

**Minutes of Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Meeting held at 10.00am on
Friday, 16 April 2021
on Microsoft Teams**

Members Present: Councillor Í Cussen (Cathaoirleach)

Councillors B Caldwell, C Galvin, N Killeen, V Liston, J Neville
and M Coleman.

Officials Present: Ms C Barrett (District Manager), Mr C Buggie (Municipal District Engineer), Ms K Keane, Meetings Administrator, Mr J Boland (Director of Service), Mr L Dunne and Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officers), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr O Brady, Ms M Mc Carthy and Mr E Fagan (Administrative Officers), Ms S O’Gara (Project Manager), Ms. L Russell (Arts Officer), Ms A Mangan (CEO Kildare Fáilte) Mr. D Mongey (Chairman, Into Kildare), Ms P O’Rourke (Climate Action Officer) Mr C O’Toole (A/Staff Officer) ,and Ms C Dempsey (Meetings Secretary).

CL01/0421

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations from the members of pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001.

CL02/0421

Bereavements

The Cathaoirleach remembered Mr Dave Lenihan father to Christopher Lenihan, Environment Department that recently passed away.

The members offered their sympathies and condolences to the family and friends and a minute’s silence was observed.

CL03/0421

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 19 March 2021 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen seconded by Councillor Neville that the minutes of the monthly Celbridge -Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 19 March 2021 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CL04/0421

Kildare 2021 Arts Act Grant Scheme, Bursaries and Awards

The Cathaoirleach requested that items 27 on the agenda be taken next. All the members agreed.

Ms Russell stated that a copy of the bursaries and awards had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting. She stated there had been a very good countywide distribution of funding overall.

The members thanked Ms Russell and her team and the external panel for their hard work and commitment involved in the assessment and decision-making process for the applications.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Neville and agreed by all members present that the Kildare 2021 Arts Act Grant Scheme, Bursaries and Awards be approved.

CL04/0421

To receive an update from Kildare Fáilte

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms Mangan, CEO of Kildare Fáilte and Mr Mongey, Chairman of Kildare Fáilte to the meeting. She noted the members had received a detailed presentation at the last full council meeting and there had been a follow up email to the members asking if they had any questions on the presentation regarding the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District or any other matter, Kildare Fáilte would take any questions in writing.

The following points were raised by the members;

- Had approval of bridle paths been considered?
- Was there tourism potential for horse riding into Castletown House?
- The members acknowledged and understood there was a small team and a small budget available to Kildare Fáilte.
- Could a Greenway be considered for this area, channelled through the Public Realm Team.
- How did the work of Kildare Fáilte relate to the national tourism strategy and how could it be further supported?

Mr Mongey stated he has a big interest in the equine area and bridle paths. Ms Mangan agreed there was a limited budget and team but that they did their best with the resources to meet each of the pillars. She confirmed that Kildare Fáilte would continue to support and work with the Public Realm Team. Kildare had engaged with KPMG to update the current strategic plan and define strategic goals and priority actions for tourism in County Kildare. Ms Mangan confirmed that it would be aligned to the County Kildare Development Plan and Fáilte Ireland's plans for Kildare as part of Ireland's Ancient East.

The Cathaoirleach and the members thanked Ms Mangan and Mr Mongey for their contributions and their work to date.

CL05/0421

Municipal District Road Works

The Municipal District Engineer updated the member on the works:

The crews are still working within the guidelines from central government around COVID-19 and only carrying out essential works.

Road works programme for 2021

Road Overlays - Restoration Improvement that have been completed are listed below;

- R403 Youngs Cross to the Co boundary - Completed
- L5056 Loughnamona to Castletown Leixlip - Completed

- L1016 Lyons Estate junction to Railway Bridge - Out to Tender
- L1016 Dangan Corner to Laburnam Grove - Out to Tender
- L1015 Shaughlins Glen towards Confey - Design stage
- R148 Galvin's Cross to Ryevale Lawns - Tender Awarded

Surface Dressing – Restoration Maintenance

- Ardrass
- Pluckstown

The Municipal District Engineer advised the members that EIR were carrying out a program country wide in relation to redundant phone boxes. After he consults with the Director of Services of Roads they should be removed, he could not give a time frame but would keep the members updated as it progresses.

Mr Buggie also noted that there was a large increase in littering since COVID-19. €4 million was spent in the County, on street cleaning (including litter picking, street sweeping and street bin emptying), with € 400,000 to € 500,000 being spent in Celbridge-Leixlip alone and unfortunately, there was no further funding or resources available at this time.

The Municipal District Engineer advised that work on the Ardclough to Celbridge Road would stop where the planning permission was granted to construct 67 houses, as to carry out work on this road during construction would be a waste of money as the road would be dug up again.

CL06/0421

Ardclough Bin Collection

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen. That Ardclough be included in the litter bin collection service in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.

