

Kilcloon playground finally opens after a 40 year wait

by Ken Phelan

THE excitement was palpable in the small village of Kilcloon on Monday (18th March), as countless young children lined up to make use of a newly opened, long-awaited playground at Ballynare Cross.

Forty years in the pipeline, a playground for Kilcloon has finally been delivered, with works on an adjacent community centre due to begin later this year.

Funding for the €145,000 wheelchair-friendly playground came from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, and it was with a sigh of relief that the ribbon was finally cut on the gates on Monday afternoon.

Willie Rattigan is chairperson with Kilcloon Community Centre Committee, the group behind the playground and as yet to be constructed community centre.

"Today is about the opening of our new playground, it's part of a project that has been ongoing here for a number of years," said Willie.

"So you have a housing development, a playground now, and a community centre which we'll be starting to build hopefully later this year.

"This has been in the pipeline for years, it's a very long story but there's been efforts in Kilcloon to open a playground or have a community centre built here for 40 years probably.

"There've been various sites and various locations and various problems but eventually we've got a site here and we got approval from Meath County Council and planning permission."

According to Willie on Monday, everything is now in place to build the new community centre.

He explained approval for a grant has been secured and the group are hoping to get further funding for the ambitious project.

He said proceeds from the sale of adjacent sites, plus grants will help build the "€2 million-plus" community centre.

"Initially we would have thought it would be much less, but whatever it is we have to try and get sufficient funds," he said.

"The playground has been very well received already and children are anxious to get going. The community centre itself will be a very welcome development because people will have a place to meet in the parish."

Great amenity

The community centre, when complete, will have a main hall for sports, meeting rooms and a reception area, so that it will be great amenity for Kilcloon.

Ger Fahy is a member of the Kilcloon Community Centre Committee.

"It's a great asset for the whole community and for everybody in the parish," said Ger on Monday.

"It took four years to get to this stage. It's a new estate as well and everyone in this estate is from the area. The sale of the sites is going towards the building of the centre as well.

"It's designed for children from the age of toddlers up to the age of 12, it's multi-sensory, so we're trying to cater for people with special needs, there's a lot of bright colours, there's wheelchair accessible facilities in it.

"It's a space for all, access for all and hopefully it can be rolled out around the county as well."

Ger explained the flagship project won an award with the Irish Planning Institute. Also, she pointed out, the idea of local housing funding a community centre hasn't been done anywhere else before.

"We've had great co-operation from Meath County Council, the local councillors helped in advising on it, and the planners on the council helped us a lot as well," said Ger.

"It was done through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, which is great. It's a fund that's available to all communities and people don't know it's there.

"It's just a matter of applying for it, it's out there every year," added Ger.

"It's great to see the playground finally open, and the children are so excited."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL DARA
Kildare County Council

Development under Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Notice Pursuant to the Requirements of Part 8, Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of Part XI of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and in accordance with the requirements of Part 8, Article 81 and Article 83 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) that Kildare County Council proposes a residential development on a site at **Oldtown Mill Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.**

The proposed development includes:

- 60 no. residential units including 40 no. houses and 20 no. apartments comprising 20 no. one bed units; 15 no. two bed units; 21 no. three bed units; and 4 no. four bed units; with renewable energy design measures (which may be provided externally) for each housing unit;
- Rear garden sheds serving the residential units;
- Landscaping works including provision of (a) open space and kick about areas; (b) natural play features; and (c) new pedestrian and cycle connections;
- Associated site and infrastructural works including provision for (a) 2 no. ESB substations and switchrooms; (b) car and bicycle parking; (c) public lighting; (d) bin storage; (e) temporary construction signage; (f) estate signage; and (g) varied site boundary treatment comprising walls and fencing; and
- all associated site development works, including removal of existing spoil from the site in advance of construction works.

The proposal has undergone Appropriate Assessment Screening under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), and the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended), and the European Communities (Bird and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 – 2015. Kildare County Council has determined that the proposed development individually or in-combination with other plans or projects would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is not required.

The proposal has also undergone screening for Environmental Impact Assessment under the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU and the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended). Having regard to the provisions of the legislation, the nature and scale of the proposed development, the information provided in accordance with Schedule 7A of the Regulations, and having regard to the scale, nature and location of the proposed impacts, the potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures and the results of the any other relevant assessments of the effects on the environment, Kildare County Council has determined that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required.

In accordance with Section 120(3) of the Planning and Development Regulations (as amended) any person may, within 4 weeks from the date of publication of this notice, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development Ref No P82024.08 including the AA and EIA Screening Reports and a record of the main reasons and considerations supporting the determination not to require an EIA and AA will be available for inspection and/or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at **Public Display Area, Level 1, Kildare County Council, at the address below** on each day during which the said offices are open for the transaction of business (excluding Bank Holidays) for a period beginning on **Thursday, 21 March 2024** and ending on **Friday, 19 April 2024** during office hours. Plans and particulars of the proposed development including the AA and EIA Screening Reports and a record of the main reasons and considerations supporting the determination not to require an EIA and AA will also be available online at <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/Part8Schemes/housing/index.html>

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made in writing to Siobhan Barry, Administrative Officer, Housing Capital Team, Level 5, at the address below or online via <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie>. Submissions must be made no later than **4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 07 May 2024**. Submissions should be titled **"Proposed Residential Development at Oldtown Mill, Celbridge"**.

All comments, including the names of those making comments submitted to the Council in regard to the scheme as outlined above, will form part of the statutorily required report to be presented at a meeting of the elected members. Accordingly, they will also be included in the minutes of that meeting and may appear in the public domain.

Please note that the data collected from this consultation will be shared by Kildare County Council with their Consultants. Any information which you submit via Kildare County Council's website will be treated with the highest standards of security and confidentiality, strictly in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Please refer to the Privacy Statement included with the plans and particulars of the proposed development and to the Kildare County Council Consultation Portal Privacy Policy.

Annette Aspell

Signed on behalf of Kildare County Council

Date: Thursday, 21 March 2024

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