

Agenda Reports
Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Meeting
19 September 2018

Agenda

1. To approve the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting and the annual meeting held on Wednesday, 18 July 2018 and to note the progress report.
2. To receive an update on the municipal district road works.

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office

Road Resurfacing Works:

Road recycling and surfacing works are scheduled to take place in the second half of September at the following locations:

1. L-7087 - Blacktrench Road
2. L-7085 – Rathernan Road (southern-end at its junction with the Blacktrench Road)
3. R414 – Lullymore/Barnaran area (at two locations)

It is anticipated that these works will be completed by the end of September.

Road closures have been advertised to ensure the safe completion of the works.

Works also commenced in late August at the L7036 Langton Road in Newbridge (outside The Oaks Estate) which includes drainage improvement works, road resurfacing and footpath improvements in that area.

Road Surface Dressing works:

The Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Area has completed its surface dressing work for 2018 at the following locations:

1. R414 Mountrice (Monasterevin to Rathangan Road)
2. L7004 and L7005 – near Feighcullen Cross

LPT/Pay Parking Projects/Footpath Improvements:

1. Footpath improvement works and some road improvement works were completed at Maryville Estate, Kildare Town at the end of August. It is intended that another phase of footpath improvement works will be carried out in 2019 with the support of LPT/Pay Parking Surplus monies from the members.

It is intended that all remaining Local Property Tax (LPT) works will be tendered in the second half of the year.

TAAG related work:

1. Road improvement works including footpath improvements, a new uncontrolled pedestrian crossing along with improved signage and road markings were completed at St. Brigid's National School, Cut Bush Village in late-August prior to the school reopening after the summer holidays. This work fully addressed the issues raised and assessed under TAAG Ref 17/206.

Miscellaneous works:

1. Grass cutting and litter picking was carried out along the R445 Naas to Newbridge Dual Carriageway at the end of August prior to work on the new distributor road between the R445 and the Great Connell Road by Lidl commencing.
2. An existing sheep grid on the Curragh at the R415 (Rathbride Road) leaving Kildare Town was repaired in late August.

3. Emergency repair works were carried out along the R415 between Nurney and Kildare Town in late August/early September following the subsidence of a section of this bog road.
4. Emergency repair works were carried out along the L7081 at Healy's Bridge between Kilmeague and Prosperous in early September following the subsidence of a section of this road.
5. Repair works were carried out to a boundary wall and railing in the Ruanbeg estate in Kildare Town in late August.
6. Works have been arranged to replace an existing sheep grid at the L7022 (Bucket Road) near Kildare Town. A road closure has been advertised to facilitate the safe completion of these works.

Road marking works:

Road marking works were carried out in late August following surface dressing works at the locations listed above and further road marking work will be carried out as necessary before the winter to address any road marking related issues or requests.

3. To consider holding an in-committee meeting on 17 October 2018 in respect of the Draft County Speed Limit Review process.

Housing and Corporate Services

4. Motion – Councillor McLoughlin Healy

The Standards in Public Office Commissioner has expressed concern with the failure of lobbyists to register as lobbyists. Notwithstanding the responsibility of lobbyists to register as lobbyists, in light of the Commissioner's request that councils make an effort to ensure that lobbyists register with www.lobbying.ie. that the council detail how it plans to respond to the Commissioner's request in relation to people and companies (identity will be supplied) who have failed to register their lobbying of Municipal District councillors and officials.

Report: Following contact with the Lobbying Regulation Unit in the Standards in Public Office Commission, we have been advised that no specific instruction has

issued to councils requesting that councils make an effort to ensure that lobbyists register with www.lobbying.ie and have again confirmed that it is the lobbyist's obligation to register. However, this council continues to carry out its obligations in relation to implementation of the Regulation of Lobbying Act, by adhering to guidelines as set down by the Lobbying Regulation Unit namely: - Guidance for Designated Public Officials and Guidance for Local Authority members.

Issued by: Ms M McIvor, A/Director of Service, Housing and Corporate Services

5. **Motion – Councillor Lynch**

Considering the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government approved the revised St. Patrick Park, Rathangan Regeneration Project on 20 January 2017, that this municipal district committee finds the delay in construction and renovation unacceptable and the fact that homes are boarded up for over ten years by the council is a improper use of public buildings and officials need to be held responsible for same.

Report: The St. Patrick's Park Regeneration and Remedial Works scheme is divided into 3 Phases. Phase 1 involves the refurbishment of 23 social housing units and minor works to 11 private units. The first four social housing units (two vacant and two occupied) and two private units are complete. The vacant units are being use to decant tenants of occupied units to allow refurbishment of these units. A contract for the refurbishment of the remaining 19 social housing and minor works to nine private units has been signed and is due to commence on 10 September 2018.

A number of improvement works were carried out over recent years which has improved the overall appearance of St. Patrick's Park from the appearance of the estate that prompted the inclusion of St. Patrick's Park in a submission under the Remedial Works Programme in late 2008. This included the demolition of five vacant and vandalised units and the creation of additional green space, the construction of fencing around the southern and western boundaries of the estate and a number of clean-up's around parts of the estate.

Phases 2 & 3 involve the demolition of 21 units, the refurbishment of 19 units and the construction of 18 new units. The most significant element of demolition works involves removing 12 existing housing units in the centre of the estate to create a new green open space appropriate to an estate the size and layout of St. Patricks Park.

This part of the projects has been developed to Part 8 stage and a Stage 3 application was submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG). The DHPLG have sought significant reduction in the overall project costs to those submitted by Kildare County Council with the Stage 3 application. This will involve redesign of the draft Part 8 in order to bring the project cost in line with the budget tabled by the DHPLG. The redesign process is underway. Once reduced project costs are identified a revised submission will be sent to the DHPLG seeking approval to proceed to Part 8.

Issued by: Mr David Creighton, Acting Senior Architect, Architectural Services

6. Question – Councillor S Power

Can the council provide details of all communications between Kildare County Council and the Department of Defence during the past year regarding the future of the Curragh?

Report: The District Co-ordinator met with the Department of Defence on a separate matter on July 25 in County Hall wherein the Curragh Plains was discussed very briefly and the end of the meeting and a copy of the draft discussion paper given to the two officials in attendance. It was agreed to have a specific meeting relating to the Curragh Plains, and in particular to get feedback on the discussion paper. This is now scheduled, again for County Hall, on Tuesday 18 September. The members will be kept informed.

Issued by: Mr J Boland, Director of Environment and Water Services

Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

7. Motion – Councillor Doyle

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

Report: The Newbridge Town Transport Framework is being developed by the National Transport Authority (NTA), the core aim of which is to create a Transport

Framework Agreement (FWA) which will provide the context for the future transport requirements of the town. A draft FWA has been prepared and is now under examination by the Roads Department. The proposed actions, timelines and outline costs will be presented to and discussed with the members when finalised.

Kildare Town Traffic Management Plan

A traffic model covering the entirety of Kildare town and its environs is being developed to assess the proposed Northern Link Street and South Green Area Access Improvement Scheme. The specification for the model requirements has been completed and the model will subsequently be retained by Kildare County Council and utilised to test the impact of various traffic management proposals, highway network interventions and land use proposals in the Kildare town area.

On completion of the traffic model for the town (timeline is circa 3 months), a brief to appoint consultants to carry out a comprehensive Traffic Management Plan for Kildare town will be developed and issued to tender.

8. Motion – Councillor Aspell

That the council explain why a right of way has been blocked to Pollardstown graveyard on Blackberry Lane.

Report: The land in question is not a public road therefore not within the remit of the Municipal District office.

9. Motion – Councillor Aspell

That the council install a bus shelter for the residents of Athgarvan as it has become a very busy route.

Report: The National Transport Authority is primarily responsible for the provision of bus shelters in rural locations. The Roads Department made a submission in 2017 under this programme for bus shelters at various locations around the county.

If the NTA invite applications in 2018 for a similar programme, a request for a bus stop at Athgarvan can be submitted.

10. Motion – Councillor McCabe

That the council introduces speed restrictions and a traffic management system on the R413 between Kildare Town and the Curragh Racecourse from 6.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m in order to reduce the possibility of an accident between jockeys, stable staff, horses and speeding vehicles.

Report: Work was carried out during the summer following discussions between the Municipal District Engineer and the Curragh Racecourse and representatives of horse owners and trainers in this area to improve the R413, particularly in the vicinity of the schooling grounds. This work included road repairs, surface dressing to restore and seal the road surface and improved road markings to alert oncoming road users and was funded entirely by the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office. The Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office has no further plans in this area.

This issue has also been forwarded to the Speed Limit Review team for examination and consideration. The Draft County Wide Speed Limit Review will be discussed with the members in October.

11. Motion – Councillor McCabe

That the council move the installation of a pedestrian crossing at the Gables up the Technical Assessment Advisory Group (TAAG) list to facilitate the safety of children and adults crossing at this location in order to go to the park and to local schools.

Report: This request item has been referred to Technical Assessment Advisory Group (TAAG). The preliminary assessment has been carried and recommended that pedestrian counts and traffic surveys be carried out at this locations. With schools and colleges terms commenced we anticipate that these counts will be carried out in the near future.

12. Motion – Councillor Stafford

That the council reorganise the common areas/green area at Churchview, Kilmeague to include additional parking spaces for the residents of the estate.

Report: The Municipal District Engineer agrees to assess the need for additional parking subject to local need and funding being provided in the 2019 annual budget.

13. Motion – Councillor Stafford

That the council take in charge the road at Grangehiggin, Kilmeague where a Local Improvement Scheme was conducted circa nine years ago.

Report: This request would need to be examined by the Municipal District office to determine the current condition of the road and if the request meets the policy on taking in charge (i.e., number of properties served etc).

14. Question – Councillor S Power

Can the council indicate if any progress has been made in relation to making Dag Welds Cross safer, in view of the increasing numbers of accidents at this junction?

Report: An outline costing for safety improvements at this junction has been prepared. The work outline includes resurfacing, anti-skid surfacing on approaches, improved road markings, improved signage and sightline clearance along the R403 approaching this junction, which would include a land acquisition requirement, tree clearance, boundary works and services diversions. The Roads Department has made a submission to An Bord Pleanála with regard to this junction, and other roads/junctions, on the impact of the proposed haul routes of the Drehid Strategic Infrastructure Development proposal. The outcome of the Board's Oral Hearing is awaited.

15. Question – Councillor Pender

Can the council give a timeframe when residents can realistically expect work to begin on the laneways at Ivy Grove?

Report: Ivy Grove is included in the 2018 roads programme and it is intended to commence tendering on the remainder of the Local Property Tax (LPT) projects in the coming weeks.

16. Question – Councillor Doyle

Can we get a schedule of delivery for road resurfacing in Kildare Town post networks installation by Irish Water?

Report: The 2019 annual roads programme is currently under preparation. All roads in Kildare Town that were affected by the Irish Water network installation will be

included for consideration subject to funding being available. If necessary funding is available under this programme the works should commence in May 2019.

17. Question – Councillor Aspell

Can a yellow box be put in place at the Langton Crossroads?

Report: There is currently works taking place on- the site in question, on completion of these works the junction will be assessed to determine if a yellow box is warranted.

18. Question – Councillor Aspell

Can the council re-examine the synchronisation of traffic lights in Newbridge again?

Report: The Traffic Management Centre monitors traffic on an ongoing basis in Newbridge and faults are dealt with promptly. Any traffic signal faults can be emailed to trafficlights@kildarecoco.ie

19. Question – Councillor McCabe

Can the last piece of damaged road surface in the cul de sac between (details supplied) Moorefield Park, Newbridge be completed?

Report: The annual roads programme for 2019 is being prepared at present, and it is agreed to include this road for consideration subject to funding being made available

20. Question – Councillor Stafford

Can the council install appropriate signage in Coill Dubh village to indicate the internal roads/house numbers, primarily by way of assistance for emergency services?

Report: The Municipal District Engineer agrees to review request and subject to funding being available will discuss the matter with Councillor Stafford in the coming weeks.

21. Question – Councillor Stafford

What role/responsibilities do the council have in relation to external lighting at public buildings in this municipal district and what, if any, regulations are in place in relation to the positioning of one public light from another?

Report: The Public Lighting Section is responsible for on-street lighting, while public building have responsibility for lighting within their property boundaries. Situations can arise where street lights are back-to-back with lighting within public building boundaries. This is because the throw back lighting from the street lighting will not be enough to light areas within the public building boundary to a level required by design standards. The design standard used for public lighting design is the British Standard BS 5489. Kildare County Council also has a Street Light Technical Specification which provides guidance on acceptable street lighting design.

Issued by: Ms E Wright, Senior Executive Officer, Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section.

Planning and Strategic Development

22. To note the Chief Executive's Report in respect of Strategic Housing Development at Kilbelin, Newbridge for 343 residential units and associated works (ABP-302141-18) (Report attached).

Issued by: Mr M McLoughlin, Administrative Officer, Planning Section

23. **Question – Councillor Lynch**

What is the update on talks with Roadstone at the Hill of Allen in the attempt to save this historic hill from total wipe out and provide easy access, a car park and picnic tables for families to climb this historic hill and tower?

Report: The new Municipal District Engineer for the Kildare/Newbridge area has advised that a site inspection will be carried out as soon as possible and will revert back to the members with a report.

Issued by: Ms B Cuddy, Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Engineer

Economic, Community and Cultural Development

24. To note Section 183 Notice for Lease of Land at Rickardstown, Newbridge, Co. Kildare (report attached).
25. To consider allocation of the remaining €19,250 Local Property Tax (LPT) set aside for festivals in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.
Report: This is a matter for the members to decide.
26. **Motion – Councillor S Power**
That the council produce its plan to fully develop the Liffey Linear Park, Newbridge and indicate the works that will be carried out in the near future.
Report: Immediate plans proposed for the park are to complete the procurement of a consultant to prepare a design for the underpass of the bridge before the end of the year. Further spring bulb planting is due to be carried out in the wildflower area this Autumn to add to what was planted last year. Pruning of the trees from St Conleths Bridge to the Watering gates has been completed earlier in the year.
27. **Motion – Councillor S Power**
That the council provide a complete update on the provision of a skate park in Newbridge.
Report: The contractor is expected to commence works on the skate park on the 17 September. The works are due to be completed by the first week of November.
28. **Motion – Councillor Pender**
That the council please clean the lake at Dara Park and look at the suitability of the dog wood and foliage at the centre of the island in relation to a habitat for the ducks and swans.
Report: The council will investigate the suitability of the foliage for wildfowl. There is no budget available to clean the lake.

Items 26 – 28 issued by: Mr S Wallace, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent,
Economic Community and Cultural Development Parks

29. Motion – Councillor Doyle

That Community and Cultural Development Services engage with Rathangan Scouts to explore feasibility for providing a site for a new scout den on foot of the sale of a historic site and inadequacy of current accommodation.

Report: Kildare County Council is currently considering a request from Rathangan Scouts in relation to a particular site. We are checking with all internal departments if this land is needed and if there are any restrictions on its use. We will revert to the members as soon as we have completed this process.

Issued by: Ms S Kavanagh, Director of Services, Economic Community & Cultural Development

30. Motion – Councillor McLoughlin Healy

That the council clearly outline the grounds on which it helped set up a partisan Steering Group for Kildare Town Centre Renewal when it invited two public representatives - one councillor and one TD from the same party, to form part of the Steering Group, to the exclusion of other municipal district councillors.

31. Motion – Councillor Lynch

That this municipal district committee finds it unacceptable that Kildare County Council are assisting politicians of one party while excluding all others and that the council clearly outlines the steps and processes for the establishment of the Regeneration Group/ Town Team for Kildare Town and outline why the council only facilitated two Fianna Fáil politicians on this group, who are directing the use of public funds, all of which was without the knowledge of all other political groups until now.

Report: The group were selected on the basis of their membership of other relevant cross sector groups/ committees; namely County Kildare Failte, Tidy Towns, Chamber of Commerce, Kildare Medieval Festival Committee, Kildare Tourism Committee, Kildare Day Care Centre, Kildare Walled Towns Committee, Kildare Heritage

Company and Kildare Heritage Centre, HIVE - Youth Project, Local School Principal, Local Garda Sargent, Accessibility Officer from Kildare County Council, local artist, and local historian.

Membership of a political party was not a factor in selection. The group's membership is comprised of people with specific knowledge/ expertise of local issues and essentially act as consultees/ sounding board. They do not direct public funds; this will always be a matter for the elected members as part of the budgetary process.

They do not determine priorities; this will also be a matter for the elected members as part of the adoption of the Local Area Plan.

Any individual or group who could add similar value to the process are more than welcome to come on board.

Items 30 & 31 issued by: Ms M Hunt, Senior Executive officer, Economic Community & Cultural Development

32. Question – Councillor Doyle

Can we have a progress report on the delivery of a playground for Allenwood and Robertstown?

Report: A preliminary design is currently being prepared for Allenwood Playground. The progression of a playground for Robertstown is contingent on the preparation and completion of a masterplan for the community owned land in the village first.

33. Question – Councillor McCabe

When is the Newbridge Skateboard Park going to be installed?

Report: The contractor is expected to commence works on the skate park on the 17 September. The works are due to be completed by the first week of November.

Items 32 & 33 issued by: Mr S Wallace, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, Economic Community and Cultural Development Parks

34. Question – Councillor McLoughlin Healy

Can the council confirm the status of the vote regarding the most recent town twinning proposal for this municipal district, which did not have the associated costing as is required by law before a vote of the council was permitted; and from where in other budget lines the council planned to take the monies for the new town twinning arrangement (if the agreement to twin had been compliant with legislation)?

Report: It is assumed that the twinning referred to by Councillor. McLoughlin Healy is the twinning between Newbridge and Argentre Du Plessis in France. This twinning arrangement was considered by the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District members on 18 of January 2017. At that meeting a vote was taken and the result was that 8 members voted for the twinning and none voted against it. As it is a reserved function the twinning was therefore approved by the members. It is correct to state that the members shall satisfy themselves (before making a decision) that the total cost of the twinning arrangement is justified. A discussion took place on the day of the meeting regarding the advantages and disadvantages of the twinning arrangement. No additional budget was sought from any other budget line but I am aware that the members allocated LPT funds to the Twinning budget in 2017.

Issued by: Ms S Kavanagh, Director of Services, Economic Community & Cultural Development

35. Question – Councillor McLoughlin Healy

Can the council confirm if any Local Property Tax (LPT) Grants have been distributed to persons/groups/organisations since 2014 in this municipal district who at the time of allocation had not provided receipts for funding in previous years?

Report: It has not been possible to review all records going back to 2014 in the time-frame allowed (to respond to the councillors question) as records from previous years are stored off site and this is a large body of work. Also it should be noted that the Community Department can only provide a response on LPT monies paid through the Community budget. Notwithstanding the above I can confirm that a review of 2017 and 2018 has taken place and there appears to be one instance where receipts from 2017 have not yet been received but a grant was paid in 2018. In this instance the Community Department have been in contact with the group and they have explained

the delay in furnishing the receipts. The Community Department will be following up on this issue to ensure that it is resolved.

Issued by: Mr J Shannon, Administrative Officer, Economic Community & Cultural Development

36. Question – Councillor Lynch

Can the council set clear timelines for the new public amenity at the River Liffey in Athgarvan, from public consultation to job completion?

Report: The preparation of a design for the amenity lands along the Liffey in Athgarvan is subject to the completion of framework for landscape architects first. The work on the procurement of these is planned for October- November. Once this has been completed and a competition held to appoint a consultant, a clear time line will be outlined.

Issued by: Mr S Wallace, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, Economic Community and Cultural Development Parks