

**Minutes of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 15 March 2017
in the Council Chamber, Aras Chill Dara**

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

Apologies: Councillors S Power and P Kennedy

Officials Present: Mr T McDonnell (District Manager), Ms B Rea (District Engineer), Ms E Wright, Mr L Dunne, (Senior Executive Officers), Mr JP Holligan and Mr J Doyle (Administrative Officers), Ms M McIvor (Meetings Administrator) and Ms D Heavey-Sharpe (Meetings Secretary).

The Mayor requested that a moments silence be observed as a mark of respect for those involved in the tragic Rescue 116 helicopter crash, which unfolded off the north Mayo coast on Tuesday 14 March 2017.

KN01/1703

Minutes and Progress Report

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

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Aspell that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 15 February 2017, of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting be confirmed and taken as read subject to the amendments below. The progress report was noted.

Page 9 of Draft Minutes, Dated 15 February 2017, Item Ref: KN09/1702 Traffic Management Plans for Kildare and Newbridge

Councillor McLoughlin Healy requested it be noted that the town design statement which was agreed was needed for Newbridge, is a different issue to the Public Realm element of the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) application which was forwarded to the National Transport Authority for Newbridge and Kildare.

Page 12 of Draft Minutes, Dated 15 February 2017, Item Ref: KN13/1702 Street Lighting on the Green Road, Newbridge

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.

KN02/1703

Matters Arising

Riverbank Arts Centre (KN29/1702)

Councillor McLoughlin Healy requested that a full and comprehensive answer to her question be provided as she felt it was only answered in part at the February meeting and asked that this report be placed on the progress report for the April Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting.

The District Manager undertook to clarify the details provided in the response to Councillor McLoughlin Healy's question.

Traffic Calming at the Community School, Kildare Town (KN12/1702)

In response to a query from Councillor Pender the District Engineer informed the members that she had examined this location and agreed that a traffic barrier was required at this location.

Landscaping and Flood Relief Works at Dara Park, Newbridge (KN21/1611), (KN02/1612) (KN03/1701), (KN21/1702)

The members were informed by Mr Dunne that the Director of Service had met with the Engineer on site and that he would provide members with a report and details of the snag list for their information in the coming days.

Wall at Teach Dara, Kildare Town (KN15/1610)

Councillor Doyle stated that this footpath is unusable and that there are health and safety concerns surrounding this issue. Councillor Doyle welcomed the report informing members that the Conservation Officer has offered to liaise with the voluntary organisation who are the owners.

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

In response to a query from Councillor Doyle, Ms Wright informed the members that she could not provide a definite date for the closure of the walkway, however, she informed the members that all issues have been finalised and everything is in place for the new roadway which will be a one day installation process and that these works are imminent.

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

A response from Minister Humphrey's, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs was circulated to the members. Councillor Lynch requested that it be noted that he is very disappointed with the response and that in short, Minister Humphrey's will not be doing anything in relation to the member's request to designate the Curragh Plains as a National Heritage Area.

In response to Councillor McLoughlin Healys' suggestion that members receive a deputation from the Curragh Plains Forum, the Meetings Administrator advised that this is a matter for the members to consider and that the members could request it be listed as an item on a future agenda.

KN03/1703

Schedule of Municipal District Works

The District Manager advised that a meeting with the members was scheduled for later that day to discuss the Local Property Tax (LPT) and that the schedule of municipal district works would also be discussed at this meeting.

KN04/1703

Ryston Pitch and Putt Club, Newbridge

The Mayor welcomed Mr Keogh, Mr Kearney and Mr Hayes of Ryston Pitch and Putt Club in Newbridge to the meeting. Mr Keogh outlined the background to pitch and putt in Ireland informing the members that the Pitch and Putt Union of Ireland (PPUI) is the National Governing Body for pitch and putt activities, working with Irish and International Bodies to develop opportunities for members to participate and compete in domestic and international competitions.

The Pitch and Putt Club in Ryston, Newbridge is a thriving club and over the years hosted all Kildare, Leinster and National Championships. Each year the PPUI host Provincial and

National Championships which are attended by people from all over the country. In September 2017, Ryston Pitch and Putt Club are hosting the PPUI National Ladies and Gents Inter County Championships. Mr Kearney informed the members that to bring the course to a high standard, they intend to have Kildare businesses involved in the weekend event offering them the opportunity to promote their companies, making it an ideal opportunity to promote Newbridge and the surrounding areas to visitors from all over the country.

