



Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
Held on Friday 15 December 2023 at 10:00 a.m
In the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.

Members Present: Councillor B Caldwell (Cathaoirleach), Councillors M Coleman, Í Cussen, C Galvin, N Killeen, V Liston, and 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 Barry (Administrative Officer), Mr J Hannigan (Meeting Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the December Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District meeting. He suggested that an item for Cathaoirleach's Business be added to the agenda from next year.

CL01/1223

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.

CL02/1223

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the draft minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 17 November 2023 with the progress report.

Resolved: On the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Friday 17 November 2023 of the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.



CL03/1223

Municipal District Road Works

Schedule of Municipal District works - December 2023

The outdoor crews are carrying out general footpath and road maintenance works in the Municipal District area. This includes the 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.

Winter Maintenance:

The annual winter program of Jet-vacking of road gullies commenced on Monday 9 October. Works are expected to be complete week ending Friday 15 December. Hedge cutting operations commenced on Monday 16 October and were completed on Friday 8 December. Programme of restoration of water cuts has commenced and will be complete in early January.

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. 100% complete.

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 100% complete
3	L5050 Catherinestown	8 August	11 August	Works 100% complete



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4	L5056 Green Lane Westfield to Kilmacredock roundabout	28 August	31 August	Works 100% complete.
5	L 1016 Wheatfield & L2008 Tipperstown	14 August	25 August	Works 100% complete
6	R403 Clane Road at Ardrass	31 Oct.	3 Nov	Works 100% complete

Footpath Restoration works:

Tender for footpath repair works in Crodaun complete and works contractor appointed. Works are currently ongoing. Tender package for Dun Carraig in Leixlip advertised. Works expected to commence in early January. Footpath works on Hazelhatch Road including the upgrade of junction entrances to Simmonstown Park and Primrose Hill substantially complete.

Road Opening Licences:

Moratorium on Road Opening Licenses for Christmas period in effect from 11 December until 3 January. Some minor works on low traffic impact locations will still be permitted.

The members raised the following,

- Asked for timeframe for the bin location survey following on from the discussions held at the previous meeting.
- Thanks given for the repositioning of the bin on the R449 this had been greatly received by the Tidy Towns team.
- Questioned when the Dublin Road would be fully reinstated.

The District Engineer advised the members that,

- Lucan Road was expected in Q1 2024 with partial road closures expected.
- Bin Survey was expected in the middle of January.
- That no works would commence until the works on Shinkeen are completed, works will then move onto the Maynooth Road which was expected in March



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The members agreed to take items 12,13 and 17 from the agenda following the presentation as they were to be answered by Mr S Deegan

CL04/1223

Roads Capital Projects.

Mr S Deegan gave a PowerPoint presentation to the members on an update of the Roads Capital Projects for Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District

He advised the members of the following:

- The Capital Budget for the Roads Projects Section 2023 was €37.65 million.
- Consultants had been appointed on the first ten junctions of the junction programme list for the county. This would complete the design process over time however and funding application to DoT would likely be required for certain junction upgrades and others could fall under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme.
- Celbridge Hazelhatch Link Road which included the Second Liffey Crossing was currently at TII phase 3 design and environmental evaluation, it was expected to submit CPO and planning consent to ABP in Q2 2024
- Regarding the bridge programme, this had been held up slightly in 2023 due to rainfall but was ongoing and 2024 bridges for remediation were now being identified.
- The council needed to be cognisant of significant change as a result of changes to road planning standards and climate action.

The members raised the following,

- Question raised regarding funding and if it was guaranteed. Questioned if there were any associated risks involved.
- Asked could a copy of the presentation be circulated to the members.
- Clarification sought on the differences in schemes and how the various Senior Engineers fit in
- Time frame for existing bridge sought.
- Asked how the Dart Plus would fit in
- Discussions on active travel and how this feeds into the Modal Hierarchy
- Condition of footpaths discussed.



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- When was the next update expected.

Mr. Deegan advised the members that,

- It was still being decided whether to deal with Celbridge and Leixlip together or separately in relation to the next County ABTA. Maynooth was nearly complete so expected to have consultants lined up for this Municipal District in Q2
- The DHLGH / URDF were the funding authority for the Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor – as such they will need to approve next stages.
- The main Liffey bridge upgrade project was under the remit of Active Travel
- Copy of presentation could now be issued as presentation had been given to all Municipal Districts
- Dart plus involvement would be only regarding the planning element of projects.
- Footpaths came under Capital Programme not in remit of Mr Deegan, members would need to go through Area Engineer to discuss any issues,
- Next update would be in 6 months time.

The report was noted.

CL05/1223

Second Bridge in Celbridge

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

Can the council provide an update on the published project timeline for the Second Bridge in Celbridge, which indicated that the submission to An Bord Pleanala would be submitted in Q4 2023?

This item was dealt with under CL04/1223

The report was noted.

CL06/1223

Second Bridge Project

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

Can the council provide an update on progress made on the second bridge project in Celbridge since July 2019, including next steps and projected timelines in relation to funding for the next phases?



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This item was dealt with under CL04/1223

The report was noted.

CL07/1223

Proposed Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

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

Can the council give an update on the proposed Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road?

A report was received from the Capital Projects Team informing the members that that the Current Project Status was that RPS Consulting Engineers Limited have been engaged by Kildare County Council to develop the Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road (now named Celbridge to Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor). Chief Executive's Order CE27573 appointing RPS to provide Engineering Consultancy Services, and appointing RPS as Designer and PSDP, for Phases 1 to 4, refers.

Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility & Phase 2 Options Selection for the project have now been completed with the preferred route option being placed on public display on December 15 2022.

The Celbridge to Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor Project is currently progressing through Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation and Phase 4 Statutory Processes. These phases involve carrying out numerous surveys on the preferred route area in order to inform the project team in designing the alignment and proposing any mitigation measures. Surveys completed to date include, topographical survey, ground investigations, archaeological-geophysical survey, arborist survey and numerous environmental/ecological surveys. Initial drafts of the route alignment have been prepared using the survey information obtained and once design has been finalised, the CPO and EIAR preparation will commence. Publication of CPO and EIAR is projected for Q2 2024

The report was noted.

The members agreed to take item 5 and 15 from the agenda together as relating to same subject.



CL08/1223

Riverforest, Leixlip.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell
That the council install speeding restrictions on the main avenue through Riverforest, Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that currently, there are three vertical deflection ramps, repeater speed limit signs and statutory school and children at play warning signs on the main road through Riverforest. There is a vehicle speed driver feedback sign currently being installed. The Municipal District office will carry out a new seven-day traffic survey on the road to determine if further traffic calming measures are necessary.

The members raised the following,

- Concerns raised after complaints received regarding speeding of cars travelling to both schools.
- When would the seven-day traffic survey commence.
- Asked if funding was available, could this be budgeted from January.

Mr Linnane advised the members that,

- The seven-day survey would be down at the bus turn circle where the speed was 30kmph.
- The last survey did not show any speeding concerns.
- If it was found that speed was in excess of 5 kmph over the speed limit then traffic calming measures would be investigated, this could involve horizontal deflectors.
- If issues could be resolved at low cost the funding would come from annual funding.

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

CL09/1223

Safety Plan for Riverforest, Leixlip

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



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Can the council provide an update on the road safety plan for Riverforest, Leixlip?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that A review of the River Forest/R149 Captains Hill junction was completed in 2022. The review included assessing the junction layout, the appropriateness of the junction for all road users and the road layout on approach to the junction to determine the potential for future interventions or improvement works in the area. A number of preliminary interventions were outlined in the review. However, the proximity of the proposed Dart+ proposals at the railway and canal, currently forming part of a Railway Order to An Bord Pleanála, will affect the preferred design layout and it is premature to conclude the review in advance of clarity of what the design layout at Cope Bridge will be.

Councillor Neville felt the answer was incorrect referring to Dart + as a red herring as this project would not change the design or resolve issues. He felt more needed to be done.

The District Engineer explained that the report had been prepared by the Active Travel Team which he had not seen as yet. The Junction itself was linked to the Dart + but that the rest of the road was separate.

The report was noted.

CL10/1223

Aghards Road / Shackleton Road Junction

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen. That the council carry out an assessment of the Aghards Road / Shackleton Road Junction with a view to upgrading this junction to include but not limited to lighting, crossing, pedestrian movements, cyclists, public transport, cars etc.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Municipal District office will carry out an assessment of the Aghards Road/Shackleton Road junction and determine if there is scope to upgrade or improve the junction.

The members raised the following,

- Happy to see an assessment would be carried out.
- This was a very dark area and the T Junction was very busy.



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- Only one streetlight at the location which was often reported to be faulty.
- The markings on the speed bumps were also wearing off.
- Access cycle lane issues were reported back in 2022. If the layout could be changed this would be ideal as cyclists currently have to go on and off the road. Reports recently of scooters and cyclists riding on the wrong side of the road towards oncoming traffic.

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

CL11/1223

Pilot Shop Local/Parking Initiative

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen
That the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District be considered for a roll out of a pilot shop local/parking initiative which, if developed, could be in place on an all year basis.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Transportation Department currently provides a pay parking service at a nominal rate to ensure a turnover of parking spaces to facilitate customers and business across a number of towns in County Kildare. It is the Transportation Department's opinion that the proposed system would require I.T. integration between numerous businesses and Kildare County Council's parking contractor at a cost to Kildare County Council and would be difficult to implement, monitor, regulate and audit which would require additional resources. Any changes to the parking byelaws should be considered in the context of the County Parking Policy adopted in December 2022 and during the review of the Celbridge Parking Bye-laws and Leixlip Parking Bye-laws. The members raised the following,

- Clarification sought as to what this would involve.
- Technology was in place to validate parking which was used in other areas.
- This idea would promote shopping local and help small businesses.



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- One business was already giving 50 cent discount off next purchase when glass jars are returned.

Councillor Cussen explained that she has spoken to finance regarding this initiative and the innovation team were doing further investigation. The idea would be to have some sort of card that would be stamped when people shop local and this would then give a set period of free parking.

The District Manager agreed to go back to the Innovation Team to discuss bye laws.

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

CL12/1223

Kilwogan Lane in Celbridge

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

That the council install lighting at Kilwogan Lane in Celbridge to increase the visibility and safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that this request has been added to the KLIPS (Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule) register. This is a priority system, where requests for new lighting will be scored on various factors and placed within KLIPS according to that score. Requests will be reviewed once funds become available.

The members raised the following,

- That this area was very dark for both pedestrians and cyclists and a long term, solution was needed.
- They asked could this be prioritised as a matter of urgency.
- Many people walked the lane and were having to use head torches, this was very dangerous as there were no footpaths present.

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



CL13/1223

St. Wolstans Secondary School, Celbridge

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

That the council review the implementation work of wands along the cycle lane on the road at St. Wolstans Secondary School, Celbridge, with the Active Travel team and implement improvements.

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 pencil bollards were installed at the edge of the cycle lane at the request of the principal of St. Wolston's School. Vehicles were parking up on the cycle lane during school start and finish times.

The members raised the following,

- Recent wands installed are taking up a lot of space.
- Could An Gardai Síochána assist on the matter of parking and driver behaviour. Noted that this was not just issue at this school.
- Could wands be installed only as a last resort when all other options had been exhausted. Wands were not visually appealing but aware are put in place for safety reasons.
- Could school street initiative be investigated.

The District Engineer advised that An Gardai Síochána were aware of the situation. In this instance the curb was too narrow so had to place wands further out. This can be further investigated next year to see if a concrete base could be added and reposition the wands
Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by all members present that the report be noted.

CL14/1223

Glen Easton Estate, Leixlip

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



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That the council review the junction at the entrance to Glen Easton Estate, Leixlip with a view to install traffic calming measures and signalised lights following recent near misses at this location.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that this junction currently acts a priority junction located in a 50KPH zone in an urban area. There is a driver feedback sign provided on the western approach and traffic calming provided on both approaches to the junction. Four signal-controlled pedestrian crossings are provided within 1km of the junction. It is considered that the provision of a signal-controlled junction is not warranted at this location. The junction shall be reviewed in 2024 to consider what geometric modifications can be made to improve the operation of the junction. The delivery of any future improvement measures shall be dependent on the availability of resources.

Councillor Killeen explained that this junction was very busy, traffic was coming from motorway junction and drivers from the two new housing estates including construction vehicles. There had been reports also of speeding.

The District Manger advised that Mr Hodgins had committed to continue to monitor the situation.

Councillor Killeen questioned how regularly this would be monitored as the resident's association have been reporting near misses.

The District Manager advised that an engineering assessment had been carried out and would be further assessed if any changes occurred, at the present time no changes were expected.

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

CL15/1223

Louisa Bridge and Cope Bridge

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



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Can the council provide an update on the completion of works on the Royal Canal between Louisa Bridge and Cope Bridge in Confey?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the works along the Royal Canal Route between Louisa Bridge and Cope Bridge were substantially completed by the contractor for the works. Any remedial works, in accordance with the planning consent for the scheme, have been included in the tender competition for the completion of the route to Maynooth. A contractor is expected to be appointed for this work in Q1 2024.

The report was noted.

CL16/1223

Castletown House

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

Can the council confirm the status of the entrance road from the M4 access to Castletown House?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the entrance road from the M4 access to the lands at Castletown House was constructed as part of the M4 junction upgrade to replace a previous road approximate to this location. The right of way on the previous portion of road was extinguished on 26 July 1999. The newly constructed portion of road which is approximately 100 metres in length is in the ownership of Kildare County Council and is maintained by the council.

Roads built by a local authority are held to be public roads when their construction is intended for use by the general public. The definition of a public road is contained in the Roads Act 1993. A public road means a road over which a public right of way exists and the responsibility for the maintenance of which lies with the local authority. In this case as the road accesses lands in private ownership, it is not clear whether this road fulfils that criteria and legal advice will be sought to determine its status.

Councillor Liston sought a timeframe.

The District Manager advised that the council were awaiting legal advice which was expected imminently.

The report was noted.



CL17/1223

Dart Plus

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

Can the council clarify if there are any updates or discussions on the dart plus with Iarnród Éireann/NTA on the closure of the Kilmacreddock crossing since the oral hearing on the 28 September?

A report was received from the Capital Project Team informing the members that the project is with An Bord Pleanála - Oral Hearing has been completed. There have been no further updates or discussions held with Kildare County Council.

Councillor Neville was dissatisfied with the report as no details were included. He questioned if there was any feedback available, the current situation and if there had been any progress to date.

The report was noted.

CL18/1223

Subsidence Confey and Louisa Bridge

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

Can the council outline a plan of action or steps underway to deal with the subsidence issues on the Leixlip Greenway between Confey and Louisa Bridge.

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that this issue was identified by Kildare County Council and reported to Waterways Ireland for coordinated action.

Councillor Killeen sought a time frame and questioned who was leading was it Kildare County Council or Waterways Ireland.

The District Engineer advised that local issues were dealt with by Waterways Ireland

The report was noted.

CL19/1223

Outdoor Facilities for Children and Young People

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

That the council provide an update on the provision and improvement of outdoor facilities for children and young people in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District since 2019, including



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outdoor youth space(s) for teenagers in Celbridge, the playground in Leixlip, and the provision of a "multi-age playground or playgrounds on the south side of the Liffey in Celbridge", and efforts made to reduce vandalism, improve accessibility etc. in existing playgrounds.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that Since 2019 approximately 650 teenagers in Celbridge have been involved in 2 consultation processes to get their input into the type and design of outdoor facilities. Design work is now underway to design a mini multi use games area and hang out spaces in Celbridge. In addition, the identification of pilot sites to roll these facilities out to are underway. Some of these sites may have to be on open space within housing estates. This is to reflect the circulation routes the teenagers use and their request to have a number of smaller facilities located around the town. This will require co-operation from resident's associations and community groups. Insync will be providing a youth worker to assist with consultation on the delivery and design. It is hoped to be in a position to have some of these facilities in place over Summer 2024. The outdoor gym in Celbridge Abbey has been completed and some of the equipment chosen for this was based on the consultation carried out. The gym is available to use for all ages to use as will any other facilities that are delivered.

Work is continuing on Leixlip Playground and construction of it is planned for Summer 2024. No progress has been made on the provision of a playground on the South side of the Liffey as there are no suitable or accessible sites to develop a playground at present. The development plans for lands at Ballyoulster do include a playground and it is hoped to identify a site on this side of Celbridge for teen facilities.

Maintenance of the playgrounds in the Municipal District includes once weekly maintenance visit to Leixlip playground and 2- 3 visits to Celbridge. In addition to this any repairs are carried out as necessary. Quarterly safety inspections and one annual independent inspection are carried out to check the playgrounds meet European Safety Standards.



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Design measures to include for accessibility are a consideration in all our playgrounds and outdoor gyms. A wheelchair swing and a communications board have been added to the playground in Willowbrook. Leixlip Playground will include design considerations for accessibility. Similarly, the outdoor gym includes provision for wheelchair use.

The members raised the following,

- Motion dates back to July 2019 where a multi age playground was sought, vandalism and accessibility has also been discussed over the years.
- Aware of associated funding issues and staffing shortages
- Progress had been slow but needed to focus on what changes had been made.
- The outside youth facility was expected in summer 2024 whereby teenagers were consulted. This project had been achieved through LPT funding. This would help in making Celbridge more youth friendly.
- Great to see position of a youth worker also being approved.

Councillor Galvin was congratulated on her work to date on this topic, always ensuring it was on the agenda for updates.

Councillor Galvin thanked the Council for their hard work and her fellow Councillors for their support on this matter.

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

CL20/1223

Willowbrook Park, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman Motion That the council seek with urgency the transfer of lands at Willowbrook Park, Celbridge in support for two Special Classrooms for Scoil Mochua.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the open space was taken in charge as part of the development of a number of surrounding estates but the title to the land was not done as part of this. Considerable staff time and legal costs have been used to resolve the transfer land at Willowbrook Park into Kildare County Councils



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ownership. This process has involved both the Chief States Solicitors Office and The State Property Unit (formerly Land Registry Office). Our solicitors have had regular and ongoing contact with the State Property Unit seeking completion of the transfer of title. No further progress can be made in relation to the transfer of land until the State Property Unit complete the transfer of title.

The members raised the following,

- That the National Council sanctioned two extra rooms back in March 2021
- 3 years had passed and no progress to date, people were becoming increasingly frustrated as children needs were not being met and children were having to travel to schools in other towns.
- Noted lack of ASD places was a county wide issue and suggestion made to take this to the Minister as aware state agencies were causing the delays.
- Suggestion made that Councillor Coleman discuss the matter further with the Minister.
- Anytime proposals made for Willowbrook members told nothing could be done until the masterplan.

Mr Wallace advised the members that,

- Considerable staff time and legal costs had been incurred in the transfer of lands.
- This process had involved both the Chief State's Solicitors Office and the State Property Unit formerly Land Registry Office.
- Questioned why the Department sanctioned more classrooms without investigation into land availability.
- No further progress could be made in relation to the transfer of land until the State Property Unit complete the title transfer.
- Currently waiting for decision to be made and then would need to go to next stage of a school planning application being submitted. If this was approved, then a section 183 would need to be submitted to Kildare County Council

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



CL21/1223

Wonderful Barn, Leixlip

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

Can the council provide an update on the work to be carried out at the Wonderful Barn, Leixlip?

A report was received from the Public Realm section informing the members that the project is currently at Pre Part 8 stage. The final design is being prepared which will inform the Part 8 documentation for the Wonderful Barn project. It is expected that publication of the Part 8 will be in Q1 2024. All Stage 1 onsite surveys are now complete with Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) works on Wonderful Barn (Tower) 95% complete. Some outstanding tasks should be completed in January following full removal of asbestos. The consultants are preparing cost estimates for a HSF (Historical Sites Fund) funding application to be lodged in January. Suitable options for this fund include Tower Slating/Dovecote essential repair/restoration. URDF Call 4 is expected in January but has not yet been confirmed.

The report was noted.

CL22/1223

Old ESB shop in Leixlip

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

That the council outline the first stage design for the old ESB shop in Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that meetings are ongoing between internal departments within Kildare County Council to discuss particular issues, but it is intended to freeze the design by the end of 2023.

An informal briefing will be given to the members early in 2024.

The members raised the following,

- The public were keen to know details of what was planned and what the community would gain from this development.
- The members asked for input prior to public consultation.



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

CL23/1223

Housing Figures

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Galvin.
That the council provide the information available in tabular form and by year since 2019 to date, in relation to the number of people on the housing list, number of allocations, number of properties awaiting refurbishments and number of people accessing emergency accommodation in this municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the number of people on the Housing List in the Municipal District and with Areas of Choice for Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District Area were:

Year	Number on list current address Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District	Number on list with Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District as area of choice
2019	54	94
2020	35	76
2021	27	82
2022	47	197
2023	51	223



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Number of Allocations

Year	Kildare County Council Celbridge/Leixlip	AHB Celbridge/Leixlip
2019	Unavailable at this time	6
2020	26	9
2021	71	8
2022	97	37
2023	105	33

Homeless Services

In relation to the number of people accessing Homeless accommodation, Kildare County Council do not record details of areas where clients are made homeless from, this data is not recorded for Emergency Accommodation placements.

Kildare County Council have had 22 Placefinder tenancies in Celbridge from 01/01/2019 to date, of these 11 are still live, however data on the origin of these clients is not collected and therefore Homeless HAP tenancies doesn't indicate that the clients came from the Celbridge LEA.

Vacant properties

There are currently have a list of nine (9) properties awaiting refurbishment in the Celbridge/Leixlip area. All these properties on the current list were added in 2023 (See monthly Vacant House Report).

A total of thirteen (13) properties for refurb in the Celbridge/Leixlip area were registered during 2023.

Fourteen (14) properties have had works completed during this current year (YTD). These were registered in the following years - two (2021); eight (2022); and four (2023).

Councillor Galvin was unhappy that part of original motion was not included, she queried where the figures for HAP rent supplement with children were and what the number of



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emergency housing figures were including children. She expressed concern that omitting figures was masking official numbers. It was asked for these figures to be provided.

The members raised the following,

- Concern raised for number of people in receipt of HAP at risk of homelessness.
- Homelessness had a long-lasting effect on children, not acceptable that figures not being kept.
- People still waiting up to 10 years to get housing.
- Asked for breakdown of properties requiring minor and major works to be made available.
- Queried why significant jump in number, increasing three-fold.
- Queried why homeless figures not available as forms when completed contain all relevant documentation.

Ms Barry advised the members that,

- The meetings administrator had made numerous attempts to contact Councillor Galvin to discuss the criteria for a motion.
- Corporate services had sent a revised wording to Councillor Galvin ahead of the issue of the agenda as it did not meet standing orders.
- There had been 1200 allocations of properties in 2023 which were positive numbers.
- 2024 already substantial numbers expected with over 100 units in this municipal district.
- Advised that prior to a house being reallocated the process was not simple. All electrics and plumbing needed to be assessed and any relevant work completed including painting if required. The council aimed to get houses turned around as soon as possible.

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

CL24/1223

New pedestrian bridge

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



Kildare County Council

That in advance of the Dart+ West project and the establishment of Confey Urban Development Zone (UDZ), the council consider naming the new pedestrian bridge in Leixlip "St Brigid's Bridge", given that we are honouring the 1500 anniversary of St Brigid in 2024 all over Kildare County.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Section informing the members that Kildare County Council's Civic Memorial Policy is the reference document for naming public infrastructure.

Another Municipal District has requested that a bridge be similarly named. The decision will have to be made in due course, inter alia, whether multiple infrastructure projects should have the same name.

The members raised the following,

- Raised motion in order to discuss further lots to be covered but felt that the 1500 anniversary of St Brigid needed to be marked in some way.
- Some members were reluctant to rename bridges that already had a name. It was felt that local name with reference to local history would be more appropriate.
- Could not have St Brigid bridges everywhere so further discussions needed. Agreed to rename something within the Municipal District.
- There was already a school in the municipal district named Scoil Bride

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

CL25/1123

Update schools

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

Can the council provide an overview and update on actions taken and progress made in relation to securing a permanent site for Celbridge Community School, St. Rapheal's Special School and St. Patrick's NS since September 2019, including an estimated or projected date for commencement of works?



Kildare County Council

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that the delivery of school projects and the timeline for the same is a matter for the Department of Education. Reports on progress regarding school projects are available from the Department of Education website (Major Project Updates).

Councillor Galvin expressed her dissatisfaction with the short report as she was aware the council have been following this up. Request for revised report made to include actions taken and progress following recent meetings.

The Meetings Administrator agreed to follow this up.

The report was noted.

CL26/1223

Brigid 1500 Festival.

The members received an update on the programme for the 2024 Brigid 1500 Festival. Ms. K. Lane outlined highlights in relation to the launch and media coverage of the 2024 Brigid 1500 Festival. Also informing the members that there were 101 Community and Creative Grant Applications received, with 58 Applications approved awarding over €188,000 to Creative and Community Groups across the county. The members were also informed of a number of Flagship Events which would be taking place in each Municipal District during the 2024 Brigid 1500 Festival from 27 January 2024 to 4 February 2024, details of which were available on www.brigid1500.ie

A School's Resource Pack 'The Life and Times of St. Brigid' would be distributed to primary school children and will be available in both English and Irish languages. Circulation will also be through Kildare Education Network and available through Kildare Library Service and at www.brigid1500.ie

The members raised the following,

- Wished the organisers well and hoped for good weather for the huge event planned around the county.
- Asked regarding local posters for advertisement similar to ones in Kilcullen.
- Asked would a programme be issued for local Municipal District events.
- Asked to ensure where possible that all events would be universally accessible.
- Asked if all events would be free to attend?

Ms Lane advised the members that,



Kildare County Council

- Posters in Kilcullen were requested through last year's grant scheme.
- No local programmes available but all events were advertised on the website and would circulate to the members also.
- Most events were to be free, but some would incur a nominal fee

The report was noted.

CL27/1223

Water Leak

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

That the council repair the water leak at the bottom of the Captain's Hill, Leixlip on the corner of Main Street beside So Coffee.

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

A report was received from the Water Section informing the members that they should contact Uisce Eireann directly with regards to this motion, this matter can be raised via their dedicated email support address at localrepsupport@water.ie or by phoning 0818178178, or raised at their next dedicated Councillors Clinic, Uisce Eireann will be holding a dedicated workshop for all Councillors on the 29 January, time and venue to be arranged at a later date, and a further clinic will be held on Monday, 27 February at 11:00 a.m.

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

CL28/1223

Sewage Infrastructure Plan

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

That the council, along with Irish Water, outline the next stages in the sewage infrastructure plan for Leixlip and Celbridge?

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

A report was received from the Water Section informing the members that they should contact Uisce Eireann directly with regards to this motion, this matter can be raised via their



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dedicated email support address at localrepsupport@water.ie or by phoning 0818178178, or raised at their next dedicated Councillors Clinic, Uisce Eireann will be holding a dedicated workshop for all Councillors on the 29 January, time and venue to be arranged at a later date, and a further clinic will be held on Monday, 27 February at 11:00 a.m.

The members raised the following

- They felt the issue raised was an infrastructure issue.
- The issue of sewerage was a long standing issue and was affecting peoples quality of life
- When members contact Uisce Éireann people taking the calls have no local knowledge. Questioned who would be the point of contact for the Kildare Area
- The members looked forward to meeting with Uisce Eireann in January to highlight their concerns

The District Manager advised the members that infrastructure issues had to go through Uisce Eireann as they were the only medium to get answers. She also suggested that the members have queries ready ahead of Januarys meeting for discussion

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

CL29/1223

Pop-up Pool

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

Can the council confirm the final usage numbers for the Pop-up Pool in Leixlip and outline its plans to facilitate Leixlip with a public swimming pool in 2024?

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Section informing the members that Swim Ireland have told us that they will run a more detailed report when the Popup Pool closes on 17 December but below is a summary from 21 May to 2 December inclusive,

- 11,899 swimming opportunities were provided during this period ie: If the pool was used 100% of the time.
- The actual number of slots that was booked was 7,493.



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- The pool has been open for 28 weeks with 15 unique Community Based programmes taking place targeting disability, minority groups, older adults, teenage girls and women.
- 7 schools took part in the School Swimming Programme

Kildare County Council are currently in discussions with Swim Ireland with a view to advancing a swimming facility for North Kildare. Meetings have been held with various suppliers and consultants with a view to exploring alternative solutions.

Councillor Killeen noted an increase in figures of pool usage of 1800 people since October. She asked for a timeline for an alternative pool and stated that a plan for the next step is needed to progress this matter.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.