



**Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
Held on Friday 20 January 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 K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Mr G Conlan (Senior Executive Officer), Ms P O'Brien (Senior Executive Officer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Ms V Cooke (Administrative Officer), Ms S Barry (A/Senior Staff Officer), Mr T Shanahan (Meetings Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the January meeting for Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District. She congratulated Celbridge on their recent achievement with its status of becoming an Age Friendly Town.

Councillor Cussen gave some background information into the works carried out to make Celbridge and Leixlip more age friendly noting this started back in 2015, with the first walkability audit being carried out in 2016 and again in 2017. The audits highlighted the social and physical actions needed enhance access in these towns.

Thanks was given to the Local Access Group, Kildare County Council, the Council's Age Friendly Officer, Area Engineer, CKAN, and all Council staff for their assistance with Age Friendly.

On a separate note, the elected members thanked Ms Lisa Harlow, External Relations Manager Intel, for her assistance with community projects and engagement with our Municipal District and wished her well in her retirement on behalf of the District.



CL01/0123

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.

The Cathaoirleach noted the new wording and Councillor Cussen noted members are awaiting guidance and clarification from the Finance Committee/ Protocol & Procedures Committee to be given to all members on this matter.

CL02/0123

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 16 December 2022 and 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, 16 December 2022 of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District be confirmed and 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 have been carrying out general footpath and road maintenance works in the Municipal District area.

Some of these works were planned but were most were in response to issues received from calls from the public, councilors or defects identified by outdoor staff. Works were triaged and then assigned to a crew as appropriate.

Planned works currently include jet-vacing of road gullies, mechanical sweeping of roads, road repairs with road patcher unit opening of water cuts and general repairs to footpaths and kerbs. Works are ongoing but have been restricted due to recent low temperatures.

Hedge cutting at junctions and other problem areas were carried out in the Municipal District in late December and will recommence at the end of this month.



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Repair works to the southwestern parapet of the Liffey bridge in Celbridge were carried out this month and are now complete.

Resurfacing works in St. Patrick's Park is due to commence week starting Monday 16 January. Works will take approximately 2 days.

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.

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):

Meetings were held in December and January between the Municipal District Office and Irish Water and their contractor. Kildare County Council are awaiting submission of details of the work plan for 2023 and additional measures to be used to minimize disruption to the public at these road work sites. Works due to recommence on January 23, there have been multiple meetings with the last one yesterday 19 January. Meetings were held to discuss the disruption and to look at improving communication both between Irish Water, Coffey Construction and Kildare County Council, the Members and the general public. They also discussed the need for more signage. A meeting is to be arranged with the members onsite next week.

The members raised the following,

- They thanked the team for all the works with salting around the municipal district
- They noted the importance of a meeting onsite next week with Irish Water and Coffey Construction and to endeavour to keep disruption to a minimum and ensure communication is improved with the public.
- They thanked the team for the works with repairing the Liffey bridge in Celbridge and that all feedback had been positive.
- That the works carried out on the R449 from Intel to the M4 recently cut a number of trees causing long term damage.



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Mr Linnane explained that the area in question had recently had hedge cutting works carried out not tree cutting.

The members asked for the Council to investigate a more effective, holistic way to prevent this from happening again ensuring to protect wildlife in the area also. Photos to be forwarded onto the Area Engineer.

The report was noted

CL04/0123

LPT

The Cathaoirleach noted it had been agreed to postpone the approval of the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2023 to the February meeting.

Notwithstanding postponement of approval on LPT allocation, the Cathaoirleach noted that to facilitate progression and recruitment of staff by Swim Ireland, the members needed to agree funding for the proposed pop-up pool at today's meeting.

Ms P O'Brien thanked the members setting out that the pop-up pool is a new initiative to be available for use in April, May and June of this year. She informed the members that there had been an increase in costs from the original estimates from Swim Ireland following re-evaluation.

The members raised the following,

- They welcomed sponsorship for this project, thanking Intel for their support.
- They thanked the Community Department for their work since June noting the pool will be available for everyone both within the municipal district and surrounding areas.
- They hoped it would provide evidence to support the need for a permanent pool in the North of the County
- They noted the increase in cost and that they must be careful it doesn't keep increasing.

