

**Minutes of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 17 May 2017
in the Council Chamber, Aras Chill Dara**

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

Present: Mr T McDonnell (District Manager), Mr N Morrissey (Director of Services), Ms B Rea (District Engineer), Mr D Hughes (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr L Dunne, (Senior Executive Officer), Ms M Higgins, (Senior Executive Librarian), Mr B Martin, Ms V Cooke (Administrative Officers) Ms D Daly, (Community Worker) Mr S Wallace (Senior Parks Superintendent), Ms B Loughlin (Heritage Officer), Mr C O'Toole, (Assistant Staff Officer) Ms M McIvor (Meetings Administrator) and Ms E Price (Meetings Secretary).

On the commencement of the meeting the District Manager informed the members that the supplementary agenda item in relation to Dunmurray Rise would not be considered at this time because the planning report is not yet available and it was agreed that a special meeting will be held in advance of the full council meeting at 11.00 on Monday 29 May 2017 to consider the Part 8 report for Dunmurray Rise.

Councillor Doyle asked that the report, when ready, be circulated to the members at least 3 days in advance of the meeting, or earlier if possible.

The District Manager also informed the members of a number of staff changes occurring in various departments of the council and advised that Mr Darren Hughes will take up the position of municipal district engineer for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District from June 2017.

KN01/0517

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 12 April 2017 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor Lynch that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 12 April 2017, of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting be confirmed and the progress report be noted.

KN02/0517

Matters Arising

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

Councillor Doyle asked that it be noted that at a recent meeting in relation to the closure of the walkway at Moore Avenue that the Roads department undertook to contact the landowner of the property adjacent to the houses and if unsuccessful in their attempts to make contact after 6 – 8 weeks they will go ahead and install a barrier.

Councillor Lynch also noted a wall was to be built up to the laneway at this location and that it had been agreed that this would happen whilst waiting for a response from the owners of the adjacent property.

The District Manager undertook to speak with Mr Coppinger from the Roads department in relation to issues raised by the members on the closure of the walkway at Moore Avenue.

Funding to Riverbank KN30/0417

The report from the County Librarian, Ms M Higgins stated: 'I would like to confirm that Riverbank Arts Centre Ltd (RCN 20074982) has successfully submitted annual reports to the Charities Regulator for the years 2014 and 2015 and that the next annual reporting deadline for the charity, for the year ending 31st December 2016, is 31st October 2017.

Due to a technical issue with our website, Riverbank Arts Centre's reporting details are not showing in the public register. Our IT department have been made aware of the issue and are actively working to resolve it, my apologies for any confusion or inconvenience.'

Councillor McLoughlin Healy noted that when she spoke on this issue previously, the relevant information had not been reported to the Charities Office at that time. She also referred to the number of directors required to be appointed under the Companies

Registration Office (CRO) Memo and Articles of Association and stated that she was trying to establish if or how long the Arts Centre may have been operating with less than the required number of directors. Councillor McLoughlin Healy voiced concerns that no-one appeared to have checked to see what minimum requirements are needed by both the CRO and the Charities Office.

The District Manager suggested an in-committee meeting be arranged to give clarification and discuss the matters, this was agreed by the members.

Tankardsgarden, Newbridge (KN05/0417)

In response to a query from Councillor Pender regarding an update on the tender process for Tankardsgarden, the District Manager confirmed that the new tender which had gone out to the national framework is the same as the one that issued to the Kildare framework, however, no tenders had been received back at this time, although he expected these were imminent.

Recording of all Questions and Motions (KN06/1703)

Councillor Lynch welcomed the fact that further discussions on improving the system of recording all motions and questions will take place.

KN03/0517

Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 2 May 2017

The members considered the minutes of the special meeting held on 2 May 2017 in relation to the Schedule of Municipal District Works. A revised copy of the Schedule of Municipal District Works was also circulated to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the minutes of the special meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on 2 May 2017, be confirmed as taken and read and the revised Schedule of Municipal District Works be noted.

KN04/0517

Presentation from Local Authorities Waters and Communities Office (LAWCO)

The Mayor welcomed Ms Aoife McGrath, from the Local Authorities Waters and Communities Office (LAWCO) to give a presentation on LAWCO and an update on the preparation of the 2nd Cycle Draft River Basin Management plan. Ms McGrath outlined the

two key objectives in connection with the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Ireland which are to co-ordinate the activities of all the local authorities in areas connected with the Water Framework Directive and to promote public participation in the Water Framework Directive process by engaging the public and communities in the management of their own local water environment.

Ms McGrath informed the members that LAWCO are working to create awareness and education and that a number of public meetings were being held throughout the county with LAWCO trying to encourage participation with local businesses, farmers and anglers associations. Ms McGrath said one of the initiatives to encourage community participation is a Tidy Towns Award and informed the members that the closing date for nominations for this is 25 May 2017. Ms McGrath also informed the members that a river walk will take place in Newbridge to coincide with June Fest and she encouraged participation in this event.

The Mayor thanked Ms McGrath for her presentation and invited questions from the members.

In response to a query from Councillor Power in relation to groups that LAWCO are working with from the agriculture sector, Ms McGrath informed the members that they are working with individual farmers, the IFA and Teagasc to establish good communications, to educate and to create awareness in relation to issues such as spreading slurry or fencing off areas near rivers or streams to prevent access by cattle and noted this approach had worked well with seven landowners along the Lyreen River.

In response to a query from Councillor McLoughlin Healy regarding submissions that had been made at a previous public meeting in Newbridge, Ms McGrath confirmed that these do not need to be resubmitted as this information will be collated when all the relevant submissions from other public meetings had been received and that responses would issue toward the end of the summer.

Responding to queries from Councillors Lynch and Stafford, Ms McGrath informed the members that there can be confusion over who is responsible for streams and rivers and who is responsible for enforcement when it comes to pollution of these. Ms McGrath advised that local groups or local authorities usually end up taking on the task of cleaning up these areas but that a joined up approach is what is needed.

Ms McGrath informed the members that LAWCO welcomes any suggestions or submissions the members wished to make at any time.

KN05/0517

Schedule of Municipal District Road Works

The District Engineer informed the members that the contract for road improvements in Kildare Town has commenced and these works will extend from Lidl to Pigeon Land and from Market Square along Nugent Street to Railway Stores and that some night works will be necessary in order to minimise disruption to businesses and traffic. Ms Rea also informed the members that two green machines are now operating in Newbridge and Kildare Town and they will operate from Monday to Friday, further noting that Rathangan will also be included when necessary.

Councillor Doyle said there has already been a noticeable difference on the streets due to the use of these green machines and requested that they also be put to use in Dara Park, Kildare and so asked if something can be put in place at The Plains, Kildare similar to the measures which were put in place at Loughminane Green pending the taking in charge of the estate.

Responding to a query from Councillor Pender in relation to Chapel Hill, Kildare the District Engineer informed the members that the municipal district office is working with Irish Water with a view to road works at this location.

In response to a request from Councillor McLoughlin Healy to have the granite and glass cleaned on the artwork at Georges' Street, the District Engineer undertook to ask the contractors to do this. The District Engineer also confirmed that there is a contractor in place in Newbridge on Saturdays and four individuals employed by the council on Sundays for litter picking and emptying bins.

KN06/0517

Invitation to the Curragh Forum

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council extend an invite to the Curragh Forum to meet with the municipal district councillors to discuss the progress of the forum regarding ongoing issues on the Curragh

including the dumping of rubbish and to combine our efforts in protecting and promoting the Curragh as a unique natural amenity and resource.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to decide.

A discussion ensued amongst the members all of whom supported the motion. The members noted issues such as excessive littering or illegal encampments which are damaging The Curragh and any potential tourist or heritage opportunities the area could provide. The members agreed that a joined-up thinking approach is needed. The District Manager confirmed that there is engagement with the personnel from the Department of Defence in relation to The Curragh and he suggested that any invitation issue should directly to the Department of Defence as they are the main stakeholders.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed by all the members that an invitation to be issued to the Department of Defence.

KN07/0517

Staff Identification

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Aspell.
When council employees are carrying out maintenance on a tenant house, that they should be required to carry Kildare County Council identification with them at all times.

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

A report was received from the Housing department informing the members that the Housing Maintenance departments' standard policy is for both its employees and contractors working on their behalf to carry ID badges with them at all times and to offer them for presentation at all times when calling to houses for inspections or repairs. The report asked the members to report to the Senior Executive Engineer, Housing Maintenance if they had information to the contrary.

