

Minutes of Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
Held at 10.00 am on Friday 21 February 2020
In the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.

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

Apologies: Councillor M Coleman

Present: Mr T McDonnell (District Manager), Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr E Lynch (Senior Executive Planner), Ms P O'Rourke (Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr C Buggie (Municipal District Engineer), Ms P Pender, Mr B O'Gorman, Mr O Brady and Mr M McLoughlin (Administrative Officers), Ms P Penny (Assistant Staff Officer), Mr T Shanahan (Meetings Administrator) and Ms A M Campbell, Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Secretaries).

CL01/0220

Minutes and progress report

The members considered the minutes of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on 17 January 2020, together with the progress report.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Liston that the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on 17 January 2020 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CL02/0220

Matters Arising

Clearing of overgrowth/rubbish at river in Primrose Gate housing estate (CL20/1119)

Councillor Cussen expressed her concern of a flood risk at this river and stated that a response should be requested from the local management company in relation to this issue.

1966 Easter Rising Commemoration Plaque in Leixlip (CL02/0120)

Councillor Cussen noted the cost of the plaque and asked who was responsible for the repair and questioned how the repair would be funded.

Pay Parking system in Leixlip and Celbridge (CL02/0120)

In response to a question raised by Councillor Caldwell the members agreed to hold a meeting in relation to pay parking following the meeting.

Yellow boxes at entrances of Confey Tyres and on opposite side of bridge (CL07/0120)

In response to a question from Councillor Caldwell with regard to a timeline for this report, the Municipal District Engineer confirmed that the matter was on the TAAG list and a report would issue to the members once the assessment was completed.

CL03/0220

Schedule of Municipal District Road Works

The Municipal District Engineer circulated a copy of the Restoration Improvement Schemes 2020 and Restoration Maintenance Schemes 2020 to the members for their information. The Municipal District Engineer informed the members that all the LPT schemes agreed at the last municipal district meeting were at design stage. The Municipal District Engineer stated that road repairs in Oaklawn and Glendale Meadows were currently tendered. The Roads Crew were currently carrying out footpath repairs in Glendale Meadows and in Dara Court as well as responding to the recent weather events.

CL04/0220

Briefing from Local Link in relation to rural transport

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr Alan Kerry, Manager of Local Link Kildare South Dublin to the meeting.

Mr Kerry gave a presentation to the members on the service provided by Local Link Kildare South Dublin bus service.

He stated that Local Link Kildare South Dublin currently operate 291 scheduled trips on 45 routes creating over 2000 passenger trips a week. In 2019 they provided 13,058 service trips which was an increase of 4.7% on 2018 and the number of passengers who availed of scheduled services had increased by 17.8% over the same period. Mr Kerry outlined 3 daily services to Maynooth University and detailed the Bookabus Service which they managed and co-ordinated on behalf of community organisations, providing once off transport services. Mr Kerry updated the members on the development of the Rural Regular Services from 2017 which were funded under Public Obligation Funding and had shown a growth of 57.8% in 2019 from 2018. Mr Kerry informed the members that there were 4 applications for funding being considered by the Department of Transport in relation to regular rural services.

In response to a question from Councillor Liston, Mr Kerry stated that Local Link hoped to expand their services in rural areas and the main method they used for promotion was on their Facebook page and by getting out and talking to people, as funding was small and staffing comprised of 5 employees, two of which were part-time. He asked for the members support in getting the word out in their municipal district in relation to these services.

In response to questions from Councillor Killeen, Mr Kerry clarified that Local Link could not provide a bus link between the towns of Celbridge and Leixlip as this fell under the Dublin Bus remit. Mr Kerry further clarified that the university connector buses were available to members of the public and discussions were ongoing in relation to extending these services but cautioned that from the bus operator's perspective these routes were only viable for six months of the year.

In response to a question from Councillor Galvin whether Local Link was semi-state or private company, Mr Kerry confirmed that Local Link Kildare South Dublin was an independent company with charitable status, governed by a board of directors.