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

A report was received from the Roads Department informing the members that the current bin collection service in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District is at capacity and therefore additional bins could not be added to the collection service. The budget for street sweeping in the municipal district is controlled by the Environment Section and is overspent every year providing the current service, and so it is not possible to expand this service without additional funding and resources.

The members raised the following points;

- There was inequity in the county and the municipal district re allocation of bins. There are 39 in Celbridge, 66 in Leixlip and none in Ardclough.
- Ardclough bin allocation should be reviewed through the Environment Strategic Policy Committee.
- Perhaps bins could be moved and placed in better locations.
- In the past bins have been used for domestic rubbish which should not be happening.
- A wheelie bin might be a solution for Ardclough village centre.

Mr Fagan suggested that the Ardclough Tidy Towns group contact the Environment Department in this regard.

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

CL07/0421

Celbridge Bridge projects

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Liston. That the council explain how the processes for developing the two Celbridge bridges projects and the future traffic strategy consultation would be linked and aligned, and what the specific purpose of public feedback points for each project would be in terms of the overall goal of significantly improved and sustainable transport for the area in a way that enhances the town centre, heritage and community.

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

A report was received from the Roads Department informing the members that The Celbridge Hazelhatch Link Road project (Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF)) would improve connectivity to Hazelhatch Train Station, reduce traffic congestion in the town centre and improve pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure and connectivity along its route. This project is currently at route selection stage, having recently completed a public consultation process. The information from the submissions received during this public consultation process would feed into the multi-criteria analysis of the route options and assist in determining an emerging preferred route. This project would have regard to the proposed Celbridge pedestrian and cyclist bridge project.

The proposed Celbridge pedestrian and cyclist bridge project (National Transport Authority (NTA) funded) proximate to the existing bridge in Celbridge is primarily for the benefit of pedestrians and cyclists (Vulnerable Road Users (VRU's)) and their movement across the River Liffey in the centre of Celbridge. This is at preliminary design stage at present. This project would have regard to the proposed Celbridge Hazelhatch Link Road Project.

The development of transport strategies countywide is aligned to the Planning Department's programme for developing Local Area Plans (LAP's) and the future development of the Celbridge Transport Strategy would have regard for both schemes and would benefit from the traffic model developed and data collected during the development of these schemes. The purpose of the public consultation process in general is to advise the public of the proposed scheme(s) and to invite submissions. These submissions are collated in terms of the information provided and would assist in developing the project through the design and planning stages.

Councillor Liston welcomed the report and queried: how Kildare County Council were factoring in community engagement in the 3 major interlinked projects. What was the purpose, value and scope of change that the community could expect.

She noted that traffic congestion was a big issue and all the information gathered for the three projects should be joined up and each section should be cross referenced and the community should be able to see this. This should be used as an opportunity to get feedback as es each phase developed, issues being raised should be monitored and a roadmap should be drawn up with deliverables for the community.

The District Manager advised that the Celbridge Hazelhatch link Road consultation process was about collecting information. She welcomed the information from the community in relation to ecological, flood, historical information. This would be analysed and added as appropriate.

All contributions in relation to statutory / planning process would be considered as they come in. Each project would also be reviewed in tandem with each other but that guidelines from Central Government around COVID-19 must also be considered as the process progresses. She advised the Muncipal District Engineer was heavily involved and engaged in the consultation process and they were taking on board all information coming out of this.

Ms Barrett undertook to revert to the team and discuss the importance of community engagement at each phase of the process and update the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Neville that the report be noted and the District Manager revert to the team and discuss the importance of community engagement at each phase of the process and update the members.

CL08/0421

Rainwater drain adjacent to Confey Church

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell.
That the council repair and install a rainwater drain on the footpath adjacent to Confey Church.

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

A report was received from the Roads Department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer has inspected this area and with the agreement of the members, would arrange for these works to be carried out once COVID-19 restrictions allow. It was envisaged this would be within the next month or two.

Councillor Caldwell accepted the report.

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

CL09/0421

Safety Audit at Hazelhatch Road

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

That the council carry out a safety audit of the Hazelhatch Road, from the Shinkeen Road junction up to the Tennis Club, with the view to establishing where and how it could be made safer for the parents and pupils walking or cycling to St Patrick's NS or young players going up to the GAA club.

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

A report was received from the Department informing the members that with the agreement of the members, the Municipal District Office would arrange for a safety assessment to be carried out if the members supported the motion.

The members raised the following points;

- What could Kildare County Council do to make this area safer?
- There was a high volume of fast-moving vehicles daily.
- Could a safety audit take place to establish pinch points?
- Safety measures needed to be implemented to protect pedestrians, cyclists and individuals using scooters, and traffic needs to be slowed down.
- Could railings / barriers be erected between traffic and school children?

The Municipal District Engineer responded with the following;

- He did not support the installation of barriers due to health and safety risk, as a person could become trapped.
- The Speed Limit Review was ongoing
- He would go up to the school during school drop off or pick up times and ascertain what is possible to implement safety measures.
- He would update the members before the next municipal district meeting in relation to this area.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Caldwell that the report be noted, and the Municipal District Engineer would visit this area and report back to the members before the next municipal district meeting.

