

**Minutes of Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
Held at 10.00 am on Friday 16 October 2020
In the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.**

Members Present: Councillor B Caldwell (Cathaoirleach)
Councillors C Galvin, N Killeen, V Liston and J Neville.

Apologies: M. Coleman, Í Cussen.

Present: Mr T McDonnell (District Manager), Ms C Barrett (Chief Fire Officer), Mr L Dunne and Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officers), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms F Millane (Financial/Management Accountant), Mr C Buggie (Municipal District Engineer), Ms P Pender, Mr E Fagan and Mr O Brady (Administrative Officers), Mr T Shanahan (Meetings Administrator) and Ms A M Campbell (Meetings Secretary).

Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Caldwell, took the chair as Cathaoirleach Councillor Cussen sent her apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting. Councillor Cussen had given written instruction to the Meetings Administrator that Councillor Caldwell would move her motions.

Councillor Coleman sent his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting.

CL01/1020

Minutes Silence

The Cathaoirleach proposed that a minutes silence be held as a mark of respect for the late John Fanning an employee of Kildare County Council who had died tragically during the week.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all the members a minutes silence was observed for the late John Fanning.

The Cathaoirleach invited the Municipal District Engineer to say a few words.

The Municipal District Engineer stated that we remember John Fanning who tragically lost his life on Sunday evening in a motorbike accident.

John was the foreman in the Leixlip area for road maintenance and worked with Kildare County Council for 14 years. John was the son of retired Kildare County Council employee Brendan Fanning.

We would like to send our deepest sympathy to his partner Jackie, his little girls Lauryn and Lucy, his parents Brendan and Aileen and his sister Sarah along with all his colleagues in Kildare County Council.

The members offered their sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of John Fanning and all his colleagues in Kildare County Council.

CL02/1020

District Manager

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that the District Manager Tadhg McDonnell would retire the following week from the council. The Cathaoirleach stated that Mr McDonnell was always very helpful, co-operative and easy to deal with and he wished him well on his retirement.

The members expressed their gratitude to Mr McDonnell for all his hard work during his time as District Manager and also for all his hard work in the Transportation Department.

Mr McDonnell thanked the members for their good wishes and said that he was just the figurehead and that there was a huge number of hard-working staff in the Transportation team behind him. Mr McDonnell informed the member that Ms Celina Barrett, Chief Fire Officer would be acting in the role of Director of Services for Roads and District Manager for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.

The members congratulated Ms Barrett and stated that they looked forward to working with her.

CL03/1020

Minutes and progress report

The members considered the minutes of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on 18 September 2020, together with the progress report.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Caldwell that the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on 18 September 2020 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CL04/1020

Schedule of Municipal District Road Works

The Municipal District Engineer updated the member on the Schedule of Municipal District Road Works. He advised the members that the maintenance crews were currently carrying out hedge cutting at junctions to ensure sightlines were maintained and also cleaning all gullies in the municipal district. He invited the members to contact the Maynooth office if they were aware of any issues and he would have them addressed. He advised that tenders had been sought for LPT funded projects for footpath and road repairs in the older estates in Leixlip and Celbridge.

He briefed the members on the progress made to date on the National Transport Authority (NTA) Active Travel July Stimulus projects. While the projects were currently out to tender there was a limited number of contractors on the framework and it was unlikely to get all works completed by the end of November. Kildare County Council were seeking an extension of the funding drawdown deadline from the NTA or a commitment from the NTA to fund these projects in 2021.

CL05/1020

Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan 2021

The members considered the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan 2021 which had been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

Ms Millane informed the members that a briefing on the Budget for 2021 had been given to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and the Finance Committee. She informed the members that there was a substantial reduction in income in 2020 such as Pay Parking income and income from rates due to appeals to the Valuation Tribunal resulting in reductions to rates valuations and few new properties being valued by the Rates Valuation Office. Ms Millane

informed the members however that salaries had increased as a result of the Public Service Pay Agreement and additional costs incurred due to Covid19 for cleaning, P.P.E. and the provision of hardware and software licences to enable staff to work from home.

