

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Kildare County Council
held at 2.00p.m on Monday, 25 April 2016
at Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

Members Present: Councillor B Weld (Mayor), Councillors M Aspell, A Breslin, A Breen, F Brett, K Byrne, B Caldwell, D Callaghan, M Coleman, R Cronin, I Cussen, M Dalton, S Doyle, T Durkan, D Fitzpatrick, B Hillis, I Keatley, C Kelly, P Kennedy, A Larkin, M Lynch, P McEvoy, M McCabe, J McGinley, F McLoughlin-Healy, M Miley Jnr, S Moore, T Murray, J Neville, S O'Neill, J Pender, R Power, S Power, T Redmond, D Scully, M Stafford, M Wall, P Ward and B Young

Apologies: Councillor N O'Cearúil

Also Present: Mr P Carey, Chief Executive, Messrs T McDonnell, P Minnock, N Morrissey, J Boland (Directors of Services), Ms B Sweeney, Financial Management Accountant, Ms S Kavanagh, A/Director of Services, Ms M McIvor (Meetings Administrator) and other officials.

01/0416

Welcome

The Mayor welcomed everybody to the meeting and called for a few moments reflection.

The Mayor informed the members of the untimely death of retired Director of Services, Tommy Skehan and conveyed sympathy to his wife and family.

The Mayor also extended sympathy to the family of the late

Daniel (Danny) McGee, father of Claire Whelan, Planning Section

Margaret Cooke, mother of Veronica Cooke, Planning Section

Seamus Cooke, retired member of staff and father of Larry, Edward and John Cooke, Finance and Water Services and father-in-law of Catherine Cooke, Human Resources

Claire Lyons, wife of Harry Lyons, former County Secretary and mother of Clodagh and Ronnie Lyons.

John Breen, recently retired caretaker in Naas Library

Annie Dalton, mother of David Dalton, Finance Department

02/0416

Adoption of minutes

The council considered the minutes of the special meeting on 14 March 2016 and the monthly meeting of 21 March 2016 together with the progress report.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Moore, that the minutes of the special meeting of 14 March and the monthly meeting of 21 March 2016 be adopted and the progress report noted.

03/0416

Disposal of Land

To approve the disposal of the following land:

0.002ha of land at Johnstown Village, Naas.

A plot of land 0.002 hectares of land outlined on drawing no. L/1275 to be transferred to Des and Catherine Beatty for the consideration of €100. This proposal will improve sight lines at this location.

In accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, statutory notice dated 8 April 2016 was circulated to the members.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Brett, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Council consent to the disposal of the land in accordance with the statutory notice dated 8 April 2016.

25.8 sq m of land to the front of 425 Mountarmstrong, Donadea

A plot of land measuring 25.8 sq m to the front of 425 Mountarmstrong Donadea to be transferred to Mr and Mrs Tallon for the consideration of €100.

In accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, statutory notice dated 8 April 2016 was circulated to the members

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Brett pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Council consent to the disposal of the land in accordance with the statutory notice dated 8 April 2016.

04/0416

Vacancy on the Audit Committee

Arising from the death of Mr Sean Carey, R.I.P. Vice Chairman of the Audit Committee, there is a vacancy on that committee.

Under the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 it is a function of the Corporate Policy Group to put forward a nomination, following consultation with the Chief Executive. In accordance with the requirements of the Regulations, the Corporate Policy Group has nominated Mr Ken Conway to fill the vacancy on the Audit Committee.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Moore, with all the members in agreement, that Mr Ken Conway be appointed to the Audit Committee.

05/0416

Audit Committee Annual Report 2015

The Audit Committee Annual Report was noted by the members.

06/0416

Management Report

The members noted the monthly Management Report.

Councillor Redmond queried the 'To be confirmed' note on the eight parcels of land on the appendix to the report. He also asked if targets under the Rental Accommodation Scheme were being reached in Kildare.

Councillor Cussen asked that the Housing Assistant Payment Scheme targets for 2016 be included in the report.

Councillor Young asked was there any mechanism to deal with landlords who do not accept Housing Assistance Payment applicants.

