

**Minutes of Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Meeting held at 10.00am on
Friday, 19 March 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), Mr. C O'Toole (A/Staff Officer)), Mr L. Dunne (Senior Executive Officer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr O Brady, Ms K Keane, Ms M Mc Carthy (Administrative Officers), Ms S O'Gara (Project Manager), Ms L Russell (Arts Officer), Mr D Keogh (Road Safety, Cycling & Sustainable Transport Officer) Mr A Shanahan (Meetings Administrator) and Ms C Dempsey (Meetings Secretary).

CL01/0321

Bereavements

The Cathaoirleach remembered Ms Sheila Whelan mother to Ms O'Gara, Planning and Mr John O'Rourke father to Ms O'Rourke, Community and Cultural Development Department that recently passed away.

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

CL02/0321

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 19 February 2021 together with the progress report.

The minutes of the monthly meeting were approved subject to amendments of item CL03/0221 to Councillor Liston remove word 'portal' to aid clarity, as she was inquiring to rationale behind consultation itself as opposed to consultation portal.

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

CL03/0321

Matters arising

On progress report item CL07/0221 'Eir to remove the unsightly telephone kiosk on Main Street, Leixlip opposite the Mall'. Councillor Caldwell would like this item to remain on the progress report.

In December minutes item CL22/1220 Protecting and monitoring of drinking water sources in Celbridge Leixlip raised by Councillor Liston, she would like to have this addressed for next month.

Mr O'Gorman was to check with the Environment, Water Services and Climate Action office and all relevant bodies to ascertain their role direct or indirect that Kildare County Council or others may have in relation to group schemes, pollution control etc, to see who best could provide a presentation to clarify this situation.

On progress report item CL14/1220, elected members were briefed in February in respect of the upgrade to existing bridge and second river crossing, Councillor Neville and Cllr Cussen would like to thank everyone in Kildare County Council and Team Kildare that contributed to this progression.

On progress report item CL06/1220, Councillor Neville requested that list of Local Property Tax funded items be sent out to all Directors and relevant senior staff in Kildare County Council.

CL04/0321

Presentation from Music Generation Kildare

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms Russell, Arts Officer, Kildare County Council and Mr Costello, Generation Development Officer, Kildare and Wicklow Education Training Board (KWETB) to the meeting. She proposed that if the members had any questions for Mr Costello or Ms Russell that they email them after the meeting and all the members agreed.

Mr Costello delivered a presentation to the members highlighting the following points:

- Local authorities and Educational Training Boards were working jointly to deliver the Music Generation Kildare with KWETB as the lead partner.
- Music Generation Kildare offered new opportunities for hundreds of children and young people ages 1 to 18 to access high-quality, subsidised vocal and instrumental tuition in their local communities.
- Expression of interest forms for the programme had been circulated to all schools in the county – 6 schools had responded and Coill Dubh School had already engaged in the programme. Saint Oliver Plunket School had confirmed their readiness to engage once circumstances allowed and 4 more schools had expressed interest in the programme.
- The goal of the programme was to provide children and young people with performance music education opportunities through tuition and access to equipment and attract an audience for the future for its young performers.
- The programme had a tiered system approach which included projects at an international level, a national level, county level and municipal district level.
- A funding model was currently being looked at and local matched funding was required from the partners.
- Councillor Hamilton was a member of the Local Music Education Partnership (LMEP).
- A copy of the presentation and the Music Generation Workplan for 2021 would be circulated to the members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr Costello and Ms Russell for the presentation and reminded members to submit questions by email.

CL05/0321

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

- R403 Youngs Cross to the Co boundary
- R148 Galvin's Cross to Ryevale Lawns
- L5056 Loughnamona to Castletown Leixlip
- L1016 Lyons Estate junction to Railway Bride
- L1016 Dangan Corner to Laburnam Grove
- L1015 Shaughlins Glen towards Confey

Surface Dressing – Restoration Maintenance

- Ardrass
- Pluckstown

Agreed list of LPT projects are being assessed and programmed for works in 2021

Scoil Uí Dhálaigh

The NTA provided funding, under the Covid-19 funding grant stream, for improvements to the footpath which involved the widening of the footpath to 4 metres. The Municipal District Engineer would like to thank the board of management of the school, the principal and staff and the NTA for their assistance in delivering this scheme.

CL06/0321

Retention of school warden at Scoil Uí Dhálaigh

The members agreed to take items 6,8 and 10 together.

Item 6

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

That the council retain the school warden service at Scoil Uí Dhálaigh (Irish School).

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

Item 8

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

That the school traffic warden service be retained at/returned to Scoil Uí Dhálaigh in Leixlip, at the request of the parents and children who attend the school.

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

Item 10

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

That the council ensure that the school warden service is not removed at the Scoil Uí Dhálaigh crossing while ensuring the Castletown School warden service is reinstated as soon as possible.

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 Road Safety Officer would assess the location of the crossing when the newly installed pedestrian-controlled lights are switched on and operational. If the assessment finds that it is no longer necessary to avail of the assistance of a School Warden to work in tandem with pedestrian controlled lights, a decision may be made to relocate that school warden to another location.

The members acknowledged the report and raised the following issues;

- Parents serious concerns that the warden may be removed.
- Very concerned for children's safety, children by their nature take risks. It was understood the Pedestrian Controlled Crossing wouldn't replace the warden.
- This is a busy road, with 2 quick bends and new housing development.
- The members would like the Council to include them in discussions regarding Community decisions and see evidence of more consultation with the school.
- Pedestrian Controlled Crossing added an extra layer of safety for the school warden.
- There is a concern that some 4-6 year olds are brought to school by older siblings and their safety is at risk.
- They do not want the traffic warden removed now or in the future.

Mr Keogh accepted the members concerns and is actively managing resources for the whole county. There are only 25 school wardens in Co. Kildare. He said there was no guarantee the warden was going to be removed, and, as is normal after addition of a crossing, this would only be decided following a transitional period where the the situation would be monitored for 2 weeks in consultation with the Principal.

In other areas when the Pedestrian Controlled Crossing are operational each individual child from the school is brought out and taught how to cross the road using the traffic lights appropriately, this has been carried out in conjunction with the school warden and the school. Every crossing is different and each one would be assessed individually.

Mr Keogh advised that he would keep all parties informed of whatever the decision was.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, Galvin and Neville seconded by Councillor Cussen that the report be noted and Mr Keogh advised that he would keep all parties informed of whatever the decision was.

CL07/0321

Yellow box on Main Street Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell. That the council install a yellow box at the entrance/exit to Aldi on Main St, Leixlip.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Cussen. A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer has assessed this location and it would not be appropriate, or in line with the council technical documents, to install a yellow box at this location.

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

CL08/0321

Plans to develop safe cycling routes

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

That the council outlines its plans to develop safe cycling routes between the Leixlip Louisa and Hazelhatch railway stations to the Backweston Campus, in the context of the development of the new National Forensic Lab.

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 Kildare County Council are currently in the process of implementing its programme of works for the approved Sustainable Transport Measures Grant (STMG) from the National Transport Authority. This is taking priority for 2021. It should be noted that this request represents a large quantum of cycle infrastructure with portions adjacent to the Campus, and the R403, which are not included within the current NTA National Cycle Plan which would affect funding opportunities in this instance. Kildare County Council would forward this proposal to the National Transport Authority for their attention and discussion.

Contributions followed from members supporting the motion and raising the following

- The number of staff working in this area are progressively increasing with 800 staff expected by 2023 and 1,000 by 2025.
- How would this proposal be presented to NTA, what would it look like?
- Would NTA fund this or was there an alternative funding stream?
- Was it possible it would be included in the existing 5-year plan or would it be supplementary to this?
- The existing roads are busy and in parts unsafe for cyclists and pedestrians.

The municipal district engineer stated this was an excellent motion and he fully supported it. He said it would be ideal to have Celbridge and Leixlip joined up. There is a significant focus on active travel projects through the NTA.

The district manager stated she did not know when rest of NTA 5-year programme would be announced, she would engage with the NTA and update the members. It should be recognised that the NTA have been hugely supportive of the County but as a national body the Council needs to be mindful they are trying to balance out funding for the whole country.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Caldwell that the report be noted, the district manager include the proposal with those presented to the NTA and would revert to members once she gets a response.

CL09/0321

Full assessment of the school streets programme

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen That the council carry out a full assessment of the school streets programme for Leixlip and Celbridge Schools including mapping of wardens, pedestrian crossings, electrified crossings, cycling lanes and areas of roads that could be closed off for set periods when the scheme is to be rolled out.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that There is no 'school street' programme currently in place in Leixlip or Celbridge, nor are there any plans to create a 'school street' in either towns. A School Warden crossing schedule and locations for County Kildare could be found on the link hereunder and clicking on the 'School Crossing Schedule' link at the bottom of the web page.

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/AllServices/Roads/RoadSafetyCyclingandSustainableTransport/RoadSafety/Education/SchoolProgrammes/AdultSchoolWardens/>

Councillor Killeen stated the council needed to look at the wider issue and carry out a safety audit in these areas. There are more houses and developments in the area. Could the council look at other areas where this is up and running, like in Malahide, Co. Dublin and learn from them.

Mr Keogh advised he would liaise with the municipal district engineer and Director of Services to see what could be considered.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Neville that the report be noted and Mr Keogh would liaise with the municipal district engineer and Director of Services to see what could be considered.

CL10/0321

Double yellow lines at the entrance to Castlevillage Rise

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman
That the council install double yellow lines at the entrance to Castlevillage Rise, Castlevillage for the safety of all road users.

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 has assessed this location and it would not be appropriate, or in line with Kildare County Council technical documents, to install double yellow lines at this location.

Councillor Coleman welcomed the report and stated the issue here is on safety and the safety of our children. Residents should be adhering to safe parking and safe driving in our estates.

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

CL11/0321

Identification numbers for streetlight poles

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell.
Could the council confirm if the streetlight poles in Leixlip have been fitted with identification numbers?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Public Lighting Section is not aware of any large areas of lights which do not have identification numbers. Where identification numbers are no longer visible and are reported either by the repairs crews or members of the public, the locations are being noted and would be included in any numbering/surveying works which are required to be completed later this year.

Councillor Caldwell was dissatisfied with report, he would like Kildare County Council to investigate this area and rectify pole numbers 7 as soon as possible.

The report was noted.

CL12/0321

Process Kildare County Council take for making decisions around stopping a community services such as a school warden

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Liston could the council confirm what is the process it follows for making decisions around stopping a community service such as a school warden service, and engaging with impacted stakeholders?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that if a road crossing or a crossing point where a School Warden operates at is upgraded to another crossing type, such as a Pedestrian Controlled Crossing for example, the council would assess the upgraded crossing and warden in operation together to ascertain if the assistance of a School Warden is still necessary at that location after the pedestrian controlled lights are switched on and working fully. If the assessment finds that it is no longer necessary to avail of the assistance of a School Warden to work in tandem with pedestrian controlled lights, a decision may be made to relocate that school warden to another location. The council engages with the School Principal and School Warden in relation to any plans or changes to a school crossing which the staff member operates at.

Councillor Liston welcomed the report however would like it explained further, she would like clarification that this is an information and communication process as opposed to an official consultation process.

Mr Keogh advised if the council is considering a school warden may no longer be required at a location, the following process occurs

- A programme of education and engagement is carried out with each student on pedestrian controlled lights and road safety.
- A supervisory period is put in place.
- A decision is then made to ascertain if the warden was still required.
- The school is then informed through the principal and then communicated to the board of management, children, media, parents' council.

The report was noted.

CL13/0321

Update on the safety audit at Scoil Uí Dhálaigh

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Killeen
Could the council provide an update on the safety audit at Scoil Uí Dhálaigh in Leixlip?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council has just completed an upgrading of the footpath to the front of Scoil Ui Dhalaigh. These works involved the widening of the footpath from 1.7m to 4m, renewed line markings and signage and the installation of a traffic signal pedestrian crossing. These works were carried out at the request of the school and in consultation with the Department of Education, the schools board of management and the National Transport Authority. These works have improved the safety for all users.

The report was noted.

CL14/0321

Traffic Survey Reports

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Killeen
Could the council provide the outcome details of traffic survey reports conducted in the municipal district for the last 10 years?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that raw data, collected as part of traffic surveys and counts and other data collected as part of the ongoing work within the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department i.e., road construction levels, bridge structural calculations, CCTV-generated data etc, requires a level of data cleansing prior to analysis and the calculation of summary information. The release of raw data to a non-technical audience would generate a level of queries, questions, verbal and written explanations and would create an onerous burden on the Department's current limited resources.

Councillor Killeen acknowledged the report but didn't understand it.

Mr O'Toole advised he would work with Councillor Killeen after the meeting to provide clarification on the report.

The report was noted.

CL15/0321

Standing Orders for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District

The members considered the revised Standing Orders for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Coleman and agreed by all the members that the revised Standing Orders for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee be adopted.

CL16/0321

Homelessness services in the Celbridge-Leixlip area

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

Could the council confirm if it is prepared for an increase in the number of people accessing homelessness services in the Celbridge-Leixlip area if the evictions ban ends as expected on 05 April 2021?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Housing Department is prepared to assist those accessing homeless services if and when the eviction ban ends. The Homeless HAP Placefinder service is also in place to assist.

Councillor Galvin welcomed the report and enquired was there enough places and was there shortages the members should be made aware of?

Mr Brady advised emergency accommodation has never fallen short in family situations. Kildare County Council have success in the operation of the Homeless HAP Placefinder Service and through housing allocations for housing families and the Homeless team work closely with the Peter Mc Verry Trust and it's out of hours team to ensure emergency accommodation is provided for families where necessary. The report was noted.

CL17/0321

Vanessa Bower in Celbridge Abbey

The members agreed to take item 17 and 18 together.

Item 17

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

That the damage to Vanessa's Bower in Celbridge Abbey be reported to the relevant authorities, and that the council offer to work with them to restore this important historical landmark.

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

Item 18

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

That the council act with urgency in starting the process to add the original Jonathan Swift and Vanessa Bower to the Record of Protected Structures. The Bower is located on the Ardclough side of the riverbank which is part of the Celbridge Abbey grounds.

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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that It was recently brought to the attention of Kildare County Council that there was concern in relation to the state of repair of Vanessa's Bower in Celbridge Abbey. A subsequent inspection by Kildare County Council's consultant Architectural Conservation Officer took place on 3 March 2021 to determine the level of damage to this 300-year old structure and to determine next steps for its conservation and preservation.

During the inspection it was noted that several mature coniferous trees had been recently felled between Vanessa's Bower and the east boundary wall (onto Newtown Road). One of these trees appeared to have fallen directly on top of Vanessa's Bower, causing extensive damage to the fragile stone structure. The front part of the vaulted stone niche is now missing. The stone paving to the front of the structure and parts of the curved stone seat are also missing. Much of the missing stone appears to have fallen down the steep embankment into the river.

The surviving stonework within the structure is vulnerable and requires immediate consolidation and repair by an experienced conservation stone mason, to ensure that the soil covering does not erode and further stone is not lost during periods of heavy rain. It was recommended that this work be carried out under the direction of a Grade 1 Conservation Architect. Due to the river being in full flow at the time of the inspection it was not possible to safely inspect the lower parts of the embankment. This area would need to be inspected at the earliest opportunity once water levels drop so that all collapsed stones either on the embankment or within the river could be retrieved as an urgent priority. The large tree trunk that is lying at the base of the embankment has the potential to cause significant damage to the eighteenth century 'Rock Bridge' footbridge downstream, if carried by the river water. This should be

carefully removed without causing further damage to Vanessa's Bower as soon as it is safe to do so.

In the short term, the Heritage Officer, Bridget Loughlin has confirmed that she would liaise with the landowner and to provide advice having regard to the above so that Vanessa's Bower could be restored to its former glory. Vanessa's Bower is a structure of architectural interest, being an integral part of the eighteenth century riparian designed landscape of Celbridge Abbey. It is also of considerable literary and historical interest through its links with Jonathan Swift and Esther Vanhomrigh. The structure appears to have survived relatively intact until recent tree-felling. Having regard to all the above it is proposed to include Vanessa's Bower on the Record of Protected Structures in accordance with Sections 54 and 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The members would be kept informed on progress in relation to same.

The members welcomed this report, they enquired would financial assistance be required, and could allocation of LPT assist and stated that time was of the essence in repairing this structure.

Ms McCarthy advised she would follow up with Heritage Officer in relation to financial aspect and update members with response

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Coleman that the report be noted. Ms McCarthy advised she would follow up with Heritage Officer in relation to financial aspect and update members with response.

CL18/0321

Installation of parklets in our municipal district

The members agreed to take item 19,20 and 21 together.

Item 19

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

That the council confirm if it is in a position to install parklets in our municipal district as the parking spaces have been closed off for quite a while now, so it is important this is completed as soon as possible.

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

Item 20

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

Could the council confirm if there are any plans to improve the parklet set up on Celbridge Main Street with seating or similar?

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

Item 21

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

Could the council provide an update on the completion of the parklets (including the furniture for same) for the Celbridge/Leixlip area with a timeframe for implementation?

A report was received from the Strategic Project and Public Realm Department informing the members the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team (SPPR) are not aware of parking spaces already being reserved for use but we would review with the Municipal District Office.

A tender for proposed Covid-19 response works in the 5 large towns in County Kildare is currently being prepared and further discussions would take place with the Procurement Officer as to the best procurement approach to be undertaken. With economy of scale, it was considered that better value for money may be achieved by carrying out a single and comprehensive tender for these types of Covid-19 response works.

Subject to the availability of resources, the SPPR team plan to have the tender package ready for issue in early April. Tender return and assessment are programmed for the end of April with the contractor appointed to start work in early May.

It is hoped that each town would have parklets available for use in May (subject to the lifting of current restrictions). Please find attached copy of the Kildare County Council tweet setting out the phased approach for Covid-19 tactical urbanism projects. The proposed works would be phased, with phase 1 consisting of each public / carparking space claimed and made available for use. Phase 2 would follow with the erection of temporary installations including planters and seating. The members displayed their frustration at the lack of progress in this area. These parklets really need to be put in place as soon as possible.

The district manager advised the initial piece of the project has been carried out unfortunately the public procurement process always slows things down.

Ms O’Gara stated the public realm team are working on the designs re the furniture, some products have been unavailable. This is one of numerous projects being progressed by the team she would come back to members as soon as possible with updates.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Cussen that the report be noted Ms O’Gara would come back to members as soon as possible with updates.

CL19/0321

Section 254 licence

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Coleman. Could the members be informed of how many businesses applied for a Section 254 licence in this Municipal District for 2020?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the Planning Department issued a Section 254 licence for 1 business in the Municipal District in 2020. As part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, licence fees in respect of outdoor tables and chairs were waived, notwithstanding compliance with all other aspects of the licencing process.

Councillor Coleman acknowledged the report but found it disappointing that there was such a low uptake of Section 254 licences for businesses.

Ms McCarthy advised this could be taken back to Communications Officer and ask her to advertise on the council's social media making them aware of the Section 254 licence in this Municipal District.

The report was noted.

CL20/0321

Yellow Bin Recycling pilot in Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen. That the council consider Celbridge for a pilot of the Yellow Bin Recycling initiative for recycling in conjunction with the Environment section of Kildare County Council.

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

A report was received from the Transportation / Roads & Environment Department informing the members that there is no scope within the existing Municipal District budget to provide additional bins or bin servicing at weekends in Celbridge and Leixlip.

The members would be aware that is an objective of the recently adopted Litter Management Plan to carry out a general review of litter bin provision and servicing countywide, and to review the distribution of costs among the five municipal districts. The provision of segregated recycling bins in the district, offering recycle on the go, would be difficult to enforce and manage. We understand that trials previously held by Dublin City Council provided disappointing results with high contamination levels thus rendering the bin contents unsuitable for recycling. Segregated facilities would also need to be provided at the depot.

Councillor Cussen welcomed the report and stated due to Covid-19 this service is required more than ever.

Mr Kavanagh advised Dublin had installed 25 of these bins in the main shopping streets, however they were unsuccessful as were been contaminated with other non-recyclable waste.

The Director of Services is looking at the whole county and what the cost would be for all 5 municipal districts there is no scope within the existing budget to do this.

The Cathaoirleach requested this motion be included in agenda for Environment Strategic Policy Committee, with the agreement of all members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Galvin that the report be noted. The Cathaoirleach requested this motion be included in agenda for Environment Strategic Policy Committee, with the agreement of all members.

CL21/0321

Bins and/or bin emptying on Sundays in Celbridge and Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen. That the council consider providing extra bins and/or bin emptying on Sundays in Celbridge and Leixlip within Covid-19 essential measures.

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

A report was received from the Transportation / Roads & Environment Department.

Mr Kavanagh advised Kildare County Council are committed to doing an audit on bins county wide, however budget is something that would need to be considered, it may be a requirement to take finances from somewhere else to fund this and needs to be considered in next years budget by members, if they wish. He commended the tidy towns on their great work. Kildare County Council already provide sponsored bins which are the wheelie bins and different to the street litter bins.

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

CL22/0321

Dog warden at Castletown

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Liston. Could the council confirm how often there is a dog warden present in Castletown and are reports on their activities and any enforcement actions available?

A report was received from Environment Department informing the members that in County Kildare, dog control was operated by the ISPCA on behalf of the local authority.

The main role of a dog warden was to deal with stray dogs, i.e. handling the seizure, detention and rehoming of stray dogs. Stray dogs are dogs that are in a public place and are not accompanied by the owner or a responsible person. Dogs that are not under proper control may also be also considered as stray dogs. Stray dogs could be seized by the dog warden or Gardaí and brought to a dog pound.

Dog wardens have the power to:

- Request the name and address of anyone suspected of an offence under the Control of Dogs Act.
- Seize and detain any dog.
- Enter any premises (other than a residence) to seize and detain a dog.

Prior to the lockdown the dog wardens would visit this part of the county, in response to calls or while on routine patrols. However, since the imposition of level 5 lockdown the dog wardens are working from home and responding to calls on a risk assessment basis. Unless a particular incident occurs, or a complaint is received, no records are maintained.

For the members' information, the Department of Rural and Community Development publishes annual statistics on dog control.

The report was noted.

CL23/0321

"Good Dog Initiative" Dog ownership programme

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

Could the council confirm when they would proceed with the "Good Dog Initiative" dog fouling awareness responsible dog ownership programme in the Celbridge area as per my motion from October 2020?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that The Environment Department previously advised that the Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO) would organise a dog fouling awareness/ responsible dog ownership campaign in early 2021 (subject to Covid-19 restrictions) and that this could be piloted in the local municipal district area with the support of a local animal welfare/ community group.

The EAO plans to progress this when Covid-19 related restrictions are relaxed. Councillor Cussen welcomed the report and would like to see this happen as soon as possible now that the schools are open again.

The report was noted.

CL24/0321

Dog licences

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Coleman. Could the members be informed how many dog licences were issued for this municipal district and the entire County in 2020?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the number of dog licenses is 5,920 for the county. The number per municipal district is not available. All dogs over 4 months of age must have a licence.

You could apply for an individual or lifetime dog licence at your local post office or licences.ie

The report was noted.

CL25/0321

Update on the plans for the cemetery in Leixlip

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Neville. Could the council give this Municipal District Committee an update on the plans for the cemetery in Leixlip and what are current timelines and requirements such as space needed, etc?

Mr Boland, Director of Services, Water Services & Environment Department had emailed the members advising them that a report would be given after the meeting.

CL26/0321

Parks Works Programme 2021

The members considered the Parks Works Programme 2021

Mr Wallace updated the members on the following issues raised;

- Irish Water are doing the work at St Catherine's park, so it would be up to them to complete this project.
- Parks Department could confirm they are not using glyphosate in any of the open spaces. Mr Wallace could not confirm this in relation to the graveyards as this is not under their remit.
- With regards to the tree inventory IT systems did work on this last year however the enterprise funding to progress this was unsuccessful
- The community planting scheme was hampered by Covid-19 this year it is anticipated it would be up and running again by end of this year.
- The youth facility in Celbridge is allocated €100,000
- Mr Wallace would present the conservation plan re Wonderful barn to the members after Easter. Parks Department would then prepare a part 8 realigning road in Wonderful Barn and walled garden.
- Leixlip playground was also delayed due to Covid-19, when restrictions ease Parks would be able to launch a survey and get the children's point of view.
- Mr. Wallace will liaise with the Accessibility Network regarding the sensory garden. He also advised that detailed consideration needs to be given regarding a wheelchair swing due to security and health and safety matters around this heavy equipment.

The priority projects are Leixlip playground, Wonderful Barn and the sensory garden. Mr Wallace said it is hard to determine timelines due to Covid-19, staff changes and substantial daily workloads.

The members welcomed the report.

The report was noted

CL27/0321

Promoting the benefits for pollinators of reduced grass cutting and avoiding herbicides

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Liston. That the council run a public awareness campaign in the municipal district, promoting the benefit for pollinators of reduced grass cutting and avoiding herbicides, in print and online media and among all its networks.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the Council is building awareness of the benefits of reduced mowing, reduced herbicide usage, providing habitat and food sources for pollinators through various promotional tools and work streams.

