



**Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting**  
**Held on Friday 20 October 2023 at 10:00 a.m**  
**In the Committee Room, Áras Chill Dara.**

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

**Officials Present** Mr D Hodgins (A/District Manager), Mr R Linnane (Municipal District Engineer), Ms M Higgins (Director of Services, Community, Climate, Environment and Water), Mr C Galvin (Senior Engineer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscape Officer), Ms J Hennessey (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms F Millane (Management Accountant), Ms S Barry (Administrative Officer), Ms Lorraine Kennedy (Administrative Officer), Mr T Shanahan (Meeting Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

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

**CL01/1023**

**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.

**CL02/1023**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on 15 September 2023 and the progress report.

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Cussen seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by the members, that the minutes of the monthly Celbridge Leixlip District meeting held on 15 September 2023 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.



**CL03/1023**

**Municipal District Road Works**

**Schedule of Municipal District works - October 2023**

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

**Winter Maintenance:**

The annual winter program of Jet-vacing of road gullies commenced on Monday 9 October. Works are expected to take from 6 to 8 weeks to complete. Hedge cutting operations are scheduled to commence on Monday 16 October and will continue for approximately 5 weeks. Programme of restoration of water cuts on rural roads will commence in mid-November.

**Road Works Programme 2023**

**Surface Dressing – Restoration Maintenance**

Surface dressing works carried out on May 29 Road from Killmacredock Roundabout to Celbridge Road at Barrogstown and Barrogstown Lane completed. Total of 3.25km of road surface dressed. 100% complete.

***Road Overlays - Restoration Improvement***

RI	Location	Start Date	End Date	Details
1	R149 Captains Hill and Cope Bridge	10 July	21 July	Works 100% complete
2	R404 Youngs Cross to Barnhall Roundabout	24 July	4 August	Works 100% complete
3	L5050 Catherinestown	8 August	11 August	Works 100% complete



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4	L5056 Green Lane Westfield to Kilmacredock Roundabout	28 August	31 August	Works 100% complete.
5	L1016 Wheatfield and L2008 Tipperstown	14 August	25 August	Works 100% complete

An additional section of the R403 Celbridge to Barberstown Road in the townlands of Ardrass Upper and Ardrass Lower will be resurfaced in early November to complete the restoration improvement programme for 2023. A tender competition has been carried out and the contract awarded. Additional works were possible due to the 5 RI projects planned for 2023 being brought in below estimated costs.

### **LPT projects/works.**

Sunday sweeping and bin emptying in Celbridge and Leixlip has now ceased.

### **Uisce Éireann Road Opening Licences:**

A written request has been made to the Uisce Éireann contractor on R403 Dublin Road and R405 Hazelhatch Road for a completion programme for their works to include any snagging, testing of the new pipe work and the final and permanent reinstatement of the roads.

The members raised the following:

- Parks Section were thanked for their work with the trees in pots on the Main Street.
- It was noted that the Sunday sweeping and bin collection was funded through LPT allocations and that the Saturday sweeping and collection of bins would still continue.
- The members expressed congratulations to Celbridge and Leixlip on their Gold win in the Tidy Towns Awards noting also that the Celbridge - Straffan Parish also obtained 2 golds.
- Remarked on the efficient cleaning up following on from the successful street festival last month where 7,000 people attended.



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Mr. Linnane advised that there would be no reimbursement of LPT monies as the RI Grant has specific use restrictions when allocated. He also advised that he would share an email from Irish Water regarding management of works.

### CL04/1023

#### **Celbridge-Leixlip Draft Budget Plan 2024**

A report was previously circulated to the members with an update on the Celbridge-Leixlip Draft Budget Plan 2024

Ms Millane informed the members that in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the total draft General Municipal Allocation (GMA) for Kildare County Council was €18,136,919 of which €5,680,122 is based on the retained LPT as voted for by the members in September.

