

**Minutes of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 12 April 2017
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: Ms A Aspell (A/District Manager), Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer) Ms B Rea (District Engineer), Ms E Wright, Mr L Dunne, (Senior Executive Officers), Mr E Doyle (Assistant Arts Officer), Brian Martin (Administrative Officer) Ciaran O'Toole (Assistant Staff Officer) Ms M Dalton (Meetings Administrator) and Ms K Keane (Meetings Secretary).

KN01/0417

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 15 March 2017 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Aspell that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 15 March 2017, of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting be confirmed and the progress report was noted.

KN02/0417

Matters Arising

Closures of Public Roadways, The Curragh (KN13/1612)

Councillor Lynch stated he had done some research in relation to the legislation surrounding this matter and stated the Department of Defence are not adhering to their own legislation in closing these roads without the required statutory notice. Councillor Lynch asked that the council write to the Department of Defence again outlining this in strong terms and ask that the matter be reviewed on this basis. Councillor Power asked that in advance of sending another letter, Councillor Lynch circulate the relevant legislation he refers to the members of

the Municipal District. Councillor Stafford agreed and asked that it be placed on the progress report for the next meeting.

Walkway at Moore Avenue (KN02/1603), (KN04/1604) & (KN03/1701)

Councillor Doyle stated this item is now spanning three terms of the council and the fact a conclusion has not been achieved is very disappointing especially as we should be committed to the outcome of an arbitration hearing. She stated that the installation of 2 bollards on the footpath is not closure and the council cannot wait on the outcome of a private planning permission to resolve the matter. Councillor Lynch supported Councillor Doyle's comments and emphasised the need to close this footpath. Councillor Stafford shared the sentiments of Councillor Doyle and Councillor Lynch and stated the roadway should effectively be sealed at both ends as bollards such as what has been installed only serves to encourage people to go around them. Mr Coppinger stated the outcome to date has not been the most satisfactory but the first item that had to be carried out was to close the footpath which has now been done. He went on to outline two further issues, the first being an open area that is fenced off but the fence is in private ownership and secondly to fence off the remainder would deny two residents their right to access which he cannot do. Mr Coppinger referred to the planning permission being sought at this location and confirmed any impending decision would have appropriate boundary conditions attached. A lengthy discussion ensued amongst the members with Mr Coppinger agreeing to review the matter and come back to the members in 2/3 months with a further proposal. Councillor Doyle rejected Mr Coppinger's offer and asked for an on-site meeting with him at Moore Avenue, the residents and the members, Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded Councillor Doyle's request for an on-site meeting. Mr Coppinger stated an on-site meeting was not appropriate but he was willing to meet with the residents and the members in Aras Chill Dara. Councillor Power stated he understood the frustration around this issue but his view was that an on-site meeting would not be helpful.

With 3 members voting for and 1 member voting against a request for an on-site meeting, Mr. Coppinger proposed Tuesday 02 May at 9.30am at Moore Avenue and this was agreed by the members.

KN03/0417

Junefest, Newbridge

Councillor Stafford welcomed Mr Noel Heavey and Mr Colm Summers from Junefest to the meeting. Mr Heavey thanked the members for inviting them to make their deputation and confirmed Kildare County Council has been a partner and sponsor of this event since the outset and went on to outline the strategic plan they have for Junefest for the next three to five years. Mr Heavey confirmed Junefest started in 2012 and is run by a core team of fifteen to nineteen volunteers. It started out as a one weekend event but it now runs for three weeks with the number of planned events to exceed 70 this year with some of these being event for small groups and some for larger groups but with something to suit all. Events include music, arts, heritage, nature and community events. Mr Somers outlined their concern that having been so successful to date, they might lose some of this momentum which other festivals have experience in the past. Mr. Somers confirmed they are hopeful of securing funding from the Arts Council of Ireland and are asking the council for their continued support in this regard also as they want to place the festival on a secure footing going forward. He also confirmed they had a new relationship with the Curragh racecourse and this year would see a Junefest race day taking place for the first time. Mr Heavey noted Junefest cost €31,669 to run last year with other festivals costing in the region of €100,000 and reiterated the point that without the councils support to date, the festival would not happen. All the members thanked Mr Heavey and Mr Somers for making their presentation and complimented the committee for their hard work and dedication in delivering such a successful event.

Councillor Doyle recognised their concerns around keeping momentum and freshness in the festival and asked if they had considered investing in profession services as the festival continues to grow and stated the council could consider allocating LPT funding for this purpose next year. Councillor Aspell commended Junefest on such a successful event and asked if there was a possibility of securing the GAA grounds to attract a major act.

Mr Heavey and Mr Somers thanked the members for their comments and for the councils continued support.

KN04/0417

Municipal District road works

Councillor Pender thanked Ms B Rea District Engineer and her team for the works completed on the footpath in Brownstown as there been very positive feedback on it. The District Engineer confirmed that works on the overflow car-park in Newbridge are now completed and there is approximately another week in the improvement works on the streets

between Eyre street and the main street in Newbridge. Councillor Aspell congratulated the District Engineer on the successful works completed in the Curragh Camp and Councillor Lynch extended his thanks regarding the works ongoing on the streets in Newbridge.

The members agreed they would meet to discuss and agree their Schedule of Municipal District Works 2017 on Tuesday 02 May at 11am in the Riverbank Arts Centre.

KN05/0417

Tankardsgarden, Newbridge

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Power
That the council provide details of the plans to develop Tankardsgarden, Newbridge
The motion was proposed by Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Aspell.

Report: A report from Mr T McDonnell confirmed the council has received approval to develop an 8 bay halting site and caretaker unit at Tankardsgarden and design team consultancy services were tendered to the Kildare County Council Framework agreement for Architect lead Design team services but there was a poor response. In this regard, the council are currently preparing a tender for the design team services to be issued to the national framework agreement for Architect Lead Design Team Services administered by the Office of Government Procurement as agreed with the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government. Councillor Power enquired what the estimated timeframe for this process and how we could make it a more attractive contract. Ms Aspell, A/District Manager confirmed the timeframe will be dependent on the tender and confirmed that this issue has been discussed at the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and the District Manager has given a commitment to update this committee monthly. Councillor Pender enquired if the new tender has gone out to the national framework and if the tender is the same as the one that issued to the Kildare framework. Ms Aspell confirmed this is a priority project in the Housing Departments Capital Programme but there is a very small team working on this programme and the Senior Architect is working on this project himself. Ms Aspell confirmed it has not been advertised yet but the District Manager has asked that this be done as a priority. Ms Aspell undertook to revert to Councillor Pender confirming the differences between the two tenders.

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

KN06/0417

Department of Defence Magee Barracks

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

That the council advise us of the current status of the agreement whereby on the sale of the Department of Defence Magee Barracks site in Kildare town, that the council would receive either 10 acres of the site or the value thereof which would be €1.64 million. The land has been sold in full so the issue of the money remains. It has been over year since the sale and no sums of money have been handed over by the Department, and if no commitment dates have been made for payment of same that this council calls on the Minister and Department to honour longstanding commitments of community gain from the sale of the site.

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

Report: A report from Mr McDonnell Director of Service confirmed Kildare County Council has continually reminded the Department of Defence of the commitment that was made by the Minister of Defence at the time of the decision to sell Magee Barracks last year. Last year, the council was asked by the Department what use the funds would be put to and we advised that the funds when received would be allocated to the development of a proposed park at Cherry Avenue, (former National Stud lands). The council will follow up again with the Department in relation to release of the monies.

Councillor Lynch noted the length of time this matter is ongoing and notwithstanding the contents of the report, asked that the council writes to the Minister for Defence stating in the strongest possible terms that this commitment should be honoured expediently. Councillor Doyle supported the motion and asked that the matter be kept on the agenda. Councillor McLoughlin Healy noted the importance of this site and stated she was of the understanding pre-planning may have already taken place with regard to it and asked the council to engage with the elected representatives on any plans for the site and suggested a pre-planning meeting to discuss same. Councillor Stafford confirmed he was happy with how the Director of Housing was dealing with this matter and noted that as Minister Coveney was the Minister of Defence when this commitment was given, that we should write to him also. Councillor Stafford stated he was unsure if it was appropriate for the municipal district members to seek a pre-planning meeting in relation to the site. Councillor Lynch asked that the council write to

the Minister, on behalf of the members, requesting the commitment to be honoured. Ms Aspell confirmed she would bring the issues raised by the members back to the District Manager. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked that this item go on the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted and the item go on the progress report.

KN07/0417

Rental Allowance

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

Does the Housing Section have a facility to make exceptional rental allowances in particular cases of high maintenance tenancies?

