

Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held at 10.00 am on 15 May 2019 in Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

Members Present: Councillor M Aspell (Mayor), Councillors S Doyle, P Kennedy, M Lynch, M McCabe, F McLoughlin Healy, J Pender, S Power and M Stafford.

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Ms S Scully, Ms V Cooke (Administrative Officers), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms E Wright (Senior Executive Officer), Mr B Cuddy (Municipal District Engineer), Mr J Murtagh (Executive Engineer), Ms S Martin (Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office), Ms F Skehan (Meetings Administrator) and Ms R O'Connell (Meetings Secretary)

KN01/0519

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on Wednesday, 17 April 2019, together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Aspell that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on 17 April 2019 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

KN02/0519

Matters Arising

Councillor Kennedy noted that it was his last official meeting to attend, and it saddened him to have to refer to the April meeting when it was stated that he signed into, but did not attend the March Municipal district meeting. He stated that this was an untrue and unfounded accusation. He had withdrawn from the meeting as a result of receiving an urgent personal message, and he had advised Councillor McCabe of the particulars before leaving the meeting.

Councillor Kennedy spoke of his excellent attendance record as an elected representative over the last 15 years, and he queried why an issue was being raised in relation to his departure from the meeting, when the Councillor who raised the issue had previously withdrawn from a municipal district meeting to attend a protest at Government buildings.

Councillor Kennedy stated that there were regular requests for transparency and accountability, and that he would like to see a stop to unfounded and scurrilous accusations made against many councillors.

There followed an exchange between Councillor Kennedy and Councillor McLoughlin Healy, following which the Mayor asked Councillor Kennedy if he wished to withdraw his statement. Councillor Kennedy stated that he did not.

Councillor S Power Motions

Councillor S Power gave his apologies as he would have to leave the meeting early to attend a funeral. He informed the Mayor that he was happy with the reports and authorised Mayor Aspell to move his motions on his behalf.

KN03/0519

Municipal District Road Works

Ms B Cuddy Municipal District Engineer updated the members on the municipal district road works as follows:

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Office

- Tender has been awarded for IPB funded footpath repairs around Newbridge town
- Tender for first road improvement scheme currently under evaluation – Pfizer to Liffey Bridge
- Remaining road improvement schemes to be tendered in the coming weeks.
- 2 local improvement schemes have been awarded, work to commence in the coming weeks

Footpath Improvements:

- Kildare County Council outdoor crews were working on trip hazards around Newbridge town
- Footpath works completed in Fen View – LPT funded
- Footpath upgrade from Ballymany roundabout to the Maxol petrol station
- Footpath upgrade works in Milltown
- Upgrade of footpaths Rowanville, Kildare Town.

Miscellaneous works:

- Ongoing maintenance across the municipal district area, including water cuts and extensive jetting of surface water pipe network.
- Repair of wall at church view in Suncroft.
- Ongoing patching throughout the municipal district area.

It should be noted that the council had removed a number of election posters erected on statutory road signs, a number of complaints had been received from members of the public.

Councillor Stafford asked if it would be possible to resurface the road in Fen View and asked was the council removing the election posters because they had received a complaint or were they been removed for safety purpose.

Ms B Cuddy informed the members that election posters erected on statutory road signs were removed due to a number of complaints that had been received from members of the public as some were blocking visibility so the council had to remove them for public safety.

KN04/0519

Approved Housing Body

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy.

That the council clarify what steps it has taken to ensure that the conditions that existed at the time public monies were allegedly stolen from an Approved Housing Body in the district no longer exist before distributing further public monies from the €86 million allocated to Kildare County Council to deliver social housing including;

the number of signatures required for cheques then and now; the financial/auditing expertise on the board then and now; the frequency and detail of financial reporting from the Approved Housing Body to the council; which policies/protocols of the Approved Housing Body in question have been changed to safeguard against theft/fraud in the future; what account has the then Chair been asked to give in relation to the board's failure to safeguard against theft/fraud.

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

A report was received from the Director of Service, Housing and Corporate Services informing the members that the role of Kildare County Council in relation to Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) was to (a) ensure Approved Housing Bodies compliance with funding schemes, (b) enter into new Payment and Availability agreements, Capital Advance and Leasing facility agreements and provide funding under the Capital Assistance Scheme (c) enforce the conditions of mortgage agreements (d) ensure Approved Housing Bodies compliance with tenant nomination policies.

It was the responsibility of the Regulation Office to regulate the operation of Approved Housing Bodies by monitoring compliance with the standards laid down in the Voluntary Regulatory Code-'Building for the Future, A Voluntary Regulatory Code for Approved Housing Bodies in Ireland' (VRC). Approved Housing Bodies were required to complete an annual regulatory return, reporting on six aspects of their organisation, this includes governance and finance (Tier 1 AHBs).

In order to qualify for new funding provided for by Rebuilding Ireland, it was a requirement that Approved Housing Bodies were signed up to the VRC.

Kildare County Council requires Approved Housing Bodies and housing associations who have availed of funding under the Capital Assistance Scheme, Capital Assistance Scheme and Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme to complete an annual compliance return, this return consists of information relating to (a) contact details (b) details of directors (c) insurance details (d) rent calculations (e) financial statements (f) maintenance allowance (g) occupancy statements and void rates.

To date the housing association in question has achieved compliance with the annual compliance process.

It was not within the remit of Kildare County Council to carry out the type of investigation outlined in the motion.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked that these Approved Housing Bodies adhere to good governance in their annual regulatory report suggesting they be broadened to include minutes of meetings etc.

Following discussion amongst the members, the following points were made:

- The members supported the motion and stated that AHB's needed to adhere to good governance in their report.
- The AHB's do excellent work and the members accepted they were not regulated by the council.
- The members questioned why the houses were being built by the AHB's and not the council as the council had been funding to build them.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

KN05/0519

Works that will be carried out in Páirc Mhuire

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor S Power. Can the council outline what works will be carried out in Páirc Mhuire this year and when is the work likely to begin?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that as discussed at the last LPT meeting, Páirc Mhuire was not listed for works under LPT funding for 2019.

Councillor S Power stated that there was some emergency work needed to be done as it was the oldest estate in Newbridge and would appreciate if the council would look into it.

The report was noted.

KN06/0519

Presentation to the Councillors retiring

The Mayor expressed his thanks to the four members who were not seeking re-election due to their retirement:

- Councillor Seán Power
- Councillor Paddy Kennedy
- Councillor Mark Lynch
- Councillor Joanne Pender

He thanked them all for all the hard work they had done for the people in their communities and the county. He stated he had learned so much from Councillor Kennedy and Councillor S Power and thanked them for their friendship and great advice over the years. He wished the four councillors the best for the future and made a presentation to them individually to mark their retirement.

KN07/0519

Kildare County Council/Rebuilding Ireland mortgage

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford. Can the council confirm what options are available to Kildare County Council/Rebuilding Ireland mortgage holders in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District who wish to trade up, to accommodate an expanding family or who wish to take out a top up mortgage to build an extension for the same reason?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that currently the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan was only available to first time buyers and therefore would not facilitate top up loans for extensions or trade ups.

The report was noted.

Councillor Stafford stated that he was disappointed with the report and would raise it up with his local TD and the Minister for Housing as there was no opportunities for people to upsize their home or extend them.

KN08/0519

Parking difficulties being experienced by the Páirc Mhuire residents.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor S Power. In view of the constant parking difficulties being experienced by the Páirc Mhuire residents in Newbridge, that the council enter into discussions with the residents with a view to drawing up a plan to resolve the matter.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were a number of issues regarding parking in this area. If the residents wish to discuss and propose an agreed plan/proposal, then discussions could take place with the Pay Parking Section.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Aspell seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted.

KN09/0519

Parking permit system to facilitate housing estates

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McCabe. That this municipal district create a parking permit system to facilitate housing estates that are under pressure with illegal parking, in particular Páirc Mhuire.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were a number of issues regarding parking in this area. If the residents wish to discuss and propose an agreed plan/proposal, then discussions could take place with the Pay Parking Section.

Councillor McCabe stated that he appreciated the report and asked if the residents could have a parking permit to help tackle the illegal parking in the estate.

Councillor Kennedy stated that he was on the Resident Association for 15 years and the members did not want pay parking but that you cannot have one without the other.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked could there be a Resident Parking Scheme set up and who could that be directed to.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed that consent from the residents would need to be given to introduce pay parking. They would have to be a section in the bye laws for parking. If the residents have a solution they wished to discuss, that could take place with the Pay Parking Section.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor Kennedy that the report be noted.

KN10/0519

Improve visibility and access onto Cribbons Lane

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford. That the council improve visibility and access onto Cribbons Lane, Newtown Rathangan and identify a source of funding for same.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the council could include this item for consideration under LPT funding in 2020, there was no available funding at present.

Councillor Stafford stated that he had received a complaint from a member of the public about it and stated that maybe a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) needed to be issued. He asked that the next council look at this.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

KN11/0519

Installation of roundabouts in place of traffic lights

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Lynch. That the council commits to the installation of roundabouts in place of traffic lights, in most circumstances, considering the over abundance of traffic lights in Newbridge, how they are hampering the flow of traffic in the town and that future planning recommends this.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the traffic lights provide a wide range of capacities depending on the widths of the approaches, the presence of bus lanes on approach, cycle times and turning traffic flows. Traffic signal junctions could include pedestrian phases and advanced stoplines for cyclists thus providing safe crossing facilities for vulnerable road users (pedestrians and cyclists). Large roundabouts were in general not appropriate in urban areas as they require a greater land take and were difficult for pedestrians and cyclists to navigate, in particular where controlled crossings/ cycle facilities were not provided and as such vehicles have continued right of way. Where large roundabouts currently exist, road authorities were now encouraged as part of any major upgrade works to replace them with signalised junctions or to retrofit them so that they were more compact and /or pedestrian and cyclist friendly as was appropriate.

The use of smaller more compact roundabouts i.e., those with a radii of 7.5m or less may address many of the issues as highlighted above and may also be useful as a traffic calming measure. These may be considered where vehicle flows were not sufficient to warrant full signalisation and where pedestrian and cyclist activity was more moderate such as suburbs and neighbourhoods, provided they were fitted with appropriate pedestrian crossings.

The Roads Department does not intend to replace traffic lights in Newbridge with roundabouts.

Councillor Lynch stated that in Portlaoise they have roundabouts which were working for the town. The council needed to put something in place to help the flow of traffic in Newbridge especially for the new road into the town.

Following discussion amongst the members, the following points were made:

- That this needed to be looked at as part of the Traffic Management Plan (TMP)
- The use of smaller scale roundabouts would help the flow of traffic as there were enough traffic lights in the town.
- The use of small roundabouts might be good for motorists but what about buses and vulnerable road users. The council were trying to encourage people to walk more.

The Senior Executive Office confirmed that NTA were preparing the TMP and any submission they received would be put up for the members and public to see.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

KN12/0519

Sight issues at the exit from College Park onto Rowan Terrace

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McCabe. Can the Roads Department look at the line of sight issues at the exit from College Park onto Rowan Terrace as the line of sight for traffic approaching from the right is very short?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members at this location walls were set back, double yellow lines were in place to prohibit parking, and the town speed limit applies. As part of the Draft Countywide Speed Limit review there was a review of all housing estate speed limits on going. The municipal district office was of the view that no further action was required.

Councillor McCabe stated that the residents had suggested having two parking spaces removed from the right.

The report was noted.

KN13/0519

A pedestrian crossing

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McCabe. Can the council consider putting a pedestrian crossing on the bend at the Spar Shop between Páirc Mhuire and Dara Park?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members there are no plans to install a pedestrian crossing at this location at present.

Councillor McCabe stated that people were using the speed ramps as a pedestrian crossing and the same was happening at College Park.

The report was noted.

KN14/0519

Develop a plan to address speeding and traffic in and around Athgarvan

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

Given the increasing number of vehicular and pedestrian incidents reported in and around Athgarvan and the applications for further housing developments in the area can the council develop a plan to address speeding and traffic on all four roads leading to the village, including but not limited to- 50km signs on all entrances to the village, the provision of a 'hidden entrance' or estate sign at the entrance to Rosemount Court estate, and consideration of a pedestrian pathways between the crash test centre and the entrance to Athgarvan Heights, and between Rosemount Estate and the Athgarvan Inn.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members the forthcoming Draft County Wide Speed Limit Review would address the issues raised in relation to speeding on approach to Athgarvan

and the installation of appropriate signage, and the consideration of pathways could be examined by TAAG in due course.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked that the current TAAG report be issued to the members and all the members agreed.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed that the Draft County Wide Speed Limit Review plan was underway and would be brought to public consultation when it was completed. She noted that speeding enforcement was a matter for the Gardaí and that she was not aware of a traffic account report taken in the area but would ask the Municipal District Engineer about it and confirm the position. The report was noted.

KN15/0519

A list of all the roadwork's budgeted for in the municipal district

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

Can the council provide a list of all the roadworks budgeted for in the municipal district for this year broken down into roadworks funded from core budget, national funding, LPT and payparking?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a copy of the 2019 Roadworks Programme was issued to all members at the full council meeting in March, which sets out the information on roadworks as requested.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked why a new bridge was listed for Celbridge and it was not listed for Newbridge on the report.

The Senior Executive Office confirmed that the council received funding from Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) for a bridge in Celbridge.

The report was noted.

KN16/0519

The pedestrian crossing at the top of Rathangan Bridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Stafford. Can the council review the pedestrian crossing at the top of Rathangan Bridge (on the Secondary School side) as there are concerns regarding the safety of this crossing and visibility at same?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that further to a site meeting with Councillor Stafford and further review of the location in question, there were two pedestrian crossings on this road to facilitate the walkway on the bridge which keeps students and members of the public off the main road. The bridge itself provides for traffic calming in the location, and if Kildare County Council were to remove the crossing, the Municipal District Engineer considers that pedestrians would just cross the road at this location making it even more dangerous. The Municipal District Engineer was of the view that this was the best option given the restriction of the bridge.

Councillor Stafford stated that people were not using the bridge and asked if a pedestrian funnel could be put down beside the bridge as people were not using the pedestrian crossing. He asked if the council could look into this matter as a new development was given planning permission near the bridge which was going to make the situation worse.

The report was noted.

KN17/0519

The Finance Committee

The members noted the report from the municipal district representative on the Finance Committee

KN18/0519

Time limits be introduced on the expenditure of public funds / LPT

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

Can time limits be introduced on the expenditure of public funds / LPT in this municipal district to ensure they are spent on time and within a calendar year or set period and can this be recommended to future councils?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that any such arrangement would be a matter for each relevant Municipal District Committee to agree, the Finance Department has no role in LPT spend and how or when that was done.

Councillor Lynch asked that the next council put strong timelines in place on the expenditure of public funds / LPT in the municipal districts and to bring it to the full council to ensure that the monies were spent on time.

The report was noted.

KN19/0519

Declare a Climate Emergency

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

That this municipal district declare a Climate Emergency for the purpose of ensuring that all activities in our municipal district are more climate aware, climate friendly and show our acute awareness of the imminent danger to our children and their future and that this is done in the hope that other municipal districts, council's and the Government would follow our lead.

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that climate action was a key corporate objective and the council fully agrees with the need for urgency and prioritisation. In this regard, the council had put a climate action group in place, comprising staff representatives from each department who, in turn, has

prepared a draft Climate Adaptation Plan which encompasses some 107 key actions. It was also proposed that this group would be widened to include elected representatives. This plan would shortly be undergoing public consultation and would be submitted to the elected members for adoption at its September monthly meeting. In addition, the council, following a recent resolution and recommended by SPC would be formally signing the Covenant of Mayors which would commit it to achieving quite far-reaching climate change mitigation targets by 2030. Both of these commitments should greatly facilitate Kildare County Council in playing its part in achieving the likely ambitious targets which would be set for the Local Government sector as part of the soon to be launched 'All of Government Climate Change Plan'.

In addition, he confirmed that Kildare County Council had been selected as a pilot for the roll out of the National Dialogue at county level. An initial workshop was recently held in Solas Bhríde attended by Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), local chamber, community groups, community and environment sections etc in order to scope the initiative wherein it was broadly envisaged that a climate action event would be held in each municipal district. Details would follow in due course. The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) was also providing active assistance.

Councillor McCabe stated that he was aware the council was very active on climate change. He said that this Municipal District needed to declare a national crisis on this and that people needed to be more environmentally aware.

Following discussion amongst the members, the following points were made:

- All members supported the motion; they stated that the government needed to take action on this problem.
- The council needed to have sustainable development goals to achieve this
- Children were leading the way on this issue.
- A Green Hub was needed in Newbridge to drive this and it would create jobs.

The District Manager informed the members that a draft Climate Adaptation Plan which included some 107 key actions would be put to full council in September 2019. Kildare County Council had been selected as a pilot for the roll out of the National Dialogue at county level and Kildare County Council would be looking at the Climate Change for 17 Local Authorities. A workshop was recently held and it was envisaged that a climate action event would be held in each municipal district.

Councillor Aspell asked was the council renaming the SPC.

The District Manager advised the members that it would be giving consideration to the renaming of the SPC.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the report be noted.

KN20/0519

Bord na Mona Masterplan for their Newbridge site

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

That the council ask Bord na Mona to explore a range of options for their Masterplan for their Newbridge site that would support sustainable economic development in the area including a hub that had the potential to support any or all of the following

1. Support local start-ups and growing enterprises with the aim of fostering entrepreneurship and developing economic activity in the area
2. Foster and support community ownership of renewable energy projects, citizen education and promotion of recycling
3. Provide 'Hot-desk' facilities which would allow people to avail of fibre broadband for remote work purposes and for business uses

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

A report was received from Economic Community & Cultural Development informing the members that the lands in question were owned by Bord na Mona and, as matters stand, any future development of same would be subject to the policies and objectives of the Local Area Plan. Though obviously well-meaning, it was not however open to the elected members to suggest new objectives, save as part of the review of the LAP and following public consultation.

That stated Kildare County Council through the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) had set out ambitious plans within the Mideast Action plan for Jobs and its own Economic Development Strategy to develop a network of such innovative co-working spaces in County Kildare locations in Athy, Kildare Town, Naas, North County Kildare and in Newbridge has already been identified. Bord na Mona would be an important Stakeholder in a Green focus hub.

As outlined in the plans all spaces:

- Support local start-ups and growing enterprises with the aim of fostering entrepreneurship and developing economic activity in the area
- Provide 'Hot-desk' facilities which would allow people to avail of fibre broadband for remote work purposes and for business uses

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) did not mention Newbridge as a main town but said that sustainable development goals with Mideast Action plan was needed and to have a positive relationship with Bord na Mona. LEO was doing some work and rejected the suggestion that the elected members could not suggest new objectives to them.

Following discussion amongst the members, the following points were made:

- The members supported the motion and stated that at the meeting Bord na Mona had asked for submissions on the site.
- There were opportunities on the site for a fish farm, energy points etc and to create jobs in the town.

The District Manager stated that the meeting with Bord na Mona was a constructive meeting. He stated that a plan would need to be prepared and that he would engage with the Planning Department about it

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McCabe seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

KN21/0519

Taking in charge of White Abbey Court, Kildare

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

That the council liaise with Irish Water with a view to expediting the taking in charge of White Abbey Court, Kildare and resolve any outstanding issues relating to the pumping station.

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

A report was received from the Development Control, Executive Engineer informing the members that following discussion with Councillor Stafford regarding White Abbey Court, the Development Control Section were not in a position at present to take in charge (TIC) White Abbey Court as the foul drainage from the estate was discharging to a pump station on third party lands and the council had no reports on the condition of the mechanical and electrical equipment of the pump station. The owner of the third party lands also had a development adjacent to the pump station consisting of terrace houses on the main street discharging to the pump station, which would never be TIC by the council.

Irish Water did lay a new main foul sewer line in the public road adjacent to White Abbey Court. It was their understanding that the developer of White Abbey Court was maintaining the pump station and now wanted to connect the foul drainage from the estate to the new main foul sewer line constructed by Irish Water. There would be a connection fee due to Irish Water which the council believed the developer was querying.

There were two options:

Option 1. The estate could be TIC if the pump station and the land associated was vested to the council/Irish Water. The developer must repair all defects, ensure that the pump station was accessible and constructed to an acceptable specification to Irish Water.

Option 2. The developer applied to Irish Water for a new connection to the main sewer and pays the associated costs to Irish Water.

Both options required negotiations and the approval of Irish Water and there would be a cost to the developer.

Councillor Stafford stated that this estate was on the list in 2014. The estate was finished 10 years ago and that there were issues with the water connection. The developer has paid the levies and the residents were worried that the whole system would back up and flood the estate and their houses.

Mr Murtagh stated that he would contact Irish Water and progress it forward.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Stafford seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

KN22/0519

An annual report of the use and governance of public monies

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy.

That where it has not executed its oversight function over organisations it funds in the municipal district (and county) the council now ask that they provide an annual report of their use and governance of public monies and they be uploaded onto the council's website for public access.

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

A report was received from the Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services informing the members that it was extremely difficult to respond to a hypothetical question such as this. Different funding streams and different levels of funding require different funding arrangements, oversight and governance. The council cannot commit to an action without understanding fully what the context was.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she would contact Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services and enquired if the councillors were entitled to access these annual reports.

The District Manager stated that the members would be entitled to see them.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

KN23/0519

Developing the Liffey Linear Park

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor S Power. That the council outline its long term plans for developing the Liffey Linear Park and the works that are planned for this year.

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

A report was received from Economic Community and Cultural Development Park informing the members that a tender to procure a framework of landscape architects was currently under preparation. The council hopes to have this in place by midsummer and then to tender from this framework for a design for the linear park extension from St Conleths Bridge to Newbridge College.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Aspell seconded by Councillor Doyle that the report be noted.

KN24/0519

Meeting of tourism stakeholders for the area

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle. That this municipal district convene a meeting of tourism stakeholders for the area to devise means of optimising amenities and event visitor numbers and identify methods of ensuring that we extend the stay and spend of potential visitors through coupling attractions for visitors.

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

A report was received from Economic Community & Cultural Development informing the members that Kildare Fáilte continues to work with all stakeholders to execute the strategic plan for tourism for the county. In collaboration with directors and partners a meeting was planned to continue to communicate and support development of tourism facilities, attractions and experiences.

Councillor Doyle stated that this would need to be looked at by the next council as we needed to find way to encourage visitors to stay and visit the attractions in our Municipal District area.

Following discussion amongst the members, the following points were made:

- The members stated that the council needed to create a route into the town and encourage them to stay for a few hours as they were hundreds of tour buses visiting Newbridge Silverware.
- They were not enough hotels in the area.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

KN25/0519

The historic relationship of Kildare town to the racing industry

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle. That the municipal district committee acknowledge the historic relationship of Kildare town to the racing industry and Curragh Racecourse by planting, in conjunction with

Tidy Towns, a colourful flower bed at the entrance to Kildare Town denoting the current Derby winning colours.

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

A report was received from Economic Community and Cultural Development Park informing the members that the initiative being proposed would be supported as best it could by the Parks Section, given the large works programme already presented to the members earlier this year. The ability to implement this programme of works was based on progressing it without having to revise it for additional works. Any additional requests impact heavily on our ability to advance the many projects listed in the programme for this municipal district and the other four districts.

Councillor Doyle asked if the council could acknowledged this to the racing industry and Curragh racecourse as Kildare town has a historic relationship with them.

Mr Wallace confirmed that he would look at a bedding scheme and would note the colours of the Derby winner.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

KN26/0519

BMX Park

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

That the council, using its almost complete land and asset register, identify possible locations for a free, national standard, BMX park that is being offered to this municipal district and outline upfront what would be required from a developer in order to allow it to be provided to the council for the benefit of young people of this municipal district.

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

A report was received from Economic Community and Cultural Development Park informing the members that a report would be prepared to ascertain if there were suitable sites to locate a BMX track using the land and asset register. The requirements from a developer were a BMX track design prepared by an experienced qualified track designer experienced in the technical requirements for BMX tracks. Car parking would also have to be a consideration and perimeter fencing as part of the design. Professional indemnity insurance would be required as part of the design. Planning permission would be required for the track and any material being imported to construct the track would have to meet waste licensing and disposal regulations. Public liability insurance would also be required to insure the track if it being run by a club.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that a constituent had brought it to her attention. It would bring more people to the area and asked if the council could build a club in the facility. She asked when the members would have the report.

Following discussion amongst the members, the following points were made:

- The members stated that they supported the motion and they would not give up on getting the BMX Park. It took a long time to get the skateboard park but eventually it was done.
- Why does it have to be developed on public ground as there were farmers who would give some land to build this? Other options should be explored from public bodies and private bodies.
- How many acres were required to build a BMX park?

Mr Wallace stated that he would have the report for the June meeting.

The District Manager stated that he supported the motion. He informed the members that he would check with South Dublin County Council to see how much it would cost for drainage and to design it. He stated that it would have to go through procurement for tendering and one acre of land was all that they would need for it.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

KN27/0519

Athgarvan public realm plan

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Lynch.
Can the council confirm when the Athgarvan public realm plan is going out for public display and resident input?

A report was received from Economic Community & Cultural Development informing the members that expressions of interest submissions were currently under consideration for the provision of Healthchecks in several locations across the County, including Athgarvan. Once the consultant had been appointed, it was envisaged that Healthchecks would commence and run concurrently.

Councillor Lynch stated that he was disappointed with the report and hoped that Athgarvan would be kept on the agenda.

The District Manager stated that he had met and consulted with the residents in Athgarvan on site and had informed them that the council had advertised for a consultant and once the consultant has been appointed the council would commence the plan.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.