The provisional allocation for the General Municipal Allocation for the Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District is €3,271,938 (€2,831,778 in 2023)

She explained that it was a reserve function of the members of a municipal district to adopt the draft budgetary plan either with or without amendment and that the Chief Executive may take account of the draft budgetary plan, as presented to the members of that municipal district, without amendment, if they do not adopt a draft budgetary plan.

Ms Millane advised the members

- There had been an increase in playground and outdoor gym allocations due to increase in general costs.
- That Tidy Towns allocation was now split down by population category, and this was the same across the county
- That Parks landscaping also included maintenance of roundabouts.
- Residents Association grants were categorised based on acreage and grants come from central funding, excluding any LPT allocations. An amount from this central funding was put aside for new estates.
- Budget established for new 3-person team in Public Realm for maintenance, reporting to the Area Engineer. Subject to progression of recruitment, it was hoped these teams would be in place next year.



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This role would include duties such as:

- \* Maintenance of planters
- \* Maintenance of entrances to towns and villages
- \* Street furniture maintenance
- \* Other additional landscaping works
- \* During winter the new role would include actively managing council owned lands, staff cover and to assist with playground maintenance.

The members welcomed the report and raised the following:

- Great to see the new role of Public Realm Maintenance Team
- Queried where the money from Festival Grants would go if an event did not take place.
- Why value for playgrounds was so low compared to other municipal districts.
- Concerns raised regarding lack of support for Health and Safety Officer, noting that Kildare County Council had Access Groups in place but not enough staff to support these projects.

Ms Millane advised the members that:

- Monies from Festival Grants would go back into the pot as it came from revenue and not LPT allocations. Suggested discussions would need to be had with Director of Services on this matter.
- Playground allocations was based on number of playgrounds in situ and maintenance of same. The provision of new playgrounds would therefore be a matter for the capital programme meeting and not included in the revenue allocations.
- On the Health and Safety resourcing, the issue of additional staff would need to be raised directly from the section and this could then be investigated in terms of any sanction needed. Ms. Millane undertook to follow this up with the relevant Director.
- Mr Hodgins advised the members that each Directorate had been looking into work force planning around increasing or decreasing staffing in each area. Ms. Millane noted that currently the council are unsure what number of the water services staff would be coming back for redeployment, which makes work force planning more



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problematic, though its hoped there would be more certainty around the Work Force Plan in 2024.

**Resolved** On the proposal of Councillor Cussen and seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by all the members, the budgetary plan previously distributed was adopted without amendment.

The members agreed to take item 12 from the agenda with item 5 as relating to Christmas Parking arrangements.

### **CL05/1023**

#### **Christmas parking arrangements**

The members agreed to defer this item till the November municipal district meeting noting that there was a related joint motion on the agenda at the plenary meeting and that they wished to wait till after this to reevaluate the topic of Christmas parking within their Municipal District for 2023.

### **Item 12**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman  
That Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District members agree to the provision of free pay parking over the Christmas period (with enforcement of illegal parking in place) for 3 hours per day, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on dates between 11 December to 29 December inclusive.  
A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that this is a matter for the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District members to consider and agree on the Christmas parking.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Coleman but did not receive a seconder, therefore this item fell.

### **CL06/1023**

#### **Ralph Square in Leixlip**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell  
That the council commence the taking in charge of Ralph Square in Leixlip.



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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that prior to commencing a process to take in charge Ralph Square, research would need to be carried out to identify the lands in Ralph Square in private ownership. The registered owners of the lane would be required to request the areas in their ownership to be taken in charge and the areas will need to be of a required standard to be taken in charge by Kildare County Council.

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

The members agreed to defer Councillor Killeen's items until later in the meeting as she was not yet present to discuss them, at this point.

### CL07/1023

#### Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Galvin  
That the council install a path or similar from The Drive to The Park in Oldtown Mill, Celbridge.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office would investigate pedestrian desire lines between the Drive and the Park in Oldtown Mill to establish the need and most appropriate location for any potential footpath. Costings will also be estimated to determine funding requirements. Councillor Galvin welcomed the report noting that she had spoken to the Area Engineer regarding same.

