

**Minutes of Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Meeting held at 10.00am on
Friday, 18 June 2021
on Microsoft Teams**

Members Present: Councillor Í Cussen (Cathaoirleach)

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

Apologies: Councillor N Killeen

Officials Present: Ms C Barrett (District Manager), Mr C Buggie (Municipal District Engineer), Mr T Shanahan, (Meetings Administrator), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr O Brady, Mr M McLoughlin, Mr J Shannon, Mr D McDermott and Mr E Fagan (Administrative Officers), Ms B. Loughlin (Heritage Officer) Mr C O'Toole (A/Staff Officer) and Ms C Dempsey (Meetings Secretary).

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Councillor Killeen sent her apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting due to a family bereavement. She confirmed that Councillor Killeen had given written instruction to the Meetings Administrator that she as Cathaoirleach could move her motions.

CL01/0621

Bereavements

The Cathaoirleach remembered Mr Liam Coleman brother to Councillor Michael Coleman who had recently passed away, the members offered their sympathies and condolences to Councillor Coleman, his family and friends.

The members also offered their sympathies and condolences to Cllr. Nuala Killeen on her recent family bereavement.

A minute's silence was observed.

CL02/0621

Declarations of Interest

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

CL03/0621

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 21 May 2021 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen seconded by Councillor Coleman and agreed by the members that the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 21 May 2021 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CL04/0621

Matters arising

Councillor Liston referred to item CL22/1220 from the December 2020 meeting. She stated she would like the presentation in relation to 'Protecting and monitoring of drinking water sources in Celbridge Leixlip' from the relevant agencies, and she would like details of "specific actions" by the agencies. She requested this would be addressed for next month and for it to appear on the progress report. The Meetings Administrator agreed to the addition of this item to the Progress Report as it was based on a motion previously passed and the action arising had not been delivered as per the motion.

CL05/0621

Municipal District Road Works

The Municipal District Engineer updated the members on the municipal district road works, making the following points.

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. Calls received were triaged and then assigned to a crew as appropriate.

He outlined the status of the Road Overlays - Restoration Improvement programme.

- R403 Youngs Cross to the Co boundary Completed
- R148 Galvin's Cross to Ryevale Lawns Scheduled to start 5th July
- L5056 Loughnamona to Castletown Leixlip Completed
- L1016 Lyons Estate junction to Railway Bridge Scheduled to start 28th June
- L1016 Dangan Corner to Laburnam Grove Scheduled to start 28th June
- L1015 Shaughlins Glen towards Confey Tender assessment currently on going

Surface Dressing – Restoration Maintenance works completed on 31st May

- Ardrass
- Pluckstown

The agreed list of LPT projects were being assessed and programmed for works in 2021

Works started on the footpath from Rye Brewery to Ballyoulster 3 weeks ago and were due to be completed by the end of the following week. The Municipal District Engineer was awaiting start dates for footpath at Castletown to Forest Park.

Safety Assessment report was awaited from the consultants for Ardclough School. No issues were highlighted on the day (Wednesday 5th May). The members thanked

the Public Real Team and the Municipal District Team for installation of the picnic benches in Leixlip.

CL06/0621

Date and venue for the Annual Meeting.

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that it was proposed that the annual meeting would take place in the council chamber at 10:00 a.m. on Friday 16 July 2021 prior to the monthly meeting confirming that standing orders would have to be suspended until 10.30am to allow this happen, and sought the members approval in this regard.

Resolved on the agreement by all the members present that the annual meeting of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District would take place in the council chamber at 10:00 a.m. on Friday 16 July 2021 and the monthly meeting would take place at 10.30am on the same day.

CL07/0621

Process to pedestrianise Main Street in Celbridge on one Sunday

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Liston. That the council commence the process to pedestrianise the Main Street in Celbridge on one Sunday in September 2021.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the current request to close Main Street, Celbridge, albeit on a temporary basis, would need to be cognisant of the impact this would have on vehicular movement, particularly on public transport, around the town, access arrangements for residents and emergency access facilities.

