

**Minutes of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 18 January 2017
in the Council Chamber, Aras Chill Dara**

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

Apologies: Councillor McLoughlin Healy

Officials Present: Mr T McDonnell (District Manager), Ms B Rea (District Engineer), Ms E Wright, Mr L Dunne, Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officers), Mr W Hannigan, (Senior Executive Engineer) Ms AM Conneely (Community & Enterprise Development Officer) Ms V Cooke and Ms S Scully (Administrative Officers), Ms M McIvor (Meetings Administrator) and Ms E Price (Meetings Secretary).

KN01/1701

Kildare Town – Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Award

The Mayor opened the meeting by extending his congratulations to Kildare Town on their recent Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Award. The Mayor commended Billy Redmond, Kildare Tidy Towns Committee and the council for the work they had put into achieving such a high standard.

KN02/1701

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 21 December 2016 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor McCabe that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 21 December 2016 of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting. The progress report was noted.

KN03/1701

Matters Arising

Landscaping at Dara Park, Newbridge (KN21/1611), (KN02/1612)

In relation to landscaping at Dara Park, Newbridge Councillor Pender advised that there are still some issues outstanding on the snag list and asked for this item to remain on the monthly progress report until works have been completed.

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

Ms Wright informed the members that work is progressing on the construction of the Link Road in accordance with the projected timelines and the Roads Department do not anticipate any delays with and the project is expected to be completed by Easter. In the interim, Ms Wright advised the members that plans are being prepared to close off the walkway once all construction and associated works have been completed.

In response to a query from Councillor Lynch, Ms Wright advised that the wall at Moore Avenue cannot be constructed until all other works have been completed at this location but it is being considered under the plans to close off the walkway.

Yellow Boxes in Newbridge (KN10/1612)

In response to a query from Councillor Aspell in relation to the roll out of a Yellow Box Programme for Newbridge, the District Engineer advised the members that works on drawings and costings are underway, however, she advised that the junction at McLoughlin's would be dealt with under the proposed Newbridge Integrated Movement Plan.

Taking In Charge of Estates (KN20/1612)

In response to clarification on the resolution of a previous motion raised by Councillor Lynch at the May 2016 meeting (KN25/1605) on the issue of estates to be taken in charge and raised again by Councillor Lynch at the December meeting, the meetings administrator clarified that the resolution of motion KN25/1605 as reflected in the minutes reads as follows:

‘On the proposal of Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin-Healy that the report be noted and the Planning Department arrange for the updating of the Taking in Charge list on the website’.

Councillor Lynch noted the website only lists the estates which have been taken in charge and explained he intended his original motion to the May 2016 meeting to include all estates, i.e. 1) estates in charge, 2) estates which are currently going through the process of being taken in charge and 3) estates not in charge.

Mr McDonnell pointed out that the resolution on the original motion, i.e. the list updated on the website, has happened. He further advised the members that the taking in charge process is a legal one, and as such, it is not possible to put legal information into the public domain which could happen if ongoing status reports on taking in charge cases were regularly updated on the website.

Mr Hannigan informed the members that the taking in charge global report will be updated in a few months. It would not be practical to update the report monthly or bi-monthly.

Mr Kavanagh advised the members to contact the Planning Department if they had queries in relation to specific estates.

KN04/1701

Bus Shelters

A report from the Kildare and South Dublin Local Transport Link was circulated to the members outlining the areas in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area which had been identified as possible locations for bus shelters in rural areas. These areas include Main Street, Rathangan and Kilmeague. Ms Wright advised the members that these areas are considered by the National Transport Authority (NTA) as the best locations for bus shelters. Ms Wright further advised the members that the Director of Services for Roads, Transportation and Public Safety is hoping each municipal district committee will ringfence €15,000 for bus shelters in rural areas and asked members to forward suggestions either directly to her or to the Director of Services.

In response to a query from Councillor Lynch, Ms Wright advised that the NTA had appointed JCDecaux to design a bus shelter at Tesco, Newbridge.

In response to a further query from Councillor Lynch on why the council cannot go ahead and complete the bus shelter at this location and then follow plans from the NTA for all other bus shelters in the area, the District Engineer advised that the Roads Department are

leaving this location in the charge of the NTA as they have the funding to complete the project which allows the council to move the funding originally budgeted for this location to other areas.