Mr Shanahan noted for the project to progress the members must be in agreement on the allocation of LPT funding, as confirmation of this commitment was needed for Swim Ireland. The proposed figure minus sponsorship was €25,000 from LPT funding. Ms P O'Brien explained that further negotiation is ongoing with Swim Ireland so the figure may still



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increase and that €25,000 is the base figure and she may or may not need to further revert to the members for support.

Resolved: following discussions the commitment of €25,000 from LPT was proposed by the Cathaoirleach and seconded by Cllr Cussen, and on the agreement of all members the allocation of €25,000 to the pop-up pool was approved.

CL05/0123

Traffic lights Shackleton Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen
That the council add additional lighting to the traffic lights on the Shackleton Road for cyclists similar to those on the Straffan Road, Maynooth.

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

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Team informing the members that there are no dedicated signals for cyclists at junctions in the County, cyclists must obey the standard vehicular signals that control all road users. Junctions can vary in terms of the type of facilities provided i.e., cycle lanes/Toucan style crossing etc. If the member has any specific examples that they are referring to, please liaise with the Traffic Management Section and staff shall investigate.

Councillor Cussen had since spoken to the engineer regarding this matter, noting the junction in question had a wide crossing with four arms, the pedestrian lights were on at the same time and reported that a pedestrian had nearly being knocked down.

The members raised the following:

- Could signalisation at this junction and other similar ones around the municipal district be assessed?
- What criteria did the cycle design manuals have?
- Could cycling education be investigated for schools?
- That Dublin had examples of cycle lanes with same situation and that they had introduced a separate signal beside the lights showing clear red and green specifically for bikes, could this be investigated as an option?



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Mr Hodgins informed the members that separate cycle lights were not currently in the design manual and that it was understood that the main traffic signals determine road movements. He advised that last year there was funding for both vulnerable road users and cycle improvement, but the Department are advised there will be no funding available for infrastructure related to vulnerable road users at junctions in 2023 from the NTA, even as a pilot scheme. He noted the issues were present, but all road users needed to be aware of other road users and ensure they always obey red lights.

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

CL06/0123

Unused Cables

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell
That the council contact the ESB to request the removal of unused cables attached to buildings on Main Street, Leixlip and on houses along Buckley's Lane.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Municipal District office had contacted the ESB and have requested them to review the cabling on the Main Street and Buckley's Lane and to remove any old unused cables.

The Municipal District office carried out a preliminary visual assessment of the cables on Buckley's Lane and at other locations on Main Street where there appears to be an inordinate number of disordered cables. Not all these cables are unused ESB cables. Some appear to be associated with old decorative lighting or building façade lighting, alarm systems, Tannoy speakers and cabling associated with telecoms.

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

CL07/0123

Closure Main Street



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Motion – Councillor Vanessa Liston

That the council close Main Street, Celbridge to vehicular traffic from the evening of the 02 June to the evening of the 03 June in support of celebrations of the 200-year anniversary of Esther Van Homrigh (02 June 1723).

Report: This motion was withdrawn by Councillor Liston at the meeting, and it was noted by the District Manager that a motion was not needed to action this but a licence would need to be applied for.

CL08/0123

Free Christmas Parking

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

That the council provide an evaluation of the free Christmas parking period in terms of parking income, the number of fines issued and the turnover of vehicles drawing a comparison with normal parking arrangements over the same period from previous comparable years, in order to understand the impact of the Christmas free parking period with a view to the preparation of our Climate Action Plan in 2023.

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

A report was received from the Roads section informing the members that it is not possible to provide the details as requested as Christmas 2021 was the only Christmas where there was no free parking in Celbridge and Leixlip.

Councillor Liston noted that the report was factually incorrect, and an updated report would be issued next month, and it was not the case that 2021 was not the only date where free parking was not available. Councillor Liston stated the data was vital to inform climate actions.

The members looked forward to the report as last year was a trial for free Christmas parking. They questioned if 2 weeks was necessary and suggested asking individual businesses for feedback. It was noted that positive feedback had been received from the public on social media platforms but more could be done to advertise the changes.



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Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members that the report be noted and they welcomed the amended report at next months meeting.

CL09/0123

Fencing Ballymakealy Grove

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman
That the council install welded wire fencing in Ballymakealy Grove, Celbridge at the end of the cul-de-sac (details provided) to replace wooden fencing which is in an unsafe condition.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the site will be examined to see the extent of works required and the cost of these. Any alterations that are needed will be considered for this year's works programme. It was agreed for Mr Wallace to meet the councillor on site to discuss what could be done.

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

CL10/0123

O'Hanlon Park, Ballyoulster

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville.
That the council review the area outside O'Hanlon Park in Ballyoulster, Celbridge to assess the requirement for a pedestrian crossing at this very busy location.

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

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Team informing the members that considering the remote location of this facility and low pedestrian footfall it is considered that a pedestrian crossing is not warranted at this location. It should



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be noted that pedestrian crossing facilities are provided at Young's Cross junction approximately 200m from the entrance.

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

CL11/0123

Green Mesh Footpaths

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Galvin
That the council communicate/promote "green mesh" footpaths in housing estates in our municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that a green mesh footpath is not the standard of footpath constructed in housing estates with concrete or black top finish being the norm. A green mesh footpath may be more appropriate on landscaped areas where there is a relatively low volume of use. While standard footpaths are robust and durable with low maintenance costs, there could be potential maintenance issues with green mesh footpaths which may have budgetary implications for the organisation.

Councillor Galvin raised the following:

- That the green mesh footpath was present in some estates and working well for accessibility especially for wheelchairs users and people with pushchairs and to facilitate access into open spaces.
- Could resident associations be made aware of this as an option with the aim to make green spaces more accessible.

Councillor Cussen questioned what the green mesh was made of and was it environmentally friendly? Councillor Galvin explained that the mesh was made of a foam like material in the estate in question and allowed grass to grow around the mesh, it hardened the surface allowing accessibility for wheelchair users and people with pushchairs and was perhaps a less negative impact than tarmacadam or similar hard surfaces.



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Ms Barrett informed the members that this option wouldn't be viable for use on general footpaths but agreed to discuss with the Parks section regarding green areas.

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

CL12/0123

Salting Rota for Winter 2023

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to include footpaths on main walking routes in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District to the salting rota for Winter 2023?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that there is no provision in Kildare County Council's 2022-2023 Winter Maintenance plan for the salting of footpaths in the county. Substantial additional resources would be required to provide this service. In the past during prolonged severe cold winter weather conditions the Municipal District office have deployed staff to manually salt critical areas around schools, main walking routes to and from transport links and other locations where vulnerable road users are adversely affected.

The members sought clarification as to whether they needed to put this as a motion for allocation from the budget or could allocation of LPT be investigated.

Mr Linnane informed the members that there was currently no equipment for salting pathways and as such would require investment. Currently the temperature was being closely monitored on all salting routes around the municipal district.

Ms Barrett advised that the situation occurred when there was no daytime thaw, which had been seen recently. Currently there were 10 salting routes of which salting needed to be carried out every 8 hours. There was no instant solution for footpath salting as this would need substantial funding and the diversion of resources would need to be investigated. Any such decision would have significant budgetary implications and need a motion and should form part of members discussions on LPT, if there is an appetite for a limited and closely defined trial. She acknowledged however that with increased promotion and use of sustainable travel that it will be a growing issue.

The report was noted.



CL13/0123

Castlewellan Estate

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Coleman
Can the council provide an update on the outcome of the Safety Audit Stage 3 on the completed permeability link from the Castlewellan Estate, Celbridge to the road serving Aldi?
A report was received from the Roads section informing the members that the Road Safety Auditor, Norma Bruton Consulting Engineers issued a report dated 17 May 2022 which outlined their review of the post construction works of the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing from the Castlewellan Park Estate to the Aldi Car Park Celbridge where a site inspection was carried out on the 16 May 2022. They have confirmed that the safety issues identified in the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit have been satisfactorily addressed and that the layout will improve safety and promote permeability between the residential area and the retail area. Kildare County Councils Roads Planning Section also carried out a site inspection of the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing from the Castlewellan Park Estate to the Aldi Car Park Celbridge on the 9 June 2022 and agreed with the report from the Road Safety Auditor, Norma Bruton Consulting Engineers dated 17 May 2022.

