

**Minutes of Naas Municipal District Meeting held at 3.30 pm on  
Tuesday, 09 February 2021  
on Microsoft Teams**

**Members Present:** Councillor F Brett (Mayor), A Breen, B Clear, C Kelly, C Kenny, S Moore and E Sammon.

**Officials Present:** Mr E Ryan (Municipal District Manager), Mr L McNeela (Municipal District Engineer), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Ms P Pender (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms V Cooke (Administrative Officer), Mr J Malone (A/Senior Executive Engineer), Mr P Makhuza (Executive Engineer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator) and Ms K O'Malley (Meetings Secretary) and others.

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**NS01/0221**

**Vote of Sympathy**

The Mayor offered condolences on behalf of himself and the members to David Reel on the passing of his father Mr James (Jim) Reel and to Councillor Vera Louise Behan on the passing of her father Mr Micheál Patrick Behan and requested a moments silence.

**NS02/0221**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 19 January 2021 together with the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor Kelly that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 19 January 2021, of the Naas Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

**NS03/0221**

**Matters Arising**

**St Corban's Primary School, Corban's Lane NS06/1119**

Councillor Moore confirmed he had spoken to the Municipal District Manager in relation to this matter but that he would email the Municipal District Manager on a further issue.

**Naas Town Hall NS35/0121**

Councillor Moore stated that access was required to the upper deck of the Town Hall so the clock could be changed and clarified that the accident which occurred when a person fell was on the lower level when the person was attempting to access the attic.

**NS04/0221**

**Municipal District Road Works**

The Municipal District Engineer updated the members on the municipal district road works, making the following points:

- Some footpath works from 2020 were still on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- A programme was currently being prepared for roads, drainage, footpath and low cost safety improvement works for 2021 and a tender would then be issued.
- A tender had issued for Footpath and Civil Works Scheme 1 – 2021.
- A tender had issued for the Kill pedestrian crossing and it was hoped that a contractor would be appointed in the next couple of weeks.
- Emergency Works were carried out on the Kill to Killeel Road at Oldmilltown to repair collapsed culvert and reinstate the road.
- Repair works to ramps on the Monread Avenue, Naas were complete.
- Local Property Tax (LPT)/Paid Parking Funded Works 2021 were still to be agreed.

**NS05/0221**

**LPT Schedule of Works 2021**

The members agreed and approved the Naas Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2021 including the agreed list of roads projects (see Appendix 1 attached). The Municipal District Manager highlighted that the members agreed to increase the amount allocated towards glyphosphate reduction to €12,500.

Councillor Moore suggested that the €10,000 set aside for Community based project as identified by each member be increased to €20,000. The Mayor pointed out that there was a reserve fund of €70,000 and this would be discussed at a later date.

Councillor Kelly asked if the Taking in Charge of Housing Estates and the Music Generation project put forward by Lucina Russell was included as part of the reserve, the Mayor confirmed that they were.

Councillor Kelly also asked if the amount of €3,000 for Sallins Christmas lights could be increased to €5,000 as it was not enough, the Mayor stated that this could be looked at as the cost depended on whether a Contractor or someone local would be fitting the lights.

The amount of money to be spent on road projects was agreed, details of the roads projects to be carried out will be agreed at the March meeting.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by all the members that the Naas Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2021 as per Appendix 1 be approved.

**NS06/0221**

**Taking in Charge of Legacy Estates**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Brett.  
Can the council update members on the costs involved in taking in charge legacy estates in the Naas Municipal District from the Celtic Tiger era?

A report was received from the Building and Development Control Section informing the members that this would involve in depth work on each legacy estate.

Unfortunately, the Development Control Section does not have the resources to carry out such a large body of work. In addition to the ongoing monitoring of active building sites, the technical staff in the Development Control Section are working in each municipal district area to progress several estates to taking in charge standards before bringing the estates to the relevant municipal district meetings for the municipal district members' approval. The work required to enumerate potential costs include: surveying to ascertain ground defects; preparing As Constructed Drawings (ACDs); using CCTV surveys to determine underground problems in the sewerage networks; assessing the structural stability of boundary walls; surveying the Public Lighting systems to identify deficiencies; determine deficiencies in the wastewater pumping systems; just to mention the main body of the works. These works would require investigative reports to be carried out by specialised bodies. Additionally, before the works could be costed, the council would need to agree with Irish Water in writing both the specific Site Resolution Plan for the estate and an equitable funding approach to carry out any remediation works.