In response to a query from Councillor Doyle, Ms Wright confirmed that the NTA has not confirmed the amount of funding to the local authority for bus shelters.

Ms Rea clarified that the cost of €5,000 for bus shelters in rural areas is for the bus shelter only and does not include associated works.

The report was noted.

KN05/1701

Schedule of Municipal District Works

The Municipal District Engineer updated the members in relation to the schedule of municipal district works. The members were informed that routine maintenance is ongoing in relation to pothole and footpath repairs and minor drainage works. The members were informed that the winter maintenance programme is ongoing. In relation to bollards at Tesco, Kildare Town, the members were informed that bollards which have been supplied by Tesco are currently being erected by the municipal district office and bollards will also be erected on the opposite side of the road. The District Engineer also advised members that the previously agreed Section 38 double yellow lines will be progressed.

Councillor Doyle asked if the yellow box at Lourdesville which had previously been committed to could be completed when these double yellow lines are being done.

The report was noted.

KN06/1701

Deputations and Presentations to the Municipal District

The members agreed to accept a presentation from the Curragh Racecourse at the February Municipal District Meeting. The members also considered requests from three groups to present to the members in the coming months.

Presentation from the Curragh Racecourse at the February 2017 Municipal District Meeting.
A deputation from Newbridge United FC at the February 2017 Municipal District Meeting.
A deputation from Ryston Pitch and Putt Club at the March 2017 Municipal District Meeting.

A deputation from Junefest at the April 2017 Municipal District Meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch, seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by all the members that the deputations as outlined will be received in the coming months.

KN07/1701

Public use of NAMA Properties

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

That the council contact NAMA and make enquiries as to the potential for public use of NAMA property in the Kildare-Newbridge area, in particular the portfolio of 18 2-Bed apartments in Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the council does not deal directly with NAMA in respect of houses in their portfolio and that all discussions are carried out on behalf of the local authority by the Housing Finance Agency (HFA). The report informed the members that the council has worked closely with the HFA and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) to deliver units suitable for social housing that were under the control of NAMA and that this has facilitated the completion of some unfinished housing estates and the purchase of units through this mechanism. The report noted that some units were declined as they were considered unsuitable for social housing for reasons including the location of the units, the unsuitability of the units for social housing and, in some cases, the fact that the council already has a proliferation of social housing units in a particular area [in the interests of good estate management and building sustainable communities]. The report informed the members that the council will continue to work closely with the HFA and AHBs to deliver further units, from NAMA's portfolio, if offered and considered suitable. The council will also continue to deliver units from the range of funding options available under the social housing strategy. The report notes that the council is working closely with an AHB for the delivery of a significant number of units under the control of NAMA in the municipal district and an update will issue to the members in due course. The report further advised that in 2016, the council investigated the purchase of 18 2-bedroom apartments in Newbridge, however they were deemed unsuitable as they were being sold with tenants in situ and it is the policy of the council to purchase units which are delivered with vacant possession. There are limited exceptions to this rule.

Councillor Pender noted there are no available statistics on the number of tenants in receipt of housing support or the number of vacant units in this development. Councillor Pender stated that whilst NAMA's end of year review identified these type properties could be used for social housing they had been withdrawn from sale and queried if the council could contact the HFA to query the reasons for this.

In response to a query from Councillor Lynch on whether the council is happy with its overall interactions with NAMA, the District Manager clarified that the HFA is the overarching authority that deals with NAMA on behalf of all local authorities.

Responding to Councillor Pender's queries, the District Manager advised that the council did investigate the ownership/tenancies of units at location referred to and noted there are some social and some private tenancies in place here. The District Manager reiterated the council's policy is to acquire vacant properties. The District Manager further advised that the council is engaging in relation to a particular site in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and he will further update the members once details become available.

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

KN08/1701

House Purchases in 2016

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

Can we have a report on the number and type of housing units purchased by the council in the municipal district in 2016, and advise which of them were a) new, b) from unfinished estates or c) apartments and can we have a similar report in respect of units purchased, if any, by any Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) in the municipal district?

