



Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
Held on Friday, 21 October 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 and Councillor J Neville.

Apologies: Councillor C. Galvin

Officials Present: Ms E Wright (District Manager), Mr R Linnane (Municipal District Engineer), Ms P Pender (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr J Boland, (Director Services) Mr S Wallace (Senior Parks Superintendent), Ms F Millane (Financial/Management Accountant) Mr J Doyle (Administrative Officer), Mr F Hogan (A/Staff Officer), Ms S Barry (A/Senior Staff Officer), Mr S Deegan (Senior Engineer), Mr J Hennessy (Senior Engineer), Ms S.J Walsh (Senior Executive Officer), Mr R Hopkins (Head of Information Technology), Mr T Shanahan (Meetings Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

CL01/1022

Declaration of Interest

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

CL02/1022

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 16 September 2022 with the progress report.

Notice of motion for amendment of the minutes in accordance with Standing Orders was received from Councillor Cussen who requested amendments on the following items from the September meeting;



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Item CL23/0922 Logging of Roadkill

Due to a typing error a request to the members for approval to amend and *omit* “*who had been authorised by Councillor Liston to do so*” from the September 2022 minutes of the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District

CL30/0922 Second Public Playground in Celbridge

Members were advised that the value of €18,000 from Intel was incorrect and should read: Intel have come onboard to support, fund the delivery of this fully accessible playground by Kildare County Council Parks Department. Intel have committed funding of €80k through their Community Engagement Fund. They have contributed €40k to Kildare County Council Parks Department this year with a commitment of a further €40k funding in 2023. The project is currently at design stage and is estimated to cost in excess of €350k to deliver.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Cussen and agreed by the members, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Friday, 16 September 2022 of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District with amendments, be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CL03/1022

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 to commence on 24 October.
- Gully cleaning and open drain and water cut clearing will commence after the school midterm (7 November).
- Winter service salting operations due to commence. These have not started as yet due to the moderate forecast.

Footpath Replacement Works:

- Work packages for footpath replacement works in Thornhill and Willowbrook in Celbridge have been awarded and will commence in early November.



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- Footpaths in St. Mary's Park, Leixlip – awaiting return of tenders, scheduling to complete these works in 2022.
- Tender package currently being finalized for infill footpath on Hazelhatch road between Wolstan Abbey and Shinkeen Rd.

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. (Defects repaired 13/14 Oct)
5	L1016 Ardclough Rd & L5064 Kearneystown	Tues August 2	Fri August 12	Completed
6	L2008 Boston Cottages	Mon July 18	Fri July 22	Completed

LPT projects/works.

- Footpath at Loughlinstown Road. (Discussions have commenced with landowners and utility companies). Quotation received from one utility company, awaiting further quotes. Further discussion suggested for allocation of LPT funding.
- Sunday sweeping and bin emptying in Celbridge and Leixlip now ceased.

Road Opening Licenses:

- Irish Water works being carried out by Coffey Construction are progressing slowly on Primrose Hill/ Hazelhatch road and are temporarily suspended on the Celbridge/Lucan Road.
- Installation of foul rising main on Green Lane, Leixlip 99% complete. Final full permanent reinstatement of footpath and cycle lane surfaces and line marking remaining. Hopefully to be completed next week.



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- Oldtown road closure complete. Final leg of ducting on south side of Shackleton Road to be complete this week.
- Traffic Solutions on behalf of Kildare County Council Traffic Section have applied for a Road Closure on Cope Bridge for 2 days over Midterm to facilitate upgrading of Traffic signals and improvement of vehicle and cyclist detection equipment. Pedestrian access will be provided over the bridge during this period. Works are being carried out to minimize the occurrence of vehicles meeting on the bridge through increased vehicle detection loops.

Private Developer Works

Crodaun:

Developer completed footpath and cycle lane realignment works apposite site. Awaiting ESB connection alteration for new public lighting to allow removal of existing street lighting to complete works on development side of road and complete permanent entrance to development.

Shackleton Road:

Developer awaiting completion of Oldtown road closure ducting works being carried out on behalf of ESB to schedule final overlay of Shackleton Road.

St Patrick's Park

Final snagging works including landscaping works to green area have been carried out.

The members thanked Mr Linnane and his team for all their work over the past month and raised the following

- Is there still a sum of money available from the LPT rollover and could this be used for Loughlinstown Road?
- Cope bridge, when will the road be closed and how will this be communicated to the public?
- St Patricks Park: whether the two areas of hedging can now be replaced?
- Sunday bin collection was a great help especially for the Tidy Towns.

Mr Linnane advised the members that:

- The estimated cost of the Loughlinstown Road is €400,000. Mr. Linnane noted the allocation of €80,000 from LPT advising more discussion is needed regarding value



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for money for delivering the project, suggesting delivery may be better achieved by means of an SHD application and possibly using the LPT funding elsewhere.

- Delay at Cope Bridge is weather related as it involves electrical works. Providing a time frame in advance is problematic as this will just be carried out when weather improves. Updates will be put on Kildare County Council's website for the public and the bus companies have already been made aware of the situation.
- Now into planting season so hedging in St Patricks Park will be investigated.

CL04/1022

LPT Update 2022

A report on LPT expenditure was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting. The members welcomed the report but sought clarification with the figure carried forward from 2021.

Ms Pender clarified to the members that the figure carried forward from 2021 has already been allocated to agreed projects previously and is now just awaiting distribution.

The members accepted the report that was previously distributed.

Under standing orders the members agreed to move onto Item 7 on the agenda.

Item7

CL05/1022

Roads Projects and Roads Planning

Mr Deegan presented the members with an update on the Roads Projects and Roads Planning in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District these included;

- **The Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road Project** -This is currently at the final stages of Phase 2 and moving onto Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation) Q4 2022 & Phase 4 (Statutory Processes) is due to commence Q2 2023.
- **Bridge Programme**- This is an ongoing rolling programme of maintenance of masonry arch bridges. Funding is from DoT and KCC resources. In 2022 DoT Grant €455k, 2022 Capital Programme €250k.

Works completed to ten bridges in 2022 including Celbridge bridge following vehicular damage.

- **The Wonderful Barn** Main Public Open Day has been set for Sunday November 13



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The members raised the following:

- When will the exact route be finalised for the Celbridge Hazelhatch Link Road?
- When this new road reaches the train station where will it go then?
- How will the open day for the Wonderful Barn be advertised? Would posters be an option to be distributed locally. Any idea of start/finish time? Great to see it is going ahead on a Sunday.
- It was great to see progress being made on the second bridge in Celbridge, they appreciate background work is going on, when will it be moving to the detail design?

Mr Deegan advised the members that:

- The wonderful Barn open day would be advertised using social media, Council website, radio and in the newspaper. Option of posters would also be looked into. It is understood the open day will run from 10.30 to 17.30 but can't confirm.
- Preferred route for the Celbridge Hazelhatch Road is being finalised at present and environmental reports are currently being prepared. The Greenways are also moving forward in the area. Currently the roundabout (shown on maps on the presentation given) would be the natural end to this particular project.

Ms Wright advised the members that the second bridge is progressing well and that as soon as route is finalised it will be presented to the members. She also confirmed that the slides related to the Wonderful Barn would be circulated to members.

The report was accepted

CL06/1022

Draft Budget Plan 2023

A report was previously circulated to the members with an update on the Celbridge-Leixlip Draft Budget Plan 2023

Ms Millane informed the members that in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the total draft General Municipal Allocation (GMA) for Kildare County Council was €15,610,006 for 2023 of which €5,211,369 is based on the retained LPT as voted for by Members in July. She noted this year's Draft Budgetary Plan started on 14 October. She advised the members that this year's budget meeting was scheduled for 21 November and that a briefing would be held on Microsoft Teams on 14 November. She also explained that it was a reserved function of the members of a municipal district to adopt the



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draft budgetary plan either with or without amendment and that the Chief Executive may take account of the draft budgetary plan, as presented to the members of that municipal district, without amendment if they do not adopt a draft budgetary plan.

Ms Millane also advised of the following:

- The total provisional General Municipal Allocation for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District was €2,771,778
- Local Property Tax retained at +10% (i.e., the 2021 level) with no further increase
- Correspondence had been received from Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, Peter Burke in response to a letter from Ms F Millane regarding funding and she was awaiting further clarifications.
- There were concerns that no new valuations had been received in 2022 for this County.

The members were advised that there had been changes regarding the calculation of Resident Association Grants, the grants were to be calculated based on acreage. It was hoped that the change would lead to better parity across the county and between the Municipal Districts.

The members welcomed the report and raised the following

- Houses were revalued back in November 2021 so despite no increase from LPT from last year, it needs to be noted that after revaluation some houses saw a considerable increase in the amount of LPT.
- The members felt some Municipal Districts seem to get more allocation especially in LPT.
- That many community projects would not be able to carry on without the LPT funding.
- Great to see an increase of funding for libraries
- The members felt that the press release following the last Council meeting was misleading and suggested rewording for clarification.

Ms Millane advised that each Municipal District has the choice to move funding dependent on where their priorities for funding lie. Members have the option to move monies if they are all in agreement. She also advised that the press coverage had been brought to her attention



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already and would be looked into as she was not responsible for social media. The press release was however based on the statutory advertisement placed in print media.

On the proposal of Councillor Neville and seconded by Councillor Coleman and agreed by all the members, the budgetary plan previously distributed was adopted without amendment.

CL07/1022

Taking in Charge Castlewellan Park, Celbridge

A report was distributed to the members prior to the meeting regarding the taking in charge of Castlewellan Park, Celbridge, Co. Kildare (Ref. DC2143)

The proposal to take in charge Castlewellan Park, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, and associated map were on public display from 07/04/2022 to 08/05/2022, inclusive. The end of the statutory period for observations on the proposal was 22/05/2022. One submission, dated 29/04/2022, was received. Issues raised in that submission include: Opening the permeable entrance between Castlewellan Park and Beatty Grove to the public. The developer opened the entrance, and the entrance has been in use since May. The Council is satisfied that the issue outlined in the submission dated 29/04/2022 has been adequately addressed and resolved.

In accordance with the Memo of Understanding, Irish Water has no objection to the taking in charge. It is noted that the storm water assets in this development will not transfer to Irish Water.

The Development Control Section: (i) is satisfied that the roads in this development are of general public utility, (ii) has considered the financial implications for the authority of the proposed declaration, and (iii) confirms that the estate is at a Taking in Charge standard.

The members sought clarification to who erected the speed sign at the entrance to the estate showing 30km speed limit. It was understood the speed should be 50km

Mr Doyle believed the developer was responsible for the sign and that the speed would be changed to 30km when the estate is taken in charge but this can't be implemented until Jake's Law comes into force. Ms Wright advised that although signage will be in place when the estate is taken in charge it is indicative and not enforceable by the Gardai as there no bye laws to enable this.



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Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Coleman and agreed by the members to take in charge Castlewellan Park, Celbridge, Co. Kildare

CL08/1022

Christmas Free Pay Parking

The members considered the following joint motion in the names of Councillors Caldwell and Cussen.

That the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District members agree to the provision of free pay parking, with enforcement in place, for two hours per day over the Christmas period for a defined number of days, ie 12 December – 30 December inclusive.

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 there was no suspension of Pay Parking in Celbridge or Leixlip for Christmas in 2020 and 2021. Normal parking enforcement continued over these Christmas periods. The Roads Department would advise that the regulation of parking should continue as normal during the Christmas period to ensure an adequate turnover of parking spaces for customers, to facilitate and encourage shop local and assist business. Members should note that regulation of parking has continued as normal through all towns in County Kildare over the last number of years with the exception of Athy. This continuous and consistent regulation has been very successful in protecting local jobs, business and ensuring customers and residents can avail of parking spaces. It should also be noted that with the current reduced hours of regulation (10.00 to 16.00 Monday to Friday) Celbridge revenue is not meeting the cost of the provision of parking services in Celbridge, and this deficit will increase with reduced regulation as Kildare County Council are obliged to continue payment of the provision of services if temporarily withdrawn by the Members. While this is a decision for the Elected Members, the Roads Department would advise that regulation of parking in Celbridge and Leixlip should continue as normal for the reasons set out above.

Mr Doyle sought clarification from the members that if adopted that this would be agreed for both Celbridge and Leixlip and that he would propose times of between 10:00 and 12:00. He also sought clarification on what was meant by enforcement in place.



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Ms Wright reminded the members that the 30-minute observation is still in place, so this would be inclusive of that.

The term enforcement in place was agreed by the members to be reworded as referring to illegal parking. The members felt that this is a sensible proposal and would hopefully help support local businesses. They suggested trialling this year to see if successful if not can revert next year back to the normal pay parking. The discussion also included arguments against the proposal.

The members were advised that a proposer and seconder was required for the proposed amendment and for a vote to be carried out. The amended motion as below was proposed by Councillor Coleman and seconded by Councillor Killeen:

“That Celbridge –Leixlip Municipal District members agree to the provision of free pay parking (with enforcement of illegal parking in place), for two hours per day, from 10.00am to 12.00pm, over the Christmas period from 12 December-30 December inclusive.”

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Coleman and seconded by Councillor Killeen and following a vote in favour from 5 members (with one abstention) that the following was approved:

“That Celbridge –Leixlip Municipal District members agree to the provision of free pay parking (with enforcement of illegal parking in place), for two hours per day, from 10.00am to 12.00pm, over the Christmas period from 12 December-30 December inclusive.”

CL09/1022

Greenway Between Leixlip and Maynooth.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville
That the council provide an update on the tender process for the Greenway between Leixlip and Maynooth.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Neville and seconded by Councillor Caldwell
A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the tender process is complete, and letter of acceptance has been issued to the preferred contractor. Agreement has been reached with Waterways Ireland regarding



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insurances and a licence to undertake the work. The preferred contractor is exploring options for siting their temporary construction compound. It is expected that work will commence shortly, and the elected members will be notified as soon as a confirmed start date is agreed. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Neville Seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members that the report be accepted

CL10/1022

Local Cycleway Improvements, Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville
That the council provide an update on the local cycleway improvements within the town of Leixlip.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The Green Lane Cycle track scheme has commenced the detailed design stage. This is not expected to be completed until Q2 of 2023. For the Royal Canal Greenway Maynooth to Confey, a letter of acceptance has been issued to the preferred contractor. The construction of the Leixlip permeability improvement project is ongoing.

An update on NTA funded schemes to all Municipal Districts will be provided in December by the Senior Engineer of the Sustainable Transport Section.

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

CL11/1022

Tea Lane and English Row

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Liston
That the council address the safety issue at the junction of Tea Lane and English Row, where some westbound vehicles are taking U-Turns to head back into the town centre, by examining the feasibility to build up the corner kerbs and incorporate a crossing to the Grotto monument and applying for relevant funding streams.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Liston 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 Municipal District office has investigated this issue and have not observed an extensive issue with vehicles carrying out U-turns at this location. Contact has been made with Kildare County Council's Active Travel team and they have indicated that the building out of the junction and the provision of an uncontrolled crossing point from the footpath on the Mill side of the R403 to the grotto side of Tea Lane is a project that can be submitted to the National Transport Authority (NTA) for funding in 2023. In the short-term bollards will be installed to form a central junction island on Tea Lane to prevent vehicles carrying out a U-Turn at this location.

The members raised the following

- Will the bollards narrow the junction and assist with people crossing?
- That there is a house just after the junction and to ensure the bollards don't restrict access to this particular property.

Mr Linnane advised the members that this would be a temporary measure and wouldn't be wide enough for people to cross. He confirmed that the bollards would stop short of the entrance to named property.

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

CL12/1022

Ardclough Triangle

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Liston. That the council initiate the process and public consultation on a proposal to close the junction from the L2008 Main Road where it enters the Ardclough Triangle at the church exit, to ensure the safety of school children and other pedestrians in Ardclough.

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 Roads Design team will liaise with the Municipal District Office in relation to closing this junction. The Roads Design team will carry out a technical assessment at this location and report their findings to the Municipal District for approval.



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Councillor Liston was happy with the report clarifying that she was talking about one point of the triangle to be closed off, therefore redirecting the flow of traffic and aiding the safety of school children and other pedestrians.

Councillor Coleman didn't feel this is viable as the space currently has multiple purposes. It serves the recreation facility, as a drop off point for both parents and the school buses and for people attending the church. By closing this off he feels this will cause knock on problems and would not be in support of this motion as felt it would be a waste of funding. He asked for the local people to be consulted.

Ms Wright advised that currently no funding is identified, and that the technical assessment would be carried out initially by internal resources. Subject to funding and, if agreed, a public consultation would then give people the opportunity to raise any issues/concerns they may have.

She agreed for the members to be kept updated and clarified this matter would be their decision, following technical assessment on whether to go to statutory consultation process.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members that the report be accepted and that a technical assessment be carried out and members be kept updated.

CL13/1022

Footpath Ballyoulster to Donaghcumper Cemetery.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen. That the council provide a footpath from the brewery after Ballyoulster to Donaghcumper Cemetery.

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 Municipal District Office has made contact with Kildare County Council's Active Travel team, and they have indicated that National Transport Authority (NTA) funding can be used to deliver the proposed footpath in 2023. It is not possible to commence these works until the contractor currently working on the R403 for Irish Water demobilise and remove traffic management controls.

The members raised the following



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- A footpath would benefit pedestrians especially people with pushchairs as currently trying to manoeuvre on the grass
- This section is currently the only stretch where there is no footpath
- If Loughlinstown Road is put on hold could possible funding be moved to this project?
- Concerns were raised regarding trees being removed during this project

Mr Linnane advised the members that there is no proposal to remove any trees and that rubberised mats will be used to ensure no damage to the roots when footpath is being laid. An approximate timeframe of February 2023 was given to allow for Irish water to be finished and the outdoor crew to be available.

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

CL14/1022

Clearway Captains Hill

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell. That the council consider making a clearway from the area in front of the businesses on Captains Hill to the traffic lights from 15.30 to 19.00 Monday to Friday.

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a technical assessment will be carried out at this location in order to determine whether this proceeds to a Statutory Public Consultation process under Section 38 of the Roads Traffic Act 1994.

Councillor Caldwell advised that there is currently no way to narrow or widen the road in this area and they couldn't risk losing any more parking spaces. Traffic measures to keep the traffic flowing, especially at peak times is needed.

Councillor Killeen noted that they are still awaiting a traffic consultant to come back with a report and that a patchwork approach doesn't work, there needs to be a more strategic plan put in place.



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Mr Doyle noted that currently people are using the area and illegally parking and this is not helping with traffic congestion. Ms Wright agreed for a technical assessment to be carried out but clarified that the council have no enforcement role with clearways. It would be a matter for the Gardai to enforce this.

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

CL15/1022

Yellow Box on the Dublin Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman. That the council install a yellow box on the Dublin Road at the entrance to Ballyoulster.

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 Municipal District Office will install a yellow box on the western entrance into Ballyoulster (entrance closest to Celbridge town). These works will be carried out when the line marking contractor is next carrying out works in the Municipal District Office.

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

CL16/1022

Car Park for Willowbrook Playground

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman. That the council provide a car park for Willowbrook Playground to include a pick up and drop off lane for Scoil Mochua.

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

A report was received from Parks informing the members that the provision of a car park for Willowbrook Playground and Scoil Mochua can be considered as part of the development of a masterplan for the open space in Willowbrook.



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The members raised the following:

- That the carpark shouldn't have to wait for the masterplan as the lack of car parking spaces is preventing people using the facility and that disabled parking spaces were also needed.
- Currently nearly 800 pupils attending the schools, nearby housing estates are currently being blocked off at school drop off and pick up times
- Despite trying to promote walking to school, where this is not viable, a carpark would help with the safe drop off and pick up of the school children.

Mr Wallace advised the members that there is an existing car park beside the school which has been resurfaced and is used by people using the playground facility. He asked where another car park could be sited and where the funding come from and that a masterplan approach was recommended to assess options for future development.

Councillor Coleman asked for it to be noted that the current carpark has been reduced in size in order to accommodate bike racks.

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

CL17/1022

Letter to the NTA

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen. That this municipal district write to the Minister for Transport and the NTA seeking improvements to the bus services in Leixlip so as to assist commuters with gaps in provision and to build on the service that is in place and to acknowledge considerable hardship caused to residents in this area recently by late, cancelled or full bus services.

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 with the members agreement, the council will issue the requested letter to the National Transport Authority (NTA).



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The members raised the following:

- That more direct communication with the NTA is needed. That the real time information needs to be accurate, the lack of bus drivers needs to be addressed and the reasons behind buses not turning up be highlighted.
- Public meeting suggested as currently the needs of people are not being met eg Children from the Confey schools had been left behind recently.
- That the direct route from Riverforest to Dublin has now ceased and this needs to return.

Councillor Neville noted that he had previously asked for the NTA to attend a municipal district meeting but no reply to date and could this matter be followed up.

Ms Wright updated the members that Mr Hodgins and herself attend regular meetings with the Greater Dublin Area Co-ordination group with the NTA and confirmed that the concerns expressed in the motion were raised at the September group meeting. The feedback was that there is a problem with current bus driver numbers and ongoing recruitment issues. There were also talks of possibly having to reduce services. Ms Wright suggested the letter be addressed to Mr. Hugh Creegan, Deputy CEO of the NTA.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members that the report be noted, and a letter be sent to the Deputy CEO of the NTA. The members asked for this item to be placed on the progress report.

CL18/1022

Free Wi-Fi

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen. That the council work with stakeholders to develop a system to provide free Wi-Fi in main street areas, and other relevant places in this municipal district and that develops a timeline for implementation of such a scheme.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Killeen and seconded by Councillor Caldwell. A report was received from Head of Information Systems informing the members that to deploy free public Wi-Fi the following should be considered:



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Cost: Kildare County Council (KCC) use CISCO Meraki devices (MR70) as their standard outdoor Wi-Fi device, the MR70 will provide coverage of roughly 100 to 150 metres. Each Meraki device costs around €2000 (incl. VAT) which includes an installation charge (budget quote from Sord Oct 2022). I am not aware of any available KCC budget for public Wi-Fi deployment.

Location: The Meraki devices will need to be in a location with electric power and a link to the Internet. In some cases, the Internet connection could be 'daisy chained' from an existing Kildare County Council location such as a library or Council office, note if there a requirement for a new internet connection this would cost around €50 per month. Ideally the Meraki device would be located on Council property for ease of access and charge back for electricity charges although the usage is about 3 watts which is quite low but will still have to be considered. The Area Engineer's knowledge would be critical in assessing the feasibility of the deployment of free Wi-Fi to any local area based on the criteria outlined in this report.

Support & Maintenance: These network devices will need to be supported and maintained, typically we can expect an annual charge of €80 per device per year.

Timeline: The Timeline for such a project would need to include the following tasks - a feasibility study, scope of works, the allocation of a budget, a survey, and procurement and deployment time.

Security Concerns: Unfortunately, free public Wi-Fi networks have been used as a vector for cyber-attacks in the past. Often hackers use the 'man in the middle' concept where they create a false landing page to gather confidential information from Wi-Fi users.

Recently Dublin City council announced an expansion of free Wi-Fi through their "Smart Dublin" programme. This programme has partnered Dublin City Council with Virgin and the EU Wifi4EU programme to deploy free Wi-Fi to designated areas throughout the city. There appears to be a focus on specific locations where devices can be deployed addressing some of the concerns raised above.

A report was also received from the Broadband Officer informing the members that Kildare County Council has installed public Wi-Fi to 3 Broadband Connection Points (BCP) sites in Kildare funded through the National Broadband Plan. This initiative targeted areas of Kildare that had poor broadband coverage ahead of the NBP contract. This programme is finished now as the main National Broadband Plan is underway in Kildare.



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The members suggested the Celbridge Library be considered as an option, this would be situated close to the main Street and would serve a high number of young people.

Mr Hopkins informed the members that IT have provided hotspots around the County at

- Athy Town Hall
- Naas Town Hall
- Maynooth
- Ballitore
- Newbridge (Library)

The Council recommend that hotspots be created using Council owned buildings as a service dependent on private installations isn't sustainable. Mr Hopkins agreed to look into the libraries in Celbridge and Leixlip as options for this Wifi service and inform members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members that the report be accepted. This item to be placed on the Progress Report.

CL19/1022

Suspensory Motion re: Dart+ West Rail Order

The Cathaoirleach informed the members of a proposal to suspend standing orders to consider a suspensory motion as below in the name of Councillor Killeen.

To request that Kildare County Council in their submission to the Dart+ West rail order consultation seek to protect the open space that has been taken in charge in Glendale estate in Leixlip and that a formal request to resite the substation / signal station to be undertaken to preserve the green space in the housing estate.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members of the requirement in standing orders that a seconder must support the suspension of standing orders and that at least two thirds of the members present vote in favour of hearing the suspensory motion (being 4 members). It was also clarified that as the motion was suspensory that it would not be possible to ensure the relevant staff members were present to respond to the motion.



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Councillor Caldwell seconded the proposed suspension of standing orders, and all six members present voted in favour, enabling the suspensory motion to be debated.

Following contributions from Councillors Killeen, Coleman, Neville and Caldwell regarding the motion and the matter of suitable alternative locations for the substation/signal station, the District Manager suggested an amendment to the motion on the basis that alternative locations would require detailed assessment by the relevant bodies in consultation with each other.

The insertion of the amendment suggested, and removal of other text was proposed by Councillor Killeen and seconded by Councillor Caldwell as below and agreed by all members present:

To remove:

that a formal request to resite the substation / signal station to be undertaken

To add:

alternative locations for the substation/signal station be examined in consultation with Kildare County Council and Iarnród Éireann

The motion, as amended on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell was agreed by all the members present;

To request that Kildare County Council in their submission to the Dart+ West rail order consultation, seek to protect the open space that has been taken in charge in Glendale estate in Leixlip and alternative locations for the substation/signal station be examined in consultation with Kildare County Council and Iarnród Éireann, to preserve the green space in the housing estate.

The members noted the fact that the extended consultation period to An Bord Pleanála is October 28 and therefore asked that the motion be brought to the attention of the Planning Department to ensure its inclusion in the submission of Kildare County Council.

Resolved: That the motion, as amended on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all the members present, be brought to the attention of the Planning Authority for inclusion in the submission related to this project.



CL20/1022

Next Stages on the Bridge in Celbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Neville.
Can the council outline the progression and next stages on the bridge in Celbridge.
A report on this was given from Mr Deegan during the update of Roads Planning and Projects earlier in the meeting.
The report was noted

CL21/1022

Pathway Between Celbridge and Maynooth

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Liston.
Can the council provide an update on the status of a proposal for a pathway between Celbridge and Maynooth?
A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this scheme does not form part of the current 2022 Programme of works for National Transport Authority funded schemes.
The report was noted.

CL22/1022

Item 22 fell as Councillor Cussen was not present for this part of the meeting.

CL23/1022

Item 23 fell as Councillor Cussen was not present for this part of the meeting.

CL24/1022

Phone Boxes on Main Street, Leixlip

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell. Can the council provide an update on the removal of the phone boxes on Main Street, Leixlip?
A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a previous report to members on this matter confirmed that the Municipal District Engineer had contacted Eir requesting that the existing phone box be removed from the Main Street of Leixlip. In response, Eir advised that they were required by Comreg to



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provide pay phone services in the area and also that a number of calls from that payphone were to numbers for assistance. Eir proposed an upgrade to the phone box to a new style Kiosk which would require planning permission. EIR submitted 3 applications to redevelop existing telephone kiosks by replacing them with a new kiosk with an integral communication unit and a 1.53 sqm digital advertising display. The applications submitted were for Main Street, Newbridge (PI Ref 221021); Main Street Maynooth (PI Ref 221020) and Main Street Celbridge (PI Ref 221013). All 3 applications were refused by the Planning Authority. The report was noted.

CL25/1022

Footpaths Thornhill Gardens, Celbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Coleman. Can the council provide an update on the works to be carried out on the footpaths in Thornhill Gardens, Celbridge?

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the footpath works in Thornhill are to be carried out by a contractor. The contractor has been appointed and has indicated that the works will be carried out in November.

The report was noted.

CL26/1022

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Coleman. Can the council provide an update on the Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road?

A report on this was given from Mr Deegan during the update of Roads Planning and Projects earlier in the meeting.

The report was noted

CL27/1022

Recording of Eviction Notices

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

Can the council confirm how it records notice to quit / eviction notices being given to HAP and RAS tenants over the last five years in this municipal district, whether this is followed by



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a formal homelessness assessment, how this is recorded and what process currently applies.

A report was received from the housing section informing the members that copies of termination notices received by RAS tenants are recorded on the individual RAS property file. Under the terms of the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) the Local Authority is obliged to source alternative accommodation for the tenants. Over the past five years Kildare County Council has provided alternative accommodation to all RAS tenants served with a Termination Notice by way of alternative RAS accommodation, social housing, AHB and Leased housing. Where suitable and subject to funding the council will attempt to purchase a RAS property where a notice to quit has been issued on the basis of the sale of the property

The HAP section maintains a database of notices to quit. In the first instance HAP applicants are required to seek alternative rental accommodation. In the event that they fail to secure alternative accommodation and as the date of the notice to quit becomes closer the HAP team will be in contact with the Allocations and Homeless Team. The termination periods range from 90 days to 224 days depending on the length of the tenancy.

All clients presenting as homeless are initially pre-assessed to ascertain if they are homeless and any individual presenting as homeless, even at pre-assessment stage, is recorded on our system. Initially it may be that they require information on supports available to them or are looking for direction following receipt of a notice to quit. The Homeless team would ascertain if the notice to quit is valid and the date they are required to vacate the property, also checking the client is on the Council's housing waiting list and advising on what documentation to submit for same. A homeless assessment would be completed nearer to eviction to determine if they will need emergency accommodation, ascertain identification of friends or family, ascertain if there any addiction or mental health/physical issues, child protection issues and what type of emergency accommodation is suitable. Advice would always be provided on first contact for example on looking for Private rented accommodation, applying for choice-based lettings. Advocacy is provided to allocations for clients with high medical priority.



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As notified to the members in the September Chief Executive Report, in 2022, 403 HAP tenancies have ceased across the county, following is the breakdown of reasons for cessation: social housing allocation (249), notice to quit from landlord (78), voluntary exit (48), movement within HAP (15), other (13).

Councillor Killeen accepted the report and will seek further clarification as a motion at the next Municipal District meeting.

The report was noted

CL28/1022

HAP

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Killeen.
Can the council confirm the number of applications that were made for discretionary increases in HAP for the year 2021, 2020 and 2019 in this municipal district how many were awarded and what percentage of all HAP tenancies does this equate to for each of the years.

A report was received from the housing section informing the members that discretion is applied by the council as opposed to the HAP tenant applying for the discretionary amount. Discretion is applied based on the monthly rent amount and the household income.

Following is the total number of cases where discretion was applied:

	Cases	% of tenancies
2019	44	79%
2020	56	90%
2021	36	97%

The report was noted.

CL29/1022

Habitat Assessment of Moortown Woods

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

When will the council carry out the habitat assessment of Moortown Woods?



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A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the habitat assessment of Moortown Woods will be completed in Q1 2023 subject to funding from the Municipal District.

The report was noted

CL30/1022

New Cemetery Leixlip

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

Can the council provide an update on the new cemetery facility for Leixlip?

A report was received from the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that the Council have identified a site reasonably close to the existing cemetery and this remains under consideration. The site would seem to be suitable, and it will be necessary to come to agreement with the owners before proceeding further. The constraints relating to the current cemetery are noted and the import of the notice of question is fully understood.

The report was noted.

CL31/1022

Removal of Hedging Riverbank

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

Can the council provide an update on the removal of hedging on the stretch of land at the riverbank, behind Castle Park, Leixlip?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that this matter continues to be actively pursued through the council's legal representatives.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.