However, the Development Control Section has a proposed priority list for Taking in Charge subject to the members approval and/or approval with amendments. Once approved, the Development Control Engineer for the Naas Municipal District will agree strategies with Water Services of Kildare County Council and Irish Water to progress the taking in charge of these estates. The proposed 2021 Taking in Charge (TIC) priority list is attached. The list contains four categories of estates.

### **Category 1**

These are housing estates where the majority of residents have requested the council to take the estate in charge under Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and where enforcement action or calling in the bond is not possible or has been unsuccessful. For these estates, both the planning permissions and the bonds have expired. Also, the developers are no longer trading for these estates. Most of the estates included in this Category 1 have significant difficulties with both water services and council related infrastructure namely roads,

footpaths, public lighting and open spaces. The council and Irish Water are going to agree Site Resolution Plans containing basic interventions required to bring the infrastructure to Minimum Service Levels (MSL). After the taking in charge process has been completed the council and Irish Water can carry out further remediation works if they so wish to remove deficiencies not materially affecting service levels or to improve service levels for the benefit of their customers. The remediation costs in relation to water services will be addressed by Irish Water and remediation costs for roads, footpaths, public lighting and public open spaces will be addressed by the council. To kick start this process, Development Control is now making their application for funding of €55,000.00 from the Naas Municipal District members to progress these Category 1 estates. The Development Control Engineer's plan is to concentrate on the less complex estates and bring them to a TIC standard and then deal with the more complex ones. Bringing the more complex estates to a TIC standard will be subject to Site Resolutions Plans agreed with Irish Water and this will hopefully be achieved within a 2 year period. The figure quoted is an estimated cost for civil works for infrastructure that relates only to the council. Most of these works when completed will improve the safety for the public in these estates which is a key objective for the council for their housing developments.

### **Category 2**

These are housing estates where the developers are still trading. The request to taking the estate in charge has been received from the developer. The council is facilitating the Taking in Charge in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The council is preparing the snag lists and the developers, at their own expense, complete the outstanding work to the council's satisfaction.

### **Category 3**

These are housing estates where it may be possible to have the estates completed at the expense of the developer through enforcement action or calling in the development bond from the developers and/or the receivers or their banks. These estates will remain on this proposed priority list for remedial works by the council in the event that enforcement action or calling in the bonds fail.

### Category 4

These are housing estates that have been advertised but issues did arise during the taking in charge process thereby slowing down and/or halting the process altogether. The council are doing their best to try to get the developers to engage to resolve the outstanding issues.

If the councillors could advise of specific estates within this Naas Municipal District which are of interest if not already included in the proposed 2021 TIC Priority List, Development Control will endeavour to enumerate the potential cost of works to bring them to a taking in charge standard.

The report was noted.

### **NS07/0221**

#### **Accessibility in Kildare**

Mr Hurley informed the members of his background and the role of the Access Officer and updated them on the legislative requirements surrounding accessibility which included the Disability Act 2005 and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He also highlighted the National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2021 as a key framework for policy and action to address the needs of people with disabilities. He outlined the need to ensure that all public bodies buildings and services were accessible to people with disabilities which included their websites. He outlined the objectives of the County Kildare Access Strategy and the campaigns being run as part of it and also his objectives for 2021 which included but were not limited to:

- Monthly meetings of the 5 Local Access Groups
- Disability Awareness training for all staff
- Incorporating Changing Places where possible

Mr Hurley informed the members of the awards won at the All-Ireland Community and Council Awards 2020 which included Best Disability Access and Inclusion Initiative, Winner of the overall award – Grand Prix Award and Working to make County Kildare inclusive and accessible to all.

Councillor Moore highlighted that the issue of deafness should be included in the strategic plan in Kildare County Council, confirming that when attending meetings in other rooms in the building apart from the Council Chamber, he had difficulty hearing. Mr Hurley informed him that the council had a hearing loop system which was available for use in Áras Chill Dara.

The report was noted.

**NS08/0221**

**Zebra Crossing on the Monread Road**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly. That the council install a zebra crossing at the “Tesco” Roundabout on the Monread Road.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Kenny.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District Office had consulted with the Traffic Management Section and consider that the provision of a zebra crossing at this location was not appropriate as it would not comply with recommended standards for Zebra Crossings including pedestrian/driver inter-visibility, pedestrian crossing distance over multiple lane approaches, vehicle stopping distances etc. The false sense of security that Zebra crossings provide pedestrian may also lead to safety issues in a location such as this. Along with the existing uncontrolled crossing points at each arm of the roundabout, there are two signal-controlled crossing points in close proximity which give pedestrians alternative crossing locations. The first is on Monread Road between the “Tesco” Roundabout and the Sallins Road Roundabout and the second is on the access road heading for the Tesco carpark, it is considered that these along with the uncontrolled crossing points are adequate and appropriate at this location.

The members made the following points:

- There was nowhere to cross safely coming up to Tesco from the direction of the Perpetual Motion ball.
- The two pedestrian crossings in the area were too far away.
- The wait time at the crossing from Aldi to Tesco was very long.

The Municipal District Engineer stated that the pedestrian crossing between Aldi and Tesco may not be in Kildare County Council's control and noted the points made by the members regarding the pedestrian crossings. He stated that he would bring the members comments in relation to the lack of pedestrian crossings from the direction of the Perpetual Motion ball towards Tesco back to the Traffic Management Section and revert to the members with an update.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Kenny that the report be noted and the Municipal District Engineer to bring the members comments in relation to the lack of pedestrian crossings from the direction of the Perpetual Motion ball towards Tesco back to the Traffic Management Section and revert to the members with an update.

### **NS09/0221**

#### **Special Contributions Received for Road and Cycle Infrastructure**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Clear. That the council provide a report to the members in relation to special contributions received for road and cycle infrastructure in this municipal district from developers.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Kelly.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Special Contributions were applied in line with Section 48(2)(c) of the Planning & Development Act 2002, as amended. A condition imposing a special contribution was attached to the final grant of permission. A special contribution was applied by An Bord Pleanála to PI Ref 12/500054 – PL.73.241836 in the sum of €263,000 'in respect of carrying out of pedestrian and



cycleway improvement works on the Craddockstown Road between the proposed school and Ballycane Crossroads'. These works would tie in with the proposed upgrade works for the Craddockstown Junction.

Councillor Clear stated that he spoke to the developer working on the Sallins Road and who informed him that he had to make an extra contribution for cycling and other services.

Ms Pender stated that special contributions were an exception and not applied to every development, confirming that if the Roads Department identified a shortfall they were then applied.

The Municipal District Manager stated that occasionally Section 49 special contributions were applied if they would benefit the area.

Councillor Clear highlighted that there had been three significant developments on the Sallins Road, but still no provision of cycle paths.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Kelly that the report be noted.

#### **NS10/0221**

#### **Road Surface on the Newbridge Road**

The committee agreed to consider items number 8 and 12 of the agenda together.

#### **Item number 8 – Motion Councillor Clear**

That the council examine the Newbridge Road at Jigginstown Cross where recent excavations by Irish Water were carried out, as the surface has not been repaired correctly.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Kelly.

**Item number 12 – Question Councillor Kelly**

Can the council confirm if it has requested Irish Water to come back and reinstate the Newbridge Road from the Junction/Traffic Lights at Chadwicks to the Caragh Road/Jigginstown Junction/Traffic Lights?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the works at this location had been carried out by Irish Water as part of the Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme Contract 2B. Following the works, the road was temporarily reinstated to allow for any settlement before the permanent reinstatement could begin. This was in line with Irish Water guidance and best practice for schemes of this nature. The permanent reinstatement programme for the Contract 2B had yet to begin and a more definitive timeline should be available in the coming weeks. Kildare County Council was liaising closely with Irish Water and its contractor to ensure that the temporary reinstatement was continually monitored, and that remedial works were carried out when required. The Resident Engineer Team had noted the ravelling etc. on the Newbridge Road and had asked the contractor to have this addressed.

The members queried if the re-instatement meant a complete resurfacing of the whole section or just the patch that had been dug up as this would not be acceptable.

The Municipal District Engineer stated that the works completed by Irish Water had to be left for six months until permanent reinstatement could begin and confirmed that the six months was almost up and the Roads Department would be having discussions with Irish Water to ensure the proper resurfacing of the affected area.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Kelly that the report be noted.

**NS11/0221**

**Speed Ramps at Loughlin's Lane, Kill**

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

That the council install speed ramps at Loughlin's Lane, Kill.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Kelly.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District Office would assess this location in terms of the provision of traffic calming measures and would discuss this matter further with Councillor Brett.

Councillor Brett accepted the report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Kelly that the report be noted.

### **NS12/0221**

#### **Road Safety at Naas Community College and Craddockstown Nursing Home**

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

That with the development of the Naas Community College School, Craddockstown Nursing Home and more recently the Eustace Demesne estate on the Craddockstown Road, that in the interests of road safety the council install double yellow lines in the area adjacent to the nursing home and school.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breen, seconded by Councillor Kelly.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District Office would assess this location for the provision of double yellow lines and discuss the extents with Councillor Breen. If the members were agreeable, a Section 38 process would commence.

