



**Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting**  
**Held on Friday, 18 November 2022 at 10:00 a.m**  
**In the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.**

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

**Officials Present:** Ms E Wright (District Manager), Mr R Linnane (Municipal District Engineer), Mr J Connor (Assistant Engineer), Ms C O'Grady (Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms A Keaveney (A/Senior Executive Engineer), Mr O Brady (Administrative Officer), Ms S Barry (A/Senior Staff Officer), Mr J Hennessy (Senior Engineer), Mr T Shanahan (Meetings Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

**CL01/1122**

**Declaration of Interest**

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

**CL02/1122**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The Cathaoirleach noted that a notice of motion for amendments to the minutes in accordance with Standing Orders was received from Councillor Liston and Councillor Coleman who requested amendments from the October meeting. The amendments had been circulated to the members.

The members considered the revised draft minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 21 October 2022 with the progress report.

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Friday, 21 October 2022 of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District with the circulated amendments, be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.



CL03/1122

**Municipal District Road works**

The Municipal District Engineer updated the members of the works carried out over the past month within the Municipal District.

**Winter Preparation Works:** Hedgerow cutting works at junctions ongoing. Gully cleaning and open drain and water cut clearing ongoing. Winter service salting operations commenced on 17 October. No salting runs required this season to date.

**Footpath Replacement Works:**

- Footpath replacement works in Thornhill and Willowbrook in Celbridge has commenced.
- Footpaths in St. Mary's Park, Leixlip have been awarded and will commence in late November/ early December, scheduled to complete these works in 2022.
- Tender package currently been finalised for infill footpath on Hazelhatch road between Wolsten Abbey and Shinkeen Road.

**Road works programme 2022**

***Road Overlays - Restoration Improvement***

RI	Location	Start Date	End Date	Details
1	R405 West of Crofton's	Mon July 4	Fri July 8	Completed
2	L1014 Kellystown Lane North	Mon August 8	Fri August 12	Completed
3	R403 Shackleton Rd. to Ardrass	Mon July 11	Fri July 22	Completed
4	L5056 Glen Easton to Westfield	Mon July 25	Fri July 29	Completed
5	L1016 Ardclough Rd & L5064 Kearneystown	Tues August 2	Fri August 12	Completed
6	L2008 Boston Cottages	Mon July 18	Fri July 22	Completed



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### **Road Opening Licenses:**

- Irish Water works being carried out by Coffey Construction are progressing slowly on Primrose Hill / Hazelhatch road and have recommenced on the Celbridge/Lucan Road.
- Installation of foul rising main on Green Lane, Leixlip 98% complete. Cycle lane/Footpath Line marking remaining.
- Oldtown road closure complete. Overlay of Shackleton Road complete during school mid-term.
- Cope Bridge traffic signals upgrade completed during midterm 2-day closure.

### **Private Developer Works**

#### **St Patrick's Park:**

Final snagging works including landscaping works to green area have been carried out. Scheduling resurfacing works on main road through estate for early December.

The members welcomed the report and thanked the team for all their works over the last month and raised the following:

- Are the filter lights on the Shackleton Road are working and could a step sequence for cyclists be investigated as an addition at this junction.
- That the road markings on Tea Lane–Church Road need refreshing.
- Concerns were raised over works by Coffey's, reports of traffic management issues and that some residents were unable to access their drives. The members asked if a ramp or something could be laid over the trenches to aid entry to the properties and what was the expected time length for completion.
- A request was made for the traffic light signals at The Orchard to be monitored. It was recognized that during the ongoing works The Orchard remained open to the public which was to be commended.

Mr Connor updated the members that:

- The loops on the traffic lights on Shackleton Road including filter lanes and markings are due to be completed and the request for cyclist filter would be referred onto the Traffic Section.



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- It was agreed that the lines at Tea Lane–Church Road would be refreshed
- The Members were updated that Coffey's had been liaising with residents and trying to manage as best as possible during the works. He acknowledged the difficulty with accessing properties during this time, the aim is for works to be completed as soon as possible. They asked for the understanding and cooperation of the residents.

Mr Linnane finished by informing the members that staff member Mr Connor is leaving Kildare County Council this year after 3 years' service. He thanked Mr Connor for all his hard work, the members followed by thanking Mr Connor also on behalf of the Municipal District.