Report: A report from Mr T McDonnell Director of Service confirmed there is presently no provision within the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme to provide exceptional allowances for certain categories of HAP applicants. In determining the level of HAP payment Kildare County Council takes account of the locally prevailing rent levels and the level of rent supplement being paid by the Department of Social Protection. In the event that HAP limits are not sufficient, Kildare County Council has discretion to pay an additional amount, however this is based on a determination that it is not possible for a household to secure accommodation within the basic limits. Councillor Doyle stated the HAP scheme is an excellent product but is concerned that tenants availing of top ups will leave them in very difficult economic circumstances and asked that we write to the Department outlining our concerns and highlighting the issues we see in the scheme. Ms Aspell agreed that the HAP scheme should be open to review and advised we will probably see more development on it now that it is being rolled out nationally however she did note that in a recent conference call with the HAP representative in the Department, there are no plans to review the HAP limits at the moment. Ms Aspell also noted that the introduction of inter-county movement under HAP is not going to be helpful to Kildare.

The report was noted.

KN08/0417

CCTV at Taxi-rank

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Kennedy
Due to recent incidents in Newbridge that the council get a costing etc. of setting up CCTV around the taxi rank at Michael Murphy's.

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

Report: A report from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department stated that while costings for CCTV can be provided to the members, the resources to monitor CCTV need to be examined and considered. Councillor Kennedy noted the contents of the report and stated he was of the understanding Minister Coveney was making monies available to local authorities to provide CCTV and did not agree that footage has to be monitored 24/7 as it can just be recorded. Councillor Aspell supported the motion and Councillor Power stated that a lot of taxis have their own CCTV cameras now. Ms E Wright, Senior Executive Officer noted the cost of providing this CCTV would be roughly €25,000, which does not include monitoring costs, and confirmed the Roads department are not proposing to carry out these works at this time.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kennedy and seconded by Councillor Doyle that the item go on the progress report.

KN09/0417

Roadworks at Maddenstown Cross

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Aspell
That the council carry out road resurfacing works and road markings at Maddenstown Cross
The motion was proposed by Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor Doyle.

Report: A report from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department stated that the Road Works Programme 2017 has included a proposed restoration improvement scheme for Maddenstown and accordingly, it is proposed that the works will be carried out later in the year.

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

KN10/0417

Priorities under the Capital Programme

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Power.
That the council outline its' priorities for the Kildare-Newbridge area under the Capital Programme and if an approximate cost could be provided for each project.
The motion was proposed by Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Stafford.

Report: A report was received from Mr T McDonnell Director of Service including an extract from the council's Capital programme outlining the seven current schemes. A report from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department confirmed the 2017 Roadworks Programme presented to council in March is the most up-to-date detail of the programme of work for 2017 and that tables 6, 7, and 8 list projects and their estimated value which will be completed. Table 11 list National Transport Authority (NTA) projects which the Roads department hope to commence but please note the caveat in the programme. Table 9 lists the 2017 car parking and Local Property Tax (LPT) projects for the Roads and Transportation Directorate at the time of completion of the programme. The report went on to confirm other roads and transportation projects are listed in section 6.0 of the 2017 Roadworks Programme and it is hoped that these will be commence or continue through the year with the exception of the South Green access road which did not receive Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) funding as applied for and instead, the Maynooth ring road has been added to the list as it has received funding.

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

KN11/0417

Improvement works in The Village, Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Power
That a detailed account be provided of the councils' plans to carry out improvement works at the village in Newbridge.
The motion was proposed by Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Aspell.

Report: A report from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department confirmed the municipal district office proposes to carry out footpath repairs within The Village housing estate in Newbridge and the project will be funded under the Local Property Tax(LPT)/Pay Parking allocations.

Councillor Power thanked the District Engineer for the report and asked what the estimated timeframe for these works is. Ms Rea confirmed it would be later on in the year given other elements of the road works programme are prioritised first.

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

KN12/0417

Additional infrastructure to ESB poles

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy That the council explain why additional infrastructure is being added to ESB poles in Newbridge, especially in light of the decabling policy contained within both the Town Development Plan and the councils' policy on public lighting.