Ms Millane stated that it was hoped that there may be additional funding made available to Kildare County Council from the Government which would reduce the need for reductions to variable spend. Ms Millane confirmed that any changes would be discussed with the CPG and the Finance Committee in advance of the statutory budget meeting to be held on 23 November 2020.

In response to a question from Councillor Killeen asking if there was a possibility of the Government agreeing to refund rates, Ms Millane stated that if government created a waiver this would not change the budget but would increase cash flow.

In response to a question from Councillor Galvin how Brexit would impact on the budget, Ms Millane informed the members that this issue had already been looked at when preparing the 2020 budget. She stated that it was hoped that Brexit would not have as severe an impact on rates income in County Kildare as it may have on other counties whose income came predominately from agri-food and tourism businesses.

In response to a question from Councillor Liston about the reduction in rates, Ms Millane confirmed that the rates figure was not fixed as yet but it had to be finalised before the end of October in order for the figures to be available for Budget 2021.

The members voiced concerns about the lack of revenue and deficits in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District pay parking income in comparison to other municipal districts.

Ms Millane stated that for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District to improve pay parking revenue the control and operation of existing parking spaces should be optimised, to encourage short term parking and discourage all day parking. She confirmed that any pay parking surplus would be retained within the municipal district area.

A discussion ensued among the members in relation to reallocation of LPT unspent funds for 2020 and it was agreed by the members that they would hold an online meeting to discuss

this funding. The members requested confirmation of the total LPT funding for 2020 that could be reallocated be circulated to them prior to this discussion.

Ms Millane requested that the allocation/reallocation of funds should be agreed by the members by January 2021 to ensure the Directors of Services and departments could include the allocations as part of the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2021 and have sufficient time to tender and carry out the works.

Ms Millane informed the members that in accordance with S.58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the draft General Municipal Allocation (GMA) for Kildare County Council was €20,421,750 for 2021. The draft GMA takes account of council's decision, taken at the council meeting of the 21 September 2020, to vary the local property tax rate by +7.5%. The impact of that decision was to ring-fence €4,885,257 of discretionary funding to the municipal districts and this money was included in the GMA. In considering the Draft Budgetary Plans, each municipal district was afforded the opportunity to allocate its portion of the GMA according to its priorities.

It was intended, as in 2020, to assign the retained LPT to a single heading in the local authority budget, but Finance would need the municipal district members' agreed distribution of the LPT to be agreed at a municipal district meeting before the end of January 2021.

The legislative requirement was that following consideration of the draft budgetary plan, the municipal district members shall, by resolution, adopt the draft budgetary plan with or without amendment. The Chief Executive shall take account of any budgetary plan adopted, but if the members do not adopt a budgetary plan the Chief Executive may take account of the draft budgetary plan as presented. The purpose of the draft budgetary plan was to provide each municipal district with an opportunity to allocate its portion of the GMA according to its priorities.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Neville and agreed by all the members present that the Draft Budgetary Plan 2021 be adopted without amendment for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District and that the total LPT funding for 2020 that was available for reallocation be circulated to the members.

CL06/1020

Assessment of footpaths at The Avenue, St Raphaels Manor, Celbridge

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

That the council assesses the footpaths at The Avenue, St Raphaels Manor, Celbridge, for dishings at all crossings.

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

A report was received from and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer would arrange this and carry out repairs as required.

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

CL07/1020

Submission to the Dart + West public consultation

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

That this municipal district makes a submission to the Dart + West public consultation in which we call for a bridge for cyclists and pedestrians over the Blakestown crossing (which is due to be closed) that can allow access to the Royal Canal Greenway.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Liston stated that she was asking the members to agree to make a submission to this consultation as it was very important for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists to cross at this location.

