

**Minutes of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.15 a.m. on Wednesday, 15 February 2017  
in the Council Chamber, Aras Chill Dara**

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

**Officials Present:** Mr T McDonnell (District Manager), Ms B Rea (District Engineer), Ms E Wright, Mr L Dunne, (Senior Executive Officers), Ms S Scully and Mr J Doyle (Administrative Officers), Ms M McIvor (Meetings Administrator) and Ms E Price (Meetings Secretary).

**KN01/1702**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 18 January 2017 together with the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Pender that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 18 January 2017, of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting be confirmed and taken as read subject to the amendments below. The progress report was noted.

**KN02/1702**

**Matters Arising**

**Taking In Charge of Estates (KN03/1701) & (KN20/1612)**

The Meetings Administrator informed the members in relation to minute reference KN03/1701 & KN20/1612 in the minutes of the January 2017 municipal district meeting that the wording on page 3, paragraph 5 should be changed to read as follows:

“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”.

The members agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 18 January 2017 be amended.

**Local Property Tax (LPT) 2017 (KN27/1701)**

The Mayor advised in relation to minute reference KN27/1701 in the minutes of the January 2017 municipal district meeting that the amounts as outlined under the various Local Property Tax (LPT) headings need to be amended as follows:

	€
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>
	<b>980,784</b>

The members agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 18 January 2017 be amended to reflect the correct amounts as outlined above.

**Local Property Tax (LPT) 2017 (KN27/1701)**

The Mayor advised that the members had agreed to allocate €8,000 of the Local Property Tax (LPT) funding for 2017 to the Decade of Commemoration Committee. It was also agreed by the members that the Local Property Tax (LPT) spend as outlined in the circulated report including the agreed amendment of €8,000 for the Decade of Commemoration Committee be confirmed.

**KN03/1702**

**Presentation on the Redevelopment of The Curragh Racecourse**

The members received a presentation from Mr Derek McGrath and Mr Matthew Lyons in relation to the redevelopment of the Curragh Racecourse.

The members were informed that the redevelopment of The Curragh Racecourse will include a new entrance wing, grandstand, upgraded parade rings and stable yard. A new museum dedicated to horseracing is also incorporated into the plans.

The presentation outlined the scheme and facilities and the build program showing the members floor plan designs for Levels 1, 2 and 3 of the proposed new grandstand. The members were also shown floor plans for the new museum.

The members were informed that the project has commenced and will be completed in 2019 with temporary facilities being put in place at each stage of the development to allow race days to continue as normal.

The Mayor thanked Mr McGrath and Mr Lyons for their presentation.

The members agreed that plans for the redesign of the racecourse are very impressive, noting the major benefits it will bring for tourism and investment in the municipal district.

In response to queries from Councillor Doyle, Mr McGrath informed the members that the overall investment in the project is €65 million which includes €30 million public investment. Mr McGrath also informed the members that the planned floor space for the museum is 250m<sup>2</sup>. He confirmed the museum will not be limited to one floor but will cover the whole site which will show the inside workings of horseracing. The members were informed that the museum along with children's playground and Bistro will be open 7 days a week.

In response to a query from Councillor McLoughlin Healy, Mr McGrath informed the members that conference and event facilities will also be offered with lounges and suites expected to accommodate from 100 to 300 people. The project managers will be using the 2 year build time to explore options to maximise the use of facilities.

Councillor Pender queried if there had been any interaction with the Curragh Forum and was informed that 2 meetings had been held in recent months with interested parties such as the Curragh Forum, Department of Defence and sheep grazers in the area.

Councillor Stafford voiced concerns that a development such as this, could lose sight of the normal racegoer and asked what plans are in place to ensure this does not happen.

Mr McGrath informed the members that the aim of management is to ensure balance is achieved to make The Curragh Racecourse a place for everyone but throughout the two year build period the temporary facilities being put in place will focus on the avid racegoer

and those in the industry with the intention to expand this audience as the development continues.

Councillor McCabe informed the members of interest in the industry due to his work connections with Horse Racing Ireland (HRI). He wished the team well with the Project.

