



**Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting  
Held on Friday 19 May 2023 at 10:00 a.m  
In the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.**

**Members Present:** Councillor V Liston (Cathaoirleach), Councillors N Killeen, B Caldwell, M Coleman, Í Cussen, C Galvin 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, Mr C O'Toole (Staff Officer), Mr M Hearn (A/Staff Officer), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

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

**CL01/0523**

**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.

**CL02/0523**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 21 April 2023 and the Progress Report.

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



**CL03/0523**

**Municipal District Road Works**

**Schedule of Municipal District works – May 2023**

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

**Road Works Programme for 2023**

Road Overlays - Restoration Improvement

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| • R149 Captains Hill and Cope Bridge             | -Tender complete.                 |
| • L5056 Green Lane Westfield to Kilmacredock R/A | -Preparing tender documentation.  |
| • R404 Youngs Cross to Barnhall R/A              | - Tender complete.                |
| • L5050 Catherinestown                           | - Tender complete.                |
| • L1016 Wheatfield and L2008 Tipperstown         | - Preparing tender documentation. |
| • Captains Hill- Cope Bridge                     | - Road closure                    |

It is hoped that exact dates will be available at the next municipal district meeting.

**Surface Dressing – Restoration Maintenance**

Surface dressing is scheduled to commence on 29 May. Area identified for surface dressing for 2023.

- Kilmacredock roundabout to junction of Celbridge/Maynooth road at Barrogstown. Letter drops will be carried out week before works and signage erected. Discussions are being held with the local GAA club regarding works and access for upcoming Cul Camps.



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### Uisce Éireann Road Opening Licences:

Uisce Éireann works on R403 and Hazelhatch road progressing and are now on the Shinkeen Road. The road opening license on the R403 Dublin Road had been annulled due to works not conforming with reinstatement standards. Kildare County Council were awaiting acceptable remedial proposals to allow works to recommence. Works are back running now and are expected to be finished by the end of the week. Works are then expected to move to the Adamstown Link Road heading towards Kildare. Works will be out of area for approximately 4 weeks. It will then move to the bridge heading towards the Orchard Garden Centre.

The members thanked the Municipal district engineer and his team for their works and raised the following:

- Clarification was sought regarding tenders complete, does this mean that the project is closed with preferred contractor agreed.
- When are works due to start around the pumping station.
- It was noted that the closure of the Cope bridge section would impact Confey GAA, people using the gym and people attending funerals.
- Could the closure of the HazelHatch Road be investigated as a permanent option.
- Could contact be made with Fingal County Council regarding the R149 in Lucan as the visibility on this road is poor and grass needs to be cut back.
- Could the vegetation on the Intel roundabout at Lidl be cut back as visibility is poor.
- Reports of high amount of rapeseed on verges around the municipal district, it was questioned if this was coming in on topsoil being used by the council.

Mr Linnane informed the members that:

- It was expected to take 2 more weeks till completion, the Hazelhatch Road would then be closed and works expected to move onto the road, with the permanent reinstatement carried out from pumping station to the junction of the shinkeen road.
- Works at Cope Bridge section are expected to commence on 10 July and expected to take 2 weeks including 2 days with restrictions on Cope Bridge. Restrictions can temporarily be postponed for funerals.



- Consideration for the Hazelhatch road closure would be a matter for the members to propose and the statutory process would then begin. Whilst the road has been closed a traffic counter would be out for a week capturing traffic counts. This will be redone again when Uisce Éireann works are completed. Once the information is collated it will then give the council possible options. There is no immediate proposal to close or restrict this road and that this would have to go through public consultation first.
- Information regarding issues on R149 would be passed onto Fingal Council
- Topsoil usage would be monitored, the council are currently using old supplies from the Celbridge interchange. It could possibly be developers or Broadband companies using different topsoil where the issues are being reported.

**CL04/0523**

**Capital Programme 2023-2025**

The members considered the proposed Capital Programme 2023-2025 which had been previously circulated.

The district manager informed the members that:

- The report is aimed to give an oversight of the distribution spend over different sections between 2023 and 2025 and is broken down into each municipal district.
- It shows what stage each project is at, the expected start time for the next stage and expected capital expenditure.
- Mr O'Neill from the Roads Section is driving the Wonderful Barn project forward working alongside Mr Wallace from the Parks Section and Ms Pender from the Planning and Heritage Section. A business plan is being prepared to seek funding. Currently works are being investigated that could be delivered before any major works are carried out whilst awaiting funding to become available – the walled garden is being considered as a possibility ensuring to keep within character. Mr O'Neill will circulate his report to the members.
- The section is waiting on a traffic Survey report before part 8 can be looked into.
- The tender package is near complete



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The members raised the following:

- That it has been 15 years since significant funding had been spent within Celbridge Leixlip municipal district and it needs to be highlighted as an imbalance so to ensure equality throughout the county. More investment is needed within this municipal district noting that Celbridge has no social infrastructure not even a town hall for groups to meet up, examples given whereby community groups are having to rely on public houses to facilitate such meetings.
- That PR needs to be improved. The public need to be kept informed of what things are being proposed within this municipal district.
- That the capital spend within this municipal district equated to €10 euro per head compared to Naas at €217 and Athy at €248
- That back in 2018 it was suggested that the sheds at the Wonderful Barn would be the first project, now being updated that this could be the walled gardens. Great to see remedial works being looked into but the inside is crumbling away this needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.
- The Housing Part 5 figure of €103 million on the document is this for purchase or lease.
- Why does Leixlip appears twice under heading of playground under Recreation and Amenities is this in relation to new playground projects or existing upgrades.
- Climate Action has 34% is this target set to increase and if so what is the actual target.
- Noted lots of work going on in the background on the project of the Parochial House after it was suggested by members for this to be the new library in Celbridge
- Additional funding secured for the outdoor gym equipment in the new Leixlip playground. The park is set to be fully inclusive.
- How can the urgent situation at Confey cemetery be progressed. Could the members be given a new point of contact since Mr Boland had left the Council.

The District Manager advised the members that:

- Lots of exciting projects are coming to this municipal district including works on the M4, the Greenway, Parochial House and the new bridge.



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- The District Manager undertook to come back to the members on the other issues raised.
- That there was a presentation regarding update on the Civic Amenity Centre recently at a previous meeting
- That Ms Higgins is now over Confey Cemetery and would be the point of contact for the members.

Mr Wallace advised the members that the playground section has 2 elements, playgrounds to be revamped and unknown, Celbridge and Leixlip were originally categorised together but are now separate, hence the 2 codes seen on the breakdown sheet. Costings for new gym equipment would be expected to cost in around €30,000.

The members agreed to suspend standing orders to take a 10-minute comfort break

### **CL05/0523**

#### **Traffic Assessment**

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

That the council carry out a traffic assessment around the entrance to Confey Cemetery and the Captains Hill Junction to see what can be done to slow traffic in this area.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office will carry out a traffic assessment at this location.

The members raised the following:

- This is an ongoing issue, especially dangerous for people attending the cemetery.
- Could changing the colour of road surface be an option or a raised table top

Mr Linnane advised the members that the option for raised surface is not possible at this location. To start the process a speed counter would be put up in next couple of weeks and funding can then be investigated, there is funding available for dangerous junctions.



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Increased road markings and signage would also be investigated. The situation around safer parking would need to also be considered.

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

### CL06/0523

#### Road Resurface

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

That the council resurface the road from the Celbridge Interchange to Intel to reduce the noise level of the road.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that resurfacing the R449 from the R148 to the M4 would require significant funding. Currently there is no available funding to carry out these works.

The members raised the following:

- That the zoning was pushed out to this road after the last LAP.
- That this is one of the busiest roads with the width of a dual carriage with large volumes of traffic including plant machinery using the road. The current surface is approximately 25 years old and needs replacing with noise reduction tar.
- Could national funding be investigated, as a funding stream needs to be found urgently.
- It was questioned if there was any unspent development funding available in the municipal district.
- Could trees be planted in hope that they act as a noise buffer.

Mr Linnane advised the members that this is a substantial project with expected costs of around €1.4 million just to resurface the road. That a detailed report had been proposed and is currently being investigated and sources of possible funding being looked into.



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

**CL07/0523**

**Children at play sign**

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

That the council install 'Children at Play' signs on the approach, at both sides, to the big green in River Forest.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office will install the requested signs at the locations mentioned.

Councillor Coleman was happy with the report and would be good to see this done before the summer and that the safety of children is paramount, asking for drivers to slow down at this location.