The District Manager stated that he agreed with Councillor Liston and that the council had previously made technical submissions on this issue to Iarnród Éireann who had not agreed on this matter.

In response to a request from Councillor Liston, the District Manager clarified that some of the technical submissions were discussed at meetings but he would make available any paperwork of technical submissions made to Iarnród Éireann on this matter.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Caldwell, that the District Manager make available any available paperwork of technical submissions made to Iarnród Éireann on the Blakestown crossing to the members and that municipal district members make a submission to the Dart + West public consultation.

CL08/1020

Request for pedestrian crossing at junction of the Shinkeen Road

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

That the council provide a pedestrian crossing at the junction of the Shinkeen Road where it meets the Hazelhatch Road, as part of, or shortly following, the new footpath works there.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were currently no plans or funding available to provide a pedestrian crossing at this location. In the future when the planned works were completed it would be possible to assess whether a pedestrian crossing was warranted at this location.

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

CL09/1020

Destruction of historical hedgerows and mature trees

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

That the council when dealing with road opening licenses and the delivery of associated works in this municipal district ensure that there is minimal destruction of historical hedgerows, mature trees and that the ecological diversity in urban walkways and greenways be maintained and that these vital ecosystems are not destroyed in the process.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that road opening licences only cover permission and reinstatement requirements on public roads/areas. Any works to historical hedgerows/mature trees etc would most likely have been subject to a planning permission. Road opening licences was not the mechanism to control the above.

In response to a question from Councillor Killeen if the protection of mature trees and hedgerows as part of the planning process might be a matter for the County Development Plan, the Municipal District Engineer agreed.

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

CL10/1020

Crossings from The Glen Easton/Beech Park side to Kilmacraddock and Castletown

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

That the council review the opportunity to ensure safe crossings from the Glen Easton/Beech Park side to Kilmacraddock and Castletown for pedestrians and cyclists.

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 there were no plans to provide additional crossing facilities at this location, given the existing volume of pedestrian/cyclist that currently require to cross at this location. This location would not be considered suitable for a controlled crossing point due to the road width and existing road layout, proximity to roundabout etc.

Councillor Neville stated that the speed and number of heavy commercial vehicles that used this road made it very dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists and that some alternative measure should be put in place on this road.

Councillor Killeen agreed that a safe crossing should be prioritised at this location due to the large population of this residential area.

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

CL11/1020

Update from Fingal County Council regarding streetlights on junction of R149

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

Can the council get an update from Fingal County Council regarding the streetlights on the junction of the R149 on the T-Junction of the Clonee to Lucan road to Leixlip?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that correspondence had issued in relation to this request. No response had been received yet.

The report was noted.

CL12/1020

Cost of installing EV charging point in the municipal district

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

Can the council confirm what is the cost to Kildare County Council of installing an EV charging point in the municipal district after the government grant of 75%?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that it was not possible to give a definite cost for installation of EV charging points as it would depend on where an EV charger was to be positioned. Any location would need to be assessed having regard to the proximity of an ESB supply and amount of civil works required. It should be noted that the previous Transportation SPC policy is for EV charging points to be provided in Kildare County Council off-street car parks.

In response to a question from Councillor Liston requesting if there was a median cost available for the remainder of the cost to install these charging points, the District Manager confirmed that two new EV charging points were installed in the Áras Chill Dara car park recently and he would check to see if this information was available.

The report was noted.

CL13/1020

Provision of update on plans for old ESB site on Main Street, Leixlip

The committee agreed to consider item 11 and item 13 on the agenda together.

Item 11 - Question Councillor Caldwell

Can the council provide an update on the plans for the old ESB site on Main Street, Leixlip?

Item 13 - Question Councillor Neville

Can the council provide an update on the plans for the old ESB site in Leixlip Village?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that a second feasibility study was currently being prepared by consultants appointed by Cluid, based on the feedback received from the internal departments within Kildare County Council.

