

**Minutes of Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
Held at 10.00 am on Friday 17 May 2019
In the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.**

Members Present: Councillor K Byrne (Cathaoirleach)
Councillors B Caldwell, M Coleman, I Cussen, A Larkin,
J Neville and B Young.

Present: Ms M McIvor (A/District Manager), Ms E Wright (Senior Executive Officer), Mr C Buggie (Municipal District Engineer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr B O'Gorman and Mr M McLoughlin (Administrative Officers), Ms P Penny (Assistant Staff Officer), Ms K Keane (Meetings Administrator) and Ms A M Campbell (Meetings Secretary).

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everybody to the last meeting of the current municipal district members and stated that this would be his last meeting due to his retirement.

CL01/0519

Minutes and progress report

The members considered the minutes of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on 12 April 2019, together with the progress report.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Cussen that the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on 12 April 2019 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CL02/0519

Matters Arising

Education campus to the rear of Donaghcumper Cemetery (CL24/0419)

Councillor Young noted that as three schools were now envisioned for the education campus the area zoned for the site might need expansion when reviewing the Local Area Plan.

Replacement of water main going through Castletown (CL19/0119) & Matters Arising (CL02/0319), (CL02/0419)

Councillor Young stated that he had received a response directly from Irish Water in relation to the last correspondence that was issued which needed further clarification as follows:

The specific locations or roads / houses within the Castletown Estate that would be deprived of a water supply in the event of a main supply pipe failure through Castletown Demesne or under Celbridge Main Street, information which should be available to Irish Water from the network map they should have of the supply pipes into the estate.

Can Irish Water say that if the pipe fails under Celbridge Main Street that all of Castletown Estate will still have a water supply? If not, what parts of Castletown Estate will not have a supply?

If the pipe fails under Castletown Demesne, will all of Castletown Estate still have a water supply? If not, what parts / roads / houses of Castletown Estate will not have a supply?

What parts of Castletown Estate will not have a water supply if the pipe fails at particular points under Castletown Demesne?

The Meetings Administrator requested that Councillor Young forward a copy of the response that he received from Irish Water to Corporate Services.

Vacant House Report

Councillor Caldwell stated that he had received enquires and complaints from members of the public about houses that were derelict or vacant in Leixlip and expressed his concern at the time it was taking to return these houses to a condition where they could be allocated to people on the housing list.

The Acting District Manager stated that she would relay Councillor Caldwell's concern to the District Manager.

Town Health Checks for Celbridge and Leixlip towns (CL29/0419)

Councillor Cussen requested a date for health checks for Celbridge and Leixlip.

CL03/0519

Deputation from Iarnród Éireann

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr John Reville, Passenger Services Manager, North & East and Ms Jane Cregan, Events & PR Manager from Iarnród Éireann to the meeting.

Mr Reville outlined the services provided by Iarnród Éireann informing the members that each week there were 4,915 train services run which carried 923,000 passengers travelling 348,000 kilometres servicing 144 stations countrywide. He stated that there had been a surge in demand from 34.6 million passenger journeys in 2004 to 47.9 million in 2018 and an increase in short term capacity was urgently required. Iarnród Éireann proposed to place an order for 41 vehicles for their Intercity railcar. They were in discussions with the NTA to purchase or lease a second-hand fleet for the commuter fleet to be used for shorter journeys and were targeting the conversion of their existing fleet to hybrid to reduce emissions and fuel costs by 35%.

Mr Reville outlined Iarnród Éireann's National Development Plan for 2018-2027 detailing the DART expansion, increase of fleet, funding, journey time improvements and station enhancements.

Mr Reville briefed the members on Iarnród Éireann's accessibility services including their assistance delivery which was at 99% of target, the pilot of an accessibility app, the proposed provision of Customer Service Officers on all Intercity routes, accessibility incorporated into design of all station and fleet investment under the National Development Plan and communication with groups representing major mobility and sensory impaired people and other disability groups.

Ms Wright informed the members that the Roads and Transportation Department would meet with SYSTRA, who have been appointed by Iarnród Éireann to assist in the preparation of a consolidated strategy to ensure Iarnród Éireann was well placed to meet the future demand of passengers. The issues raised by the members, across the five municipal districts, would be brought to the attention of SYSTRA at the meeting scheduled to take place at the end of May 2019.

Ms Cregan responded to the councillor queries making the following points:

The members concerns would be relayed back to the company re the lack of capacity of the car park at Hazelhatch.

The decision to tender for second-hand trains from the UK was the decision of the NTA and was subject to funding.