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

**CL08/0523**

**Tactile Footpath and Crossing/Lights**

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

That the council install tactile footpath and crossing/lights changes in the Leixlip area to assist pedestrians with mobility and sight impairments.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that all newly constructed crossings in the Municipal District have tactile slabs installed and a substantial number of older crossing points have had tactile slabs installed. Contact details have been provided by Councillor Killeen of an individual with a visual impairment residing in





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Loughnamona. The Municipal District office has made contact and will arrange a walkthrough with a member of the National Council of the Blind of Ireland to identify locations that may be causing issues and assess what work can be carried out by the Municipal District Office.

The members raised the following:

- Happy with the report and the outcome, it's great to identify a problem area and with the help of the council a vulnerable road user now has a safer passage to use.
- That the access officer for the county has been very proactive around the municipal district. That Kildare County Council is now being seen as a model of best practice when it comes to accessibility.
- That the Leixlip Local Access Group meet once a month carrying out walk abilities and report any issues found.
- That Celbridge Access Group are also working hard around the municipal district and are always looking for more people to volunteer.
- If anyone else in the area is experiencing any access issues to please contact their local councillor and the problems can be highlighted to the council.

Mr Linnane advised the members that the council would try its best to assist with any access problems for people with mobility issues or visual impairments. Noting that some issues are harder to solve than others but to report any concerns through the municipal district office.

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

### CL09/0523

#### Shackleton Road/Clane Road, Celbridge

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

Can the council confirm how the redundant lane will be repurposed following the junction change at Shackleton Road/Clane Road, Celbridge?

A report was received from Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Team informing the members that the reduction in vehicular capacity at this signalised junction has facilitated



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improvements for vulnerable road users, in particular pedestrians and cyclists consistent with the Road User Hierarchy. The extra space available at this location can be repurposed in the context of urban realm improvements.

Councillor Cussen asked how soon this could be done and requested a meeting be arranged on site.

Mr Linnane agreed to meet onsite.

The report was noted.

### **CL10/0523**

#### **Spraying Kerbsides**

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

Can the council provide details of instructions which issue to contractors who spray kerbsides etc in our municipal district, as to what is and is not permitted?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office do not permit the spray painting of pavements or roads. When permission to carry out survey works in the Municipal District is being sought, conditions prohibiting the use of permanent paints or water-based paints are advised to Contractors. Contractors are instructed where they need to mark a surface to use chalk and to record using photographs.

Councillor Cussen advised that the question was referring to pesticides and herbicides.

Councillor Cussen will submit a CRM on this matter.

The report was noted.

### **CL11/0523**

#### **Main Street, Leixlip**

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

Can the council confirm when they intend to carry out the upgrade of the footpath on Main Street, Leixlip?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that there was currently no funding to carry out an upgrade to the footpaths on Main Street in Leixlip.

Councillor Caldwell was disappointed with the report noting accessibility issues and that IPB Funding was expected 4-5 years ago but never happened.



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Mr Linnane advised the members that the surface on Main Street was in good condition compared to others in the municipal district. The footpath surface is serviceable and uniform with good quality cobble lock. Currently there is no funding available to do the whole of Main Street, should a section become problematic that it will be arranged to get it reset. The report was noted.

### **CL12/0523**

#### **Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road Project**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Liston.  
Can the council confirm the current status of progress on Phase 3 of the Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road project?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Celbridge Hazelhatch Link Road is currently at stage 2 B, i.e. Design, Evaluation and Statutory Process stage. Currently a topographical survey is underway. Geo investigation has gone out on e-tenders and following a review of the tenders we are hoping to appoint a Geo Investigative Contractor soon. Currently the project is progressing well.

The report was noted.

### **CL13/0523**

#### **Car Parking Spaces**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Liston.  
Can the council confirm how many public and private on and off-street car parking spaces are available on Celbridge Main Street?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the member that there are currently 47 pay and display parking bays including one age friendly parking bay which is also pay and display. There are two loading bays which become pay parking after 11.30 which is an additional 6 pay and display parking bays between 11.30 and 16.00. There are also 5 accessible bays.

Councillor Liston noted the response showed public parking but was looking for private parking numbers also, she asked for information to be circulated to the members.

It was agreed to discuss with Public Realm and revert back to the members.