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

The members agreed to defer Councillor Neville's items to later in the meeting as he was not present to discuss them, at this point.



**CL08/1023**

**Henry Bridge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman  
That the council introduce a weight limit on heavy vehicles using Henry Bridge over the canal in Ardclough.

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

A report was received from the Bridge Team informing the members that the need for a weight restriction at Henry Bridge, Ardclough would be considered by Kildare County Council in collaboration with the Bridge Asset Owner, Waterways Ireland.

The members raised the following:

- That the traffic movement over the bridge needed further investigation, the members appreciated that some people had no option but to use this bridge.
- That Google maps was directing traffic over this bridge which was a narrow humpback bridge in a rural area. Could Google maps be contacted regarding this?
- Could weight restrictions be investigated on this bridge or would a HGV ban be better, as long as local farming machinery was not adversely impacted?
- It was questioned if there was any monitoring of old bridges around the county?

The Area Engineer advised the members that he would discuss the matter further with Waterways Ireland and investigate whether weight restrictions were needed. The area engineers understood that TII would have the lists of bridges in the county.

The Acting District Manager advised the members that the bridge in question was not owned by Kildare County Council and there were a couple of stakeholders involved. If weight restriction or HGV ban is an option, this would be decided after consultation with Waterways Ireland and at this stage consideration around enforcement would need to be investigated e.g. who would weigh the vehicles.

With regards Google maps, unfortunately there was no mechanism in place to instruct Google regarding their mapping system.





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

### **CL09/1023**

#### **Irish Public Bodies Insurance**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville  
That the council put in place a phased plan to avail of Irish Public Bodies Insurance (IPB) type funding to update the footpaths in Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Municipal District office can carry out an exercise to establish the extent and the cost for the replacement of the footpath surfaces on the main street in Leixlip and report back to the members on potential funding requirements to determining potential funding sources. Previous reports to the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District elected members questions and motions in relation to the condition of the footpaths on the main street in Leixlip have indicated that the footpaths are in reasonable condition, are maintainable and serviceable. The members raised the following:

- That a very specific source of funding of around €200,000 was previously promised
- This matter was an ongoing issue raised during local meeting by residents. The footpaths were causing access issues for wheelchair users and people using rollators. These footpaths were in good condition in late 90's but were now dilapidated and torn up.
- That key considerations should be design and specifications therefore any upgrade would look uniform and not result on a patchwork approach.

The area engineer advised the members that a street survey would be carried out and findings reported. Costings would then be collated, and possible funding sources investigated. If funding was successful, the project would be done as a whole or may possibly split into 3 sections.

The Acting District Manager informed the members that the programme of works would be bought forward, and funding sources investigated, noting that possible funding opportunities could be lost if works were done prematurely.



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

The members agreed to take items 10 and 13 from the agenda together as they were regarding the same subject.

### CL10/1023

#### Lights on Royal Canal

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville  
That the council provide an update on when the lights will be installed at the greenway between the two Leixlip train stations on the Royal Canal.

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

The members also considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell  
Can the council confirm when the lights on the new pathway along the canal in Leixlip will be switched on?

A report was received from Sustainable Transport Section informing the members that the contractor for Section 1 has left site and the Sustainable Transport Section is following up with ESB Networks to prioritise the provision of an electricity supply for the lighting. Once a supply is connected to the network then the team will arrange testing and commissioning of the lights. No timescale has been provided by ESB Networks.

The members raised the following:

- That lack of lighting was a safety issue especially during Winter.
- Concerns raised that no time frame was available from the ESB.

The Acting District Manager asked for the public to be made aware that the delay in lighting was not being caused by Kildare County Council and that requests had been made to the ESB for a time frame.