The feasibility study was due to be completed by the 23 October 2020 and a follow up meeting would then be scheduled with the internal departments of Kildare County Council with the view that the core objectives in the feasibility could be agreed so that the design could develop based on those objectives.

The tender for the Design Team was issued and was currently in the tender validity period. An appointment would not occur until the outcome from the feasibility study was concluded so that clear direction could be given to the Design Team.

Expected appointment date for a Design Team is November 2020 subject to a successful conclusion of the feasibility study following feedback from the internal departments within Kildare County Council.

In response to a question from Councillor Neville if members could give feedback on the design, the District Manager clarified that it would depend if it was carried out as a Part 8 or a planning application but he would request that a briefing be given to the municipal district members when a design was completed.

The report was noted.

CL14/1020

Persons on housing list with medical priority status

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

Can the council confirm how many families/persons are on the housing list with medical priority status in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the number of housing applicants in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District with medical conditions listed on iHouse currently was 196.

In response to a question from Councillor Liston if 196 was the number of persons or family units, Mr Brady clarified that 196 was the number of applications so it could be made up of both individuals and family units.

The report was noted.

CL15/1020

Update on Public Realm Projects

Ms Hunt, gave the members an update from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team on the towns of Ardclough, Celbridge and Leixlip, a report was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting and welcomed any questions from the members.

Councillor Caldwell stated that he would like to see the Public Realm Team visit Leixlip again to discuss further Leixlip's Town Renewal Plan and Ms Hunt informed the members that she would organise a Microsoft Teams meeting with the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District members to discuss the Town Renewal Plans as outlined in a following question on the agenda.

In response to a question from Councillor Liston if Transport was part of or independent to the Town Renewal Plan, Ms Hunt clarified that Transport fed into the plans and a lot of work was carried out in collaboration with the district engineers.

Ms Hunt suggested dates for holding the online meeting and the members agreed that Ms Hunt decide the date and confirm it by email to the members.

CL16/1020

Chief Executives report on proposed addition to Record of Protected Structures

The members considered the Chief Executives report on the proposed addition of 31/33 Main Street Leixlip to the Record of Protected Structures, Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023, a report was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

In response to a question from Councillor Killeen if additional buildings or historical sites could be added to the Record of Protected Structures, Ms Hunt confirmed that if the members wished to propose an addition, a review would be carried out and a recommendation made.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by all the members present, that the Proposed Additions of 31 & 33 Main Street, Leixlip to the Record of Protected Structures Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023, be approved.

CL17/1020

Dates for Public Realm public meetings in Celbridge and Leixlip

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

Can the council provide the members of Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District with dates for the Public Realm public meetings in Celbridge and Leixlip?

A report was received from Planning and Strategic Development informing the members that the Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) team intend to schedule a briefing for the members through Microsoft Teams in the coming weeks.

Following this briefing and incorporation of feedback into the draft documents, the SPPR team and consultants would agree the format (in consideration of Covid 19 restrictions) for the next round of public consultations.

The report was noted.

CL18/1020

Used mattress day in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District

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

That the council have a used mattress day in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the Environment Department intended to organise a mattress amnesty day for North Kildare in 2021. Two similar events had been hosted previously at the Silliot Hill and Athy Civic Amenity Centres. Both were part funded under the Anti-Dumping Initiative Department of the

Environment, Climate and Environment (DCCAE) and an application for funding would be submitted. A suitable location would also have to be considered.

Councillor Caldwell stated that he had submitted this motion as he had seen these events being carried out in other areas and they were very successful.

The members overwhelmingly supported the motion and stated that it could be very beneficial in reducing the amount of dumping in their municipal district.

Mr Fagan stated that a similar event was held in Silliot Hill recently where over 1,000 mattresses were deposited, but advised the members that a suitable location would need to be identified and asked the members to submit any suggestions they may have to the Environment Department.