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

KN08/0517

Development on the Athgarvan Road

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

That the council provide an update on the houses on the Athgarvan Road, as we were under the impression that works were due to start last year.

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

A report was received from the Housing department informing the members that when the council went to award the contract, the contractor who submitted the most economically advantageous tender was unable to stand over their tender price and subsequently withdrew their tender and so the second most economically advantageous tender was assessed in detail and a revised Stage 4 application submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government. Revised approval was received from the Department on the 28 April 2017 to appoint the next contractor and the council are finalising the contract documentation and hope to award this contract within the next 2 weeks.

Councillor Aspell welcomed the report and asked that the members be updated in two weeks, however the District Manager advised the members that they are currently considering insurance documentation and will be able to give the members a more informed update including possible start dates at the June municipal district meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor McCabe that the report be noted and the members be updated on progress and possible start dates at the June municipal district meeting.

KN09/0517

Difficulties with Contractors

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy.

That the council outline what, if any, process is in place to track any difficulties with contractors in the execution of their works across the district, and if and how any prior difficulties impacts on using the contractor again?

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

A report was received from the Housing department informing the members that the councils' Housing Maintenance department has a very robust system of monitoring the performance of all contractors working for them throughout the county. If any of these contractors fail to meet the required standards as set out in a very detailed matrix of assessment, the following actions have been and continue to be taken; a) Verbal warning, b) formal written warning, c) suspension from future works, or d) termination from engagement in any future works.

A further report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that when a works contract for the Environment Section has reached substantial completion as certified by the engineer (either the council or consultant acting on their behalf) the contract enters a 12 month Defects Period. During this period, the contractor is obliged to carry out works to remedy any defects or snags identified by the engineer. The contract allows for a sum of money to be withheld from the contractor, i.e. retention, until these works are carried out by the contractor to the satisfaction of the engineer. If the works are not carried out to the satisfaction of the engineer, then the retention monies may be used to rectify the defects using another suitably qualified contractor. If it is found that a contractor has not performed to a satisfactory level, they will be advised of this and it will be taken into account in relation to further assignments.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy queried if any of the remedies or sanctions mentioned in the Environment report had ever been applied to a contractor and advised that she was aware of issues at two separate locations involving the same contractor. Councillor McLoughlin Healy also queried if there is a register or a way of expressing dissatisfaction with a contractor through the procurement framework.

Councillor Pender also stated that the residents of Dara Park were not satisfied with the works that had been carried out and noted the snag list had been prepared by the council's engineer without consultation with the residents.

The District Manager advised the members the council cannot blacklist a contractor on the basis of poor performance or workmanship and that it must adhere to a very regulated environment when selecting contractors through the procurement process. The District

Manager undertook to relay the members' concerns to the Director of Services, Water and Environment Department.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Pender that the report be noted and the District Manager to discuss the issues raised with the Director of Services, Water and Environment Department.

KN10/0517

Housing Loan Applications

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

Can we have a report on council housing loan application for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District to include number of applicants, success rate and turn around time, for the last 12 months.

A report was received from the Housing department informing the members that in the past 12 months 22 housing loan applications have been received by the council for the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District, of this amount 5 (23%) have been approved, 4 (18%) refused, 9 (41%) were incomplete and 4 remain on hand to be processed. The report advised that it is very difficult to provide a specific turnaround time for assessment of applications due to the range of factors that determine same. Straight forward applications usually have a decision reached within 12 weeks, however in many cases further information is required. All complete applications are sent to the Housing Agency for consideration and once returned are reviewed by the councils' credit committee but assessment is on a case by case basis and where particular urgency is required we try to work with applicants to turn such applications around swiftly.

In response to a query from Councillor Doyle, the District Manager informed the members that there can sometimes be difficulties with the correct information not being submitted and asked the members to bear in mind that two letters of refusal from other lending institutions is also required and that perhaps approval in principle should be sought before an applicant begins to search for properties.

The report was noted.

KN11/0517

Raw Data on Summary Analysis

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

That the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District includes the raw data as standard on all summary analyses, within reason, where reports have been sought by members which includes numerical data that has been collected, manipulated and summarised for simplicity and is presented to the members for their consideration.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that raw data, collected as part of traffic surveys and counts and other data collected as part of the ongoing work within the Roads Department, i.e., road construction levels, bridge structural calculations, CCTV-generated data etc requires a level of data cleansing prior to analysis and the calculation of summary information. The release of raw data to a non-technical audience would generate a level of queries, questions, verbal and written explanations, and would create an onerous burden on the department's current limited resources.

Councillor Pender stated that the motion suggests 'within reason' and that having raw data made available to the members would prove very useful to them when making informed decisions and that any data supplied should be within reason and at the discretion of staff.

Mr Morrissey, Director of Services for the Roads department reiterated that providing raw data would lead to more queries and questions and put more pressure on already stretched staff resources and as such, he couldn't commit to providing raw data, however, he advised the members that when a report or survey is circulated, if they dispute any of the findings then in circumstances such as these the raw data could be issued.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that data should be open, transparent and accessible and refuted the idea that circulating raw data would not be productive, noting the recent error that had occurred with the traffic survey at Suncroft.

Mr Morrissey acknowledged the error that had occurred but noted the overall outcome had not been affected. Mr Morrissey outlined that in order to produce the survey results two staff

members are needed over a two week period and that the provision of data would not be confined to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District, all other municipal district members would also want to receive these very detailed reports. Mr Morrissey pointed out that the councils' number one objective is road safety and where identified, the issue of speeding will be addressed when resources are available. In response to a query from Councillor Lynch, Mr Morrissey confirmed that these reports would be made available on request.

A further discussion ensued amongst the members and it was proposed to refer the motion to the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by all the members that the motion be referred to the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety SPC.

KN12/0517

Mechanical Road Sweeping at Athgarvan

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

That the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District include Athgarvan in the schedule for the mechanical road sweeper.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the road sweeper operates in this area of the municipal district on Mondays and Thursdays and that the driver has a set route but does occasionally operate in the other villages, including Athgarvan, when time permits. The report advised that this practice will continue but a commitment to a set day cannot be given.

In response to a request from Councillor Pender if mechanical sweeping can be provided on request, the District Engineer advised the members that they can contact the municipal district office to request this.

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

KN13/0517

Underpass at St Conleths' Bridge, Newbridge

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

That the council outline its' plans to further develop the area along the riverbank and the underpass at St Conleths Bridge, Newbridge and if an indication could be given as to what works will be carried out this year and the approximate cost of same.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that it is proposed to develop the section from the Liffey Linear Park under St Conleths Bridge to the pedestrian steps which link back to the roadside path at Canning Place. The report advised that the approximate cost will be indicated once the detail design for the scheme has been prepared and costed and before any works commence.

In response to a query from Councillor Power in relation to a timeline for the design, Mr Wallace informed the members that detailed designs should be available before the end of the summer.

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

KN14/0517

Road Safety Measures in the Kildare-Newbridge Area

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

That the council outline its' priorities in relation to road safety in the Kildare-Newbridge area and if any funds will be made available from external sources to carry out the necessary works.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the 2017 Road Works Programme has identified two schemes which will be financed under the 2017 Low Cost Safety approved schemes, namely Dagwelds Cross (€50,000) and the Rathbride/Pollardstown Junction (€50,000). It is

proposed to work with the Road Design section to design and construct improvements at these locations in 2017.

Responding to a query from Councillor Power in relation to timelines for these works, the District Engineer informed the members that it is hoped to begin these works in Quarter 3 of 2017.

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

KN15/0517

Road Improvement Works, Kildare Town

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

That we get a report on road improvement works for Kildare town with time schedules.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a contract to carry out road improvements from Lidl to Pigeon Lane and from Market Square to Railway Stores has commenced and a second contract to carry out road improvements at Academy Street and Chapel Hill cannot commence until Irish Water has carried out works at Cleamore Terrace and Lourdesville, therefore a programme of works cannot be confirmed for the second contract.

Councillor Doyle stated this issue had been dealt with the item 05/0517 above and as such she was happy to note the report.

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

KN16/0517

Drainage Issues

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

That the council investigate the drainage issues that arise at (i) Tullywest Road, Kildare and (ii) along the R415 close to the entrance of Oaklawns Estate, Kilmeague and conduct the necessary repair works.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the municipal district office has carried out routine maintenance at Tullywest Road and will continue to monitor the drainage situation at this location. The report also noted that Tullywest Road could be included for consideration as a suitable project to be funded under the Local Property Tax/Pay Parking list of projects in 2018. The drainage issue at the entrance to Oaklawns Estate will be inspected and addressed as part of the works proposed at this estate under the Local Property Tax/Pay Parking list of projects.