The statutory procedures for a Temporary Road Closure would need to be undertaken. This process requires advertising, public consultation etc. and takes approximately 8 weeks to complete. Should the members wish to proceed with the proposal they would need to identify the exact time and date of the proposed closure along with the detour routes, which must be approved by the Municipal District Office, in advance of the statutory procedure commencing. Warning signage, detour signage would be required in accordance with Traffic Management Plan for the temporary closure should it proceed. The signage would need to be put in place at suitable locations and removed at the end of each closure period.

As the closure would attract additional footfall to the area, it could lead to an increase in littering. It would not be possible to provide any increased street cleaning/bin collection service once the road reopens on the Sunday, as street cleaning/bin collection services would not occur until the following morning.

Councillor Liston welcomed the report. She also thanked the members, in particular Councillor Caldwell for his contributions due to his experience in organising these events and to Councillor Coleman for speaking to An Garda Síochána.

It was decided by the members that as public health was paramount and COVID-19 was still an issue, it would be difficult to exercise crowd control, therefore the process to pedestrianise Main Street in Celbridge on one Sunday would be deferred to the following year, perhaps May 2022.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all the members that the process to pedestrianise Main Street in Celbridge on one Sunday be deferred until 2022.

CL08/0621

Community engagement in advance of second bridge in Celbridge

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

That the council develop a written plan for community engagement for the next and subsequent phases of consultation on the second bridge in Celbridge, in advance of

the September municipal district meeting; to include a clear outline of the purpose of each consultation, who would be engaged and how at each stage, what information would be provided and what opportunities there would be for the public to engage with the Roads team members.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Transport Project Team would inform the councillors of the proposed public consultation/engagement process associated with the Celbridge-Hazelhatch Link Road, prior to the September Municipal District Committee meeting.

The District Manager responded with the following:

- A lot of submissions have been received and the team were reviewing all of these.
- Engagement has taken place with landowners, presently no preferred route had been decided.
- The team were applying the Transport Infrastructure Ireland guidelines but due to COVID-19 the consultation could not take place in person and this tended to make full community engagement difficult.

Councillor Liston welcomed the report and outlined this was a very important project for the town of Celbridge, therefore it was good to know it was being carried out in the best possible way. As Transport Infrastructure Ireland have live documents available, she advised it would be beneficial if the team dealing with these were to review them and follow their guidelines.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members present that the report be noted and the council develop a written plan for community engagement for the next and subsequent phases of

consultation on the second bridge in Celbridge, in advance of the September municipal district meeting.

CL09/0621

Feasibility study on potential to construct a Western Link Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman. That the council carry out a feasibility study on the potential to construct a Western Link Road that would link Maynooth Road R 405 with the Clane Road R 403, reference MTO3.11 of the Celbridge Local Area Plan 2017-2023.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that due to limited resources, it was not possible to facilitate this request at this time.

Councillor Coleman noted the report. He stated the proposed link road was vital and it would alleviate the majority of traffic congestion in the area. He advised it was important that the school traffic at all schools was reviewed between 7am and 9am and how best to manage this when considering this link Road.

The members agreed that a meeting with the planning department off-line would be beneficial and also to ascertain where this link road would sit within the Local Area Plan and the County Development Plan.

The District Manager advised that Kildare was fortunate as a lot of road projects are presently progressing. All of these projects were reviewed and placed in order of importance, this link road was not on the priority list for progression. She stated a meeting with the Planning department, elected members and herself would be beneficial to discuss further.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Cussen and agreed by all members that the report be noted and an off-line meeting takes place between elected members and relevant Kildare County Council officials to discuss further.

CL10/0621

Review of the road between the M4 and Intel

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville. That the council carry out a review of the road between the M4 and Intel to assess best layout given the number of developments on this road. This should include possible bridges, crossings and plans to enter and exit sites.

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 due to limited resources, it was not possible to facilitate this request at this time.

Councillor Neville noted the report and advised that the main access point was at a dual carriageway and it was not fit for purpose. Consideration should be given to a pedestrian crossing or a footbridge.

The District manager advised that the team consider solutions for all vulnerable road users. The Municipal District Engineer was working on the greenway and there could be links on that road that might assist. She advised the Construction and Design review team could not take on board any additional works so due to that, it could not be progressed currently.

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

CL11/0621

Replacement of footpath on Main Street Leixlip

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell. Could the council update the members on replacing the footpath on Main Street, Leixlip?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that funding has not been identified for these works however, some works have been carried on the vehicular entrances already.

The report was noted.

CL12/0621

Dipping of kerbs on cyclopaths around Celbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Galvin. Could the council confirm if it has made arrangements to dip kerbs on cyclepaths around Celbridge this summer, in particular Hazelhatch Park, Calanders Mill, Simmonstown Manor, up at the train station roundabout and on the Shackleton Road opposite the turn up to Scoil Mochua?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the budget for footpath maintenance across the entire district was €69,335. Currently the focus was on removing trip hazards in order of priority and then moving to improving drop kerbs at crossing points. The locations highlighted could be assessed and works carried out where funding was available. This would be subject to the agreement of the members by way of a motion.

Councillor Galvin welcomed the report and raised the following points of clarifications:

Was the report outlining that she needed to put in a motion to have this work carried out, what would the approximately cost be to carry out this project, and would it need

to be contracted out?

The Municipal District Engineer advised Councillor Galvin to contact him directly as he would need specific locations as it appeared to cover a large area.

The report was noted.

CL13/0621

Hazelhatch train Station

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Galvin
Can the council confirm what representations it has made on the proposed upgrades to the Hazelhatch train station under Dart+ proposals?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the Executive have engaged with Irish Rail on the Dart + South West project and have attended a number of presentations given by the consultants of Irish Rail leading the project. The executive would engage with the consultation process and make submissions when invited. No written representations have been made to date.
The report was noted.

CL14/0621

Public Lighting replacement LED programme

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Coleman.
Could the members be informed of the timeline for the Public lighting replacement LED programme in this Municipal District?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that It was anticipated that Region 2, which includes Kildare, would go to tender by end of Quarter 2,2021 with a contractor appointed and works commencing in the region in Quarter 1, 2022. There was no timeline, at present, for

the commencement of the upgrade programme in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District as this would be a matter for the successful contractor to schedule.

Councillor Coleman raised the following points of clarification:

- What counties are in Region two?
- Do we have an end time for the commencement of the upgrade programme?

Mr O'Toole responded with the following.

- There are eight to nine counties in the region with Kilkenny being the lead county.
- The installation period was anticipated to be over 2 years, if it commenced in January 2022 it should be completed by January 2024.

The report was noted.

CL15/0621

Surveys on the benefits of a new cycleway

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Neville. Could the council confirm if surveys have been carried out on the benefits of a new cycleway/road from Salesians back towards the planned new bridge for Hazelhatch? A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that no feasibility studies have been completed for this route, due to limited resources and the significant number of projects currently being progressed by the Transport Project Team.

The report was noted.

CL16/0621

Leixlip Section of the Royal Canal Greenway

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Neville. Could the council outline the timeline for next steps on the Leixlip section of the Royal Canal Greenway?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that detailed design has been submitted to Waterways Ireland and the NTA for approval to go to tender. It was anticipated approval to go to tender would be received within the next two weeks. The tender process would take approximately two months before the successful contractor could be appointed. The report was noted.

CL17/0621

Proposed changes to the Local Property Tax

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

Can the council confirm what is the financial impact for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District of the proposed changes to the Local Property Tax announced by the Minister on the 1st June 2021?

A report was received from the Finance Department informing the members that Finance are unable to confirm the financial impact on the proposed changes to the LPT as the Minister has not yet provided details. It should be noted that any changes will not necessarily be MD specific and will be part of the county budget and will be discussed with members in that context.

The report was noted.