**KN04/1702**

**Newbridge United Football Club (NUFC)**

The members received a deputation from Mr Brian Sheridan on behalf of Newbridge United Football Club. Mr Sheridan informed the members that Newbridge United FC is currently the second largest club in the Kildare and District Underage League (KDUL) with 14 teams ranging from under 8 to under 16. The members were informed that the club currently has 241 registered members. Mr Sheridan outlined the difficulties the club faces due to lack of permanent pitch and training facilities noting the club currently uses Tougher Park for matches at the goodwill of the KDUL and that this situation could change with little notice.

The members were informed that the club currently uses three different training facilities, two are based outside the town of Newbridge. The cost of using these training facilities is borne by the parents of the children involved.

In response to a query from Councillor Stafford, Mr Sheridan informed the members that the club was formed in November 2016 and that the ethos of the club is one of democratic values and run by the parents. Mr Sheridan informed the members that the club has 12 boys' teams and 2 girls' teams.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy informed the members that she is involved in the club which was formed in 2016 due to a split from another soccer club who had joined the Dublin Leagues. Councillor McLoughlin Healy said she would welcome any advice or support that the council could give.

Councillor Aspell noted the predicament of the club, however, he also noted that other longer established clubs in the town are also require facilities and queried if other clubs in the area might be willing to take in the members of Newbridge United or if the club had explored sharing facilities with other clubs.

Mr Sheridan informed the members that NUFC had approached other clubs in relation to the shared use of the astro pitch on Station Road, Newbridge to no avail. He also informed the members that one of the main principles of the club is to try to facilitate its members in playing other sports such as GAA or rugby so that young children are not forced to make a choice between the sports they play.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy informed the members that the club has been very proactive in approaching other clubs in relation to sharing facilities.

Councillor Doyle noted the number of various sporting clubs in the town who are currently under-facilitated and suggested the council could do an audit of all facilities within the municipal district and to compare these results with other towns, noting the ideal solution would be a multi-functional sporting campus.

Councillor Power informed the members that Councillor Stafford had to leave the meeting and offered his apologies.

Councillor Power thanked Mr Sheridan for the deputation.

### **KN05/1702**

#### **Nomination to The Kildare Cycling Forum**

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that the Chair of the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) is seeking a nomination of one member from each Municipal District to the Kildare Cycling Forum.

Councillor Doyle proposed Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Councillor Kennedy seconded the proposal.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Kennedy and agreed by the members that Councillor McLoughlin Healy be nominated to the Kildare Cycling Forum.

### **KN06/1702**

#### **Schedule of Municipal District Works**

The District Engineer gave an update on the Schedule of Municipal District Works informing the members the municipal district office is carrying out routine road maintenance in the form

of pothole repairs, minor drainage works, footpath repairs and street sweeping and that crews are also attending to out of hours call outs.

The members were informed that the municipal district office has carried out a much needed clean up of St James Lane (Coopers Lane), the lane between Eyre Street and College Park, Newbridge.

The District Engineer informed the members that new public lighting standards and pedestrian traffic light signals have been erected along the footpath from Brownstown to Curragh Camp. A connection by the ESB is now awaited.

The District Engineer also informed the member that the contract to reinstate line markings and yellow boxes has commenced.

In response to a query from Councillor Doyle in relation to the public lighting at Loughminane which is awaiting ESB connection and line marking on Melitta Road, the District Engineer informed the members that the line marking contract as mentioned relates to both Kildare and Newbridge and she undertook to contact the ESB in relation to the public lighting connection at Loughminane, Kildare Town.

The report was noted.

### **KN07/1702**

#### **Teach Tearmain Women's Refuge**

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

That the council give details as to why the €60,000 voted on and agreed by full council in November 2015 has not yet been given to Teach Tearmain Women's Refuge in Kildare and outline its plans for handover?

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 at the 2016 Budget Meeting held on 23 November 2015, there were three proposed amendments in relation to funding, or directing funds to Teach Tearmain, none of which were passed by the members of the Council. A fourth amendment was carried, as follows "That we reallocate

€60k to the homeless budget with the intention of spending it on Domestic Violence, and that €40k be deducted from the housing maintenance budget and a further €20k be deducted from the local roads improvement budget." The report informed the members that they were advised during the course of 2016 that both Teach Tearmain, and TUSLA, the Child & Family Agency, (being the relevant statutory agency for funding of Domestic Violence facilities) had confirmed that the allocation from TUSLA to Teach Tearmain was increased over the 2015 allocation, and was adequate to run the service in 2016. The report also noted that the monies re-allocated by the members as part of the 2016 budget process was used as part of the homelessness funding in 2016 and that this was previously confirmed to members at the 2017 Budget Meeting.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that the original motion to allocate monies to Teach Tearmain did not include provision that funding would be withdrawn if funding to the facility was increased by TUSLA. She also stated that where members vote in favour of a motion then another vote should be required before that motion is rescinded and suggested that this issue be referred to the Protocol Committee for examination. Councillor Doyle agreed with this suggestion.