### **Tidy Towns**

The Members asked for it to be noted about the results of the recent Tidy Towns awards. They commended the hard work of the volunteers of the Tidy Towns committee and their fantastic achievements and that they are always looking for new people to join.

- Leixlip were awarded Gold.
- Celbridge were awarded Silver.
- Ardclough were up in their votes by 10 marks
- The Grove won 'Best Kept Estate', with mention given to the biodiversity squad.

On behalf of the Municipal District the members also asked to acknowledge and congratulate Martin Hoare of Celbridge AC who was the first Irishman home in the recent Dublin marathon

### **CL04/1122**

#### **Commencement Notices**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Killeen.  
Can the council detail the number of commencement notices issued for residential developments by number of units per development and town within the municipal district in last five years?

A report was received from the Building and Developmental Control Section informing the members that the Building Control Management System (BCMS) is not configured to provide statistics on a per Municipal District basis. The extraction of data on a per Municipal District



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basis is a manual exercise that would require significant resources. Therefore, the figures below have been extracted for Kildare as a whole.

Whilst commencement notices can be submitted per dwelling unit it is more typical for larger developers to progress developments on phased basis whereby commencement notices are submitted for a full grouping of residential units being constructed in each phase. Table 1.0 below outlines the number of commencement notices submitted and corresponding number of residential units for 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (to the 25 October 2022).

**Table 1.0: KCC – Commencement Notices & Corresponding Number of Residential Units (2019 to 2022)**

Year	Commencement Notices	Total Number of Residential Units (houses & Apartments)
2019	150	3342
2020	87	1679
2021	143	2719
2022 (to 25/10/2022)	94	1792

Councillor Killeen questioned why it couldn't be broken down into Municipal Districts as the form has an address section.

Mr Hennessey advised that currently within Building Control there was no ability to filter by geographical area. This could however be done manually but would require rediverting resources and would take a significant time.

The report was noted

### **CL05/1122**

#### **Road upgrade**

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

That the council provide a report on the request for a scheme that would provide uniform pavements, undergrounding of cables, dishings at kerbs etc. from Tesco junction, Maynooth Road to Main Street, Celbridge. This is an opportunity to upgrade a main link area to the highest current standard for vulnerable road users.



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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the consultant's review of existing cycle track schemes in Celbridge is being undertaken at present. The findings of this review may make recommendations for this section of the network. However, at present, there are no additional schemes on the Programme of Works for the Sustainable Transport Section for the town other than the schemes on the 2022 Programme.

Councillor Cussen sought clarification as to what options there were to progress this going forward. She noted she had submitted a similar motion last year, where a walkabout was carried out involving the access group and issues were identified. The road is currently uneven with poor gradient causing problems for people, especially those with mobility issues. This road gives the only direct access to the green space in the area which is located at the end of the road.

The members raised the following:

- Question was raised as to how this came under the cycle review.
- That the path is not accessible, an example was given of a motorised wheelchair user who has to use the road as the path is just not suitable for their needs.
- It was noted that in the past with Green Lane that a commissioner's report was carried out which progressed to a part 8. Could this be an option in this case or could LPT funding be allocated.

Ms Wright noted that she was aware of the meeting held previously with Sustainable Transport informing the members that currently there are more than 30 ongoing projects. This would be a large-scale project, needing major improvements and there is no quick fix solution. A consultant report is still outstanding to identify what is reasonable and feasible. She explained that the council are accountable to the NTA, who are currently looking for areas from the Council to try take back road space. She felt at the present time this is possibly too premature and suggested waiting the report findings, following this funding would then need to be investigated.

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



**CL06/1122**

**Resurfacing Road**

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

That the council resurface both sides of the road between the Intel Roundabout and the Kilmacraddock Roundabout.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the current surface course on the R449 is a hot rolled asphalt layer with embedded precoated chips. The surface is approximately 20 years old, still serviceable but approaching the end of its serviceable life. The surface of the R449 will be monitored. If a resurfacing project is deemed necessary works progressing would be subject to the availability of Department of Transport funding.

The members raised the following;

- That the whole area needs to be looked at and improved.
- That plant machinery is using the road and causing increased noise affecting local residents.
- It was suggested that if the road surface is coming to the end of its life that the project should be bought forward.