CL10/0421

Upgrade of existing bridge in Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman. That the council give an update to the Municipal District Members on the upgrade of the existing bridge in Celbridge and the commencement of Part 8 process.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Liston

A report was received from the Roads Department informing the members that Kildare County Council have received a draft report from the National Transport Authority (NTA) on the options for improving cycling and pedestrian movement at the existing bridge. Kildare County Council are now discussing this draft with the NTA, including the options around both junctions with the existing bridge. The members would be briefed as soon as these discussions conclude.

Councillor Coleman thanked the National Transport Authority for the funding and the District Manager and her team for all their work in facilitating the funding of the €200,000 and asked for the timeframe for the next stage of the upgrade?

The Municipal District Engineer advised he was looking to meet the National Transport Authority about the draft report with a view to reaching a consensus on what the National Transport Authority would fund, and match this to what Kildare County Council would require. He noted that as a lot of departments from the council were involved, he would expect the time frame to be two to three months approximately.

The Cathaoirleach advised that there had been a presentation issued around September 2018, the newer members may not have received this and asked if this could be recirculated.

The Municipal District Engineer advised he would circulate the document to them early next week. A meeting would also be organised with the members to review the draft report before it goes out to the community.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Liston that the report be noted and report circulated as requested.

CL11/0421

Assessment of Celbridge/Leixlip M4 interchange

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville. That the council contact the National Transport Authority asking them to assess what could be done to make the Celbridge/Leixlip M4 interchange safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

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

A report was received from the Roads Department informing the members that with the members agreement, Kildare County Council would forward this proposal to assess what may be done to the Celbridge-Leixlip M4 interchange to create a safer cycle and pedestrian environment to the National Transport Authority (NTA) for their

attention and discussion. This would be raised as an item with the NTA as part of the council's monthly meeting.

The members raised the following issues;

- The Celbridge/Leixlip M4 interchange is a very busy road serving the Celbridge and Leixlip Community
- Were the council still waiting on funding from the NTA?
- Could the roundabout be included in the safety assessment?

The District Manager responded with the following;

- She was unaware of any funding available from the National Transport Authority.
- She would raise the concerns from the members with The National Transport Authority, for a short-term solution she would talk to them taking into consideration the existing infrastructure.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville seconded by Councillor Liston that the report be noted and the District Manager would raise the members concerns with the National Transport Authority.

CL12/0421

The Bowl in Riverforest

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Department informing the members that the remaining reinstatement work on the Bowl was completed last summer.

The report was noted.

CL13/0421

Cycle Lane on Shackleton Road

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

Could the council confirm what are the opportunities for greening the new cycle lane on Shackleton Road in terms of trees or planters in a way that also provides protection for cyclists?

A report was received from the Roads Department informing the members that the council has no plans to carry out any greening works to the new cycle lane on the Shackleton Road.

Councillor Liston sought clarification as her question had asked what opportunities there may be available for greening, not if the council was planning to do anything.

The Municipal District Engineer advised there was no space left to carry out greening in this area, therefore it was not viable.

The report was noted.

CL14/0421

Pay parking bye laws

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Coleman. Could the members be informed of the Council's planned date for the review of the pay parking bye laws in the Municipal District?

A report was received from the Roads Department informing the members that the Roads Department are currently commencing a schedule for review of Parking Byelaws for a number of towns. At this moment in time, the Roads Department could not give a definite time for the commencement of the Celbridge and Leixlip Parking Bye-Laws review. It is estimated that it may be 2022 before the reviews of Celbridge and Leixlip Parking Bye Laws commence, subject to the members agreeing to commence the review process.

The report was noted.

CL15/0421

Railing at the Rye near the Nursing Home

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

Could the council update the members on plans for extending the railing at the Rye near the Nursing home?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the council would be installing the railing by the end of the summer

The report was noted.

CL16/0421

Footpath to the train station from Easton Park

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Neville. Could the council confirm if there are plans to improve or widen the footpath to the train station from Easton Park?

A report was received from the Roads Department informing the members that the council currently has no plans to improve or widen the footpath to the train station from Easton Park.

The report was noted.

CL17/0421

Housing Adaptation Grants

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Killeen
Could the council provide a detailed breakdown of the application processes for each of the Housing Adaptation Grants scheme administered by the council, to include a summary of the number of applicants from this Municipal District in 2019 and 2020 and 2021, to include a breakdown of successful/unsuccessful applications and the approximate timeline from point of application to decision?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that The Housing Department administers three grant options to assist people with a disability and older people in carrying out works which are necessary for the purposes of

rendering a house more suitable for their accommodation needs. All schemes are subject to a household income means test.

The grants available were:

1. Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability
2. Mobility Aids Grant
3. Housing Aid for Older People Grant

The Housing Adaptation Grant for a person with a disability is available to assist in the carrying out of works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who has an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment.

The maximum available grant is €30,000.

The Mobility Aids Grant Scheme is for older people and/or people with a disability to address mobility problems in their home. The maximum grant under the scheme is €6,000.

The Housing Aid for Older People Scheme is available to assist people aged 66 years or older living in poor housing conditions to have essential repairs carried out so that they could continue to live in their home. The maximum grant under the scheme is €8,000.

Updates on applications are provided to the members on a quarterly basis via the Chief Executive's Report. The table below provides details of applications received and processed by the council from 2019 to date*:

Year	Housing Adaptation applications received	Housing Adaptation Grants approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons applications received	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant approved
2019	494	279	299	245
2020	410	254	320	209
2021	96	109	78	71

*No applications received under the Mobility Aids Grant scheme during the period. Information is not available for breakdown by municipal district area.

A standardised application process was introduced nationally in January 2020 and applicants must submit the application with supporting documentation to be considered for the various schemes. The members were provided with information and details of the new application form. Supporting documentation to accompany an application includes evidence of household income, doctor's certificate, LPT payment (if applicable) and specialist trade contractor reports (for the Housing Aid Grant). The application form could be downloaded at:

<https://www.kildare.ie/county council/Forms/Housing/>

All applications are initially assessed by the Housing Department. The typical timeframe for processing applications is subject to a valid application being received by the council. Where an incomplete application has been received, the application is returned to the applicant specifying the outstanding documentation required. For Housing Adaptation Grants, an occupational therapist report is sought and could be submitted by the applicant or arranged by the council. These applications are prioritised based on current medical need**.

In the case of private adaptation grants, approval letters are generally issued within 6-8 weeks of receipt of a valid application. For council owned properties, works for approved applications in the Priority 1 category are progressed by the Architects

Department, subject to available funding (Priority 2 approvals are placed on a waiting list).

All works proposed under a Housing Aid Grant are assessed by the Architects Department and are processed in date order of receipt of the application.

In 2020, approximately 100 applications made under the Housing Adaptation Grant and Housing Aid Schemes were refused. The reasons for such refusals include - the applicant was over the income threshold, no works were recommended, requested documentation was not submitted, the applicant did not meet age criteria (Housing Aid), application withdrawn, etc.

While these grants benefit from an exemption under current COVID-19 Level 5 restrictions, some applications are currently delayed due to the age/medical profile of applicants. In addition, it has also not been possible for some successful applicants to have internal works carried out at their homes at this time. All works are carried out with the consent of applicants and in some cases vacating the property for a short period of time is necessary (i.e., bathroom works) and in the current COVID-19 pandemic, this is not an option for all. A total of 348 successful applicants are in this category at present (179 adaptation grants/166 housing aid).

A grant allocation of €3,162,288 has been approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for private homes. An allocation for works to the council's social housing stock is awaited (2020 - €437,681).

**** Definition of Priority Categories 1-3:**

Priority 1

Terminally ill or fully/mainly dependant on family or carer; or where alterations/adaptations would facilitate discharge from hospital or alleviate the need for hospitalisation in the future.

Priority 2

Mobile but needs assistance in accessing washing, toilet facilities, bedroom etc; or where without the alterations/adaptations the disabled person's ability to function independently would be hindered.

Priority 3

Independent but requires special facilities to improve the quality of life, e.g. separate bedroom/living space.

Councillor Killeen welcomed the report however stated it did not provide any new information and was not specific to the municipal district. She stated she had a concern about priority groups that individuals were graded in to. She noted that some individuals that were released from hospital needed urgent adaption work to take place.

Mr Brady advised he had spoken to the Administrative Officer in Housing Department and the data is not available per municipal district. Grants are processed as quickly as possible. He would bring these queries back to the Administrative Officer and ask him to contact Councillor Killeen directly. The report was noted.

CL18/0421

Casual Trading Byelaws

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Killeen. Could the council provide an update on the Casual Trading Byelaws in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that the member's survey closed on 23 February 2021. Feedback from three municipal districts is being assessed along with over 100 enquires from the public across the county in the last number of months. The primary work remaining to complete the process relates to locations for designated trading areas, with:

1. Onsite assessment of viability of locations.
2. Measurement, mapping of locations deemed viable.
3. Municipal District meeting to approve the draft byelaw for a consultation phase.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions do not permit site visits for this work.

An internal meeting with Municipal District Offices, Public Realm, Pay Parking, Parks and the Accessibility Officer is being held to carry out a desktop assessment.

When completed, it is intended to hold an in-committee meeting with the members to get approval for recommended designated trading areas that may then be physically assessed when COVID-19 restrictions allow. These, if suitable on physical assessment, would be added to a schedule of trading pitches in a draft byelaw. It would then be proposed to bring this draft to a Municipal District meeting to get approval to commence consultation, which by statute must be a minimum of six weeks duration.