The extra 41 Intercity railcars required were subject to funding but it was hoped that these carriages would be in service by the end of 2021.

The locations where these extra carriages would be put in service had not yet been decided but the company would look at the areas where extra capacity was most needed.

With regard to the electrification of the network, the tender had issued for consultants for this project for the Maynooth line and it was proposed to issue a tender for the Hazelhatch line before the end of the year.

The proposals for the DART expansions would be a government decision.

The cost involved in the provision of cycle lockers should be sought from the NTA.

Fare structures were regulated by the NTA and Kilcock was now included in the short hop zone.

Iarnród Éireann was currently investigating the possibility of installing a Changing Places Facility at Heuston Station but noted that space and cost were a significant issue.

Mr Reville stated that Iarnród Éireann had discussed the shuttle bus from Hazelhatch to Celbridge and have made repeated requests to the NTA to have this bus licensed. He confirmed CCTV was operational at Louisa Bridge but there was a time limit on recordings and he stated that he would investigate the need for additional signage and the removal of shabby signage at Louisa Bridge.

CL04/0519

Schedule of Municipal District Road Works

The Municipal District Engineer briefed the members on the schedule of municipal district roads works. He advised them that the direct labour crews were currently doing footpath maintenance in both Celbridge and Leixlip and he thanked the members for the reps they had made to the office to highlight areas that needed attention. He also advised the members that the footpath renewal along the main street of Celbridge would start on Monday 20 May. This work would be carried out in phases and would take approximately 12 to 14 weeks to complete. There would be disruption while the works were ongoing and the Municipal District Engineer advised he would be liaising with business owners and premises along the main street. He also requested that the members give him discretion in relation to blocking off parking bays similar to when the resurfacing works were done last year.

The Municipal District Engineer also advised the members that the road resurfacing programme would start in the next fortnight with Station Road in Leixlip from Galvin Cross to the Main Street being resurfaced at night. The rest of the resurfacing programme would

follow on during the summer months. The Municipal District Engineer wished the members well in the up coming elections and thanked them for the assistance over the last 5 years.

The members thanked the Municipal District Engineer and his team for all their hard work in the municipal district over the last number of years.

CL05/0519

Security fence from Cope Bridge to end of Confey GAA pitches

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

That the council request Waterways Ireland to provide a security fence along the pathway from Cope Bridge to the end of Confey GAA pitches.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Larkin.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this was a matter for the GAA.

Councillor Caldwell agreed to contact officials in Confey GAA and ask them to contact the Municipal District Engineer to discuss this issue.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Larkin, that the report be noted and Councillor Caldwell contact officials from Confey GAA and ask them to contact the Municipal District Engineer to discuss this issue.

CL06/0519

Double yellow lines from entrance of St Mary's Park

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

That the council put double yellow lines in place from the entrance of St Mary's Park to house no (details provided) on the left side.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Cussen.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that if the members were in agreement, a drawing showing the

location and extent of proposed double yellow lines would be circulated to the members prior to the commencement of the statutory public consultation phase.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Cussen and agreed by all the members that a drawing showing the location and extent of proposed double yellow lines would be circulated to the members prior to the commencement of the statutory public consultation phase.

CL07/0519

Bus shelter at St Wolstan's School, Clane Road

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

That the construction of the bus shelter at St Wolstan's School, Clane Road be progressed as a matter of urgency.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer had met with the bus shelter company and was awaiting agreement for works to progress.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Cussen, the Municipal District Engineer stated that he did not have a date for the installation of the bus shelter but it was hoped that it would be installed before the new school term commenced.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell, that the report be noted.

CL08/0519

Changing Places Facility in Celbridge and Leixlip

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

That this Municipal District Committee ask Kildare County Council to ensure that they will prioritise a Changing Places Facility in Celbridge and Leixlip and the appropriate scheme be put in place to commence this.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

A report was received from the Health and Safety Officer informing the members that the installation of a Changing Places Facility was quite an onerous task. Firstly there was a requirement for an area of 12m square and then there was the cost implication. Having regard to this, Celbridge and Leixlip libraries may be the best places to locate a changing places facility as they had large footfalls. However both would need considerable works to be completed in order to accommodate and I am not sure that either would have the required space.

As mentioned above Changing Places were a very costly facility (estimated €14,000-€17,000 each) of which there are only 8 in total across the country. As the council had already committed to placing one in the new library in Naas, it would be prudent to complete this project and to see the level of uptake before investing in any further facilities.