The report was noted.



**CL14/0523**

**Public Lighting**

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

Can the council confirm when the ESB are to connect the recently installed public lighting in Willowbrook Park, Celbridge?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Public Lighting Section had checked the status of this connection and the lighting is working. The report was noted.

**CL15/0523**

**Royal Canal Upgrade Project**

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

Can the council provide an update in respect of the Royal Canal upgrade project in Leixlip due for completion in March 2023: if the project is over budget or costs more due to the delay and if it impacts the commencement of the Maynooth to Leixlip section?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the members would be given an update in advance of the June municipal district meeting.

Councillor Killeen noted that she was not happy with the way this item had been dealt with and waited to hear back from the Roads Section. The meetings administrator was aware of this.

The report was noted.

**CL16/0523**

**Road Opening Licenses**

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

Can the council confirm how many road opening licenses have been annulled, cancelled and postponed by the local authority in this municipal district in the last five years per Local Electoral Area in tabular format?

A report was received from the Roads Section in forming the members of the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District Road Opening Licences



Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Rejected T5 applications	3	14	6	10	3
Annulled Licences	0	0	0	0	1

Councillor Killeen was happy with the report and commented that she was pleased to see a recent road closure was annulled under exceptional circumstances.

The report was noted.

**CL17/0523**

**Alternatives to Pesticide Spraying**

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

That the council add to current available training and proactively work with relevant voluntary groups, to include residents associations, to assist with advice on alternatives to pesticide spraying in open spaces in our municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the Information had already been made available through Community Stories and the annual presentation to Councillors on the reduced use of glyphosate all of which are applicable to residents associations. There is also information available on the internet through Pollinators.ie and The National Biodiversity website biodiversity.ie regarding biodiversity friendly practises. The works programme for the Parks Section was set out and agreed by the elected members in March. There is no scope to add involving training on alternatives to pesticides to this programme.

The members raised the following:

- Aware of all the ongoing projects and initiatives but felt more can still be done. Noting online training was offered but attendance was low, was there any feedback sought after this event and if so what were the results.
- More education is needed to ensure we bring people with the council on the Pollinator Plan. Could discussion be had with the Biodiversity Officer to look



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how we get the message to the Resident Associations such as the ' No mow May or even a 'Less mow May and the reasons behind this initiative.

- Could funding for this be investigated maybe through the estate maintenance grants.
- The members were aware that it's up to each individual Residents Association but if messages such as,
  - Promoting biodiversity
  - Importance of leaving wild flowers
  - Ensuring to leave some green areas untouched
  - Planting more trees

If all these could be collated and distributed to each group.

- Could the Tidy Towns teams and residents association work together on good practice in the hope to share different ideas amongst the group

Mr Wallace advised the members that:

- There is a wealth of knowledge accessible to the public, that An Post recently did a mail drop regarding pollinators to try to educate and change people attitudes.
- Currently no scope in the current works programme. Mr Wallace agreed to talk to the Community Section regarding any availability of grants.

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

### CL18/0523

#### Silleachain Lane

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

That the council carry out a spring clean of the Silleachain Lane from Glendale to the end of Mill Lane.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that a clean up would be organised in the next 3-4 weeks.



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Councillor Caldwell noted the importance of this as a walkway for people with buggies, rollators and for wheelchair users. He looked forward to completion of works.

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

### CL19/0523

#### Off-Lead Area for Dogs

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Galvin. That the council establish a trial off-lead area for dogs in Celbridge, potentially in collaboration with the OPW at Castletown House.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that there is a lack of suitable locations in Celbridge to trial this. The use of Castletown as an area was a matter for the OPW to consider. The Council could write to them regarding the matter. However, there is no scope within the works programme for the current year to extend it to work on a trial area.

The members raised the following:

- That back in 2019 a question regarding same was submitted to the council and the councillor was contacted afterwards by a lady who was hoping to start up a private project, unfortunately since then this didn't go ahead due to costings involved.
- Would be great to see a facility in Kildare similar to facilities found in Dublin, it was noted that regulations and byelaws would be required.
- The members asked if a letter be agreed that it be sent to the OPW. It was suggested for the first field near Castletown house to be considered as a possible location.
- Could the council consider dedicating some council owned land for this project as this would be a great asset to the area. If a pilot project was successful then this could be rolled out to other areas.



- Concerns raised regarding the logistics of a dog park noting that a large enough space would need to be provided and signage of dogs being off leads displayed so people were aware and could avoid the area. Also questioned what the role of dog wardens were in this situation.

Mr Wallace advised the members that this would not be a straightforward project, a minimum of an acre would be required, maintenance of a constant water supply be investigated and the risk of dogs fighting and public being fearful also to be considered.

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by the members that a letter be issued to OPW regarding consideration of a trial off-lead area for dogs in Castletown House.

The report was noted.

It was agreed that item 26 from the agenda be taken next.

Item 26

**CL20/0523**

**Outdoor Youth Facilities**

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

That the council provide an update on the progress of the Outdoor Youth Facilities project in Celbridge.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the member that the report highlighting the outcomes of the consultation held last year was made available of the Council website and the report and its outcomes were highlighted on social media. The report was also distributed to the community organisations on the steering committee. It was also publicised by Dublin City University. The Council is currently consulting with the various secondary schools in Celbridge who participated in the initial consultation. This involves asking the students to design hangout areas, teen playgrounds, ball park and outdoor gym. These will be used to inform the design of the facilities and the brief for designers that are





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procured to develop designs. It is planned to feedback these designs again to the teenagers once they are developed. It is hoped to progress this over the Summer. Once the designs are completed we hope to engage with the community regarding potential locations.

The members raised the following:

- Good to see progression being made with schools including consultation with the children and young people of the town.
- All councillors had agreed to put forward more LPT funding this year to this project and are looking forward to seeing the design
- The municipal district is doing great works with its age friendly access group and it would be great to see it become a more teen/child friendly town also
- Community involvement was needed on this project with best location to situate the facility.

Mr Wallace advised the members that:

- A lot of work had been done through the steering group, consulting with 541 children in the age group of 11-18 years.
- Engagement with 100 students had just finished where the students got the opportunity to make 3D models.

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

### CL21/0523

#### Educate Together School

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

Can the council provide an insight into the possible long term location/site for the Educate Together school in Leixlip?

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that Kildare County Council had been advised by the Department of Education that a Minister-owned school site, Coláiste Chiaráin in Leixlip had been identified as an option for potential redevelopment to accommodate a second school. The Trustees of Coláiste Chiaráin had agreed to allow the installation of temporary interim modular accommodation to meet the urgent accommodation needs for Leixlip ETNS for September 2023 and 2024. The Department of Education would



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be proceeding with a master planning exercise of the Coláiste Chiaráin site, with the agreement from the representatives of the existing school, in order to assess the potential to develop a school campus to meet the current and future primary and post primary needs for the area. The outcome of the master plan study would determine the next steps to be taken. The Patron Bodies and Trustees for two schools concerned would be kept informed of developments in respect to master planning exercise.

Councillor Neville welcomed the detailed report.

The report was noted.

### **CL22/0523**

#### **Castletown House**

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

Can the council provide members with any feedback from the OPW on the sale of the lands at Castletown House to developers?

A report was received from the Corporate Section informing the members that a report would be given at the meeting.

Mr Hannigan advised that under Standing Order 13 an update would be given as soon as one is available.

Councillor Neville asked for this to be placed on the Progress Report for next month.

The report was noted.

### **CL23/0523**

#### **Pollinators**

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

Can the council outline what steps have been taken to protect pollinators in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District in this term?

A report was received from the Heritage, Conservation and Biodiversity Section informing the member that the following actions had been undertaken by Kildare County Council to support pollinators since 2019 with respect to the whole of County Kildare;

- In 2019 Kildare County Council signed up as a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and adopted the Kildare County Council Pollinator Action Plan 2019-2022. Each year Kildare County Council reports to the National



Biodiversity data centre on actions undertaken in the implementation of the Kildare County Council Pollinator Action Plan 2019-2022

- From 2021-2023, The Heritage Office commissioned a series of radio adverts (150 spots) on KFM with advice on simple actions to help pollinators. This was co-funded by the Heritage Office and the Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan Programme.
- 6 Parks were selected for Development of Biodiversity Plans inclusive of recommendations for management for pollinators. Of the sites managed by parks, 33 have been selected for reduced mowing and reduced use of pesticides/herbicides. Sites were selected for layered and less frequent mowing 2020/2021. 22 pilot sites were selected for reduced use of pesticides/herbicides were selected in the summer of 2020/2021. The Parks Department partnered with other local authorities and Maynooth University to fund a 6-year research project to assess alternatives to herbicide use in amenity public open spaces. Sites within the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District area included Inter Alia, The Wonderful Barn and Leixlip Spa.
- Herbicide and pesticide use is not permitted at all Wastewater Treatment Plants.
- Heritage Department supports the “No Mow May” campaign and provides signage for public areas to support reduced mowing of vegetation.
- A re-survey of the Hedgerows of County Kildare was conducted in 2022.
- Kildare County Council supports the Green Kilometre Scheme.
- Biodiversity Training for Tidy Towns groups has been undertaken.
- 6 Greensod Ireland Bee Aware Workshops have been organised.
- Kildare County Council and Wicklow County Council Heritage Officers supported the development by the National Biodiversity Data Centre two animations, “Blooming Bees” and “What’s the Buzz about Bees?”
- Kildare County Council funded the development of a series of videos promoting reduced mowing regimes, by the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC).
- In 2019 a training programme was provided for all departments of Kildare County Council including the Senior management team on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.



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- Kildare County Council supported the South Kildare Beekeepers Association by providing 10 workshops for farmers on pollination.

More specifically to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District area, the following should also be noted;

- Kildare County Council sponsors the Tidy Towns Pollinator award 2019, “Get Buzzing”, along with other local authorities which includes Celbridge and Leixlip.
- Kildare County Council Community Heritage Grants Scheme supports pollinator actions by Tidy Towns group and individual estates within both Celbridge and Leixlip.
- 23 Town and Village Local Biodiversity Actions Plans have been prepared which include actions relating to the local implementation of the All-Ireland pollinator plan such as planting, reduced mowing, choice of plants, educational events. In the Celbridge- Leixlip area these include Ardclough, Celbridge and Leixlip towns.
- Over 25,000 trees were planted under the LBAP programme some of which would have been in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.
- Biodiversity Training was provided for residents associations in the 5 Municipal District areas including Celbridge-Leixlip.
- During Biodiversity and Heritage Week events are undertaken by community groups, NGOS and libraries which promote actions for pollinators including Celbridge and Leixlip libraries.
- Kildare Library service retains a suite of books which provide information on biodiversity which includes some of the guidance documents produced by the All Ireland Pollinator Plan Team at the NBDC.’

Councillor Galvin welcomed the extensive report and questioned whether a copy of the biodiversity booklet recently distributed to the members on upcoming events was available to the public through local libraries, through press release or online.

Mr Hannigan agreed to discuss this with Environment Section and revert to Councillor Galvin.

The report was noted.



CL24/0523

Grant Allocations for Tidy Towns Groups for 2023

The members consider the proposed grant allocations for Tidy Towns groups for 2023 which had been previously circulated

TT Group (3)	Population Category (from TT report)	Proposed Budget Allocation	Proposed LPT Allocation	Total
Celbridge	G	€ 7,785	€ 10,000	€ 17,785
Leixlip	G	€ 7,785	€ 10,000	€ 17,785
Ardclough	B	€ 1,055	€ 5,000	€ 6,055
<b>Total</b>		€ 16,625	€ 25,000	€ 41,625

The members raised the following:

- Could more money for Ardclough be considered in the future.
- The overall figure remains the same, but distribution is for the members to agree. It was noted that if Ardclough got more money, one of the other areas would need to have a reduction of money allocated.
- That money is allocated on a population basis, suggestions made for Ardclough to consider asking for their category to be changed.
- Works of all the Tidy Towns within the municipal district were commended on all their achievements.

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Galvin and agreed by the members that the grant allocations for Tidy Towns groups for 2023 be noted.

CL25/0523

Uisce Éireann

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillors Coleman, Liston, Neville, Galvin and Killeen.

That the members invite the Capital Delivery lead for Uisce Éireann to the June municipal district meeting to discuss and inform the members on the progress of the



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Celbridge sewer network improvement project and future projects in this municipal district and any issues presenting.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that if the members agree a letter could be issued or alternatively the members could contact Uisce Éireann directly with regards to this motion, this matter could be raised via their dedicated email support address at [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie) or by phoning 0818178178, or raised at their next dedicated Councillors Clinic which is due to be held on the 26 June 2023.

The members raised the following :

- A number of concerns were raised regarding supervision on this project asking why no one was on site. It was felt that someone needed to meet with the councillors to answer the concerns raised and it was questioned how soon this could be arranged.
- The issue of continued poor traffic management was raised noting that the company had changed mid project but reports still being reported with the new company
- That the municipal district office has had to redirect their resources to this project causing them not to be able to focus on their own workload.
- How was the predicted time frame for completion so wrong, causing unnecessary disruption for local people.

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Coleman and agreed by the members that a letter be sent to invite the Capital Delivery lead for Uisce Éireann to the June municipal district meeting to discuss and inform the members of the progress of the Celbridge sewer network improvement project and future projects in this municipal district and any issues presenting.

### CL26/0523

#### Signage

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

That the council provide residents associations with some newly designed “No Green Waste Dumping” signage (signs that give reasons why this is harmful to environment and habitats)



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to put in areas where this is currently a problem, in the absence of a Civic Amenity Centre in our municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the council provides generic "no dumping" signs for the public as it is important to deter dumping of all types of waste. That the Environment Awareness Officer was available to discuss composting of green waste if there were particular Residents Associations that wish to develop areas for composting green waste.

The members raised the following:

- They are aware of the general waste signs but felt they were not very informative and that awareness needs to be raised on the topic of disposal of green waste and the impact this has on ecosystems.
- Could small signage be investigated and put up in areas where dumping of green waste is known to happen. Would be great to trial this in this municipal district.

Mr O'Toole advised the members that suggestions would be bought back to Mr Wyer and will discuss further with members offline on how to raise awareness across the county on this matter.

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

### **CL27/0523**

#### **Flood Relief**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Galvin,  
Can the council outline what has been or could be done, in relation to flood relief for the Hazelhatch area of Celbridge?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that during the Office of Public Works' Eastern Catchment Flood Risk and Management (CFRAM) Study,



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the potential flood risk in the Celbridge and Hazelhatch area was assessed within one combined model.

This approach meant that the hydraulic model was unable to replicate the frequent flooding seen in Hazelhatch, in particular around the tennis club, GAA pitches and primary school. During production of the (CFRAM) Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) in 2016/2017, Kildare County Council (KCC) and the OPW agreed that the issue in Hazelhatch should be assessed further.

Consequently, a measure was included in the FRMP to carry out a further study of the area. This further study was completed in September 2020 and the results of the study, including revised flood mapping are available on the council's website.

In 2021, the OPW commissioned a series of Scheme Viability Reviews (SVR), to review and confirm the likely viability of schemes, where the CFRAMs study identified that the preferred option had a benefit cost ratio (BCR) calculated to be below unity i.e. that the cost of delivering a scheme would be greater than the possible benefit (savings in damages) from the scheme being in place. Celbridge (without Hazelhatch) was included as part of these reviews.

While the review of Celbridge did not provide a BCR of 1.0 or greater, the council and the OPW agreed that there may be some merit in recombining the outputs of the Celbridge SVR and the Hazelhatch Further Study to see if a viable scheme could be achieved which would address flood risk in both Celbridge and Hazelhatch.

Currently the council is delivering schemes identified in Tranche 1 of the OPW's Flood Risk Management Plans. These schemes have been prioritised by the OPW and are funded (including staff resources) directly by them. These include the Morell Flood Management Scheme, the Naas Flood Relief Scheme, the Athy Flood Relief Scheme and the Leixlip Flood Relief Scheme.

A possible scheme for Celbridge and Hazelhatch (combined) is likely to be carried out under Tranche 2 of the OPW's prioritisation list. The council is working closely with the OPW to ensure the delivery of all schemes within Kildare, listed in the OPW's Flood Risk Management Plans.





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Councillor Galvin noted from the report that Celbridge is not currently in risk plans, it was question when tranche 3 could be expected and also when tranche 2 project would be looked into.

It was agreed for questions to be taken back to Ms O'Brien and for the responses to be circulated to the members.

The report was noted.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that Melissa Cooke the journalist from the Liffey Champion is starting a new job elsewhere and today would be her last day attending the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District meeting.

All the members expressed their thanks to Melissa for all her hard work in getting the message out to the public

The meeting concluded.