



**Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting**  
**Held on Friday 17 February at 10:00 a.m**  
**In the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.**

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

**Officials Present:** Ms C Barrett (District Manager), Mr R Linnane (Municipal District Engineer), Mr J Boland (Director of Services), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Mr D Creighton (Senior Architect) Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscape Officer), Mr C Flynn (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms M Morrissey (Executive Architect) Ms P Comerford (Administrative Officer), Ms F Brown (A/Administrative Officer), Mr T Shanahan (Meetings Administrator), Mr S Higgins (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

**CL01/0223**

**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.

Councillor Coleman expressed concern that if a councillor was on a committee that they should be declaring any conflicts of interest or pecuniary or beneficial interests today as there was funding being decided upon.

The Cathaoirleach set out that the members had not agreed the allocation of LPT. She clarified that the decision to adopt the LPT Schedule of Works 2023 would not occur today and required further discussion and meetings in advance of the March Municipal District meeting.

Councillor Cussen noted pending guidance on the matter of conflicts of interest due from a meeting of the Finance Committee and the Protocol Committee. Councillor Killeen asked if the LPT funding would be dealt with line by line at the next meeting of the municipal district and how that would be navigated.

The Meeting Administrator stated that he understood that the guidance referred to remained outstanding, and that on receipt of the guidance by members that he would prefer if conflicts were notified significantly in advance of the March meeting, that the members reference the



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specific line of proposed LPT funding that any conflict or interest related to, in order that plans could be made for orderly management of the March meeting. He advised he would follow up on the matter of pending guidance to establish the position and that any renewed guidance received would be circulated to the members.

The Cathaoirleach noted that the item of LPT was listed on today's agenda under item 4 and that she was proceeding with the next item on the agenda.

### CL02/0223

#### Minutes and Progress Report

The Cathaoirleach noted that a clerical amendment had been received and that two slight changes on page 6 of the draft minutes were to be included (referring to Age Friendly projects and also to clarify that guidance from a meeting of the Finance Committee *and* Protocol Committee was awaited. The members considered the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 20 January 2023 and the amendments, together 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, 20 January 2023 of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District, to include the amendments, be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

### CL03/1222

#### Municipal District Road Works

##### **Schedule of works for Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District January 2023**

The outdoor crews are carrying out general footpath and road maintenance works in the Municipal District area. Some of these works are planned but are mostly in response to issues received from calls from the public or Councillors or defects identified by outdoor staff. Works are triaged and then assigned to a crew as appropriate. Planned works currently include jet-vacating of road gullies, mechanical sweeping of roads, road repairs with road patcher unit opening of water cuts and general repairs to footpaths and kerbs.

Hedge cutting at junctions and other problem areas is continuing in the Municipal District and will be complete at the end of February in line with the statutory hedge cutting season.

Resurfacing works in St. Patrick's Park are now complete with just line marking outstanding which will be carried out in the coming weeks.



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### **Road Works Programme for 2023:**

Road pavement assessments are currently being carried out to identify locations for road restoration improvement and restoration maintenance projects to be carried out this summer in the Municipal District. Currently awaiting information on level of grants available to the Municipal District to determine extent of works that can be carried out.

### **LPT:**

Awaiting list of agreed LPT projects to allow assessment and scheduling into 2023 works programme.

### **Irish Water Works (R403 Dublin/Lucan Road and the Hazelhatch road):**

Co-ordination meetings are ongoing between the Municipal District Office and Irish Water and their contractor. Kildare County Council have received a preliminary work plan for these works in 2023. Works recommenced on 23 January 2023 on both the R403 Dublin Rd. and on the Hazelhatch Road. Mainline works on the R403 in Kildare are programmed to be completed by the end of May. The works will continue on the R403 outside Kildare's County boundary into South Dublin for another six to eight weeks beyond the end of May.

Councillor Caldwell asked if there was any indication from South Dublin County Council that lights would be provided at the roundabout after the work was completed on the Dublin Road. He noted that this would improve access to Weston.

The District Manager advised that a request could be sent to South Dublin County Council regarding the lights. She noted that due to the area not being under Kildare County Council's remit that it was not something that they could action, but that engagement could be made with South Dublin County Council.

Councillor Cussen asked for a timeframe for the traffic calming measures on the Shackleton Road. She noted that there was some rollover funding available. She also acknowledged that St Patrick's Park looked very well.

Councillor Killeen asked if any progress had been made regarding a regional forum between Kildare County Council and other neighbouring local authorities. She noted that a forum would be helpful for projects such as the Dart+ Programme and the M50 expansion.



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The District Engineer advised that he was aware that the Active Travel team in the Roads Department had a draft report which related to the traffic calming measures which were queried. He said that once the report was finalized that his team would be able to act. He expected the timeframe to be 8-10 weeks.

The District Manager advised that she would investigate the matter of a regional forum. The report was noted.

### CL04/0223

#### **Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2023**

The Cathaoirleach set out that the members had not yet agreed the final allocation of LPT, that the amounts agreed to-date would not be decreased. Several members acknowledged that the decision is to be made at next month's meeting and required further discussion as well as the aforementioned guidance.

The Cathaoirleach stated that the draft document regarding LPT is not final, remains under discussion and that further meetings between the members are needed to finalise allocations for the March Municipal District meeting, with a substantial sum not yet discussed.

She noted however that for certain areas, there are time sensitive projects to commence, and in that context to assist preparation for tendering, proposed that the draft document be circulated to relevant Departments but that it be made clear that the Schedule is not finally agreed. The Cathaoirleach stated that members will meet prior to the March Municipal District meeting and can discuss the allocation of LPT, which may result in change, such as addition of items, or allocation of further sums to certain projects, all of which must be finally and publicly agreed at the March Municipal District meeting, following which the Schedule of Works will be published online, as is normal.

Following extensive debate, by a show of hands, a majority of members present voted to agree to this.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by a majority of members present, that LPT discussed to date by members, being in draft form, be issued to relevant Departments, to enable preparations for tendering of related projects, pending a final decision regarding allocation of LPT, to be made at the March Municipal District meeting.



**CL05/0223**

**Pedestrian Crossing or Traffic Lights on Captains Hill**

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

That the council install a pedestrian crossing or traffic lights on Captains Hill between St Mary's Park and Avondale Estate.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that currently there is no funding allocation for the provision of new pedestrian crossings in the County. The location shall be placed on a list for assessment to determine the suitability of the location for a pedestrian crossing if a funding source is identified.

The members raised the following points:

- There was a bus stop in this location that had a lot of pedestrian traffic, young and old, who found it difficult to cross as cars travelled along this road at 50 km/hr.
- A pedestrian crossing or traffic lights would be an effective way to reduce speed of the traffic. The members were previously advised that a zebra crossing would not be installed at this location.
- A safety assessment was previously carried out, if it was still available the measurements and findings could be used for this crossing.

The District Engineer said that when the assessment could be carried out that it would look at the options of a controlled or an uncontrolled crossing for this location.

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

**CL06/0223**

**Repair of the Damaged Path at Beatty Park**

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

That the council repair the damaged path at Beatty Park in the interest of public safety.



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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the area identified between 113 and 124 has been inspected for footpath repairs. There are several areas of footpath that have been damaged due to the presence of tree roots. These trees have now been removed and the areas of damaged footpath will be repaired. These works will be added to the schedule of works for the Celbridge outdoor crew.

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

### CL07/0223

#### **Traffic Counts in Celbridge on Dublin, Shinkeen, Ardclough Roads and Liffey Bridge**

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

That the council carry out traffic counts in Celbridge on the Dublin, Shinkeen, Ardclough Roads and over the Liffey Bridge when the Hazelhatch Road is closed and carry out a similar survey after the Hazelhatch Road is open to determine if it is feasible to permanently close the Hazelhatch Road at its junction with the Dublin Road.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Transportation Department will carry out traffic counts as proposed in conjunction with the Municipal District Office.

Councillor Coleman raised the following points:

- It was important to alleviate traffic on the Clane Road and Main Street in Celbridge.
- Young people making their way to the GAA club were being delayed by the traffic congestion and the public transport service was also being affected.
- Closing the Hazelhatch Road may help solve the traffic issues.

The District Engineer advised that the counts would be carried out the following month and that there would be a week of counts. He noted that the road would be opened up once Irish Water had completed their work.



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

### **CL08/0223**

#### **Repairs to the footpath in St. Patrick's Park, Celbridge**

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

That the council carry out repairs to the footpath in St. Patrick's Park, Celbridge adjacent to the library.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the footpath adjacent to the library is used to access two residential properties. The cobble lock paving installed at this location is failing due to the vehicular traffic accessing the properties and other vehicles using the access as a location to turn. It is proposed to remove the small section of cobble lock at this section of footpath and replace it with a bitumen bound material capable of taking vehicular traffic. These works will be added to the schedule of works for the Celbridge outdoor crew.

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

The Cathaoirleach and the members agreed to postpone items 9 and 10 as Councillor Neville had left and would return at a later stage.

### **CL09/0223**

#### **Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Footpath Infill and Renewal Schemes**

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

Can the council provide a breakdown of the works in respect of Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Footpath Infill and Renewal Schemes?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Works breakdown for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Footpath Infill and Assets Renewal Schemes is as follows:





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- L1016, Ardclough Road, Celbridge: Construction of a new macadam footpath from Chelmsford to Temple Mills Cottages – 70 meters.
- R405, Hazelhatch Road, Celbridge: Construction of a new concrete footpath from Shinkeen Rd to Primrose Gate – 100 meters.
- L10153, River Forest, Leixlip: Upgrading of existing bus terminus turning circle and installation of 2 no. bus stops to enable BusConnects increased bus service.
- R405, Hazelhatch Road, Celbridge: Reconstruction of existing footpaths from Primrose Hill School to junction with Dublin Rd – 210 meters.
- R403, Dublin Road, Celbridge: Construction of a new macadam footpath from Rye River Brewery to Ballyoulster Park – 200 meters; and
- R403, Dublin Road, Celbridge: Construction of a new macadam footpath from Ballyoulster Park to Loughlinstown Rd – 175 meters.

Councillor Cussen asked how quickly would the R403 be addressed.

The District Engineer advised that the council would wait for Irish Water to complete their construction work.

The report was noted.

### CL10/0223

#### **Active Travel Bridge (Proposed Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge) in Celbridge**

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

Can the council outline the next steps and timeline for the development of the Active Travel Bridge (Proposed Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge) in Celbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that an allocation for KCC/21/0013 – Celbridge Active Travel Bridge of €500,000 has been received from the National Transport Authority (NTA). This is sufficient to progress the detailed design stage of the project. As part of the review of the design, complications regarding the length of the span of the structure required are being tested to determine if supplementary supports or other additional measures are required for the bridge.

Councillor Liston asked what the complications were and if a timeline could be provided.





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The District Manager advised that this had gone to detailed design and the design envisaged a single span, but that design indicated there may be too much deflection. She explained that the design had to be reviewed and supports to the bridge may have to touch the riverbank.

The report was noted.

### **CL11/0223**

#### **New Traffic Lights at Barnhall/Wonderful Barn Entrance**

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

Can the council confirm when the new traffic lights at Barnhall/Wonderful Barn entrance are being switched on?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that primary access is off the R404 Celbridge Road which is a signalised three arm junction into the Strategic Housing Development Barnhall Meadows, beside the Wonderful Barn.

The traffic lights at the main access into the Strategic Housing Development (SHD) Barnhall Meadows, off the Barnhall Road, were installed approximately twelve months ago by Glenveagh/ Traffic Solutions Ltd.

The works on the traffic lights have been completed to the satisfaction of the Kildare County Council Traffic Management Section and they have been ready for switching on for a considerable period.

It is our understanding that numerous Completion Certificates have been issued by Traffic Solutions Limited to the ESB to request switching on of the traffic lights.

The reason for the delay with the switching on of the traffic lights is with the ESB.

The onus is on Glenveagh to get this matter resolved.

Kildare County Council have been in contact with Glenveagh who have confirmed that they will investigate this further with the ESB and appreciated the urgency of this matter.

The report was noted.

### **CL12/0223**

#### **Clane/Shackleton Road Junction Improvement Works**

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



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Can the council provide an update on the Clane/Shackleton Road junction improvement works?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the junction upgrade works at the Clane/Shackleton Road in Celbridge have recommenced. Works were paused whilst Kildare County Council awaited confirmation of NTA funding for the project in 2023.

Councillor Coleman asked if the path could be cleared of the stones which had been left there before Christmas.

The District Engineer advised that he would communicate the request to make the path safe. The report was noted.

### **CL13/0223**

#### **Informing public of prohibition to cut hedgerows from the 01 March to 31 August**

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

Can the council confirm what means they use to inform the public that it is prohibited to cut hedgerows from the 01 March to 31 August?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have responsibility for enforcement in this regard and Kildare County Council remind the public by means of public advertising annually. It is noted that under the Roads Act 1993, landowners have a responsibility to ensure that trees, shrubs, hedges or any other vegetation on their land are not, or could not, become a danger to people using or working on a public road at any time of the year.

The Council will issue a reminder on its website close to the commencement of the prohibition period.

Councillor Coleman asked if any press release would be issued by the council so that the public would be notified and not caught out.

The District Manager advised that this had been flagged with the Communications team and it would be reflected in a press release.

The report was noted.



**CL14/0223**

**Resurfacing Works on the M4**

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

Can the council provide an update as to when the resurfacing works on the M4 will be carried out to reduce noise in residential areas in the municipal district?

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

**Maintenance projects:**

The section in question is managed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contracts (MMaRC). Therefore, TII maintenance should be contacted regarding maintenance project queries, such as proposed resurfacing works, on this portion of the national road network. Further details can be found at:

<https://www.tii.ie/roads-tolling/operations-and-maintenance/road-maintenance/>

**Kildare National Roads Office (NRO) managed projects:**

**Maynooth to Leixlip Project**

The project held a public consultation on the shortlist of options in September 2022. A further and more detailed assessment is currently underway to identify the emerging preferred option from the shortlisted options presented at the consultation. It is hoped that the emerging preferred option will be identified and ready for public display mid-2023. Full details of the previous consultation and other project information is available on the project website:

<https://maynoothleixlip.ie/>

**M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measure Pilot Project**

The M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures Pilot project is currently in Part 8 planning. The project has completed its Part 8 public display and submissions period. Following these events, the project is currently preparing the required planning documentation. As per the Part 8 report, this would include for resurfacing works in the eastbound carriageway.

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

The report was noted.



**CL15/0223**

**Funding Available from the NTA on Active Travel spending in 2023**

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

Can the council provide an update on the amount of funding available from the NTA on active travel spending in 2023, excluding greenways, for our municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that KCC/17/0005 – Green Lane Action Travel Scheme (€240,000).

This is sufficient to complete the detailed design stage of the Project.

KCC/21/0013 – Celbridge Active Travel Bridge (€500,000). This is sufficient to progress the detailed design stage of the Project.

KCC/22/0008 – Leixlip to Maynooth Interim Cycle Scheme (€10,000). This is sufficient to complete a design review of the Project by the NTA's Cycle Design Office.

KCC/22/0015 - Cycle Safety Improvements at Existing Signalised Junctions (€800,000). This is sufficient to complete the construction works at the Shackleton Road/Clane Road and Young's Cross Junctions.

KCC/23/0000 - SRTS Round 2 - Scoil Mochua, Celbridge (€20,000). This is sufficient to progress the design exercise being undertaken by An Taisce Green Schools.

The report was noted.

**CL16/0223**

**Safety Report for Riverforest Estate**

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

Can the council provide a timeline for delivery of the safety report for Riverforest Estate and any recommended actions to be carried out?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a draft of the report is being considered by the Sustainable Transport Section and recommended actions will be circulated to the elected members in March 2023.

The report was noted.

The Cathaoirleach suggested that a short break be taken, this was agreed by all the members present. The standing orders were suspended for 10 minutes.



**CL17/0223**

**Chief Executive's Part 8 Report P82022-18 for the proposed Social Housing Development, Newtown House, Captain's Hill, Leixlip Co. Kildare**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr David Creighton Senior Architect and Ms Mary Morrissey Executive Architect from the Architects Services. Ms Morrissey delivered the presentation on the Chief Executive's Part 8 Report P82022-18 for the proposed Social Housing Development, Newtown House, Captain's Hill, Leixlip Co. Kildare.

The members raised the following questions:

- It was mentioned that the allocation/consideration was for older people, would younger people with accessibility issues also be considered? Were the units age reliant?
- Would it remain an enclosed area.
- The original design had a bigger provision, why was it reduced? Could the provision have been four two-bedroom units and not two one-bedroom units and two double bedroom units?
- Would this development be completed before the Dart+ Programme? Could a timescale be provided?
- Do all the units have guaranteed parking space?
- Was there any consideration for antisocial behaviour? The opened gate might draw and/or cause concern.
- Was there any solar panels/energy generation part of the units?
- There had been sewerage issues with the connections noted by the youth centre and the library services.
- Who would be responsible for the green area?
- Could the green space been hired for community groups through the youth centre?

Mr Creighton responded with the following points:

- The allocation would be decided by the Housing Department. The units were suitable for both older people and any person who had accessibility or mobility issues.
- The area would remain an enclosed area and there were no plans to open it up.
- A higher density design had been considered, which would have included the removal of the orchard, but the design agreed upon was deemed more appropriate. There were no overlooking issues with the design.
- The access to the side would be for people from the youth services building.



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- This would go to tender immediately and that process to be completed by the middle of the year. Construction was expected to take nine to twelve months and it was hoped to be started by the end of the year/early next year.
- There was a demand for one-bedroom units, and this explained their inclusion.
- The carparking had been considered by the Roads Department and the Fire Services and they were both satisfied.
- The greenspace was only for residents and the youth services. The point of control had been highlighted.
- The units would be suitable for solar panels and their inclusion could be looked at. The units were currently to be heated by air to water pumps.
- Safer access to the library and youth centre could be looked at.
- The drainage/Irish Water reconnection was to be revisited. This had been raised by the youth centre.
- The maintenance of the greenspace may be the responsibility of the Housing or Parks Departments. The residents would be encouraged to maintain it themselves, where capable.

The members considered the Chief Executive's Part 8 Report P82022-18 for the proposed Social Housing Development, Newtown House, Captain's Hill, Leixlip Co. Kildare.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members that the Chief Executive's Part 8 Report P82022-18 for the proposed Social Housing Development, Newtown House, Captain's Hill, Leixlip Co. Kildare be adopted.

The Cathaoirleach suggested returning to items 9 and 10 next as Councillor Neville was present. All members present agreed.

### **CL18/0223**

#### **Review of L1015 between the Confey turn and Kellystown Lane**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville. That the council review the L1015 between the Confey turn and Kellystown Lane, which has inordinately busy traffic, to identify major pinch points.

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



A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The L1015 between its junction of the R149 at Confey and the L1014 at Kellystown Lane is approximately 3.31km long. It is a primary local road. The cross section of the road comprises of a two-way carriageway of on average 5.3m in width and a footpath of on average 1.0m in width located on the southern edge of carriageway. The roads designated speed limit is 60km/hr.

There is very little scope within the existing road corridor to improve this road significantly over any meaningful length.

Irish Water propose to install a new rising main from the junction with the R157 (Maynooth Dunboyne Road.) along the L1015 beyond the junction with the R149 Confey/Cope Bridge junction. Planned overlay works on the L1015 for 2022 and 2023 have been delayed/postponed to be carried out following the proposed Irish Water project.

Councillor Neville raised the following points:

- Footpaths on country roads made them narrower and this could create a larger issue of safety.
- The inclusion of this stretch of road in a masterplan for reconfiguration should be considered.

The District Engineer advised that a third of the road had been overlaid and that Irish Water were carrying out water maintenance in the area over the next two years. He added that it was planned to carry out the work on the remaining two thirds once Irish Water had finished.

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

### CL19/0223

#### **Assessment of Walkway Between Rinawade and Barnhall Meadows**

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

That the council assess the walkway between Rinawade and Barnhall Meadows and ensure that temporary fencing and railing are replaced by a long-term solution.

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





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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the issue of the boundary at this location will be discussed with Development Control with regard to seeking the developer to resolve this issue before the estate is taken in charge.

The members raised the following points:

- Glenveagh Properties had put in place a temporary fence. Were the council going to install a new fence? A final decision was needed for Rinawade.
- Would Building and Development Control engage with Glenveagh Properties?

Ms Brown advised that she had been told by an engineer in the Building and Development Control section that a lockable gate had been ordered.

Councillor Neville said that the lockable gate mentioned was for a separate pedestrian entrance but said he was glad that this entrance would be sorted.

Ms Brown advised that she would bring back this query regarding the other gate. The District Manager advised that she would also follow up this query and highlighted that the council would only be able to enforce what was agreed within the planning permission.

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

### CL20/0223

#### **Commercial Properties Rated at Higher Rate due to Lack of Engagement**

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

That the council confirm the number of commercial properties that were rated at the higher rate due to lack of engagement in the rerating process per town in the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Finance Department informing the members that the Valuations Acts set out the roles and responsibilities of various parties to the valuation process. Valuations are carried out by the Valuation Office, wholly independent to any local authority and reporting to the Minister for Finance. Properties that are deemed rateable are



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valued by the Valuation Office. The local authority determines the Annual Rate on Valuation (ARV) which acts as the multiplier.

Kildare County Council has no role in the determination of the valuations, or in the calculation of same.

Regarding, the Rates Revaluation process that was completed in Kildare in March 2017, the Valuation Office briefed the Councillors at different stages during the process. There were communications by the Valuation Office to the public during the process. Each rate payer was also communicated with by the Valuation Office at different stages during the process. Proposed Valuation Certificates were sent to all rate payers. The individual rate payers then had the right to lodge representations to the Valuation Office if they felt the valuations were too high or calculated incorrectly. In addition, in 2017 the Valuation Office held walk in clinics in Kildare to give rate payers the opportunity to discuss the proposed valuations.

Final Valuation Certificates were issued in September 2017 and rate payers then had until October 2017 to lodge an appeal to the Valuation Tribunal if they had concerns or were not happy with their valuations. In 2017 the Valuation Office held further walk-in clinics around Kildare for any rate payers to discuss their final valuations.

Every year the Valuation Office provides details to Kildare County Council of all properties that they have valued within the county. Each of these is then issued a rates' demand which means that the registered owner / occupier is fully aware of the rates that apply to that property.

The Council does not have information as to which commercial properties did / did not engage with the Valuation Office in 2017. Kildare County Council had no role in the revaluation process.

Summary information was provided by the Valuation Office to Kildare County Council at the end of 2017 (when the final valuation certificates had been issued to all rateable commercial ratepayers) as detailed below:

- (a) 42.2% of ratepayers experienced an increase of greater than 5%.
- (b) 52.2 % of ratepayers that experienced a decrease of greater than 5%.
- (c) The remaining ratepayers (5.6%) either experienced no change, or a change no greater than 5%, or were new properties that were valued for the first time.
- (d) 5,056 properties revalued.
- (e) 1,011 representations received which is a representation rate of 20%.
- (f) 1,122 Net Annual Valuations (NAVs) changed during representations.



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(g) 22% of NAVs changed during representations.

This information was not provided on a town/ Municipal District basis by the Valuation Office.

The members raised the following points:

- Owners of vacant units were being encouraged to rent out their properties. Some commercial owners hadn't engaged until now and were being charged a higher rate.
- There was a high rate of vacancy in the municipal district.
- Was there any mechanism to give relief to the owners of these properties?

Ms Comerford advised that there was a process carried out for commercial properties and that there were strict criteria to be adhered to. She noted that the valuation had been carried out by the Valuation Office and that there had been some delays due to Covid. She said that landlords could apply if an alteration had been made to the building and that the current valuation would remain the same until the next revaluation, but that the council have not yet been notified regarding a date for this.

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

### CL21/0223

#### Confey Cemetery Briefing

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr Colm Flynn Senior Executive Engineer from the Environment Department. Mr Flynn delivered a presentation to the members on the Confey Cemetery Proposed Improvement Works 2023. He detailed the capacity constraints at the current location, the short-term options available to the council and the long-term plan which would have to be considered. The members raised the following points:

- Could the presentation be shared?
- The stone angels present at the D shaped outline were to mark the unborn children and this should be kept, and sensitivity shown.
- A future plan was needed now for the cemetery, especially as Leixlip has an ageing population.
- Welcomed the idea of opening additional plots, would these be confined to local people? Locals would not be happy to go to Donaghcumper cemetery.



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- How long would it be until suitable land was found? Could an indicative timeline be provided?
- Advocated the idea of columbarium wall. Could options for the design of the columbarium be presented to the members before being finalised?

Mr C Flynn responded with the following points:

- A copy of the presentation could be circulated by the team in Corporate Services.
- The Director of Services could provide the timeline.
- A number of people were choosing cremation, changes in preferences may extend the usability of the additional spaces.
- Ground studies were completed, geotechnical and hydrographical surveys, which highlighted that the grounds at the entrance to the graveyard were unsuitable for burial plots.
- Design options for a columbarium wall could be explored with members.

Mr J Boland Director of Services raised the following points:

- The council had put in many extensions around the county.
- The long-term solution was for a new site to be acquired. A new location was being considered and it would be a much more promising option. This would be part of the masterplan which would be prepared in six months, and it could take another six months for it to be approved, with the result that realistically it could be up to two years before traction on the new cemetery plan is visibly evident.
- Another option to build up the ground at the current location could yield up to 150 burial plots but it would be a very expensive option.

The members responded with the following points:

- Appreciate the honest remarks and the commitment shown by the council.
- There could be a new council in place by the time of the masterplan.
- Could the new cemetery site be decoupled from the masterplan?
- How expensive was the interim plan of the extra 150 plots expected to be?

Mr J Boland Director of Services responded with the following points:



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- The cost of the interim plan would be quite significant, it was estimated to be circa €700,000. This plan would include serious engineering challenges.
- Working outside of the masterplan hadn't been considered but Confey is a priority project and Mr Boland would revert regarding possibility for decoupling.

The report was noted

### CL22/0223

#### Upgrade of Water Pipe Along the Kellystown Road, Leixlip

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

That this council requests Irish Water to upgrade the water pipe along the Kellystown Road, Leixlip while the new sewerage pipe is being installed.

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

A report was received from the Environment, Water Services and Climate Action Department informing the members that this is a matter for Irish water to report on, this matter can be raised via their dedicated email support address at [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie) or discussed at the next dedicated Councillors Clinic which is due to be held on Monday, 27 February.

Councillor Caldwell raised the following points:

- There was an issue with water pressure in the area, people were struggling to use their appliances due to the lack of pressure.
- Could the council push Irish Water to include a new water main or put in another pipe to provide a proper service to the locals.

Mr K Kavanagh advised that there was a Councillors Clinic which was due to be held on Monday, 27 February.

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

### CL23/0223

#### Registered Permit Holders Awareness Campaign

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

Can the council agree a timeframe to roll out the Registered Permit Holders Awareness Campaign for disposal of refuse/unwanted items in our municipal district?



A report was received from the Environment, Water Services and Climate Action Department informing the members that as stated previously, the Environment Department will work with the Municipal District members and the council's Communications Unit in progressing a social media campaign to raise awareness and highlight the need for householders and businesses to use only registered Waste Collection Permit Holders. With the members agreement, this can be rolled out in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

**CL24/0223**

**Remediation of Burst Water Mains on the Dublin and Hazelhatch Roads**

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

Can the council confirm the number of times its departments were called to oversee/assist with the remediation of burst water mains or other incidents that occurred since the start of the works on the Dublin and Hazelhatch Roads, and provide a description of the incidents?

A report was received from the Environment, Water Services and Climate Action Department informing the members that this is a matter for Irish water to report on, this matter can be raised via their dedicated email support address at [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie) or discussed at the next dedicated Councillors Clinic which is due to be held on Monday, 27 February.

The report was noted.

**CL25/0223**

**Outdoor Gym Equipment installation in Celbridge**

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

That the council provide an outline of the timeframe and opportunity for input into finalising the Outdoor Gym Equipment installation in Celbridge.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the outcome of the consultation with teenagers for outdoor youth facilities highlighted one of the facilities they wanted was an outdoor gym.



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Consequently, it is proposed to consult with teenagers before the equipment goes in. This is planned for March. The outcome of this will be used to inform the choice of equipment. Following this the aim would be to have the gym in place over the summer.

The members raised the following points:

- There was now also LPT available for Outdoor Gym Equipment in Celbridge.
- The locations for these had been mapped previously at an in-committee meeting.
- The equipment was standard and would be usable by all age groups.
- The timeframe previously was that they would be installed after Christmas.
- Some members noted that a consultation was held previously, and therefore was another necessary.
- One member noted it was important to consult with the teenagers who would be making use of the equipment, to meet their needs.

Mr S Wallace advised that that equipment was not standard across the county and that the council wanted to ensure that the right equipment was procured and installed, for example was there preference for fixed or mobile equipment etc. He highlighted that there were a number of projects in the queue for the Parks section and it was important that when assigning resources, it was clear the project delivered met user's needs.

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

### CL26/0223

#### **Letter to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth**

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

That this Municipal District writes to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, to ask that Kildare County Council is notified when international protection (IP) applicants will be received by the municipal district, in order to benefit from the council's assistance and knowledge, and to assist with providing information to communities.

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





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A report was received from the Meetings Administrator informing the members that this is a matter for the members to agree. The members made the following points:

- This motion related to Ryevale House, and a lack of information provided by the Department surrounding use of the facility.
- This municipal district committee should issue a letter to the Department highlighting that the council should be notified of this kind of plan at an early stage.
- Information was mixed up when disseminated. Councillors had received the information at the same time as the council.
- The council were not the service provider for this issue and there had been problems before finding accommodation for these applicants.
- The legislation involved bypassed the council which was not helping matters.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members that the letter issue to the Department to highlight that notification and information should be supplied to the council when international protection (IP) applicants will be received by the municipal district and that the report be noted.

### CL27/0223

#### Trees in Pots on Main Street, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen. That the council provide an outline on the timeframe and opportunity for input into finalising the Trees in Pots on Main Street, Celbridge.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the council are currently getting quotations for the planters and trees. It is likely to be April- May before the containers are available to be put in place.

The members raised the following points:

- Thanks to Mr Wallace and the Area Engineer for meeting on site to discuss the locations for the trees in pots.
- The trees in pots don't score as highly for the Tidy Towns awards.



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- The trees in pots were a positive for the public, general well-being and wildlife in the area.

Mr Wallace advised that the locations had been assessed and that the number and type of pots were circulated previously.

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

### CL28/0223

#### Public Participation Network Plans to Engage and Renew for 2023

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen. That the council outline the number of formally constituted groups and residents' associations that interact with the Public Participation Network (PPN) in the municipal district and plans to engage and renew for 2023.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that Kildare Public Participation Network (PPN) currently has sixty nine active member groups registered in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District, as of February 2023. Kildare PPN look forward to further engagement through their Municipal District meetings scheduled later in the year.

Councillor Killeen highlighted that it was important to support and help reregister the community, social and economic groups.

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

### CL29/0223

#### Playground and Parking at the Leixlip Amenities Centre

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

Can the council provide an update on the provision/upgrading of the playground and parking arrangements at the Leixlip Amenities Centre?



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A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that a design for the car park is almost complete. Final details regarding the drainage of the playground and access ramp from the main road are being finalised. It is hoped to complete these in the next month and then advertise the Part 8 by the end of March.

The report was noted.

### CL30/0223

#### **Grants to Supporting Trade and Improve Carbon Footprint**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Killeen.  
Can the council outline what grants are available to businesses in this municipal district in respect of supporting trading and improving carbon footprint?

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office informing the members of the following funding:

#### **Green for Micro – Small Changes. Big Impact!**

Green for Micro is a FREE programme that helps small businesses take the first step towards becoming more sustainable, giving the business owner access to a green consultant.

Developing a 'greener' policy can offer many benefits to a business, including:

- Increased cost savings
- Improved resource efficiency (for example: using less energy, water, and materials)
- Reduced environmental footprint and greenhouse gas emissions
- Opportunities for higher and additional value on products and services
- Increased access to customers, improved corporate image and reputation.
- Increased resilience to climate change impacts

#### **Eligibility**

##### **Projects eligible for support include:**

- The programme is open to all micro-enterprises with up to ten employees except those involved in activities that the Local Enterprise Offices consider as ineligible.
- Turnover is in excess of €30,000 annually in either 2020 or 2021



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- The business is trading in excess of 6 months.
- Companies forming part of a holding group, franchise, linked companies etc. are only permitted to make one application. Multiple applications will not be considered.
- Businesses with 10 employees or more may be eligible, please contact your Local Enterprise Office advisor for more information or click on the attached link below.

### Link to scheme

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Green-for-Micro/>

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.