Councillor Neville informed Mr Kerry that he was the Chair of the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and advised that it would be beneficial, if a representative from Local Link Kildare South Dublin could attend the SPC meetings, which were held on a quarterly basis during the year.

In response to a question from Councillor Liston, Mr Kerry stated that he would forward a copy of the submissions made by Local Link Kildare South Dublin to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, that requested expansion of services.

The members thanked Mr Kerry for his very informative presentation.

CL05/0220

Opening up of road through old Hewlett Packard site

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville.
That the council review the possibility of opening up the road through the old Hewlett Packard site so as to alleviate traffic through Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the Hewlett Packard site was currently in private ownership. However, Leixlip Local Area Plan 2020 – 2023, which came into effect on 5 February 2020, contained an objective to connect the Celbridge Road to the M4 Junction 6 Interchange.

MT3.13 To complete the through public road to connect the Celbridge Road (at Former HP site) to M4 Interchange Junction 6 prior to the commencement of Celbridge Road East KDA.

This policy would be integral to the development of the Celbridge Road East Key Development Area (KDA).

In response to a question from Councillor Neville regarding the next step in the process of opening up this road to alleviate traffic congestion, the District Manager stated that he understood the current owners were considering the potential use of their site and this matter would be discussed at a future stage with the Planning Department.

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

CL06/0220

Installation of traffic island outside Confey Cemetery

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

That the council install a traffic island outside Confey Cemetery.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this was a regional road with high volumes of traffic and multiple entrances. The road width was not sufficient to install a traffic island on the current alignment.

Councillor Caldwell stated that something needed to be done to slow traffic down at this location as it was very dangerous for people walking from the village to the graveyard or crossing the road at this location.

Councillor Neville agreed that some traffic calming measure needed to be installed and stated that he had submitted a proposal to the County Wide Speed Limit Review that the speed limit at this location be reduced to 30kmh.

The Municipal District Engineer stated that the installation of a traffic island would be more dangerous at this location as the road was simply not wide enough to accommodate it.

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

CL07/0220

Leaflet drop in all estates in Leixlip

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

That the council do a leaflet drop in all estates in Leixlip, reminding residents regarding parking on footpaths and blocking the way of the public.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that it was beyond the remit of Kildare County Council to carry out leaflet drops for illegal parking. This was an enforcement matter for An Garda Síochána.

Councillor Caldwell stated that people needed to contact An Garda Síochána if they noticed people parking and blocking a footpath as it was very inconsiderate to footpath users, especially wheelchair users, people pushing buggies, people with a vision impairment and the elderly.

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

CL08/0220

Commencement of Traffic and Transport Management Plan for Celbridge

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

That the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District members insist that a Traffic and Transport Management Plan (including Public Transport Strategy) for Celbridge, as per the Celbridge Local Area Plan, be commenced immediately.

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

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

The District Manager clarified that the members could advocate or recommend but they could not insist that this plan be commenced.

Councillor Cussen stated that this plan was a vital tool and should be available before any further discussion on bridges, traffic and strategic housing developments took place. She added that these projects and developments could not continue in an ad hoc manner and the Traffic and Transport plan was a necessity to have a more joined up approach. Councillor Cussen requested that the members resolve that this plan be commenced as soon as possible.

The members supported Councillor Cussen's motion and asked how this plan could be progressed.

The District Manager stated that the Roads Department were under resourced and were working on four other plans currently. He stated that the main deficit in resources was in

traffic and transport planning and they were waiting approval from the National Transport Authority for funding to employ three more staff in that area. The District Manager understood the members advocating for their municipal district but stated that there were a number of projects to be progressed in the county. He stated that he would hold an in-committee meeting with all the members of the council, before the end of April, to brief them on the listing and priority of road projects for the county for this year and next year, for their information.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Galvin and agreed by all the members that a Traffic and Transport Management Plan (including Public Transport Strategy) for Celbridge, as per the Celbridge Local Area Plan, be commenced as soon as possible and the District Manager hold an in-committee meeting with all the members of the council, before the end of April, to brief them on the listing and priority of road projects for the county for 2020 and 2021 for their information.

CL09/0220

Speed monitor and safety audit at Ardclough Village School

The members considered the following joint motion in the name of Councillor Liston, Councillor Galvin and Councillor Neville.

That the council install a speed monitor at the Ardclough Village School and undertake a safety audit of the area given a range of concerns of the Ardclough Primary School Parent's Association regarding the safety of children going to and from school.

The motion was proposed by Councillors Liston, Galvin and Neville, seconded by Councillor Killeen.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office would arrange a speed survey in the vicinity of the school and a safety audit would also be carried out.

Councillor Liston thanked the Roads Department for the report and stated that she was glad that the survey and audit would be carried out with regard to safety concerns of children going to and from Ardclough Village School.

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

CL10/0220

Traffic plans and surveys for Leixlip and Celbridge

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

That the council prepare a report detailing the traffic plans and surveys taken for both Leixlip and Celbridge in the last 10 years, detailing the outcome of these surveys, any changes that were put in place following assessments and the overall cost of these.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that to carry out an audit for the last 10 years would require considerable resources over a lengthy time period. Reducing the timeline from 10 years would assist in providing the information requested in a shorter timeframe.

Councillor Killeen stated that she was seeking guidance in where all this data could be obtained or accessed as it would be very informative when members were asked for their input into local area plans etc.

The District Manager stated that due to the global nature of the motion a more specific or detailed request would be required so that information could be provided.

Councillor Killeen agreed to discuss the matter with the District Manager following the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Neville, that Councillor Killeen discuss her request for reports detailing traffic plans and surveys for Celbridge and Leixlip with the District Manager and that any information issued be shared with all municipal district members. The report was noted.

CL11/0220

Impact of development on requirements of road capacity

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

That the council give details of the plans that are in place to assess the impact of development on the requirements of road capacity in this municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Project Team and the Roads Planning Section examined the impact on traffic and capacity on roads from the Traffic & Transport Assessment (TTA) that was carried out by Consulting Engineers in relation to road projects and large scale housing, commercial and infrastructure (i.e. quarry and waste facility) developments.

Councillor Killeen stated that the impact on traffic from new developments in the municipal district was a huge concern of the people that the members represented, and she would speak to the District Manager about this matter when discussing her data request.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Neville, that Councillor Killeen talk to the District Manager about this matter when discussing the data request outlined in her previous motion. The report was noted.

CL12/0220

Safety barriers at pedestrian gates of Scoil Uí Dhalaigh, Leixlip

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

That the council erect protective safety barriers at the pedestrian gates of Scoil Uí Dhalaigh Leixlip (located on the Celbridge Road).

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 the Municipal District Office would arrange to erect protective safety barriers at the pedestrian gates.

Councillor Galvin welcomed the report from the Roads Department.

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

The Cathaoirleach conveyed apologies on behalf of Councillor Coleman who was unable to attend the meeting but stated that Councillor Coleman had given an instruction in writing that Councillor Neville could propose his motions at the meeting.

CL13/0220

Installation of bus shelter at Crodaun Forest Park on the Maynooth Road

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

That the council install a bus shelter at Crodaun Forest Park on the Maynooth Road.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that bus shelters were a matter for the National Transport Authority (NTA). This request could be forwarded to them if the members were in agreement.

The members all agreed that this request be issued to the NTA.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Galvin and agreed by all the members that a request for the installation of a bus shelter at Crodaun Forest Park on the Maynooth Road be forwarded to the NTA.

The members all agreed to defer motion number 13 on the agenda, for consideration by the members, to the next meeting of Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.

CL14/0220

Request for traffic impact assessment from South Dublin County Council

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

Can this council request a copy of the traffic impact assessment pertaining to Leixlip and Celbridge from South Dublin County Council in light of the planned linked road and junction with traffic lights and extra traffic coming from Adamstown onto the Celbridge Road from the N4?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a letter had issued to South Dublin County Council requesting a copy of the traffic impact assessment.

The District Manager confirmed that he would brief the members on the response from South Dublin County Council.

The report was noted.

CL15/0220

Numbering on streetlight poles in the municipal district

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

Can the council provide an update regarding numbering on poles of streetlights in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that due to the unprecedented number of faults recorded over the winter months, the additional resource which was added to carry out the numbering and surveying of lights was reassigned to repair works with the agreement of Public Lighting Section. It was intended that once the current number of faults had reduced, the resource would be redirected to carry out the surveying and numbering of lights throughout the county.

The report was noted.

CL16/0220

Timeframe for progress for the bus shelter at Oakleigh on the Clane Road

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

Can the council provide the members with an update on the timeframe for progress for the bus shelter at Oakleigh (opposite Ballymakealy) on the Clane Road?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this shelter had been approved by the (NTA) and it was anticipated that the Celbridge maintenance crew would be undertaking this work in mid-March.

The report was noted.

CL17/0220

Update of progress on the Kildare Section of the Royal Canal Greenway

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

Can the council update the members on the progress of the Kildare section of the Royal Canal Greenway from Maynooth to the Dublin border?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this scheme was at detailed design stage. A number of issues had been resolved between the NTA, Waterways Ireland and Kildare County Council and it was anticipated that this scheme would be tendered in Quarter 2, 2020.

The report was noted.

CL18/0220

Number of parking spaces in Celbridge and Leixlip

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

Can the council confirm the number of parking spaces in Celbridge and Leixlip (separately)?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Celbridge Parking Bye-Laws had 142 on-street pay and display parking bays and 9 accessible non pay and display bays. Out of this 142 on-street pay and display parking bays 63 were 3 euro per hour located in St. Patrick's Park. Out of the 9 on-street accessible bays 2 are in St. Patrick's Park. Celbridge Parking Bye-Laws had 46 off-street pay and display parking bays and 4 accessible non pay and display parking bays. Leixlip Parking Bye-Laws had 78 on-street pay and display parking bays and 2 accessible on-street parking bays with 42 off-street pay and display parking bays and 2 accessible non pay and display parking bays. There were also 10 non pay and display parking bays and 1 accessible non pay and display parking bay located at the school at Old Hill.

The report was noted.

CL19/0220

Update on the county speed limit review

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

Can the council provide the members with an update on the county speed limit review?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council were currently carrying out a Speed Limit Review for Kildare and hoped to have it completed in Quarter 4, 2020. The speed limit

review must follow a statutory process as defined in the Road Traffic Act 2004. Currently Kildare County Council were preparing a document "Schedule of Proposed Amendments" to be presented to the each of municipal district elected members in Quarter 2, 2020. The Schedule of Proposed Amendments was based on a Pre-Draft Consultation which was completed in 2019 and involved consultation with all the interested parties such as the elected representatives, An Garda Síochána, District Engineers, National Roads Authority (NRA) and adjoining Local Authorities. Once 'The Schedule of Proposed Amendments' was approved by the elected members of each municipal district, "The Draft Bye-Laws Revision A" could be drafted and prepared for public consultation.

The report was noted.

CL20/0220

Update on plans for the old ESB site

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

Can the council provide an update on plans for the old ESB site so we can help alleviate parking constraints in Leixlip Village?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Kildare County Council recently sought Expressions of Interest from Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) to develop this site as a housing scheme for older people. Following assessment of the submissions Cluid Housing Association was selected as the successful AHB. This site would accommodate 20-24 units. Work was now ongoing to progress the scheme.

In response to a question from Councillor Neville, Mr Brady clarified that this development would have to go to a Part 8 process, once submitted.

Councillor Neville requested an extract of the minutes of the meeting where the decision was made by the members to develop this site for housing.

The District Manager stated that there was no necessity for an extract of minutes as the decision was made by the Executive of the council.

The report was noted.

CL21/0220

Proposed Strategic Housing Development application by Ardstone Homes Limited

Mr Lynch, Senior Executive Planner circulated a copy of the site layout plan and gave a presentation to the members on the SHD application by Ardstone Homes Limited, for development at Crodaun, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.

Mr Lynch informed the members that the planning application was for 372 residential units (including 218 houses, 154 apartments and a 191 sq.m. creche) on a site area of 9.55 hectares. The application was submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on 24 January 2020 and details of this submission was available on www.celbridgeplanning.ie.

Pre-planning meetings were held between the applicant and Kildare County Council on 1 November 2018 and a tri-partite pre-planning meeting with ABP was held on 8 April 2019. Mr Lynch stated that the purpose of the presentation was to seek the members views which would be included in the Chief Executives Report. He informed the members that submissions to ABP were due by 27 February 2020 with a fee of €20. The Chief Executive's response to ABP was due by 19 March 2020 with a decision due by 14 May 2020.

The members agreed with the principle of residential development in this location and welcomed new housing provision in Celbridge.

The members raised their concerns in relation to the following matters:

- Creche size of 42 spaces is not adequate for the size of the development (members estimate should be closer to 99 places based on relevant standards)
- Proposals for the public park within the landholding of the applicant are unclear – the applicant has not shown how the park will relate to the proposed development or how it will be developed
- Provision of active play facilities within the areas of public open spaces
- Provision of safe and secure bicycle parking facilities
- Safety concerns at location of the bicycle lane at bus stop and right-turn lane
- Access and provision of electric charging points for safe charging of electric vehicles
- Impact of development on traffic and infrastructure in Celbridge
- Density does not agree with LAP – concerns expressed regarding the height of proposed buildings where 2-3 story buildings were advised in LAP (this was not a unanimous view of all members)

- Please include a wheel wash at the entrance for the duration of the construction phase of the development
- Development need to consider permeability links to Crodaun Forest
- Consider how community interaction can be facilitated in this large new development
- Installation of a pedestrian crossing at the Applegreen on the R449 before development begins

Councillor Cussen expressed her concern that the members had to list all their views at this meeting, stating they should have more time to consider them. She asked if the members met and collated their views, could their report be included in the Chief Executive's Report.

Mr McLoughlin clarified that the views expressed by the members at this meeting would be included in the Chief Executive's Report and if the members wished to submit a report, it would also be included.

The members agreed to meet to collate their views on this proposed development in advance of the full council meeting the following Monday.

Mr Lynch advised the members that a submission could be made directly to the board with the payment of the requisite fee by 27 February 2020. He also advised that a subsequent report could be co-ordinated by the Cathaoirleach and it would be included as an addendum to the Chief Executive's Report, however this would not have a statutory basis and the Board could consider the issues raised in this submission at its discretion.

The members thanked Mr Lynch for his presentation.

The Cathaoirleach stated that as the time was now 1.00 p.m. the Standing Orders needed to be suspended, if the meeting was to continue. It was agreed by all the members to suspend the Standing Orders for 30 minutes until 1:30 p.m.

Resolved with the agreement of all the members that Standing Orders be suspended until 1.30 p.m.

CL22/0220

Landfill at Griffinrath

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

That the council outline actions it has taken at the large-scale landfill at Griffinrath which is now 20 years in existence in order to protect the local groundwater system and the sources of the Ballygoran stream which arises from this landfill and is one source of drinking water for over 600,000 people, from any potential pollution leaching into any of the local water systems.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that two separate permits were granted to a landowner in Griffinrath in 2000 for the purposes of filling low-lying lands within his ownership. The landfilling was carried out generally in accordance with the terms of the permits and filling ceased in or around 2004.

Following on from subsequent complaints from local residents; the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) (2007) and Kildare County Council (2019) both procured expert investigations into flooding and environmental pollution concerns. Both reports came back with findings that the landraise activities had not negatively impacted on either flooding or environmental pollution of the general area.

The EPA had recently written to Kildare County Council seeking additional information on the issue following concerns raised again by the local residents, and Kildare County Council had responded and would continue to work with the EPA and local residents in a bid to close this out.

It should further be pointed out to the members that the Ballygoran Stream was not a source of drinking water for 600,000 people as outlined in the listed motion. The quality of the water at the abstraction point for the Leixlip Drinking water supply 4km away, was carefully monitored at all times by Kildare County Council, Dublin City Council, the EPA and Irish Water.

In response to questions raised by Councillor Liston in relation to lining of the landfill, the issues remaining at the site and how they would be dealt with, Mr O’Gorman requested that Councillor Liston send her questions to him and he would seek clarification from the relevant person in the department and issue responses to all municipal district members.

Councillor Liston referred to a letter that was sent to the Environment Department on 17 January 2020 in relation to this matter with a response due to the EPA by Kildare County Council by 2 March 2020 and asked if it was being progressed.

Mr O' Gorman stated that he would follow up on this correspondence and the matter would be dealt with by the technical team.

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

CL23/0220

Update on the extension to Confey Cemetery

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell.
Can the council provide an update on the extension to Confey Cemetery?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that land in the vicinity of the graveyard at Confey, Leixlip were being examined for an extension to the existing site. Discussions were ongoing with the landowners regarding the lands' acquisition and their suitability for use as a graveyard.

The report was noted.

CL24/0220

Update on proposed cemetery extension at Ardclough

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Cussen.
Can the council provide the members with an update on the proposed cemetery extension at Ardclough?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the council does not have a cemetery at Ardclough. There were no immediate plans to provide a graveyard at this location.

The report was noted.

CL25/0220

Parks Works Programme 2020

Ms O'Rourke gave an overview of the open space management in County Kildare and how open spaces were currently maintained stating that grass cutting currently took place between March and October with two cuts per month and pitches cut weekly. She informed the members that meadows were mown once or twice per year and three applications per site on average with herbicide mainly Glyphosate based for weed control. She stated that plant pruning took place at the start and end of growing season and hedge cutting took place annually or bi-annually. Ms O'Rourke stated that tree works such as planting, pruning and removals was also carried out. She outlined the areas of concern and the current environmentally friendly practices undertaken by Kildare County Council and outlined the proposed piloting of new open space management activities. Ms O'Rourke informed the members of other potential mitigating measures and their pros and cons and gave details of a trial that was carried out in Dunlaoghaire/Rathdown. She stated that there was a need to educate people and outlined the ways in which the community could participate. She informed the members that a balance was required that would provide biodiversity and stated that scientific research was also required to assist with combatting climate change noting that the council would be seeking €50,000 for a scoping document. Ms O'Rourke stated that to enable change the council needed to work together and would welcome the elected members buy in.

The members raised the following:

- Grass maintenance in the following areas, Silleachain Lane, the Bowl, the entrance to Crodaun Estate,
- How works on the St John's playground were progressing and the provision of new equipment
- The possibility of opening the rock bridge to improve accessibility to St John's Playground
- How were plans progressing for Leixlip Playground
- Could the Play Day be brought to the Municipal District
- The condition of the grass on the Hewlett Packard, Barnhall roundabout and could something be done about it
- Was there any update on the sensory garden in St Catherine's Park

Mr Wallace explained that the rock bridge was privately owned and the owner was not engaging with the council.

The tender for St John's would issue in the following weeks

It was hoped to commence the process for Leixlip Playground towards the end of the year.

Work needed to be carried out at the roundabout but there was no budget currently.

The tender for the sensory garden would issue in the near future

The members thanked Ms O'Rourke and Mr Wallace for their comprehensive and informative report and asked that a copy of the presentation be made available to them.

The members all agreed to defer motion number 26 on the agenda, for consideration by the members, to the next meeting of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.

CL26/0220

Grass cuts planned in selected location in Celbridge

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

Can the council update the members on how many grass cuts are planned in the selected locations in Celbridge and what is the estimated weight and volume of the grass that will be available to remove per cut?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that a presentation would be made to the members on the existing grass cutting practices in the county as part of the Parks Works Programme. This would also outline the proposed changes and pilot areas we were proposing the decrease glyphosate use and benefit pollinators. It would address the issues outlined in the question regarding number of grass cuts and selected sites. The estimated volume of grass to be removed per hectare is 3500 cubic metres but this was dependent on the growth rate of the grass, how wet it was at collection time and the rate of compaction was a grass collector. One area of approximately 7000 square metres would be used in Celbridge to pilot this.

The report was noted.

CL27/0220

Update on development of public amenity aspect of the Wonderful Barn

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

Can the council update the members on the development of the public amenity aspect of the Wonderful Barn?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that Howley Hayes Architects had been appointed to revise and update the Conservation Plan for The Wonderful Barn. This would inform the preparation of a plan to develop the buildings and amenity lands once completed. It was hoped the revised plan would be available by the end of March. Timelines with regard to progressing the plans after this were subject to staff resources and progressing other commitments around the county.

The report was noted.

CL28/0220

Update on development of new tourism opportunities with the municipal district

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

Can the council update the members on the development of new tourism opportunities within the municipal district?

A report was received from Kildare Fáilte informing the members that Kildare Fáilte promotes the County of Kildare as outlined in our strategic plan (available on Members Information Portal) and works closely with groups/members from each municipal district.

The Rose of Tralee was launched at Castletown House with RTE - the first time to be held outside of Dublin (which we co-ordinated). A number of press/media attended and the launch was also aired on RTE.

Kildare Fáilte also gave the opportunity for venues to communicate and promote any upcoming events.

Arthurs Way Trail was highlighted and Kildare Fáilte were working with recently opened Ardclough Visitor Centre/ Arthurs Grave also.

Kildare Fáilte produced and printed an information Board outlining the full trail and also met with Guinness Storehouse GM. Kildare Fáilte were also assisting with training and tourist information next month for the group of volunteers running the centre. In the past the Chief Executive of Kildare Fáilte has met with groups in each area and highlighted the importance of clustering and working with established venues and attractions and welcome any new initiatives.

The report was noted.

CL29/0220

Promotion of local employment in Celbridge

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

Can the council outline what has been done to promote local employment in Celbridge, including but not limited to council administered schemes/programmes/funds etc. which relate to this?

A report was received from the Economic, Community & Cultural Development Department informing the members that a report will be given at the meeting.

Councillor Galvin confirmed that she had received a response to her question from the Economic, Community & Cultural Development Department prior to the meeting and she requested that this response be circulated to all the members of Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.

The report was noted.

CL30/0220

List of deadlines in 2020 for funds administered by the council

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

Can the council provide a list of deadlines in 2020 for funds administered by the council, that community and voluntary organisations in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District (including but not limited to residents associations, sports clubs, and others) can apply for?

A report was received from the Economic, Community & Cultural Development Department informing the members that the closing date for community, festival and residents' associations grants is Friday, March 6 2020. Full details of these schemes are available <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/community/GrantSchemes/>

A report was received from the Planning & Strategic Development Department informing the members that communities can apply for funding under the Town and Village Renewal scheme, where population of the town/village is less than 10,000 in the 2016 census. The deadline is not set in stone but generally, the scheme opens in May with an application deadline at the end of June with announcements made in October/November. The maximum grant is €100k with €200k awarded in exceptional circumstances. 20% of the project cost

must be from the applicants own resources, with 10% minimum cash and the other 10% can be made up of volunteer time on the project.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.