Councillor Pender as the proposer of the original motion stated that the motion was specific on the intended use of the funding and that it was decided to give this allocation to the Housing Services for it to be used for domestic violence purposes, also noting that monies used by the council for homeless services can be recouped from the Department.

Mr McDonnell clarified that the homeless services budget was overrun in 2016 and that only up to 90% of this funding can be recouped from the Department. He reiterated that two agencies cannot fund a project such as the one at Teach Tearmain simultaneously. He informed the members that the allocation of €60,000 agreed under general headings, was redirected to homeless services which also includes an element for domestic violence therefore a further vote from the members was not required.

In response to a query from Councillor McLoughlin Healy in relation to contact with Teach Tearmain, the District Manager informed the members that he had met with both Teach Tearmain and TUSLA and both had conveyed to him that funding for this project had been met. He also clarified that the resolution to the original motion had been complied with.

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

**KN08/1702**

**The Water Tower, Newbridge**

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

That the council would look at having the Newbridge Water Tower painted and a wall or visually appealing fence built around the car park, both of which in their current state present a very unattractive view as you drive towards White Water.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the Water Tower, Newbridge is listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH Ref. 11818059) as being of Architectural, Technical and Industrial interest. The report noted that the Water Tower forms an imposing landmark on the locality and the structure comprising cast concrete piers with supporting ring, cast-concrete drum/basin on corbels with moulded plinth and coping is representative of 1960's industrial architecture. The report informed the members that the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines from the Department advise that changes to the exterior appearance of walls, roofs or openings of structures, that would materially alter the character of the exterior of a building would generally require permission. In any case, such proposals may not be appropriate to the character of the building and as such, painting same would not be considered to follow good practice conservation principles.

Councillor McCabe advised the members that some local businesses were willing to sponsor the materials for painting the water tower, which he added needed to be made more aesthetically pleasing whilst maintaining as much of the architectural features. He asked if the council can cost the labour involved in painting the tower.

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that the council is currently in the process of first registration on the ownership of the structure which, she advised the members that this can be a very lengthy process but added the council will examine ways to progress this matter further.



Councillor McLoughlin Healy noted that the council had previously committed to giving a presentation to the members on ways to improve the structure. The District Manager informed the members that Mr Peter Black, Conservation Officer had previously given a report to the members which was also very similar to the report given at today's meeting.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McCabe and seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted and the Corporate Services Section to examine ways to progress the matter further.

### **KN09/1702**

#### **Traffic Management Plans for Kildare and Newbridge**

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

That the council provide a progress report on the delivery of Traffic Management Plans for Kildare and Newbridge.

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 the timescales and funding for the proposed Kildare and Newbridge Traffic Management Plans have not yet been clarified with the National Transport Authority (NTA). The report advised that engagement is ongoing with the NTA and the members will be kept updated on progress.

Councillor Doyle suggested that if the issue is not resolved within a month that we look to go ahead and use the money already allocated to commence the study for Kildare Town noting there is imminent investment and development planned for Kildare Town and that a fit for purpose Traffic Management Plan (TMP) is vital at this stage.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy supported the motion, which, she said, should also include Newbridge and she requested a comprehensive progress report on this issue. Councillor McLoughlin Healy requested it be noted that the town design statement which was agreed was needed for Newbridge, is a different thing to the Public Realm element of the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) application which was forwarded to the National Transport Authority for Newbridge and Kildare.

The District Manager informed the members that the Director of Services for the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department was very aware of the members concerns on this issue.

Ms Wright informed the members that the Director of Services for the Roads Department had sought a meeting with the NTA and it is hoped that such a meeting will happen before the end of the month. She informed the members that a Traffic Management Plan for Kildare and Newbridge will cost in the region of €250,000.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Pender that the report be noted and the issue to remain on the progress report.

