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted and an update be provided to the members on this issue at the January meeting.

KN15/1612

Footpath at St Conleth's Bridge, Newbridge

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

Can an approximate cost be provided for the provision of a footpath under St. Conleth's Bridge in Newbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the estimated cost for the provision of a footpath / boardwalk is €125,000.

This is based on the cost of the boardwalk that links the park to The Gables B&B.

The report was noted.

KN16/1612

Bus Shelter at Allenwood Cross

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

Can the council confirm that it will reinstate or replace the bus shelter at Allenwood Cross that was removed as part of the village improvement works and will the council reassess the need for traffic lights at this location?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office intended to reinstate the bus shelter at the original position however there has been an objection to the location. The Municipal District Office is currently in discussion with Bus Eireann to find if a solution can be found. The report was noted.

KN17/1612

LED Lights on St Conleth's Bridge, Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McCabe.
Can the Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights on St Conleth's Bridge be turned to face the reflector panel to diffuse the light as intended by their design?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the replacement LEDs installed on St. Conleth's Bridge are designed to downlight. The reflector panels are not functional and not used by the replacement LEDs. The reflector panels were left in position so as to not alter the daytime appearance of the lighting installation on the bridge.

In response to a request from Councillor McCabe, Ms Wright agreed to ask the Public Lighting Section to inspect the aesthetics of these lights in their current layout.
The report was noted.

KN18/1612

Bus Shelter, Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Lynch.
What is the status of the installation of a bus shelter in the town of Newbridge as already allocated for?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that following a recent meeting with the National Transportation Authority (NTA) confirmation that the provision of bus shelters (urban and rural) will be a matter for the Authority, the council will compile a list of proposed locations and submit them to the NTA.

Following clarification from Councillor Lynch that his question related to bus shelters which had been provided for under Local Property Tax (LPT) allocations, Ms Wright confirmed that the

question had been misinterpreted and advised that this issue would be re-examined and a response provided at the January meeting.

The report was noted.

KN19/1612

Regulation of Casinos/Gaming Arcades

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

Can the following information be provided, 1) the number of casinos/gaming arcades in the municipal area, 2) the planning that is required for such facilities and 3) how they are licensed and regulated?

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that it is understood the granting of casino/gaming arcade licences are a matter for the District Court and that the licensing and regulation of casino/gaming arcades is not a matter for the council. A further report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that there would be no difference in the planning requirements for the development of a casino/gaming arcade and any other commercial development. The report advised that planning permission would be required and if a planning application was received it would be processed and considered on its own merits in the same way that all other commercial development planning applications are dealt with.

The report was noted.

KN20/1612

Taking In Charge of Estates

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

Where is the agreed online publishing of the current status of estates yet to be taken in charge such as at Roseberry Hill and Ballymany Manor, we were promised that this information would be kept up to date and published online for residents and that this would be available months back as was passed at a municipal district meeting?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that an up to date list of estates taken in charge is available on the members net and on the Kildare County Council website. Building and Development Control staff committed to updating the finished and unfinished housing estates report and this work is ongoing. The website will be updated with the finalised report. As previously advised, the priority remains in 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. In the meantime resources will be directed towards finalising the taking in charge of the estates previously advertised for taking in charge. As each estate is finalised, a recommendation to take each estate in charge will be put to the relevant Municipal District for consideration of the members. In relation to the two specific estates mentioned above, Phase One and Phase Two of Roseberry Hill have been completed and taken in charge for some time now. Phase Three is currently under construction and so the taking in charge cannot be considered at this stage. Building and Development Control staff has engaged with Irish Water in relation to the taking in charge of Ballymany Manor. There are a number of issues with the Waste Water system which need to be resolved before the taking in charge can be finalised.

Acknowledging the report, Councillor Lynch noted the response does not include estates currently in the process of being taken in charge which he stated was what was sought in the original motion.

Ms Cooke informed the members that at the November Municipal District meeting she undertook to ensure that the updated list of estates taken in charge would be uploaded on the council's website and this is what has been done. In response to a query from Councillor Lynch, Ms Cooke advised that it is not possible to include the list of estates currently being reviewed under the taking in charge process as sometimes statuses/information on these can change on a daily basis or others may be subject to legal issues.

Noting there may be some misinterpretation as to the information originally sought, the District Manager advised that the minutes of the original meeting where this issue was raised would be examined and the members further updated on clarification.

The report was noted.

KN21/1612

Local Property Tax (LPT) 2017

Following a brief discussion amongst the members, the members agreed that this item would be deferred to the January monthly meeting to allow the members to fully discuss the issues at an in-committee meeting to be held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 11 January 2017.

KN22/1612

The Late Councillor Willie Crowley

The Mayor requested that the members observe a moments silence to pay tribute to the late Councillor Willie Crowley whose first anniversary was earlier this week.

Councillor Stafford commended Councillor McCabe and the Newbridge Christmas Lights Committee for the wonderful display of lights in Newbridge which were officially switched on by the late Councillor Crowley's wife Claire.

KN23/1612

Unspent Local Property Tax (LPT)/Pay Parking

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by all the members that unspent local property tax (LPT)/pay parking allocations be carried over into 2017.

The meeting concluded.