Councillor Cussen stated that she did not accept the report and said that there was a great need for Changing Places Facilities to be provided and suggested that St. Catherine's Park might be a suitable location for one.

Ms Wright stated that this was not a Roads Department matter but said that a policy in relation to Changing Places Facilities needed to be prepared to drive a funding stream, needs assessment and identify locations and suggested that this might be considered with the County Development Plan.

Councillor Cussen stated that something needed to be done sooner and asked that this issue be prioritised and a budget identified.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all the members that the council prioritise a Changing Places Facility in Celbridge and Leixlip and the matter be referred to the appropriate Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) to further advance.

CL09/0519

Damage to lighting poles on Main Street, Celbridge

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

That following the substantial investment by Kildare County Council in the ornamental street lighting on the Main Street, Celbridge, any person/group causing damage to the lighting

poles would be held responsible for the damage and that the cost of repairs would be recouped from them by the council.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Neville.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that damage to public property is a matter for An Garda Síochána to investigate where information and evidence is available. This was not a matter for the Roads Department.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Neville, that the report be noted.

CL10/0519

Review of safety and speed at entrance to Castletown Estate, Leixlip

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

That the council review the safety and speed at the entrance to Castletown Estate, Leixlip from the Barnhall side?

The motion was proposed by Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office would carry out a speed survey to help form a decision on the issues.

Councillor Neville expressed safety concerns for children and adults in Castletown Estate with the excessive speed of vehicles entering it from the Barnhall side.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Caldwell, that the report be noted.

CL11/0519

Street lights in St Mary's Park along the Shillichan Lane section

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

Can the council provide a report on when the street lights will be installed in St Mary's Park along the Shillichan Lane section.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Public Lighting had assessed the location and was currently waiting on costing for works. It was anticipated that the works would be completed prior to Quarter 4 2019.

The report was noted.

CL12/0519

Traffic calming measures on Loughlinstown Road

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

Can the Loughlinstown Road have traffic calming measures in some format in advance of the Key Development Area 2 (KDA 2) and road objectives in the Local Area Plan (LAP).

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were currently no plans to install any traffic calming on this road. No budget had been identified in 2019.

The report was noted.

CL13/0519

Trip hazards on existing pedestrian bridge in Celbridge

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

Can the trip hazards on the existing pedestrian bridge in Celbridge be fixed as the bridge is relied on as we await the Part 8 report for the upgrades to the existing vehicular bridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this work had been completed.

The report was noted.

CL14/0519

Dropping of footpath across first entrance on left in The Grove

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

Can the footpath be dropped across the first entrance on the left in The Grove to support access for wheelchair use?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this work had been assigned to the maintenance crew and would be completed in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

CL15/0519

Cutting back of tree branches leaning on electricity wires at Dublin Road, Ballyoulster

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

Can the branches of the tree leaning on the electricity wires at the Dublin Road, Ballyoulster be cut back?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this was a matter for ESB Networks.

The report was noted.

CL16/0519

Update on works on the Greenway on the Royal Canal from Leixlip to Maynooth

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

Can the council provide an update on works on the Greenway on the Royal Canal from Leixlip to Maynooth.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this scheme was at detailed design stage. The National Transport Authority (NTA) and Waterways Ireland had requested some changes along the route and these had led to redesign and delayed the tendering of the scheme. It was hoped to tender this scheme in Quarter 3 of 2019.

The report was noted.

CL17/0519

Grass verges from Young's Cross to Hewlett Packard

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

Can the grass verges from Young's Cross to Hewlett Packard be included in the area maintenance work.

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that grass cutting within the Parks Section budget was accounting for close to 50% of the Parks Improvement budget. This was used to cover landscape and tree maintenance around the county. There was no scope to increase this any further without a knock on effect on other maintenance works that need to be fulfilled around the county, therefore this location could not be added to the maintenance budget at this time.

The report was noted.

CL18/0519

Repair of path in Leixlip where cables are protruding

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

Can the path in front of (details provided), Leixlip be repaired as cables are protruding out of it.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer would inspect this and would arrange repairs as required.

The report was noted.

CL19/0519

Meeting in advance of decision on the old ESB site

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

That a meeting of the new Municipal District councillors and officials be held in advance of any decision on the old ESB site.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Neville.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that officials met with the members with regard to the old ESB site in advance of any decision being made and an opportunity to visit a similar development in Dublin City was also arranged for members. Expressions of interest in relation to the development of the site were now being considered and any proposal for development would be subject to the submission of an application for Planning under Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as

amended). The new members would have the opportunity to make further representations at this stage and would have the opportunity to consider the proposal then.