The following points were made by the members:

- This former country road was very busy now with Stoneleigh and Eustace Demesne Housing Estates, Craddockstown Nursing Home and Naas Community College.

- People were driving in the middle of the road and there was a need for yellow lines from the traffic lights up past Eustace Demense.
- Funding was available and the provision of a footpath should also be considered.

The Municipal District Engineer stated that he would meet Councillor Breen in relation to the double yellow lines.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breen, seconded by Councillor Kelly that the report be noted and the Municipal District Engineer to meet Councillor Breen in relation to the double yellow lines.

### **NS13/0221**

#### **Undergrounding of Overhead Cables in Ballymore Eustace**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Sammon. That the council explore if there are any Government funding streams for which the undergrounding of overhead cables on Chapel Street in Ballymore Eustace would qualify.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Moore.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council were not aware of any specific funding streams available for the undergrounding of overhead cables. However, it may be possible to carry out these works through normal funding channels such as LPT. The Naas Municipal District Office are happy to provide estimated costings for proposed works on Chapel Street.

The members made the following points:

- Concerns at how often LPT was used as a solution to everything, other sources of funding should be examined.
- The ESB was the biggest barrier to undergrounding cables due to the amount they charge.

- When the Local Area Plan (LAP) and County Development Plan (CDP) were being prepared, there may be an opportunity to ensure that anyone digging a trench in future, must install ducting suitable for undergrounding of Cables.

The Municipal District Manager stated that he would raise the issue with the Public Realm Team to determine what other towns were doing in relation to the undergrounding of wires.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Moore that the report be noted and the Municipal District Manager to raise the issue with the Public Realm Team to see what other towns were doing in relation to the undergrounding of cables.

### **NS14/0221**

#### **Works on the Sallins Bypass**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kelly. Can the council provide a detailed update on the ongoing works on the Sallins Bypass and Junction 9a?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that substantial completion on the M7/N7 Naas Newbridge Upgrade scheme mainline was achieved in November 2020. The contractor with responsibility for carrying out the works had advised that the Osberstown Interchange and R407 Sallins By-Pass were due for completion in Quarter 1 2021. There were delays at the beginning of the construction stage and this, along with other challenging circumstances, including the necessary shutdowns due to Covid 19, had impacted on the finish date. Kildare County Council, Department of Transport and Transport infrastructure Ireland (TII) had been successful in having this project identified as an 'essential works' thereby allowing construction continue during the current Level 5 restriction.

The report was noted.

**NS15/0221**

**Removal of Pedestrian Crossing on the Newbridge Road**

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

Can the council confirm why the pedestrian crossing was removed on the Newbridge Road at the Newbridge Road roundabout and what are the plans to improve pedestrian safety here?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that pedestrian crossing markings were removed at the Newbridge Road Lidl roundabout as these crossings were uncontrolled. Zebra crossings (black and white) markings can only be used for controlled crossings where belisha flashing beacons were in place in accordance with guidelines including the Traffic Signs Manual, Traffic Management Guidelines. Kildare County Council currently had no plans to install controlled crossings at this roundabout. The report was noted.

**NS16/0221**

**Specification for Provision and Design of Speed Ramps**

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

Can the council confirm if a specification exists for the provision and design of speed ramps in the Naas Municipal District?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the specification for the provision and design of speed ramps was set out within Kildare County Council's Traffic Calming Policy, Road Traffic (Bollard and Ramps) regulations (S.I. No. 32 of 1988), Traffic Management Guidelines (2003) and the NRA Design Manual for Roads & Bridges (NRA DMRB). The report was noted.

**NS17/0221**

**Plans to Alleviate Flooding in Esmondale Estate**

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

Can the council confirm plans to alleviate flooding at the road junctions within Esmondale estate?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Naas Municipal District Office was agreeable to meeting/discussing this issue with a view to identifying and addressing the flooding locations.

The report was noted.

**NS18/0221**

**Active Travel Facilities on the Kilcullen Road**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Kenny. Can the council confirm if the width of active travel facilities on the Kilcullen Road, which councillors were asked to approve via the Part 8 process and which were subsequently constructed, are narrower than the Part 8 Specification?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council Roads Planning Section was satisfied that road improvement works including the vulnerable road user (pedestrians and cyclists) facilities carried out on the Kilcullen Road were in compliance with the relevant standards and DMURS while taking account the space available within the road corridor.

The report was noted.

**NS19/0221**

**Revised Standing Orders**

The Mayor informed the members that this item was adjourned to the March meeting.

**NS20/0221**

**Invitation to the Owners of Naas Shopping Centre**

The member considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly.