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



**CL11/1023**

**Slowing Traffic**

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

Can the council confirm what options can be pursued for slowing traffic on the Station to Hazelhatch Road before the Shinkeen Road junction, in the short term?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Municipal District office can carry out a speed survey on the identified section of the R405 Hazelhatch Road to determine if there is an issue with speeding. Kildare County Councils Traffic Calming Guidance Document alongside other National Guidance Documents are used to determine potential traffic calming measures to be deployed in response to identified speeding issues. Depending on the speed limit, the categorisation of the road and the extent of a speeding issue detected, the potential measures deployed can include signage, road marking, driver feedback signs, bollards, reduced carriageway width, priority systems and vertical deflection.

The report was noted.

**CL12/1023**

**Bridge on Hazelhatch Road**

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

Can the council confirm what additional signage or road markings would be possible at the bridge on Hazelhatch Road?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the bridge on the Hazelhatch Road going over the railway line does not present any issues that require any additional road markings or signage.

The bridge on the Hazelhatch Road over the canal is in South Dublin County Council area and not in Kildare County Council remit.

The Municipal Engineer clarified that the Councillor was referring to the main bridge and the traffic coming from the Hazelhatch side. It was agreed that additional signage would be investigated.

The report was noted.

The members agreed to suspend standing orders in order to take a break for 10 minutes.



**CL13/1023**

**Special Area Amenity Order**

The members considered the following motion in the names of Councillors Cussen and Councillor Liston

That the council carry out a scoping exercise to identify a potential site for a Special Area Amenity Order SAAO in the Liffey Valley area.

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

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that the LR O24 of the Kildare County Development Plan sets out an objective to “support and promote an extension of the proposed Special Amenity Area Order (SAAO) for the Liffey Valley from Lucan to Leixlip and other parts of the Valley within County Kildare”. The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) makes provision for the identification/designation of an SAAO. An area can be declared an SAAO where the planning authority considers the area to be of outstanding natural beauty or its special recreation value. Furthermore, an SAAO requires Ministerial Consent.

In order to provide an evidence-based approach to any potential future designation, the Heritage, Conservation and Biodiversity Team, within the Forward Planning Department will prepare a position paper and scoping report (including details of cost and resource requirements) in Q1 2024 to inform the next stages of identifying a Special Amenity Area for the Liffey Valley from Lucan to Leixlip. Further details will be provided to the members on completion.

Both Councillor Cussen and Councillor Liston welcomed the report and looked forward to seeing this progress.

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

**CL14/1023**

**Willowbrook Park (Aghards), Celbridge.**

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

That the council commence a masterplan for Willowbrook Park (Aghards), Celbridge.



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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the member that the Section has set out a works programme for the current year. The projects identified in it will continue into 2024. There will not be scope to add projects like the masterplan suggested.

Councillor Cussen expressed her disappointment with the report asking for a time frame and why there was no master plan in place considering there was only one public park in the Celbridge area. She questioned if there were issues with the title and noted reports of land being transferred for school use.

The members raised the following,

- In a previous motion there was a response which stated that the title was outstanding.
- When the title was secured could things then progress or was it dependent on a masterplan
- Only one public park in Celbridge which was used well by the local community and was used even more during Covid.
- That there had been a previous request for the addition of a carpark for people with disabilities.

Mr Wallace advised the members that there was no masterplan and no immediate plans to prepare a plan given existing commitments to existing projects. Kildare County Council took all the land in question in charge but only had title to some of the lands. However, Kildare County Council were engaged in a legal process to get title to the remainder of the land. He confirmed that Scoil Mochua had enquired into acquiring some of the open space for an extension to the school to cater for a special needs unit.

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

**CL15/1023**

### **The Abbey, Celbridge**

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



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That the council relocate the playground from The Abbey, Celbridge using the €10k set aside in last year's LPT budget if necessary.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the majority of the equipment in the playground is owned by St John of God and was refurbished when the playground was reopened in 2016. The only units belonged to Kildare County Council are a ship unit, sand pit and picnic bench. There is currently no suitable site to relocate the units to. Additionally, any work required to relocate equipment will have to be considered in the context of the existing works programme and a budget to carry out the work.

Councillor Galvin noted that this item had been raised consistently and that the motion was put on the agenda following on from the letter received from St John of Gods advising the members that the park would not be reopening and facilitating the removal of the playground equipment. Following on from earlier revenue budget meeting Councillor Galvin felt that this municipal district was not getting its fair share of funding when it comes to playground allocations. Currently there was only one playground with one toddler swing for population of 20,000.

The members raised the following.

- That the revenue allocations discussed earlier were to maintain existing playgrounds
- Costings to remove the existing equipment would need to be investigated.

The acting District Manager advised the members that the report was the response from the Executive that there was no suitable site available.

Mr Wallace advised that that

- Currently there were no obvious locations available and €10,000 would not be enough. The park in Leixlip had costings of €60,000.
- The maintenance budget reflected the number of parks currently in situ
- That discussions were still ongoing with St John of Gods.
- Currently the priority within the section was the youth facility.



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Councillor Galvin confirmed she understood the allocation under revenue as allocation on a per park basis but that there was still currently 3-4 less parks than in other municipal districts. She noted that there were 2 potential sites but would not progress to becoming suitable without investment.

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

### CL16/1023

#### Playground, Leixlip Amenities Centre

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

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the design for the car park is currently being completed by consultants. We hope to tender this at the end of the month. The design and construction of the playground will be tendered by the end of November. It is hoped to start the car park works in February 2024 and the playground in April - May 2024 but these timeframes will be dependent on the contractors who win the works, their lead times and weather.

The report was noted.

The members agreed to take item 26 from the agenda next as it was also a Parks item.

### CL17/1023

#### Planters on Main Street, Celbridge

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

Can the council provide an update on when strips will be placed on the planters on Main Street, Celbridge to assist the visually impaired?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that it is proposed to install reflective strips on the planters in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.



**CL18/1023**

**Cluid Designs**

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

Can the council provide an update on the Cluid designs for the area at the old ESB location outlining what facilities will be available for the wider Community.

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the design proposals from Cluid are still being developed and a presentation will be arranged with Municipal District members once proposals are sufficiently advanced.

The report was noted.

The members agreed to take item 28 from the agenda next

**CL19/1023**

**Civic Amenity site**

The members received a PowerPoint presentation with an update on the Civic Amenity site for North Kildare following on from previous update in March 2023.

Ms Higgins advised the members that

- This was a priority project within the municipal district and needed to be delivered.
- The aim was to work collaboratively with the Director of Services from the Roads Section and to combine the two projects of delivering a Civic Amenity Centre and an Area Office. Currently designs were being investigated. Mr Buggie, Mr Linnane and Mr Galvin were currently working on this.
- The big challenge was funding as currently there were no grants available in the short term and hoped potentially grants would become available in the future. Therefore, to progress the project forward initially on understanding there was no funding available and that the Capital funding for the next 3 years would need to rely on a loan.
- The Roads Section had a budget at present to start to move the project forward.
- The original plan that went to Part 8 had costings of over €5 million to deliver and this did not include details of running costs.
- Needed to ensure the facility was fit for purpose with shared welfare facilities.

The members raised the following





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- If positioned in North Kildare that LPT allocation could potentially be sought from a number of municipal districts and was a costing available
- Clarification sought on implications of taking out a loan and associated risks involved. The members questioned if any other projects had gone this route.
- Asked would the design be completely different to the initial one that went to Part 8. The previous design had an educational element and this should not be omitted.
- Great to see momentum but as discussed during last update the members did not want to see a downscale in design.
- Would the current area office be sold off or be used for alternative purpose?
- Regarding the monies from the selling of the Lufthansa site. Had funding from this been put aside for this project.

Ms Higgins responded:

- likely would have to go to part 8 again with the project, some elements of previous part 8 may be transferable, difficult to be definitive yet without final draft design.
- confirming that monies from the sale of the Lufthansa site would be going into the project.
- the educational element could prove challenging, noting that the library services offer educational element, but again, design not finalised.
- the timing of a national review on waste facilities will feed into the design also.
- the current area office would likely be retained for other use as the council do not want to sell any of their strategic sites.
- this project is a Capital Project so any progress would be brought back to the members in due course, but loan charges are from revenue budget, however another MD had recently used a loan recently on a capital project, so its not unprecedented.
- no costings available as yet but the members will be kept fully informed at key stages.

**CL20/1023**

### **Airport Flying Patterns**

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



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Can the council confirm which department is notified in Kildare County Council when there is a change in airport flying patterns in other local authority areas that significantly impact residents in the municipal district?

A report was received from Corporate Services informing the members that it had checked with various departments and have found that Kildare County Council are not informed of changes to flying patterns over Kildare.

Councillor Liston asked for this to be looked into further.

The Acting District Manager agreed to look into the mechanism on how the council would be informed.

The report was noted.

### CL21/1023

#### Community Grants 2023 Round 2

The members considered the Community Grants 2023 Round 2 (report previously circulated)

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members that the Community Grants 2023 Round 2 be approved.

### CL22/1023

#### Draft Climate Action Plan

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

That the council prepare video-based explanatory materials and participate where possible in local evening workshops on the Draft Climate Action Plan in the Municipal District, in order to assist communities to: 1) understand and consider the proposed draft and 2) to feedback effectively during this consultation period.

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

A report was received from the Climate Action Section informing the members that the consultation process requires notifications in local newspapers and to prescribed bodies to advise of the consultation period and process together with the public display of the documents concerned. All items statutorily required were advanced in a timely manner. In addition, notifications were sent to a wider range of stakeholders than required, social media



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was used to reach a greater audience and drop in clinics in the main library of each Municipal District arranged. The drop in clinics are at different days of the week, and different times of the day including a 5:00.p.m -7.30.p.m clinic on the 26 October in Newbridge Library to increase accessibility. Video based material has not been advanced. Workshops were undertaken in Maynooth for the decarbonising zone (chapter 5) and submissions from other public consultations used to inform the climate action plan process given the abundance of consultation undertaken in the county.

To assist with further awareness and consultation, the Climate Action Office partook and presented on the Climate Action Plan in the Maynooth Green Communities Low Carbon Consultation on the evening of 28 September in Maynooth and emphasised the consultation process. We continue to make ourselves available to assist in people's understanding and consideration of the draft document, feedback has been very positive to date and we look forward to the meaningful submissions by the closing date of 3 November.

Councillor Liston raised the following.

- What plans were in place for public engagement in the meetings.
- That many groups were willing to get involved in workshops
- Could members be included in the process.
- It was felt that things were not written in plain English so therefore not inclusive to all.
- Questioned what scope was, as not clear from consultation.
- Asked for further comment around video explanations.
- Could the workshops cover the statutory process?

Councillor Liston asked for this to be followed up with the Climate Action Team and clarity be sought prior to the beginning of the plan-adoption phase.

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

### CL23/1023

#### Community and Roads Capital Projects

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

Can the council provide a report with timeline for all key upcoming Community and Roads Capital Projects in our municipal district be given to members?



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A report was received from both the Public Realm Section and the roads section informing the members that the Celbridge and Leixlip Town Renewal Plans are due to be published by the end of the year, they are not showing in next year's Capital Programme as the spend will take place this year.

The only other item we have is the Wonderful Barn, we are at pre-part 8 stage and cannot at this time give a timeline for its publication.

That the next quarterly update on Roads Capital Projects will be delivered at the November Municipal District meeting. This will provide an up-to-date summary of all projects throughout the county.

Councillor Cussen was disappointed with the report and would await the update at the November meeting.

The report was noted.

### **CL24/1023**

#### **Community Centre, Leixlip**

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

Can the council confirm that the buildings due to be CPO'd in Leixlip will be handed over to the community for use as a community centre?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the council have currently commenced the CPO process on three derelict sites in Leixlip. No decision will be made on their use until after the CPO process has been successfully completed.