In view of this, Kildare County Council Roads Planning Section is satisfied that the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing from the Castlewellan Park Estate to the Aldi Car Park Celbridge as constructed is in compliance with Condition 8 of Planning Permission Reference ABP-09-247364 and Kildare County Council Reference 16-260. A letter dated 25/07/2022 was issued by the Kildare County Council Compliance Section to the Developer to confirm compliance of Condition 8.

The report was noted.

CL14/0123

Collapsing Wall

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Galvin
Can the council confirm the up to date position on finding/contacting the landowner about repairing the collapsing wall on the Hazelhatch Road, opposite Primrose Village Estate, Celbridge?



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A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that Kildare County Council are endeavouring to contact the landowner in question. The location has been referred to the relevant team for investigation.

Councillor Galvin noted this had been raised a number of times and asked how the members would be notified when this had been done. She asked for it to be placed on the progress report for updates which was agreed to on the basis of the recurring nature of the question. Mr Linnane advised that this had been answered by the Environment Section and that the land in question was not registered with land registry. It was now being investigated under dangerous structures.

It was agreed for this item to be placed on the progress report.

The report was noted

CL15/0123

Celbridge Community First Responders

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

That this Municipal District Committee receive a deputation from Celbridge Community First Responders at the February Municipal District meeting.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Section informing the members that if agreed by the members the Meeting Administrator will write to the group to invite them to attend subject to the rules for receipt of deputations.

The members raised the following:

- The importance of the community responder schemes within the community.
- That funding provided previously aided the start-up of the scheme and without funding this wouldn't have been possible. There was a reduction in funding during Covid and that there was a need for more defibrillators in the area and concern over ambulance response times.
- That Leixlip community responders were also up and running and looking for volunteers.



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Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Galvin and agreed by the members it was agreed for a letter to be written to the committee inviting them to deliver an information session regarding the service they provide. The report was noted.

The Cathaoirleach proposed suspension of standing orders until 11.10 for a short break. This was seconded by Councillor Cussen and agreed by all members.

CL16/0123

Anti Social Behaviour

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen
That the council review estate management plans for all housing estates in this municipal district to manage issues arising in respect of barriers (anti social behaviour) across estates of mixed tenancies where part 5, leased units or cost rental arise.

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

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that Kildare County Council is not required to have estate management plans for individual estates. The Anti-Social Behaviour strategy which is currently being reviewed outlines how the Council deals with anti-social behaviour by Council tenants. Potential tenants are Garda vetted prior to receiving an allocation. The Council may refuse or defer a letting on the grounds of anti-social behaviour.

Currently, background preparation work is under way regarding the review of the Council's Allocations Scheme for Social Housing. When a proposed draft is considered by the Housing SPC, it will be brought before full Council, for its consideration. In addition, our Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy is also under review. Both of these documents currently exist and are the basis of the Council's estate management policy.

It is important to note that what is considered as "anti-social" behaviour is clearly defined in Housing legislation and our Tenant Liaison Officers (TLOs) do not have the authority to stray outside of these legislative constraints. Section 19 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2014 defines "anti-social" behaviour as:



‘anti-social behaviour’ includes either or both of the following, namely—

(a) the manufacture, production, preparation, importation, exportation, sale, supply, possession for the purposes of sale or supply, or distribution of a controlled drug (within the meaning of the Misuse of Drugs Acts 1977 to 2007),

(b) any behaviour which causes or is likely to cause any significant or persistent danger, injury, damage, alarm, loss or fear to any person living, working or otherwise lawfully in or in the vicinity of a house provided by a housing authority under the Housing Acts 1966 to 2014 or Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 or a housing estate in which the house is situate and, without prejudice to the foregoing, includes—

(i) violence, threats, intimidation, coercion, harassment or serious obstruction of any person,

(ii) behaviour which causes any significant or persistent impairment of a person’s use or enjoyment of his or her home, or

(iii) damage to or defacement by writing or other marks of any property, including a person’s home.