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

Report: A report from Ms E Wright, Senior Executive Officer stated the additional infrastructure relates to the rollout of broadband in Newbridge which is now being prioritised under the National Broadband Plan to support communities and businesses. Councillor McLoughlin Healy expressed her surprise with the content of the report given the undergrounding of cables is a stated commitment in all the council's development plans. Ms Wright confirmed the Roads Transportation and Public Safety department are the nominated contact department for Broadband in Kildare and she is now the nominated contact person and has attended the meetings on the rollout of the National Broadband Plan and she confirmed local authorities have been asked to facilitate in every way to get high speed broadband out there. Ms Wright confirmed that some companies are using the existing ESB cables to run broadband and some are using existing telecom poles to facilitate its installation. Councillor Lynch enquired whether we are asking these companies to underground the cables given some towns have undergrounded all their cables. Ms Wright reiterated the point that local authorities are being asked to facilitate all options necessary to

provide high speed broadband however did note that where possible, service providers are using service ducts where possible. Councillor Doyle acknowledged the work Ms Wright has carried out in area and stated that as no additional resources have been provided to the council to carry out this work, this is undermining the opportunity to optimise the rollout. Councillor McLoughlin Healy enquired if there was an option to ask these private installation companies to provide their own infrastructure. Ms Wright stated there are a number of different companies looking to provide the service and we have to find a balance in this regard.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin-Healy and seconded by Councillor Lynch that the report be noted.

KN13/0417

Streetscape in Kilmeague

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

That the council will commit to improving the streetscape in Kilmeague in the same manner as previously conducted in Allenwood and Robertstown, whilst acknowledging the villages' unique features.

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

Report: A report from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department confirmed the scoping and development of a public realm scheme/streetscape improvement scheme will require resources, identification of a project lead and co-ordination between a number of internal departments (Roads, Architects, Planning). The identification of funding to complete such a scheme would also be required. Councillor Stafford noted the content of the report however, referred to the great work done in Allenwood and Robertstown last year and asked that something similar take place in Kilmeague in the next year.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor Doyle that the council commits to improving the streetscape in Kilmeague in the next year subject to the identification of an appropriate funding stream.

KN14/0417

Togher Road Robertstown

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

That the council will apply a surface dressing to Togher Road, Robertstown.

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

Report: A report from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department stated Togher Road, Robertstown is not listed in the Roadworks Programme for 2017 but the municipal district office will add it to the list for consideration in the 2018 programme. Councillor Aspell stated he was happy with this report.

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

KN15/0417

St. Conleths Church, Newbridge

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

In view of the fact that the area outside St. Conleths Church in Newbridge becomes very slippery after frost, can the council consider replacing the surface with a safer one?

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

Report: A report from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department stated the municipal district office has no available funding to replace the footpath outside St. Conleth's Church and subject to availability of manpower, salt will be spread at this location during frosty weather. Councillor Power thanked the District Engineer for the report however asked if there was anything further that could be done. Ms Rea stated this is a very large area of footpath and nothing would happen this year with it but she would look at a solution for next year.

The report was noted.

KN16/0417

Eyre Street and adjoining streets

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

Can the council provide details in relation to the planned development of Eyre Street and the adjoining streets in Newbridge?

Report: A report from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department stated that in the coming weeks the municipal district office is preparing to carry out pavement overlays on a number of the streets between Eyre Street and Main Street, Newbridge. Repairs to crossing points on footpaths on Eyre Street have already been carried out, in advance of the pavement overlay.

The report was noted

KN17/0417

Pedestrian Crossing at the Gables, Newbridge

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

Is it possible to carry out an audit on the amount of poles in our municipal district area that don't have any signage on them and have them removed?

Report: A report from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department stated a full signage survey would be required, which would require resources to be diverted from other projects but that the roads department will be mindful of this request as works proceed in the municipal district over 2017 and remove redundant poles where appropriate.

It was also confirmed that with the approval of the Traffic Management Section, a number of redundant H frame poles are currently being removed from the approach roads in Newbridge.

The report was noted.

KN18/0417

Safety and Improvement works at Allen Crossroads

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Lynch. Can the council carry out safety and improvement works at Allen Crossroads (Milltown to Kilmeague road) with consideration given to a roundabout as a safety feature and a report on same?

Report: A report from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety department confirmed the issue has been referred to the Technical Assessment and Advisory Group (TAAG).

Councillor Lynch asked what the TAAG group was and Ms Wright confirmed this had been referred to at a previous meeting and that it was a specialist team set up within the Roads department to provide a structured assessment on requests for traffic measures such as traffic calming measures, speed surveys etc. Ms Wright confirmed the TAAG Group would

report back to each municipal district committee every two months and outlined there is a backlog of requests from 2016 and these are currently being examined.

The report was noted.

KN19/0417

It was agreed by all the members to take item numbers 18, 20 and 23 together.