Report: A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that a total of 38 houses (2, 3, 4 and 5 bed) houses in the municipal district had been purchased by the council in 2016. The report noted that a further 13 units in the municipal district had been purchased by Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) under the Capital Assistance Scheme.

Councillor Stafford commended the council and the AHBs on their efforts noting approximately 2 units per week being acquired and queried if the council envisages acquiring the same number of units in 2017.

The District Manager advised the members that the council is continuing in its efforts to acquire one off houses, however contracts and finance for purchase are very much dependent on the Department. He noted the AHBs are acquiring clusters of houses and might be in a position to assist some social housing applicants in 2017.

The report was noted.

KN09/1701

Footpaths and Public Lighting at Blue Town, Allenwood

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Aspell. That this council put in place a 3 to 4 year project to provide proper footpath and public lighting in Blue Town Allenwood (road number L70733) as this is a minimum density residential area which has developed over the years with between 250 to 300 residents living there.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the municipal district office had inspected.

In response to a query from Councillor Aspell on a possible 2-3 year programme for upgrading infrastructure at this location, the District Engineer advised that on inspection, this location has been deemed unsuitable for a footpath due to the narrow carriageway and pitch point for the main road.

In response to a further query from Councillor Aspell in relation to public lighting, the District Engineer advised that the Public Lighting Section will need to further investigate this location.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted and the Public Lighting Section to examine public lighting at this location.

KN10/1701

Traffic Calming Measures at Sarsfields Drive, Newbridge

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Aspell. That this council put in place traffic calming measures to help residents in Sarsfields Drive, Newbridge to deal with the overflow of cars parking in their estate from the train station.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this issue will be examined by the Parking Enforcement Officer in consultation with the councillor to identify the problems and possible solutions.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted and the Parking Enforcement Officer to liaise with Councillor Aspell to identify issues and possible solutions at this location.

KN11/1701

Footpath from Walshestown, Newbridge to Athgarvan

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

That this council acknowledges that while there are difficulties with the title ownership of a small strip of land between Athgarvan Cross and Walshestown, that as a major priority for this municipal district that a footpath is progressed from Athgarvan to Walshestown. The path should be as indiscreet as possible and if possible run at the back of the current standing wall. This council should cost plans for the same and produce draft plans for same by April.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a preliminary analysis indicates that there would be a substantial amount of civic works involved in the construction of a new footpath between Athgarvan and Walshestown, and likely require the acquisition of lands by Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) which would possibly incur substantial costs and that funding is not currently available for the preliminary design, construction and land acquisition.

In response to a query from Councillor Lynch, Ms Wright informed the members that the CPO process is often long and complicated and that the Roads Department are currently concentrating on projects and areas for which resources are available.

Councillor Lynch stated the lands should be investigated for CPO as he understood that the CPO process may not be required. Councillor Doyle noted that if a footpath was to be

constructed then this would mean the loss of a greenbelt area between Newbridge and Athgarvan.

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

KN12/1701

Potholes along L7087, Pluckerstown to Blacktrench

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

That the council will fill in the potholes that have arisen along the L7087 from Pluckerstown to the edge of the municipal district boundary at Blacktrench as same are a serious health and safety hazard.

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 potholes in question had been filled in recent weeks.

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

KN13/1701

Public Lighting along R401, Rathangan

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

That the council will erect public lights along the R401 between Yellow Lough Cross and Bog Cross, Rathangan.

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 the erection of lighting along this section of the R401 at this time would be premature as the boundary wall for the Temple Mills development would need to be completed first to allow the lighting standards to be positioned along the edge of this boundary, however the report noted that footpath provisions at this location could be improved prior to the erection of lighting standards.

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

KN14/1701

Pay by Phone Parking Scheme

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

That the council review Pay by Phone Parking in our municipal district as it seems to be operated at excessive tariffs.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Pay by Phone Parking is being trialled for a 3 month period in four towns in the County (Kildare, Celbridge, Leixlip, and Maynooth). The report advised the members that the charge is a convenience charge which is paid for by the customer for the provision of the convenient service and that notice of this convenience charge is provided to the customer prior to the customer making a payment for parking. The report gave a breakdown of the convenience charge. The report informed the members that the hourly convenience charge is higher (40 cent) in short stay zones where a higher turnover of spaces is required, e.g. one or two hour maximum stay zones but the charge is less in long stay areas (20 cent). The report further advised that confirmation and reminder texts are optional and that the contractor has absorbed costs associated with the scheme such as:

- Set up of the system in all towns;
- Monthly Customer Support and Hosting Costs;
- Pay by Phone signs and machine details
- All flyers to the public on week 1 of the service being introduced

A brief discussion ensued amongst the members in relation to the advantages and disadvantages of the scheme. Ms Wright advised the members that the scheme is only at trial stage and all issues raised by the members will be considered and full analysis will be reported on when the trial period ends.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McCabe and seconded by Councillor Kennedy that the report be noted and the Roads Department to further update the members after the trial period has ended.

KN15/1701

Bus Shelters at Orchard Park and Brownstown

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

Can the council add bus shelters at Orchard Park and Brownstown to the list of proposed shelters being compiled for National Transport Authority (NTA) funding?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Orchard Park and Brownstown will be added to the list of proposed bus shelters for consideration by National Transportation Authority (NTA).

In response to a query from Councillor Pender, Ms Wright advised the members to forward any suggestions for locations of bus shelters directly to either her or the Director of Service before the end of January 2017.

The report was noted.

KN16/1701

Langton Road, Newbridge

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

Can the council add Langton Road between Ballymany Cross and Morristown Cross to the road works programme for 2017.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the status of Langton Road is currently being assessed and once the status has been established the Municipal District Office will then consider how matters should be progressed.

The report was noted.

KN17/1701

Identification of Car Parking Spaces

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

Can all new road markings use a specific and clearly identifiable colour to delineate privately managed pay parking spaces in the public realm?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Department of Transport's Traffic Signs Manual 2010

provides guidance and details of traffic signs (which includes road markings) which may be used on roads in Ireland, including their layout and symbols, colour, the circumstances in which each sign may be used, and rules for positioning them and that only traffic signs which are in accordance with the Manual or associated Regulations shall be provided on public roads.

In response to a query on this from Councillor Doyle, Ms Wright confirmed that this issue could be referred to the Transportation and Public Safety Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for review, however, Ms Wright reiterated that any change in policy could only relate to parking spaces in the public realm as the council has no control over private parking spaces/locations.

The report was noted.

KN18/1701

Mini Roundabout at Curragh Grange/Liffey Hall, Newbridge

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

Can the council cost the installation of a mini roundabout “fried egg style” on the Athgarvan road, in place of the traffic lights at the entrance to Curragh Grange/Liffey Hall which are causing huge traffic problems?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the council’s Roads Section does not recommend the installation of a mini roundabout “fried egg style” as it does not comply with the relevant design standards. The District Engineer further advised the members that the construction of the new link road might alleviate some of the traffic issues at this location.

The report was noted.

KN19/1701

Cattle Grid at Kinneagh, The Curragh

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

Can the council cost and draw up plans for a cattle grid at Kinneagh as it appears sheep are now bypassing the new cattle grids and entering Athgarvan and the surrounding area through Kinneagh?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the construction of a sheep grid at Lurg Lane had been identified as a location to prevent the sheep entering Kinneagh Cross and that this project, subject to a suitable location on Lurg Lane being identified, had been listed for consideration for funding under the Local Property Tax (LPT) allocation.

Councillor Lynch also asked the Municipal District Office to consider using any excess funding from 2017 funding to rollout a cattle grid programme.

The report was noted.

KN20/1701

Visibility at Brownstown Cross

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

Can the council inspect the visibility at Brownstown Cross particularly for traffic turning left onto the L3006, when there are cars parked along the verge, the view is severely restricted?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office has inspected the sightlines at this junction and advised that the Stop bar had already been moved forward when coming from Suncroft and the berm which has been placed beside the new footpath had also helped to slow traffic approaching the junction.

Councillor Stafford noted visibility at this junction is still an issue and queried if car parking spaces can be reduced at this location.

The District Engineer noted issues with visibility may arise with multiple parking but clarified that enforcement is a matter for An Garda Síochána.

The report was noted.

KN21/1701

Compacting Bins at Schools in Kildare Town

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

To follow on and capitalise on the tremendous Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) achievement in Kildare Town, that the council include the town in initiatives to remove all

chewing gum from streets and furthermore, that we exploit this opportunity by inviting private waste management companies to sponsor compacting bins at all school sites in the town.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section acknowledging that it is a great result for Kildare to achieve the title of cleanest town in Ireland and that this was achieved through the efforts of many associated with the town. The report noted that the removal of chewing gum, although worthwhile, can be costly, however it is agreed that arrangements will be made to attend to the removal of gum at the commercial centre of Kildare Town in 2017 with full detail to be confirmed at a later stage. In relation to the provision of extra bins at schools, the report noted that this issue will need to be considered carefully as these bins cannot be emptied by council staff due to the weight of materials contained within.

Councillor Doyle also extended her congratulations to all involved in Kildare Town achieving the status of cleanest town in Ireland and acknowledged the efforts of Mr John Daffy and the late Jim Murphy (RIP) and council staff who help to provide an invaluable service to the community.

Noting the council are prevented from emptying these bins, Councillor Doyle queried if it is possible to investigate the opportunity for bin providers to provide the service

Councillor Power also congratulated those involved in winning this award and queried if other towns throughout the municipal district will be included in the plans for removing chewing gum.

In response to Councillor Power's query and a further query from Councillor Stafford, Mr Dunne informed the members that the removal of chewing gum is done by chemical lifting rather than mechanical lifting which makes it an expensive process. Mr Dunne advised the members that the commercial centre in Kildare Town will be included in 2017 but other areas will be considered at a later stage subject to funding.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted and the Environment Section examine the possibility of other bin providers in the locality providing compacting bins and arranging the removal of waste from same.

KN22/1701

Street Cleaning Services

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

Can we have a report on possible options that will achieve greater man-hours for improved street cleaning services in our area, particularly at weekends?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office currently operates a street sweeping service from Monday to Friday and on Sunday mornings and that extra resources made available through the Environment Section will be used to provide additional services to include street sweeping when required e.g. bank holiday weekends and festivals, details to be agreed. The report also noted that the Municipal District Office has ordered 2 mechanical sweepers, known as green machines which are expected to be received in March 2017. One will be based in Kildare Town and will also carry out cleaning services in Rathangan and the other machine will be based in Newbridge.

The report was noted.

KN23/1701

Cleaning Services on Bank Holidays

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

Is there a Town Cleaning Service operated on Bank Holidays? Newbridge was very heavily littered on Monday 2nd of January?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office currently operates a street sweeping service from Monday to Friday and on Sunday mornings and that extra resources made available through the Environment Section will be used to provide additional services to include street sweeping when required e.g. bank holiday weekends and festivals, details to be agreed. The report also noted that the Municipal District Office has ordered 2 mechanical sweepers, known as green machines which are expected to be received in March 2017. One will be based in Kildare Town and will also carry out cleaning services in Rathangan and the other machine will be based in Newbridge.

The report was noted.

KN24/1701

Fence at Standhouse Lawns, Newbridge

The members considered the following adjourned question in the name of Councillor Aspell. What is the situation regarding the fence up in Standhouse Lawns, Newbridge and when can we see works finished there?

A report was received from the Senior Parks Superintendents informing the members that tenders have been issued for the removal of the fence and replacement with a timber rail fence with hedge and tree planting along its extent. The report noted that it is hoped to appoint a contractor to carry out the work early in 2017.

Councillor Aspell thanked Mr Wallace for the work to date but queried why the council was opting for a timber fence and tree/hedge planting when the original planning permission allowed for a wall to be built at this location. Councillor Aspell asked for a wall to be reconsidered and for plans to progress this issue to be discussed and finalised in consultation with the residents association.

The report was noted.

KN25/1701

Twinning with Argentre Du Plessis in France

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kennedy. That this council agree to allow Newbridge twin with Argentre Du Plessis in France. This was agreed in principle by the Municipal Council at a pre budget meeting in July 2014. The very good friendship has been going on now for over five years and has gone from strength to strength. We had many visitors from that town in France each year and many visitors who travelled from Newbridge organised by Newbridge Rugby Club. That club is willing to head up the twinning including organising a twinning committee and anything else needed to progress the twinning.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Section informing the members that this is a matter for the members.

Councillor Kennedy explained that the idea of twinning was originally raised at the last meeting of the former Newbridge Town Council in May 2014 but a mutual friendship between Newbridge Rugby Club and Argentre Du Plessis in France had been ongoing for the past four years with a number of trips having taken place to and from Newbridge, with groups having also attended the St Patrick's Day Parade. Councillor Kennedy noted that this and other twinings with areas such as Bad Lippspringe in Germany or Ocala in Florida bring business and tourism opportunities to the town. Councillor Kennedy advised the members that authorities in Argentre Du Plessis are also keen to twin with Newbridge.

A discussion ensued amongst the members discussing the advantages and disadvantages of twinning with other similar sized towns and the members agreed to take a vote on the issue.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor McCabe with 8 members voting for and none against that the process of formal twinning of Newbridge Town with Argentre Du Plessis in France be commenced.

KN26/1701

Equalisation of Funding

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

That this municipal district supports attempts to streamline central funding across the county that this county creates a unified community grant scheme, as opposed to being done per municipal district as currently carried out. And that when future council budgets increase, all municipal district areas are equalised in terms of central funding in all areas of expenditure as per size of the municipal district to ensure parity across the county in terms of funding to ensure that one area is not at a disadvantage to another. In relation to this we forward this to full council for discussion.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that if the members were in agreement this motion could be referred to full council for consideration.

A further report was received from Community and Cultural Services advising that the Community Section are preparing to run a single community grant scheme to include 2017

Local Property Tax (LPT) allocations. The report advised that the scheme will be advertised once all municipal districts have signed off their 2017 Local Property Tax programmes of work and that guidelines and criteria will be circulated to all members in the coming weeks. The members were informed that recommendations will then be brought to each municipal district for approval.

In response to a query from Councillor Pender, Ms Conneely confirmed that up to now each municipal district set aside funding for community grant schemes but the criteria and governance for such schemes differed across the municipal districts. The intention of this single community grant scheme is to ensure the scheme is uniform throughout each municipal district and that it proposed to broaden the scope of the grant schemes but Ms Conneely clarified that ultimately it will be the members who decide what money is allocated to each application received.

A brief discussion ensued amongst the members with some members supporting the spirit of the motion. Some of the members indicated that they were not happy with the wording of the motion. Mr McDonnell explained that there are legacy issues relating back to a resolution made at the first full council meeting of this term and that this issue will be raised again at the start of the next council term.

The members agreed to take a vote on referring the motion to full council.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor Pender, with 1 voting for and 7 against, the motion was defeated.

KN27/1701

Local Property Tax (LPT) 2017

The members considered retained Local Property Tax (LPT) for 2017 and agreed the amounts to be allocated to the following headings with further breakdowns to be advised at a later stage.

	€
Environment	45,628
Community	186,732
Corporate	127,758

Festivals	54,500
Housing	73,879
Local Enterprise Office (LEO)	18,251
Parks/Recreation	115,381
Planning	36,502
Roads	<u>322,153</u>
	980,784

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor Lynch that the spend for the retained Local Property Tax (LPT) 2017 as set out, be agreed for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

KN28/1701

Support for Artisan Food Producers

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

That we explore initiatives of establishing and supporting an enterprise incubator unit in the municipal district to foster and grow the large number of artisan food producers.

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

A report was received from the Head of Enterprise and Director of Services for Economic Development informing the members that the Economic Development Section are receptive to exploring, facilitating and supporting food incubation units and have agreed that this is a priority action for the coming year.

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

KN29/1701

Sheep Feeding at 'The Plantation', The Curragh

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

That the council liaise with the Department of Defence and Local Farmers who are placing sheep feeders on the lands at The Curragh between Orchard Park and The Boys National School known locally as The Plantation. The position of these feeders is ensuring a constant presence of sheep around the estate which is in turn destroying grassland that is commonly used as playing grounds by the kids in the area.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that if the members are in agreement, a letter will issue to the Department of Defence.

Councillor Pender advised the members it would appear that farmers appear to be feeding from a particular spot with is leaving no green area for children to play on. Councillor Pender advised that local residents had tried to contact local farmers but to no avail.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by all the members that a letter issue to the Department of Defence in relation to this matter.

The meeting concluded.