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

**CL07/1122**

**Newtown Road**

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

That the council replace the dotted white line with a solid white line in the centre of the road on the Newtown Road from the bridge junction as far as the entrance to Simmonstown Manor, with appropriate dotted lines to permit entrance to Cunningham's funeral home, The Grove House, The Grove, and Simmonstown Manor.

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



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A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the current broken centre line marking on the Newtown Road from the bridge to Simmonstown Manor is in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual. The Municipal District office will not be altering the current centreline marking on this section of the Newtown Road.

Councillor Galvin did not accept the report she questioned why this can't be done. She explained that there is a blind bend on the road and needs markings to be changed. she highlighted her personal experience of people dangerously overtaking after the bridge and can't see anything else that can be done other than to change the road marking to a solid white line.

Mr Linnane explained that the traffic signs manual is very clear on where to position solid and broken white lines. This is currently a 50kmph zone and if speeding is a concern, then enforcement stands with an Gardai Siochana. A solid white line doesn't stop people from overtaking and the addition of such has no benefit to road users using the road efficiently. Councillor Galvin accepted that speeding was a matter for the Gardai but with a blind bend from the bridge to Simmonstown and was disappointed with report and feels there will be an accident at some point.

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

### CL08/1122

#### Street Lighting

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

That the council examine street lighting at the entrance to the estate from Aghards Road to Ballygoran View in the interest of safety of pedestrians and cyclists in the dark, as visibility is reported as being poor.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the lighting at this location will be assessed as part of the PLEEP (Public





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Lighting Energy Efficiency Project), the survey and design of which will commence in Q2 2023 in County Kildare. The PLEEP Design will identify locations where additional lighting will be required and depending on availability of funds it will be carried out. In the interim the request will be listed on the KLIPS (Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule) register.

The members raised the following:

- LPT was allocated last year and it's hoped this year would be the same.
- Clarification was sought in terms of LPT funding and public lighting as to whether this is currently enough now and into the future.
- The question was raised as to whether funding in the report refers to local level or national
- Examples where large trees are obstructing lighting were given and contact had been made through the Parks Section in these specific cases. Several emails are being received regarding this and could changing the light heads be investigated as an option in the interim.
- The members suggested Public Lighting and Parks working together on the Lighting Energy Efficiency programme.

Ms Wright updated the members that significant funding is required for the Lighting Efficiency Project, as always LPT funding is always very welcome. The balance remains to keep energy costs down whilst increasing the amount of lighting in the area. The Surveys are due to be carried out in Q2 with regular updates to be given and tracking and monitoring will be ongoing. An agreement to coordinate with Parks was given and members were reminded that KLIPS still remains in place.

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

### CL09/1122

#### Footpath Kilwogan Lane

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

That the council install a footpath at Kilwogan Lane, Celbridge to facilitate safe pedestrian access and a safe route for children walking and cycling to school.



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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the length of Kilwogan Lane from the footpath outside Thornhill Court to the western end of Kilwogan Lane is over 800m. For most of this length insufficient width is available within the road or margins to provide safe minimum footpath width. Significant funding would be required to acquire lands and construct the proposed footpath.

The members raised the following:

- What other options are available especially for walkers and cyclists, especially when trying to promote active travel?
- Previous engineer gave same answer in the past, concerns raised regarding speed of cars using this stretch and that there is currently no indication this road is for multi-use.
- As the SHD process has not commenced and not yet gone through, could the Safe Schools or the Schools Streets Programme be an option.

Mr Linnane advised that geometrically the width isn't there so the answer remains the same. If they were to widen into private land this would involve the removal of substantial hedgerows. When the SHD goes through this may deliver NTA funding, but the Schools Street Programme isn't an option as there are no schools close enough to qualify.

It was asked at the end of the discussion for the option of a different type of surfacing to be considered for that road as exemplified in European cities. There is a surfacing that indicates shared use of a road. It was agreed by the Roads team that this would be kept in mind.

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

The Cathoirleach suggested suspending standing orders for 10 minutes for members to avail of a comfort break as they had been in meetings since 09.30 hours.

On the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Galvin and agreed by the members that standing orders be suspended for 10 minutes.