That this council invite the new owners of the Naas Shopping Centre (details provided) to give an update/presentation to the committee as soon as the situation allows.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Sammon.

A report was received from the Municipal District Manager informing the members that the owner and/or his agent/s for the Naas Shopping Centre had agreed to give an update/presentation to the elected members. The District Manager would liaise with the members to establish a suitable date and time.

The members made the following points:

- It was great to see progress being made that would benefit Naas and all the surrounding villages.
- Provisions for walkers and cyclists were needed.
- Concerns were raised in relation to the plans for Hedermans Bridge and the cost involved.

The Municipal District Manager confirmed that he was aware of the issues and advised the members that it was very much on the council's radar and would be followed through on.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Sammon that the report be noted.

### **NS21/0221**

#### **Affordable Housing Schemes**

The member considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Moore  
That the council confirm that they have already engaged with the Department of Housing to take up the Minister's offer of three new Affordable Housing Schemes to allow a) Purchase b) Shared Equity or c) Cost Rental for houses in any one of our sites at Caragh Road/Rathasker Road or Osberstown and confirm when will any Affordable Housing Scheme start in Naas.



The motion was proposed by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Sammon.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, published the Affordable Housing Bill 2020 on 20 January 2021. The Bill sets out technical amendments to Part 5 of the Housing [Miscellaneous Provision] Act 2009 which, if passed by the Oireachtas, would provide for the introduction of three new schemes for delivery of social housing as follows:

- Local authorities to deliver affordable home for purchase on their lands.
- An affordable purchase shared equity scheme which will allow a household to purchase a home in the private market with the State providing equity support.
- The introduction of Cost Rental tenure.

Prior to the publication of the Bill, the council had been engaging with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with regard to a proposal to deliver some affordable housing units, in tandem with delivery of social housing, on our site at Caragh Road, Naas. The principle of the council's proposal for the development of 73 units had been agreed with the Department and work was progressing to prepare an application for Stage 1 approval in Quarter 1 2021.

Councillor Moore stated that affordable housing was needed in Naas as young people were being driven out of Naas due to the price of houses and asked the Municipal District Manager to liaise with whoever would be building in Devoy Park to require that they include an element of affordable housing there.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Sammon that the report be noted and the Municipal District Manager to liaise with whoever would be building in Devoy Park to include an element of affordable housing there.

**NS22/0221**

**Two-Roomed Arch and Clock Tower Building at Áras Chill Dara**

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

Can the council identify if the two-roomed arch and clock tower building at Áras Chill Dara could be redesigned and made available for use as an archive for military and locally available artefacts?

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that currently our main objective with regard to the arch and clock tower building was to maintain it as is, to protect the structure itself and to carry out essential maintenance works where necessary. There was currently no budget available for a refurbishment of the building which would require extensive work and considerable funding in order to make it available for use for any purpose. If funding becomes available in the future we would hope to carry out work to bring the building into use. The purpose or use to which the building would be put would need to be decided at that time.

The report was noted.

**NS23/0221**

**North Moat, Naas**

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

That the council confirm if the North Moat is in the ownership of Kildare County Council and what plans are in place to preserve the North Moat.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breen, seconded by Councillor Moore.

A report was received from the Municipal District Manager informing the members that the National Monuments Service had recorded the Moat and as it pre-dates 1750 it was automatically afforded protection. According to Bradley et al. (1986 vol. 4, 354-5), there was no historical record of the construction of the motte, which stands on the highest point of a gravel ridge to the West of North Main Street, possibly on the site of a pre-Norman fort - the 'Dún' of Naas, first referred to in 705 AD. It was presumably erected by Maurice Fitzgerald, to whom Naas was granted

by Strongbow. This large, conical, flat-topped mound was sharply scarped at the Northeast, East and South. A modern house and garden were built on the summit and steps lead East down the side of the mound. The Moat was registered in the ownership of the council but the house was not in council ownership. There were no plans to interfere with, disturb and/or develop the moat and it would be afforded protection in line with our statutory requirements.

The members made the following points:

- The house would be suitable as a Heritage Centre and if it were ever to come up for sale the council should consider buying it and turning it into a Heritage Centre.
- Access to the house was by way of a path which was quite steep and would possibly require lifts to reach the house.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breen, seconded by Councillor Moore that the report be noted.

#### **NS24/0221**

#### **Boating Slipway on the Corbally Canal**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Moore. Can the District Manager enquire with Waterways Ireland when they will install the long-awaited boating jetty on the Corbally Canal, adjoining Naas Sports Centre?