Traffic survey on the Suncroft Road

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

If following the traffic survey on the Suncroft Road which showed that a high number of vehicles travelled in excess of the 50kph speed limit, what plans have the council to make the road safer?

Traffic Survey in Suncroft Village

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy
Can the council review their report of the most recent traffic survey completed in Suncroft village (with consideration given to material provided)?

Speeding in Suncroft

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender
What public lighting improvements would be required to provide adequate traffic calming to alleviate the issues of speeding in Suncroft?

Report: A report from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety department stated this issue has been referred to the Technical Assessment and Advisory Group (TAAG) for prioritisation within the municipal district and that the costing of signage has been provided to the members. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that the raw data recorded did not support the position outlined in the council report given to the members and stated unless an explanation can be given how this occurred; she will seek a review of all such raw data and reports. Councillor Pender agreed with Councillor McLoughlin Healy and stated that the incorrect data masks the extent of the problem and thus effects its prioritisation. Councillor Pender asked who makes up the TAAG group and whether Suncroft features on the recent public lighting list. Ms Wright confirmed the TAAG team is made up of the Senior Executive Engineer in the traffic management section supported by the Chief Technician in the Roads

department. The traffic management team is made up of two technicians who report to the Senior Engineer. The District Engineer stated the Roads Design department would examine the raw data and revert back with their findings however did note that the report that was circulated to the members did confirm there was a need for traffic calming at this location. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked for a full report on how the raw data was interpreted and asked that the item remain on the progress report.

The report was noted.

KN20/0417

Improvement works at Melitta Park, Kildare Town

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Doyle
Can we facilitate estate improvement works at Melitta Park, Kildare Town

Report: A report from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department stated considerable repairs were carried out to footpaths in Melitta Park in 2016 and that further repairs to footpath were also recently carried out at this location.

Councillor Doyle stated the Residents Association is looking for improvement works at the entrance to the estate and asked if there was a compromise that could be reached. The District Engineer stated she had asked the Residents Association to come back with proposals on what they are looking for however, Ms Rea did point out there could be constraints as a result of 3rd party objections and/or health & safety implications in relation to building structures.

The report was noted.

KN21/0417

Boundary Fence at Doorley Park

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford
Can the council confirm that it will replace the wooden post and rail boundary fence at Doorley Park, Rathangan with a more permanent boundary?

Report: A report from Simon Wallace Senior Executive Parks Superintendent stated there is no provision in this year's budget to carry out any upgrade to the boundary but it can be considered for a future works programme, in conjunction with the municipal district office,

should funding become available. Councillor Stafford stated the use of walls for boundary treatment is a requirement of the County Development Plan, not fences and that this particular fence has deteriorated considerably and needs to be addressed. Councillor Stafford also stated Building Control should have addressed the issue.

The report was noted.

KN22/0417

L7081 from Mylerstown Cross to Healys Bridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford
Can the council furnish an update on the steps being taken to address the road safety issues that arise along the L7081 in Robertstown from Mylerstown Cross to Healys' Bridge to include but not limited to the erection of appropriate signage and reducing the speed limit?

Report: A report from the Roads Transportations and Public Safety department stated this issue has been referred to the Technical Assessment and Advisory Group (TAAG).

Councillor Stafford stated he had raised this issue over a year ago as had Councillor Lynch, and it was agreed at that time that signage would be looked at which hasn't happened.

The report was noted.

KN23/0417

Newbridge cemetery Car-park

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Aspell
That improvement works be carried out at the Newbridge Cemetery car-park, to include new boundary wall, surface improvements and signage.

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

Report: A report from Mr L Dunne, Senior Executive Officer, Environment section stated they will survey the area and carry out appropriate improvements.

Councillor Aspell welcomed the report and stated that the older section of the car-park is in a dreadful condition and referred to a broken wooden fence, overgrown trees and an unfinished wall and asked to meet with Mr Dunne on site. Councillor Lynch asked that a

hedgerow be considered at this location. Mr Dunne acknowledged there are works still outstanding however confirmed the project was being carried out on a phased basis.

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

KN24/0417

Taking in Charge Loughminane and The Plains/Collaghknock

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

That we receive a progress report on taking in charge of both Loughminane and The Plains/Collaghknock estates in Kildare.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Lynch

Report: A report from the Building and Development Control section stated that in relation to Loughminane Green:

Even though this estate has not been formally taken in charge, Kildare County Council has for many years been maintaining this estate as if it were. The taking in charge of this estate will be raised with Irish Water at the next meeting (at the end of April) with them and will be included in the next batch of estates to be taken in charge.