Mr McDonnell said that he will be attending the May and June Municipal District meetings to brief the members on land in the ownership of Kildare County Council. He said that the RAS target is 80 units in 2016 and that the HAP scheme targets will be included when they are confirmed by the Department. He stated that he will be meeting the Department on Friday next and that the members would be kept informed. He further stated that Kildare County Council does not have the power to force landlords to accept HAP.

07/0416

Annual Financial Statement

Ms Sweeney gave an overview of the Annual Financial Statement 2015 stating that it had been reviewed by the Finance Committee. The Annual Financial Statement is subject to external audit by the Local Government Auditor whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts, to certify the correctness of the Annual Financial Statement and to submit an Audit Report to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government and the elected members of Kildare County Council.

The outturn of the Revenue Account for 2015 shows a surplus of €246,148 for the year after the transfer of reserves is taken into account. This results in a further reduction of the closing revenue deficit figure to €1,199,572 at the end of 2015.

Councillor Moore, as Chairman of the Finance Committee thanked the staff of the Finance Department for their excellent work in reducing the deficit and bringing this report to Council.

Resolved That the Annual Financial Statement 2015 be noted.

08/0416

Over-expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2016

Ms Sweeney briefed the members and asked for formal approval.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor McGinley, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, with all the members in agreement, over-expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2016 was approved.

09/0416

Road Works Programme

A report dated 19 April 2016 was circulated to the members detailing the 2016 Proposed Road Works Programme.

Resolved That the 2016 Road Works Programme be noted.

10/0416

Report from the Environmental Services and Water Strategic Policy Committee

Councillor Sean Power, Chairman of the Environmental Services and Water Strategic Policy Committee gave an overview of the work that the committee has undertaken.

He thanked the members of the committee, Councillors Fintan Brett, Michael Coleman, Ide Cussen, Carmel Kelly, Anthony Larkin, Fiona McLoughlin-Healy and Brendan Young, and the

representatives from the sectoral interests, Mr Tom Malone, Ms Deirdre Lane, Mr Gerry O'Hagan, and Ms Mary Glennon for their attendance and participation.

Councillor Power outlined the work plan for 2016 and noted the targets of the Eastern Midlands Waste Region Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021. He referred to the Water Framework Directive, the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) and the North Kildare Civic Amenity site to serve Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge. The Litter Management Plan 2016 – 2019 was adopted and the new regulations covering household waste are scheduled to come into effect from 1 July 2016. Councillor Power commended the work of the County Tidy Towns Network noting that there were 1 bronze, 6 silver and 2 gold awards in 2015. He also congratulated Straffan on being chosen as one of two Irish entries in the “Entente Florale International Competition” to be held in July 2016.

11/0416

Mayor's Business

The Mayor briefed the members on the excellent programme of events organised by the Decade of Commemoration Committee under the Chairmanship of Councillor Pdraig McEvoy. The Mayor said that the Sister Cities Conference was held and that our friends from Lexington attended several events, including a concert in Castletown House on Saturday night. He commended the excellent work of Marian Higgins and her team and said that Kildare County Council officials were exemplary in the way that all the events were coordinated and organised. The Mayor also thanked the twinning committee for their attendance at recent events in City Hall, the Mansion House and Castletown House. He said that the visitors from Lexington were enthralled with all events.

The Mayor wished Straffan and Kill well in the upcoming competitions.

The Mayor referred to the opening of the memorial garden in Kildare County Council on Sunday and he thanked Simon Wallace for the excellent work in having the garden ready on time. He encouraged members to visit the garden and reflect there. The Mayor paid tribute to the work of Peter Minnock, Director of Services for his role in all events.

The Chief Executive thanked all those involved in the Decade of Commemoration Committee. He said that all events were well attended and this was something that the members and the executive could be proud of. He joined the Mayor in wishing Straffan and Kill well.

He referred to the opening of the commemoration garden as a solemn occasion where sacrifices of the past were recalled but there was an opportunity to look forward too. He also encouraged

the members to take the time to visit the garden.

12/0416

Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator read a letter from Philip Rowland, Mayor of Brussels thanking the Mayor, Councillor Weld and the members for their Book of condolences following the recent tragedy in Brussels.

13/0416

Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator referred to report of 21 April 2016 regarding conferences and training circulated to the members

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Kennedy and in accordance with Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 53(2) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 retrospective approval is granted for the attendance of Councillor Miley at the AILG Training event in Waterford

Councillors Miley, McLoughlin-Healy, Neville and R Power at the LAMA Spring Training Seminar in Sligo

Councillors Miley and Aspell at the Irish Planning Institute National Planning Conference 2016 in Athlone

And the attendance of

Councillors Murray, Moore, Caldwell and Dalton at the AILG Annual Conference in Buncrana

Councillors Dalton, Larkin, Coleman and Hillis at the AILG Training in Wicklow

Councillors R Power and Kelly at the Building Digital Services for Citizens 2016 event in Dublin.

14/0416

National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines

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

That the Director of Planning forward a copy of the most recent direction from the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) Executive and from the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPG) Office as the 'Mandatory Guidelines' for Kildare and other counties within the regional group, indicating all of the

sections where their mandatory guidelines direct change to future Development Planning for County Kildare for its towns and populated areas.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

A comprehensive report from the Planning Department outlined that the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines are given effect through the Planning and Development Act. A new requirement under Section 10 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act states that all development plans must contain an evidence based core strategy. The report quoted the relevant extracts from Section 10 and stated that the Regional Planning Guidelines are made under Chapter 111 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2000-2015. The making of RPG's was a reserved function of the former Regional Authorities. The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area were adopted in 2010 and continue to have effect.

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies will be adopted by the new Regional Assemblies to replace the Regional Planning Guidelines. While the Act has been amended to take account of this change, the current Regional Planning guidelines will continue to have effect until such time as the new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies are adopted.

Councillor Moore thanked the Director for the extensive report but said that he still had unanswered questions to be addressed.

Mr Minnock said that he would go through the detail with Councillor Moore and put the report in the context of the County Development Plan.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, that the report be noted.

15/0416

Part V Transfer of Housing to Council

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

That the Housing section provide a detailed report on Part V transfer of housing to the council to include:

1. How many Part V properties have been taken on and tenanted in the last 15 months and in what areas;
2. How many Part V properties have been taken on and are being prepared for or are ready for tenants and in what areas;
3. How many Part V properties are projected an or in negotiation to be delivered each month in 2016 and in what areas
4. What is the council procedure and average timeframe for the negotiation of Part V

properties

The motion was proposed by Councillor Durkan and seconded by Councillor Neville. In response to the direct questions, a report from Mr Mc Donnell stated the following

1. Two houses, both in the Maynooth Municipal District
2. One house at pre-letting stage in the Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District
3. The Council has held discussions with a number of developers in accordance with Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended by the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 with a view to delivering social housing units. The Council is not in a position to give specific details of potential delivery of units where contractual arrangements are not in place. The members can be advised in the normal course of events where the Council has entered into irrevocable agreements with developers or approved housing bodies.
4. In accordance with the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 the Council is required to enter pre-planning consultation with all developers in advance of a planning application being lodged for a development in excess of 9 houses. The Housing Section examines the site and house plans and, in consultation with the applicant, identify houses which are the most suitable to acquire. In the event that planning permission is granted, a Part V agreement will be concluded prior to the lodgment of a commencement notice. The time frame will depend on the length of time between the grant of planning permission and the submission of the commencement notice. All planning application received after the 01/09/2015 are subject to the requirements of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, which removes the payment of a financial contribution in lieu of housing supply; therefore the focus of all future Part V agreements will be on the delivery of social housing, subject to the availability of funding and approval from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Councillor Durkan said that the report was disappointing. He said that he required more detail on the developments which are subject to the previous Part V criteria, particularly in relation to permissions which have been granted extensions of planning permission. He wanted the detail of how many meetings have actually taken place with developers and if there was a forecast for the number of meetings.

The members contributed to a discussion on Part V with specific queries being raised regarding estates where there are only 4/5 bedroom houses planned, the set of requirements that the

Council have in relation to the discussions with developers and whether the requirement for housing estates currently under construction in Naas would be required to provide units or a financial contribution.

Mr McDonnell responded that in relation to the Part V requirement, the developers meet Kildare County Council as the Housing Authority for the purpose of the Part V meeting. The housing need for the area the subject of the application will be stated at the initial meeting. The new act introduced significant change in the Part V process and issues such as the larger houses will be subject to funding being approved and available from the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government.