Mr Kearney outlined the work that needs to be done. When hosting a championship all aspects need to be of a much higher standard and that work has already begun to achieve this. It cost over €19,000 in 2016 to run the pitch and putt section of the club which is generated by membership fees, green fees, some sponsorships and a lot of voluntary fundraising. In order to prepare for this event, the club will incur an increase in costs and the representatives indicated that they were seeking financial support from Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District to assist in achieving their goals. Mr Kearney thanked the members for their time and invited questions.

The Mayor thanked the representatives for their presentation and wished them well on hosting the championship.

Councillor Lynch enquired if the committee had applied for any community grants or any other council grants that may be available to them.

Mr Kearney informed members that they had not applied for any funding this year but had received a Sports Capital Grant of €50,000 in 2016.

Councillor Aspell wished the club well and enquired how many teams were expected to take part in the championship and what the anticipated number of visitors was.

Mr Kearney informed the members that there would be 24 teams consisting of 6 players per team but there would also be supporters and spectators attending the event so he could not put a definitive number on the amount of visitors coming to Newbridge over the weekend of the championship.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy informed the representatives of the club that they have come in at the end of the Local Property Tax allocations and enquired if they could revisit their figures and supply members with figures for costs of critical works, she also agreed that applying for a community grant could be an option.

Councillor Doyle advised the deputation to check if an application for a community grant would be accepted at this stage and advised that representatives submit a figure for critical works to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District secretary who would forward the information to the members. Once this information is supplied to the members they would examine the request within the current constraints.

KN05/1703

Kildare Town as a Market Town

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

That in future plans for Kildare Town, the council recognise that Kildare Town is a market town and make every effort to regulate the market place to make it safe and to rejuvenate the market square. To encourage traders of local crafts and food producers by facilitating access to power and other appropriate services.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that Kildare Towns' status as a market town serving the town and its hinterland is recognised in the Kildare Town Local Area Plan, 2012-2018 and that it is an objective of the plan to improve the towns attraction as a retail and tourist destination through additional investment in the public realm and also by attracting new retail investment within and adjacent to the historic town centre. The report advised that in relation to the regulation of the market place, a report on Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws for Kildare Town had been circulated to the former Kildare Area Committee in 2013, however due to lack of engagement from the traders at that time there was no progression on the issue but if the members were in agreement Casual Trading Bye-Laws for Kildare Town would be reconsidered in consultation with the traders and other interested parties.

Councillor Pender noted the report stating she was not aware that Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws for Kildare Town had been previously circulated and requested that Casual Trading Bye-Laws for Kildare Town be re-examined as the market should form part of any future plans for Kildare Town but acknowledged that it needed to be regulated and revitalised.

Councillor Doyle supported the motion and offered her assistance to Councillor Pender in progressing this matter. Councillor Doyle informed the members that in 2013 the former Kildare Area Committee had sought expertise in the area of market trading and it was suggested at the time that Thursday may not be the best day to host a market. Councillor Doyle suggested that when re-examining the Casual Trading Bye-Laws that it be considered where the target market would be coming from and whether the existing market should continue as it is while working on improving what is already in place or move to another day and establish a new market that meets all requirements.

Councillors Stafford, McLoughlin Healy and Lynch also supported the motion.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy suggested that the communications officer in Kildare Village be contacted as she was aware that they are eager to support Kildare town centre.

Councillor Lynch suggested an application form outlining criteria for market traders could also be introduced.

The Meetings Administrator advised members this did not progress in 2013 due to the lack of engagement from local traders, she also informed the members that there are no resources available to provide a manager for the market but suggested that this item be revisited and remain on the progress report.

Councillor Pender suggested that a licensing fee be introduced which could cover the cost of a manager and accepted that this item would remain on the progress report until it is re-examined.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that Casual Trading Bye-Laws for Kildare Town be reconsidered in consultation with the traders and other interested parties.

KN06/1703

Recording of All Questions and Motions

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

From this month forward that this municipal district creates a system of recording all questions and motions received from councillors at monthly meetings in a similar fashion to the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. Councillors are frustrated at consistently bringing similar motions up every few months which create an excess workload on both councillors and staff who are regularly covering the same issues with no progress had on the matter. As examples; we are still waiting for a meeting with Bord na Móna, the closure of a walkway beside Newbridge Train Station, advice on the status of the illegal quarry at Ballysax; all these items have dropped off the agenda. This record of events list should only have items added to it or removed from it by agreement of councillors at the monthly municipal district meeting and shall be carried forward month to month.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that there is a system in operation for the management of questions and motions from members for the monthly meetings. Following the compilation of the minutes, an Action Plan is prepared and agreed with the Meetings Administrator. This is an internal working document and the members' services secretary follows up on the actions with the relevant departments. Where there is an update available, it is noted on the Progress Report for the following month. If no update is available, the item remains on the Action Plan until such time as the issue is resolved. The current status of the items that are mentioned in the motion would be forwarded under separate e-mail to Councillor Lynch.