Councillor Stafford identified a location also at Oaklawns Estate on the Kilmeague side of the estate and asked that the municipal district office also examine this area.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted and the municipal district office also examine issues on the Kilmeague side of Oaklawns Estate when carrying out works at this location.

KN17/0517

Concrete Bins in Suncroft

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

That the council remove the open top concrete bins in Suncroft and replace with steel hooded bins (such as the one located outside the primary school) or alternatively, as a short term measure, fix an appropriate hood to the existing bins.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a considerable number of bins have been identified which need to be replaced or repaired in the municipal district and that the bins in Suncroft are included in this list. The report advised that the municipal district office will endeavour to replace the open top concrete bins during 2017 when resources are available.

Councillor Stafford also requested that bins be placed on the opposite side of the road in Suncroft.

Councillor Lynch queried if a bin can be placed on the pathway leading towards Newbridge Train Station.

Councillor Power also asked that the bin be replaced outside McDonnells pub in Newbridge.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Power that the municipal district offices will endeavour to replace the open top concrete bins during 2017 when resources are available.

KN18/0517

Two Way Traffic at Cutlery Road, Newbridge

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

That this council assesses making the top portion of Cutlery Road, Newbridge (Athgarvan Road/Water Tower end), open to traffic in both directions as opposed to the current one way system. Businesses were detrimentally affected since the closure of the top of the street several years ago and the current system means customers are no longer entering these businesses with ease, alongside the fact that many of these companies have large trucks and vans entering their premises which are being forced down Cutlery Road onto the main street causing further traffic disruption.

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 this issue has been awaiting the development of a comprehensive Traffic Management Plan for Newbridge Town and it is considered prudent to consider any change in direction of flow on any street in the town as part of a strategic scheme where the effects can be modelled as a whole as opposed to looking at proposals in a piecemeal manner. The report advised that preliminary estimates for the quantum of work involved in this proposal would include the local widening of a portion of Cutlery Road, a significant change to the layout of the adjacent signalised junction, changes to the linked SCOOT system and amended crossing facilities for vulnerable road users all of which will form part of the consideration of the Traffic Management Plan Study.

Responding to a request from Councillor Lynch for the District Engineer to meet with local business owners, the District Engineer informed the members that public consultation will form part of the plans for the Traffic Management Plan.

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

KN19/0517

Roadworks at Maddenstown, The Curragh

The members agreed to consider agenda item nos 18, 20 and 21 together regarding Maddenstown, The Curragh.

Item No 18 – Motion in the name of Councillor Lynch

That the council assesses the laneways at Maddenstown Estate, Maddenstown, the Curragh to be scheduled for resurfacing as they are in a bad condition.

Item No 20 – Question in the name of Councillor Pender

Can the council please outline what plans there are for road resurfacing or improvement works on the road between Tullyville and Maddenstown Terrace, including laneways and provide timeframes for same?

Item No 21 – Question in the name of Councillor Pender

Can the council please provide costings to improve the footpaths in the estates and to provide ramps for traffic calming at the road at Tullyville Maddenstown?

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

Reports were received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the 2017 Road Works Programme includes a proposed Road Restoration Improvement Scheme for Maddenstown. A map was also circulated indicating the works which include improvements to laneways to be carried out. The report also advised that the works include a proposed overlay at Tullyville between the Curragh and the speed limit, in addition to surface dressing from the speed limit to the next junction with works expected to commence in quarter 3 of 2017. The report noted that there are no improvements planned for footpaths at Tullyville and no plan to carry out traffic calming at

this location, however, these works could be included for consideration under Local Property Tax/Pay Parking funding in 2018 and a cost estimate can be considered at that time.

In response to a query from Councillor Lynch in relation to the timeline for works at Maddenstown, the District Engineer informed the members that it is proposed that these works will be carried out during the summer.

Councillor Pender asked that the municipal district office also examine the road and pathways at the entrance of Maddenstown Estate which, she noted are in very poor condition and suggested that funding be found to carry out the works. The District Engineer noted there are other areas more deserving for any surplus funding. In response to a query from Councillor Pender on whether a list of potential works to be carried out was being compiled, the Meetings Administrator confirmed that a list of works identified by the members but for which no current funding is available is being compiled for consideration at a later date.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor Pender that the reports be noted.

KN20/0517

Undergrounding Cables

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Aspell.
Who decides whether cables are run underground or above, and what is the criteria on this?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the Electricity (Supply) Act 1927 sets out the powers to supply electricity to the public and the Electricity (Supply) Act 2014 was enacted to enable the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) to engage in electronic communications networks and electronic communications services and that the decision to underground electricity cables is a matter for the ESB. The report further advised that the current roll out of broadband infrastructure in Newbridge is currently being undertaken by SIRO (a consortium of ESB and Vodafone) and the existing poles and infrastructure are being used to achieve this.

Mr Martin, Administrative Officer, Roads Department, circulated a further explanatory statement from SIRO outlining their plans for the district. Mr Martin also confirmed that SIRO are using the existing ESB poles to connect cables which they are entitled to do, however, if

SIRO decided to place the cables underground the council would have an input. The statement from SIRO expressed their willingness to meet the members of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and the members agreed to meet with SIRO to discuss their plans.

The report was noted.

KN21/0517

Maintenance of Road Signs

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

Can the council outline its policy in relation to the cleaning and painting of road signs in the Kildare-Newbridge area?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informing the members that the municipal district office carries out the cleaning or replacement of signs, the sleeving or replacement of poles, and in some cases the removal of signs, as part of the routine maintenance programme for the area.

The report was noted.

KN22/0517

Traffic Calming on the Green Road, Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy.

Can the council review the traffic calming on the Green Road, Newbridge in dealing with speeding traffic which continues to render it too dangerous for children to walk to and from Newbridge Educate Together National School and Gael Scoil Chill Dara?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this issue has been referred to the Technical Assessment and Advisory Group (TAAG), recently established in the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department.

In response to a query from Councillor McLoughlin Healy, Mr Martin informed the members that the TAAG was set up to examine and assess roads issues such as this and other similar

roads issues being raised in each municipal district and they will report back to the members on a regular basis in relation to their findings.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy requested that the TAAG take into consideration previous minutes of meetings since 2014 in relation to traffic calming issues on the Green Road, Newbridge as it had been recognised by the previous District Engineer that traffic calming measures are required at this location but to date any interim measures have not been successful. The Roads Transportation and Public Safety department undertook to take previous motions and questions into account when examining issues at this location. The report was noted.

KN23/0517

Signage Policy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council explain what it is doing to ensure compliance with its own signage policy across the district?

Reports were received from various departments outlining their responsibility in relation the signage across the district. A report from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informed the members that they ensure that all standard roads signs are in compliance with national policy and standards. A report was also received from the Planning Department informing the members that the policy in relation to unauthorised signage/advertisements depended on the situation, required specific responses and the use of the most appropriate legislation in a particular instance as outlined in various legislation such as the Roads Act, the Litter Pollution Act, and the Planning & Development Act. This report advised that the council uses its powers under the appropriate legislation to have unauthorised signage removed and recover its costs where possible. A further report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that it monitors illegal temporary signage and that any such signage is addressed by way of litter fines issued by the litter wardens. The report also advised that the Environment department is currently liaising with the Planning department in relation to signage in Newbridge.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy queried whether or not there is protocol or enforcement policy in place in relation to large electronic signage which are prohibited but continue to appear around Newbridge. The District Manager informed the members that the reports from the

various departments note that legislative processes must be followed in relation to any breaches. Mr Dunne further informed the members that the Environment department has been liaising with the Tidy Towns group in relation to unauthorised signage and are monitoring the situation very closely with a view to taking appropriate action. The reports were noted.

KN24/0517

Pedestrian Walkway at Loughminane Green, Kildare

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford. Will the council consider entering into exploratory talks with Irish Rail regarding a pedestrian walkway along the railway line from Loughminane Green to Kildare Town?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that this is a matter for the members however, for information purposes, the report also included details of the relevant sections of the County Development Plan in relation to Greenways - Walking/Cycling which specifically EO48, EO49 and EO50 refer which states it is an objective of Council to work with the National Transport Authority (in conjunction with relevant objectives in Chapter 6), Kildare Fáilte, Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland and all stakeholders to develop a co-ordinated approach to the selection, delivery and servicing of future greenways, blueways, trails and routes throughout the county. Other sections of the County Development Plan outline the councils' intention to promote the development of walking and cycling routes throughout the county as an activity for both international visitors and local tourists, in a manner that is compatible with nature conservation and other environmental policies and to investigate the feasibility of developing a walkway/cycleway along the former Tullow railway line in County Kildare.

Councillor Stafford said he would like this walkway to be considered and stated that it could be similar to the walkway from Galway Train Station to Renmore. The report was noted.

KN25/0517

Upgrade of the Square, Kildare Town

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

Can the council outline proposed, projected or considered plans for the cobble locking and upgrading of the Square in Kildare Town?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety department informed the members that as part of the conditions associated with the grant of funds in the Town and Village Renewal Scheme the council had to undertake a survey of the existing town centre before making any plans for improvement works and it is expected that this survey will be completed within the next month.

In response to a query from Councillor Lynch on whether there were any further details on drawings or funding for these works, the District Manager informed the members that the healthcheck survey will feed into the overall plan and the members will be updated on the details before any applications for funding are submitted. The District Manager advised that this is expected to happen late autumn.

The report was noted.

KN26/0517

Grant Allocations for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

The members agreed to consider agenda item numbers 27, 28 and 32 together.

Item No 27 – Residents Association Grants for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

Item No 28 – Community Heritage Grant Scheme for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

Item No 32 – Community & Festival Grants for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

Before considering the grants as outlined above, the Mayor requested that members declare any possible conflict they may have in relation to the allocation of grants.

A number of members expressed concern that they could inadvertently create conflict by not being fully informed and stated they would like to receive clarification in the future in relation

to what might constitute a conflict of interest when considering issues such as grants allocations.

The District Manager pointed out that a conflict might arise where there is procuniary gain which may not necessarily mean personal gain but that it is a matter for each member.

Councillor Stafford stated that he was a former member of the RathPlayers, The Larks and the Scouts.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she was involved in the Busk and Food Festival.

Councillor Pender stated she was involved with the North Glebe Residents Association and AED First Responders Group.

Councillor McCabe stated he was a member of the Lions Club and The Hopkins Festival.

Councillors Kennedy and Doyle absented themselves from the chamber during consideration of the grants. The remaining members considered the reports circulated in relation to the various grant schemes and each member, except where they had declared an interest in a particular group, agreed to adopt the grants as outlined in each report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by the eligible members that the Residents Association Grants, 2017 for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District be adopted.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by the eligible members that the Community Heritage Grant Scheme, 2017 for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District be adopted.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch, seconded by Councillor Aspell and agreed by the eligible members that the Community and Festival Grants, 2017 for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District be adopted.

K27/0517

Traffic Calming and Taking In Charge at Barretstown Meadows, Newbridge

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

Can serious consideration be given to the provision of traffic calming measures at Barretstown Meadows, Newbridge, and in relation to the taking in charge of the estate, if the council can report on the progress being made in relation to the provision of two table top ramps as stipulated in the planning permission and other outstanding issues?

A report was received from the Planning department informing the members that the Building and Development Control staff will arrange a meeting with the developer to discuss all outstanding issues, including the requirement for ramps and the taking in charge of Barretstown Meadows. The report noted however, that traffic calming measures outside the estate on the main road are a matter for the Roads Transportation and Public Safety department.

In response to a query from Councillor Power, Ms Cooke advised that no date has been set for the meeting with the developer but the members would be informed when a date has been agreed.

The report was noted.

KN28/0517

Medieval Complex at Great Connell, Newbridge

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

Can the council provide us with as much information as possible on the recent find of an ancient archaeological settlements and Hillfort at Great Connell, Newbridge?

The Heritage Officer, Ms Bridget Loughlin, circulated a report to the members informing them that an archaeological impact assessment was undertaken at this site following an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which had been prepared in line with a planning application which had been submitted within a private greenfield site. The survey identified a large archaeological complex. A geophysical survey was conducted and the results showed the feature to be a large scale enclosure, associated field system, earlier bivalve earthwork and trackway associated with an early medieval complex. The report advised that there would be significant ground disturbances associated with the proposed development which would negatively impact on the identified site and so the application was subsequently withdrawn.

Following a number of queries from Councillor Lynch including whether or not the site can be promoted, the Heritage Officer affirmed that the site is a private site and noted that it is not easily accessible. She further advised that the medieval complex has been added to the Record of Monuments, therefore the site will not be developed. The Heritage Officer also informed the members that the excavating this site would be extremely costly, however, the geophysical report will be published.

Councillor Lynch asked if the Heritage Officer could write to all interested or relevant groups informing them of the find. The Heritage Officer said a letter can be sent, however, she advised the members that she is reluctant to promote something the council does not have access to.

The report was noted.

KN29/0517

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Mayor proposed to suspend standing orders to facilitate the completion of the agenda in accordance with Standing Order no. 5.

Resolved by all member present to suspend standing orders to facilitate the completion of the agenda in accordance with Standing Order no. 5

KN30/0517

Newbridge Skatepark

The members considered the Part 8 report in relation to the proposed skatepark in Newbridge.

A discussion ensued amongst the members who noted and understood the concerns that had been voiced by the residents of Moorefield Park in relation to possible anti social behaviour that might arise if the skatepark is located at this site. The members also agreed that young people could hugely benefit from the use of the skatepark and noted that the council has tried to find the most appropriate site for almost 20 years and this site had been identified as the best available. The members also noted that Mr Wallace had been very proactive with meeting with the residents over and above what is required in the Part 8 process. Councillor Kennedy stated that he did not agree to the skatepark being built at this location.

The members discussed the use of CCTV which, they feel might alleviate some of the concerns raised by the residents. The members queried the use of artwork around the

skatepark and putting policy and procedures in place that will allow the council to act quickly in the event of any negative impact on the residents when the skatepark is built.

Mr Wallace informed the members that, in his experience, the use of CCTV in other such facilities has had very little or no impact on preventing anti-social behaviour. The District Manager also clarified that any CCTV would be subject to funding. Mr Wallace advised that the location of this site would allow constant passive monitoring given the large volume of traffic and pedestrians. A traffic safety audit will also be conducted at this location to see if any safety improvements are required. Mr Wallace confirmed that the design would discourage anti social behaviour as it would eliminate any hiding within the skatepark and advised that community ownership would be actively encouraged and promoted and he further confirmed that, in the event of any issues with graffiti, the council will repaint the skatepark.

The members agreed the Part 8, as outlined in the report with one amendment, the inclusion of CCTV.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Lynch with eight members voting for and one against that the Part 8 report on the Newbridge Skatepark, subject to one amendment: the provision of CCTV, be approved.

KN30/0517

Tidy Towns Committees

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Doyle.
Has confirmation been given to each Tidy Town committee in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District of their budget allocation this year, which is necessary to facilitate work in advance of the adjudication process.

A report was received from the Environment section informing the members that payments will be processed on receipt of confirmation of Local Property Tax amounts allocated in relation to each town and village in the municipal district.

Councillor Doyle requested that these payments be made as soon as possible.
The report was noted.

KN31/0517

CCTV (Closed Circuit Television)

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

Can the council confirm if it has identified suitable locations where it might be appropriate to apply to the Department of Justice for grant aid to assist with the installation of community closed circuit television (CCTV) in the municipal district and that James's Street in Newbridge be included in such application?

A report was received from the Community & Cultural department informing the members that community based CCTV Schemes intended to support local communities who wish to install and maintain CCTV security systems in their area, with the aim of increasing public safety and deter illegal or anti-social behaviour, would require the following:

- an understanding of the Guidelines covering the community based CCTV systems
- compliance with the technical specifications for section 38(3) (C) CCTV Systems.
- assessment of need by local divisional officer of An Garda Síochána
- require compliance with the specified Code of Practice for community based CCTV systems

The report advised that it might be appropriate that the Gardaí are invited to outline how it is envisaged that proposals might emerge within its Kildare division and perhaps this issue could be forwarded for Steering Group consideration when drafting the agenda for the next full Joint Policing Committee (JPC) meeting. The report also advised that the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee might consider drafting a policy to support the development of Community CCTV schemes as an additional resource in crime detection and prevention.

Councillor Stafford stated that he welcomes the issue being forwarded to the Steering Group for the next JPC meeting.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.