The members should be aware that regulatory changes have at the same time required an entire review of the byelaws (with ongoing legal advice). In parallel to the work with municipal districts, it has been necessary to develop a Casual Trading Selection Policy through the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) process. Legally, revised byelaws could not be adopted until this policy is approved. The Draft Casual Trading Selection Policy is before the Environmental and Water Services SPC on 10 May.

Finally, when byelaws are adopted, it is intended to produce an applicant's guide to publicise trading opportunities and streamline future applications. Details of the locations under desktop assessment would be sent to all members separately. The report was noted.

CL19/0421

Implementation of the new Alcohol Byelaws

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Cussen. Could the members be given a report since the implementation of the new Alcohol Byelaws in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District, the report to include number of incidences, fines issued, etc?

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that The Kildare County Council (Control of Consumption and Possession of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places) Byelaws 2020 commenced in December 2020. An Garda Síochána are actively enforcing the bye- laws, with 16 fines issued in the county since commencement. Three fines have issued for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District. These are only recently issued and, while unpaid, are in the early stage of the collection process.

Consumption and possession of alcohol in public places could result in a fine of €75, which, if unpaid, could escalate to a court appearance and a further fine of up to €1,900.

In consultation and agreement with An Garda Síochána, a social media campaign related to the bye- laws has commenced on council channels and the council would appreciate members communicating the message about illegal drinking. In addition, and as a further measure to deter illegal drinking, costs related to various signage designs have been obtained and budgets are being assessed for feasibility of pilot signage in this municipal district. An Garda Síochána and the Municipal District Office are being consulted on suitable locations. More information on these bye-laws, including maps of the areas to which the bye laws relate is:

<https://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/YourCouncil/GovernanceandCompliance/ByeLaws/AlcoholBye-Laws/>

The report was noted.

CL20/0421

Celbridge as their first preference for re-housing

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Galvin. Could the council provide an up to date version of the attached table of the number of applicants for re-housing who have indicated Celbridge as their first preference?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Updated report in relation to applicants with Celbridge as first area of choice and bedroom requirement detailed below.

NUMBER OF PERSONS	Less than 1 year	Between 1 & 2 years	Between 2 & 3 years	Between 3 & 4 years	Between 4 & 5 years	Between 5 & 6 years	Between 6 & 7 years	Between 7 & 8 years	Between 8 & 9 years	More than 9 years	Total
Totals	148	186	200	171	137	101	64	69	49	250	1375

	NO OF OPEN APPLICANTS	1 BEDROOM APPROVED	2 BEDROOMS APPROVED	3 BEDROOMS APPROVED	4 BEDROOMS APPROVED
CELBRIDGE	1375	556	462	291	66

The report was noted.

CL21/0421

Terms and conditions of employees

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Galvin. Could the council confirm to what extent are the terms and conditions of employment of the employees, are taken into consideration of the successful applicant companies who have been awarded contracts in the last two years in this municipal district?

Report 1 (Finance)

A report was received from the Finance Department and the Municipal District Engineer informing the members that All frameworks and contracts entered into by Kildare County Council using the Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC), Office of Government Procurement (OGP) or LGMA templates

include provisions to ensure statutory and legislative health & safety and pay & conditions requirements are met as standard.

For example, all LGOPC central procurement arrangements contain social clauses throughout the procurement cycle, from Framework/DPS Agreement right through to contract performance conditions. Furthermore, LGOPC central procurement arrangements facilitate the inclusion of social provisions in the sRFT contract evaluation and award criteria to enable positive social outcomes.

A variety of social considerations are included in public procurement processes and contracts as a result of statutory requirements and local and EU legislation. These include areas such as health and safety, equality and employment law.

For example:

- The Safety Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations, 2013 establishes minimum safety and health requirements at construction sites;
- The Sectoral Employment Order (construction sector) 2019 establishes requirements for pay & conditions for workers in the construction sector;
- ESPD Declarations whereby Economic Operators (and their subcontractors at sRFT stage) must declare they have not breached obligations relating to the payment of taxes and social security contributions; and,
- SME participation by allowing and promoting joint ventures, consortium of smaller contractors and reliance on the capacity of other entities to meet certain selection criteria.

Report 2 (Municipal District Office)

There are currently two frameworks in use by the Municipal District Office – a resurfacing framework and a small works framework. Similar to the procurement processes mentioned in the Finance report, in order to be included on these frameworks, contractors had to comply with the Working Time Act, have a pension scheme in place for their employees and pay the appropriate CIF rates.

The reports were noted.

CL22/0421

Public Realm Projects

The members had been issued with the quarterly update from Strategic Projects and Public Realm team in relation to Celbridge–Leixlip municipal district prior to this meeting.

Ms O’Gara advised the team were aiming to launch the public consultation process, this involved preparation of a video. They are looking at best ways to engage with the public and welcomed their ideas. They would be asking questions on two of the big areas ie. The Wonderful Barn and the Youth Facility in Celbridge, noting they were both different but relevant to each other. The link would be issued to the members prior to the public seeing it. She confirmed the video would be disturbed through social media avenues, via the consultation portal the PPN and to the members.