Councillor Lynch welcomed the report noting that there are a lot of recurring items on the agenda each month and a mechanism of recording these items should be put in place, he welcomed that there was an action plan in place.

Councillors McLoughlin Healy, Doyle and Pender also supported the motion. Councillor McLoughlin Healy informed the members of a system of recording ongoing issues within the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section that is in place for the Maynooth Municipal District and asked if this could be rolled out across the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that all municipal district items go on to an action plan and are tracked through the progress report, she acknowledged that a lot of this work is done behind the scenes and agreed that the procedure in place for Maynooth Municipal District could be considered for rollout to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District during the coming month in advance of the April meeting where an update would be provided to the members.

Ms Wright informed the members that the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section are forming an internal design and technical group within their department which will examine roads issues in particular, reporting to members on a bi-monthly basis and it is hoped to roll out this process in April 2017.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the procedure in place for Maynooth Municipal District could be considered for rollout to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District during the coming month in advance of the April meeting where an update would be provided to the members.

KN07/1703

Rosconnell, Newbridge

The members agreed to consider item 7 and item 13 of the agenda together.

Item No 7 Joint Motion – Councillors F McLoughlin Healy, S Doyle and J Pender

That the council agree to a temporary but regular series of meetings, on site with Rosconnell Residents Association, similar to that which happens in Dara Park, to address ongoing issues in the area. We propose a monthly meeting for the first three months to deal with urgent issues followed by at least another two bi-monthly meetings until urgent issues have been addressed. The meetings should be attended by key officials from relevant departments, municipal district councillors and the committee of Rosconnell Residents Association together with the Community Development Worker.

Issues requiring immediate attention include but are not limited to the following:

- dumping around the estate
- the selection of tenants for council accommodation
- lighting in the estate
- the most effective use for both workers and Rosconnell residents of the Gateway Scheme

- maintenance snag list

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community & Cultural Development Department informing the members that Ms Daly, the Community Worker for the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District is working with the Residents Committee in Rosconnell and will continue to facilitate and support them in carrying out their programme of activities for the coming year.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that the fact that three members put their name to this motion reflects the strong feelings surrounding this motion. Councillor McLoughlin Healy acknowledged the outstanding contribution that Ms Daly has made in assisting the residents committee in Rosconnell and should receive further support for various other departments of the council. Councillor McLoughlin Healy informed members that the residents are willing to engage with council officials and regular meetings should now be arranged.

Councillor Pender stated that if the council want residents to take responsibility for the area they live and where residents want to engage with the council assistance should be provided. Councillor Pender informed members that residents were feeling that their concerns are falling on deaf ears. Councillor Pender thanked council officials for addressing the lighting issue in the area.

Councillor Doyle acknowledged that some works had been done and noted that the local community want to help which has been encouraged by Ms Daly. Councillor Doyle referred to a previous issue she had raised where she suggested long term tenants are consulted at design stage of projects for input and she stood over that suggestion. She felt that there are fundamental issues around design and whether or not the designs are sustainable and stated she would look at tabling a motion in the future to reflect this.

In response to the councillors' comments, the District Manager informed members that Ms Daly is the councils' contact in terms of liaising between residents and the council and, where councillors have queries, they can liaise directly with official in the appropriate department. The District Manager also asked councillors to note that the council has provided two houses to the community which is a significant gesture and while he

understands the concerns raised, there is a system in place which is currently working well as the community has been rejuvenated and he suggested that this issue be revisited in two months time.

The District Manager undertook to refer back to Councillor Doyle directly in relation to her comments about consulting long term residents at design stage of projects.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Lynch that this issue be revisited in a few months time and the District Manager to refer back to Councillor Doyle directly in relation to her comments about consulting long term residents at design stage of projects.

Item No 13 Motion – Councillor Aspell

That the council put in place traffic calming signage in Rosconnell, along with “No Dumping” signage, as illegal dumping is now out of control in this area.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing members that they have arranged for the placement of no dumping signs. A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing members that they will examine this request in consultation with the Environment Department.

Councillor Aspell raised his concerns about the dismantling of sections of a fence on private land adjacent to Rosconnell where large gaps now exist leaving it open to illegal dumping which is on the rise in the area and urged the need for no dumping signage in the area in addition to traffic calming signage. Councillor Aspell requested that the council contact the land owner in relation to the gaps in his fence requesting that the fence be mended.