The current legislation allows a Local Authority to investigate/deal with complaints made in respect of the tenancy of local authority property. In order to treat both sides to a complaint fairly and equally, oral complaints are not entertained, and a written complaint is required. A signed complaint form is needed, in order to ensure that all necessary information is provided. The Tenant Liaison Officers strive to resolve and manage complaints regarding alleged anti-social behaviour by using informal and amicable methods and only resort to formal court-related steps as a last resort.

The Tenant Liaison Officers currently work very closely with their counterparts in the Council’s Community section, the local Gardai, the local voluntary groups and with the residents of Council housing estates in the management of local authority owned estates. The Council does not have the authority to manage non Council-owned estates or private housing estates. However, the Tenant Liaison Officers (TLOs) do work with tenants in Council owned housing units located within private estates.



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The Tenant Liaison Officers do not have the authority to interfere in situations or occurrences that take place outside of the curtilage of the tenancy property, in public areas of private housing estates. In addition, both the Council and the tenant are subject to the conditions and terms of the Tenancy Agreement and the Council cannot impose additional terms and conditions to those that were included in the signed Tenancy Agreement.

The members raised the following

- Thanked the Section for a detailed report and sought clarification on how to deal with anti-social behaviour across 2 separate estates. Currently if behaviour was carried out in another estate to where the tenant lives or where individuals live in two different estates, that this can't be investigated by the council. It was felt that there was an anomaly in the policy and procedures with no fixed estate management plan in place.
- The members noted when the Allocations Policy is reviewed by SPC that this would be an opportunity to again review this issue.

Ms Cooke informed the members that the Tenant Liaison Officers can only operate within their powers and that they work with *council* tenants of both council estates and within private estates. Where issues arise, it may not always just be between council tenants and if it's a public order offense that this would fall under the remit of An Garda Síochána and not Kildare County Council.

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

CL17/0123

Maintenance of Estates

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen. That the council provide an update on the maintenance arrangements for council housing units in the municipal district in tabular form indicating which entity is responsible for maintenance of which batches of units within estates and showing any externally appointed maintenance contracts and those that might still be covered by (snagging arrangements) the developer.



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

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that Kildare County Council Housing Maintenance is responsible for the maintenance of all council housing, specifically for repairs which fall within the curtilage of the property. Kildare County Council engages a number of contractors to undertake maintenance of houses as part of the response maintenance and pre-letting repairs programmes. Works are undertaken by a contractor as per a schedule of works and contractors are responsible for snagging, which are verified by Kildare County Council's Maintenance Team

The appointment of a Contractor to carry out repairs or refurbishment is not determined by area, it is dictated by framework guidelines, Contractor availability, cost, urgency and the nature of the expertise required.

Councillor Killeen thanked the section for the report and would discuss further offline explaining that she sought clarification on what were the responsibilities of Kildare County Council, the management companies and what was down to the developer to maintain. It was noted of a wider issue when it comes to open spaces but would discuss further offline.

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

CL18/0123

Retrofitting

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

Can the council outline how many properties in the council's housing stock have been retrofitted since January 2022 in the municipal district and how many are outstanding?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that 32 units have been completed in 2022 under the retrofit programme at Lough Na Mona, no units outstanding.

Councillor Liston sought clarification on how the council decide on targets as a percentage.

Ms Barry advised they are awaiting 2023 targets and regarding budget allocation 100 percent doesn't come from the department it relies on revenue budget for the shortfall.

In 2021-2022 there were 154 units under the (EERP), Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme. The report was noted.



CL19/0123

Parklets

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillors Cussen and Caldwell

That the council carry out an assessment on the Parklets in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District to include their maintenance, condition, usage, expected ongoing use, accessibility, planting/replanting requirements etc with a view to recommending how these will be maintained or if recommended, removed going forward.

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

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team that they will carry out the requested assessment and will produce a report for the municipal district.

- The members noted that the area at the bottom of Captains Hill needed maintaining, currently all dead plants needed replacing.
- Celbridge Tidy Towns were doing a great job at maintaining the area and thanked them for their hard work. Leixlip Tidy Towns had been contacted and agreed to assist if needed.
- It was questioned if all the parklets were still required and if this could be investigated and was there a need for some LPT allocation to assist maintenance.