CL18/0621

Temporary Suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws

A report circulated to the members in advance of the meeting and Ms Hunt made the following points in relation to the report:

- 1 The temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws is only until 30th November, 2021 including Enforcement at various locations across the municipal district to enable the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team to provide outdoor seating/parklets for general public use (subject to available funding).

- 2 The temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws including Enforcement at various locations across the municipal district to enable businesses to re-open for outdoor dining through the provision of parklets/outdoor seating for the exclusive use of their customers (subject to a full planning assessment and S254 licence approval).
- 3 The data on any deficit in finance due to this suspension would be obtained from the Finance Department.
- 4 Evidence suggests that increased pedestrianisation and cycling traffic generates more economic benefit as these users spend more time in an area.
- 5 Strict assessments are carried out by Public Realm Team and Municipal District Engineer, the team would consult with businesses and other relevant stakeholders before the process commences.
- 6 The team would work with An Garda Síochána who would constantly monitor the situation to control anti-social behaviour.
- 7 If the outdoor seating/parklets for general public use was unsuccessful the Public Realm team would step in to address it immediately.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all the members that the temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws including Enforcement in various locations across the municipal district area to facilitate the re-opening of businesses subject to S254 licence approval be approved.

CL19/0621

Launch of the Town Renewal Plan public consultation

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen.
That the council give a date for the launch of the Town Renewal Plan public consultations for Celbridge and Leixlip

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department informing the members that the new consultation portal with an interactive public consultation element was currently being finalised and when that process was concluded, public consultation on the draft Celbridge and Leixlip Town Renewal Plans would be launched.

The members welcomed the report and raised the following issues:

- The elected members would now like to see action on this public consultation and questioned was it a technical glitch that was holding it up?
- The members would like to receive advance notice before it goes live to prepare for postings to social media.

Ms Hunt responded with the following:

It was a technical issue holding it up, it was fully ready to go and should be launched in a few weeks. The Public Realm Team would launch social media postings with links as soon as possible and send out prior notification to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all the members that the report be noted and the Public Realm Team would launch social media with links to pre launching the town renewal plan as soon as possible and send out prior notification to the members.

CL20/0621

Shortage of creche spaces

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

That the council confirm what initiatives they are working on to increase provision in respect of the shortage of creche spaces in the municipal district and if there are any working groups in operation in the municipal district to stimulate provision of childcare settings.

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm, Department informing the members that this was a matter for the County Childcare Committee. Planning authorities require creche facilities where the threshold in a housing development was met for their mandatory provision. Planning authorities could not compel creche provision otherwise.

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

CL21/0621

Outdoor spaces for culture, arts and night-time events

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

That the council confirm what assessment has been undertaken within the municipal district to equip, adapt or create outdoor spaces for culture, arts and night-time events, and also confirm what funding was available, and what other stakeholders have been invited to participate in a scoping exercise.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Cussen and seconded by Councillor Liston.

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office informing the members that The Kildare Local Enterprise Office/Economic Development Section are administering the following grant on behalf of Fáilte Ireland:

“OUTDOOR SEATING & ACCESSORIES FOR TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY BUSINESSES”

Scheme Overview

The focus of this scheme was to provide a level of financial support to tourism and hospitality businesses, in our town centres, to purchase or upgrade equipment to

provide additional outdoor seating and, therefore, increase their outdoor dining capacity for the summer of 2021. This scheme would financially assist and support independent tourism and hospitality business owners to create outdoor dining experiences in a regulated and accessible manner. Funding under the scheme was only available to existing businesses. The Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business Scheme would be administered through Local Authorities and each local Authority has the right to use their discretion in regard to their process and the development of appropriate terms and conditions that are appropriate for their respective streetscapes, businesses etc. All applicants would be required to comply with planning codes, legislative requirements and other compliance requirements.

Who is Eligible?

The scheme was open to attractions, hotels, restaurants, cafes, public houses or other tourism and hospitality business establishments where food was produced on the premises and sold for consumption on the premises.

Sports Clubs such as Tennis, Football, Golf etc. are deemed to be ineligible for this scheme because of their restrictive access and therefore could not be considered.