Councillor Killeen sought clarity and agreed to discuss offline.

The report was noted

### **CL25/1023**

#### **North Kildare Swimming Pool Project**

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

Can the council provide an update on the North Kildare swimming pool project including efforts made to get a final outcome on the Maynooth pool application from the Department and Leixlip pop up pool usage?

A report was received from the Community Section informing the members that in April 2019, Kildare County Council applied to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in respect of an application from the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund



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(LSSIF) to provide for a swimming pool in North Kildare (at Maynooth University). The application was not successful, and an appeal was submitted in respect of the decision in February 2020.

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

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

The Pop-up Pool in Leixlip has been one of the most popular locations for this Swim Ireland project to date. Attendance at the pool since the launch is summarised into the various target groups below. This information will be used in all future discussions and applications regarding a swimming facility in the North of Kildare.

Swim Ireland Programme	Attendance
<b>Learn to Swim - Level 1-5</b>	2061
<b>Adult Learn to Swim</b>	224
<b>Learn to Swim 10+ and Teen</b>	44
<b>Public Swim</b>	1069
<b>School Swims</b>	1342
<b>Pre-School Splash Lessons 3-5 Year Olds</b>	296
<b>Private Birthday Party Hire</b>	108
<b>Summer Camp</b>	300



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Aqua Aerobic	9
<b>Kildare Sports Partnership Programme</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Female Swim	54
Kildare Traveller Girls Swimming Lessons	22
Adults with Intellectual Disabilities	18
Junior Wheelchair Swim Group	46
Kildare Traveller Action Group - Female	36
Kildare Traveller Action Group - Male	62
Female Swimming Lessons	45
Midlife Swimming Woman	22
Older Adult Aqua Aerobic	12
Parent and Toddler Class	20
Kids with Additional Needs Lessons	408

Clarification was sought on what a follow up was and how often follow ups were carried out. The report was noted.

### CL26/1023

#### Flood Alleviation Study

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Coleman  
Can the council provide an update on a timeline from start to finish on the Celbridge and Hazelhatch flood alleviation study following the approval of funding by the Department and when will the report be available for the members?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that a further study for the Hazelhatch Area of Further Assessment (AFA) was carried out and completed in 2021. The associated flood extent maps are available on the council website at the following link.

<https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=1340&r=show&u=https%3A%2F%2Fkildarecoco.ie%2FYourCouncil%2FPublications%2FEnvironment%2FHazelhatchFloodReliefScheme%2F&t=bc3199390f1be15131f4fe75af39cf22a7b08f6f>

The Office of Public Works (OPW) have recently completed a Scheme Viability Review of the Celbridge AFA. It is hoped to merge the outputs of the Scheme Viability review with the



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Hazelhatch Study to determine the viability of a flood relief scheme for Celbridge and Hazelhatch. Progress of a potential scheme is subject to prioritisation by the OPW. The report was noted.

### **CL27/1023**

#### **Yellow Boxes**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen  
That the council install yellow boxes outside of Oldtown Woods in Celbridge and Barnhall in Leixlip to facilitate safe departure from these estates.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the primary function of yellow boxes is to facilitate the exit of vehicles from a higher priority road onto lower priority road to minimise the possibility of queuing back that may affect the cross flow of a significant junction. The entrance of Oldtown Wood is 230 metres from the Shackelton Road, Oldtown Road signalised junction. There is no evidence queuing is being caused by vehicles trying to enter Oldtown Wood affecting the Shackelton Road, Oldtown Road junction. A yellow box is not warranted at this location.

The entrance to Barnhall Meadows off the R404 Celbridge Road in Leixlip is now fully signalised. There is no obvious area where a yellow box could improve the functionality of this junction. A yellow box is not warranted at this location.

Councillor Killeen was happy with the report and had spoken with the Area Engineer regarding same.

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

### **CL28/1023**

#### **Vacant Property Register**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Killeen  
Can the council provide an update on the vacant property register with the actual vacant properties presenting in Leixlip, Co. Kildare?