Councillor Larkin requested that members and officials should meet with members of the public to discuss all possible options and issues in relation to this site in advance of any decision being made to develop it.

During the discussion that followed the members made the following points:

- A meeting with members, officials and members of the public was necessary before any decision to develop it was made.
- Members of the public had requested that the site be used for community facilities.
- The decision for the type of development should be made by the community that live in the area.
- The site could be used for a provision of mixed services and also to provide necessary parking facilities in the town.
- Housing units on this site would bring people into the town and would be beneficial for the survival of businesses there.

The members all agreed that a public meeting with the new municipal district councillors and council officials be held in advance of any decision on the old ESB site.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Neville and agreed by all the members that a public meeting with the new municipal district councillors and council officials be held in advance of any decision on the use of the old ESB site.

CL20/0519

Report on vacant council-owned houses in Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Young.
That the council provide a detailed report on the vacant council-owned houses in Celbridge and a timeline for allocating them, including a timeline for completion of any works.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that
Vacant council-owned houses in Celbridge:

4 (Not including new house purchases which may be vacant).

Timeline for completion of works:

2 Houses – Contractor appointed – expected completion date;

House 1-End May 2019 House 2- End June 2019

The remaining 2 houses were in the workflow process of planned maintenance and would be progressed when resources become available.

Councillor Young thanked the Housing Department for the report but stated that a more detailed report was necessary for members to enable them to answer queries from people on the housing list when they contacted them.

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that a request for a more detailed Vacant Housing Report had been brought to both full council and the Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) meetings previously where it was agreed that it was inappropriate to detail any specific properties on this report. She confirmed that the District Manager had repeatedly informed the members if they had a particular property they wished to enquire about they could bring it to his attention or a member of the Housing Department for clarification.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Caldwell, that the report be noted.

The committee agreed to consider item 20 and 21 on the agenda together.

CL21/0519

Update on land purchase and future use of land at Confey Cemetery

Item 20 - Question Councillor Caldwell

Can the council provide an update on the land purchase and future use of the land at Confey Cemetery?

Item 21 - Question Councillor Neville

Can the council provide an update on the plans for Confey Graveyard expansions and how it will help road safety?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the Environment Department is undertaking a site suitability assessment of potential lands in the

vicinity of the existing cemetery. The information would guide the council's plans to develop an extension. A Part 8 planning application would be prepared for an extension at this location. The road at the cemetery would be assessed and included in this application. The report was noted.

CL22/0519

Report to members re future SHD's in the Celbridge-Leixlip areas

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Young. With regard to future Strategic Housing Developments (SHD's) in the Celbridge-Leixlip areas: that the council provide a report to the members in the Municipal District of pre-application meetings in respect of such SHD's involving the applicant, the council and An Bord Pleanála (ABP), including relevant documentation, to enable the local councillors to contribute to SHD proposals in a more informed manner when making submissions on SHD applications to ABP.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Cussen.

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that in accordance with the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016, direct applications to An Bord Pleanála for large scale housing developments (i.e. 100+ units, 200+ student bed spaces) came into effect on 3 July 2017.

The new legislation implemented a three-stage process for these developments as follows;

(a) Consultation by the applicant with the Local Authority (maximum 4 weeks process);

(b) Pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála and the Local Authority (9 week process); and

(c) Submission of planning application to An Bord Pleanála (maximum 16 week process or 24 weeks where an oral hearing is involved).

It was a requirement under the legislation 'to notify the elected members for the relevant municipal district concerned of the making of an application for permission for a proposed SHD, its availability for public inspection and the right to make submissions and observations to the Board in relation to it. The planning authority was also required to inform elected members at the next meeting of the relevant municipal district of the details of the application and all relevant material available to the council'.

A summary of the views expressed by elected members at the meeting on the proposed development (where a meeting has taken place), would be included in the report submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

A copy of the written record of the pre-planning consultation could only be made available for public inspection once the planning application is lodged with An Bord Pleanála.

Councillor Young expressed his concern that members should be provided with a report of the pre-application meetings to enable them to contribute to SHD proposals in a more informed manner when making submissions on SHD applications to ABP.

Mr McLoughlin informed the members that access to information on the pre-application meeting was not possible in advance as there was no provision for that in the legislation, however once the application was lodged with the ABP, the information becomes a public document.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Cussen, that the report be noted.

CL23/0519

Finance Committee Report

The members considered the annual Finance Committee Report for 2018 which had been circulated to them.