The scheme closes on 30/09/2021 and applicants apply through a submit.com link on the LEO website.

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

CL22/0621

Plans for our “outdoor summer”

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

That the council give an update on plans for our “outdoor summer” in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department informing the members that the Public Realm team and the Municipal District Engineers office are working together to deliver the following projects:

New temporary parklets to replace on-street car parking spaces on the Main Street in Celbridge and at the bottom of Captains Hill in Leixlip. The corten steel planters and plants would arrive to site on Wednesday morning and the picnic tables have been assembled. Installation would take place that week.

In addition to the above, a pilot parklet has been commissioned to be manufactured to replace 1 car parking space and would be installed in Celbridge. This parklet was a modular system incorporating fixed seating and planters and could be later moved and trialled in other locations. Timeline for fabrication was approximately 6 weeks.

The Slip in Celbridge would be transformed to accommodate outdoor events. Social distancing markers would be fixed to the ground over a new liquafix surface.

Proposed LED lighting overhead at the laneway entrance and 2 planters would lead people from the Main Street into the space. Picnic benches have been painted and are ready for installation.

Additional picnic tables with longer tabletops (to accommodate wheelchair users) are on order to be installed at all locations.

Subject to the success of the above an additional parklet location may also be trialled in Leixlip.

The Municipal District Engineers office, Public Realm team and planners are promptly assessing Section 254s as they are submitted by local businesses for outdoor dining.

The members welcomed the report and raised the following points;

- The Public Realm Team were doing a good job but were under extreme pressure with their workload, the staff numbers should be increased in this area.

- They would like Ms Hunt to engage with all stakeholders to ensure all concerns are met, including Access groups and for specific proposals at the Slip to note they may affect the Church of Ireland, residents living in the area and employees that work near the Slip.
- As COVID-19 was still very much with us, they would like engagement with An Garda Síochána to ensure crowd control was adhered to.
- If taxi spaces were removed to accommodate proposals, when the pubs reopen where would the taxis park?

Ms Hunt responded with the following;

- She would engage with all stake holders. The Public Realm and the municipal district team have met with An Garda Síochána to review the proposed COVID-19 response plans for the Slip. An Garda Síochána were in favour of the plans however, they expressed a preference for seating to be located at the entrance to the Slip where visible from the Main Street and not at the water's edge (and out of sight). It was agreed that the municipal district office would hold some benches in storage for events at weekends that could be located in the Slip and An Garda Síochána would monitor their usage if left overnight for those weekend events, and would constantly monitor the situation.
- Markers have been set up in the areas to ensure adequate social distancing was adhered to.

The Municipal District Engineer advised that An Garda Síochána were positive about the plans and passive surveillance would be taking place. The areas would be usable spaces for the people of Celbridge and could be categorised as a more 'family-oriented event' as opposed to an event that would lead to anti-social behaviour.

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

CL23/0621

Steps required to install a public drinking water fountain

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Liston. Could the council outline what steps, costs and any other considerations, including contracts with Irish Water, that are required to install a public drinking water fountain in Celbridge?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department informing the members that The Parks Department are progressing the installation of a public water unit inside the gates of the playground in Kildare Town. Based on this project, the costing breakdown was as follows:

- Connection to water mains fee to Irish Water approximately € 2,500
- Connection run of 10m from the water mains to the unit was approximately € 2,500
- Non touch operated unit € 5,000

Please note that the choice of units was limited and the selected unit for Kildare was influenced by the constraints presented by COVID-19. South Dublin County Council are installing a solar powered unit in Corkagh Park and Public Realm Team would seek confirmation on costings etc. It should also be noted that there would also be an ongoing charge from Irish Water based on how many units of water are consumed from the units which has to be factored in.

On a point of clarification, Councillor Liston stated she would like this funded from county level funding as opposed to municipal level LPT funding.

Ms Hunt responded that the unit in Kildare Town was funded from LPT funding, she was not aware of any provision in existing budget to allow for this but could be considered if funding was made available by members or if the Public Realm Team received specific funding.

