

**Minutes of Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00am on Friday, 21 January 2022
on Microsoft Teams**

Members Present: Councillor J Neville (Cathaoirleach)

Councillors V Liston, Í Cussen, B Caldwell, N Killeen, C Galvin
and M Coleman.

Officials Present: Ms E Wright (District Manager), Mr C Buggie (Municipal District Engineer), Mr R Linnane (Municipal District Engineer), Mr D Hodgins, (Senior Engineer), Ms M Hunt and Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officers), Ms P Pender and Mr D McDermott (A/Senior Executive Officers), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr C O'Toole (A/Staff Officer), Mr T Shanahan (Meetings Administrator), Ms C Dempsey (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

CL01/0122

The Cathaoirleach noted that this was the last meeting for Mr Buggie, as the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Engineer and that he was very sorry to see him go. He said that Mr Buggie was the District Engineer since before he started his first term as a councillor and that he had always been available and approachable.

All the members of the Municipal District Committee joined with the Cathaoirleach in thanking Mr Buggie for his hard work, dedication and courtesy afforded to them during his time working with them as District Engineer. They said he was always available to everyone, honest, efficient, and was a credit to the engineering profession. They noted he also had a great rapport with his own staff and was available and fair with everyone.

They concluded by wishing the incoming District Engineer Ronan Linnane the very best in his new role.

Mr Buggie thanked everyone for their kind words. He also thanked all the staff in the Celbridge-Leixlip Office for all their hard work over the last year. He especially wanted to thank the outdoor crews who delivered most of the outdoor works. He thanked the staff in Aras Chill Dara and elected members for their efforts over 2021. Finally, he thanked everyone he had worked with over the last seven years during his time as a Municipal District Engineer.

Mr Buggie also wished incoming District Engineer Ronan Linnane the very best in his new role, adding that his 17 years' experience in the Roads and Water Services Department in the local authority and 11 years working in the private sector, meant he would be very capable in the role.

Mr Linnane thanked Mr Buggie and the elected members and said he was looking forward to working with them in the future.

CL02/0122

Declarations of Interest

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

CL03/0122

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 17 December 2021 together with the progress report. Councillor Liston requested follow up on the following three items from the December meeting;

- CL13/1221 Ownership of land along the M4 in Celbridge

When would the ongoing legal difficulties be resolved?

- CL16/1221 Map of hedgerows that were townland boundaries

Ms Hunt said she would revert to the Parks Department and Heritage Officer with regards to ascertaining the budget available?

- CL20/1221 Environmental Data Exchange Network (EDEN)

Councillor Liston sought clarification in list format of what information was provided on EDEN?

The Meetings Administrator advised he would follow up with the relevant staff in relation to these items. He also clarified that as per standing orders, requests from motions go on progress report, clarifications arising out of questions do not go on progress report as either should be answered at the meeting or directly after, unless the matter was urgent or pertaining to a health and safety issue.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville seconded by Councillor Cussen and agreed by the members that the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 17 December 2021 be approved and there would be follow up on the above referenced items. The progress report was noted.

CL04/0122

Municipal District Road Works

The Municipal District Engineer stated that a comprehensive report had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting providing an update of works and a review of 2021

Municipal District works in 2021 were listed

- Roadworks Programme
- Drainage maintenance
- Footpath maintenance
- LPT projects
- NTA projects
- Severe Weather Response

A Financial Summary 2021 was listed;

- Road improvements Road Schemes - €785k
- Road maintenance Road Schemes - €60k
- Other sources of funding - maintenance allocation, street sweeping - €1.5m
- NTA grants - €650k
- LPT projects - €250k

The total Approximate Spend was €3.3 million

Mr Buggie listed other significant works which included Street Sweeping, General Maintenance, LPT Schemes, Footpath Repairs, Drainage / Flooding Schemes and Severe Weather Response

The LPT Projects in 2021 Infrastructure included;

- Footpath/Road Repairs in older estates
- New Public Lighting
- Other LPT projects funded by NTA
 - Rye Brewery to Ballyoulster
 - Forest Park to Castletown

He outlined the NTA Projects 2021 – Capital Projects

- Royal Canal Greenway –advanced through tender stage
 - Maynooth to Dublin Boundary - 8.5 km
 - Estimated cost of €4.5 – €5 million
 - 2.5m - 3m wide shared surface
 - Bituminous – 4.1km
 - Grit Surface – 4.3km
- Green Lane, Leixlip
- Celbridge existing bridge

The NTA Projects 2021 – Active Travel Measures were as follows;

- Scoil Chearbhall Uí Dhálaigh, Leixlip
- Riverforest Bus Turning Circle
- Footpath Rye Brewing to Ballyoulster
- Footpath Ballyoulster to Loughlinstown Junction
- Footpath renewal Hazelhatch Road Primrose Hill
- Footpath Forest Park to Castletown
- Footpath Ardclough Road
- Footpath Hazelhatch Road

The following restoration improvements for 2022, should happen subject to Department funding;

- Clane Road, Celbridge
- Kellystown Lane, Leixlip
- Boston Cottages, Ardclough
- Green Lane, Leixlip
- Maynooth Road Celbridge, near Croftons
- Ardclough to Celbridge Road, Dangan
- Kearneystown, Lyons Estate Road.

The members thanked Mr Buggie for his report. They congratulated Leixlip on being ranked 2nd place in October and 4th place in December, in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) results. They especially thanked the Environmental team who was out daily cleaning the street. They also thanked the tidy towns group.

Councillor Cussen thanked the community but especially the council staff for all their hard work. Councillor Galvin asked Mr Buggie was it appropriate to use images from his slides on social media. Mr Buggie advised this was in order.

CL05/0122

LPT Schedule of Works 2022

On the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members that the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Local Property Tax (LPT) allocation for 2022 be deferred to February.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members present that the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Local Property Tax (LPT) allocation for 2022 be deferred to February's municipal district meeting.

CL06/0122

Representative from the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District to the CPG

The members considered the nomination of a representative from the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District to the CPG as the representative from their municipal district. A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that the statutory basis for the Corporate Policy Groups (CPGs) was set out in Section 133 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 48 of the 2014 Act. The CPG provides a forum for policy issues which transcend the remit of individual SPCs and municipal districts. The work of the different SPCs was co-ordinated through the CPG, with membership comprising the:

- Cathaoirleach;
- Chairpersons of each SPC; and
- where the Municipal District was not already represented, a member of such Municipal District (as selected by the municipal district or failing selection, the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District or his or her nominee.)

Following Councillor Neville's resignation as Chairperson of the Transport, Safety and Emergency Services SPC in December 2021, the members of the Celbridge-Leixlip Committee were required to nominate a representative to the CPG as set out above.

Councillor Caldwell proposed Councillor Joe Neville as the MD representative on CPG. Councillor Cussen seconded this proposal. As there were no other nominees to the position, Councillor Neville was nominated as the representative from the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District to CPG.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Cussen and agreed by all members that Councillor Neville be nominated as the representative from the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee to CPG.

CL07/0122

Leixlip History Club to erect a Civic Memorial

An application from Leixlip History Club to erect a Civic Memorial was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

The members considered the application received from the Leixlip History Club. The Civic Memorial Committee in its report recommended approval of the application

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by all members present that the application be approved.

CL08/0122

Draft Casual Trading Byelaws

The Meetings Administrator requested this item be deferred until the next Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting in February. The members agreed.

Resolved with the agreement of the members, this item was adjourned to the February Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting.

CL09/0122

Easton Road Cycle Track Scheme

Mr Hodgins, Senior Engineer and Head of the Sustainable Transport Traffic team made a presentation to the members on an overview of the Green Lane Cycle track scheme.

He outlined the staff plan that would be in place in the next few months with positions being filled in Preliminary Planning/Design, Detailed Design, Construction and Operations, and that these positions were funded by the (NTA) National Transport Authority. He outlined the team would also be working closely with the Road Safety Officer and the Public Realm Team.

Mr Hodgins outlined the NTA project approval guidelines and set out the progress of the phases for this project:

- Phase 1 – Scope and purpose
- Phase 2 – Concept Development & Option Selection
- Phase 3 – Preliminary Design
- Phase 4 – Statutory Process

With regard to Green Lane Cycle Track Scheme, Leixlip, Mr Hodgins outlined that the team was at phase 3 and once the council received approval from the NTA, they could commence statutory process Phase 4.

It was proposed to have the footpath segregated from the cycle track and then from the carriage way, this was taking into consideration the safest possible route for all users. The NTA were looking to provide clarity and distinction between the cycle track and the footpath.

Mr Hodgins advised he would be presenting to all Municipal District meetings when they got information from the NTA on funding approval for 2022.

Mr Hodgins highlighted the following;

- The council needed to speak to a landowner in the area regarding third party lands. If this was not viable there was an alternative option.

- Amendments may need to happen to the layout and parking spaces in the car park outside the local shop.
- The council has met with the principals of the schools and discussed the issue with the difference in height level between the cycle track and the footpath directly outside the school, the council had also discussed the issue with the NTA.
- He has also discussed the biodiversity impact in the area of the cycle track with the council.
- Once the funding was allocated from the NTA, they would be able to bring the scheme to Part 8 consultation and this would take place in the next 2 months with construction taking place later this year.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr Hodgins for his informative presentation and opened the floor to the members. They raised the following questions;

- Could the members walk the area? And could the Access Officer with other council staff walk it with them.
- As the design of the cycle lane was so close to the road with no barrier this could be off putting for children, could this be examined?
- Could it be considered, how to prevent parking on the cycle lane within the cycle design manual.
- Was there an opportunity to include greenery in the area, making it more climate action friendly?
- Could the cycle lane be clearly marked indicating which direction, bicycles should be travelling?
- Was there a right of way at the junction to make it safe and accessible, i.e., easy to get on and off?
- Would it be possible to meet to review the cycle way?
- Could the Schools Street Program be promoted and implemented in conjunction with this?

Mr Hodgins responded with the following;

- Yes, it would be possible to walk the area with the members, he appreciated the members were on board and he stated it was good to identify issues early.
- He advised the design manual would be considered in relation to the cycle lane so close to the road and it could be clearly marked re what direction traffic should be travelling and prevention of parking on the cycle lane would be examined.
- Accessibility would be part of the detailed design process
- Greenery and biodiversity in the area was also being considered in conjunction with the Heritage Officer and other relevant Departments.
- Consultants would work with the Road Safety Officer and provide road audits.
- The public lighting in the area would be improved and mobility impaired users would be considered.
- The NTA funds An Taisce and supports the Schools Streets program. A priority, of the sustainable transport traffic team, was to ensure primary school children feel comfortable and safe.
- The amount of funding should be announced this month.

The Cathaoirleach and the members thanked Mr Hodgins and looked forward to working with him in the future.

CL10/0122

Joint education awareness campaign for cyclists

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

That this municipal district writes to the Superintendent Garda Siochána Leixlip District with a request that together with Kildare County Council, a joint education awareness campaign for cyclists in our area be launched as soon as was possible.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that with the members agreement, correspondence could issue to the Superintendent as requested. Kildare County

Councils Road Safety Officer would also liaise with An Garda Síochána in Leixlip to roll-out a cycle safety and awareness promotion and include it as a full county promotion.

Councillor Cussen noted the report, she stated that she had already written to an Garda Síochána but had got no response. She also spoke to the principal at a school. She said it was crucial to educate and engage with cyclists and to encourage and enforce the rules of the road for cyclists.

The members also raised the following points;

- Everyone on a bike should have a light.
- Could the members write to the Joint Policing Committee and ask them to consider promoting a safety and education piece for the community.
- The Road Safety Officer has a role here and was keen to get involved.
- Facilities for cycling was the more substantive issue, not cyclist's behaviour.

The District Manager noted the members comments and advised that the Roads Safety Officer was not allowed school visits during Covid-19, however the council still provide light up arm bands and hi viz jackets. The Roads Safety Officer could work on an education piece and this could be rolled out in conjunction with the new cycle lanes.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all the members that the report be noted and the Roads Safety Officer could work on an education piece to be rolled out in conjunction with the new cycle lanes. Correspondence would issue to Superintendent Garda Síochána Leixlip District with a request that together with Kildare County Council, a joint education awareness campaign for cyclists in our area be launched as soon as was possible and the and the Council's Road Safety Officer would liaise with An Garda Síochána Leixlip District in this matter.

CL11/0122

Car parking capacity assessment on Main Street, Celbridge.

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

That the council conduct a car parking capacity assessment on Main Street, Celbridge and surrounds with a view to examining feasibility, options and costs for off-street parking.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the last major Celbridge Traffic Management Plan was published in 2009 and a parking analysis was carried out for that report. It was ascertained, in general terms, town centre on-street parking was operating at capacity between 10:00 and 16:00 on weekdays and that 75% of those parking, were doing so for less than one hour. Loading and illegal parking surveys were also undertaken.

The council currently leases Clane Road Car Park from St John of God. Another car park was leased by the Council in the past, but this was not economically viable. There were a number of private car parks available in Celbridge.

The next Transport Strategy would likely be done during the publication of the next Celbridge Local Area Plan, and this would assess topics such as Active Travel and Parking (both on-road and off road) in significant detail.

Councillor Liston noted the report, she stated the last last major Celbridge Traffic Management Plan carried out in 2009, was now outdated as was 12 years old. She stated she would like to see something current, with fact-based information to get a better understanding of the situation. She also stated the report would be crucial when considering the Local Area Plan (LAP) and there should be a longer lead in time with regards to the LAP. Community discussions should be starting now in advance of preparation for the LAP.

The District Manager noted Councillor Liston's comments and said the council would commence the process, of obtaining information from parking machines on streets.

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

The Cathaoirleach requested permission to take items 23,24,25,26 and 27 from the agenda next. This was agreed by all members

CL12/0122

Temporary Suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws

Item 23

The members considered the temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws including Enforcement in various locations across the municipal district area to facilitate the continued re-opening of businesses subject to S254 licence approval.

While supporting the decision, the members called upon the Planning Department to consider wider engagement with them in considering S254 licence applications.

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

CL13/0122

Vacant / Derelict sites in the town centres of Leixlip and Celbridge

Item 24

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

That the council give an update on the number of vacant sites in the town centres of Leixlip and Celbridge and how they impact on the councils plans to develop our town centres in the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the application and entry of specific sites on the Vacant Site Register (VSR) was a complex and protracted process which involves site surveys, serviceability assessments, vacancy determination in the context of the Urban Housing and Regeneration Act and appeal processes to both or either An Bord Pleanála or the Valuations Office. A comprehensive survey was undertaken in 2019 with sites determined to be “vacant” entered as appropriate. There were currently 2 no. sites on the VSR in Leixlip which were entered on the register. There were no sites in Celbridge entered on the register. The Vacant Site Register was published, appropriately updated and available for review on the Councils website.

Councillor Neville noted the report, he stated there seems to be some confusion over the difference between a derelict site and a vacant property.

Ms Hunt advised the Planning Department deals with vacant sites. However, it is a very lengthy process as An Board Pleanála needs to deem the site as vacant.

Mr Kavanagh stated the Derelict Sites Act defines a derelict site as any land that “detracts, or was likely to detract, to a material degree from the amenity, character or appearance of land in the neighbourhood of the land in question”

A presentation to the members was offered in order to clarify matters, and the members agreed they would like a presentation on this topic.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by all the members that the report be noted and a presentation on derelict sites and dangerous structures in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District be arranged.

CL14/0122

LiDAR survey of Griffinrath

Item 25

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

Can the council provide an explanation, with a marked map, of the archaeology captured on the LiDAR survey of Griffinrath and surrounding townlands carried out by the Office of Public Works (OPW) regarding Recorded Monument KD 011-009 (ringfort), Recorded Monument KD011-020 (moated site), and their surrounding areas.

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the Heritage Officer or Conservation Office were not involved in the LiDAR survey of Griffinrath and surrounding townlands. Any study carried out by the Office of Public Works (OPW) should be requested directly from that source.

Councillor Liston noted the report, she would like clarifications on the items of interest. Ms Hunt advised she would speak to the Senior Planner and would update Councillor Liston offline.

The report was noted.

CL15/0122

Habitat assessment of the woodland at Moortown

Item 26

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

Can the council confirm when the habitat assessment of the woodland at Moortown in Celbridge will be undertaken?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the habitat survey of the woodland at Moortown in Celbridge was programmed for

completion in Quarter 4 2022. Details of same would be made available to the elected members on completion.

The report was noted.

CL16/0122

Assessment of the historical vista from Castletown House

Item 27

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

Can the council confirm what assessment of the historical vista from Castletown House has been undertaken and what safeguards have been put in place to maintain and protect same?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the policies and objectives of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and the Celbridge Local Area Plan 2017-2023 were the safeguards to protect and maintain the views from Castletown House in Celbridge. These statutory planning documents have been informed by the Historic Landscape Study of Castletown undertaken by Dr Finola O' Kane Crimmins and Dr John Olley on behalf of Kildare County Council and the ACA Character Appraisal for the Celbridge LAP.

Scenic Route No 31 of the Kildare County Development Plan relates specifically to Views within Castletown - Donaghcumper Rural Area; Views to the South and North from Castletown House, including axial views to the Obelisk and the Wonderful Barn. These Scenic Routes were protected by a series of specific policies and objectives.

The report was noted.

CL17/0122

Public lighting in Willowbrook Park

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

That the council install public lighting in Willowbrook Park on the pathway that runs at the front of the playground for the safety and security of all users.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Public Lighting Section would visit the location of the requested new streetlight, and it would then be assessed using a priority system within Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS). Lighting schemes would be scored on various factors and placed within KLIPS according to that score. The lighting within KLIPS would be installed as and when funds become available and depending on where the request sits within KLIPS.

Councillor Coleman welcomed the report, he stated improvements to lighting would enhance the playground and ensure safety for everyone.

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

CL18/0122

Yellow flashing light on the Clane Road at Killadoon

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

That the school yellow flashing light on the Clane Road at Killadoon be made operational to enhance the safety of children attending St Wolstan's Community School and North Kildare Educate Together School.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a detailed check of the light and its setting would be carried out. The Municipal District Engineer has checked the flashing light at this location, and it was operating when checked.

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

CL19/0122

Meeting with Dublin Bus

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville.
That the council arrange a meeting with Dublin Bus to discuss feedback on the new Bus Connect Route, in relation to this municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that subject to the members agreement, correspondence could issue to the relevant authority requesting a meeting.

Councillor Neville noted the report and stated it was great to see the new bus routes. The members agreed the council should write to Mr Hugh Creegan, Director of Transport Planning & Investment, NTA regarding Bus Connects and discuss various issues, especially the lack of any direct bus from Confey into Dublin City Centre especially now the population was growing.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all the members that the report be noted and that the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department write to the NTA regarding the Bus Connects Programme to arrange a meeting.

CL20/0122

Footpath from St Raphael's Avenue to Priory Lodge, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Galvin.
That a footpath be provided from St Raphael's Avenue to Priory Lodge, Celbridge.
The motion was proposed by Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Neville.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer has met the Councillor on

site to discuss the need and the best location for the requested footpath. A general arrangement drawing of the proposed footpath would be drafted.

Mr Linnane advised there was no need for a public consultation as this project was below the financial threshold for consultation. Mr Linnane would organise the drawing and give it to the members.

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

CL21/0122

Checks on streetlights

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell. Can the council clarify whether Airtricity or the council were responsible for carrying out checks on streetlights that need replacing in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the maintenance contractor has responsibility for ensuring that repairs to lights were carried out within the agreed timeframe and this was monitored by Kildare County Council. The maintenance contractor also carries out night checks on lights. The repairs were monitored on a countywide basis and not by Municipal District. When fault numbers throughout the county start to rise, Kildare County Council would request the maintenance contractor to assign additional resources to deal with the issue.

Councillor Caldwell sought clarification on whether the maintenance contractor was aware of the process and that the matter be reviewed, especially in the area of Cope Bridge and Riversdale as some lights may have been missed.

The report was noted.

CL22/0122

Cutting of hedgerows

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Coleman.
Can the council confirm that they will be informing the public that it is prohibited to cut hedgerows from 1st February to August 31st?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council placed the following notice in all local papers, social media channels and our website in August 2021. Paragraph 3 confirms that the cutting, grubbing, burning or destruction of any vegetation growing in a hedge or ditch during the period 1st March to 31st August is prohibited.

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR ATTENTION OF LANDOWNERS/OCCUPIERS

Landowners and occupiers of properties which adjoin public roads are obliged under the Roads Act, 1993 to ensure that trees, shrubs, hedges or any other vegetation on their land are not, or could not, become a danger to people using or working on a public road.

The maintenance of roadside trees, hedges and other vegetation was the responsibility of the landowner on whose land they were growing. Landowners should therefore ensure that trees, hedges or other vegetation were maintained in such condition that they were not a hazard to road users or that they do not interfere with the maintenance of the road. All reasonable care should be taken to ensure the safety of road users when this work was being carried out.

Section 46(b) of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 forbids the cutting, grubbing, burning or destruction of any vegetation growing in a hedge or ditch during the period 1 March to 31 August. Cutting of hedgerows can take place from September to February, when hedgerows were dormant.

The report was noted.

CL23/0122

Construction/works on the Leixlip Maynooth Greenway,

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Neville.
Can the council provide an update on on the timelines for construction/works on the Leixlip Maynooth Greenway, to include the impacts of the various stages of the works on access?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Construction work was programmed to commence in March 2022, subject to confirmation of NTA funding allocations. The duration of the works was expected to last 18 months. The construction works would be phased, in order to maintain as much useability of the existing greenway as possible. More details of section closures would be available in the coming weeks once they were agreed with the contractor. These and any updates would be circulated to the members and the general public.

The report was noted.

CL24/0122

Plan for the extension of the railing at the Rye River end

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Neville.
Can this council get an update on the plan for the extension of the railing at the Rye River end of Ryevale Lawns, Leixlip?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that quotations were being sought to get the railing fabricated and installed. It was hoped to have it in place by the Summer.

The report was noted.

CL25/0122

Roadworks happening concurrently in Celbridge/Leixlip/Ardclough in 2022

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

Can the council confirm what steps are/can be taken to avoid multiple sets of roadworks happening concurrently in Celbridge/Leixlip/Ardclough in 2022?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The Municipal District Office plans out the road improvement programme at the start of each year and schedules these works with the view to minimise disruption to road users. Frequently additional funding becomes available in the latter parts of the year facilitating additional works to be carried out in the district. Every effort was made when planning these works to minimise disruption and works being carried out concurrently. Additional third-party developments could also necessitate works to be carried out under licence on the road. When licencing these works, consideration was given to other possible roadworks in the area and the likely disruption to road users.

The report was noted.

CL26/0122

Map highlighting established cycling routes

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

Can the council confirm if it will provide a map (hard copy or digital) of the municipal district highlighting established cycling routes and the gaps in cycling route provision, and which additional routes will be added in 2022?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The NTA published the draft updated “Cycle Network Plan for the Greater Dublin Area 2021”, as part of their consultation for the “GDA Transport Strategy 2022-2042”. The background documents also included the “Greater Dublin Area Transport Study for North Kildare”. These documents form the basis for the provision of cycle facilities in this municipal district. The Sustainable

Transport Section would produce a summary map of the existing and proposed network for members when the 2022 Work Programme has been agreed with the NTA.

The report was noted.

CL27/0122

Social infrastructure projects

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen. That due to the difficulties and delays in delivering social infrastructure projects in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District, the council commits to delivering projects in the municipal district in 2022 and that at the section of contracts where completion dates were agreed, the council will insert a social inclusion clause to ensure that where possible for e.g., a higher percentage of the local workforce was employed and that local and regional resources were used to provide workers, families and communities with greater control over their own economic development and ensure money was kept in the local economy eg. a project could be broken down into components where the model could become more beneficial to the local economy and local businesses than purely e-tendering which may be more attractive to only larger businesses.

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

A report was received from the Finance Department informing the members that the specifics of tender and frameworks documentation was a matter for the individual departments as they need to judge whether a social inclusion clause was appropriate to their particular tender/framework and that it doesn't contravene EU and National rules and potentially preclude any particular supplier from submitting a tender.

For information, attached please find a note from the OGP on the use of social considerations in Specifications, Selection and Award Criteria.

Attached was a copy of the OGP 'live' arrangements as at April 2021 vis-à-vis specific frameworks that they have procured for the sector and the social considerations included within them. If the Councillor wished the council could request a more up-to-date report, but it was unlikely that it would have changed considerably.

And finally, the new Corporate Procurement Plan 2022-2026 has been drafted and should be finalised shortly. Below is S3.7 of the Plan which specifically references social considerations.

3.7 Sustainable and Green Procurement Measures

As Kildare County Council's focus was the continuance of their connection with social and green initiatives, a number of areas under the procurement remit were advanced or realised. These included the publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Procurement Guidance for the Public Sector document on the council's internal Procurement Portal thus allowing it to be available to all buyers and staff. A Sustainable Procurement Section was also added to the council's internal and external procurement website. The opportunity to include green procurement and social consideration in tenders was actively and strongly promoted by the Procurement Officer and would continue to be so.

A report was also received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that they would work with the Procurement Officer to include where appropriate a social inclusion clause in our tenders. However, when tendering or using an in place framework they need to ensure that we do not contravene any EU and National rules that may preclude a supplier from the tender process.

Councillor Killeen noted the report, she said this would have economic benefits for the community and social inclusion should be at the forefront.

Mr McDermott stated his department was willing to work with the Procurement Officer and they would be mindful of including all groups.

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

CL28/0122

Redevelopment of the old ESB site in Leixlip

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell. Can the council provide an update on the redevelopment of the old ESB site in Leixlip?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Cluid were finalising a Design Team Tender for an Architect Lead Design Team. Site excludes the footprint of the ESB mast site. Discussions regarding the relocation of the mast were ongoing.

The report was noted.

CL29/0122

Spring clean on the Shillichan Lane

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

That the council carry out a complete spring clean on the Shillichan Lane and maintain it regularly during the year.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the lane would be scheduled for routine maintenance throughout the year

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell seconded by Councillor Neville and agreed by all the members that the report be noted and the lane would be scheduled for routine maintenance throughout the year

CL30/0122

Dog licenses issued in 2021

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Coleman. Can the council confirm how many dog licenses were issued in 2021 in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the total figure for Dog Licences in County Kildare for 2021 was 6,056.

Unfortunately, there was no facility on the system to break this down by Municipal District

Councillor Coleman noted the report he stated that this was meant to go to Environment SPC and would like the progress report to be reviewed to see could it be put on it.

Mr Kavanagh advised he would check the progress report to see status of this item.

The report was noted.

CL31/0122

Flood relief measures

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

Can the council confirm what flood relief measures were in place or planned for this municipal district?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that details of flood relief schemes were contained in the OPW's Flood Risk Management

Plans, adopted by Kildare County Council in 2018. A flood relief scheme is proposed for Leixlip, which the council intends to progress this year. The OPW were currently carrying out a Scheme Viability Review in Celbridge and the findings of this review would determine if a scheme would progress in Celbridge.

The report was noted.

CL32/0122

Calendar of festival events

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen. That a calendar of festival events be identified for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District which would assist members with their LPT allocation deliberations.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the council have no definitive calendar of festival events for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District. Festivals that occur one year may not occur the next similarly what seem like annual events may cease at any point without our knowledge. We could provide a list of those groups that applied for festival grants in 2021 and a list of LPT grants awarded to festival type projects to assist members with their deliberations.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all the members that the report be noted and the Community and Cultural Development Department provide a list of those groups that applied for festival grants in 2021 and a list of LPT grants awarded to festival type projects.

CL33/0122

Playground at the Amenities Centre, Leixlip

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

That the council provide a detailed time frame of the completion of the upgrade to the playground at the Amenities Centre, Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that there were two possibilities identified for the upgrade of the playground:

- Upgrade it within the current footprint
- Expand the footprint which would result in the removal of existing car parking spaces at the front boundary.

The council is now investigating if the spaces proposed to be removed to facilitate a possible playground expansion, could be relocated elsewhere on the site as requested by the Sports Centre. This examination would be completed in the next 4-6 weeks and forwarded to the Sports Centre for consideration. If this is agreed, then the council plan to proceed to tender for the redesign of the playground and car park. A Part 8 proposal was likely to be required if the playground could be extended and we would aim to have this advertised by the end of the summer with the objective timeline for construction of the playground to commence in Quarter 2 2023.

If the expansion was not possible, then the council hope to tender for the redesign/upgrade of the existing footprint by early summer. Depending on the outcome of the tender, contractor availability and lead time for equipment, construction could commence in Quarter 4 2022.

Councillor Caldwell noted the report, he was disappointed this project was not moving at a faster pace. He stated he would be happy for a meeting to be arranged to move it forward.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Neville and agreed by all members that the report be noted and a meeting be arranged with management committee, elected members, the district manager and Mr Wallace to move this project forward.

CL34/0122

Swimming pool in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Galvin.
That a meeting be arranged between councillors and the relevant council officials to discuss developing a swimming pool in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.
The motion was proposed by Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department, informing the members that under the Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund, applications for this type of facility were regionalised. Kildare County Council currently has an application, under review for the provision of a pool in North Kildare. A decision on the outcome of the review was yet to be finalised but it was expected that the review would be completed shortly.

It would be prudent to await the outcome of this review before holding any further discussions.

Councillor Galvin noted the report and expressed her frustration at how long this was taking. She stated it was brought up by most elected members in the last 2 years and her criticism was not directed at the council. She would like it kept on the progress report.

She accepted that the majority of members at Plenary Council voted in the last council to have the swimming pool located in Maynooth and she thinks the Celbridge-Leixlip site would be more accessible. If the council needed a partner for the Celbridge-Leixlip site, she stated she was happy to liaise with the relevant parties. Ms McDermott noted Councillor Galvin's comments, he advised he requested an update on the review again and he hoped to have a response sooner rather than later and would keep the members updated.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all the members that the report be noted and this item be kept on the progress report.

CL35/0122

Visit Leixlip Kiosk

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen. That the council explore the possibility of providing a Visit Leixlip Kiosk as part of the upgrade works to the Canal Greenways.

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

A report was received from the INTO Kildare informing the members that as part of the development of the Grand Canal Greenway, ancillary services were being proposed by various stakeholders through the Grand Canal Greenway Working Group set by Waterways Ireland of which Kildare, South Dublin and Offaly County Councils were represented. Currently Waterways Ireland, in association with the group, were reviewing services and identifying potential locations for visitor information boards to ensure it was a great experience for tourists alongside consistency of the greenway brand in line with the Fáilte Ireland Brand Guidelines for Greenways nationally.

Councillor Killeen noted the report but stated the funding spent on the Greenway does not address the kiosk issue. She stated she would speak to Ms Mangan offline on the matter.

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

CL36/0122

"Trees in Pots - Celbridge" and "Grass Cutting in Private Estates"

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Cussen. Can the council confirm the date of the online meeting between the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Members and the Parks Department, the agenda to include "Trees in Pots - Celbridge" and "Grass Cutting in Private Estates in Celbridge/Leixlip"?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the Parks Department advises that planting of trees in pots was not sustainable in the long term. In order to progress this request, the Parks Department was willing to assist with the choice of an appropriate specimen shrub for pots on the Main Street, if the Member(s) would identify, in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders, the proposed locations and type of pot preferred. As there is no budget available at present for the provision of the pots and planters, the members could consider an LPT allocation. Additionally, the assistance of the Tidy Towns would be required to maintain the planters once in place.

With reference to grass maintenance there were 36 sites within the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District on the current grass maintenance contract. The private estates included within this were Ballyoulster, Willowbrook Park and part of Willowbrook Lawns. The inclusion of these on the grass contract predate the establishment of the Parks Section and have been maintained for over 15 years. It was proposed to continue this commitment given the historic agreement and 15-year time period. It was not proposed to undertake any grass cutting in any other private estates as there was no budget to facilitate this. The maintenance would remain the responsibility of the management company or the Resident's Associations in each which was the case where private estates were taken in charge.

Councillor Cussen noted the report but advised the response did not answer her question as she wanted to know when the meeting would be organised, to discuss this further.

Mr Wallace advised there was no point in having a meeting as the question was answered in the report. The existing budget would not allow for cutting of grass in 36 estates, due to a 15-year historical agreement, the grass was only maintained in three estates and this would continue. The grass cutting in the remaining estates should be the responsibility of the residents or management company. The council looks after the roads and footpaths but not the grass cutting in private estates. The report was noted.

CL37/0122

Ardclough Playground

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Cussen.
Can the council provide members with an update on progress in relation to the Ardclough Playground?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the project has been included in the current Capital Programme for €60k for 2023 but further funding of €140-€210k would be needed to allow the project to proceed. There were no plans at present to progress the playground in Ardclough due to limited staff resources.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.