A report was received from the Municipal District Manager informing the members that the District Manager had contacted Waterways Ireland and was awaiting a response and would update the Councillor on receipt of the relevant details.

Councillor Moore confirmed that his question should have read slipway and not a jetty.

The report was noted.

**NS25/0221**

**Bin Collections and Street Cleaning**

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillors Clear, Kelly and Kenny.

That considering the ongoing issues in regard to bin collections, street cleaning, etc in the Naas Municipal District especially over the recent Christmas period, we would ask that Naas Councillors be permitted to contribute to the review which is currently underway.

The motion was proposed by Councillors Clear, Kelly and Kenny, seconded by Councillor Moore.

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that this matter had been considered by the Environment SPC wherein an objective had been included in the Draft Litter Management Plan to carry out a review of current arrangements with a view, where feasible, to secure greatly equity among municipal districts in terms of service delivery. However, it was accepted by the SPC members that the issues were not so straightforward and that there were matters of logistics, custom and practice, societal culture and, in particular, issues of cost which need to be taken into account. Indeed, the latter were particularly notable given the scale of current costs [2.17m] and the ongoing requests to extend the service further. The adoption of the Draft Litter Management Plan will be on the agenda of the February monthly meeting of full council wherein the issue can be discussed further.

The members made the following points:

- They should be involved in and given an opportunity to input into the review.
- The cleaning of litter should be council led with the help of volunteers and not volunteer led.
- There was a reluctance to ask for additional bins in places even though they were required as the ones currently in place do not suffice.
- The bins used by Dublin City Council that also split into compostable section should be examined for use in the municipal district.

Mr Kavanagh stated that Naas was unique in that bin collections and street cleaning was split between the Environment and Municipal District roads staff and confirmed that the Environment Department's Director of Services, and the Roads Departments A/Director of Services were in discussions in relation to this matter. He stated that the big belly bins could be an option. He also acknowledged the work that the Tidy Towns group undertake and confirmed that he would speak to the Environment Department's Director of Services following the meeting.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillors Clear, Kelly and Kenny, seconded by Councillor Moore that the report be noted and Mr Kavanagh to speak to the Environment Department's Director of Services following the meeting.

### **NS26/0221**

#### **Dog Fouling**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Sammon. That the council outline the facilities it provides in the Naas Municipal District to support the responsible management of dog waste, to include the practical and financial supports the council currently offers to assist communities in keeping streets free of dog waste and the number of on-the-spot fines issued for dog fouling in Naas in 2019 and 2020.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Kelly.

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that it was generally challenging to identify and link evidence of dog fouling to the dog owner. Our Community Wardens rely on persons reporting dog fouling acts to sign a witness statement for the matter to proceed and there was often a reluctance to proceed at this stage. Notwithstanding this, the council carries out numerous 'educational and awareness campaigns' relating to dog fouling, appealing to dog owners to be 'socially responsible'. Quite simply, dog owners should clean up after their dog in public places. Through our campaigns, we have also highlighted to dog owners that any bin will do for their pet's mess. Any public bin can take the waste. There is no excuse to leave their mess behind. Kildare County Council provides

relevant signs for community groups to place in areas where this problem occurs. We also apply stencils with the appropriate message on paths along popular dog walking routes. The council also utilise the Anti-Litter Anti-Graffiti grant provided by the Department to fund initiatives such as an anti-dog fouling audio device that is installed on a temporary basis at suitable locations. This was carried out at one site in each municipal district last year and, if the grant proceeds this year, the council would like to repeat this project. The council will be undertaking an awareness campaign as soon as possible involving offering dogwalkers dog waste bag holders in cooperation with the Community Wardens.

The members raised the following points:

- It appeared that the issue was like dumping in that it was difficult to issue on the spot fines
- Witnesses were reluctant to sign witness statements which were required if offenders were to be prosecuted.
- It was good to see the use of awareness campaigns.
- Did the Litter Management Bye-Laws requires a person to carry a dog litter bag.

The members acknowledged the work of the Community Warden in tackling the problem.

Mr Kavanagh clarified that it was an offence under the Litter Act therefore bye-laws were not necessarily required. He informed the members that the Community Warden for the Naas area was willing to work with them and confirmed that if there was evidence of dog fouling that was not cleaned up, a warning letter could be issued to the culprit and a discussion could take place, a fine did not have to issue unless the warning was ignored.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor Kelly that the report be noted.

**NS27/0221**

**Digital Town for Ireland 2021**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kenny. That in light of the recent rapid acceleration of the digital transformation and 2021 being the year when the council supported MERITS Digital Innovation Hub opens its door to tech start-up's, the council submits a bid for Naas to become the Digital Town of Ireland for 2021.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kenny, seconded by Councillor Kelly.