### **KN10/1702**

#### **Traffic Control Measures on Academy Street, Kildare Town**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle.  
That we put in place some traffic control measures to address congestion around schools on Academy Street in Kildare town.

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 the municipal district engineer will examine this with the Parking Enforcement Officer and report to the members on the outcome.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Pender that the report be noted and the municipal district engineer to examine this issue at Academy Street with the Parking Enforcement Officer and inform the members of the outcome.

### **KN11/1702**

#### **Resurfacing of L70741 at Derrymullen, Allenwood**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Aspell  
That the council resurface the road at Derrymullen, Allenwood - L70741, as a matter of urgency considering the condition of the road.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Road Works Programme 2017 is currently being compiled for the county and that the road at Derrymullen, Allenwood will be assessed as part of this exercise.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted and resurfacing on the L70741 at Derrymullen be included in the Road Works Programme for 2017.

### **KN12/1702**

#### **Traffic Calming at the Community School, Kildare Town**

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

That the council install traffic barriers near the traffic lights outside the Community School in Kildare Town.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Road Works Programme 2017 is currently being compiled for the county and that the Dunmurray Road, Kildare Town will be assessed as part of this exercise and the area of the school will also be included for consideration.

Following a recent road traffic accident at this location, Councillor Pender requested that issues at this location be examined. The District Engineer undertook to examine the location and to report to the members at the March municipal district meeting.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted and the District Engineer to provide a report to the members at the March meeting on traffic issues at this location.

### **KN13/1702**

#### **Street Lighting on the Green Road, Newbridge**

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

That the council provide the report as promised of the assessment of new street lighting needs and in particular highlight where on that list the route lighting required on the Green Road before, over and after the motorway bridge in Newbridge is positioned.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a report on the assessment of new street lighting needs has not been completed to date and that existing resources are currently fully engaged in the preparation of tender documentation for the new Lighting Maintenance Contract and reactive maintenance to the existing public lighting network. The report noted that the outline estimate for the cost of the provision of lighting in the Green Road area is €75,000.

In response to a query from Councillor McLoughlin Healy, Ms Wright informed the members that the audit on public lighting is not yet completed and that resources are an issue. Ms Wright informed the members that once the assessments are completed a Public Lighting Policy for the county will be prepared, however she advised that there is currently no timeline in place for this.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy requested that it be noted that in the absence of a lighting audit, we as a council, do not know where priorities of lighting is required most urgently and that there is no strategy in place to deal with these issues.

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

### **KN14/1702**

#### **Remedial Road Works, Kildare Town**

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

Can we have a schedule for remedial road works on the roads and footpaths in very poor repair in Kildare town, given delay in delivery of Traffic Management Plan (TMP)?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Road Works Programme 2017 is currently being compiled for the county. The report advised that the roads in Kildare Town will be assessed as part of this exercise and that a programme of works will be developed when the municipal district is assigned a budget for 2017.

The report was noted.

**KN15/1702**

**Traffic Calming at Allen**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kennedy.  
Can the council look at addressing the serious problem of speeding at Allen? There have been a few near missed accidents at that area at school time.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Road Design Section will examine this issue and determine if there is a requirement to progress a solution using Section 38 of the Roads Act.  
The report was noted.

**KN16/1702**

**Disused Loading Bays**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Aspell.  
Can this council investigate the possibility of looking at loading bays which are no longer used as such and so prohibits parking in some designated areas?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that on identification of the loading bays, the Parking Enforcement Officer will examine in consultation with the councillor.  
The report was noted.

**KN17/1702**

**Flood Risk Assessment on R445 between Newbridge and Naas**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Power.  
Was any study carried out during the last year to ascertain the flood risk on the road between Newbridge and Naas and are works planned for this year to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the extensive maintenance works were carried out on the R445 dual carriageway last year. The works included the opening of water cuts, the jetting of gullies and maintenance of grass verges. The report noted that the municipal district office has not received reports of flooding on this road and requested clarification on what area of roadway between Naas and Newbridge is being referred to.

Councillor Power confirmed the location as being the area near Toughers and Ardoon Stud. The District Engineer confirmed that this area falls under the remit of the Naas Municipal District and she undertook to contact the Naas Municipal District Engineer in relation to the issue.

The report was noted.

**KN18/1702**

**Presentation from Local Authorities Waters and Communities Office (LAWCO)**

The members agreed to receive a presentation on the operations of the Local Authorities Waters and Communities Office (LAWCO) and an update on the preparation of the 2nd Cycle Draft River Basin Management Plan at their monthly meeting on the 17 May 2017.

**KN19/1702**

**Proposed Extension to Rathangan Cemetery**

The members considered the proposed Part 8 extension to Rathangan Cemetery.

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the proposal consists of extending the existing cemetery in Rathangan. The report advised that the area of the proposed extension is 0.75Ha, the construction of a new car park as part of this extension which will cater for 38 number vehicles and a new vehicular and pedestrian access is proposed which will provide safe access to the cemetery. Once completed the new extension will provide an additional 789 number burial plots and the construction of a columbarium wall (for ash interments).

In response to a query from Councillor Doyle on the public advertising of the Part 8 plans, Mr Dunne said in addition to the usual locations used for public display that the council will consider other additional areas such as local pharmacies or the church in Rathangan.

**Resolved** the members agreed to commence the Part 8 process for the extension to Rathangan Cemetery. The Environment Section to consider other additional locations for public display such as pharmacies or the church in Rathangan.

**KN20/1702**

**Mechanical Cleaner for Newbridge**

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

Following the budget allocations that the council provide details of a new litter regime for the district including a ride on mechanical cleaner for Newbridge and extra resources to deal with the ongoing and escalating litter problem.

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

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 advised the members that the municipal district office has ordered 2 mechanical sweepers, known as green machines, one will be based in Kildare Town and will also carry out cleaning services in Rathangan and the other green machine will be based in Newbridge with delivery of both machines expected in March 2017.

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

### **KN21/1702**

#### **Landscaping and Flood Relief Works at Dara Park, Newbridge**

The members agreed to consider item 23 and item 24 of the agenda together.

#### **Item No 23 – Motion Councillor Aspell**

That this council provide a breakdown of landscaping and flood relief work which has been carried out in the Dara Park project including what work remains outstanding, if the contractor has been paid any money for work to date and is there a snag list of outstanding works.

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

#### **Item No 24 - Motion Councillor Power**

That the council outline the works planned for Dara Park during this year and the approximate cost of same.

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

A report on the Dara Park Flood Relief Scheme was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the aim of the scheme was to provide protection to the many properties that were affected by flooding on a regular basis and that a new surface water network was constructed and additional storage areas for extreme flooding were created. The report advised that the scheme is now operational and working well and that the design consultants issued a Certificate of Substantial Completion in November 2016 which starts a 12 months 'defects period', during which time any snags or defects must be rectified by the Contractor. The report advised that a sum of money is held in retention until any defects are rectified. The council can now issue letters of comfort to the residents stating that the scheme offers protection for up to a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability event (equivalent to a 1 in 100 year storm) which is the standard required by insurers. The members were informed that a substantial amount of additional works were carried out including a landscaping plan, additional land drainage in the detention basin and north of the lake to remove existing ponding and create additional usable park land, resolution of outstanding sewerage issues, tarmacadam of the paved area at the entrance to the estate and cleaning of the lake. The report also advised that there were a number of additional items also added to the contract, as a result of requests from the Residents Associations and these included additional footpaths, removal of the boulders from the boundaries of the green areas, topsoiling of the old tennis courts, wall repairs and the construction of additional gullies to drain existing footpaths.

The report noted that a further meeting with residents and Environment/ Parks Sections will take place at 2 p.m. on Monday 13 February, 2017.

A number of members expressed concern about the finished product as it currently stands but noted that following a meeting with the council some of the issues and concerns of the residents will be addressed.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy, referencing the monthly management report to the December full council meeting, queried who is responsible for certification of completed works and queried if an independent assessment is needed to clarify if the landscaping is currently fit for purpose.

The District Manager informed the members that the project is at practical completion stage.



Mr Dunne informed the members that he has noted the members concerns and explained that a meeting had taken place on Monday to address some of the points raised. Mr Dunne pointed out that it is premature to be critical of works as the 12 month defects period will be used to monitor the area and any defects will be addressed, noting that it is usual with projects such as this that there will be snags but confirmed that these will be remedied. He confirmed that part of the money for the contract has been withheld until the council are satisfied that the project has been completed fully. The members were informed that the next monthly meeting in relation to Dara Park will include the residents, contractor, landscaper and the council. Mr Dunne also confirmed that the main contractor is responsible for signing off on all works including landscaping and that the council oversees this.

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

### **KN22/1702**

#### **Newbridge Interceptor Sewer**

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

Can we have a progress report on infrastructure contract 2A (Newbridge interceptor sewer etc.), including details of schedule for delivery, if the scope of contract has changed since Irish Water have taken responsibility for delivery of project and if so details of changes?

A report was received from the Water Services section informing the members that the current status of Contract 2A -The Upper Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme Network Contract (Newbridge Eastern interceptor sewer) which was amended to include Newhall Pumping Station and associated rising main is at the planning design and procurement stage of delivery and that planning has been granted for the Kilbelin, Little Connell and Newhall Pumping Stations. The report noted that Irish Water has sought and received Expressions of Interest to undertake the works from contractors and they intend publishing the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) in Q2 2017. The works are scheduled to start in Q2 2018 and the contract has a two year construction programme.

The report informed the members that Contract 2B - The Upper Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme Network is at the planning design and procurement stage of delivery and that planning has been granted for the Monread and Clane Pumping Stations. The report advised that Irish Water has sought and received Expressions of Interest to undertake the works from contractors and they intend publishing the CPO in Q2 2017. The works are

scheduled to start in Q2 / Q3 2018 and the contract has a two year construction programme. The report advised the members that it should be noted that in the Newbridge area the following changes have been made by Irish Water to the original proposal for contract 2B: Tankardsgarden Pumping Station and associated rising mains together with a trunk sewer to serve lands north of the railway have been removed from the Contract and that upgrades of the Athgarvan & Walshestown Pumping Stations have been removed from Contract.

In response to a query from Councillor Doyle, the District Manager informed the members that the timelines outlined in the report are not unusual as the CPO process happens first and is followed by more detailed design stages.

The report was noted.

#### **KN23/1702**

##### **Clean up Day on The Curragh**

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

Can the council agree to make contact with the Department of Defence asking that a cleanup day on The Curragh be arranged and that local residents be encouraged to participate?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the Environment Section will contact the Department of Defence regarding the proposal.

The report was noted.

#### **KN24/1702**

##### **Derelict Prefab Building at Cutlery Road, Newbridge**

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

Is the prefab building formerly known as SC Dunnes at the corner of the White Water /Cutlery Road entrance classed as derelict and if so are there any plans for this site? In such a progressive shopping town and in this area which has such high visibility, it should be landscaped or developed to present this town hub as a more visually appealing space.

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the Environment Section will arrange for the structure to be examined under the Derelict Sites Act and if required appropriate follow-up will be considered.

The report was noted.

**KN25/1702**

**Quarrying at The Hill of Allen**

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

The Hill of Allen is a place of mythological significance, with the legendary Fionn MacCumhaill and the Fianna. How much longer will this wonderful landmark be quarried and are their regular inspections to ensure its protection?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that this quarry is a pre-1964 development dating back to the 1940s and accordingly it is not governed by the national regime of applications for planning permission which was initiated by the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1963 and which came into effect on 1st October 1964. The report advised that the site is in private ownership and therefore the site owners, Roadstone, have a responsibility under the relevant legislation to protect the archaeology and architectural heritage associated with this site.

Councillor McCabe voiced concerns that the Hill of Allen will be depleted over the lifetime of the permission for quarrying and queried if there is any avenue open to the council to ensure the site will not be completely desimated.

The District Manager informed the members that the council could be very limited in any remedy or supervision at this site but undertook to discuss the issue with the Heritage Officer.

The report was noted.

**KN26/1702**

**Shop Front Scheme**

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

Can the council give details of the take-up of the shop front scheme across the district including some feedback on why it was more successful in some places than others so that we might learn how best to maximize the scheme in this budget year?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Section informing the members that the Shop Front/Town Improvement Grant Scheme for 2016 was fairly evenly distributed between Kildare Town and the Newbridge Area with the same

number of grants going to each area, i.e. 10 each. The report outlined statistics in each area where grants were issued. The report noted that 2016 was the first year of the scheme and, as such, it could have been expected that uptake of the scheme would be slow but that was not the case in the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District Area. It is expected that the scheme in 2017 will continue to be well utilised.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked if information can be shared between all the municipal districts to ensure better take up of the scheme.