CL10/1122

### New Zebra Crossings

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

That the council write to the NTA seeking to trial the new zebra crossings in the municipal district where the new zebra crossings include fixed signs which alert motorists to the crossing.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Department of Transport has recently announced a zebra crossing pilot scheme (<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/9ad6e-minister-ryan-announces-zebra-crossing-pilot-scheme/>). The pilots will run for approximately 9 months before final analysis on their performance and potential roll out for implementation by all road authorities. At the 8 pilot sites in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and Limerick, the Belisha beacons will be replaced with a fixed sign.

Kildare County Council will await the findings of the pilot and any subsequent guidance from the Department of Transport and the National Transport Authority regarding revisions to the current standards and regulations for Zebra Crossing facilities. The members will be updated on the outcome of the pilot project findings.

The members raised the following:

- As there have been difficulties with the school warden recruitment, this could be a cheaper, safer solution and suggested consideration of County-wide use of zebra crossings to be investigated as an option.
- They asked the Council to be proactive and for the pilot scheme to be monitored. A request was made for a review in 9 month's time and for this item to be placed on the progress report.

Ms Wright advised the members that Kildare County Council wasn't invited to take part in the pilot programme and can't pre-empt the results. She confirmed the poor uptake for school wardens across the county and noted the possibility of using zebra crossing as a possible solution.

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



**CL11/1122**

**Safety Audit**

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

That the council carry out a safety audit on the junction of Maynooth Road/Kilwogan Lane and Crodaun Forest Park (Phase 1) for the safe movement of all users and vehicle access from Kilwogan Lane and Crodaun onto the Maynooth Road.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Coleman and seconded by Councillor Killeen.

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the junction of Kilwogan lane, the estate entrance to Croadaun Forest Park and the R405 Maynooth Road is currently a raised tabletop junction. There are priority continuous off-road cycle facilities running through the junction and uncontrolled pedestrian crossings on the footpaths on the R405 Maynooth Road. There is a two-lane full junction width yellow box provided at the junction to assist vehicles exiting Kilwogan Lane and Crodaun Forest Park during peak vehicular flow periods. There are advanced statutory warning signs for the ramped tabletop ramps and additional statutory warning signs for the presence of school children. There is a signal-controlled pedestrian crossing 70 metres south of the junction on the R405. The Municipal District Office has observed this junction during periods of heavy and light traffic flows and consider the junction to be working safely and well for all users.

Councillor Coleman was happy with this extensive report and noted a lot of groundwork had been done. The members raised the following:

- It was noted that there were complaints of problems being received especially at school drop-off times causing at least 20-minute delays. The installation of a yellow box has helped somewhat but cyclists and pedestrians are also a problem. It was asked for the area office to keep this under review
- Concerns were raised not to de-pedestrianise or make the junction less accessible for cyclists as this is one of the safe cycle ways in the area and to ensure not to make the area less safe for vulnerable road users.
- Has the Dutch system been explored/considered?



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Mr Linnane noted that the problems were during an acute time of day but would continue to keep under review. The priority in the area is given to pedestrians and cyclists which continues to work well, the conflict only occurs at peak times. Mr Linnane wasn't aware of the Dutch approach, identifying that regarding junctions the Council have their own constraints in design manuals to work to, but he would look into this further.

Ms Wright updated the members of a fully funded upcoming opportunity from the NTA due to take place sometime in 2023 for the members to go to Holland/Denmark to examine their cycle system and that there were limited places available.

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

### CL12/1122

#### **Pedestrian Links to the Black Avenue**

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

That the council review the pedestrian links to the Black Avenue from St. Catherine's Park, Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the pedestrian links from Black Avenue to St Catherines Park can be reviewed with the Councillor. Kildare County Council is responsible for Black Avenue from the entrance at the Fire Station to the barrier just past the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The section of Black Avenue from the gates to the park is owned by Fingal County Council.

Councillor Neville was happy with the report and would discuss further with Mr Wallace to explore design options. He felt this would be a real benefit locally. It was noted that they are awaiting investments from the Local Authority and that the sensory garden was on the list, the members would like to see the two of these projects linking together.

Ms O'Grady noted these points and agreed to link back with the Councillors, she would try to facilitate a loop walk if possible as it is always the preferred design down to safety.

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



**CL13/1122**

**Signalised Crossing on the Celbridge Interchange**

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

Can the council provide an update on the request for a signalised crossing on the Celbridge Interchange (location details are with the municipal district engineer)?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that following the recent site visit, an analysis will be carried to determine the most suitable type of pedestrian crossing facility and the most optimum location for the crossing based on the various pedestrian demands/desire lines in the area. Based on this analysis a design and cost estimate shall be prepared and a source of funding will also need to be identified in order to deliver the pedestrian crossing.

The report was noted.

**CL14/1122**

**Street Lights**

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

Can the council confirm how often the street light contractors supply the council with information in relation to the repairing of lights that are out of order in this municipal district, following their inspections?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the maintenance contractor updates the Fault Reporting System on a daily basis as faults are repaired. At the end of the month the contractor submits a monthly invoice with an accompanying report listing the repaired lights.

Councillor Caldwell noted he was not happy with Airtricity as there have been reports of lights being out for number of months.

The report was noted.

**CL15/1122**

**Big Lane, Celbridge**

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

Can the council provide an update on the accessibility works on Big Lane, Maynooth Road, Celbridge?



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A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District outdoor crew have carried out modifications to the pedestrian crossing at the entrance to Dara Court.

The report was noted

### **CL16/1122**

#### **Pathway Royal Canal**

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

Can the council confirm if the shared pathway along the Royal Canal between Louisa Bridge and Cope Bridge, Confey will be kept open during works to improve the footpath?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Council can confirm that sections of the greenway will be closed off to the public due to safety reasons during the construction period of 18 months. There will be no access for the public for the duration of each sectional completion.

The report was noted

### **CL17/1122**

#### **Clearing Footpaths**

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

Can the council make available a schedule for clearing footpaths of leaves in this municipal district at this time of year so residents of estates know within a range of a few days, when their paths will be cleared?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that it is not possible to provide a schedule for the clearing of leaves in estates in the Municipal District. The clearing of leaves is scheduled as part of the outdoor crews tasks but the work locations are reactive, and locations are subject to change depending on volumes of leaves present and other possible calls for resources. On main thoroughfares where there is heavy footfall leaves are cleared periodically off footpaths. At these locations leaves are blown off the footpaths onto to the road where they are then removed using a road sweeper. Within housing estates road surfaces are swept to remove leaves. Footpaths in estates are not swept.

The report was noted.



**CL18/1122**

**MOBY Scheme**

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

Can the council investigate if there is an opportunity and scope for the introduction of a sustainable shared transport solution for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District, similar to the MOBY scheme in Tullamore, Athlone and Mullingar?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Council is awaiting recommendations from the National Transport Authority (NTA) relating to the coordination of shared micro-mobility initiatives within the Greater Dublin Area. The NTA is due to report to the relevant local authorities in 2022 on this issue.

The report was noted.

**CL19/1122**

**Resurfacing the M4**

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

Can the council provide an update on the resurfacing for the M4 between Leixlip and Maynooth?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that:

**With reference to Maintenance and routine resurfacing on the M4:**

The section in question is managed by TII Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contracts (MMaRC).

Further details can be found at: <https://www.tii.ie/roads-tolling/operations-and-maintenance/road-maintenance/>

**With reference to Projects on the M4:**

**M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures Pilot project**

The M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures Pilot project is current in Part 8 planning. Subject to planning approval, further design and construction, this project proposes resurfacing of the eastbound carriageway with low noise surfacing.

Further detail can be found at: <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/part-8-proposed-m4-bus-priority-measures-planning-ref-p8202220>





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### Maynooth Leixlip Project

The Maynooth to Leixlip Project recently went to public consultation and is in Phase 2, Option Selection. The options selection process is focused on the appraisal of options to eventually identify the preferred option. Details such as surfacing would typically be decided upon following the identification of the preferred option in the later design phases, subject to project funding and approvals.

Further detail can be found at: <https://maynoothleixlip.ie/>

The report was noted

### CL20/1122

#### Safety Review for Riverforest Estate

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

Can the council provide an update on the requested safety review for Riverforest estate?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the consultant's review of the River Forest Estate junction and road layout in Leixlip is due to be completed in December 2022 and the Members will be updated on the findings.

Councillor Neville asked following the review for possible options to be considered for next year and whether LPT funding was an option, or the possibility of linking it with other projects.

Mr Linnane advised that currently they were at the stage of gathering information. He hoped for an update to be available for the next meeting, including possible solutions and issues identified.

The report was noted.

### CL21/1122

#### Emergency Accommodation

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

That the council provide an update on the emergency accommodation crisis in our municipal district, including numbers of people waiting for emergency accommodation, what is being done to secure more emergency accommodation and any other relevant considerations.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Galvin and seconded by Councillor Killeen.



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A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that it is not considered that there is an emergency accommodation crisis in this Municipal District area at present however opportunities will continue to be pursued in relation to Housing Allocations and progressions for applicants who are currently in emergency accommodation to alleviate future demand for these services.

There are currently no families or individuals waiting for Emergency Accommodation placement in the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District area. Emergency Accommodation is provided in the area where required and on occasion providers are sought in Dublin where this is practicable. Expressions of interest were sought for additional emergency accommodation providers in 2021 however there was no interest expressed from providers in this Municipal District area.

Councillor Galvin did not accept the report as the findings did not tally with the people she was aware of contacting the Council. She was surprised and concerned with the report, highlighting the need for adequate housing in the municipal district and that people are currently being offered accommodation as far away as Carlow. She questioned what was going on and who can actually access emergency accommodation. She asked if people sleeping on sofas, or in other people houses causing the property to be overcrowded, whether these cases were being identified as housed as they have a roof over their heads. She noted that there seemed to be a gap present between the North and South of the county, that no structured emergency accommodation and currently no rentals were available that is affordable in the area even with HAP, and that sometimes short-term rentals are not being recorded as homeless.

Mr Brady advised the members that there is a recording system in place and that Councillor Killeen had already been informed the same. There is a gap present between the North and South of the county as there is less demand for these services in the North of the County and that there are currently no provisions except a family hub in Prosperous and a unit in Celbridge which is a great facility but has limited spaces available.

Figures from 1-30 October 2022 were given:

In Celbridge - Leixlip there were 44 cases compared to South Kildare with 116 cases with a report of 3 presentations in October for the municipal district. These figures would not be



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considered a crisis and the aim of the council is not to take families out of the area especially people with school going children if at all possible. Currently the homeless team is fully staffed and they work with the members on a case-by-case basis and that emergency accommodation is not ideal but sometimes is better than sleeping on a couch. There are few resources in the municipal district and there is a shortage within the county. The solution is to work towards prevention, not using hotels or bed and breakfasts. The council is looking into other alternative options e.g shared accommodation, transitional premises. The council recently asked for expression of interest for more providers and will continue to do so.

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

### CL22/1122

#### Leixlip Educate Together School

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

That this council writes to the Department of Education asking that, in the public interest, they provide details on the location of the Department owned site in Leixlip, for the proposed Leixlip Educate Together School.

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

A report was received by Corporate Services informing the members that if the members agree a letter will issue to the Department of Education.

Councillor Killeen noted that schools in the area are coming up to capacity and there is a continual increase in population. She is seeking progression on this matter, especially as this is school enrolment time.

Councillor Neville noted that the municipal district have a huge role to play and that no consultation was initially made. This project is a large factor both in the Local Area Plan and the Master Plan within the municipal district.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Neville and agreed by the members that the report be noted and a letter to be sent to the Department of Education.



CL23/1122

**Housing Adaptation Grants**

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

Can the council provide an update on the number of housing adaptation grants for older persons and persons with a disability that have been issued within the last two years in the municipal district and particularly the number of those that have not been validated and returned to applicants?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that it is not possible to breakdown by Municipal District area. Please see below table for county wide figures for period 01/01/21 to 08/11/22.

<b>Housing Adaptation Grant – Private: Jan 2021 – Nov 2022</b>	
<b>Number of apps received</b>	562
<b>Number of apps approved</b>	493
<b>Number of apps under assessment</b>	69

In relation to returned applications, it is not possible to break down by grant type nor Municipal District area. The below figures are number of returned applications county wide per all grant types (i.e. Adaptation, Housing Aid, Mobility and Disabled Persons Grant.

2021 = 398

2022 = 359

The main reasons for sending back an application relate to:

1. No certified income details
2. No proof of compliance with LPT
3. Form not signed
4. Medical information / doctors stamp not complete
5. Over the income limit – application refused
6. Works not covered by grant – application refused
7. Previous application still open

It should be noted a small percentage of applications are returned more than once. The Housing Grants Team engage closely with applicants to validate applications at the earliest opportunity and once all is in order applications are progressed.



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Councillor Killeen noted she didn't understand how the results couldn't be broken down into Municipal Districts despite 9 separate fields on the report asking for address/Eircode.

Ms Barry and Mr Brady from the Housing Section both confirmed that this information is not stored into Municipal Districts or possible to split down but would talk to the team regarding this going forward.

The report was noted.

### CL24/1122

#### Update Public Realm

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

That the council provide an update on the Public Realm review for Leixlip and Celbridge.

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

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that the review of the draft Town Renewal Masterplans (TRMP) has been completed and the feedback from internal department was collated and circulated to the design team. A meeting will be held with the design team on Tuesday November 15 to go through the feedback with updates to be made to the draft TRMPs. Some changes have been requested, such as the inclusion of a high level design of the Parochial House site in Celbridge, that are additional to the original brief and will be an additional cost to the original fee agreement. The Strategic Projects and Public Realm team will provide a report on this at the December meeting including any additional costs to be incurred.

Councillor Neville was happy with the report and welcomed any updates before December. Ms Wright noted the successful open day at The Wonderful Barn with an attendance of over 500 people and 100 applications received. The members thanked the whole team on behalf of the Municipal District for all their hard work.

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



**CL25/1122**

**Restoration of Vanessa's Bower**

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

Can the council provide an update on the restoration of Vanessa's Bower?

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that as previously advised, Vanessa's Bower in Celbridge is in private ownership. However, in order to progress the required repair works, the Kildare County Council Architectural Conservation Officer engaged with representatives of the St John of God to discuss the conservation and repair of the Bower and to advise them of the urgency of that repair.

The Architectural Conservation Officer has recommended to the representatives of the St John of God that they engage with the grants under Historic Structures Fund or the Built Heritage Investment Scheme in 2023 to aid in the works.

Councillor Coleman noted his disappointment as two summers have now passed and that he will put in a motion at next month's meeting to discuss further as he has lots of questions to ask including, why the area has not been fenced off or covered over to protect it against the elements.

Ms Keaveney agreed to go back to the Planning Section with their concerns and would follow this up.

The report was noted

**CL26/1122**

**Civic Amenity Centre**

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

That an in-committee meeting be held with the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Members and the Director of Service, Environment, Water Services and Climate Action and other relevant executives to discuss the progression of the Civic Amenity Centre for North Kildare.

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

A report was received by Environment, Water Services and Climate Action informing the members that Expressions of Interest are currently being invited through Etenders for the development of the CAS North and are due to close at the end of this month. Essentially, the



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purpose is to explore the various contractual options [ if any ] that would be of interest to a potential bidder/consortium. The Director and his team would be pleased to meet with the Municipal District members after this date, at which point, the outcome of this process should be known. Again, this is subject to funding.

Councillor Caldwell voiced his disappointment to still be waiting as this dates back to 2018/2019. Currently people are being urged to upcycle/recycle goods, yet they still must travel to dispose of their green waste into Dublin or other locations around Kildare.

Ms Wright reminded the members of the requirements of the tendering process.

The members were in support of this motion and agreed to an in-committee meeting in December to talk to the Director regarding this matter and funding.

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Galvin and agreed by the members that the report be noted and for the members to arrange an in-committee meeting.

### CL27/1122

#### **Columbarium Wall in Donacomper Cemetery**

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

Can the council provide an update on the installation of the Columbarium wall in Donacomper Cemetery?

A report was received by Environment, Water Services and Climate Action informing the members that the tender for Columbarium wall at Donacomper will be listed in Etenders in the coming fortnight or so.

The report was noted.

### CL28/1122

#### **Abbey Playground, Celbridge**

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

Can the council provide an update on the re-opening of Abbey Playground, Celbridge?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the Council received a letter from St John of God in July in relation to reopening. They requested clarity on opening and closing, security and maintenance. A reply was issued to them in August



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requesting a meeting to ascertain more specifics about the issues. We have received no reply to this request to date. We will contact St John of God again in relation to the matter. Councillor Galvin noted this is ongoing for so long and hopes a response will be received following the Council reply in August.

Ms O'Grady from Parks advised the members she is familiar with the playground and will make contact again. She asked if the members had any contact details to pass them directly to her.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded