

**Minutes of Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.30am on Friday, 16 July 2021**

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

Officials Present: Ms C Barrett (District Manager), Mr C Buggie (Municipal District Engineer), Mr T Shanahan, (Meetings Administrator), Mr L Dunne, Ms Hunt and Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officers), Ms P Pender, (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr P Mulhern (Energy Efficiency Officer), Mr O Brady, (Administrative Officer), Mr C O'Toole (A/Staff Officer) and Ms C Dempsey (Meetings Secretary).

CL01/0721

Declarations of Interest

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

CL02/0721

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 18 June 2021 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville seconded by Councillor Cussen and agreed by the members that the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 18 June 2021 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CL03/0721

Municipal District Road Works

The crews worked within the guidelines from Central Government around COVID-19 and only carried out essential works. These involved resolving ponding/flooding issues, they maintained road signage to ensure it was clear and visible and maintained the road and footpath network.

The Road works programme for 2021 was outlined:

- R403 Youngs Cross to the Co boundary - Completed
- R148 Galvin's Cross to Ryevale Lawns - Completed
- L5056 Loughnamona to Castletown Leixlip - Completed
- L1016 Lyons Estate junction to Railway Bridge - Completed
- L1016 Dangan Corner to Laburnam Grove - Completed
- L1015 Shaughlins Glen towards Confey - Scheduled for 3rd August
- R148 Intel Roundabout to Louisa Bridge - Scheduled for 19th July

Surface Dressing – Restoration Maintenance works completed

- Ardrass
- Pluckstown

Agreed list of LPT projects were being assessed and programmed for works in 2021. Works started on the footpath from Rye Brewery to Ballyoulster this was completed. Footpath at Castletown to Forest Park was now completed with Public Lighting awaited.

Safety Assessment had been received from the consultants for Ardclough School. No issues were highlighted on the day, a copy was circulated to the members.

Councillor Caldwell asked would locals have access to Kellystown road when the works were taking place. The municipal district engineer confirmed that the locals would have access.

Councillor Galvin asked would Kildare County Council be changing the cycle paths on the Shackelton Road. The municipal district engineer advised he would check with the Roads Design team and come back to Councillor Galvin.

CL04/0721

Update on LPT expenditure 2021

A report in relation to LPT expenditure 2021 for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District was circulated to the members in advance of their meeting.

Ms Pender advised that the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District had allocated all their LPT in February 2021.

The below listed items were now moved from unspent to spent/transfer column on the report

- Footpaths and roads older estates
- Tea Lane
- Decade of Commemoration
- Traffic Survey for Shackleton Road

The members of each Municipal District were also asked to consider allocating funding to the design and construction of a suitable memorial to the memory of all those sadly neglected souls, that died in Athy's Workhouse and County Home.

Councillor Cussen referred to having agreed an allocation of €16,000 to Decade of Commemoration and of this, they had allocated €12,000 so should now only allocate €4,000. As the figures requested were not to hand, Councillor Killeen was asked to take the query back to the Decade of Commemoration Committee for confirmation. The allocation, if the members agree, will be taken from unspent LPT funds.

Ms Pender confirmed that all Directorates had been informed of the LPT allocations made by the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee.

CL05/0721

Capital Programme 2022-2024

A report in relation to Capital Programme was circulated to members in advance of their meeting. The District Manager advised that the majority of the funding comes from Central Government grants and sought the members comments.

The members welcomed the report and raised the following points:

- Progress needs to be evident from previous capital meetings. Was it possible to get quarterly reports on agreements already in place. There were lots of projects happening in Celbridge, the same could not be said for Leixlip.
- Under the public realm projects, Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District were only allocated approximated €150,000. This was for a population of 40,000 out of Kildare's overall population of 200,000.
- Some of the projects had been on the list for 20 years. It would be beneficial to pick projects that could be progressed quickly and not add to them as the staff were restricted with workloads and there were limitations on recruiting additional staff
- As St. John of Gods was public playground in a private grounds, should the funding still be going here as it was still not open to members of the public
- The members felt it would be beneficial to have a meeting with Ms S Kavanagh and Mr S Wallace from Community and Cultural Development Department to discuss further.

Mr Shanahan advised in relation to withholding funding from St John of Gods, that as this was not a motion on the agenda, the members could not decide this matter today. He advised that the Capital Programme was going to be reviewed in September and this was an opportunity for them to examine the projects and identify projects they may want included or removed. A separate meeting among the members was suggested as a way of agreeing a submission regarding the Capital Programme that could be sent then to the Head of Finance, in advance of the budgetary process.

The District Manager confirmed that the purpose of this report was to list any new projects that may be considered or to remove projects that were no longer viable.

These would then be considered by the Management Team, taking into consideration staff resources that are available.

Ms Hunt advised that the €150,000 for Celbridge, Leixlip and Ardclough was to fund town renewal plans. This process would strengthen their position when applying for the substantial capital projects and that this time next year, Kildare County Council could be in a more positive position due to this.

Ms Hunt advised that the public consultation for Athgarvan should be launching next week and the Ardclough consultation should follow that. She confirmed the launch of the new consultation portal with an interactive element was delayed due to a technical issue, this should be launched at the end of next week and a link would be sent to the members in advance.

Ms Hunt advised they currently had a team of 4, with 60 projects ongoing and as such, she appreciated the members patience as they worked through each project.

Mr Dunne noted it was a complicated issue in relation to St John of Gods playground and accepted the concerns and comments of the members.

CL06/0721

Finance Committee Annual Report

A report in relation to Finance Committee Annual Report was circulated to members in advance of their meeting. Councillor Neville advised he was a member of this committee and congratulated them for their good work.

The report was noted.

CL07/0721

Safety barrier at the Roman Bath in Louisa Valley park area.

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

That the council put a safety barrier in place at the Roman Bath in Louisa Valley park area.

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

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the safety of the Roman Bath would be examined to see how it could be improved.

Councillor Caldwell welcomed the report saying he thought this project would require very little work, however it would need to be addressed urgently.

Mr Dunne noted the comments and advised it was a protected structure, and he would look at it with Mr Wallace.

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

CL08/0721

Dishing of footpaths at entrance to Castletown House

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

That the council provide dishing at the footpaths at the interchange entrance to Castletown House, this requires alignment on one side and a corresponding dishing on opposite side of the road

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer would arrange for this work to be carried out.

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

CL09/0721

Wheelchair access to the “Kissing Gate”

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Galvin
That the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee write to the relevant person(s) in the OPW, highlighting that the "kissing gate" at the path leading down to the river near the gates of Castletown was preventing wheelchair access to that path, and asking that the gate be removed or replaced to facilitate access.

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 Mr M Hurley, had written to Mr. Hugh Bonar in the Office of Public Works re the kissing gate in Castletown House and was awaiting his response.

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

CL10/0721

Safety audit on proposed permeability

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman.
That prior to works being carried out on the proposed permeability leading from Castlewellan Park to the road serving Aldi, that the council carry out a safety audit in the interest of public safety.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Transportation Planning Section had confirmed that a Road Safety Audit Stage 2 had been carried out by Bruton Consulting Engineers on the proposed permeability link from the Castlewellan Estate to the road serving Aldi

and a Road Safety Audit Stage 3 would be carried out on the completed works when the permeability link was open for use by pedestrians and cyclists.

The members noted the report and were concerned about the safety for pedestrians, cyclists, scooters in this area. There was a gap in hedge that people were accessing by hopping the fence and they could not understand why this was there.

The municipal district engineer advised this design went through the Planning process. A Stage 2 safety audit was carried out prior to construction and the road only gives access to the supermarket, it was not the main Celbridge Road. He noted the members concerns but advised that experts came up with the design and stage 3 safety audit is upon implementation.

Councillor Coleman suggested removing 20 metres of hedging may make it safer.

Councillor Liston requested that the members see the Stage 2 safety audit, to avoid this happening again in the future.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Liston that the report be noted, and the members be given a copy of the Stage 2 safety audit

CL11/0721

Footpath at the junction of Ballymakealy Grove and Springfield Close

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman. That the footpath at the junction of Ballymakealy Grove and Springfield Close be dished to make it accessible to all.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer would arrange for these works to be carried out.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Caldwell that the report be noted, and the Municipal District Engineer would arrange for these works to be carried out.

CL12/0721

Pedestrian crossings at Westfield and Leixlip GAA

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville
That this council seek a reply from ESB as to why the pedestrian crossings at Westfield and Leixlip GAA have still not been turned on.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Caldwell.
A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council contacted the ESB and the ESB connection for the Westfield pedestrian crossing was made live. The ESB have stated they would complete their work at Leixlip GAA in the coming weeks

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

CL13/0721

Update on the safety report for the Riverforest entrance

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville.
That this council receive an update on the safety report for the Riverforest entrance

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District have allocated €25K to assess the Riverforest junction. Given its proximity to Cope's Bridge and adjacent local access, the Sustainable Transport & Traffic Management

Section were preparing a scope of works for an independent assessment to be undertaken to examine the issue. It was planned that this commission would be completed by the end of 2021.

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

CL14/0721

Right of way along the Liffey riverbank behind Castle park, Leixlip.

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell. Could the council provide an update on the right of way along the Liffey riverbank behind Castle park, Leixlip.

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that legal advice had been obtained on the matter and Kildare County Council would be progressing the issue based on this.

The report was noted.

CL15/0721

Easton Road/Green Lane upgrade project

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Liston. Could the council confirm what was the current timeline and progress on the implementation plan for the funded Easton Road/Green Lane upgrade project in Leixlip?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Easton Road/Green Lane Cycle Route Scheme had received funding from the NTA in 2021. The Council had tendered for the Option Selection and Design element of the Scheme and a service provider had been appointed this month. The design would commence in July 2021 and it was expected that a Part 8 Process would be initiated in 2022 with detailed design and

construction following the consultation process. A further update would be provided once the programme of works had been discussed and agreed with the service provider.

The report was noted.

CL16/0721

The Cathaoirleach requested that items 16 and 17 on the agenda be taken together. All the members agreed.

Item 16

Assessment of the Loughlinstown Road Junction with the Dublin Road

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Cussen
Can the council confirm if an assessment has been carried out of the Loughlinstown Road junction with the Dublin Road recently for vehicular movements?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that no assessment has been carried out recently. However, the grass verge has been trimmed at the junction to ensure sightlines for drivers exiting the junction.

The report was noted.

Item 17

Footpath from the nursing home to the Dublin Road junction on Loughlinstown Road?

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Cussen.
Could the council confirm when a footpath would be provided from the nursing home to the Dublin Road junction on Loughlinstown Road?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were no plans currently to provide a footpath from the Nursing home to the Dublin road junction on the Loughlinstown Road

The report was noted.

CL17/0721

Number of people on the housing list in Celbridge and Leixlip

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Galvin.
Could the council confirm how many people were currently on the housing list in Celbridge and Leixlip?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the number of people currently on the housing list in Celbridge was 573 and 280 in Leixlip

The report was noted.

CL18/0721

Number of people that are on the housing transfer list

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Coleman.
Could the council confirm the number of people that were on the housing transfer list in this municipal district at this time?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the number on the housing transfer list in Celbridge/Leixlip currently was:

Local Authority Transfers = 61

AHB Transfers = 15

Total = 76

The report was noted.

CL19/0721

Communications mast at the old ESB shop site, Leixlip Village

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

Could the council give an update on the communications mast at the old ESB shop site, Leixlip Village?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the communications mast was on land in the ownership of ESB Telecoms Ltd. The Council were assisting ESB in reviewing alternative site locations. A number of sites had been reviewed but a suitable site had yet to be sourced.

The report was noted.

CL20/0721

Removal of the ban on the use of chemicals to control the weeds and overgrowth in the cemeteries

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell. That the council consider a removal of the ban on the use of chemicals to control the weeds and overgrowth in the cemeteries in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District

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

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department informing the members that It was noted that the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District last year sought to cease the use of chemicals, especially glyphosate, in council properties including cemeteries.

Kildare County Council could not operate a separate policy for the council cemeteries in the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District in this regard and the policy applies across all Municipal Districts.

Councillor Caldwell noted the report but asked could an exception be made as it was important for the cemeteries to look well.

All the other members did not support this motion and raised the following points;

- The use of chemicals was harmful to the environment.

- They understood where Councillor Caldwell was coming from did not want to back track on good progress made to date.

The Cathaoirleach acceded to a request for a vote on the motion and called for a show of hands in this regard.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Cussen, with 1 member voting for the motion and 6 members voting against, the motion fell.

CL21/0721

Considerations for implementing segregated bins

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Liston. That the council outline the additional costs and considerations for implementing segregated bins in this municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment & Transportation and Roads Department informing the members that the Council's Transportation and Environment Departments were jointly working on developing a policy around the provision of street litter bins which, among other things, would be mindful of not just the initial purchase and installation costs but also the ongoing maintenance and servicing costs for each new bin

The members welcomed the report and raised the following points;

- Visibility around cost of implementing segregated bins was required to ascertain was it a viable option.
- The Tidy Towns competitions promote recycling and Kildare County Council needed to support this
- Kildare County Council needed to take a bold leap and pilot even one bin. Dublin City Council had piloted this, could Kildare County Council learn from them.

Mr Kavanagh noted the comments from the members. A facility to recycle would also be required at the depots, the cost would need to be considered before this could be implemented. He also advised co-operation from the public was essential to ensure contents of recycling bins were not contaminated.

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

CL22/0721

Culverts on the Toni River

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Coleman. Could the council confirm that the culverts on the Toni River were checked periodically to avoid flooding?

A report was received from the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that the culverts were inspected by the Municipal District office. Cleaning of the Toni River was carried out by the Municipal District office last year.

The report was noted.

CL23/0721

LPT residents' associations and community innovation fund grants schemes.

The LPT resident's associations and community innovation fund grants schemes were considered by the members of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee.

Kildare County Council

Community Grants 2021 for approval			
No.	Group	Project	Proposed Grant
1	ShareRing Skills Group	1. to purchase a full Zoom subscription to run workshops for group members. 2. to expand the pollinator project with training workshops for interested persons	€1,875
2	Leixlip Youth Premises Group CLG	to run a programme of events for members of our Youth Clubs over the Summer 2021	€1,030
3	Leixlip Youth Premises Group CLG	to purchase of garden tools and equipment for the cleanup, maintenance and upkeep of the outdoor areas of the Centre	€750
4	Celbridge Access Group	to develop a brochure of simple measures for businesses to become more accessible	€1,540
5	Leixlip Christmas Lights	to Provide Christmas Lights for Leixlip, Co. Kildare	€14,000
6	Tea Lane Graveyard Committee	to purchase a Barna shed to store props and other items used by artists performing at Tea Lane .	€1,445
7	Celbridge Mens Shed	to expand the woodworking and art projects currently being undertaken	€1,725
8	Community Cancer Caregivers	to extend the service we offer to provide weekly housekeeping for 2 hours for a maximum of 6 months whilst our clients attends Cancer treatment.	€2,250
9	Community Cancer Caregivers North Kildare	to recruit and provide training for 10 volunteers in Maynooth and its surrounding areas.	€2,400
10	The Acre Project	to create a number of biodiverse gardens within the Acre Project site.	€2,130
11	19th Kildare Salesian Scout Group	to upgrade the grounds of the scout site for easy and safe ingress, and egress, cooking facilities, supported by the technological side that will ensure the connectivity and learning.	€2,100
12	Celbridge Community First Responder Group	to purchase of more life saving and training equipment for our First Responder Group to train volunteers	€2,250

Community Grants 2021 for approval			
No.	Group	Project	Proposed Grant
13	Leixlip Special Olympics Club	to supply T-shirts, Polo Shirts and Water Bottles for Special Needs Athletes	€1,125
14	Dara Community Living	to provide volunteer services to elderly and vulnerable people our estates.	€1,430
15	The Bridge Garda Youth Diversion Project	to run a summer programme, focused on challenging underlying attitudes and accepted norms around cannabis use among young people.	€1,110
16	Ardclough Youth Theatre (Ardclough Dramatic Society)	to undertake "A Sense of Place" project for the benefit of the community	€3,000
17	Ballymakealy Residents Association	to improve large flower bed	€300
18	Easton Meadows Residents Association	to repair and replace railing	€1,430
19	Buion St Cecilia Brigins	to purchase flowers for parish centre and purchase more camping equipment	€340
20	Silver Thread Club Celbridge	to arrange various trips and events for service users	€1,950
Total Grants for award			€44,180
Funding not being awarded			Reason
1	Dermot Early Youth Leader Initiative	Not enough information to assess.	

Festival Grants 2021 for approval			
No	Group	Project	Proposed Grant
1	Wolstan Haven Residents Association	hold a Christmas community fun day event	€250
2	Leixlip Park Residents Association	hold a Family Fun Day -	€250
3	Leixlip Youth Project	host a Halloween event in Loughnamona	€500
4	Celbridge mini fest	provide decorative illuminations for select buil	€500
5	Safer Celbridge and Celbridge Community	host a Safer Celbridge Halloween even	€800
Total grants for approval			€2,300

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Cussen and agreed by all members that the LPT residents' associations small projects and community innovation fund grants schemes as outlined be approved.

CL24/0721

Evaluation of glyphosate phase-out policies on nature recovery in the municipal district.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Liston
That the Parks Departments provide an overview of the scope and aims of the research project with Maynooth University and the extent to which it may also support the monitoring and evaluation of our growing and glyphosate phase-out policies on nature recovery in this municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Climate Action Department informing the members that the aim of the project was to research the potential alternative maintenance methods to glyphosate based on typical scenarios found in public amenity open spaces. The researched methods would be carried out in practical situations on Kildare County Council and Maynooth University sites to ascertain their effectiveness. At the end of the two-year masters, the work would culminate in the production of a practical guide based on the findings to inform local authorities and others.

Since commencing in June, the master's student had scoped out potential alternatives and the potential research sites. Experiments were being formulated to be carried out over the remainder of this maintenance season and next season (2022). The Parks Department's maintenance contractors would be assisting with the experimental applications on the sites identified. The research would over time assist other functional areas to reduce their reliance on Glyphosate.

Citizen Science was also being considered to assist potentially with the collection of data based on observations associated with biodiversity. Given the restrictions associated with COVID-19, it was envisaged that Community Stories would post short videos demonstrating how to partake. The data collected would inform the research (assuming it was of the quality required) and impart knowledge to participants to increase awareness.

In the case of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District, the proposed research sites include The Wonderful Barn and Leixlip Spa.

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

CL25/0721

Review/amend and/or add to the existing grass cutting schedule

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen. That this council be given an opportunity to review/amend and/or add to the existing grass cutting schedule for the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that amendments to the grass cutting schedule could be considered but would have to be within the existing costs of grass cutting for the Municipal District. There was no scope within the existing budget to increase costs. Any changes to the maintenance regime would also have to consider identified research sites being used to monitor the effects of glyphosate reduction.

The members noted the report stating they wanted equality amongst all estates and proposed to discuss the matter with the Parks Department outside of this meeting.

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

CL26/0721

"Clubs and Societies" day

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Galvin. That a "clubs and societies" day be held in Celbridge in late 2021 or early 2022, to help connect local residents with the many local clubs, societies and other community groups.

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

A report was received from the Sports Partnership Co-Ordinator informing the members that Kildare Sports Partnership would help in organising the involvement of the sports clubs in the area if this event was being organised.

An additional report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that this project was best suited to being organised by a local group.

The Community Department and the Public Participation Network would, of course assist with promoting the event where possible. Any event would have to be held in accordance with Public Health guidelines pertaining at the time.

The members welcomed the reports. Councillor Galvin advised she had spoken to the executive at Celbridge Community Council and they advised they would bring this motion to the wider committee in September. Councillor Galvin also spoke to Ms Fleming at the PPN who advised they could support this initiative by inviting expressions of interest.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Cussen that the reports be noted.

CL27/0721

Replacement of equipment in the playground at the Amenities Centre

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell. Could the council provide an update on the replacement of equipment in the playground at the Amenities Centre in Leixlip?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department, informing the members that a survey had been carried out through the local schools to ascertain children's opinions on the existing playground and what improvements they would like to see. Progression on a tender to have the car park redesigned to facilitate the expansion of the car park was the next work planned and then to tender for the redesign of the playground.

Mr Dunne advised it would be put on the Community and Cultural Development Departments priority list to support this project.

The report was noted.

CL28/0721

Permanent tree planting on Main Street, Celbridge.

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Liston. Could the council confirm what are the processes and steps to be followed to plan for a permanent tree planting on Main Street, Celbridge.

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that a survey of the street and location of services would have to be considered along with potential locations and whether some of the parking bays could be used. If suitable locations could be found following this then suitable tree species and tree pits would have to be designed and constructed.

The report was noted.

CL29/0721

Upgrades at The Abbey playground

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Galvin.
Could the council confirm when the upgrades at the Abbey playground were due to be undertaken?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the upgrades to the playground would be carried out once St John of Gods facilitate reopening of the playground which to date had not been possible due to COVID-19 precautions the organisation have in place for their service users.

The report was noted.

CL30/0721

Skatepark in Leixlip

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Neville.
Could the council give an insight as to the opportunity and cost of a skatepark in Leixlip?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that consideration would have to be given to whether there were sufficient demand for a skatepark, a suitable location would also have to be found. The size and features within the skatepark would determine the cost. If the skatepark was similar in size to Naas and Newbridge, then an approximate cost would be €100-180k.

The report was noted.

CL31/0721

Energy Efficiency Presentation

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr Mulhern, Energy Efficiency Officer to the meeting. He advised any questions should be addressed to Mr Mulhern after the meeting and all the members agreed.

Mr Mulhern delivered a presentation to the members highlighting the following:

- He explained his role as Kildare County Council's Energy Efficiency Officer.
- He outlined Kildare County Council's Energy Reduction Commitments including: 50% Energy Efficiency Improvement, 50% Emissions Reductions, Public Sector bodies commit to Climate Action Mandate to support climate reform, Decarbonation Strategy and that all public buildings to achieve a B BER rating.
- He described Kildare County Council's current Energy Efficiency projects including: the Energy Bureau, the Energy Management Team, Analysis of top energy users, Climate and Energy Week and the Sustainable Energy Communities.
- He informed the elected members of their role in the communicating and promoting of these projects.
- The members could work directly in the projects, in the development of the partnerships and garnering support through their networks.

The councillors welcomed the report and raised the following points in response to the presentation:

- What do Kildare County Council and the members need to do to encourage more engagement within the Community.
- What type of Energy Efficiency Community initiatives could be explored

Mr Mulherrin responded that it was important to get community groups such as tidy towns, owners of vegetable plot allotments involved and to have more alignment between all these groups and to encourage these groups to get involved in Sustainable Energy week. It was good to plant the seed in relation to 'How could

one reduce energy bills'; this would always spark an interest an encourage more involvement.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr Mulhern for his very information presentation and wished him well in his role.

The meeting concluded.