The report was noted.

CL24/0621

Progress of the Civic Amenity Waste Transfer Centre for Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman. That the members receive an update on the progress of the Civic Amenity & Waste Transfer Centre for Celbridge.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Liston. A report was received from the Environment, Water Services and Climate Action Department informing the members that the Council was currently finalizing the recruitment of Consultants to progress this proposed project to the next stage which, in the absence of grant funding, would likely be a 'design-build-operate' model. The Council also continues to pursue possible capital funding opportunities.

Councillor Coleman noted the report he stated this facility was needed more than ever now whilst COVID-19 was still with us, especially for North County Kildare as there was no facility available. He was disappointed that capital funding could not be sourced but was satisfied it was moving in the right direction and hoped that funding could be found.

Councillor Coleman asked if the charges would be the same as Silliot Hill?

Mr Fagan advised it was too early yet to give further details as Kildare County Council were currently finalising the recruitment of Consultants but, he would be willing to bring a more up to date report to a future meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by the members that the report be noted.

CL25/0621

Brown bin service

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

Could the council confirm if licensed service providers in this municipal district must provide a brown bin service and if it is compulsory for households to use it?

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department informing the members that It is a requirement under the Regulations that a collector provides a fortnightly brown bin collection service. All households living in a population agglomeration >500 people are entitled to a Food Waste Recycling service from their waste collector.

A brown bin was provided to ensure waste food was collected separately and this could then be used to make compost for use as a soil improver in agriculture and horticulture etc or sent to an anaerobic digestion plant to make green energy. The rationale behind the collection of this waste type on a fortnightly basis was to minimise odour issues for the householder and to ensure that the brown bin material undergoes the best possible treatment at a composting facility. It was more difficult to compost this material if it was left too long before collection. Householders have to either use a brown bin, bring food waste to a local recycling centre or compost at home. Food waste should not be placed in the general waste / landfill bin.

Councillor Cussen queried who oversaw and enforced licenses for operators that provide the service, and who monitored them?

Mr Fagan advised Councillor Cussen to speak to Mr Kavanagh, Environment Department directly who could provide clarification.

The report was noted.

CL26/0621

Derelict Sites on Main Street Leixlip

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

Could the council confirm if any notices have been forwarded to owners of Derelict Sites on Main Street, Leixlip and if not, why not?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the council was not aware of reports of derelict sites on the Main Street in Leixlip. If the councillor has any specific site(s) in question, he might forward those details to the Environment Section for follow up.

Councillor Caldwell advised there were a couple of properties on Main street Leixlip that are ruining the image of the village.

The report was noted.

CL27/0621

Trees along the avenue in Riverforest estate

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell. That the council cut back the trees along the avenue in Riverforest estate that are currently blocking the streetlights from giving full lighting to the area around each streetlight.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department. informing the members that these trees are listed for pruning in the current tree works programme. The work should be completed by the end of the Summer.

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

CL28/0621

St Catherine's Park

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

That the council install hidden cameras in select areas in St Catherine's Park, in an effort to encourage people to clean up after their dogs.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Cussen. A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that there are no plans to install cameras in St Catherine's Park. There was no budget or staff resources to provide and monitor them. It would also present issues with identifying offenders and issuing penalties. Kildare County Council would look at installing signage in the park to highlight the issue to park users

The members noted the report and raised the following issues.

- This was a bigger issue now as people were out-doors due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, plans such as 'good dog day initiative / responsible dog ownership programme', could be organised
- Were the bags used biodegradable?
- Mr Wallace stated, he understood it was a high-profile issue similar to littering and he was aware it was the minority of people that were causing the problem. He welcomed any innovative ideas to alleviate this issue. He was not in favour of CCTV cameras as it was difficult to recognise the individual that had offended.
- He advised the cheaper bags were not biodegradable the more expensive bags were.