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A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that Kildare County Council does not keep a Vacant Property Register.

The Vacant Homes Section keeps a register for recording details of Vacant property investigations which contains notes in relation to the properties and any correspondence with property owners, this register is used for internal recording purposes only and is not available for public viewing.

The Vacant Homes Section have details of vacant properties in Leixlip and continue to engage with property owners to address vacancy, in cases where solutions to the vacancy issues are not forthcoming these properties are added to the Derelict Sites register.

The Derelict sites and Vacant sites registers are available for public viewing.

Councillor Killeen agreed to seek clarification offline.

The report was noted.

### **CL29/1023**

#### **Hawthorn Gate, Celbridge**

The members considered the taking in charge of DC5141 Hawthorn Gate, Celbridge (report previously circulated)

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by all members that DC5141 Hawthorn Gate, Celbridge be taken in charge.

### **CL30/1023**

#### **Beech Park, Leixlip**

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

That the council open up the right of way from Beech Park, Leixlip to The Wonderful Barn.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that Beech Park estate had not been taken in charge by Kildare County Council. The developer was required to submit details of a pedestrian link between Beech Park estate and Rinawade estate. The developer was not required to construct this link as part of their planning permission.





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

### CL31/1023

#### Castletown Demesne Lands

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen  
That the council seek legal advice in relation to the historical rights of way from Castletown Demesne lands from Leixlip and each of the Vistas and to see if these can be a part of the CPO process when it may commence.

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

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that Kildare County Council is in the process of obtaining legal advice on all matters pertaining to Castletown House.

However, this remains an ongoing and developing situation between the OPW and their new neighbours and the Council's position is that we continue to provide sufficient space to all parties to reach a negotiated outcome.

The members raised the following.

- Same issue was raised last month regarding right of way, update requested on this.
- That vistas were mapped in County Development Plan
- That Kildare County Council needed to look at CPO of carpark as people were now causing issues parking in different places.
- Members understood that after last month's meeting that legal advice was being sought. Was there any update on this? Are Kildare County Council working with the OPW on obtaining lands back.
- Understanding was that legal advice was to be sought regarding the ownership, then TIC of Castletown Woodview and land registry updated then would move onto Vistas and Right of Way.

Ms Granville advised the members that.



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- CPO process and Vistas were completely different processes and advised caution joining the two together.
- That CPO was not a planning issue.

The Meeting Administrator clarified that last month the District Manager had advised that the legal advice to be sought was primarily around the CPO process for the parties concerned. The Acting District manager advised that this was an emotive issue. All comments made would be minuted and reflected upon in time by the Executive. That this item had legal implications and outcomes would be brought back to the members.

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

### CL32/1023

#### Castletown lands

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

Can the council provide an outline of the status of the Castletown lands in the current Celbridge Local Area Plan and County Development Plan?

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that the lands at Castletown House and Demense are zoned “Open Space and Amenity” in the Celbridge Local Area Plan (LAP) the stated objective for which is “to protect and provide for open space, amenity and recreation”.

The Celbridge LAP also includes a specific objective for the preservation of the composite landscape of the demesnes of Castletown, Donaghcumper and St Wolstans. Policy HLA1- Historic Landscapes Areas sets out that it is the policy of the Council “to preserve the special landscape character of historic landscapes within Celbridge as set out on Map 13.1 Land Use Zoning”. Objective HLAO1.1 sets out that it is an objective of the Council “to protect the special landscape character of historic landscape areas and ensure that new development enhances the special character and visual setting of the historic landscapes outlined on Map 13.1 and to prevent development that would have a negative impact on the character of the lands within the Historic Landscape Areas”.

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 also makes provision under AH O24 (Chapter 11) “to safeguard the amenities of Castletown House including the main avenue,



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Donaghcumper, St Wolstans and the River Liffey environs” on lands as defined in Map ref V1-11.2 and entitled “Protected Area – Castletown – Donaghcumper”.

The report was noted.