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Officer informing the members that the Irish Domain Registry Company (".IE") contributes to the development of digital capability through its **.IE Digital Town programme**. The programme promotes awareness, knowledge, use and understanding of the internet in Ireland by its citizens, businesses and communities. It also highlights the benefits and possibilities of the internet and celebrates the digital achievements of a local town. In 2019, the chosen Digital Town was Sligo and in 2018 it was Gorey, Co Wexford, where .IE worked with town leaders to organise a series of digital events. Given the limitations imposed by Covid-19, the programme was paused in 2020. As of December 2020, they were planning a revamped programme for 2021 with an anticipated launch in Quarter 1 2021.

The Economic Development team, working through CKCN CLG, had already identified this as a potentially beneficial aspect of the PR campaign to launch MERITS. The .IE company has already been contacted to seek an update on its plans for the 2021 programme and its reply stated that they continue to work hard on the .IE Digital Town and will be publicly announcing a new format in late February. Once the details emerge, then they will certainly be examined by the team and a submission prepared if it is deemed appropriate once the specifics are known.

Separately, LEADER this week issued a request for tenders from suitable parties to design and implement a SMART Villages programme for the county. That programme has similar aspirations to the Digital Town Programme: The LEADER

programme will “help rural communities engage in a process of digital transformation, whatever their starting point, and become digital innovators.” We envisage that the LEO and MERITS team will engage with the appointed consultant to be as supportive as possible in the pursuit of the shared objective of driving a broad Digital transformation for the county.

Councillor Kenny stated that he was happy to see that the Local Enterprise Office were already looking into this and in relation to the LEADER SMART Villages programme he also stated that it did not just pertain to the town itself but the surrounding villages could also benefit from it.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Kenny, seconded by Councillor Kelly that the report be noted.

### **NS28/0221**

#### **Municipal Wifi**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Kenny. That the council examine the possibility of commencing a pilot scheme in Naas Municipal District to provide municipal WiFi and hubs in public spaces which can also connect with public service installations like CCTV, air quality monitors and traffic management systems.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kenny, seconded by Councillor Sammon.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council had been successful in securing four ‘vouchers’ awarded through the WiFi4EU programme providing Wi-Fi service in town centres, where no other free wi-fi exists. Kildare County Council aims to advance free and open access to Wi-Fi for citizens in public spaces including square, libraries, public realm spaces, community and council facilities. The objective being to further improve connectivity in our communities. Local authorities owned premises and public spaces are currently being examined across Kildare in towns of sizeable footfall. Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) are public locations



which have been selected to deliver high speed connectivity to local communities, while the rollout of the National Broadband Plan continues. There are four BCP points in Kildare;

- Bigstone Community Hall, Castledermot (live)
- Lullymore Heritage Centre (not yet live)
- Crookstown Further Education and Training Centre (live)
- Back Gate Lodge, Kilkea Castle – (live)

The members made the following points:

- It was good that the council had already been looking into this, particularly at present with the closure of hotels and restaurants.
- The council should look into wifi in areas such as Poplar Square, the Canal and Harbour.
- The Town Hall had wifi until recently and it was good that it would be reconnected again.

Ms Pender confirmed that the council's public buildings and public realm spaces were being examined in the first instance and then the towns/villages in the municipal district would be examined based on population size, stating that the Library in Naas when it moves to the town hall would be an ideal location for the wifi for main street as would Poplar Square.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Kenny, seconded by Councillor Sammon that the report be noted.

### **NS29/0221**

#### **Naas Famine Graveyard**

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

That the members and executive accept that because of the overload of new projects on our Parks Department, they will be unable to commit to the creation of a memorial garden in Naas Famine Graveyard, that the project can be undertaken and managed by a community group.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Breen.

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the capacity of the Parks Section to develop projects across the county was restricted to our current resource capacity. Each year a works programme was presented to each municipal district and delivered on the basis of what members agree as a committee should be prioritised. In the 2020 works programme presented to members the development of Sallins Amenity Land and Monread Park were two big projects identified to be progressed. These will continue into 2021. The Famine Memorial Garden was not part of last years works programme and it will not be possible to accommodate it this year. Similarly, we do not have the capacity to facilitate a community group to undertake the project.

The members made the following points:

- There were a lot of professional people in the community with landscaping backgrounds who could assist in the creation of a memorial garden in Naas Famine Graveyard.
- The members had allocated LPT funding to the project but it had not been used
- The project should be progressed if the funds were available.
- The creation of a memorial garden for the deceased would be a county wide project and a commemorative site.

