

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Kildare County Council held at 2.00p.m on Monday, 30 March 2015 at Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

Members Present: Councillor F O'Loughlin (Mayor), Councillors A Breslin, F Brett, K Byrne, B Caldwell, D Callaghan, R Cronin, W Crowley, I Cussen, M Dalton, T Durkan, D Fitzpatrick, B Hillis, I Keatley, P Kennedy, A Larkin, J Lawless, P McEvoy, J McGinley, F McLoughlin-Healy, M. Miley Jnr, S Moore, T Murray, J Neville, N O'Cearuil, S O'Neill, F O'Rourke, J Pender, R Power, S Power, T Redmond, D Scully, M Stafford, M Wall, P Ward, B Weld and B Young

Apologies: Councillors A Breen, S Doyle, M Lynch

Also Present: Mr. P Carey, Chief Executive, Messrs. J Boland, E O'Sullivan, P Minnock and T McDonnell, (Directors of Services), Ms. E Hanlon (Head of Finance), Ms. S Kavanagh (A/Director of Services), Ms. A. Aspell (Meetings Administrator) and other officials.

Vote of Sympathy

The Mayor recalled the recent death of Mrs. Hilda Breslin, mother of Councilor Aoife Breslin, and on her own behalf and that of the members extended her deepest sympathy to Councillor Breslin and her family. The Mayor also recalled the victims of the recent German air disaster, noting the Kildare links in that Newbridge is twinned with Bad Lippspringe and that Naas is twinned with Dillingen in Bavaria. Books of condolences will be opened in both Newbridge and Naas libraries this week. A minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect.

01/0315

Adoption of minutes

The council considered the minutes of the 23 February 2015 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Kennedy, that the minutes of 23 February 2015 be adopted and the progress report noted.

02/0315
Disposal of Land

To approve disposal of the following land:

0.0011 ha of land at Ballymakealy, Celbridge, Co Kildare

The council considered statutory notice dated 26 February 2015 which had been circulated to the members pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 signifying intent to dispose of 0.0011ha of land at Ballymakealy, Celbridge, Co. Kildare

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Moore, that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the council consent to disposal of the land in accordance with the terms set out in the statutory notice.

0.0006 ha of land at Maryville, Kildare

The council considered statutory notice dated 26 February 2015 which had been circulated to the members pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 signifying intent to dispose of 0.0006 ha of land at Maryville, Kildare, Co. Kildare

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Moore, that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the council consent to disposal of the land in accordance with the terms set out in the statutory notice.

Great Connell, Newbridge, Co Kildare

The council considered statutory notice dated 10 March 2015 which had been circulated to the members pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 signifying intent to dispose of land at Great Connell, Newbridge, Co. Kildare for the purpose of the conversion of a shared ownership to an annuity loan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Moore, that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the council consent to disposal of the land in accordance with the terms set out in the statutory notice.

48 Sallins Pier, Sallins, Co Kildare

The council considered statutory notice dated 10 March 2015 which had been circulated to the members pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 signifying intent to dispose of 48 Sallins Pier, Sallins, Co. Kildare for the purpose of the conversion of a shared ownership to an annuity loan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Moore, that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the council consent to disposal of the land in accordance with the terms set out in the statutory notice.

6 Radharc an Chaislain, Naas, Co Kildare

The council considered statutory notice dated 10 March 2015 which had been circulated to the members pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 signifying intent to dispose of 6, Radharc an Chaislain, Naas, Co. Kildare for the purpose of the conversion of a shared ownership to an annuity loan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Moore, that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the council consent to disposal of the land in accordance with the terms set out in the statutory notice.

21 Lerr View, Castldermot, Co Kildare

The council considered statutory notice dated 10 March 2015 which had been circulated to the members pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 signifying intent to dispose of 21 Lerr View, Castldermot, Co. Kildare for the purpose of the conversion of a shared ownership to an annuity loan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Moore, that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the council consent to disposal of the land in accordance with the terms set out in the statutory notice.

11 Coney Meadows, Athy, Co Kildare

The council considered statutory notice dated 10 March 2015 which had been circulated to the members pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 signifying intent to dispose of 11 Coney Meadows, Athy, Co. Kildare for the purpose of the conversion of a shared ownership to an annuity loan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Moore, that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the council consent to disposal of the land in accordance with the terms set out in the statutory notice.

28 Allen Manor, Kilmeague, Co Kildare

The council considered statutory notice dated 10 March 2015 which had been circulated to the members pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 signifying intent to dispose of 28 Allen Manor, Kilmeague, Co. Kildare for the purpose of the conversion of a shared ownership to an annuity loan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Moore, that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the council consent to disposal of the land in accordance with the terms set out in the statutory notice.

4 Springfield Drive, Celbridge, Co Kildare

The council considered statutory notice dated 10 March 2015 which had been circulated to the members pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 signifying intent to dispose of

4 Springfield Drive, Celbridge, Co. Kildare for the purpose of the conversion of a shared ownership to an annuity loan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Moore, that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the council consent to disposal of the land in accordance with the terms set out in the statutory notice.

40 Cloghgarrett Abbey, Kildare

The council considered statutory notice dated 10 March 2015 which had been circulated to the members pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 signifying intent to dispose of 40 Cloghgarrett Abbey, Kildare, Co. Kildare for the purpose of the conversion of a shared ownership to an annuity loan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Moore, that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the council consent to disposal of the land in accordance with the terms set out in the statutory notice.

8 Moneen Drive, Athy, Co Kildare

The council considered statutory notice dated 10 March 2015 which had been circulated to the members pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 signifying intent to dispose of 8 Moneen Drive, Athy, Co Kildare for the purpose of the conversion of a shared ownership to an annuity loan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Moore, that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the council consent to disposal of the land in accordance with the terms set out in the statutory notice.

7 The Drive, Hazelhatch, Celbridge, Co Kildare

The council considered statutory notice dated 10 March 2015 which had been circulated to the members pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 signifying intent to dispose of 7 the Drive, Hazelhatch, Celbridge, Co. Kildare for the purpose of the conversion of a shared ownership to an annuity loan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Moore, that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the council consent to disposal of the land in accordance with the terms set out in the statutory notice.

Downings North, Prosperous, Naas, Co Kildare

The council considered statutory notice dated 10 March 2015 which had been circulated to the members pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 signifying intent to dispose of property at Downings North, Prosperous, Co. Kildare for the purpose of the conversion of a shared ownership to an annuity loan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Moore, that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the council consent to disposal of the land in accordance with the terms set out in the statutory notice.

34 Castlebawn, Kilmeague, Naas, Co Kildare

The council considered statutory notice dated 13 March 2015 which had been circulated to the members pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 signifying intent to dispose of 34 Castlebawn, Kilmeague, Co. Kildare for the purpose of the conversion of a shared ownership loan to a mortgage with an independent provider.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Moore, that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the council consent to disposal of the land in accordance with the terms set out in the statutory notice.

03/0315 Management Report

The members considered the monthly Management Report.

Councillor Pender asked the Director to comment on the Leader funding and the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme. Councillor Young asked for an explanation of the criteria around the tender process.

Mr Minnock stated that the tender process is complex. The procedures are agreed nationally and the process has been underway for the past eighteen months. The Local Community Development Committee is the contracting authority. The new programme SICAP (Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme) is due to commence on 1st April 2015. The Kildare allocation equates to that awarded in 2014. The Rural Development LEADER funding 2014 – 2020 allocation for Kildare is €5,261,600.01. Mr Minnock acknowledged the disappointment at the low level of funding for Kildare and said that the Department has been informed that it is challenging to understand given the rural nature of the county, the rapid growth of population across the county and the substantial challenges experienced by services on the ground responding to need.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Brett, that the Monthly Management Report be noted.

04/0315

Section 85 Agreements

The members considered report dated March 2015, which had been circulated, recommending that, pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001, approval be given to agreements with Meath, Offaly, Roscommon, Carlow, Kilkenny, Laois, Longford, South Dublin, Wexford, Wicklow and Fingal County Councils for rehabilitation works to facilitate the Bridges Rehabilitation Contract.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Miley, and agreed by all members, that in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001, the following be approved:

- (a) Agreement with Meath County Council for the purpose of bridge rehabilitations works at Siddan Bridge and Owenroe Bridge
- (b) Agreement with Offaly County Council for the purpose of bridge rehabilitations works at Kilcormac Bridge, Crancreagh Bridge and Noggus Bridge
- (c) Agreement with Roscommon County Council for the purpose of bridge rehabilitations works at Lanesborough Bridge
- (d) Agreement with Carlow County Council for the purpose of bridge rehabilitations works at Whitemill Bridge
- (e) Agreement with Kilkenny County Council for the purpose of bridge rehabilitations works at Ballyrahan Bridge
- (f) Agreement with Laois County Council for the purpose of bridge rehabilitations works at Two Mile Bridge
- (g) Agreement with Longford County Council for the purpose of bridge rehabilitations works at Cloondara Bridge, Knockanboy Bridge and Lanesborough Bridge
- (h) Agreement with South Dublin County Council for the purpose of bridge rehabilitations works at Rathcoole Bridge
- (i) Agreement with Wexford County Council for the purpose of bridge rehabilitations works at McMurrough Island Bridge 1, McMurrough Island Bridge 2, McMurrough Island Farm Pass and Ballybing Culvert
- (j) Agreement with Wicklow County Council for the purpose of bridge rehabilitations works at Dargle Road Interchange Bridge and Wingfield Interchange Bridge
- (k) Agreement with Laois County Council for the purpose of bridge rehabilitations works at N08 Interchange (East) and Ballydavis Interchange
- (l) Agreement with Fingal County Council for the purpose of bridge rehabilitations works at Kilshane Road Overbridge and Little Pace Bridge

05/0315

Presentation on the 150th Irish Derby Celebrations

Paul Hensy, General Manager and Evan Arkwright, Commercial Manager of the Curragh Racecourse made a presentation to the members on the forthcoming 150th Irish Derby Celebrations.

Paul outlined the history of the Curragh noting the importance of the racecourse where all 5 classics, 1000 and 2000 Guineas, Derby, Oaks and Ledger are hosted. The venue welcomes in excess of 100,000 race goers each year and 50 trainers have over 1200 horses in training on the Curragh. A study carried out through the Business and Law department at National University of Ireland in Maynooth identified the value to the local economy at €86m. There are 40 staff employed in a full time basis with up to 750 caterers, security staff and cleaners on event days. The international investment is of vital significance to the Curragh and to the county.

Evan outlined the background to Ireland's most iconic horse race and its significance to the tourism in general and in particular to hotels restaurants and retailers in the area. A national and international marketing and public relations campaign is underway with the focus this year on the national heritage of the Irish Derby. A 'Derby Gathering' event has been organised in association with Kildare Failte to encourage people to come home for the 150th Irish Derby. Kildare and Newbridge have taken a 2 town festival approach with events scheduled in both towns complimenting each other. A commemorative piece of sculpture has been commissioned by Kildare County Council for the 150th event. It will be located on the Ballymany roundabout and will be unveiled in June 2015.

The Mayor and members thanked Paul and Evan for their excellent presentation. They asked for a timeline on the proposed redevelopment of the Curragh racecourse and if it will be necessary to close the race track while the development is taking place. Members encouraged the people of Kildare to support the festival. Questions were raised regarding the distance of the race, and the domination by one trainer. The group leaders thanked Paula and Evan for their work and wished them well for the forthcoming festival and for the proposed redevelopment of the racecourse.

Paul thanked the Mayor, members and the Chief Executive for their positive contributions and good wishes. He informed the members that following an Architectural competition, two firms, Grimshaw Architects, an international firm based in London and Newman Mulligan, an Irish firm based in Dublin have been chosen to expand the plans and HRH Aga Khan is very much involved in the process. It is intended to lodge the planning application in Quarter 3 of 2015 and the procurement process will follow. Development should proceed at the end of the 2016 racing

season and the options will be evaluated at that stage. He said that the members will be kept informed of progress on the development and he acknowledged their support.

The Chief Executive thanked Paul and Evan for their intensive work behind the scenes to make the Derby a success. He said that the Derby festival and the Curragh racecourse were a huge asset to the county and he said that Kildare County Council will work in partnership with the management of the Curragh Racecourse to maximise the potential for Kildare.

06/0315

Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan

The members noted the report that was circulated indicating that the Corporate Policy Group recommended that this item be included on the agenda as the Local Economic and Community Plan was a reserved function and the approval of full council is required for the process to begin.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor O'Cearuil, seconded by Councillor Breslin, with all members in agreement the commencement of the Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan process be ratified.

07/0315

Rural Broadband

To receive presentation from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources on the Rural Broadband Scheme

Mr Sean Griffin from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural resources gave a comprehensive update to the members on the National Broadband Plan. The ambition is that 100% of premises in Ireland will have access to high speed broadband. This will involve a commercial investment of 2.5bn to provide this service. This state-led initiative aims to ensure that all premises are addressed with up to 30% of premises to be covered by state intervention; the remaining 70% will be covered commercially by 2016. Submissions received following public consultation with service providers will be reviewed to confirm coverage and develop assessment criteria. The consultation on the proposed intervention strategy will begin in July 2015. Approval for state aid will be sought and the procurement process to appoint a company to roll out the network will be launched in December 2015. It is proposed to commence the build in 2016.

The Mayor thanked Mr Griffin for his presentation.

While members acknowledged the presentation and the plan that is in place, they expressed disappointment at the time frame for the plan. The problems faced by the residents of rural Kildare in relation to the lack of broadband were recounted and members asked if there was a plan for the intervening period. The lack of broadband in 2015 was likened to the absence of electricity in the 1950's and education, health and business were suffering as a result. The members referred to the commercial operators only being interested in providing service where it was profitable to do so and the state being required to sub vent the rollout to the remaining areas. Mr Griffin responded that there is no absence of an understanding in the Department of the need for urgency. The reality is that this project is critical from a national perspective and that the plan is to do it once and do it right. It is expected that the build will begin in 2016 and the project will be rolled out completely by 2020.

The Mayor thanked Mr Griffin and asked that the contact details of those dealing with the project in the department to be made available to the members. Mr Griffin said that his details were available and that contact could also be made through Mr B Higgins, Head of IS and Procurement.

08/0315

Corporate Plan 2015 - 2019

The Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 was circulated to the members. Councillor O'Neill expressed her disappointment at the lack of inclusion of mental health services as she had requested in her submission on the plan. Councillor McEvoy asked that objective 4.11 be amended to read 'promote and facilitate ease of access'.

Mr O'Sullivan stated that the Corporate Plan was a high level document and that given that the Local Economic Community Plan process is underway, it was decided that it was more appropriate to address the issues raised by Councillor O'Neill in the preparation of the Local Economic Community Plan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Weld, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, with all members in agreement that the Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 be adopted.

09/0315

Progress Report on Corporate Plan 2009 - 2014

Councillor Young referred to section 1.8 in relation to social inclusion and asked what progress has been made in relation to youth services.

Mr O'Sullivan cited examples of initiatives in Kildare Town, Newbridge, the Integrated Services Programme in Kilcock and said that the Community Section could be asked to give a more detailed response if required.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Hillis, that the progress report for 2014 on the Corporate Plan 2009 – 2014 be noted.

10/0315

Votes of Sympathy

The Mayor and members expressed sympathy to the family of the late:

- Mrs Hilda Breslin, mother of Councillor Aoife Breslin.
- Mr Michael Treacy Senior, retired Revenue Collector, father of Michael Treacy, Revenue Collector and father-in-law of Siobhan Scully, Human Resources.
- Mr John Jennings, father of Mary Leacy, Machinery Yard, Newbridge.

11/0315

Mayors Business

The Mayor commended all the members involved in the St. Patrick's Day parades in the county. The Mayor congratulated the Newbridge Stage Academy who won first prize in Westport on Sunday 29th March 2015.

Events attended by the Mayor on behalf of members and the people of Kildare during the past month included:

- The Young Entrepreneurs' competition organised by the Local Enterprise Office and held in Killashee. The Mayor said that the quality and standard of projects was excellent and extended congratulations to all involved particularly the group from Newbridge College who were the outright winners.
- The North Kildare Chamber of Commerce hosted an event where the Chief Executive Officer of Titanic Quarter, the company responsible for Belfast's most important waterfront development, gave an excellent presentation.
- Energy Awareness Day here in Aras Chill Dara last Friday where it was noted that the Energy Management Team are on course to meet the target reduction of 33%.
- The visit to New York for the St. Patrick's Day festival. The Mayor and the Chief Executive attended at the invitation of the Kildare Association in New York. This association is in existence for 120 years and the Mayor and the Chief Executive met with Mary Guilfoyle, from

Staplestown, Chris Burke, from Naas and Mike Flood who has raised €45,000 for the John Devoy statue which will be erected in Naas. It was a great honour to participate and the Mayor and the Chief Executive availed of the opportunity to network and promote Kildare as the home of golf and horseracing.

Councillor Weld thanked the Mayor and the Chief Executive for representing Kildare at the St Patrick's Day festival in New York. He said that to have the Mayor of Kildare in New York for this event is very important to the Kildare Association and to all those who have emigrated from the county. Councillor Miley thanked the Mayor and the Chief Executive for their attendance and for representing and promoting Kildare.

12/0315

Correspondence

The Chief Executive informed the members that he issued an e-mail this morning informing members that, following clarification of the legal provisions (Section 26 of the Water Services Act 2013) and the Data Protection requirements, Kildare County Council has forwarded the relevant tenant data (name and address only) to Irish Water. It is important to note that Irish Water has stated that this information will only be used to make contact with those tenants who have not yet registered with them as customers.

The Chief Executive also informed the members that Eirgrid has just published Your Grid, Your Views, Your Tomorrow, a new draft strategy for the development of Ireland's transmission grid and submissions from the public are invited.

The County Development Plan review will commence on 2 April 2015.

With regard to the information being transferred to Irish Water, members contributed to a debate on the timing of the decision being notified to members, the cost to Council, pressure from outside forces, and who actually made the decision. The Chief Executive stated that he made the decision having sought legal clarification. He said that all 31 local authorities have now issued the data to Irish Water.

The Eirgrid strategy was broadly welcomed by the members. The strategy is shaped by three key pillars; open engagement with communities, making the most of new technologies and a commitment to make the existing grid work harder before building new transmission infrastructure.

The members noted the commencement of the County Development Plan review.

The Chief Executive introduced Mr Tadhg McDonnell, Director of Services for Housing and welcomed him to Kildare County Council.

13/0315

Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator referred to report dated 25 March 2015 circulated to the members regarding conference and training events.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Caldwell, that the members approve of the attendance of:

Councillor Dalton at 'Attracting a new sort of tourist in the Decade of Commemorations' in Dundalk on 15 April 2015.

Councillors Power, Dalton, Weld and Brett at LAMA training in Tuam, Co Galway on 10 & 11 April 2015

Councillors Larkin, Pender, Kennedy, Weld, Stafford and Murray at AILG training in Celbridge Manor on 14 April 2015.

Councillors Kennedy and Dalton at Irish Planning Institute training in the Clarion hotel, Cork on 16 & 17 April 2015.

Councillor Dalton at AILG training in Limerick on 18 April 2015

Councillors Callaghan and Moore at AILG Annual Conference at Nuremore Hotel, Carrickmacross on 12 and 13 March 2015.

14/0315

Public Transport Plan for South Kildare

The following motion from the Athy Municipal District was considered by the members:

That the council immediately progress a public transport plan for South Kildare through its Strategic Policy Committee, with the co-operation of all agencies, given the recent announcements about the withdrawal of public transport services from the south of the county.

Before the motion was proposed, the Mayor informed the members that the process of electronic voting was being introduced today. Councillor Cronin expressed her concern that the electronic voting process was not as transparent as the existing 'show of hands'. The Mayor explained the process and said that the screen in front of the Meetings Administrator will show the result 'Yes, No or Abstain' as members vote. Eventually it will be possible to display the votes on the large

screen. It was agreed to trial the system at the meeting, but if there was any disagreement on a vote, the Mayor would revert today to asking members for a show of hands.

The meetings Administrator brought the members attention to the Progress report where it is noted that the Chief Executive of the National Transport Authority will attend the April meeting of the Council.

Councillor Miley proposed the motion and it was seconded by Councillor Wall. Councillor Miley spoke on the motion and welcomed the fact that the Chief Executive of the National Transport Authority will attend the April meeting. He spoke of the necessity for all agencies to work together towards developing a public transport plan for the south of the county. Members contributed to a discussion on the issue, supporting the Cathoirleach of the Athy Municipal District.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Wall, the motion to be referred to the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee for consideration and report to full Council.

15/0315

National Transport Authority Funding

The following motion in the name of Councillor McGinley was considered:

That the council prioritises applications for National Transport Authority (NTA) funding and that this prioritising of projects be done through the municipal districts in order to have informed decision making by the NTA and so avoid crazy decisions such as the only allocation for the Maynooth Municipal District this year being €300,000 for a cycle path along the canal from INTEL to Maynooth, with nothing being given to the much needed footpath/cycle path to the Educate Together School and Gael Scoil at Celbridge Road, Maynooth.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McGinley and seconded by Councillor O'Cearuil. Councillor McGinley acknowledged the report which stated that there should be an opportunity for the Council to inform the process by which projects are prioritised for funding by the National Transport Authority. He referred to the allocation to the Maynooth Municipal District and said that the project which received funding would not have been viewed by the members as the highest priority. He stated that the Dublin Authorities prioritise their projects in their submission to the National Transport Authority and he proposed that Kildare should do this in future. Councillor McGinley requested that this item be listed for consideration by the Chief Executive of the National Transport Authority in her forthcoming address to Kildare County Council.

There was broad agreement for this motion with several members stating that while funding was always welcome, the prioritisation through the Municipal Districts must now be agreed.

Ms Kavanagh, A/Director of Services, thanked the members and said that she will inform the Chief Executive of the National Transport Authority of the motion.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McGinley, seconded by Councillor Ward, with all members in agreement the motion was carried.

16/0315

Review of Development Levies Scheme

The following motion in the name of Councillors Miley and Moore was considered:
That the council immediately start a review of the county development levies in light of a commitment given at full council meetings on 24 March 2014 and 17 October 2014.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Miley and seconded by Councillor Moore. Councillor Miley said that he regarded this as a serious issue when the cost of the levies could exceed the cost of construction. He said that it was time to have the scheme reviewed. Councillor Moore supported Councillor Miley stating that the levies were an obstacle to first time applicants building their own homes.

Mr Minnock, Director of Services, stated that he proposed to call an advance meeting of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee to consider the review of the draft development levies scheme. He said that the meeting would be held in April and that issues around job creation and incentives for start up businesses would be discussed. Mr Minnock cautioned against any reduction, but encouraged incentives like discounts for early payment and long term payment plans.

The suggestion of an amnesty to generate income was raised, but rejected because the Development Levy Scheme is scientifically designed to generate an income stream and support the infrastructure necessary to facilitate sustainable development. A discussion regarding the scheme followed with the proposer and seconder of the motion expressing their agreement to having this item considered by the Strategic Policy Committee. Councillor Weld expressed his concern about a possible time delay if it has to be considered by this committee.

Mr Minnock assured the members that the Strategic Policy Committee would consider the matter and report back to full Council and the members will ultimately decide the scheme.

The Mayor said that the report should be made available to the members for the May meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Moore, that a special meeting of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee be convened in April to consider the review of the Development Levies Scheme and that a report be prepared and listed for consideration at the May meeting of Council.

17/0315

Interest Rates on Loans

The following motion in the name of Councillor Young was considered:

That this council resolves to call on the relevant Ministers to ensure that variations in financial interest rates, in particular reductions, are promptly passed on to homeowners who have loans or mortgages as part of local authority housing schemes.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Young and seconded by Councillor Pender. Councillor Young thanked the Head of Finance for the report which outlined the process between Kildare County Council and the Housing Finance Agency in respect of mortgage funding to homeowners with loans/mortgages with the council. He noted that the HFA cost of funds is linked with the 3 month euribor rate and that it is this, rather than the ECB rates, that are pertinent, although the Board of the HFA do take the ECB interest rates into consideration. Councillor Young said that the rates that banks wish to charge seems problematic and that if the source of funding is from the ECB, surely this is the rate which should apply.

The Head of Finance explained that Kildare County Council is limited to borrowing from the Housing Finance Agency.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Pender, with all members in agreement, the motion was carried.

18/0315

Speed Limits in Residential Areas

The following motion in the name of Councillor Neville was considered:

In light of the passage into the Dáil of a law (Jake's Law) to introduce a 20 kp/h speed limit in residential areas could the council use this new limit as part of their review.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Neville and seconded by Councillor Durkan. Councillor Neville introduced the motion and referred to the ongoing discussion at national level. He accepted the report which stated that advice from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport is awaited on the proposed new 20km/h special speed limit to which the motion refers. With respect to speed limits generally, consideration must always be given to what is the 'appropriate' speed limit for a particular road.

Ms Kavangh, A/Director of Services, stated that there is a defined statutory procedure to be undertaken for a review of speed limits in the county and resourcing the process and erection of new signage will be an issue. Ms Kavanagh said that there may be further change to the guidelines in view of Jake's Law and that, in the absence of these guidelines, there is no basis for the 20km/h at this time.

Members contributed to a discussion around the practicalities of a 20km/h speed limit and how such a limit would be enforced. There was general agreement to await the issue of the guidelines.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Durkan, with all members in agreement, that the report circulated be noted and the guidelines awaited.

19/0315

Charity Collections

The following motion in the name of Councillor Crowley was considered:

That this council calls on the Joint Policing Committee to make appropriate representations to the Charities Regulatory Authority to introduce immediate measures under the 'Street and House to House Collection Act 1962' to prohibit multiple same-day charity collections, in local towns and villages and to further request that conditions attached to SC1 permits are strictly adhered to and are only granted to agencies from outside areas in a manner not to conflict with local voluntarily run charities.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Crowley and seconded by Councillor McEvoy. Councillor Crowley stated that this is an area of concern which is having a negative impact on business. The process in place at present leaves local charities unaware of plans for a national charity collection, resulting in multiple same day charity collections. This is unfair to a very generous public who are overwhelmed by several collections. Councillor Stafford stated that he supported the motion in principle. He suggested that the motion be amended to read 'to the Minister for Justice' rather than 'the Charities Regulatory Authority' as it is the Minister who is empowered to make regulations.

Members contributed to a discussion and broadly welcomed the spirit of the motion. There was agreement that people were overburdened and regulation would be welcome.

Councillor Crowley stated that he did contact the Department of Justice and was happy to accept the advice and amend the motion. He said that he was not against national charities in any way, he merely wants the process to ensure that there is not a proliferation of charity collections on the same day.

An amendment to the motion was submitted in writing

That this council calls on the Joint Policing Committee to make appropriate representations to the Minister for Justice to introduce immediate measures under the 'Street and House to House Collection Act 1962' to prohibit multiple same-day charity collections, in local towns and villages and to further request that conditions attached to SC1 permits are strictly adhered to and are only granted to agencies from outside areas in a manner not to conflict with local voluntarily run charities.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Crowley, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, with 26 members voting in favour, 1 member against and 1 member abstaining, it was agreed that the amended motion outlined above be referred to the Joint Policing Committee.

20/0315

Small Business Day for Kildare

The following motion in the name of Councillor O'Loughlin was considered:

That the council explore ways of initiating a localised 'small business day' for Kildare to encourage everyone to shop locally that day, building in a monitoring mechanism, and simultaneously examining the possibility of introducing a K-card (loyalty card) which would offer discounts to card holders in Kildare businesses and retailers.

The motion was proposed by Councillor O'Loughlin and seconded by Councillor O'Cearuil. The Mayor thanked the Director for the report and said that she was happy to accept that this issue be considered by the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee. She said that she had researched incentives and would bring that information to the committee. Councillor McEvoy said that he supported the motion and that Kildare Failte had also researched a similar initiative and that information could be shared.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor O'Loughlin, seconded by Councillor O'Cearuil, with all members in agreement, this motion to be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee.

21/0315

Public Consultation Process

The following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin-Healy was considered:

That the council come up with a plan where possible, to communicate with constituents affected by any council decision prior to official public consultation process, in order to communicate accurately its proposed plans and to listen to feedback. The gap between identifying potential locations for example and the start of the official public consultation process leaves too long a gap within which constituents feel that decisions not yet finalised have already been made. Worse still, where there are gaps in accurate information, those gaps may be filled with misinformation

The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin-Healy and seconded by Councillor Durkan. Councillor McLoughlin-Healy thanked the Director for the report, but said that it was not relevant to the point that she wished to make. She stated that it is very important that decisions that effect residents are communicated to those residents without delay. There is no attempt to subvert any statutory process, merely to ensure that residents are informed before information is leaked.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin-Healy, seconded by Councillor Durkan, with all members in agreement, the motion was carried.

22/0315

Road Safety

The following motion in the name of Councillor Durkan was considered:

That this council take immediate steps to improve road safety markings, road safety signage and road side railing at all primary schools where required throughout the county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Durkan and seconded by Councillor Stafford. Councillor Durkan said that he tabled this motion to full council out of frustration, having raised it on numerous occasions at Municipal District level. He is referring in particular to the provision of a footpath in Maynooth, but said that the issue may be relevant in other areas also. The Department of Education has not provided a budget towards ancillary traffic management and Councillor Durkan stated that he considers the lack of a footpath at this location poses a risk to children attending school.

Ms Kavanagh, A/Director of Services agreed that this matter had been raised at Municipal District level. As a result, an application was made to the National Transport Authority for funding for this

project but this was not granted. The Council do not have the funding to carry out this work in the absence of such grant aid.

Councillor McEvoy said that this motion cannot be carried because a budget has not been identified for the work. He suggested that the wording be amended.

Councillor Durkan submitted the following amendment to the motion
That this council prioritise road safety markings, road safety signage and road side railing at all primary schools where required throughout the county.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan, seconded by Councillor Stafford, with all members in agreement the amended motion was carried.

23/0315 Housing Repairs

The following motion in the name of Councillor Redmond was considered:
That this council immediately move to make all Housing repairs complete within a three month period.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Redmond and seconded by Councillor O'Neill. Councillor Redmond acknowledged the report, but stated that it does not address his motion. He referred to the division of the county into three areas for the purpose of housing maintenance repairs and asked for an explanation for that. He said that his understanding is that Kildare is a county with a skilled labour force who are actively looking for work. Councillor Redmond asked how long have we been waiting for the appointment of a Clerk of Works for this area. He stated that tenants are waiting an average of 90 – 100 days to have repairs carried out. Councillor Lawless supported the motion and asked that the process be examined with a view to putting in a triage system as the current response is not satisfactory.

Mr McDonnell, Director of Services, recalled the strategy document that Mr Minnock presented to the members at the February meeting. Mr McDonnell is now reviewing and prioritising the schedule of work in his Directorate in light of the strategy and will keep the members informed through the Municipal District meetings. With regard to resources, Mr McDonnell informed the members that approval has been received for the appointment of a Clerk of Works. The division of the county into three areas through the framework to award the maintenance contract is designed to deliver a speedier response. He said that each request is evaluated as tenants have a responsibility in accordance with their letting agreement to ensure their houses are maintained. A

tenant handbook has been prepared and will be presented to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for recommendation to full Council before circulation to tenants.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor O'Neill, the tenant handbook to be referred to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for approval and recommendation to full Council and the members will be appraised of the review of procedures on housing maintenance requests.

24/0315

Irish Language Signs

The following motion in the name of Councillor Cronin was considered:

That Kildare County Council give parity to the Irish language on all future and replacement road signs under our authority and iterates its support to being a trial county in the event of NRA looking for a pilot county towards its implementation statewide.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Cronin and seconded by Councillor Cussen. A report from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety section stated that the council will comply with its legal obligations, but does not have the resources to exceed those obligations.

Councillor Cronin spoke on the motion and following discussion submitted the following amendment:

That Kildare County Council request the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to cease the exemption to road traffic signs in the Official Languages Act 2003 and to give parity to the Irish language on all future and replacement road traffic signs under our authority and iterates its support to being a trial county in the event of National Roads Authority looking for a pilot county towards its implementation statewide.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cronin, seconded by Councillor Cussen, as the amended motion requires a revised report, it was agreed to defer this amended motion until the April meeting.

25/0315

Irish Water

The following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen was considered:

As the motion requesting government and Irish Water to cease charging for water and concentrate on dealing with leaks was carried in November, that this council informs Irish Water of the motion

and seeks clarification from them that they are dealing with the ongoing leakage in Kildare in this event.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Cussen and seconded by Councillor Redmond. Councillor Cussen said that this motion was passed in November and it was very disappointing not to have received a formal response. The Councillor asked why no reply had been received to the letters issued as a response to the passing of the motion by Council. Councillor Lawless stated that he proposed this motion back in November and said that it was frustrating and disappointing not to have an official response. The members contributed to a discussion around the lack of an official response and requested the Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executive of Irish Water asking for details of repairs to leaks in Kildare. The Mayor encouraged members to attend the briefing clinics from Irish Water here in Aras Chill Dara.

Mr Boland, Director of Services, referred to a letter of 9 March 2015 announcing the formal 'Irish Water First Fix' scheme, where the company announced a targeted approach to leak detection. Mr Boland explained that Irish Water has committed to writing to any householder whose metre is indicating that there is a leak and the first repair will be carried out free of charge.

Resolved that a further reminder be sent to Irish Water requesting a direct response to the motion and the letter referred to by Mr Boland to be circulated to the members

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor O'Cearuil, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick, standing orders were suspended for 15 minutes to allow the meeting continue and conclude the agenda.

26/0315

Call for Referendum

The following motion in the name of Councillor O'Neill was considered:

That this council supports the overwhelming vote by the Constitutional Convention in September 2013 in favour of extending the right to vote for the President of Ireland to citizens in the North of Ireland and the diaspora, and calls on the Irish government to now set a date for a referendum on the matter during this Dáil term and let the people have their say.

The motion was proposed by Councillor O'Neill and seconded by Councillor Cronin. Councillor O'Neill said that she was a member of the Constitutional Convention group as a member of the public. She spoke of organisations like the Kildare Association in New York whose members' may wish to have their say. Councillor O'Neill asked the members to support the motion.

Councillor Stafford suggested that Councillor O'Neill amend the motion to replace diaspora with Irish citizens living abroad.

Councillor O'Neill submitted the following amendment

That this council supports the overwhelming vote by the Constitutional Convention in September 2013 in favour of extending the right to vote for the President of Ireland to citizens in the North of Ireland and the Irish Citizens living abroad and then calls on the Irish government to now set a date for a referendum on the matter during this Dáil term and let the people have their say.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Cronin, with 18 members voting in favour, 7 members against and no member abstaining, the amended motion was carried.

27/0315

Irish Language in the European Union

The following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen was considered:

Go dtacaíonn an Comhairle seo le deireadh a bheith curtha leis an maolú ar stádas na Gaeilge san Eoraip agus go scríobhfaidh an Comhairle chuig an Rialtas ag éileamh orthu scríobh chuig Comhairle na nAirí chun iarraidh orthu ligint don mhaolú ar stádas na Gaeilge san AE dul in éag ag deireadh 2016.

(That this council supports the ending of the derogation on the status of the Irish language in the European Union and that this council write to the government and call on them to write to the Council of Ministers requesting that the derogation on the status of Irish in the EU be allowed lapse at the end of 2016.)

The motion was proposed by Councillor Cussen and seconded by Councillor Redmond.

Councillor Cussen explained that her motion was in two parts and asked the members for their support. Irish is the official language and it is a decision of the Irish Government to request that the derogation on the status of Irish in the EU be allowed to lapse at the end of 2016. Councillors O'Cearuil and Neville supported the motion and encouraged the Government to establish the 20 year strategy.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Redmond, with all members in agreement, the motion was carried.

28/0315

Support for Dunnes Workers Campaign

The following motion in the name of Councillor Pender was considered:

That Kildare County Council supports the Decency for Dunnes Workers Campaign for decent hours, earnings, job security, fair pay and trade union representation.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor Wall. Councillor Pender stated that there were 400 people in Kildare working for Dunnes Stores, 70% of these workers are women. The workers are asking for the same terms and conditions as are enjoyed by competitors of Dunnes Stores so that they can have security of income.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor R Power, seconded by Councillor Lawless, standing orders were extended for a further 5 minutes to allow the motion to be considered.

Councillor Callaghan said that she did not consider Kildare County Council to be the appropriate forum to raise this issue.

Several members thanked Councillor Pender for bringing this motion before Council. The workers deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Members recalled that it was a Dunnes Stores worker who brought the apartheid issue to the forefront in 1984. Councillor Pender thanked the members for their support and stated that the Council was the democratically elected forum for the community and that it was appropriate that the members have their say on this issue.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Wall, with all members in agreement, the motion was carried.

The meeting concluded.
