

Kildare Nationalist

Kildare town is to get a health check

By Lynda Doyle

KILDARE town has been successful with an application for funding from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs but first must undergo a health check.

District manager Tadhg McDonnell told councillors at the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting that there was good news for the town. He added that a health check, which looks at street scapes, occupancy, public realm and attractiveness, is a necessary requirement.

"The health check is mandatory before the department provides any funding," he said. "Basically you go out, define what is there and where we are now."

He shared the news in response to a request from Cllr Fiona McLoughlin Healy for the council to quickly utilise funding set aside for an architect to examine traffic management plans.

She pointed out that funding has been allocated from the Local Property Tax funds for the **Royal Institute of Architects** of Ireland to deliver Town Design Statements for both Kildare town and Newbridge town.

She asked that the council would quickly utilise these services to contribute to the traffic management plans currently being negotiated with the National Transport Authority for both towns.

She was told that Director of Services for Roads, Niall Morrissey, had had a successful meeting with the NTA last week. A sample tender document used by another town, in relation to similar work, is to be provided to KCC in the coming days from the NTA, said Mr McDonnell.

He noted also that the council had been successful with their application for funding to the department of arts and that he wanted to make sure they do not duplicate work regarding this and the architect.