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

CL19/1020

Pilot of dog fouling – good dog initiative in Celbridge

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

That the council undertake a pilot dog fouling - good dog initiative in Celbridge under the Local Authority's Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the Environmental Awareness Officer would organise a dog fouling awareness/ responsible dog ownership programme (with the assistance of the council's Dog Warden Service) in early 2021 (subject to Covid19 restrictions).

This could be piloted in the local Municipal District Area with the support of a local animal welfare/community group.

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

CL20/1020

Provision of vehicular access in Donaghcumper Cemetery

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

That the council provide vehicular access at a prescribed set of times, to the persons in the community working to improve Donaghcumper Cemetery by tending to graves of loved ones, that a mediated solution be found and regular access be facilitated.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that arrangements were in place to facilitate access by vehicles by request and the caretaker was currently facilitating these requests during normal working hours.

Vehicular access on pathways within the cemetery was restricted for a number of reasons:

- to prevent damage to graves and surrounding areas
- danger to pedestrians including, in particular, vulnerable pedestrians and those accompanied by children
- complaints of anti-social behaviour including illegal dumping
- vehicles entering after hours

Vehicular access was also limited when a funeral was taking place.

The council was conscious of the needs of the elderly and those with illness and disability. People with particular needs were facilitated with access as much as possible but it was not possible to provide vehicular access to individual graves.

There had been some positive feedback from visitors to the graveyard who were pleased to be able to visit family graves in a more peaceful, serene environment.

The members may wish to note that Donaghcumper was no different to the majority of council cemeteries with regard to vehicular access.

Councillor Killeen stated that she had been contacted by people who had requested vehicular access to the graveyard to enable them to bring heavy planters and compost etc to

graves but she noted from the report that people could contact the caretaker and be given a time when this access would be facilitated.

Councillor Caldwell suggested that persons wishing to attend give reasonable notice to the caretaker to ensure access could be facilitated.

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

CL21/1020

Update on status of recycling area proposed for North Kildare

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville.
That the council provide the members with an update on the status of the recycling area proposed for North Kildare.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that Planning (Part 8) for the proposed facility at Kilmacredock Upper/ Castletown, Celbridge was approved by the members in November 2019. The Environment Department was considering a number of options to provide the facility, noting that funding had not yet been identified.

In response to a question from Councillor Neville if there were any plans to identify funding, Mr Fagan informed the members that this matter was actively being pursued by the Director of Services for Water Services and Environment.

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

CL22/1020

Update on timeline for Confey Graveyard extension and Columbarium

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Neville.
Can the council provide an update on the timeline for the Confey Graveyard extension and Columbarium?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the Environment Department was reviewing the availability and suitability of lands at a number of areas in the proximity of the existing cemetery at Confey. The members would be updated as matters progress.

The request for a columbarium wall could be included for consideration in future Capital Budget.

The report was noted.

CL23/1020

Provision of outdoor gym equipment at site in St Catherine's Park

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell. That the Parks Department provide more outdoor gym equipment at their site in St Catherine's Park.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there was outdoor gym equipment in St Catherine's Park. This was incorporated into an exercise trail which runs in a loop from the Fingal County Council part of the park into Kildare County Council owned and back. There were no plans to provide any additional exercise equipment.

Councillor Caldwell stated that there should be more outdoor equipment provided in the Kildare County Council part of St Catherine's Park.

Mr Dunne confirmed that he would forward the member's request for costings of outdoor gym equipment to the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Neville, that the report be noted and Mr Dunne forward the member's request for costings of outdoor gym equipment to the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent.

CL24/1020

Options and costings of grass cut-and-lift policy

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

Given the benefits of a grass cut-and-lift policy for supporting biodiversity that the Parks Department investigates with stakeholders different options and costings in advance of the 2021 budget to enable this approach for the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that costs for cut and lift on some of the pilot sites would be made available to councillors once we have completed the cutting of these sites in the next two weeks. Any progression of this method to other sites would have to consider what sites were suitable for this, the cost and the benefit of it versus increased green waste disposal and carbon footprint.