The report was noted.

### **KN27/1702**

#### **Riverbank Arts Centre**

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

That the council outline details of the planned project for The Riverbank Arts Centre and if some indication could be given as to when works are likely to commence.

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

A report was received from the Library and Arts Section informing the members that the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys TD, announced an Arts and Culture Capital Scheme in 2016 which comprised of €9m capital investment scheme for arts and culture centres to run from 2016-2018 and is focused on enhancing the existing stock of arts and culture centres throughout the country. The report noted that funding is being made available as part of the Capital Investment Framework 2016-2021. An application was submitted by Riverbank Arts Centre for funding under Stream 2 and the submitted project detailed accessibility improvements and an enhancement to the performance space. An announcement of successful projects from the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs which was made subsequently, was circulated to the members at the meeting.

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

**KN28/1702**

**Lands at Rickardstown, Newbridge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. In the absence of any existing protocol that the council outline a fair and transparent process, maximising community returns, for re-allocating the land offered back to the council by the Hockey Club in Newbridge.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that a number of clubs had expressed interest in the lands at Ricardstown currently leased to Newbridge Hockey Club. The report advised that the first step is that the current lease to Newbridge Hockey Club has to be terminated and once completed a process for the reallocation will be developed and submitted to the members for consideration and any reallocation will also have to be done as part of Section 183 agreement which will have to be considered by the members at full council.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy referred to an earlier suggestion that an audit of lands available should be carried out in view of the ever growing need for facilities and asked how the council could progress such an audit.

Councillor Pender said in the interest of fairness the members should probably limit groups requesting deputations at the monthly meetings to those who are willing to share facilities in order to maximise use for all and suggested there could be a protocol agreed for this.

Councillor McCabe suggested the possibility of the members putting together proposals for a multi-use, multi-functional sporting campus and explore possible sources of funding.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked if Mr Wallace could put in place a policy surrounding the allocation of land and that it would be very important to have public representatives involved in developing the criteria on how the land in question is used and then going forward how other lands might be allocated for existing or start up clubs.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor McCabe that the report be noted and the Parks Section explores developing a policy on the allocation/leasing of land.

**KN29/1702**

**Riverbank Venue, Newbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council examine the fairness of application and appeal procedures for use of the Riverbank venue?

A report was received from the Arts & Library Section informing the members that the council do not have a role in the application and appeal procedures for use of the Riverbank venue. Riverbank Arts Centre is run by the Board of Riverbank Arts Centre CLG and the programme is curated by the Venue Director for Riverbank Arts Centre.

In response to a query from Councillor McLoughlin Healy in relation to terms of accountability and feedback, the District Manager confirmed that the members have no role in the running of the centre as this is the function of the Board of Directors. The report was noted.

**KN30/1702**

**Newbridge Town Hall**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council put in place a voluntary group (as happens successfully elsewhere) to proactively develop a strategy and manage Newbridge Town Hall to maximise the return to the community of our significant and welcome investment in the Town Hall? This group may work with K-Leisure.

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Service Section informing the members that the Board of Management, who have committed their time in a voluntary capacity on behalf the communities of Newbridge /Kildare Municipal District, have to date worked hard to develop an understanding of possible community uses of the hall within the constraints for its use in the interests of Health & Safety, and that process is ongoing. The report noted that the Board has at all times been fully aware of the strategic policy objectives of the council that the refurbished Town Hall be used for community activities, be established

as an attractive community destination and a community event centre for the town of Newbridge and the wider municipal district of Kildare/Newbridge. The Board undertook a process of engagement and consultation over the summer months and having the benefit of feedback from a variety of community uses, they submitted a report that was made available to the members of the municipal district with recommendations covering the preferred usage policy and the rate of hire charge. The report advised that the members have been kept fully apprised at every stage of development in relation to the Town Hall, receiving reports and updated briefings. Following consultation with the Board of Management and receipt of their report, KLeisure Ltd was appointed to manage the property. In relation to further exploring options for how the community facility can be managed, any suggestions on the make-up of that group would be welcome. Finally the report noted that it is not clear whether this new voluntary group is intended to replace the existing Board of Management voluntary group. The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.