Councillor Young in his position as the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District representative on the Finance Committee stated that the Finance Committee was not a decision making or policy making committee but that they considered and discussed relevant topics and referred items to appropriate committees or SPCs.

Councillor Young stated that under the Local Government Baseline Funding Review Report it was noted that Kildare was one of the lowest funded councils in the country. He also stated that LPT monies should not be used to fund staffing that were essential to run the council and further discussion was needed on this issue.

The members thanked Councillor Young for his work on the Finance Committee and noted the report.

CL24/0519

Installation of benches on avenue from Castletown Gates to Castletown House

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

That the council write to the Office of Public Works (OPW) requesting the installation of benches on the avenue leading from Castletown Gates to Castletown House and on the river bank. This addition will result in the area being more accessible to older people and people with disabilities who frequent and enjoy using this area.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Neville.

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that a letter was issued late last year to the OPW requesting these works. No response had been received to date. If the members were in agreement, the matter could be followed up with the OPW.

Councillor Coleman expressed his concern that the OPW had not responded to the request made last July and said that it was essential to have seating provided on the avenue and along the river for the elderly and people with disabilities who could not walk the full way up to Castletown House and for the 7,000 visitors to Castletown House each year.

Councillor Neville stated that he had submitted the same motion last July and there was still no place for people to sit in the estate.

Councillor Young stated that the letter should also be sent to the Castletown Foundation and in addition a request for the provision of water drinking fonts be made.

Councillor Cussen stated that a meeting should be held to discuss this and other issues.

The Meetings Administrator asked if Councillor Coleman and the members wished to amend the motion.

The members agreed and the Meetings Administrator read the amended motion into the record.

“That the council write to the Office of Public Works (OPW) and the Castletown Foundation, requesting a meeting to discuss the installation of benches on the avenue leading from

Castletown Gates to Castletown House and on the river bank and the possible provision of public drinking water fonts and other issues".

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Neville and agreed by all the members, that the council write to the Office of Public Works (OPW) and the Castletown Foundation, requesting a meeting to discuss the installation of benches on the avenue leading from Castletown Gates to Castletown House and on the river bank and the possible provision of public drinking water fonts and other issues and the report was noted.

CL25/0519

Day care centre for the elderly in Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville. That the council asks the Health Service Executive (HSE) that a day care centre for the elderly and those dealing with dementia, be planned for Leixlip.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Larkin.

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Neville expressed his concern that there was no day care centre for the elderly and those dealing with dementia in Leixlip and it was important to designate a site and plan for such a facility as a big part of the population were over 75 years of age and this demographic was increasing each year. He stated that a facility such as this was very important to provide relief for their carers and families also.

The members all agreed that a letter should issue to the HSE on this matter.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Larkin and agreed by all the members that the council asks the HSE that a day care centre for the elderly and those dealing with dementia, be planned for Leixlip and the report was noted.

CL26/0519

Opening times for the Abbey Playground in Celbridge

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

Can the council arrange for the Abbey Playground in Celbridge to be open later in the evenings?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the current arrangements for the opening of the playground had to match the opening hours of the St John of God. For this reason an extension to these opening times was not possible at present.

In response to a request from Councillor Young, the Senior Parks Superintendent stated that he would ask if the opening hours of the Abbey Playground could be extended. The report was noted.

CL27/0519

Certification of contractors employed by the Parks Section

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Young. In the context of the banks of the Toni River in Celbridge (a protected watercourse and part of our drinking water) having been recently sprayed with herbicide, can the council confirm that Kildare County Council is in possession of current, up to date certification from all contractors used by the council which confirms that all of Kildare County Council's contractors are certified as being trained in the use of herbicides.

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that all contractors employed by the Parks Section were required at the commencement of the current grass maintenance contract to have an up to date herbicide certification and we were currently checking that these certifications had been kept up to date.

The report was noted.

CL28/0519

Retirement of the Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach stated that he really enjoyed his time working with the members of Kildare County Council and that he had worked as a councillor for almost 17 years. He stated that it had been a great honour to be elected several times by the public and he wished his fellow members well in the upcoming local elections.

The members all wished Councillor Byrne well on his retirement and said that it had been a pleasure to work with him, that the people of Celbridge and Leixlip really appreciated all the work he had carried out for their areas over the years and they thanked him for the advice, help and support that he had given to them when they were newly elected councillors.

The Acting District Manager stated that the District Manager, Mr McDonnell asked her to convey both on his behalf and on behalf of the former District Manager, Mr Minnock, best wishes to the Cathaoirleach on his retirement and to wish all the members well in the upcoming election.

The meeting concluded.