Councillor Liston stated that it was positive that the Parks Department were running this pilot and there was huge public support for this method of grass cutting which had a very beneficial impact on biodiversity. Councillor Liston requested that this item remain on the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Caldwell, that the report be noted and that this item remain on the progress report.

CL25/1020

Access route from Dublin Road to council owned lands along the banks of The Liffey

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

That the council engage with the relevant authority with the intention of securing an access route from the Dublin Road to the Kildare County Council owned lands along the banks of the Liffey at Donaghacumper in Celbridge.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that this would be discussed with the Forward Planning Section to investigate the issue of access to the lands.

Councillor Galvin stated that she would like to be kept up to date on the progress the council were making to acquire access to their lands and she requested that this item remain on the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Caldwell, that the report be noted and this item remain on the progress report.

CL26/1020

Update on Changing Places options for Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District

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

Can the council provide the members of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District with an update on the Changing Places options for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District?

A report was received from the Health and Safety Officer informing the members that he was not aware of any new council buildings being proposed or under construction in Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District at present.

There were no plans, at present, to provide Changing Places facilities in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.

The council had committed to provide one in the new Naas Library but nowhere else as yet.

A report was received from the County Librarian informing the members that Naas Community Library and Cultural Centre, Capital Project was a pilot for Changing Places facilities in Kildare County Council. Naas Library would not only have the first Changing Places facility in a public building in Kildare it was also on track to be the first local authority building and the first library in Ireland to provide these facilities.

The plan to include a Changing Places facility in the new library in Naas came about as a result of the Part 8 Consultation process and the submissions received from the Naas Access and Disability Group and Michael Hurley, Kildare County Council Disability Officer.

Changing Places facilities provide a real improvement on standard accessible toilets as they provide a larger floor area of 12m² and additional equipment such as a height-adjustable adult-sized changing bench, a full room coverage ceiling track hoist system, a centrally located toilet bowl with space either side for transfers/assistants and a safe and clean environment.

Once the library was open to the public the Changing Places facility would be included on the location finder on the Changing Places website. This means it would be accessible to people with disabilities and their family/carers who live in Kildare and also to those who are visiting or travelling through Kildare.

The tender for the main contractor for the Naas Library Capital project was currently in the standstill period which was due to end on 6 October 2020. We hope to have the contract signing within the next couple of weeks and the contractor on site in November. The project had a timeline of approximately 24 months to completion.

The report was noted.

CL27/1020

Update or timeline for development of sensory garden in St Catherine's Park

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

Can the council provide an update or a timeline for the development of a sensory garden in St Catherine's park?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that a detailed design and specification had been developed for the sensory garden. It was hoped to tender the works in conjunction with other similar works in the county in 2021.

The report was noted.

CL28/1020

Outline of operation of dog parks in other parts of the county

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

Can the council provide an outline of how dog parks in other parts of the county operate?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there were no dog parks run by Kildare County Council in the county. Based on dog parks provided by some of the Dublin Local Authorities, these were fenced in areas up to an acre in size and were governed by a set of rules which include dog owners must be over 16, no more than 2 dogs per owner, certain dog breeds or dogs in heat were not allowed use the runs, owners control and must clean up after their dog and were responsible of their dogs and must supervise them.

The report was noted.

CL29/1020

Instructions to tree surgeons when undertaking works in municipal district

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

Can the council confirm what instructions are given to tree surgeons when undertaking works in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that works carried out by tree surgeons were based on the works requested and the inspection of the trees. It was not always feasible or practicable to carry out works to the trees based on the request. Consideration also had to be given to the location, species, age and condition of the tree. All requests received through the year were inspected in the autumn and the works then scheduled for the winter months.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.