



**Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting**  
**Held on Friday 15 September 2023 at 10:00 a.m**  
**In the Board Room, Áras Chill Dara.**

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

**Remote Attendance:** Councillor J Neville

**Officials Present** Ms C Barrett (District Manager), Mr R Linnane (Municipal District Engineer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscape Officer), Ms S Walsh (Executive Engineer), Ms F Brown (A/Administrative Officer), Mr T Shanahan (Meeting Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the September Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting.

**CL01/0923**

**Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of (a) conflicts of interest or (b) pecuniary or beneficial interests under section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

**CL02/0923**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the annual Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting and the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on 21 July 2023 and the progress report.

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by the members, that the minutes of the annual Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting and the monthly Celbridge Leixlip District meeting held on 21 July 2023 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.



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Councillor Killeen proposed a Suspensory Motion as follows:

“The standing orders be suspended in order to consider the current access issues at Castletown House in Celbridge, if the council will work with the OPW to commence a CPO process and if the council can clarify their landholding (118 of the 525 acres) will remain accessible to the public”.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by all members present. On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach it was agreed that this motion would be considered later on the agenda, alongside Item CL30/0923, which also related to Castletown House.

### CL03/0923

#### Municipal District Road Works

The outdoor crews are carrying out general footpath and road maintenance works in the Municipal District area. These currently include jet-vacing of road gullies, mechanical sweeping of roads, road repairs with road patcher unit, restoring water cuts on rural roads, cutting back verges at junctions, and general repairs to footpaths and kerbs. Calls received are triaged and then assigned to a crew as appropriate.

#### Road works programme 2023

##### Surface Dressing – Restoration Maintenance

Surface dressing works carried out on May 29. Road from Killmacredock Roundabout to Celbridge Road at Barrogstown and Barrogstown Lane completed. Total of 3.25km of road surface dressed.

##### Road Overlays - Restoration Improvement

RI	Location	Start Date	End Date	Details
1	R149 Captains Hill and Cope Bridge	10 July	21 July	Works 100% complete
2	R404 Youngs Cross to Barnhall Roundabout	24 July	4 August	Works 85% complete
3	L5050 Catherinestown	8 August	11 August	Works 100% complete
4	L5056 Green Lane Westfield to Killmacredock Roundabout	28 August	31 August	Works 95% complete.



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5	L 1016 Wheatfield and L2008 Tipperstown	14 August	25 August	Works 95% complete
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### LPT projects/works.

Sunday sweeping and bin emptying in Celbridge and Leixlip ongoing.

### Uisce Eireann Road Opening Licences:

Uisce Eireann pipelaying works on R403 and R405 roads complete. Final reinstatement works outstanding. Some final reinstatement works on Hazelhatch Road and on Dublin Road between the Liffey Bridge and the junction of the Shinkeen Road have been completed. Kildare County Council are currently awaiting the programme of final reinstatement works from Uisce Eireann's contractor for the remaining areas.

### Footpath Replacement Works:

Tender packages are currently being assembled and put out to tender for works to commence in October. There are 2 for the Celbridge area and 2 for Leixlip.

The members raised the following;

- Why Úisce Éireann's works are yet to be completed, if any time frame is available. Could reasoning for delays be communicated with the public?
- Could the permanent closure of the Hazlehatch Road be investigated?
- Problems with bin in St Catherine's Park overflowing reported.
- Asked if works on the Celbridge Road near to Supervalu Donaghcomper were complete.

Mr Linnane advised the members that:

- There was currently no time frame available for completion of Uisce Éireann's works. There had been issues with pipes laid and re-testing was needed. It was hoped most of disruption was now over. Assured members that Uisce Éireann would not be allowed to move onto the Maynooth Road until these problems were resolved.
- Suggested the mechanism for closure of Hazlehatch Road required decision by the members.
- Confirmed that bin at St Catherine Park had now been emptied.



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- Confirmed that works on the Celbridge Road near to Supervalu Donaghcomper were not yet complete.

The report was noted.

### **CL04/0923**

#### **Section 38**

The members considered the Roads Traffic Act, 1994 - Section 38 - proposed installation of 2 no. new bus shelters at Beech Park Estate, Green Lane, Leixlip.

A submissions report had been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

The report was noted.

### **CL05/0923**

#### **Equality Impact Assessment**

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

That the council undertake an equality impact assessment as part of the parking bye-laws review process in the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the preparation of an equality impact assessment does not form part of the statutory Parking Bye-Law review process. Should an assessment be undertaken, it would be carried out on a countywide basis on efficiency and effective grounds. In turn, it would need to be formulated into policy by the SPC following consultation with the Equality Officer, Access Officer and Age Friendly Officer.

The members raised the

- That the Public Sector duty was to ensure no discrimination, and that if there was a change in policy or process, that this could not impact on equality.
- Asked could this matter be referred to SPC – to look at the policy and how criteria ensuring it was efficient and effective could be established.

The District Manager advised the members that the byelaws process was set out and did not include any such assessment, and therefore this could not be added to the current byelaws



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as they were already made. However, it was agreed that if the members so wished, this could be referred to the SPC to ensure that the policies did not actively discriminate.

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

### CL06/0923

#### Update on Question from November 2022

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

That the council provide an update on a question posed in November 2022 on the outcome of the analysis carried out to determine the most suitable type of pedestrian crossing facility (signalised crossing on the Celbridge Interchange) and most optimum location for the crossing to include timeframe for any proposed delivery of same.

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

A report was received from Transport Mobility and Open Spaces informing the members that a design and cost estimate for a new Toucan Crossing at the proposed location has been prepared. There is currently no funding source for the provision of new pedestrian crossing infrastructure in the County and therefore this proposed crossing has been added to a list of similar types of requests in the County. No timeline can be provided until a funding source for the delivery of the crossing has been identified.

The members raised the following;

- That back in 2022 an enquiry from the school was received regarding a safer interchange for students. An assessment and walkabout were completed, and costings done. Since this, local buses using this stretch had increased and the road was busier.
- Concerns had been raised by members previously in the context of an earlier Strategic housing development planning application in the area.
- Could the information for costings, the location of crossing and where funding was to be sourced from be shared with the members.
- That the NTA had been contacted and had agreed to supply funding, it was asked for this to be further investigated.



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The District Manager advised that this was currently with the Active Transport Team and was at design stage. It was agreed for a Teams meeting to be organised to share the design and discuss funding.

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

### CL07/0923

#### Wheatfield Estate

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman.  
That the council carry out repairs to the footpaths in Wheatfield Estate, Ardclough.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Coleman and seconded by Councillor Liston

A report was received from the Roads Sections informing the members that an assessment of the footpaths in Wheatfield Estate had been carried out and footpath repair works locations identified. These works would be carried out in the coming weeks.

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

### CL08/0923

#### Clane Road/Shackleton Road Junction

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Galvin.  
That the council extend the green man crossing time at the Clane Road/Shackleton Road junction to make it safer for students walking to school to cross the road.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Galvin and seconded by Councillor Liston

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Traffic Management Section shall review the pedestrian crossing timings at the Clane Road / Shackleton junction. It should be noted that the green time for pedestrians is a fixed time and is considered an invitation to cross the road. The overall pedestrian crossing time is a combination of the Green and Amber times for pedestrians with the amber time varying depending on road width.

Councillor Galvin sought clarification on what was meant by 'fixed green time'.



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The District Manager agreed to seek clarification and would revert back to the Councillor.

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

### CL09/0923

#### The Abbey, Celbridge

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

That the council provide a wider footpath outside The Abbey, Celbridge either in its current location or by any other means possible, as a wider footpath is needed at this location to make it safer and more accessible.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Galvin and seconded by Councillor Liston

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the road outside the Abbey in Celbridge was reviewed in May 2022. The R403 Clane Road is a regional road and its width at this location is currently at or below minimum standard. The presence of the Abbey wall and the boundary wall at St. Raphael's physically prohibits any area available for footpath widening.

Councillor Galvin noted;

- That this had been raised previously, the footpath was heavily used and people using wheelchairs and pushchairs experience problems with access.
- Could the ESB be contacted to look at removing a pole?
- Could the existing wall be moved/removed.
- Could the area be re-examined to see how pedestrians could be prioritised over car users at this location.

The Area Engineer advised the members that this location had limitations, he understood their frustration but that there was no width available at this section of road. He hoped that when St John of Gods redeveloped that a path could be looked into on both sides of the road.

Councillor Galvin expressed her disappointment and asked for this to be flagged with the ESB and for a time frame for St John of Gods re-development to be investigated.

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



**CL10/0923**

**Riverbank of the Liffey**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell.  
That the council remove all the overgrowth along the riverbank of the Liffey at the end of Arthur Guinness car park.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the vegetation around the riverbank is needed to protect the bank from erosion and for health and safety. Therefore, it is not proposed to remove it but to cut it back hard.

Councillor Caldwell noted his concern that the Liffey was becoming more inaccessible for people and action was needed to tackle this.

The report was noted.

**CL11/0923**

**Castletown Drive, Celbridge**

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

Can the council provide an update on the assessment carried out to determine if speed controls are required on Castletown Drive, Celbridge?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office carried out a speed survey and determined that average speeds were slightly above the 30kph speed limit. The Municipal District office will now assess where additional signage and road markings can be installed to positively reduce the average speeds of vehicles.

Councillor Cussen sought clarification on what the new plan was now that the carpark was closed at the back of Castletown?

The District Engineer advised that there were two types of speed devices for speed surveys, one was radar which was not suitable at this location and the other was a handheld device. The handheld device was seen by motorists in advance and therefore speed was reduced making the results inaccurate. Following on from a speed survey the traffic calming measures were typically the following:

- Road marking signs





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- Driver feedback signs
- Vertical and horizontal deflections.

It was expected for the volume of traffic to increase due to the closure of the carpark but not expected that the speed of drivers would be affected.

The report was noted.

### **CL12/0923**

#### **Winter Drain Cleaning Works**

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

Can the council confirm when the winter drain cleaning works in this municipal district will commence?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the storm drain winter cleaning works will commence in mid-October and will take approximately 10 weeks.

The report was noted.

### **CL13/0923**

#### **Ard Rath Estate, Celbridge**

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to install a yellow box or boxes outside Ard Rath Estate, Celbridge to assist the new residents caught trying to exit the estate in heavy traffic?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office does not propose to install a yellow box at this location. The new road layout at this location was constructed by the developer to serve the residential development. Any road markings conditioned under planning will need to be provided by the developer.

The report was noted.

### **CL14/0923**

#### **Road Markings, Maynooth Road**

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

Can the council confirm when it plans to refresh the road markings (yellow boxes, turning arrows etc) on the Maynooth Road between the Shackleton Road junction and the Kilwogan Lane junction?



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A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that an assessment would be carried out of the road markings at this location. Any markings identified as requiring refreshing would be scheduled in the coming months. Minimal road marking refreshing works would be carried out on the section between the north entrance to Castletown housing estate and the entrance to Crodaun as Uisce Eireann propose to have a contractor working on this road in early 2024. These works would require a full lane reinstatement works including new markings.

The report was noted.

### **CL15/0923**

#### **Resurfacing of the M4**

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

Can the council provide an update from the NTA on the road resurfacing of the M4 between Leixlip/Celbridge and Maynooth?

A report was received from the National Roads Office informing the members that:

#### **Eastbound: M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measure Pilot project**

The M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures Pilot project has approved Part 8 planning in Q1 2023. The project team was currently preparing tender documentation to carry out the procurement for technical advisors required to complete the detailed design, which is required prior to tendering and construction. Progress of this project was subject to relevant funding and approvals. This project would include for low noise surface in the eastbound.

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

#### **Westbound:**

The above project was for the eastbound only. KNRO are not involved in maintenance works on this section of the national road network, which was managed by TII Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contracts (MMaRC) (further details can be found at: <https://www.tii.ie/roads-tolling/operations-and-maintenance/road-maintenance/>). However, KNRO are aware of



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planned westbound only re-surfacing works from circa Junction 5 to Junction 7. We understand this is scheduled to commence on site in late September by NRDO.

The report was noted.

### **CL16/0923**

#### **Greenway Between Leixlip and Celbridge**

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

Can the council provide an update on the Greenway between Leixlip and Celbridge and the new timelines in place?

A report was received from Transport Mobility and Open Spaces informing the members that the legal settlement agreement with the contractor has been signed and the specified outstanding works completed for Section 1. The council is engaging with Waterways Ireland with a view to formally opening this section to the public this month. In parallel, the council is commencing a tendering process for the remainder of the route and an appointment is anticipated in Q1 2024.

The report was noted.

### **CL17/0923**

#### **Parks Related Capital Projects**

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

That the council provide a timeline on key upcoming parks related capital projects in the municipal district such as the Leixlip Playground etc.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that:

#### **Leixlip Playground**

The design for the car park is currently being completed by consultants. This will be tendered by the end of October. The design and construction of the playground will be tendered by the end of November. It is hoped to start the car park works in February and the playground in



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April/May, but these timeframes will be dependent on the contractors who is successful, their lead times and weather.

### **Wonderful Barn**

A single Part 8 is currently in preparation for the Wonderful Barn Building Complex and surrounding parkland and URDF funding. The scale of projects/contracts to come from those processes will depend on approval/success in obtaining the substantial funding needed for the project and will be determined at that stage. Three contracts are currently on site in connection with the preparation of that Part 8 – Opening up works /BHIS emergency Repairs /IGSL Ground Investigation.

### **Castletown Woods**

Topographical survey of the woods has been carried out to assist with the development. A tender to develop a conservation plan for the wood will be tendered in early 2024 and we hope to have it completed by Q3 2024. This will inform the development of a masterplan and works in the woodland. Laurel removal will take place in the woodland over the current winter.

### **Celbridge Outdoor Gym**

This is currently being put in place in Celbridge Abbey Car Park.

### **St Catherines Sensory Garden**

Tender for this work will be advertised by the end of the year. It will be constructed in Spring / Summer 2024

### **Celbridge Main Street Tree Planting**

This has been completed.

### **Celbridge Outdoor Youth Facility**

It is planned to tender for the design of a facility by the end of year and depending on the outcome of this and choice of location or locations to have an initial pilot in for Summer 2024.

### **Leixlip Spa**



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A design for the works to enhance the entrance and safety of the site is underway. It is planned to complete a Part 8 for this in 2024.

The members raised the following;

- They asked for more details on the URDF funding with regards the Wonderful Barn and that there had been no feedback following public consultation.
- Key issue raised of lack of capital expenditure in the North of the County
- The trees in pots in Celbridge were welcomed but could reflective strips be used for planters for the visually impaired.
- Do any of the current carparking places need to be removed for the outdoor gym to progress?
- What was the initial pilot for the youth facility and what assurance can be given regarding delivery beyond June 2024?
- That Leixlip Spa had become overgrown, sought clarification if the works on entrance included the viewing platform and the feasibility study of the area.
- Disappointment expressed with the update from St John of Gods that the playground would not be reopening and asked what the Council plan to do with the equipment. It was noted that there are now only 2 playgrounds for a population of 20,000 people.

Mr Wallace advised that;

- Public Realm were leading with Wonderful Barn and URDF funding.
- Car spaces will all remain with regards location of outdoor gym equipment.
- Reflective bands would be looked into for planters.
- Regarding the outdoor youth facility
  - teenagers identified location
  - steering group was now in place
  - pilot project could be as simple as seating
  - needed local business and residents to come on board with the initiative
  - works due to start in May 2024, aim would be for pilot completion during summer 2024 once no issues arose
- The council were in discussion with St John of Gods regarding the playground equipment.



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

### **CL18/0923**

#### **Youth Consultation**

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

Can the council provide an update on the outcome/responses from the youth consultation in relation to outdoor gym equipment and locations for Celbridge?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that consultation was carried out with 121 teenagers in Celbridge during May and June. This involved workshops with the teenagers where they developed models for the facilities that had been identified in the consultation carried out last year. These were hang out areas, multiuse games area, teen playground and outdoor gyms. These will now be used to form the basis of a tender to have these facilities designed. It is hoped that an initial pilot will be in place over the Summer of 2024.

Councillor Cussen sought clarification on where the youths suggested as a location.

Mr Wallace advised that the consultation was around design and not location.

The report was noted.

### **CL19/0923**

#### **New Playground at the Leixlip Amenities**

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

Can the council provide an update on the new playground at the Leixlip Amenities?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the design for the car park is currently being completed by consultants. This will be tendered by the end of October. The design and construction of the playground will be tendered by the end of November. It is hoped to start the car park works in February and the playground in April / May but these timeframes will be dependent on the contractors who is successful, their lead times and weather.

The report was noted.

The members agreed to take items 29 and 30 from the agenda next.



**CL20/0923**

**Community Centre**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen. That, as part of its commitment to Leixlip through the usual provision of services and the draft Local Economic and Community Plan, the council procure a community centre in the town to promote community use for example, artists workshop, CE Scheme, Medical Centre, Council outreach site and for use by clubs, e.g., women's sheds, social groups, and primary care centre.

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

A report was received from Economic Community and Cultural Development informing the members that the new Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) will set out the objectives and actions over a 6-year period to promote and support the economic development and local and community development for the county. The plan will be rooted in an evidence-based approach working with AIRO in Maynooth University using census data and other information. This plan will strive to build strong, healthy and inclusive communities in Kildare. The community department will work with any local community group who are looking for a community space in the area, however the provision of a new community centre is not currently included in the capital programme.

The members raised the following;

- That this was previously raised back in July, now four more community groups wanted to set up.
- Demand was increasing in the area. An answer was needed from the Community Section regarding access to a community space.
- Asked could the members see the plan from the old ESB site, could this possibly be an option. The members were aware that there were plans for older persons community facility on site.
- The members asked for this item to be placed on the progress report for clarification on provision of a community space.



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

### CL21/0923

#### Swimming Pool North Kildare

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

That the council provide an update on the provision of a new swimming pool for North Kildare?

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

A report was received from Economic Community and Cultural Development informing the members that in April 2019, Kildare County Council applied to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in respect of an application from the Large-Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) to provide for a swimming pool in North Kildare (at Maynooth University). The application was not successful, and an appeal was submitted in respect of the decision in February 2020.

Kildare County Council is still awaiting a decision on the appeal and remain committed to this project and has followed up a number of times with the Department.

Following a meeting with the department earlier in the year, representatives informed Kildare County Council, that all appeals have been assessed and official communication of the result will be issued shortly, once it has been approved by the minister. Kildare County Council was advised at the meeting that there was currently no suitable alternative grant schemes available to progress the project. There has been no significant change since this meeting however Kildare County Council is continuing to follow up with the Sports Capital Unit in the Dept of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

The members raised the following:

- That they had been waiting for over 4 years on official communications and waiting on decision of appeal to be assessed since January this year. The members asked for this to be followed up.





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- That another option moving forward was an overground structure offered from Swim Ireland. This was double the size of the Pop-up Pool, costing approx. €400,000 a year. Members felt that this was a viable option and needed further investigation.
- That the current Pop-up Pool had been a great success with a lot of uptake. The pool however was due to go in November and there was no option to extend this.

Mr Wallace advised the members that the Community Section were in talks with Swim Ireland regarding Sports Capital Grants under large scale infrastructure scheme.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by all members that the report be noted and placed on the Progress Report.

### CL22/0923

#### Public Realm Projects

The members considered an update on Public Realm Projects (update previously distributed to members prior to the meeting)

The members raised the following:

- Thanked Public Realm Team for works to date.
- Could the information regarding feasibility testing and the Wonderful Barn be shared with the members. Could the plans for part 8 and for URDF element be discussed further.
- Asked for clear communication around the Town Renewal Plan especially as now in Q4. Asked if there was a date for the presentation to the members.
- Great to see library project on Celbridge health check, asked could the grounds of the Parochial House be used temporarily as a car parking option.
- The Acre project was discussed and how they supported the local community with men's and women's shed. It was felt this needed more publicity regarding its works and the sensory gardens.
- Concern raised regarding the use of private land for public facilities, and the funding of this form of model. The excellent work by relevant community groups on the Acre Project was commended but reference made to recent correspondence received regarding the playground at The Abbey not reopening as an example of the risks of



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this approach. It was asked could a licence or guarantee option be investigated to ensure similar situation could not happen again.

Ms Pender advised the members that;

- The Town Renewal Plans had yet to be finalised following consultation stage. and that proposals on the Parochial House are also due.
- Final draft whereby no further edits for Town Renewal Plans was October 2023. It was agreed to meet with members prior to publication.
- That the feasibility studies formed part of the pre-Part 8 and was an executive function. The next stage would then be Public Consultation and then the project would move onto the Proposal Stage and there could be input from the members at this point.
- That there had been change with the requirements for URDF funding highlighting housing delivery, and this needed to be understood. The funding process was very competitive, and the outcome cannot be anticipated.

The report was noted.

### **CL23/0923**

#### **Grand Canal Greenway**

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

Can the council provide an update on the extension to the Grand Canal Greenway from Hazelhatch Bridge to the 12th Lock by South Dublin County Council?

A report was received from Strategic Projects and Public Realm informing the members that Waterways Ireland has provided them with the following verbal response:

‘The section has experienced delays due to environmental issues surrounding the proposal. South Dublin and Waterways Ireland are still working through the issues.’

The report was noted.

The members agreed to come back to item 22,24 and 25 from the agenda when the relevant section was in attendance.



**CL24/0923**

**Beech Park Estate, Leixlip**

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

That the council take in charge Beech Park Estate in Leixlip.

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

A report was received from Building and Development Control informing the members that there is currently still an active developer and construction on the Beech Park Estate in Leixlip. Taking in Charge of developments only occurs when all infrastructure is completed to an appropriate Taking in Charge Standard. The Development Control Team will continue to liaise with the Developer to ensure infrastructure is completed to an appropriate standard.

The members raised the following;

- This was a raised a year ago, was there any time frame for taking in charge.
- Sought clarification regarding financial issue where payments were not being made to the management company.
- The members asked for this to be put on progress report and updated accordingly.

Ms Walsh advised the members that;

- This was actively progressing; the developer has finished multiple phases.
- Currently they were actively working on the final phase at the back of the estate although the developer was not on site.
- There was still some outstanding remedial works, and the developer was working with the council on this.
- Any financial issues were a civil issue, and this was for the owners management company and this would not delay taking in charge.
- It was hoped to be completed within the year, but no exact time frame could be given.

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

**CL25/0923**

**Walled Gardens and Woodview, Celbridge**

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



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Can the council confirm that land transferred to it for Open Space and Amenity adjacent to the Walled Gardens and Woodview, Celbridge are owned and taken in charge by the council and are awaiting registration with Land Registry?

A report was received from Building and Development Control informing the members that Castletown Estate was taken in charge on the 18 December 2006. Vesting of roads and public spaces is currently being finalised by our legal representatives.

Councillor Killeen highlighted that the land registry folio had not been updated.

Ms Brown updated the members that the estate was taken in charge in 2006 and the vesting process was 2010 this was now being followed up with the legal representative from that time. The report was noted.

### CL26/0923

#### Kildare Youth Services

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

That this municipal district writes to Kildare Youth Services to invite them to meet with Councillors to discuss co-developing a pilot youth engagement framework for the Municipal District where a sample of student representatives and teachers meet periodically with Councillors, to discuss student needs and requests with regards to Local Authority functions, and to support learning about local democracy.

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

A report was received from Corporate Services informing the member that this was a matter for the members to agree. The members raised the following;

- That it was the role of a local authority to assist young people, a forum would be an ideal way for young people to be made aware of upcoming events, youth services and be informed about the role of the local government. This could include representations from teachers and youth workers also.
- That the Youth services in the area did great work.



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- Could the council consider an open day for students where functions of the local government could be covered.

The meeting administrator informed the members that a similar idea was currently being explored around the area of voting aimed at 16–17-year-olds (who can now pre-register online) and that a pilot involving visits by the relevant team to secondary schools was being planned. The aim would be to initially have one secondary school per district, and leaflets and social media content aimed at the teenage audience were awaited from the relevant Government Department. The members were also advised that new materials in various languages, aimed at voter registration would soon be circulated to them, the PPN etc.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Cussen and agreed by the members that they wait for update on the materials from the Department before issuing a letter to Kildare Youth Services.

### CL27/0923

#### Customer Service Point

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen. That the council provide an update on the provision of a customer service point in the North of the County and that the customer service point be sited in Leixlip and Celbridge

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

A report was received from Corporate, People and Cultural Services Section informing the members that this proposal will be considered as part of the overall strategic Workforce Planning process as it has both resource and budget implications.

The members raised the following:

- Councillor Killeen expressed surprise with the report stating commitments were given at council over a year ago to investigate this and there was no progress and that she wanted this added to the Progress Report.
- It was proposed by Councillor Killeen and seconded by Councillor Cussen that Celbridge be added to the motion, and this was agreed by all members.



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- This matter had been raised several times since 2015 and that a previous quote of €400,000 was given.
- Concerns raised for people who had no access to a computer and how they accessed services, that this issue was raised often to the members.
- Could a pilot project be run in the municipal district even for 1 day a week or set days around the municipal district?
- Could a mobile unit be looked into, or use of local office space?
- That members put forward a position that they were fulfilling the role of the council in their constituency offices.
- It was also suggested could the Parochial House or the ESB offices or the area office in Maynooth be used as these were in council ownership.

The meetings administrator advised the members that the last commitment given at Full Council was that the Customer Service point would be assessed in the context of the Work Force Plan. The timeline then set out by the Chief Executive had taken longer. The Work Force plan process only commenced in recent weeks, and the Corporate Service Department had made their submission in response to the request from the Human Resources Department. That part of the report related to potential future needs included the fact that motions were passed previously regarding this matter, and this needed consideration from a staffing perspective. The submissions of all Departments as part of the Work Force Plan would be assessed by the Management Team before a final submission, setting out the resource and staffing needs, was made to DPER. The Corporate Services Department could not individually control the timelines or outcomes from this process, given that a single submission from the Council to DPER would be made. However, if further information was sought, the Management Team would of course assist and would report back as the Work Force Plan, as it relates to this matter, progressed.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Cussen and agreed by all members that the report be noted, the item added to the Progress Report and the wording of original motion be changed from Leixlip to Leixlip and Celbridge.

**CL28/0923**

**Suspensory Motion**



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“The standing orders be suspended in order to consider the current access issues at Castletown House in Celbridge, if the council will work with the OPW to commence a CPO process and if the council can clarify their landholding (118 of the 525 acres) will remain accessible to the public”.

The members raised the following;

- 1 key for the gate was held by Kildare County Council and one key was held with the security company on behalf of the OPW. It had been asked for keys to be handed over at 10:00.p.m tonight.
- The members asked for the council to retain the key whilst talks were ongoing and for the right of way to be investigated. It was felt that if the key was handed over this could cause implications in the future.
- For the council to not relinquish the piece of land
- Understood at the present time that the gate was locked by G4S and the gate would be opened and closed as normal.
- Meeting held on Wednesday but no attendance of anyone from the council
- Asked regarding talks of a Section 183 coming before the Full Council
- Discussed CPO and whose responsibility this would be?
- Questioned if the council were aware of situation prior to the members, as new siting for carpark was said to be already in discussions with the council as part of pre-planning.

The District Manager advised the members that;

- There was 200m of land which was owned by Kildare County Council
- No plans for a Section 183
- That the council were working closely with the OPW who were working with the new land owner.
- Currently conversations taking place regarding CPO and who had powers and legal advice was being sought.
- The right of way needed to be explored further.
- With regards the gate and key no answer at present time but agreed to follow this up. There was a meeting being held later in the day on this subject.



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- Discussions regarding multiple potential parking sites had been ongoing with the OPW, but regarding current situation, the council found out at the same time as the members.
- The District Manager undertook to keep members informed.

### **CL29/0923**

#### **Williams Grove, Ardclough**

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

That the council enter into discussions with the developer of Williams Grove, Ardclough on the transfer of the land to the council under condition 5 of planning reference 06/2925.

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

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that compliance with this condition 5 had been completed and compliance correspondence issued to the developer at that time following the successful transfer of the lands in question.

The Transfer order was duly signed and sealed.

All correspondence related to compliance with this planning condition are available on the Kildare County Council Website.

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

### **CL30/0923**

#### **Access to Castletown House**

The Members Considered the following question in the name of Councillor Liston.

Can the council provide an update on further developments with regard to access to Castletown House, OPW lands and the car park since the change of ownership of the private lands?

A report was received from Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services informing the members that access to Castletown House and surrounds is a matter for the Office of Public Works (OPW). It is to be noted however that Kildare County Council are fully supportive of the OPW in this regard and will assist as required.





The report was noted.

**CL31/0923**

**Habitat and Townland Boundary Survey**

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

Can the council confirm what is the expected timeline for progressing the Celbridge Habitat and Townland Boundary Survey?

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that the Celbridge Habitat and Townland Boundary Survey will be commenced in Q1 2024, subject to funding.

Councillor Liston queried what funding was this referring to and to be put on progress report.

It was noted that this is already on the Progress Report but an update would be sought.

The report was noted.

**CL32/0923**

**Derelict Register and Vacant Sites Register**

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

Can the council outline the number of buildings in Leixlip sited on the derelict register or vacant sites register and the year of entry?

A report was received from both the Environment and the Planning Section informing the members that there is one property in Leixlip on the derelict sites register, 33 Main Street. This was put on the register on 23 June, 2023 and that the Kildare County Council Vacant Site Register is available on the Council website.

The report was noted.

**CL33/0923**

**Site for a New cemetery for Leixlip**

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

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

A report was received from Climate, Community, Environment and Water Section informing the members that the location of the new cemetery or extension of existing cemetery will be considered in the context of The Confey Master Plan.

The report was noted.



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The meeting concluded.