Mr Conlan advised the members that he would contact the Parks Section regarding Captains Hill. He noted the positive feedback received from teenagers using these facilities. It was felt that some areas around the municipal district which were being called parklets were privately owned by businesses, and raised questions regarding the need for licensing under planning legislation, Section 254, which are being reviewed.

The report was noted.

CL20/0123

Supply for GP

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



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That the council take the current levels of demand outstripping supply for GP appointments in Celbridge into account in all planning applications for additional housing submitted this year.

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

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that all Planning Applications are considered on their own merits according to Planning Legislation and the provisions of the County Development Plan. The appointment of an appropriate GP service is a matter for the HSE and Kildare County Council has no input into such matters.

The members raised the following,

- That Kildare's population had increased by 11 percent.
- Would it be possible for the HSE to be notified of an increase in services needed in an area as a condition at the planning application stage
- That the current list of available resources come from out-of-date census data.
- Could this matter be raised through the council representation at the Regional Health Forum.
- Realised this was not only a county wide issue but country wide and that the lack of services shouldn't prevent planning within the area.

Mr Conlan confirmed the LAP would be using the latest up to date data. He noted this was a national issue and that there was no provision to prevent development. He also reaffirmed that this was a matter for the HSE not Kildare County Council.

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

CL21/0123

Habitat and Townland Boundaries Survey

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



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Can the council confirm the month in which the habitat survey of Moortown Woods and the Townland Boundaries Hedgerow Survey will be carried out, given that LPT funding has been provided in 2022 and as the studies are outstanding on previous time frames provided?

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that subject to procurement, it is anticipated that the habitat survey of Moortown Woods will commence this Spring. A commencement date for the Townland Boundaries Hedgerow Survey has not been secured to date. A further update on both projects will be brought to the Municipal District meeting in February.

The report was noted.

CL22/0123

Unauthorised Development

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

Can the council confirm what the current turnaround time is on unauthorised development complaints in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that when a complaint is received regarding an alleged breach of Planning legislation which could potentially lead to an Unauthorised Development case it is examined under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

If it is considered a potential breach, it is then assigned to an Enforcement Officer in order that a site inspection can be carried out. After site visit the complaint is either closed (requiring no further action) or dealt with by administration requiring a Warning Letter to be issued to the alleged offender requiring that the appropriate remedial action be taken to address the alleged offence. It is legally required that the alleged offender be given a period of time which can vary from 4 weeks to six months to rectify depending on the severity. If no action has been taken then an Enforcement Notice is issued following a further site investigation. Again the alleged offender has to be given time to respond and this response could be in the form of rectifying the breach by applying for retention permission. If no action



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has been taken through the initial steps then the matter is referred through our law agent to the Court System for hearing. Depending on the workload of the Courts System this could be called for hearing within a few months. There is no definitive turnaround time because every alleged Unauthorised Development varies significantly and in many cases can be rectified after Warning Letter or Enforcement Notice but some can drag through the courts for long periods of time through adjournments etc.

Councillor Galvin noted a detailed report but felt it didn't address the question on turnaround time.

Mr Conlan informed the members that the area of enforcement was very complex and that each case was different. For some a warning letter could resolve the case whereas for other cases it could take months or even years to resolve. That engagement was required and in some cases people were not willing to engage and this could lead to high court hearings, and the Council were at the mercy of the Courts regarding scheduling/hearings.

Due to this, an exact time frame cannot be determined.

The report was noted.

CL23/0123

Bring Banks

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

Can the council confirm if the in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District are scheduled for more regular emptying at times of higher than expected normal demand, for example Christmas time?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the usage of bottle banks tends to increase around the Christmas period. For example, volumes at the Leixlip (Lidl) recycling site in 2022 rose from 34 tonnes in November to 44 tonnes in December. Kildare County Council made arrangements with its service provider to boost the collection frequency over Christmas. The Council also raised servicing levels in terms of removing dumped materials from the bottle bank sites. The Council is confident that the sites in the municipal district were maintained satisfactorily over this period and will continue to monitor the situation.



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Councillor Cussen noted some negative comments on social media over the Christmas period and thanked the department for their report, she was happy to see that an increase in usage had been expected and therefore arrangements had already been made.

Mr Kavanagh advised the members to let the Council know should any issues arise and that the Council carried out regular inspections.

The report was noted.

CL24/0123

Dumping Incident, Celbridge

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

Can the council provide an update on progress in respect of the investigations/testing into the environmental dumping incident in Celbridge?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the site has been remediated by the site owner to Kildare County Council's satisfaction and the Environment Department has closed its investigation into this complaint

Councillor Killeen explained that she had spoken to the Department and further information was required for investigation.

Mr Kavanagh advised that this incident dated back to August-September of last year. The waste was predominantly earth and stone. What remained now was not deemed a concern for the environment, he questioned if this was a matter for planning under unauthorised development but couldn't confirm.

The report was noted.

CL25/0123

Confey Cemetery

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

Can the council provide an update on Confey cemetery flooding issues and capacity proposals?

A report was received from the Water Section informing the members that as previously outlined, it is unlikely to be possible to extend the cemetery at the existing location due to a relatively high water table in its vicinity. The Council has therefore provisionally identified an alternative site in the Leixlip area though discussions with the landowner are not yet



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concluded. The members will be kept informed on this. In the interim, the Council is actively examining the possible identification of additional space for plots within the existing cemetery as an interim measure. A briefing to the Municipal District members will be given on this aspect will be given at the February meeting.

The members raised the following,

- Reports of water ankle deep in parts of the cemetery
- Flood report carried out during covid with drainage measures suggested to be put in place. It was questioned if flooding remediation had been done or had worked.

Mr Kavanagh explained that discussion had been held but nothing was previously agreed and that there would be high costs involved in such works. He confirmed that discussion regarding capacity in the cemetery were due to take place next month with the intention that the Director of Services would attend.

The report was noted.

CL26/0123

Leixlip Spa

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville
That the council confirm what works may be enabled for the Leixlip Spa during the period of the greenway update as there will be less traffic which will provide an opportunity for the enhancement of the whole area.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that a Part 8 is currently being prepared for Leixlip Spa. This involves improvements works to approve the amenity of the site, improve and protect the existing architectural features and safety of the site. These are currently at draft stage. It is hoped to complete these by the end of Q1. The members will be briefed on the proposals before they are advertised.

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



CL27/0123

Sensory Garden, Confey

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

Can the council provide an update on the plans for the Sensory Garden in Confey?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the tender documents have been prepared for the construction of the sensory garden. It is planned to issue these in February and to have the garden constructed over the Summer.

The report was noted.

CL28/0123

Wonderful Barn

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

Can the council provide an update on plans for the Wonderful Barn, Leixlip?

A report was Received from the Roads Section informing the members that The Wonderful Barn Public Consultation closed 13 December. Around 350 responses were received. This information, once processed, will further inform and focus the proposed features for the project. A number of technical site investigation surveys will go to tender in the next few weeks as well as other survey work essential the Part 8. A Business Case Assessment Study will be procured this month, essential to support URDF or other funding application.

Issued by Mr J O'Neill, Senior Executive Engineer,

The report was noted.

CL29/0123

Tree Works Programme

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

Can the council provide an update on the timelines for the tree works programme in the municipal district?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that a tender for the works has been completed and we are in the process of appointing a contractor. A timeline for the works has to be determined with the successful contractor. The Council will circulate the programme and timeline for the works to the members once the Council has completed the appointment in the next few weeks.

The report was noted.



CL30/0123

Pop-Up Swimming Pool

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

Can the council provide an update on opening hours and plans around the new pop-up swimming pool in Leixlip?

A report was received from the Community Section informing the members that following a motion raised in June 2022 and associated discussions with the members of Leixlip Celbridge Municipal District, plans had progressed with Swim Ireland over the past few months regarding the pop-up pool which is planned to be installed in Leixlip GAA grounds in April 2023. Once funding has been confirmed through LPT, Swim Ireland will commence recruitment of staff for the facility and engagement with the local schools and community groups and publish timetables and opening hours.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.