Mr Wallace stated that the Parks Department were trying to manage big projects across the county and confirmed that the in the 2020 works programme presented to members, the development of Sallins Amenity Land and Monread Park were two big projects identified to be progressed. He informed the members that support would still be required from the Parks Department even if the project was undertaken and managed by a community group.

The Municipal District Manager stated a feasibility study was discussed last year while considering the LPT and informed the members that if a community group came up with a plan that maybe it could be analysed and tailored by the council to

progress the project. He confirmed that he would discuss the matter with Mr Wallace and revert to Councillor Moore.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Breen that the report be noted and the Municipal District Manager to discuss the matter with Mr Wallace and revert to Councillor Moore.

**NS30/0221**

**Dog Park in the Naas Municipal District**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Clear.  
Can the council confirm if the Parks Department is looking for an area for a dog park in the municipal district?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the only area in Kildare County Councils ownership that may facilitate a dog park was Monread Park. The inclusion of one in the park would be considered as part of the preparation of upgrade plans for the park.

The report was noted.

**NS31/0221**

**Playground in Ballymore Eustace**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillors Breen.  
Can the council update the members on the status of the proposed children's playground in Ballymore Eustace?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that there was no site suitable for a playground in Ballymore Eustace at present and until one can be identified and acquired proposals for a playground cannot be progressed.

The report was noted.

**NS32/0221**

**Retention and Preservation of the Hidden Window in Naas Town Hall**

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

Can the council confirm if it is planned to retain and preserve the "Hidden Window" in Naas Town Hall as a consequence of the upcoming renovations?

A report was received from the Library Services informing the members that a key strength of the Town Hall capital project lies in the integration of the history and built heritage to transform a historic community space into a modern Library and Cultural Centre. During the refurbishment of the Town Hall by Naas Town Council in 2006 and the installation of a lift to the upper floor and a new set of stairs, the "Hidden Window" was walled up in an effort to conserve it. The contractors for the new Library and Cultural Centre had just begun work on site before the latest COVID-19 Lockdown and had only begun preliminary opening up works on the window. They confirmed that the window was still in place, but we have yet to discern if the window is damaged and if it will require significant conservation work. As recommended in the Part 8 Planning approval, the lead design Architect for this project Michael Lysaght from Deaton Lysaght Architects is a registered conservation architect. He will guide the opening up works, demolitions, protection, design of all interventions and conservation specifications for the site in accordance with the architectural and heritage guidelines to ensure the long-term survival of the historic fabric and the site significance. In addition to the project architect, the conservation element of the construction project will be overseen by Micheal O'Boyle, Conservation Architect, Planning Department, Kildare County Council. The lead design Architect with the approval of the Kildare County Council Conservation Architect will advise on the next steps to be taken regarding the window once the site can re-open. It is our hope and expectation that all of the historic and architecturally important items identified by the Conservation Architects working on the project will be saved and conserved for future generations in Naas Town Hall.

The report was noted.

**NS33/0221**

**Wildlife Crossing signs**

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

Can the council confirm if it has plans to provide 'Wildlife Crossing' signs at the Lakes in Naas?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that there were no plans in place to provide Wildlife Crossing signs at the Lakes but we would examine the proposal in conjunction with the Heritage Officer and the Roads Engineer to see whether the erection of signs was feasible.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.

**Appendix 1**

Schedule of Municipal District Works 2021 Naas Municipal District Adopted 08/02/21						
		KCC Central Funded	Retained LPT Funding	Pay Parking Funding	Total MD Funding	LPT Expenditure to Date
<b>Footpath Projects</b>						
All Projects	-		300,000			
<b>(a) Roads, Transportation sub-total</b>						
			<b>300,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Croatia Fund			2,000		2,000	
Christmas Lights - Naas			40,000		40,000	
Christmas Lights - Sallins			3,000		3,000	
Christmas Lights - Kill			2,000		2,000	
Christmas Lights - Johnstown			1,500		1,500	
Christmas Lights - Ballymore Eustace			2,000		2,000	
Municipal District Reserve Fund			70,000		70,000	
Town Twinning			8,000		8,000	
Glyphosphate			12,500		12,500	
Eadestown			100,000		100,000	
Residents Associations			75,000		75,000	
4G Pitch CBS Naas			100,000		100,000	
Decade of Commemorations			12,000		12,000	
Racecourse Sports Amenity Feasibility Study			3,000		3,000	
Capital Fund Urban Regeneration						
			<b>430,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>