The members raised the following issues;

- Would it be possible to arrange a meeting with the Public Realm Team and Mr Wallace at the Wonderful Barn?
- Was there an age limit to participate in consultation process?
- The video was an excellent idea
- Would the consultation process have a narrow focus on Wonderful Barn as it was important to develop all parts of the Celbridge-Leixlip municipal district.

Ms Hunt responded with the following;

- Adhering to Government guidelines on COVID-19, a meeting would be arranged at the Wonderful Barn as requested.
- The consultation was open to every individual from the community and all ideas would be considered and fed back to the design team.
- There was no age limit, the broader the age the better, once they have parental consent.
- The consultation was about the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District however the Wonderful Barn was a really important area under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme

The members thanked Ms Hunt, Ms O’Gara and the Public Realm Team for their hard work and contribution in bringing all this together. Ms Hunt advised that she would send the draft survey to Councillor Galvin re the Celbridge Youth Facility.

Ms Hunt also sought the members agreement to brief them after the May municipal district meeting on the Ardclough presentation. All members agreed to this briefing.

CL23/0421

Outdoor dining funding initiatives

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen. In respect of outdoor dining funding initiatives of €200,000 available to each local authority funding, just announced, that the council outlines what plans it has to apply for this initiative for the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell. A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that as this is Fáilte Ireland funding for outdoor dining which has just been announced, no firm plans have been formulated as of yet. As the Public Realm Team is already progressing plans for parklets in a number of towns, cross departmental consideration would have to be given to appropriate locations.

Councillor Killeen welcomed the report and advised It would be beneficial for plans to be formulated and to avail of an opportunity for outdoor dining furniture for businesses.

The following issues were also raised by the members;

- There were no parking spaces that could be removed, in Celbridge or Leixlip to facilitate this type of dining furniture.
- An alternative may be to use the parking spaces in the evening time, but consideration should be given to removing them from local businesses during the day.

- Engagement with Planning department and Municipal District Engineer was important in relation to Section 254's in Celbridge and Leixlip as there was an issue with narrow footpaths in these towns.
- Each application would have to be considered on its own merits.
- Could car park owners look at sharing their space with coffee shop owners?
- There may be a small section of business content to see car parking spaces removed. All businesses should be taken into account when considering this item.
- Businesses and the council needed to be innovative in this area.

Ms Hunt advised that the funding was aimed at businesses and they could apply for this funding. The Public Realm team would examine the use of parking spots for this purpose however this would be best led by the businesses themselves as parking spaces were vital for success of their business and finding suitable space was a challenge.

Ms Hunt advised that the Public Realm team had limited resources and had 65 active projects across the county, however they were willing to support these businesses in this initiative.

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

CL24/0421

Record of Protected Structures

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell. That the council commence the process to add the following structures and areas to the Record of Protected Structures: Louisa Bridge, The Collectors House (near the aqueduct on the canal), the Aqueduct on the Canal/Rye, the Roman Baths.

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department informing the members that the structures, as listed, in addition to two others that have also recently come to the attention of the Planning Authority, namely the 'Thermal Spring' and 'Hexagonal Well' have now been referred to the council's consultant Architectural Conservation Officer, for his attention and review. The consultant Architectural Conservation Officer has agreed to meet with Councillor Caldwell so that the precise location of each of the structures may be determined in order that each structure may be surveyed. It is expected that this initial survey work would take place in the next 2-3 weeks.

If it is considered that each/all of the structures meet the criteria as set out in Section 54 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), '(the Act)' namely being of 'special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest' the formal process of adding each/all of the structures to the RPS may then begin, either in accordance with the Section 55 procedures of 'the Act' or by recommending the inclusion of each/all of the structures as part of the review of the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) which is currently underway.' Councillor Caldwell welcomed the report and agreed to meet the consultant Architectural Conservation Officer.

Councillor Killeen enquired was the Aqueduct on the Canal/Rye not already listed. Ms Hunt responded that she would seek clarification on the Aqueduct. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Cussen that the report be noted and Ms Hunt would seek clarification on the listing of the Aqueduct.

CL25/0421

Climate Innovation Fund 2021

The Meetings Administrator confirmed the members had been issued with a report on the Climate Innovation Fund in relation to Celbridge–Leixlip Municipal District prior to the meeting.

Ms O'Rourke stated five applications were received. One was a duplicate, two didn't meet entry requirements hence they were unsuccessful and two were successful. It was proposed to fund the highest scoring group 100% and the second placed group by 75% allowing them to demonstrate the work proposed. Releasing € 25,000 of Local Property Tax for this work.

The members raised the following points;

- The projects were very encouraging and showed amazing knowledge and ways of restoring our environment.
- Could the Climate Action Team go back to the unsuccessful applicants and give them feedback as to how they could be successful for next year.
- Would it be possible for these two groups to give demonstrations, once they have an outcome and depending on the time scales?

The Cathaoirleach thanked Councillor Liston who had initiated this process. She congratulated the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District on being the first to get this off the ground.

Councillor Liston thanked the Environment Department, Climate Action Department, Mr. Deegan and Ms O'Rourke and congratulated all the groups on their contributions.

Ms O'Rourke also thanked Councillor Liston and Mr Deegan for their help and support. She confirmed that she would write to unsuccessful groups with feedback and inform them of what other funding was available. She would also ascertain could other municipal districts take this initiative on.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Neville that the report be noted and Ms O'Rourke would write to unsuccessful groups with feedback and ascertain could other municipal districts take this initiative on.

CL26/0421

Number of dogs in the municipal district

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

That this municipal district be a pilot for the county in carrying out a survey of the number of dogs in the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the Environment Section does not have the financial resources/budget, physical resources, or expertise to carry out such a survey on the number of dogs in the municipal district.

The members raised the following issues:

- It was important to find out this information as a huge number of sheep are killed per annum by dogs.
- Cork had 36,000 licenced dogs, Kildare has 6,000
- This should be raised at the Environment Strategic Policy Committee.
- The members agreed it was a challenge obtaining accurate figures for dogs in the municipal district.

The Cathaoirleach advised she was presently working with Director of Service Mr Boland, in relation to microchipping, dog licenses and dog fouling. They were looking at distributing a portion of free microchipping for dogs in this municipal district.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Cussen that the report be noted and the motion referred to the Environment and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee for further discussion.

CL27/0421

Update on extension to Confey Cemetery

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

A report was received from Mr Boland, Environment Department, he apologised for

not attending last March's municipal district meeting he informed the members that there was three to four years capacity left at Confey cemetery.

Councillor Caldwell stated he would like the new cemetery to remain in the Confey area.

Mr Boland informed the members that

- The council would not be able to proceed with extension in adjoining area as the land was unsuitable due to high water table.
- Adhering to guidelines from central government around COVID-19, in the next few weeks he would advertise for expressions of interest for a new cemetery.
- A permanent caretaker had been identified and Human Resources were dealing with placing this person shortly.
- He advised considering the demographics and as Leixlip is a large area, they may be considering three / four / five acres.
- He would welcome suggested areas from the elected members

The report was noted.

CL28/0421

Social Enterprise Development Fund

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

That the council establish how many companies/groups in our municipal district accessed the Social Enterprise Development Fund (run in partnership with Social Innovation Fund Ireland) and what projects these were and what plans are there for 2021/2022 in respect of attracting and developing new social enterprises in the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Community Cultural and Development Department informing the members that The Social Enterprise Development (SED) Fund which is managed by Rethink Ireland has been supporting social enterprises from every local authority over the last three years. There have been 78 such projects during this time.

In 2018 the SED Fund supported Sensational Kids (Kildare Town) with a grant and assistance through a business supports package. Being part of the SED Fund in 2018 paved the way for Sensational Kids to secure a place on Rethink Ireland's Growth Fund. In 2020 they were awarded further growth capital to help them scale their operations.

In 2020 the SED Fund supported SparkAbility, with a place on the Genesis Programme and follow up strategic planning support.

In 2021 Rethink Ireland would again support up to 16 social enterprises with funding and business supports. They would also be supporting social enterprises who do not receive a cash grant through the Genesis Programme: an intensive two-day workshop which would focus on building the skills and knowledge needed to develop a sustainable social enterprise and to be successful in future funding opportunities.

The following is from the Rethink Ireland web page:

“Social enterprises are organizations whose mission is to have a positive effect on society”.

“Social enterprises are at the heart of facing the greatest social challenges in Ireland. They are professional and experienced and use business skills and clever thinking to bridge the gaps in our society. The money they make from their work is used to grow what they do so that they could reach all the people in society who need their help”.

“Social enterprises are innovating every day by inventing and developing solutions to Ireland’s most pressing social issues. They are creating meaningful jobs, tackling inequalities and supporting community development. We believe there is a need to foster and invest in these social enterprises to allow them to grow and spread their solutions throughout the country”.

“We invite applications from social enterprises that:

- Have a clear social mission that addresses a critical social issue
- Generate income from goods or services
- Are already up and running
- Reinvest any surplus into achieving their mission

- Have a not-for-profit legal form, e.g. companies limited guarantee
- Are separate from the Government and state agencies
- Have their main impact in the Republic of Ireland
- Have not already completed a multi-year fund with Rethink Ireland.”

The opportunity to apply for assistance ran from 21 January to 05 March 2021.

It was widely advertised nationally and locally through the PPN (Public Participation Network), libraries and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

Rethink Ireland has confirmed that for 2021, they have not made any final decisions yet as the selection process is ongoing. They have assured that they would be supporting a social enterprise in every local authority with either a cash grant or a place on the Genesis Programme.

Councilor Killeen enquired were the 78 projects listed in the report for Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District or for the County.

Mr Dunne advised they were for the County, there were 2 successful projects however they were not from Celbridge-Leixlip municipal district. He advised there was one application received from Celbridge-Leixlip and he would continue to monitor the decisions.

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

CL29/0421

Sensory garden at St Catherine's Park, Leixlip

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

That the design documentation for the sensory garden at St Catherine's Park, Leixlip be presented to the members.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell. A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the designs for the sensory garden are attached. These

are based on the initial designs which were prepared by the Save The St Catherine's Group.

The Cathaoirleach acknowledged all the work that had taken place in the background and welcomed the presentations. This should now be discussed with the Access Officer and his input should be sought. She also queried whether it would be a Part 8 process? She requested that dementia and early onset dementia should be incorporated into the plans for the sensory garden.

Councillor Caldwell asked who would maintain the garden?

Mr Wallace advised that the designs for the garden came from 'Save The St Catherine's Group'. Kildare County Council would require assistance from the group or local volunteers to maintain it. The council wanted to get it out to tender but there were other work priorities scheduled ahead of it. He stated he was considering the dementia factor and would talk to the Access Officer regarding the design.

He advised that the project may not need to go to Part 8 as it was below the threshold for a Part 8 however, a consultation process could still be undertaken.

Mr Wallace stated that with the members agreement he would like to organise an in-committee meeting to capture what the members want from this garden and that this could be combined with a presentation on the conservation plan for The Wonderful Barn. The members agreed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell that the report be noted and an briefing/meeting be arranged to capture what the members want from this garden.

CL30/0421

Habitat report

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Liston. That the council carry out a habitat report on the native deciduous woodland in Crodaun, Celbridge (coordinates) 53.360980, -6.548254.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that this matter would be discussed with the Heritage Officer to establish whether the area qualifies as a native woodland.

Councillor Liston thanked the Heritage Officer, she would like to get feedback from Mr Wallace in relation to protecting this area as it was owned by Kildare County Council. The members agreed this should be put on the progress report

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Caldwell that the report be noted and the matter be discussed with the Heritage Officer and the item go on the progress report.

CL31/0421

Leixlip Spa and Waterfall

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville. That the council take steps to ensure the Leixlip Spa and waterfall is monitored through extra ranger services and extra protection in the summer months.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the Parks Section do not have a ranger service or the resources to provide one. Currently the council carry out an extensive clean-up of the area each year. This involves the cutting and removal of grass cuttings from the meadow areas, the removal of any scrub or saplings encroaching on the wetland and natural spring areas and the removal of litter throughout the site. Additional litter picks are carried out quarterly throughout the year.

The members welcomed the report and raised the following issues:

- It was evident extra rangers were required during the Summer months, this lack of resources had also been raised with the Office of Public Works.
- What extra steps could the Council take to preserve and enhance the whole area, especially the rare fauna?

- Where could the funding come from?

Mr Wallace advised that he was unaware of any funding that may be available for this area. The Heritage Council had given funding previously, but it was for conservation plans and studies. Council staff visit and monitor the area every quarter and the Tidy Towns group also assist with clean ups. Anti-social behaviour and parties have taken place in the land adjacent to this area. Mr Wallace advised he would ask the (Community) An Garda Síochána to play a more active role in monitoring the area.

Following enquiry, Mr Wallace advised that the front area had Japanese knot weed that was now being kept under control by the council and that on the last inspection, there was no evidence of it. The Community and Cultural Development Department would be interested in doing a promotional video / online stream about protection and enhancement of the area but currently resources and capacity are fully utilised.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Caldwell that the report be noted and Mr Wallace would ask the (Community) An Garda Síochána to play a more active role in monitoring the area.

CL32/0421

Damage to water pipes

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Cussen. Could the council provide the members with a report on the incidence of damage to water pipes in homes caused by roots from trees planted in public areas, the report to include who is responsible for the repairs and the process to be followed when this occurs?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development and Water Services Department informing the members that the Parks Section do not record incidences of damage to water pipes from tree roots. This is a matter for Irish Water. Repairs to water pipes are carried out by Irish Water and if removal of the tree is

deemed to be necessary and the Council are advised as such, this is carried out by the Parks Section.

An additional report was received from the Water Services Department, Irish Water is the national water utility responsible for the delivery of water services to homes and businesses in Ireland. The elected member should contact Irish Water via the dedicated Local Representative Service Desk in compliance with Irish Water instructions and protocol. The contact details are Telephone: 1850 178 178

Email: localrepsupport@water.ie

The reports were noted.

CL33/0421

Open space growing policy in 2021-2022

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

Could the council confirm what are the additional pilot areas in the municipal district for the open space growing policy in 2021-2022?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department. informing the members that the information requested was provided at last month's municipal district meeting. Councillor Liston has agreed that as the information was received, the question has been dealt with

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.