Councillors Lynch and McCabe supported the motion. Councillor Lynch requested that where a family has been identified as causing issues the Tenant Liaison Officer for the area should call to the family, he noted that he felt there were no repercussions in place for tenants. Councillor McCabe stated that serious sanctions needed to be imposed where people are caught.

The District Engineer informed the members that once the new design and technical team are in place in April this issue would be assessed. Mr Dunne informed the members that the Environment Section would also assess this issue in relation to no dumping signage.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor Stafford that the District Engineer assess this request for the provision of traffic calming signage at Rosconnell once the new design and technical team were in place in April and that the Environment Section assess the request for the provision of no dumping signage at Rosconnell. The District Manager also undertook to contact the land owner in relation to the gaps in his fence requesting that the fence be mended.

KN08/1703

List of Commercial Leases

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. As promised since September 2016, can the council provide the full list of all the commercial leases it has entered into on council owned property across the municipal district? I appreciate that part of the list has been provided by the council including the list of tenants and lease lengths for Newbridge Industrial estate, however, can the council provide the outstanding list of all other leases in other areas across the district including:

- the tenant,
- the length of lease
- time remaining on the lease,
- whether lease is at a nominal or commercial rate,
- where and when and how much site fines have been paid to the council for a property

A report was received from the Economic, Community & Cultural Development Department informing the members that it had already been indicated to Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the information sought is not readily available in the format requested therefore it has to be compiled and verified before it can be released. This exercise is ongoing in respect of Industrial Units in Newbridge and Rathangan Industrial Estates and a broader exercise in relation to all leases will then have to commence. The members were informed that at this point in time it is not possible to give a definitive time-line for the release of the information but suffice to say the members request is receiving attention and a response will issue as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy acknowledged that part of the list had been provided by the council which included the list of tenants and lease lengths for Newbridge Industrial Estate, however she requested that the council provide the outstanding list of all other leases in other areas including those in an Industrial Estate in Rathangan. Councillor McLoughlin Healy noted that in accordance with standing order number 27, members are to receive a response to their motions on the day of the meeting or shortly thereafter, she stated that this response is taking too long and enquired as to the delay in compiling the information.

The District Manager informed the members that a response was provided according to standing orders and asked Councillor McLoughlin Healy if she would accept a list of tenants only in the first instance and further details would be provided when available. The District Manager undertook to revert back to Councillor McLoughlin Healy directly in relation to issues surrounding the delay in receiving any further information as there may be some commercial sensitivity surrounding this. Councillor McLoughlin Healy confirmed that this would be acceptable.

The report was noted.

KN09/1703

Proposed Accessible Parking Bay at Allen National School

The members considered Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 - Proposed accessible parking bay at Allen National School (R415), Allen, Kilmeague, Co. Kildare.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by all members that Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 – proposed accessible parking bay at Allen National School (R415), Allen Kilmeague, Co. Kildare be adopted.

KN10/1703

Taking In Charge Shindala Road, Rathangan

The members considered the taking in charge of Shindala Road, Rathangan in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by all members that the taking in charge process of Shindala Road, Rathangan in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 be commenced.

KN11/1703

Install Traffic Lights at Allenwood Cross

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Stafford. In the interest of road safety that the council will install a set of traffic lights at Allenwood Cross, Allenwood Middle.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing members that as part of the improvement works in Allenwood, the Traffic Management Section recommended and designed traffic signals at this junction however due to funding considerations, the works have not proceeded to date.

Councillor Stafford noted that this is a very busy junction and stated that the pedestrian lights servicing the school had been moved closer to the junction, in his opinion leaving it unsafe.

The District Engineer informed the members that she had met with residents and it has been agreed to place a camera at the junction for a few weeks, she will then revert to the members with a report after Easter once the results have been assessed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that a camera be placed at the junction for a few weeks and the District Engineer to report back to members after Easter with her recommendations.

KN12/1703

Replace Broken Crash Railings in Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Aspell. That the council replace any broken crash railing in Newbridge e.g. the one on McDonald's side of the road opposite Tesco's and also at Morristown cross roads.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing members that the municipal district office is compiling a list of locations of damaged barriers with a view to purchasing them under one contract. The replacement

barriers for Morristown crossroads have been delivered and are due to be installed in the coming weeks.

Councillor Aspell stated that the broken crash railing at McDonalds in Newbridge is unsightly and needed to be replaced also.

The District Engineer informed the members that it is hoped to compile a list of damaged barriers in the municipal district with a view to purchasing them under one contract.