In relation to The Plains/Collaghknock the report stated:

There are significant remedial works required to bring this estate up to taking in charge standard. The bond provided for the satisfactory completion of this estate was first called in by the council in 2011 with these funds eventually being received in March 2017.

Building/Development Control will now engage with Irish Water to agree the allocation of the bond to water services issues and other infrastructural issues and this will be raised at the next meeting with Irish Water (at end of April) with a view to including this estate in the next batch of estates to be advertised for taking in charge.

Councillor Doyle asked that the same principles applied to Loughminane be applied to The Plains and that within reason, we facilitate requests for roads and footpaths. Councillor Lynch and Councillor Stafford both supported the motion with Councillor Stafford stating that as Kildare County Council has cashed in the bond, Irish Water will have to address the sewage issues etc.

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

KN25/0417

Arts Act Grants

The members considered the following item.

To consider the Arts Act Grants for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

A report was received from Mr E Doyle Assistant Arts Officer stating a lot of work had been done around professional development in applications and that the grant amount available has been increased to allow for higher quality applications.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Pender, the Arts Acts Grants were agreed by the members.

KN26/0417

Deputation from Ballyteague GAA

The members considered the following item.

To consider receiving a deputation from Ballyteague GAA

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Pender the members would receive a deputation from Ballyteague GAA at their May monthly meeting.

KN27/0417

Town centre improvement plan for Rathangan

The members considered the following adjourned question in the name of Councillor Power. That the council draw up a town centre improvement plan for Rathangan to include de-cabling and the provision of public art, with the aid of an outside consultant and initiate public consultation with the local traders and residents in order to seek national public investment when available.

Report: A report from Ms L Russell, County Arts Officer stated in relation to the provision of public art, the arts service will liaise with other departments to ascertain if such

developments are eligible for the Per Cent for Art Scheme, or other funding opportunities

A report from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety department stated that from our experience town centre improvement works (design and construction) are very costly, in particular the undergrounding of overhead cables with typical costs for this type of project being in the range €400,000 to €500,000 (to cover design and construction) but that a detailed estimate of costs would need to be carried out to clarify the funding that would be required. If funding could be identified and approved, then a council multi-disciplinary project team could be set up (roads, water services, planning and architects, municipal district section) and a consultant could be appointed by the council and this project could commence.

Councillor Power noted the contents of the report and stated that as a municipal district, we have a duty to spread our resources throughout the entire district and funding should be sought to carry out this project. Councillor Stafford supported Councillor Powers motion and asked that it be considered in the context of all the various plans being prepared this year.

The report was noted.

KN28/0417

Swimming pool trust money

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

That the council uses its' Community Section to work with K Leisure to explore releasing the swimming pool trust money held in good faith by the trust, on behalf of the people of Kildare town, to build a swimming pool in the area. Smaller towns such as Portarlington and Athy have extremely successful pool facilities and public leisure centres despite being a fraction of the population of the Newbridge-Kildare local electoral area (LEA) and the six figure community fund collected should be attempted to be utilised by this council and its affiliates to progress a swimming pool for the area.

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

Report: A report from Mr McDonnell Director of Services stated the monies referred to by Councillor Lynch were collected by a voluntary group and are not held by the council and it is a matter for the trustees of the group to determine how the money collected should be spent. The report also confirmed that the councils strategy for swimming pools in Kildare is that

three would be provided - one in the north, one in the mid and one in the south of the county. The council, with K Leisure, have provided pools in the south and the middle of the county and the priority for the next pool is in North Kildare.

Councillor Lynch noted the report and acknowledged the funds collected are not enough to deliver a swimming pool but the council, in conjunction with K-leisure, should at least consider delivering a pool in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and the Trust should be approached in this regard. Councillor Stafford supported the sentiment of the motion but indicated it costs €8 million approx to deliver a swimming pool thus the monies held by the Trust are way too small. Councillor Doyle agreed with Councillor Stafford and confirmed the trustees had recently changed their legal representatives who should be allowed familiarise themselves with the matter before we approach them on this matter. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated this Municipal District had previously tasked somebody with speaking with the solicitors on this matter and asked why there had been no progress on this issue. Councillor McLoughlin Healy proposed we invite the trustees and their legal representatives in for a private discussion on what their plans are for this money. Councillor Lynch seconded this proposal and asked whether a feasibility study could be carried out to start with. Councillor Doyle welcomed that the issue had been raised but noted that to spend money on a feasibility study is not judicious and asked that some time be afforded to the trustees and their new legal representatives to review matters and that we consider inviting them post September. Councillor Power stated he did not wish for this issued to reflect badly on the trustees as they are trying to find a workable solution. Councillor Lynch asked if one person from Kildare County Council/K-Leisure could be tasked with progressing this item. Councillor Stafford stated there are 2 separate issues being discussed and suggested that the matter be discussed at the special meeting of the municipal district agreed for the 02 May 2017. Ms. Aspell confirmed she would relay the member's views to the District Manager on his return and wished it noted that the money being held in trust is not public money.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted and the matter discussed at the special meeting of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District due to take place on Tuesday 02 May 2017.

KN29/0417

Tidy Towns payments

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle
That all Tidy Towns payments be confirmed with the committee and payments made promptly in order to facilitate their work programme in order to maximise outcomes for adjudication.

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

Report: A report from Mr L Dunne, Senior Executive Officer Environment section confirmed they will process the relevant Tidy Towns Local Property Tax (LPT) grants when allocations have been advised and agreed that it would be appropriate to make payments promptly to facilitate works by local committees. Councillor Doyle stated that a notice should issue to applicants letting them know to get their works planned and started by the end of the easter period.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Power that the report be noted and applicants be advised to get their works planned and started by the end of the easter period.

KN30/0417

Funding to Riverbank

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy
That the council provide details of council funding provided to the Riverbank over the last five years including the amount and the terms and conditions applied to such funding.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor Doyle.

Report: The following is the council funding provided per the Annual Kildare County Council Budget 2012 to 2016 to Riverbank Arts Centre, as the county arts facility for Kildare:

2012 €267,500

2013 €267,500

2014 €262,500

2015 €262,500

2016 €262,500

Grant towards 5 year Children's Play Programme 2012-2016

€23,180

Report: A report from Ms M Higgins County Librarian confirmed the Riverbank Arts Centre is run by Riverbank Arts Centre CLG and is required to have a Child Protection Policy, Public Liability and Employers insurance, Health and Safety documentation, Fire Safety Certification, licensing, etc. The centre is required to provide annual audited accounts, following their Annual General Meeting (AGM). This grant aid is provided towards the operation of the building, maintenance and upkeep of the facility, marketing and staffing.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated this motion follows a motion previously listed on the February agenda and since which, it has been clarified that no-one was in attendance at that meeting to answer the motion. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she did not ask for the terms and conditions applicable to the centre, she had asked for them in relation to the funding received from Kildare County Council. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated this centre has received funding in the amount of €1,345,000 since 2012 and for this reason, it is beholden on us to ensure the money is being spent appropriately. Councillor McLoughlin Healy confirmed the Riverbank Arts Centre is a registered charity and stated she is aware it is currently non-compliant as it has not submitted the required oversight documents to the Charities Regulator. For this reason, Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated she is not happy or confident with the nature of the oversight that the council has currently, or will have in Riverbank in the future and stated she is now looking for an exhaustive list of what we as a council look for from a charitable organisation before we award funding. Mr E Doyle Assistant Arts Officer stated that Ms M Higgins County Librarian could not be in attendance today as was at a meeting in the Department and undertook to bring back the Councillors queries back to Ms Higgins. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated she is hopeful of seeing the required compliance and legal governance when this list is provided.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted and that a more indepth report be provided for the next meeting.

KN31/0417

Insurance rate for community events

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McCabe
That the council look into securing a favourable insurance rate for community events, as group quotes might be of better value to all. The current situation of individual quotes is working out very costly for community groups.

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

Report: A report from Ms A Conneely Administrative Officer, Community and Culture Section stated AOIFE is the Association of Irish Festival Events who provide service to the members of the association. They are an all-island voluntary network organisation that brings together organisers of festivals and events in Ireland, suppliers to the festival and event sector and policy-makers. The AOIFE Services are as follows: The Event Insure Scheme is a package of insurance policies designed specifically for festivals and events and for the majority of AOIFE members, the scheme offers 50% savings on premiums - www.eventinsure.ie". The community section will explore this matter with AOIFE and report back at the next meeting. Councillor Mc Cabe stated it might be work issuing a note through the PPN advising small groups of the need to have insurance for events seeing as this is not covered by the council. Councillor Kennedy clarified that a community grant can cover insurance costs. Councillor Pender supported the motion and asked that it be put on the progress report for next month.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor Power that the community section will explore the possibility of securing a favourable insurance rate for community events and report back to the May meeting and the item be placed on the progress report for next month.

KN32/0417

Public amenity site along River Liffey

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

What is the progress of a public amenity site along the River Liffey at Athgarvan?

Report: A report from Ms A Conneely Administrative Officer, Community and Culture Section stated it will not be possible to consider this request for this year's work programme however it can be considered for a future programme.

The report was noted.

KN33/0417

Business Improvement District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy
In light of looming rates increases for many local businesses can the council help counter the reduction in incomes and possible business closures by asking the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) to investigate the potential for a Business Improvement District (BID), or similar initiative, in conjunction with the newly formed Kildare Chamber of Commerce and Newbridge and Kildare Towns to encourage business growth in both towns?

Report: A report from Ms C O'Grady A/Director of Service stated the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2006 provides the legal mechanism for the establishment of Business Improvement Districts(BID) within the functional areas of rating authorities in Ireland and confirmed any decision on whether a BID scheme proceeds is ultimately a matter for the ratepayers within the proposed BID area. The report confirmed the council's role is to facilitate the decision making process through the holding of a plebiscite. Should the majority of the ratepayers within the BID area who participate in the plebiscite vote in favour of the BID scheme, the scheme will only come into effect after the elected members, by resolution, approve the scheme. Businesses within the BID area will then be asked to pay a levy which will be collected by the council on behalf of the BID company and all monies collected will be transferred by the council to the BID company. Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated she hoped this matter can be advanced and noted that the only matter within the Councillors remit is the approval of such a scheme and the possibility of establishing a rebate scheme on the levy for those most disproportionately affected by this plan. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked that it be referred to the Head of Finance and the Head of Local Enterprise for consideration and the item be listed on the progress report for next month.

The Meetings Administator explained that as this item was listed as a question rather than a motion, it will not be noted on the progress report. Councillor McLoughlin Healy acknowledged this and said she will discuss it with the relevant officials.

The report was noted.

KN34/0417

Illumination system for the Town Hall

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

Can the council look at installing and maintaining an illumination system for the Town Hall in Newbridge? The success of the St. Patricks' week illumination was noted and appreciated by the town.

Report: A report from Mr G Halton, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department stated the recent green illumination of the town hall in festive green lighting for the week beginning 13 March to 20 March was carried out as a once off trial, funded by KLeisure.

While it is possible to seek an estimate for the permanent installation of a building lighting facility, it might be premature to permanently install any such lighting (with the facility to switch colours) until the final development works to the front of the town hall are complete. Any works would need to be complementary to the restoration works, and the restoration works would have to ensure that the permanent lighting facility is incorporated. The occasional hiring and secure placement of same is always another option, and an estimate/quotation can be sought for same. Councillor McCabe noted the contents of the report and asked that the council ensures proper groundworks are carried out to the front of the building.

The report was noted.

KN35/0417

Rates due in the Kildare-Newbridge area

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

Can the following figures be provided, the total amount of rates due in the Kildare-Newbridge area each year since 2012, the amount received for each of those years and what expectation has the council of collecting the amounts due?

Report: A report from Ms E Hanlon, Head of Finance stated the information requested by Councillor Power is not available on a municipal district basis. The table below is a summary of the commercial rates collections for Kildare County Council (including former town councils of Naas and Athy) for 2012 to 2016 as included in the Annual Financial Statements (AFS).

All outstanding balances at year end are being pursued, however being prudent a specific doubtful debt provision of €1.8m has been made in AFS2016 for balances that are going through statutory processes including liquidations, receivership etc

Annual Financial Statement				
Appendix 7				
Summary of Rates Collections				
Year	Total Rates for Collection	Collected €	Arrears at 31 Dec €	% collected
2016	57,555,963	50,897,273	12,102,847	83%
2015	57,554,487	50,938,296	12,300,391	82%
2014	57,211,032	44,456,026	12,755,006	78%
2013	58,455,610	43,346,429	15,109,181	74%
2012	56,478,389	41,196,962	15,281,427	73%

Councillor Power noted the collection figures have increased and stated the effect of the revaluation was going to be different in some areas than others and a breakdown by municipal district would be helpful both to councillors and the executive.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.