Following an enquiry regarding this point, Mr McDonnell confirmed that there is a cost attached to acquiring units under Part V. Kildare County Council is required to purchase the units from developers and funding is subject to the approval of the Department as stated in the report. Mr McDonnell stated that where there is proof of existing agreements, these will be honored. He also stated that there is an upturn in activity in this area but that it was not possible to forecast the number of meetings.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Durkan seconded by Councillor Neville that the report be noted.

16/0416

Water Quality

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

That this council acknowledges that high levels of queries have come to the council regarding water quality, particularly in the last two years and particularly in the south of the county. With regards to this, we call for spot checks to be carried out on the water supply throughout the county on a semi regular basis and call for water sample tests to be carried out at people's homes or outside connector of those who are willing to provide a sample. The average cost of a water sample test is €100, with dozens of local companies able to provide the service. This is not a costly exercise considering the benefits provided to citizens as a second layer of validation in the quality of water supply.

Irish Water self-regulate their monitoring and must submit results of all compliance monitoring to the EPA on an annual basis for inclusion in the Drinking Water Report. While the EPA do monitor water supply at water treatment plants, they do not do so at private homes. Considering the relatively low cost to the council and the high level of public concern, regardless of a real or

perceived threat to public health, this Council considers it would be in the best interest of its citizens to instigate its own independent monitoring of the supply and publishing of same after testing.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor O'Neill.

A report from the Water Services department stated that Irish Water is the National Authority for all public water and wastewater schemes since January 2014 with responsibility for supply and quality of drinking water. Kildare County Council act on their behalf under a Service Level Agreement. The report also stated that the public water supplies in the county are monitored in accordance with the EU Drinking Water Regulations 2014 and guidelines issued by the Environmental Protection Agency. The results of water monitoring are submitted to Irish Water monthly and to the EPA annually. The public supplies in County Kildare are over 99% in compliance with all parameters in the regulations successfully over the past five years. Kildare County Council staff monitors all supplies for chlorine levels on a daily basis within each supply zone and issues relating to water supplies are investigated as they arise. Kildare County Council is not aware of a high level of queries in relation to the water quality within the county. Water hardness is a characteristic of water supplies in the Wellfields supply areas of south Kildare and this has been highlighted by the public at various times. The report stated that it is important to note that water hardness is not required to be monitored under Drinking Water Regulations and the World Health Organisation do not consider it to be of health significance.

Councillor Lynch said that there is a real issue with the quality of water and that the public have issues with it. He queried whether Irish Water could be trusted to report on water quality and said that the Council should do this testing and publish the results.

The members contributed to a discussion and said that it was very important not to give the impression that there is something wrong with the water in Kildare when in fact the quality is superior to that of bottled water and is on a par if not better than every other county in Ireland. A difficulty with hard water is another issue which can cause skin allergies and be an irritant to sensitive skin, and also cause damage to household appliances.

Mr Boland echoed the fact that Kildare has an excellent water supply, that there is an extensive testing regime in place, there has never been a boil water notice and that the data is there and published to support these facts. Hard water is common throughout the county but is not a health issue.

Councillor Lynch said that this information should be published and available to the public.

Councillor Scully intervened to state that the test results are in fact on the Kildare County Council website.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Lynch, seconded by Councillor O'Neill that the report be noted.

17/0416

Maintenance Budget for Local Authority Houses

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

That Kildare County Council agree to factor into the annual budget a maintenance cost per unit to ensure that our local authority stock is well maintained and that maintenance requests are investigated and any necessary repairs are carried out within a reasonable fixed time frame for example no later than three months.

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

A comprehensive report from Mr McDonnell outlined the budget for housing maintenance, the response times, the number of repair requests and other relevant information was circulated to the members.

Councillor Cronin thanked Mr McDonnell for the report and asked if the Tenant Handbook was compiled in consultation with residents associations? She said that the state is one of the biggest landlords and probed further into the length of time that it was taking to complete repair requests. Councillor Cronin advocated a cost per unit to be considered in the context of Budget 2017.

The members contributed to a discussion regarding inheritance of tenancies, BER assessments and minimum BER requirements for units purchased by the council.