Councillor Pender requested that the crash railing at the playground in Kildare be added to the list.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Aspell and seconded by Councillor Pender that the replacement barrier for Morristown crossroads be installed in the coming weeks and that a list of all damaged barriers be compiled to include the one at McDonalds in Newbridge and the one at the playground in Kildare with a view to purchasing all the crash barriers required under one contract.

KN13/1703

Colour Coding of Poles

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

That this municipal district is trialled with the colour coding of existing poles to clearly identify taxi rank's, disabled parking and loading bays on the poles directly beside these parking spaces. Colour coded poles would clearly identify to vehicles, as to the status of the space in which they may inadvertently be parking or help identify same to the relevant users and remove the need for unsightly and costly signage.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing members that a trial of colour coding existing poles would have a financial implication for the municipal district and a costing would be required prior to the commencement of a trial. The members were informed that it may be appropriate for the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services (SPC) to consider a policy to ensure consistency throughout the county.

Councillor Lynch welcomed the response and requested that any new policy be trialled in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District in the first instance and then rollout across the county. Councillor Aspell supported the motion and requested that the District Engineer inspect the new taxi rank sign at Harrigans' in Newbridge as it is unclear what direction it is pointing.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that this motion be referred to the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services (SPC) to consider a policy to clearly identify taxi ranks, disabled parking and loading bays on the poles directly beside these parking spaces to ensure consistency throughout the county.

KN14/1703

Speed Issues at Suncroft Village

The members agreed to consider item 17 and item 24 of the agenda together.

Item No 17 - Motion Councillor McLoughlin-Healy

That the council outline a plan to deal with consistent issues with speeding and dangerous driving within the 50kph zone as motorists approach and leave Suncroft village travelling north, impacting most seriously on the two housing estates Hawthorn Wood and the older development at Carna within this zone. While the plan should include low cost works e.g. the erection of high impact signage reminding motorists that they are in a low speed residential area, the council must review all available actions as an urgency given the threat to young families in the area.

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

Item No 24 - Question Councillor Pender

Can the council please outline what works are proposed to tackle the issues raised around speeding and road safety for both motorists and pedestrians as a result of the information received from the traffic survey carried out in Suncroft in early December 2016?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing members that an automated traffic count has been completed on the L3007 from the Hawthorne Estate entrance to Suncroft and that the costs for the supply and installation of two advance warning solar powered driver feedback signs is circa €9,000. The members were informed that the issue is under discussion with the Municipal District Engineer.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that there is an urgent need for traffic calming in Suncroft as she has been contacted by residents raising their concerns and informed members that the fastest recording of speed in the area was 114 kmh in a 50 kmh zone.

Councillor Pender enquired if something could be done to raise awareness among the community in conjunction with the road safety officer as speeding is clearly an issue in the area.

Councillor Lynch enquired what the budgets are for road safety and enquired if the members were overloading the department with requests, he suggested that if the Roads Department made yearly proposals members could then prioritise.

In response to queries from the councillors, Ms Wright informed members that this is one of the reasons why a new internal design and technical group within the roads department is being set up. Ms Wright undertook to circulate the countywide speed limits to the members and informed members that a speed count has been carried out, the supply of signs has been costed and the next phase which is funding is currently being looked at. Ms Wright informed members that the road safety officer could look into liaising with the community in conjunction with the Gardaí if signs are installed in Suncroft to raise awareness locally of the issues surrounding speed in the area.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin-Healy and seconded by Councillor Stafford that this issue is under discussion with the Municipal District Engineer and Ms Wright to circulate the county wide speed limits to the members.

KN15/1703

Problems caused by Parking at Bridge Street, Rathangan

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

That the council conduct a further review on the problems caused by parking at Bridge Street, Rathangan and as part of that review consider realigning the white line in the middle of the road and the possible removal of the footpath on the Mill side of the road.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing members that the Municipal District Engineer and Parking Enforcement Officer will examine the issues raised and a report would be provided to the members.

Councillor Stafford stated that there is no development on that side of the road and there is a huge amount of traffic congestion at Bridge Street, Rathangan. Councillor Stafford requested that the white line be realigned.

The District Engineer stated that she would revert back to Councillor Stafford in relation to the issues raised.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the District Engineer revert to Councillor Stafford in relation to this issue.

KN16/1703

Camber of the Mylerstown Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford.
That the council investigate the camber of the Mylerstown Road (L7081) just outside Kilmeague village and carry out the necessary repair works.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing members that the municipal district office will inspect the Mylerstown Road and provide feedback at the next meeting scheduled to take place on Wednesday 12 April 2017. Councillor Stafford noted the report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the municipal district office will inspect the Mylerstown Road and provide feedback at the next meeting scheduled to take place on Wednesday 12 April 2017.

KN17/1703

Surface Dressing at Ballyteague South

Adjourned Questions

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

Can the council confirm that it will resurface or apply a surface dressing to the road at Ballyteague South this year?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing members that the road at Ballyteague South, at the Travellers Rest, was surface dressed in 2015 and if Councillor Stafford is referring to a different location, that he please provide additional details.

Councillor Stafford enquired if the Municipal District Engineer would meet him on site, the Municipal District Engineer agreed.

The report was noted.

KN18/1703

Residents Parking Permits and Visitor Parking Permits

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

Can the council furnish details of the number of residents parking permits and visitor parking permits issued in 2015 and 2016 for Newbridge and Kildare Town and explain the justification for increasing the price for visitor parking permits at the last review of the pay-parking bye laws?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing members of the numbers of visitor and residential permits that had issued in 2015 and 2016 for Newbridge and Kildare towns.

The report also noted Newbridge pay parking bye-laws were adopted by the elected members on 29 July 2013. Kildare Town pay parking bye-laws were adopted by the elected members on 26 March 2012. Prior to the adoption of the current pay parking bye-laws, residential permits were €5.00 each per year and visitor permits were €5.00 each per year. In the current Newbridge and Kildare pay parking bye-laws residential permits remain at €5.00 each per year. Visitor permits are now €15.00 for a book of ten (twenty-four hour) permits which equate to €1.50 to park for twenty-four hours. The Newbridge 2013 draft pay parking bye-laws and Kildare Town draft pay parking bye-laws 2012 proposed that a scratch card visitors parking permit (€15.00 for a book of ten x 24-hour permits) could be purchased to a maximum of 160 permits per year per household. Following the public consultation period this proposal was adopted by the elected members.

Councillor Stafford noted the report and enquired if it was possible to provide the option of a four hourly visitor permit at a reduced rate in the future. He stated that some elderly constituents made representations to him advising that the current visitor permits priced at €15 are too expensive and that a 24 hour permit is not required in most instances as the permits were only required for visitors who would stay a couple of hours at a time.

Mr Doyle informed the members that the possibility of an option of a four hourly visitor parking permit at a reduced rate could be considered in conjunction with the next review of the pay parking byelaws.

KN19/1703

Pedestrian Crossing at the Gables, Newbridge

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

Can the council provide a full detailed report to include a survey, but separate from a future link road or Public Realm Plan, on the practicality of installing a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the Gables, on the Athgarvan to Newbridge Road?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing members this issue could be examined by the Road Design Section and a report would be provided to the members.

Councillor Lynch requested that this issue be examined by the Roads Design Section and a report be provided to the members.

In response to a query from Councillor Lynch, Ms Wright informed the members that she was unable to give the members a definite timeline for the required report and informed the members that a report would be provided as soon as practicable.

The report was noted.

KN20/1703

New Road Safety Installation Structures between Newbridge College and Roseberry

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

Can the road between Newbridge College and Roseberry, at Roseberry Stores be assessed for new road safety installation structures, due to speeding traffic and children crossing the road at the same location?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing members that this issue could be examined by the Road Design Section.

Councillor Lynch requested that this issue be examined by the Road Design Section. Councillor Lynch also suggested that in advance of the agreement of any future works, members view available budgets. The report was noted.

KN21/1703

Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Now that funding has been allocated from the Local Property Tax (LPT) funds for the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI) to deliver Town Design Statements for both Kildare Town and Newbridge Town, can the council act quickly to utilise the services of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI) to contribute to the Traffic Management Plans currently being negotiated with the National Transport Authority (NTA) for both towns and can we be advised of the plan to proceed with utilising the funding allocated as expeditiously as possible?

A report was circulated to the members at the meeting informing members that the Director of Service, Roads, Transport and Public Safety met with officials of the National Transport Authority (NTA) this week. Following discussions in relation to the initial allocation of funding by the NTA for Traffic Management Plans in towns of Kildare and Newbridge, the Director of Roads, Transport and Public Safety is to receive from the NTA a sample tender document and scope of work that the NTA approved for a Traffic Management Plan in another location and that this will be considered in the context of other works being considered in the towns, which would be then formally submitted to the National Transport Authority for approval to go to tender.

The District Manager informed the members that the application for funding from the NTA for Traffic Management Plans in towns of Kildare and Newbridge which was successful was based on the condition that the council conduct a health check of the towns and highlighted the importance of ensuring that there is no duplication of work.

The District Manager informed the members that initial discussions are taking place with the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI), he also informed the members that the council are currently in the process of recruiting two architects.

In response to a query from Councillor McLoughlin Healy the District Manager confirmed that the requirement of health checks was not in relation to a town design statement but was a mandatory condition of funding required from the NTA in relation to Traffic Management Plans, he informed members that although these two items are separate they are linked in that a health check would define a town design statement and explained that there was a number of discreet elements which council officials were currently working on.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy requested that this item be placed on the progress report and members receive updates when available.

KN22/1703

Footpath at Derrymullen, Allenwood

The members considered the following joint question in the name of Councillors Stafford and Aspell.

Can the council continue the footpath along the R415 at Derrymullen, Allenwood to link the village to the banks of the Grand Canal?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing members that the provision of the footpath can be examined by the Municipal District Engineer in consultation with the Road Design Section to determine the feasibility and cost of same.

Councillor Stafford requested that the provision of the footpath be examined.

The District Engineer informed the members that this issue was not straight forward as there were issues around land which was owned by a third party, she agreed to look at this issue again.

The report was noted.

KN23/1703

Control of Horses Byelaws 2017

The members considered the adoption of the Kildare County Council (Newbridge) Control of Horses Byelaws 2017 and to agree date of commencement.

Mr Dunne informed members that these byelaws were considered previously in June 2016 by the members but at that time a commencement date was not included, he requested that members consider the adoption of the byelaws now as a commencement date of 01 May 2017 has been included.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all the members that the Kildare County Council (Newbridge) Control of Horses Byelaws 2017 be adopted with a commencement date of 01 May 2017.

KN24/1703

Community Information Leaflet

Councillor Kennedy requested in writing that in his absence Councillor Stafford move the following motion on his behalf, all members agreed.

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Kennedy. That this council develop a Community Information Leaflet similar to the leaflet produced in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District and also look at the possibility of publishing it in a couple of different languages.

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

A report was received from Ms. H Dowling, RAPID Coordinator, Community & Cultural Services informing members that the Community Section are working on compiling a Community Information Booklet for the Kildare and Newbridge areas and it is hoped to have this completed in the next month.

Councillor Stafford informed the members that Councillor Kennedy had noted the report and requested that the item remain on the progress report.

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

KN25/1703

Site to the Rear of Rathangan Industrial Estate

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Stafford. That the council will lease the former site to the rear of Rathangan Industrial Estate to Rathangan Amateur Football (AFC) Club, for use as a location for changing rooms and as an alternative entrance and exit to the playing field.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that a request for a lease was previously refused on the grounds that access to the site was through the Industrial Estate and that this would lead to traffic congestion and there were safety concerns. Furthermore, the council is considering selling this land as it is part of the Industrial Estate and could be used to site a business.

Councillor Stafford informed the members that the site can be accessed from the footpath and noted that there may be a difficulty in selling this land as it has been zoned for community use. Councillor Stafford suggested that it would be appropriate to lease this site and requested that this issue be referred to the Director of Service for consideration.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the request for the council to lease the former site to the rear of Rathangan Industrial Estate to Rathangan Amateur Football (AFC) Club be referred to the Director of Service for consideration.

KN26/1703

Apply for Grant Aid to Support Heritage Sites

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle. That the council apply for grant aid to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government under the Grant Scheme for Museum Standards Programme of Ireland Participants (MSPI) in order to support ongoing maintenance of heritage sites in the county and particularly the Grey Abbey Site in Kildare town.

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

A report was received from the Heritage Officer informing the members that the Museum Standards Programme of Ireland Participants (MSPI) is for Museums with full (MSPI) accreditation, of which there is only one in Kildare - The Athy Heritage Centre and it does not apply for ongoing maintenance of heritage sites in the county. The members were informed that further conservation works, including the removal of the ivy, to Grey Abbey in Kildare are being considered by the councils Historic Monuments Advisory Committee.

Councillor Doyle requested that the Heritage Officer examine any other funding schemes which may be available to support ongoing maintenance of heritage sites in county and particularly the Grey Abbey Site in Kildare town and report back to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Stafford that the Heritage Officer examine any other funding schemes which may be available to support ongoing maintenance of heritage sites in the county and particularly the Grey Abbey Site in Kildare town and report back to the members.

KN27/1703

Report from the Management Committee on Newbridge Town Hall

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

Can the Director of Service with overall responsibility for Newbridge Town Hall give his feedback on the recent report from the Management Committee he himself put in place to provide direction on the appropriate and effective use of Newbridge Town Hall? Feedback should include but not limit itself to: the policy contained in the report of 'wait and see' how the community use of the hall 'evolves' for another year; how long before the 'operation, management and control' system the Management Committee want to observe for a full cycle will be in place and; clarification of when the seating, tables and public address system the committee refer to in the report are being delivered?

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing members that the recently circulated report and recommendation from the Board of Management represents clearly the background, the consultation process and references the outcomes from these processes and makes well founded and considered recommendations as regards policy on future usage. Once a protected structure and it has come in for favourable comment from the public who have had occasion to attend functions, events or meetings since the works were completed last May. The Board's report is detailed

and has the benefit of reviewing submissions received and open day discussions with the community who attended these sessions. The Board, through all of its considerations, was 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 wider Municipal District of Kildare/Newbridge. To date the building has been used for a variety of events, all helpful to the Board during their deliberations and the next stage is to put the operation, management and promotion of usage aspects on a more formal footing. The Service Level Agreement is intended to afford an opportunity to see how the community engage and make use of the facility, and as advised earlier, arrangements are now in place on handover of operations. It seems reasonable to adopt a trial period of one year duration to monitor the operation of the usage policy. It is hoped that the Board will stay in place to provide that oversight on behalf of the community as it is hoped the community will engage so that appropriate activities take place, thus achieving the objectives of the council in optimising same for the beneficial uses of the community interest. The necessary seating and tables are in place and have been used successfully for a number of events in recent months. An appropriate PA system will be sourced and we expect to finalise that in the next few weeks. It is planned to carry out an interim review mid-year on the anniversary of the handover of the building and agree next steps in terms of gaining most effective management and use of this building.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy acknowledged that there has been a change in Director of Service for the Department and welcomed the report. Councillor McLoughlin Healy requested that it be noted that the Board is an Oversight Board, not an Operational Board and welcomed the planned interim review and she enquired if members would receive notification of a date for the review.

Mr Holligan informed the members that the Board will be acting on behalf of the council in terms of the interim review and a presentation will be given to the members at a municipal district meeting on completion of the review for their information.

Councillor McCabe congratulated Mr Holligan and his team on the illuminating of the Town Hall and K-Leisure to green for the Saint Patrick's Day celebrations.

The report was noted.

KN28/1703

Rollout of BroadBand

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

Can we get a report on the roll out of broadband in the municipal district with details of operators who are laying fibre or other forms of broadband delivery, what criteria is informing geographically of rural roll out, are the council informing this process through statutory process or otherwise?

A Report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that there is a National Broadband Plan (NBP) for areas that are not being supplied adequately by the market and the council has been asked to input by appointing a Broadband Officer and developing a digital strategy. This process is ongoing. The map that shows the areas to be targeted by the National Broadband Plan (NBP) is attached for your attention. The council is also aware of a number of operators who are laying fibre and who have approached the council in relation to road openings etc.

In response to a query from Councillor Doyle, the District Manager informed the members that Minister Naughton has requested that each local authority identify a Broadband Officer and that the Director for Transportation has identified a staff member in this report but they are yet to be appointed to the position.

In response to a suggestion made by Councillor Doyle, that this issue be brought forward to the Corporate Policy Group and a presentation made to full council, the District Manager noted that this is a question however Councillor Doyle may wish to bring her suggestion forward.

The report was noted.

KN29/1703

Enhancement of Riverbank Arts Centre

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

Can the council furnish members with the proposals for the enhancement of the Riverbank Arts Centre which is being supported by the Arts and Culture Capital Scheme?

A report was received from the Kildare County Librarian informing members that the Riverbank Arts Centre CLG has been notified of a grant of €1,000,000 under the Department's Arts and Culture Capital Scheme 2016-2018. It was one of seven national

flagship projects to receive significant funding. The funding was allocated for the total refurbishment of the theatre facility which will make the theatre accessible, more user friendly and increase seating capacity. The upgrading of the facility will also provide opportunities to programme large touring productions. Riverbank Arts Centre CLG is currently awaiting formal notification from the department of the terms and conditions associated with the grant. Riverbank Arts Centre CLG will present the members with a design plan following the consideration of the Department's terms and conditions of grant approval.

Councillor Stafford acknowledged the grant and informed the members that once the terms and conditions associated with the grant were received from the department, the Riverbank Arts Centre CLG will provide a presentation to the members. Councillor Stafford requested that the council write to the Minister Humphreys on behalf of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District members thanking her for the grant of €1,000,000 under the Department's Arts and Culture Capital Scheme 2016-2018.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.