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

CL29/0621

'Trees in Pots' for Celbridge Main Street

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

That the council put in place 'Trees in Pots' for Celbridge Main Street for summertime

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 addition of street trees in pots was not a sustainable long-term option to enhance the Main Street in Celbridge This was for a number of reasons

1. The life span of any tree in any pot was limited and they would never reach a size that would be in scale with street.
2. The trees would need regular watering and feeding. Given the emphasis on climate change this was not good practise either.
3. The paths in Celbridge are narrow and not capable of supporting planters without impacting on accessibility and age friendly design standards. Typical size of planters capable of taking a tree are over 1m in width.

If tree planting was to be considered for the Main Street, then it should be to plant the trees in the ground where a proper root zone area could be provided to support the tree and overcome the issues highlighted with trees in pots. The Area Engineer has indicated that planting in the footpath was not possible due to services. If this was not possible then some of the parking bays could be considered. This may also be an issue with the loss of car parking if some are identified already for parklets/outdoor dining etc. The key was to provide a rootzone area that the tree could grow in and mature. There are products and special soils which provide this and are capable of supporting paths and roads etc. above them if the loss of space was an issue.

There was no budget identified to deliver tree planting regardless of options and if pots are used there are no resources for ongoing maintenance. Progression of work

relating to this issue was not part of the Parks Works Programme for this year but could be considered for a future works programme.

Councillor Cussen noted the report and expressed her frustration as she originally raised this motion in March 2020. She considered it a small project with high gain and biodiversity promotion for the town. The District Engineer advised he had no objection to this, but he would be guided by the Parks Department. The members stated the Tidy Towns group would be willing to water the plants.

Mr Wallace stated that trees in pots are going to have to be replaced in the future, as they would outgrow the pots, they would ideally be suited to planting in the ground they would also need to be watered. He advised all priorities and capacities need to be considered and a sustainable solution found. A budget would also need to be identified.

He was willing to have a meeting off-line with elected members, Tidy towns, Roads, Parks and Public Realm Department to discuss this further.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members that the report be noted and a meeting be arranged with relevant stakeholders to discuss further.

CL30/0621

St John of Gods playground

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Galvin. That this council ask St John of God's to re-open the publicly funded playground in The Abbey.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that subject to the members agreement, Kildare County Council would engage with St John of God to ask that they reopen the playground in Celbridge Abbey.

Councillor Galvin noted the report, she advised this playground has been closed for the entire COVID-19 period. There was one playground for 20,000 people in Celbridge and could solutions such as cordoning off parts of the area be looked at.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members that the report be noted and Kildare County Council write to St John of Gods asking that the public are given access to the playground.

CL31/0621

Status of the North Kildare Swimming pool

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

That the council provide an update on the status of the North Kildare Swimming pool application.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that Kildare County Council has not received a reply in relation to the appeal submitted on the project. Subject to the members agreement, a further request on the appeal could issue to the Department of Tourism, Culture Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the members informed of any response received as soon as possible.

The members welcomed the report and questioned who they would need to meet with to move this forward. Mr McDermott advised he could facilitate an off-line

meeting with staff from the Community and Cultural Development Department, the members noted it would be worthwhile having this meeting after the update on the status of the Swimming pool application had been received.

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

CL32/0621

Hedge cutting /tree cutting during nesting season

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Cussen. Could the council advise on the procedures followed by the council when incidences of hedge cutting/tree cutting in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District are reported during nesting season?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that any complaints in relation to illegal hedge cutting are referred to the National Parks & Wildlife Services who are responsible for the enforcement of the legislation in place to control hedge cutting.

Councillor Cussen asked if Kildare County Council followed up with the National Parks & Wildlife Services of the outcome of complaints received by them.

Mr Wallace stated Kildare County Council advised they have no power when someone was cutting a hedge/tree during nesting season.

The report was noted.

CL33/0621

Grass cutting programme for 2021

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Coleman. Could Celbridge Tidy Towns and Leixlip Tidy Towns be provided with the council's grass cutting programme for 2021?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the grass cutting programme for Leixlip and Celbridge would be forwarded to both Tidy Towns Committees.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.