Mr McDonnell said that the aspiration is to purchase units with a minimum C rating but that this is not always feasible given the units on the market. He stated that an analysis based on unit cost is not feasible due to the varying needs and demands across both planned and response maintenance. Mr McDonnell said that there was no consultation with residents associations regarding the handbook which is designed to outline the responsibilities of tenants and advise them of good practice in the maintenance and management of their homes.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Cronin, seconded by Councillor Cussen that the report be noted.

18/0416

BER Rating on Local Authority Houses

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

That Council confirms to members the BER rating for each of the housing units it owns in the

county; thereby confirming that all existing units are at the minimum required rating.

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

A report from Mr McDonnell stated that there is no minimum BER rating for a domestic dwelling that is already constructed. Instead, a BER is required only for homes offered for sale or rent, or before a newly built home is occupied for the first time. Such a rating is only an indication of the energy performance of a home, similar to the concept of the fuel economy of a car. Mr McDonnell informed the members that BER assessments are carried out on vacant, void and fire damaged properties; energy upgrade programmes and the purchase of new dwellings but that there is no obligation to carry out BER assessments on all stock. He advised the members that the cost of procuring BER assessments range from €75 to €100 per house should the members require that dedicated funding is put towards a programme of BER assessments for all stock. However, he advised against this course of action due to the fact that scarce resources should be directed to more needy areas.

Councillor Redmond said that Kildare County Council is the biggest landlord in the county and that while the legislation does not impose a responsibility to have a BER rating, it does not exclude this either. The cost of heating is very expensive and Councillor Redmond said that as a BER rating was a minimum requirement for HAP and RAS schemes, the logic should follow that all local authority dwellings should be energy rated.

The members contributed to a discussion and there was general agreement with the sentiment of the motion. It was acknowledged that there is a huge disparity in the condition of stock and that perhaps the budget should be concentrated in areas of greatest need.

Mr MC Donnell informed the members that he is meeting with the Department and will keep the members briefed on any changes that arise.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Lynch that the report be noted.

19/0416

Dog Fouling

The following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen was considered

In an effort to deal with the ever present dog fouling on our footpaths and lack of bins issue in our county that Kildare County Council contact Residents Associations via PPN and ask for them to nominate two areas from their Municipal Districts to pilot a "Dog Litter Bin Trial". The Residents Associations can nominate two places (common dog walking areas) from their Municipal District for this pilot scheme. Environment at Kildare County Council could fund this pilot trial at a

relatively little cost from existing budget.

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

A report from the Environment Department stated that the Kildare County Council Litter Management Plan 2016 - 2019 states that it is policy in Kildare to advocate the use of "any bag - any bin" when it comes to the disposal of dog fouling material. The Plan also states that "the Council is not in a position to increase the total number of bins in the county so if a dog waste bin is to be installed, a general litter bin will have to be removed elsewhere to ensure all bins are emptied sufficiently frequently."

The report also stated that from a health and safety perspective it is not recommended that exclusive dog waste bins be installed as issues may arise when they are to be emptied.

Councillor Cussen was not satisfied with the report. She stated that she had tried to get the members to consider the Litter Management Plan further before it was adopted. She asked that the budget for the income from the dog license fees be identified and suggested that it be used to purchase two bins and take a proactive approach to this issue through a pilot project. Councillor Cussen said that signs do not really work and that the real difficulty was that there were no where to put the dog waste.

A lengthy discussion followed and there was broad support for this motion with members referring to issues of education, lack of enforcement, suggestion to leave bags available in local shops, and the merits of further signage. The question of the health and safety issue referred to in the report was also questioned.

Councillor Cussen said that there are responsible dog owners who pick up after their dogs. She urged the members to support her call for a trial or pilot project in accordance with the motion. Mr Boland said that he was in agreement with a lot of the points being raised and in the sentiment of the motion. He was disappointed that despite all the education and the money spent in this area that there is still a problem. Mr Boland informed the members that a request for funding has been made through the anti litter awareness grants programme which will be used to provide signage promoting the "Any bag - any bin" policy. He said that as part of this initiative, the Environment department will present details of the proposed promotional campaign at the June meeting of the Environmental Services and Water Strategic Policy Committee and he committed to reporting back to the members having reviewed the matter. With regard to the special bins, there could be Industrial Relations issues in relation to the emptying of these bins.

The Mayor asked Mr Boland for a time frame for such a review.

Mr Boland said that he would be launching the signage at the June meeting of the SPC.

Councillor Cussen intervened and asked that the Mayor and members to agree to refer her motion

to the Environmental Services and Water Strategic Policy Committee.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Cussen seconded by Councillor Redmond that the motion be referred to the Environmental Services and Water Strategic Policy Committee.

20/0416

Business Links

The following motion in the name of Councillor Kennedy was considered

That Kildare County Council explore the development of economic, social and business links between County Kildare and the Guangdong Province in the People's Republic of China.

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

A report from Ms Kavanagh, A/Director of Services, Economic Development, Enterprise and Corporate Services stated that the Council is very happy to explore links between Kildare and the Guangdong Province in the People's Republic of China. The Mayor and Chief Executive recently met a delegation from the Province and channels of communication have been established.

Councillor Kennedy thanked Ms Kavanagh for the report and asked the members to support the motion. He explained that there are already special links established in the county and he thanked the Mayor, the Chief Executive and Ms Kavanagh for their support.

The members discussed the motion. There was broad agreement with the proposal to establish links and members thanked Councillor Kennedy for his tireless work. It was acknowledged that Gaungdong has problems in relation to working conditions but agreement that the development of economic links could be explored. Ms Kavanagh was asked to be more specific on how such links will be explored.

Ms Kavanagh stated that communication had been opened through the Embassy and she said that she would welcome input and suggestions from the members.

Councillor McEvoy said that St Patrick's College in Maynooth would be an appropriate link.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor McEvoy with all the members in agreement, the motion was carried.

21/0416

Privately owned land zoned for Housing

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

That the Council outline what amount of land owned privately in each of the districts that is zoned

for housing. And how much of that land has been bought in the last 5 years?

The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin-Healy and seconded by Councillor Pender. A report from the Planning Department stated that the quantum of undeveloped zoned housing lands is set out in Chapter 3 Table 3.4 of the proposed Draft Development Plan for each town and village, circulated to members on 1 March 2016. The information in relation to land ownership is not readily available to the Council but can be sourced from land registry.

Councillor McLoughlin-Healy stated that she was disappointed at the response. She said that she is aware of land being bought by developers who do not intend to develop this land and she questioned the accountability of such actions. Councillor McLoughlin-Healy said that last month the members were shocked to learn that the Council did not know how much land was in their ownership.

There was some support for the motion having regard to the housing crises.

Reference was made to the process which was just completed on the review of the County Development Plan and some members considered that the information was very clear.

Mr Minnock, Director of Services, Planning said that it was not true to state that the Council did not know how much land they owned. He confirmed that it was not available in the format requested but that his colleague, Mr McDonnell, Director of Services. Housing will be attending all the Municipal District meetings with a view to going through the schedule of council owned land within each area with the members.

Mr Minnock stated that the Planning Department was extremely busy with pre-planning meetings and that the level of activity had doubled by comparison with 2015.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin-Healy, seconded by Councillor Pender that the report be noted.

22/0416

Location of National Children's Hospital

The following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly was considered

The members of Kildare County Council call on the Minister for Health to reverse the decision to locate the National Children's Hospital at St James Hospital and instead locate the new hospital for ALL the children of Ireland at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown.

The Connolly site offers 145 acres, vast space for future expansion, easier access for the children of Kildare, along with extensive parking. The co-location with Connolly Hospital and the new Rotunda Maternity hospital will result in better clinical outcomes. It will be cheaper and faster to

build than on the crowded St. James site.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Doyle

Councillor Kelly said that former Councillor James Lawless had planned to table this motion. She stated that the decision of An Bord Pleanála is due on 12 May 2016. She expressed her concern at the exclusion of the Jack and Jill foundation from the consultation process and she asked the members to support the motion.

Several members contributed to a discussion regarding the location with strong feelings being expressed on the viability of both locations.

The Mayor said that he could see the passion on both sides of the debate and that he would have to ask the members to vote on the motion.

Councillor Kelly stated that she respected the views of the members and that she would withdraw the motion.

Resolved The motion was withdrawn

The meeting concluded.
