



**Minutes of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District
held at 11.00 am on Wednesday, 21 July 2021
via Microsoft Teams**

Members Present: Councillor R Power (Mayor); Councillors: A Connolly, N Connolly, S Doyle, K Duffy, N Heavey, F McLoughlin Healy, P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer, C Pender and M Stafford

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr D Conlan (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr D Reel (Senior Engineer) Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr P Mulhern (Energy Efficiency Officer), Ms S Scully (Administrative Officer), Mr B Leonard (Meetings Administrator), Mr S Higgins (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

KN01/0721

Declaration of Pecuniary or Beneficial Interests

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that if there were any declarations of interest under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended. There were no declarations of interest.

The Mayor suggested that the Bord na Móna presentation be taken next and the District Manager confirmed that the representatives from Bord na Móna were present.

KN02/0721

Update from Bord na Móna on the Masterplan

The Mayor welcomed the representatives from Bord na Móna Mr John Rafferty and Mr Pat Sammon to the meeting.



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Mr Rafferty delivered a presentation to the members which included a detailed aerial image of the Newbridge site and highlighted the points of access, the areas which will be open to the public and the vehicular access and inclusion of perpendicular cycle paths.

- He noted that this Masterplan had been designed to align with the Newbridge Local Area Plan (LAP) but understands that the LAP is to be reviewed.
- He also highlighted the inclusion of greenspaces and the expansion of the current greenspace which is on site.
- He identified the new headquarters of Bord na Móna which would be situated in a building adjacent to the street.
- The old English army barracks would be retained for historical purposes. This structure was not protected but was valued.
- He stated that residential units beside the Athgarvan Road entrance were included in the Masterplan. This was awaiting an architectural contest for the design..

The councillors raised the following points in response to the presentation:

- A request was made for the process of the Masterplan to be explained.
- Previously concerns were raised about the affect this plan would have on the Traffic Management Plan.
- There was a feeling that the public do not want to lose the green space in the middle of the town.
- More accessibility was needed in Newbridge Town and the saving of greenspaces was very important.
- Having the green space on Main Street would not be architecturally good.
- The opportunity to maintain the walkability and permeability was vital.
- If the buildings onsite could be of a good height that would be a positive.
- Would the materials to be used for this project match the current street design?
- Building D appeared to block off the green space to the Main Street.
- The increase of biodiversity on site was mentioned, how was this measured and where was this included in the plan?
- Will there be a financial gain for Bord na Móna?



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Mr Rafferty responded with the following points:

- A number of subcontractors and consultants have been engaged with to progress this Masterplan.
- Bord na Móna want to develop a sustainable building for their new home. This will represent where they have come from and where they plan to go in the future. They have rebranded as a sustainable company with a focus on biodiversity.
- The new plan will have greater focus on biodiversity and this can be seen with the inclusion of the new green spaces.
- Units which are three or four stories high will be looked at so as to not overshadow the surrounds and take into account the neighbouring Whitewater shopping centre
- Stakeholders in the area will be consulted.
- The sustainability and materials of the Masterplan are set out in the tender brief. It was too early to discuss these in detail.
- Buildings C and D locations are indicative.
- The pedestrian routes on site will be adjacent to the roads. The segregated cycle ways are included here.
- This was just a concept Masterplan.
- There would be no financial gain for Bord na Móna.

Mr Sammon concluded the presentation with the following points:

- The redesign of the Bord na Móna site was a big change for the organisation and everyone connected with it.
- Bord na Móna were proud to stay sited in Newbridge Town.
- Biodiversity was very important to Bord na Móna and this new plan contains a number of positive wins around biodiversity.
- There was a lot of the tarmacadam on the site which will be revamped into green space.

The Mayor and members thanked Mr Rafferty and Mr Sammon for the very informative presentation and looked forward to further positive engagement on the masterplan in the future.



KN03/0721

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday 16 June 2021 together with the progress report.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she was abstaining from commenting on the minutes.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by the members, with one member abstaining, that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge

Municipal District held on Wednesday 16 June 2021 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

KN04/0721

Update on the Municipal District Roadworks

The Municipal District Engineer updated members on the works taking place in the municipal district in July

Road Resurfacing Works:

The surface dressing program is now complete for 2021.

- Ballykelly Cross L7012
- L7001 Rathangan
- L7006 Punchersgrange
- L7032 Pollardstown
- L7023 Pollardstown
- Loughbrown (Moorefield GAA)
- Roseberry
- Raheens Caragh
- Bracknagh Road Rathangan

Restoration improvement schemes 2021



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Restoration improvements schemes are completed at the following locations since the last meeting:

- Blacktrench – Paddy’s Bridge
- Barraderra Road Monasterevin
- Edenderry bog road

Local Involvement Scheme (LIS):

We completed a local involvement scheme at Clogheen Monasterevin

Local Property tax/ Paid parking

- Works completed in Avondale, Brannockstown, Grangemore and Garda Station in Kilcullen

Miscellaneous Works:

- Verge cutting ongoing across all areas of the MD.
- Footpath repairs in Moorefield and Highfield in Newbridge
- Footpath repairs Kildangan – Castlepark
- Pothole repairs across the MD
- Site preparation for Surface dressing and RI
- General Maintenance – water cuts, patching and gully cleaning.

The Mayor thanked the District Engineers Team for the fine mix of summer and winter work that had been carried out on the roads throughout the municipal district.

The report was noted.

KN05/0721

Allocation of other community projects LPT funding 2020 and members nominations 2021

The Mayor asked if there were any nominations from the members on this item.

The following nominations were circulated to the members.



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Councillor	Name of Community Group/Project	LPT Allocation amount	Name of community group to be paid	Brief description of work/project	Section
2020 LPT Allocation					
Chris Pender	Culture Night Project	€1,400.00	Arts section of KCC	To support the development of murals in Newbridge	Arts
Peggy O'Dwyer	Newbridge Family Resource Centre	€1,500.00	Newbridge Family Resource Centre	Towards community development and promotion	Community
2021 LPT Allocation					
Kevin Duffy	MD Office	€5,000.00	MD Office	Replacement of existing street benches on Main Street, Monasterevin which were removed as part of a previous project.	Roads
Anne Connolly	Ballysax School Parents Association	€5,000.00	Parents Association, Ballysax National School	Running/Walking track around the playing field	Community
Anne Connolly	Umeras Community Dev	€1,000.00	Umeras Community Development CLG	Towards feasibility study - Umeras Peatland Park	Community
Chris Pender	Culture Night Project	€2,000.00	Arts section of KCC	To support the development of murals in Newbridge	Arts
Chris Pender	Kildare Art Collective	€2,000.00	Kildare Art Collective	To support the creating of a large art piece in Newbridge	Arts

Councillor S Doyle also nominated the proposal of funding of €3,500 each from Cllrs Doyle; Stafford; Power and Duffy for the Kildare Heritage Centre, total of €14,000. Councillor Power seconded the proposal, it was also supported by Councillors Duffy and Stafford and agreed by the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kevin Duffy seconded by Councillor Rob Power and agreed by the members, that the allocations as outlined be approved.

KN06/0721

Capital Programme 2022-2024

A report in relation to Capital Programme was circulated to members in advance of their meeting. The District Manager gave a brief overview of the Capital Programme process. He asked that if any members had any issues to please convey them to him and he would relay the comments to Finance and other relevant departments. He went on to say that previously discussed projects have been progressed.

The Mayor asked if the members had any feedback to please provide comment.

The following points were raised by the members:

- The discussion around the Capital Programme warranted a separate meeting.
- The Newbridge second bridge looks to have been omitted from the Capital Programme.



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- The Public Realm team was a victim of its own success. An increase of funding was required.
- The Cherry Avenue project was skipped. The space in this area could have been used throughout the past year, especially during the pandemic. This project needs to be advanced.
- Inclusion of the improvement of Thompson's Cross junction.
- The Kilcullen Industrial Estate road was still on the programme and should be revisited.
- Was there a live document which breaks down the timeline commencement and includes updates?
- There should be a dropdown line in the programme to explain projects.
- Can clarity be provided around the two land acquisition items?
- Had €1 million been allocated for cycle tracks in the municipal district?
- Why had the Curragh Plains €70,000 set aside for it?
- Why was €8,000,000 included for the Machinery Yard?
- Why was the playground in Newbridge currently pending?

The District Manager recalled that last year any clarifications were brought back to the members and he advised that the same approach would be taken this year. He explained that 80% of the Capital Programme funding comes from Central Government and projects are contingent on this. He acknowledged that the Capital Programme could be clearer. He assured the members that the second bridge was still included in the programme and that the council was committed to this project and that a briefing had been arranged for the members on this project. The Public Realm resources point was understood and the comments on this would be taken back to management. There was €6,800,000 for Cherry Avenue allocated and a timeline would be brought back for this project. The District Manager advised that he would revert on the inclusion of the improvement of Thompson's Cross junction and the Kilcullen Industrial Estate road queries. The Machinery Yard and the Curragh Plains projects costing were subject to tender. He also noted that he was not aware what the €1,000,000 for cycle tracks was for but that he would find out and enquire about the update on playgrounds.



KN07/0721

Part 8 – Proposed Improvements at Newhall Junction R445

The Senior Engineer introduced the Senior Executive Engineer who gave a quick overview of the pre-part 8 briefing which he had previously delivered to the landowners and the members.

Mr Paul Bergin, Director of Kilgallen and Partners Consulting Engineers, gave a presentation to the members. He noted that he had presented previously to the members before the Part 8 and showed them an aerial image of the Newhall Junction. The Roads, Transportation & Public Safety Department considers that the proposed Newhall Junction Improvement Scheme will have a significant positive impact on the R445 and the surrounds by improving and providing safe access and exit from the R445 for all road users and were seeking the approval of the members for the scheme.

The members raised the following points:

- Would a left turn at Lady crossroad still be possible with this scheme?
- Provision of cycle lanes was great for future.
- Can the landscaping use local/native trees?
- What was the likely costing? Where would the funding be coming from? Was there a cheaper option? Projects
- Applaud the engagement with locals. Would reassurances be given to locals with solutions?

Mr Bergin responded as follows:

- The left turn would be available off the local road onto the dual carriageway but not off the main road.
- Rural areas or roads of 80 km/hr don't have raised tables crossings. It's not the environment for them and people won't be expecting them. They would only be considered if the speed limit changed. Ramps/tables not currently advisable.
- Any future proofing, as with the provision of cycles lanes, will help future upgrades.
- The Parks Department will advise and approve the landscaping and the use of the native trees.



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- The scheme would cost €3,000,000 and this was provided for in the Capital Programme however, it was hoped that it could be achieved for less. The scheme would be 100% funded subject to the Part 8 application and will go to Government for part funding.
- This scheme has been discussed with both land and property owners in the area. Any updates, changes or new information would also be highlighted with them.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by the members present that the Part 8 Proposed Improvements at Newhall Junction R445 be approved.

KN08/0721

Finance Committee Annual Report

Councillor Duffy gave the annual report update to the members as Chair of the Finance Committee. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked where were the council with the KPI reviews? Councillor Duffy responded that he would circulate the report on KPIs. The report was noted.

KN09/0721

Traffic Calming at Ballykelly Crossroads in Monasterevin

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly. That the council implement traffic calming and accident prevention measures at Ballykelly Crossroads in Monasterevin as a matter of urgency.

The motion was proposed by Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor Duffy.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there is no funding allocated to carry out any works at this location in the 2021 budget. The Municipal District Office will include the location in the line marking schedule for 2022 subject to budget availability.

The following points were raised by the members:

- This issue of traffic calming at the crossroads needs action.
- The grass cutting in the area has helped.



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- Understands budget constraints.
- Situation should be monitored.

The District Engineer confirmed her team would explore the cost funding for this work next year.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly, seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

KN10/0721

Speed reducing measures Roseberry/Barretstown Road/Newbridge College junction

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer
That the council consider additional speed reducing measures at the roundabout at Roseberry/Barretstown Road/Newbridge College junction.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the roundabout is fully designed with all approaching signs in place, speed cushions on the Barretstown approach road and it is within the 50 KMPH zone. The Municipal District Office will renew the road markings, however, speed after that is a matter for the Gardai. A site visit to be arranged.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

KN11/0721

Filter light on the Athy/Kilcullen road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer
That the council carry out an assessment of the need for a filter light on the Athy/Kilcullen road to allow cars safely turn right onto the Newabbey road.

The motion was proposed by Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor A Connolly.



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A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the provision of a right-hand filter signal for this approach will be assessed as part of any planned future upgrade works at these traffic signals.

The following points were raised by the members:

- Councillor T O'Dwyer did not accept the report.
- The filter light would warrant assessment, and this would be brought up with the team offline.
- Cross and Passion secondary school were giving land for a bus shelter. Suggestion that the council should consider looking at both in conjunction.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor A Connolly and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

KN12/0721

Sharp bend at Christianstown, Milltown

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly
That the council make safe a sharp bend at Christianstown, Milltown.

The motion was proposed by Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a full technical assessment and detailed design will be required to progress this request. Depending on the outcome of the assessment and design, this may also involve land acquisition and relocation of existing services. There are currently no resources available or funding identified to progress the request.

Councillor A Connolly stated that a design is required and should be done as soon as possible in the interest of safety.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly, seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by the members that the report be noted.

KN13/0721

Traffic Calming Measures at Christianstown

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



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That the council install the appropriate traffic calming measures at Christianstown, Newbridge which has become an accident blackspot due to the sharp bends at this location and the speed of traffic.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Stafford and seconded by Councillor A Connolly.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a full technical assessment and detailed design will be required to progress this request. Depending on the outcome of the assessment and design, this may also involve land acquisition and relocation of existing services. There are currently no resources available or funding identified to progress the request.

Councillor Stafford asked that when the District Engineer and their department are addressing this issue could they also look toward the bend at Milltown. He also suggested a meeting with Councillor A Connolly and the District Engineer on site.

Resolved on proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor A Connolly and agreed by the members that the report be noted and an on site meeting to be arranged.

KN14/021

Border Gritting Routes

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer. Can the council provide an update following my motion at the February Kildare Newbridge Municipal District Meeting asking that Kildare County Council engage with neighbouring councils to identify border routes that could be shared in the 2021/2022 gritting route so as to allow additional accident prone roads such as Sunnyhill Road Kilcullen, Brannockstown to Naas road and Dunlavin to Kilcullen Road be included in the gritting programme for 2021/2022, and confirm if there has been progress made in this regard?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that co-operation is ongoing with all neighbouring counties as regards Winter gritting, however, counties are unable to undertake additional routes. If any



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additional roads are added to the gritting routes, Kildare County Council must identify what roads are to be omitted.

Councillor T O'Dwyer asked had the other council declined assisting or had Kildare County Council asked? The District Engineer advised that there was a cross county review and that funding was an issue.

The report was noted.

KN15/0721

Installation of Lighting on 100 Acres Route

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

Can the council confirm if it has any plans to install lighting (potentially solar) on the 100 acres route in Kildare town, in light of significant development in the area?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there are no plans to install any additional lighting along this route.

The report was noted.

The Mayor sought the members approval to adjourn the meeting for a 10 minute break. The members agreed.

KN16/0721

Pandemic Memorial

The members considered the following joint motion in the names of Councillors N Heavey, C Pender, P O'Dwyer, R Power, F Mc Loughlin Healy, A Connolly, M Stafford, N Connolly, K Duffy, T O'Dwyer and S Doyle.

That in recognition of lives lost and suffering caused through the pandemic experience, that a memorial bench or other agreed installation, be located in an appropriate location within the municipal district.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor A Connolly.



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A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that this is a matter for the members to agree.

The following points were raised by the members:

- Something as simple as a tree could be included in all towns across the county. A modest plaque could be considered but a tree would be more ideal.
- The Parks Section may have the capacity to carry out this.
- A conversation had already been had with the Chief Executive and this idea was fine to pass with proposal.
- The trees should be placed in a public space where people will be able to view them.
- The pandemic is still ongoing and this should be held off on until after.
- The Tidy Towns in the area could be included in this project.

The Meetings Administrator advised that upon the members agreement that the request plantation of trees would be noted for after the pandemic, an invitation to the Tidy Towns in the municipal district would be issued and the noted request would be passed on to the Parks Department and funded by them.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor A Connolly and agreed by the members that the report be noted.

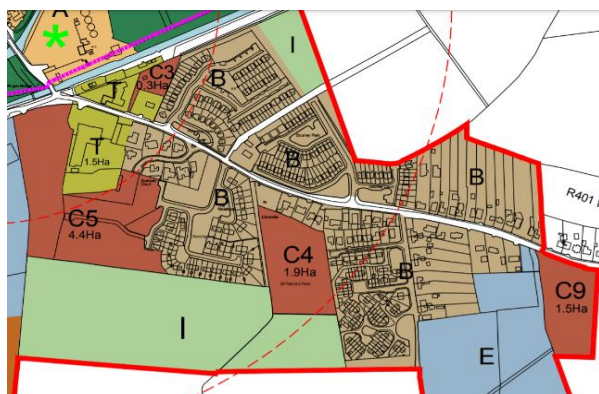
KN17/0721

Land between Beechgrove and St Patricks Park in Rathangan in Council's Ownership

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly.

Can the council outline its plans for the 8.22 acres in its ownership between Beechgrove and St Patricks Park in Rathangan (Folio KE39235F)?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that council lands in Folio Ref KE39235F are partly zoned New Residential (C2 - 1.2ha) and partly zoned Agricultural. Access to the public road is limited and the lands may need to be accessed through the adjacent St Patrick's Park estate. With the recent completion of 18 units at Beechgrove and proposed works to St Patrick's Park under the Remedial Works Scheme, there are no current plans to develop the Residential zoned lands in Folio KE39235F.



Zoning Map



Folio KE39235F

Councillor N Connolly noted that this is a large site in Rathangan and asked was there any medium-term plans to provide housing being considered?

Ms Scully said that there was no medium design as advised by the Chief Architect and that not all of the site is zoned residential. She confirmed that there another housing development planned in Rathangan.

The report was noted.

KN18/0721

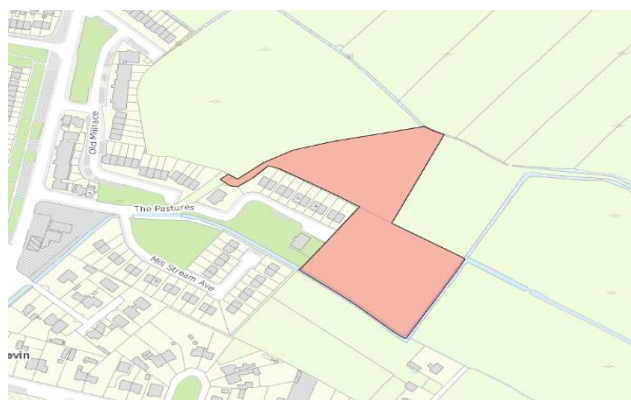
Land at the Pastures in Monasterevin in the Council's Ownership

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly. Can the council outline its plans for the 4.571 acres in its ownership beside The Pastures in Monasterevin (Folio KE4011N)?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Kildare County Council lands in Folio Ref KE4011N in Monasterevin are zoned amenity and are on a flood plain. Residential development is not open for consideration.



Zoning Map



Folio KE4011N

Councillor N Connolly asked could the council provide a new home for the Monasterevin Football Club?

Ms Scully advised that she will discuss with the architects department and revert to the councillor.

The report was noted.

KN19/0721

Retrofitting Programme

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly. Can the council confirm if it has received confirmation from Minister Noonan's office that windows and doors will be included in the Retrofitting Programme under the Just Transition Programme, in this municipal district, following his recent commitment made?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the council are not aware of any confirmation from Minister Noonan's office regarding the inclusion of windows and doors in the either the Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme (MEERP) or the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme 2021 (EERP). There is a currently a funding cap of €27,000 per unit for retrofitting as outlined under Circular 8/2021 which is insufficient to include the funding of replacement windows and doors.

The report was noted.



KN20/0721

Adaptation Grant Scheme

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

Can the council provide an update on this year's Adaptation Grant Scheme for the municipal district detailing the number of grants submitted, awarded, refused and outstanding and the average timeframe from submitting an application to award of the application?

A report was received from Housing Department informing the members that the Housing Department administers three grant options to assist people with a disability and older people in carrying out works which are necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for their accommodation needs. All schemes are subject to a household income means test.

The grants available are:

1. Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability
2. Mobility Aids Grant
3. Housing Aid for Older People Grant

The Housing Adaptation Grant for a Person with a Disability is available to assist in the carrying out of works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who has an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment. The maximum available grant is €30,000.

The Mobility Aids Grant Scheme is for older people and/ or people with a disability to address mobility problems in their home. The maximum grant under the scheme is €6,000.

The Housing Aid for Older People Scheme is available to assist people aged 66 years or older living in poor housing conditions to have essential repairs carried out so that they can continue to live in their home. The maximum grant under the scheme is €8,000.



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Updates on applications are provided to the Members on a quarterly basis (CE Report). The table below provides details of applications received and processed by the Council over the past two years*. Data is provided on a countywide basis and is not available for each Municipal District area.

Year	Housing Adaptation applications received	Housing Adaptation Grants approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons applications received	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant approved
2020	410	195	254	209
2021	233	205	197	157

*No applications received under the Mobility Aids Grant scheme in 2020/ 2021.

A standardised application process was introduced nationally in January 2020 and applicants must submit the application with supporting documentation to be considered for the various schemes. The Members were provided with information and details of the new application form. Supporting documentation to accompany an application includes evidence of household income, doctor's certificate, LPT payment (if applicable) and specialist trade contractor reports (for the Housing Aid Grant). The application form can be downloaded at: <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Forms/Housing/.pdf>

All applications are initially assessed by the Housing Department. The typical timeframe for processing applications is subject to a valid application being received by the Council. Where an incomplete application has been received, the application is returned to the applicant specifying the outstanding documentation required. For Housing Adaptation Grants, an occupational therapist report is sought and can be submitted by the applicant or arranged by the Council. These applications are prioritised based on current medical need**.

In the case of private adaptation grants, approval letters are generally issued within 6-8 weeks of receipt of a valid application. For council owned properties, works for approved



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applications in the Priority 1 category are progressed by the Architects Department, subject to available funding (Priority 2 approvals are placed on a waiting list).

All works proposed under a Housing Aid Grant are assessed by the Architects Department are processed in date order of receipt of the application.

In 2020, approximately 100 applications made under the Housing Adaptation Grant and Housing Aid Schemes were refused. The reasons for such refusals include - applicant over the income threshold, no works were recommended, requested documentation not submitted, applicant did not meet age criteria (Housing Aid), application withdrawn, etc. While these grants benefitted from an exemption under Covid restrictions, some applications were delayed due to the age/medical profile of applicants and Government restrictions on visits/inspections of houses.

In addition, it has also not been possible for some successful applicants to have internal works carried out by contractors at their homes due to restrictions. All works are carried out with the consent of applicants and in some cases vacating the property for a short period of time is necessary (i.e., bathroom works) and in the current Covid crisis, this is not an option for all.

While there is an unavoidable backlog in applications, work is underway to prioritise certain works and new protocols are in place to ensure full compliance with restrictions (i.e., questionnaires are issued to applicants, written agreements are put in place prior to any inspections, works etc). We are relying on information from applicants in order to assist in progressing works in a safe and compliant manner.

A total of 468 applications (205 Housing Adaptation and 263 Housing Aid) are being considered at present.

For the current year, a grant allocation of €3,162,288 was approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for private homes, and €517,504 for relevant works to the council's social housing stock.



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Updates on the progress of applications are provided to the Members on a quarterly basis (Chief Executive's Report).

** Definition of Priority Categories 1-3:

Priority 1

Terminally ill or fully/mainly dependant on family or carer; or where alterations/adaptations would facilitate discharge from hospital or alleviate the need for hospitalisation in the future;

Priority 2

Mobile but needs assistance in accessing washing, toilet facilities, bedroom etc; or where without the alterations/adaptations the disabled person's ability to function independently would be hindered;

Priority 3

Independent but requires special facilities to improve the quality of life, e.g. separate bedroom/living space.

Councillor Duffy said that the report was hard to follow. He said that he could understand the lead time, the received and approved applications in the text but the table only described the applications which were priority 1; the text didn't match the table. He asked could a table be provided of all applications, to include the approved/refused and the time period. A totals table was requested.

The report was noted.

KN21/0721

Criteria for Homeless HAP

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Chris Pender. Can the council confirm the criteria for receipt of Homeless HAP in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that to be eligible for Homeless HAP you must:

1. Be on Kildare County Council's housing list



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2. Be residing in homeless accommodation or
3. Be registered as homeless in Kildare and engaging with the homeless team or
4. Have a valid Notice to Quit and in danger of becoming homeless

The Homeless HAP scheme provides additional financial and related supports to tenants and landlords. The local authority must have determined that the household is homeless and has no alternative accommodation options prior to approval of a HHAP payment. 67 Homeless HAP applications have been processed to date in 2021.

The report was noted.

KN22/0721

Toilet Facilities and Water Points along Blueway

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly. Can the council confirm if it has plans to put in place toilet facilities and water points along the Blueway in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Public Realm Department informing the members that Kildare County Council along with Waterways Ireland and Laois County Council are considering the requirements in relation to toilet facilities and water points, including possible locations, maintenance requirements and responsibility in relation to maintenance of those items. However in relation to toilet facilities, one of the objectives is to get the people using the Blueway, to go into the towns and villages along the route to avail of existing facilities, spend time in those locations and spend money, thereby increasing the economic benefit to the area. The funding bodies are also behind this idea. The Steering Group will be meeting in the coming weeks and these issues will be discussed, along with a raft of others and approaches agreed.

The report was noted.



KN23/0721

Athgarvan Healthcheck

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer. Can the council provide details as to what stage the Athgarvan Healthcheck is at and what are the next steps?

A report was received from the Public Realm Department informing the members that the healthcheck and urban design analysis of Athgarvan has been completed by BSM and this analysis, together with public consultation will inform the design solutions for the Athgarvan Town Renewal Plan (TRP). The draft TRP is due to go out to public consultation in the coming week following which the final draft will be prepared. Members will be notified in advance of the public consultation going live on the Consultation Portal.

We anticipate that the TRP will be finalised in Quarter 4 2021, which will then enable the Public Realm team to apply for additional funding for the implementation of the various projects identified in the TRP.

The report was noted.

KN24/0721

Outline of works following Healthcheck for Athgarvan

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

Can the council provide an indication of the phased outline of the works to be implemented following on from the Healthcheck for Athgarvan, to include but not limited to; when the urgently needed traffic calming measures/slow down signs at all village entrances, traffic light pedestrian crossing on all sides of the traffic lights - might be delivered; cycle lanes?

A report was received from the Public Realm Department informing the members that healthcheck and urban design analysis of Athgarvan has been completed by BSM and this analysis, together with public consultation will inform the design solutions for the Athgarvan Town Renewal Plan (TRP). The draft TRP is due to go out to public consultation in the coming week following which the final draft will be prepared. Members will be notified in advance of the public consultation going live on the Consultation Portal.



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We anticipate that the TRP will be finalised in Quarter 4 2021, which will then enable the Public Realm team to apply for additional funding for the implementation of the various projects identified in the TRP.

However, it is not possible at this stage in the process to give an indication of a phased outline of projects/ works that may be implemented on foot of the Town Renewal Plan. The delivery of the projects will be dependent on securing funding from various funding streams.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked could the council consider slow down signs? She also asked given the timeline could some of the items be delivered?

Ms M Hunt advised that she would raise these queries with the District Engineer. The report was noted.

KN25/0721

Update on the Warning Letter

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender. Can the council give an update on the Warning Letter dated 25/5/2021 that was issued to Glenveagh Homes requiring them to respond within 4 weeks?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the submission in response to the Warning Letter has been received and is currently under consideration.

Councillor Pender asked had the demolition of Kilbelin had any impact on the warning letters? And would construction impact this?

Ms M Hunt advised that she could not discuss any individual enforcement cases. The report was noted.



KN26/0721

Security Fencing around Wastewater Pumping Station

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kevin Duffy.
That the council install security fencing around the wastewater pumping station in St Evin's Park, Monasterevin to secure the pumping station and protect it from damage.

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

A report was received from the Water Services Department that informing the members that Irish Water is the national water utility responsible for the delivery of water services to homes and businesses in Ireland.

The elected member should contact Irish Water via the dedicated Local Representative Service Desk in compliance with Irish Water instructions and protocol. The contact details are as follows;

Telephone: 1890 178 178 or 01 7072854 Email: localrepsupport@water.ie

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by the members that the report be noted.

KN27/0721

Footpaths/Walkways within Cemeteries in the Municipal District

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Pender.
That the council engages in works to ensure that footpaths/walkways within all cemeteries in its charge in this municipal district, are made safe for all those visiting the cemeteries.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer.

The members received a report from the Water and Environmental Services Department informing the members that the council is responsible for the maintenance and upgrade of most cemeteries in the municipal district (some are responsibility of local parish). .As recently outlined at full council, the following significant works were carried out in the municipal district in recent years:



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major extension to Newbridge Cemetery
major extension to Kildangan
major extension to Rathangan
major internal works to Monasterevin
significant additional works to Kildare Town [recently completed]

In addition, the following significant works are planned for this year:

- significant upgrade to Newbridge Cemetery Car Park [currently being re-tendered]
- provision of columbarium walls for both Monasterevin and Newbridge
- significant internal works at Barrettstown

Specifically regarding Newbridge, the District Manager did view the cemetery at first hand recently following representations and fully agree that a number of issues need to be addressed. There should have, in the interim, been a significant improvement in ongoing maintenance and hopefully this will be apparent. There are also issues relating to footpaths and internal 'routes ' which do need attention and these will be included in this year's works programme.

By way of general comment, the cemetery works programme for 2021 is behind schedule as such works were not deemed 'essential 'in light of Covid restrictions.

Finally, as part of cemetery extensions the council will generally and subject to funding provide or upgrade altars but do not erect crosses [though many exist historically] .As a general principle, council owned cemeteries do not defer or favour any particular religious denominations.

The following points were raised by the members:

- A number of representations have been received on this issue.
- The concerns raised generally mention visitors unable navigate the cemeteries due to potholes and lack of accessibility.
- Walkabout was done in April, benches need to be painted or replaced as does the cross of Our Lord.
- The lack of progress was disappointing.



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The District Manager confirmed that he had visited the cemetery. He advised that COVID-19 had interrupted the repair works and that all pothole and issues of accessibility would be investigated. He confirmed that he was happy for the item to remain on the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer and agreed by the members that the report be noted and be added to the progress report.

KN28/0721

Green Waste Collection Service

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer
Can the council confirm if there is a green waste collection service offered to Residents Associations within the municipal district?

A report was received from the Environment Department advising the members that while the council runs a scheme offering assistance in the removal of litter and waste from community clean-ups, it is not possible to collect green waste (leaves, grass clippings, sods, soil and hedge cuttings etc) due to the volume involved.

Green waste arising from grass-cutting of the common areas in housing estates is a common issue. In its efforts to promote waste minimisation, the council encourages community groups to compost green waste as a sustainable way of managing this material. Residents associations are encouraged to develop a community composting area in the estate for green waste with the added community benefits of having a source of compost from the process.

The Council's Environment Awareness Officer was available to support groups to set up local composting areas and to provide advice on managing green waste generally.

For the members' information, Kildare's two civic amenity sites also accept green waste for composting.

The report was noted.



KN29/0721

Upgrade of St Conleth's Cemetery Carpark

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer.
Can the council confirm the time frame for the commencement of the upgrade of St Conleth's Cemetery carpark as we move out of restrictions?

The members received a report from the Water and Environmental Services Department informing the members that the council is responsible for the maintenance and upgrade of most cemeteries in the municipal district (some are responsibility of local parish). .As recently outlined at full council, the following significant works were carried out in the municipal district in recent years:

- major extension to Newbridge Cemetery
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In addition, the following significant works are planned for this year:

- significant upgrade to Newbridge Cemetery Car Park [currently being re-tendered]
- provision of columbarium walls for both Monasterevin and Newbridge
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Specifically regarding Newbridge, the District Manager did view the cemetery at first hand recently following representations and fully agree that a number of issues need to be addressed. There should have, in the interim, been a significant improvement in ongoing maintenance and hopefully this will be apparent. There are also issues relating to footpaths and internal 'routes ' which do need attention and these will be included in this year's works programme.

By way of general comment, the cemetery works programme for 2021 is behind schedule as such works were not deemed 'essential 'in light of Covid restrictions.

Finally, as part of cemetery extensions the council will generally and subject to funding provide or upgrade altars but do not erect crosses [though many exist historically]



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.As a general principle, council owned cemeteries do not defer or favour any particular religious denominations.

The report was noted.

KN30/0721

Maintenance of Carparks Adjacent to or servicing the Cemeteries

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

Can the council confirm who is responsible for the maintenance and tidying of the carparks adjacent to or servicing the cemeteries in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District?

The members received a report from the Water and Environmental Services Department informing the members that the council is responsible for the maintenance and upgrade of most cemeteries in the municipal district (some are responsibility of local parish). .As recently outlined at full council, the following significant works were carried out in the municipal district in recent years:

- major extension to Newbridge Cemetery
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By way of general comment, the cemetery works programme for 2021 is behind schedule as such works were not deemed 'essential' in light of Covid restrictions.

Finally, as part of cemetery extensions the council will generally and subject to funding provide or upgrade altars but do not erect crosses [though many exist historically]. As a general principle, council owned cemeteries do not defer or favour any particular religious denominations.

Councillor Stafford stated that his question had not been addressed in the report. He asked who has responsibility for the car park?

The District Manager apologised for an oversight when issuing the response to the question. He advised that the Environment Department are generally responsible although this may vary on the location. If the Councillor had any other locations that they could forward to the District Manager. He noted that a lot of work had been done in recent years and that in general the standard is very high for the car parks. He said he would be looking into putting any suggestions onto the Capital Programme.

The report was noted.

KN31/0721

Altars and Crosses in council owned Cemeteries

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

Can the council advise on its policy regarding the installation of altars and crosses in council owned cemeteries and extensions in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District?

The members received a report from the Water and Environmental Services Department informing the members that the council is responsible for the maintenance and upgrade of most cemeteries in the municipal district (some are responsibility of local parish). As recently outlined at full council, the following significant works were carried out in the municipal district in recent years:

- major extension to Newbridge Cemetery
- major extension to Kildangan
- major extension to Rathangan



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major internal works to Monasterevin

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By way of general comment, the cemetery works programme for 2021 is behind schedule as such works were not deemed 'essential 'in light of Covid restrictions.

Finally, as part of cemetery extensions the council will generally and subject to funding provide or upgrade altars but do not erect crosses [though many exist historically] .As a general principle, council owned cemeteries do not defer or favour any particular religious denominations.

Councillor Stafford asked that if a committee look for a cross to be installed in a cemetery, would it be assessed for this?

The District Manager advised that where cemeteries are overseen by a committee that the council would not stand in the way of the committee if they wished to erect crosses. The report was noted.

KN32/0721

Dumping behind Donnelly's Hollow

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. Can the council provide a broad outline of the issue that it is at odds with the Department of



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Defence over, in relation to the commercial scale dumping behind Donnelly's Hollow providing the details of who ordered the mediation and any schedule or deadline for its completion?

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department advising the members that as previously outlined, the matter at hand relates to the unauthorised disposal of waste at this location. The nature of the waste has been assessed and it is considered unlikely to constitute a risk to the local environment. However, it is unauthorised and therefore is subject to both planning and environmental enforcement. In this context, again as previously stated, it would not be good practice for two State entities to incur significant legal costs and therefore, both parties have agreed to try to resolve matters through mediation. Neither have been directed to do so. It might also be stated that there are significant delays ongoing at the moment in relation to the Courts. Both parties are currently discussing possible specific dates within the next few weeks and I can brief members further on this at the municipal district meeting. In the interim, the EPA are being kept informed.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked was one of the parties the Department of Defence? She also asked would an enforcement letter not a necessary follow on from unauthorised dumping?

The District Manager confirmed that it was the Department of Defence. He also hoped that mediation will have been concluded by the next meeting.

The report was noted.

KN33/0721

Community Centre in Capital Programme

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

That the council include a Community Centre on the Dunmurray Road, Kildare town in the capital programme.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor A Connolly.



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A report was received from the Community, Culture and Economic Development Department informing the members that this request can be considered in the context of the 2022-2024 Capital Programme.

The following points were raised by the members:

- Noted the inclusion of the Community Centre in the Capital Programme.
- Concern was raised about the location of the facility outside of the town centre.
- One of a myriad of community centres to be delivered.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor A Connolly and agreed by the members that the report be noted.

KN34/0721

Land zoned amenity beside Linear Park, Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy. That the council consider acquiring the land zoned amenity on the far side of the Linear Park, Newbridge that would provide an optimal location for a number of leisure amenities.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there are two areas of land zoned for recreation and amenity opposite the Linear Park. The area of these is approximately 30ha (74acres). A valuation of the land would have to be sought and if an acquisition was possible how this would be financed.

The following points were raised by the members:

- Importance of outdoor spaces, especially during COVID-19, and there is a lack of youth facilities in the area.
- The land could be used for a BMX park.
- Have any monies been set aside for leisure facilities?
- This could be a flagship project.
- The prioritisation of space is important.



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- How much would 74 acres cost? Would the cost be affected due to the proximity to the town?
- Would be good to have this included in the upcoming County Development Plan.
- Engagement with owners essential, they may anticipate zoning to be residential.
- If the land is a flood plain, then it should remain for amenity.

The Senior Parks Superintendent advised that a valuation would be looked for. Currently only levies would be funding this project. Acquisition of the land would be a long and costly process. Communication with the respective landowners would have to take place.

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

KN35/0721

Recreational and amenity facilities at the South Green Development

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

Can Kildare Sports Partnership confirm if it has any plans to convene a meeting of sports stakeholders within Kildare Town to consider the delivery of recreational and amenity facilities within the South Green Development?

A report was received from the Kildare Sports Partnership Department advising the members that Kildare Sports Partnership is happy to convene a meeting of the sports clubs in Kildare Town to ensure a strategic approach to the delivery of recreation and amenity facilities in the town in order to maximise the capacity and potential of all sports. The Sports Partnership will discuss this further with Councillor Doyle.

The report was noted

KN36/0721

Shopfront Grant Scheme

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

Can the council provide an update on this year's Shopfront Grant Scheme for the municipal district, the number and value of grants awarded, the remaining grant amount available and the key contact for future applications?



A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office informing the members that There have been 14 applications received for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District for 2021 to date. The value of the awards is €26,795 which leaves a balance of €12,205 remaining in this budget.

The contact for the grant scheme is Cassandra Brogan, Local Enterprise Office 045 980595

The link for the grant scheme is: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Shop-Front-Improvement-Scheme/>.

The report was noted

KN37/0721

To receive a presentation from the Energy Efficiency Officer

The Mayor welcomed Mr P Mulhern, Energy Efficiency Officer to the meeting. The Meetings Administrator asked that any questions be directed to Mr Mulhern after the meeting and all the members agreed.

Mr Mulhern delivered a presentation to the members highlighting the following points:

- He explained his role as Kildare County Council's Energy Efficiency Officer.
- He outlined Kildare County Council's Energy Reduction Commitments including: 50% Energy Efficiency Improvement, 50% Emissions Reductions, Public Sector bodies commit to Climate Action Mandate to support climate reform, Decarbonisation Strategy and that all public buildings to achieve a B BER rating.
- He described Kildare County Council's current Energy Efficiency projects including: the Energy Bureau, the Energy Management Team, Analysis of top energy users, Climate and Energy Week and the Sustainable Energy Communities.
- He informed the elected members of their role in the communicating and promoting of these projects.
- The members could work directly in the projects, in the development of the partnerships and garnering support through their networks.



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The District Manager acknowledged the Energy Management Team and all the work coming down the line from them. He advised that the members have been very supportive of this team and its initiatives. He noted that there have already been a few sustainable communities setup throughout the county.

The meeting concluded.