Such examples include

- Press Releases - including Kildare County Council signed up as a Local Authority Partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan on February 22nd, 2021.
- Social media posts - over various platforms at Corporate level such as the launch of Kildare County Councils Climate Change Adaptation Strategy September 2019 and alternative maintenance trial sites being piloted in 2020.
- Department specific Social Media - for example Community Stories Facebook Page has promoted since 2020 the alternative maintenance methods being trialled on public open spaces including biodiversity and has built a strong following. More work would be undertaken in 2021. Over a 3 weeks period a weekly post would inform on the needs of emerging hibernating pollinator species commencing 15 March.

- Hashtags – the hashtag #biodiversitykildare is used to promote posts including competitions, practical guidance, general information etc. by the Community Department, Biodiversity Officer and Corporate Services.
- Signage - All Ireland Pollinator Plan signs are used to denote the countywide trial sites demonstrating the options being piloted.
- Networking – The Parks Department work with PPN to disseminate information to community groups and work closely with community groups on pollinator friendly initiatives.
- Information/Awareness – The Parks Department and the Biodiversity Officer promote pollinators by assisting with information and educational opportunities. Citizen Science projects are to be enhanced as restrictions ease.
- By example – The Parks Department is replacing spraying with strimming on public open spaces from 2021 onwards.
- Community Grants – environmental sustainability is an award criteria associated with the Residents Association Grant.
- Other – Awards, competitions, green procurement etc.

Given the mainstreaming of Climate Action across the Council electronic media is preferred to ease the burden placed on natural resources and our environment.

The members welcomed the report they suggested working with Kildare Climate Action Linkage Group as they do substantial work around biodiversity.

Mr Wallace advised he would talk to Ms O'Rourke and the Communications Officer to get an educational message organised in relation to this motion that would target citizens with gardens and greenery areas in apartment settings.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Caldwell that the report be noted. Mr Wallace advised he would talk to Ms O'Rourke and the Communications Officer to get an educational message organised in relation to this motion that would target citizens with gardens and greenery areas.

CL28/0321

Report on Development Contributions

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen. That the council provide a full report on all development contributions and contributions to the Kildare North swimming pool paid from this municipal district and prior Town Councils in the last 20 years, detailing the projects that those development contributions have been spent on per town, in tabular format.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that The North Kildare Swimming Pool Capital Fund has received funding from the old Clane Area (€725,000), the old Celbridge Area (€725,000) and the old Leixlip Area (€650,000) – there was also a revenue to capital transfer of €300,000. The only expenditure from this capital fund to date has been in respect of the Leixlip Amenities Group – Phases 1, 2 & 3 – total expenditure of €668,000. There is a balance of €1,732,000 remaining on the capital code.

The members welcomed the report and stated there was a lack of other investment in Celbridge and Leixlip.

Mr Dunne accepted the members comments however he advised this motion was specific to the Kildare North swimming pool and that was what the report referred to.

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

CL29/0321

Suspension of Standing Orders

At 1.00 pm the Cathaoirleach informed the members that to continue with the meeting, a suspension of standing orders was required.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Neville and agreed by all members that standing orders be suspended for 10 minutes

CL30/0321

Right of way to the banks of the Liffey behind Castle Park estate

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell. Could the council provide an update on the right of way to the banks of the Liffey behind Castle Park estate?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the issue regarding the hedging which was planted at various locations along the open space has been referred to our solicitors.

The report was noted.

CL31/0321

Capital Budget-development contributions

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Neville. Could the council clarify the development contribution received figure of €5.7m in Leixlip and €5.8m in Celbridge in the Capital Budget and how much of these amounts is available for projects such as the Wonderful Barn, Celbridge Library and how is 2021 income going to be divided up per project?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the capital programme 2021-23 includes €951k in development levies received to date that is available for the Wonderful Barn. There is a further €526,100 committed to fund the project from development contributions which are estimated to be collected from 2021-23. This figure has not been broken down across the three years.

However proposed expenditure in 2021 is circa €200k.

An additional report was received from the County Librarian informing the members that the Celbridge figure of €5.8m represents a cumulative total of Development Levies in the period 2004 to August 2020 a total of which €3.7 m has been previously spent or committed. Celbridge Library is allocated €150,000 in 2020 and €100,000 in 2021 (based on estimated receipts), other projects within the Recreation and Amenity area allocated monies in the 2021 -23 period include the Wonderful Barn €526,100, Castletown Woods, Playgrounds, Liffey Valley Strategy.

As per the Library Development Plan – Recover, Refocus, Reenergise the library service are investigating options for a library service in Celbridge.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded