



**Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
Held on Friday 24 March 2023 at 10:00 a.m
In the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.**

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

Apologies: Councillor Í Cussen and Councillor C Galvin.

Officials Present: Ms C Barrett (District Manager), Mr R Linnane (Municipal District Engineer), Mr J Boland (Director of Services), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscape Officer), Mr J Hennessy (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms P Pender (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr C Galvin (Senior Engineer), Ms S Bookle (LCDC Co-ordinator) Mr P O'Rourke (Climate Action Coordinator), Ms G Allen (Acting County Librarian), Ms S Barry (Administrative Officer), Mr T Shanahan (Meetings Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the March Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Meeting, noting that apologies had been received from both Councillor Cussen and Councillor Galvin.

CL01/0323

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.

CL02/0323

Minutes and Progress Report

The Cathaoirleach noted that a notice of motion for amendments to the minutes in accordance with Standing Orders was received from Councillor Cussen, Councillor Galvin and Councillor Coleman who requested amendments from the February meeting. The amendments had been circulated to the members. Since circulation, Councillor Galvin had



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withdrawn her amendments. Councillor Coleman proposed his amendment, but this was not seconded, and therefore fell.

As Councillor Cussen was not present at the meeting she had asked Councillor Liston to propose her amendment which was to add the following to Item CL04/0223 in the February minutes:

“and that the amounts agreed to-date would not be decreased” - This is to be added at end of the sentence in draft Minutes “The Cathaoirleach set out that the members had not yet agreed the final allocation of LPT,”

On the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Coleman and agreed by the members that the above amendment be included.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Friday, 17 February 2023 of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District with the addition of the circulated amendment from Councillor Cussen, be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CL03/0323

Municipal District Road Works

Schedule of works for Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District March 2023

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

All hedge cutting works ceased on 28 February.

Road works programme for 2023

Road Overlays - Restoration Improvement

Surface Dressing – Restoration Maintenance

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

Irish Water Road Opening Licences:



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Irish Water works on R403 and Hazelhatch road progressing. Roadworks on R403 to progress to Youngs Cross by end of March. Barnhall Road R404 to be closed for 5 days to facilitate works to traverse junction. Irish Water communications liaising with locally affected residents and businesses.

Site investigation slit trenches to be carried out in Castletown estate in coming weeks.

Restoration Improvement Schemes 2023					
Road Class	Road No.	Road Name and Townland Name	Engineering Area	Works Type	Length Road (m)
R	149	Captain's Hill	Celb /Leixlip	SR	1,036
R	404	Barnhall Roundabout to Young's Cross	Celb /Leixlip	SR	625
L	1016	Wheatfield	Celb /Leixlip	SR	714
L	2008	Tipperstown	Celb /Leixlip	SR	770
L	5050	Catherinestown	Celb /Leixlip	SR	796
L	5057	Collinstown (Green Lane)	Celb /Leixlip	SR	250

Restoration Maintenance Schemes 2023					
Road Class	Road No.	Road Name and Townland Name	Engineering Area	Works Type	Length Road (m)
L	5057	Kilmacredock	Celb /Leixlip	RS	2,783

Members raised the following:

- That Young's Cross is experiencing high volumes of traffic especially at peak time causing more vehicles to be pushed into Leixlip. Drivers are experiencing more than 40 minutes in traffic at these times.
- Could it be investigated to stop work for an hour at peak times as the current situation can't continue.
- The members thanked Ronan and his team, especially the clear up after Saint Patrick's Day celebrations.

Mr. Linnane noted he would take all points on board and that currently the volume of traffic is around 19,000 vehicles per day, currently delays stand at 8 minutes in the middle of the day. The frustration is appreciated over delays at peak times but to note it's also difficult for the



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contractors on site to balance things, the aim is to work together to look at possible improvements, and it was agreed to keep members updated.

Mr. Linnane clarified that the budget for the District is €960,000 in total, with €900,000 for overlays (Road Improvement Schemes) and €60,000 for surface dressing (Road Maintenance Schemes).

CL04/0323

LPT 2023

To agree and approve the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2023. (See Appendix 1).

Approval of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2023 was proposed by Councillor Killeen and seconded by Councillor Coleman.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Coleman and agreed by all members present that the LPT Schedule of Works 2023 be approved.

CL05/0323

Celbridge Community First Responders Deputation

The members welcomed Mr Shane Claffey and Mr Cathal Garvey as the Deputation from the Celbridge Community First Responders Group, who presented on the activities of the Group.

Following their presentation, the members raised the following:

- What was anticipated budget for the next three years?
- How many people would be available to respond at any given time?
- Moving forward how did they anticipate the number of responders increasing?
- Was there anything the members can do to assist the group? Advertisement, promotion, sponsorship ideas; could the Local Enterprise Office offer any support.
- Thanked for assistance in helping with setting up the Leixlip Community First Responder Group.
- With regards the LPT allocation would this figure need to be increased as the demands from the National Ambulance Service increases.
- What assistance does the HSE and National Ambulance Service offer?
- Will the budget need to be increased to account for maintenance costs?



Mr Claffey and Mr Garvey informed the members that:

- At present there were 12 trained responders in Celbridge and at any one time there would be 1-2 people available to respond to call outs, this however did increase *outside* the hours of 9:00-17:00 as people had other commitments during these times. The group currently have 7 responder bags between the members which they share.
- The budget was currently anticipated to be around €5,000 per annum.
- It was hoped that funding would achieve 2 more publicly accessible defibrillators and additional PPE.
- More volunteers were currently being trained and new volunteers were always welcome, and in addition help with the administrative element was always needed.
- Any promotion the members could do for the group would be appreciated.
- That the Liffey Champion had been great with assisting with promoting the group and during fundraising events.
- Currently identifying key locations for the defibrillators to be mounted and asked for the cooperation of business owners, emphasising that contrary to perceptions there are no risks to business owners assisting in this.
- The group were looking to expand into the Ardclough area. Currently the eta is 12-13 mins from Celbridge to Ardclough without traffic delays. With responders available in the area the eta to patients would reduce significantly.
- Moving forward the aim was for anyone within Celbridge to be no more than 5 minutes from their nearest public accessible defibrillator. Once this was achieved the running costs would then be maintenance of the defibrillators, replacing PPE, training and purchase of other necessary equipment.
- Insurance was an ongoing cost noting grant funding cannot be used towards insurance, any funding was always greatly welcomed.
- The HSE and National Ambulance service cover the cost of the certificates for members, and offered PPE during the pandemic also.

The Cathaoirleach, on behalf of members, thanked the Group for all their voluntary work and their excellent presentation.

CL06/0323



Captain's Square Estate, Leixlip

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

Can the council provide a timeline by which the outstanding items relating to a tree and wall removal/repair at Captain's Square Estate, Leixlip will be completed, with a view to the taking in charge of the estate?

A report was received from Building and Development Control informing the members that they are working with the Parks Department in an effort to progress the outstanding issue in relation to the boundary walls. A scope of works is currently being developed. It is intended that the works will be tendered. Once the tender package is complete, it is expected that the tendering process will take up to 6 weeks. Once a Designer/Contractor is appointed a definitive timeline can be provided.

The report was noted.

CL07/0323

Bus Shelter

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

That the council put in place a Bus Shelter opposite Beech Park on the Easton Road, Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Roads section informing the members that Kildare County Council will review the location identified and commence discussions with the NTA with regard to bus shelter criteria installation. Upon agreement from the NTA, Kildare County Council will produce a detailed design and construction cost estimate allocation for approval. Upon confirmation of design and funding allocation, Kildare County Council will have it included as part of the 2024 bus shelter works programme.

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

CL08/0323

Riverforest Junction, Leixlip

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



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That the council make safe the exit from Glendale onto to the footpath at the Riverforest Junction, Leixlip.

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 exit in question at the Riverforest Captains Hill Junction exclusively serves two residential dwellings, No. 48 and No. 50 Captains Hill, Newtown. In order to improve the safety of this access it would need to be relocated to within Glendale Estate and away from the R149 Captains Hill. Exploratory talks can be opened with the two landowners to determine if this is acceptable and viable.

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

Councillor Cussen was not in attendance but had, in accordance with Standing Orders, requested that Councillor Liston bring forward the following two motions, in her name.

CL09/0323

Priory Square, St Raphael's Manor, Celbridge

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

That the council carry out an assessment on Priory Square, St Raphael's Manor, Celbridge and advise on measures that could be considered to prohibit driving/parking on the green areas.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Municipal District office investigated the issue of vehicles driving or parking on the green areas in Priory Square and did not witness any such activity. There was however evidence where vehicles had travelled on green areas. Signage can be erected at these locations to inform residents that vehicles should not be driving on the green areas.

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



CL10/0323

Bicycle Lights

The members considered the following Motion in the name of Councillor Cussen.
That the council consider the inclusion of a pilot scheme in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District for distribution of bicycle lights during Cycle Week, which has funding for same.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the possibility of including such an initiative is being examined, subject to the funding provided for Bike Week.

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

CL11/0323

Temple Mills, Newtown Road, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman.
That the council install traffic calming measures in the vicinity of Temple Mills, Newtown Road, Celbridge.

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

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that a visual inspection was carried out at this location. The Municipal District office propose to trial new road markings at Temple Mills to encourage safe driver behaviour.

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

CL12/0323

Old ESB Site

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville.
That the council provide an update on plans for the old ESB site in Leixlip.
The motion was proposed by Councillor Neville and seconded by Councillor Caldwell.



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A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that Kildare County Council met Cluid Housing Association and members of their Design Team on site on 23 February. Kildare County Council expect draft proposals from Cluid in the next 2 weeks for review ahead of arranging a pre-planning meeting.

The members raised the following:

- A request was made for members to have an input from a design and planning aspect, with suggestions for a mix of commercial and housing inclusive of public parking. This would benefit both the community and enhance the town itself.
- Asked to ensure the TV mast was not to be moved from its current position to Mill Lane, as this would be objected to by local residents nearby.
- As there was still a way to go with regards to design of the site, could the current look of the site be considered regarding landscaping as it had a huge impact on the Main Street and the site currently looked untidy.
- To ensure the inclusion of Public Realm in the discussions on design.

The District Manager advised the members that parking might be something to consider at the design stage. Ms Barry updated the members that a proposal was received this week from Cluid and was currently with the Architects, Roads, and Planning Section for review and that the members would be kept updated.

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

CL13/0323

Traffic Impact Assessment

The members considered the following motion from Councillor Neville

That the council request of South Dublin County Council (SDCC) the latest traffic impact assessment on Leixlip and Celbridge of the new road to Adamstown

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



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A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that a request will be issued for the latest Traffic Impact Assessment on Leixlip and Celbridge of the new road to Adamstown from South Dublin County Council (SDCC).

The members raised the following:

- Since the new road opened reports of traffic difficulties further up the road at Youngs cross
- This was one of the main arterial roads, information obtained should be used to build a case for the impact people were experiencing leaving both Celbridge and Leixlip. This was having a negative impact on movement of traffic in North Kildare. Suggestion made for South Dublin County Council, Kildare County Council, or independent company to do a review of the impact.
- That it had previously been asked for a regional forum to be investigated. The members raised concerns regarding decisions that were made outside of their municipal district that directly impact them, currently they could only monitor the NTA and TII for updates as they were not currently being included in the decision making.

The District Manager informed the members that to date she had been unable to find a regional forum but had written to her counterpart in South Dublin County Council with no response received yet. It was hoped to have an update for the members at the next meeting.

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

CL14/0323

Phone Boxes, Main Street

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell.
Can the council provide an update on the removal of the phone boxes on Main Street, Leixlip?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that a previous report on this matter confirmed that the Municipal District Engineer had contacted Eir requesting that the existing phone box be removed from the Main Street of Leixlip. In response, Eir advised that they were required by Comreg to provide pay phone services in the area and also that a number of calls from that payphone were to numbers for assistance. Eir



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proposed an upgrade to the phone box to a new style Kiosk which would require planning permission. Eir submitted 3 applications to redevelop existing telephone kiosks by replacing them with a new kiosk with an integral communication unit and a 1.53 sqm digital advertising display. The applications submitted were for Main Street, Newbridge (PI Ref 221021); Main Street Maynooth (PI Ref 221020) and Main Street Celbridge (PI Ref 221013). All 3 applications were refused by the Planning Authority.

The report was noted.

CL15/0323

School Safety Wardens

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

That the council provide an update on the restoration of school safety wardens in the municipal district and if recruitment has commenced for September.

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Council is reviewing the requirements for safety warden provision in the county and associated recruitment processes. When this review is complete it will be shared with the elected members.

Councillor Killeen noted that the report includes some new information at variance with what was previously advised in that she understood that Wardens would be recruited for September 2022. She requested further information on this matter and would discuss further outside of the meeting.

The report was noted.

CL16/0323

Kildare's Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS) Report

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

Can the council provide the members with an updated Kildare's Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS) report for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that there are currently nine requests on KLIPS for the Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District. Three requests have been approved and works have been completed, however six are awaiting ESB connection.



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The six requests are to be assessed when additional funding becomes available. There are seventy-four requests for new lighting on KLIPS across all Municipal Districts however no funding source has been identified

	MD	Location	Job Description	Request Date
Works Approved	Celbridge/Leixlip	Ashgrove to Beatty Park - Willowbrook	Lighting along footpath - Willowbrook	Jan-22
	Celbridge/Leixlip	Celbridge	Willowbrook Park - Path in front of Playgrou	Jan-22
	Celbridge/Leixlip	Cedar Park, Leixlip	Additional Lights	Nov-21
Awaiting funding	Celbridge /Leixlip	Thornhill , Celbridge	Thornhill , Celbridge	Apr-22
	Celbridge /Leixlip	Rinawade	footpath connecting Rinawade to Barnhall Meadows (significant anti-social behaviour	Apr-22
	Celbridge/Leixlip	The Grove, Celbridge	Request for lighting at the gate between Hazelhatch Park and Grove. Requested	Sep-22
	Celbridge/Leixlip	Ballygoran View, Celbridge	Additional Lighting at entrance of Ballygoran View, Celbridge	Oct-22
	Celbridge/Leixlip	The Grotto	Request for additional lighting	Sep-22
	Celbridge/Leixlip	Glen Easton - road outside estate	request for additional lights on one side of the road, at entrance into estate	Jan-23

The report was noted.

CL17/0323

Grand Canal Greenway, Aylmer Bridge to Sallins

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

Can the council provide an update on the extension to the section of the Grand Canal Greenway from Aylmer Bridge to Sallins?

A Report was received from Strategic Projects and Public Realm Section informing the members that Soil nailing, a slope-stabilisation process, is continuing from Sallins towards the railway bridge, this work is necessary to stabilise the bank and widen the towpath to facilitate the 3 m width.

- Railway bridge to Ponsonby bridge excavation, geogrid, ducting and subbase is installed.
- Ponsonby Bridge to Devonshire Bridge, vegetation strip, duct installation and laying of sub-base commenced.
- Capping to underbridge at Devonshire Bridge currently being installed.



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Drone footage of the works will be made available on the website under the 'Grand Canal Greenway' updates available at <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/PublicRealm/>
The report was noted

CL18/0323

Grand Canal Greenway, Hazelhatch Bridge to the 12th Lock

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

Can the council provide an update on the extension to the Grand Canal Greenway from Hazelhatch Bridge to the 12th Lock by South Dublin County Council?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the tender submissions are currently being reviewed with respect to appointing a contractor. The works are scheduled to commence end Q1 2023 subject to approval of all stakeholders and the project shall take approximately 12 months to complete.

The report was noted.

CL19/0323

Castletown/Green Lane Turn, Leixlip

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

Can the council provide an update on Castletown/Green Lane turn in Leixlip to include what effective changes can be made there, if any, ahead of the cycle lane works?

A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Municipal District office propose to install pencil bollards on the kerbs in this area and to apply additional road markings on each approach to the junction to encourage drivers to slow down and to travel at a safe speed.

Mr Linnane updated the members that the pencil bollards and refreshing of lines should be completed in the coming week.

The report was noted.

CL20/0323

Greenway at Leixlip

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

Can the council provide an update on timelines for the ongoing works on the Greenway at Leixlip?



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A report was received from the Roads Section informing the members that the Royal Canal Greenway Maynooth to Confey commenced in November 2022 with a contract duration of 18 months. The current contractors programme shows the section 1 completion (Louisa Bridge to Confey) for Q2 2023.

Councillor Neville asked if this was expected to be opened to the public by summer, noting that reports received recently of people walking through.

Mr Linnane confirmed that the area wasn't open for public use yet but envisaged Q2, hoping to be open for the summer holidays.

The report was noted.

CL21/0323

Access to Emergency Accommodation

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen. That the council provide an update on what support is available to applicants in this municipal district who are seeking assistance with housing queries in relation to notices to quit and access to emergency accommodation, what times and days a face to face service is available, when the department can be contacted by phone and clarification be provided if any additional resources are to be deployed to deal with the increasing housing crisis.

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

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that supports are currently available to applicants with housing queries by telephone, email and face to face by appointment.

Times available for appointment at the public counter for the different services are as follows:

Allocations/Transfers: Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:00a.m.-1:00p.m.

Homeless: Monday - Friday, 9:00a.m.-1:00p.m.

Housing Grants: Wednesday, 9:00a.m.-1:00p.m.

HAP: Monday - Friday, 9:30a.m.-11.30a.m.

HAP Phone Clinic is available daily 2:30p.m. to 4:30p.m.

An out of hours phone service for homeless is provided Monday - Friday, 5:00p.m.-9:00p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 12:00p.m.-5:00p.m.



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Contact phone numbers and email addresses for all sections are available on the Kildare County Council website. All sections can be contacted all day, by phone, Monday - Friday. All queries are responded to as quickly as possible. When a query is received by email, the reply issues by email. When a query is received by phone, the call is returned as soon as possible. The Housing staff replies to queries throughout the day and does not allocate specific times or days for replies.

Kildare County Council has a target of 55 housing acquisitions for 2023 with focus on HAP or RAS property where the tenant has received a notice to quit due to the sale of the property, target was received the week beginning 13 March. The council commenced such tenant-in-situ purchases in 2022 and since then has purchased a total of 39 properties. Media reports indicate that Kildare County Council has purchased the largest number such properties.

As previously outlined at the November 2022 meeting of the Municipal District there is a family hub in Prosperous and emergency accommodation provider in Celbridge. We are currently at planning stage for a monthly homeless clinic in the Municipal District.

Additional services provided by Kildare County Council homeless team:

- Tenancy sustainment is provided to clients as required.
- Clinics are held in both family hubs to ensure that clients are receiving adequate supports for working towards exit strategy from emergency accommodation.
- Homeless assessments are carried out at alternative locations where required.
- Meetings provided with hospital discharges to assess suitability for emergency accommodation.
- Liaising with external organisations to provide clients with access to additional supports when in emergency accommodation.

Additional services have been provided across the Housing Department.

Councillor Killeen noted she felt this was an important motion with 219 people within Kildare being served eviction notices. With a target of 55 housing acquisitions, she was now hoping with the new information on times, that councillors can sign post members of the public in the



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hope some won't become homeless. It was noted the importance of North Kildare needing a service point as this would help highlight the number of people needing help in the North of the County. There had been reports of people having trouble getting through and it was questioned if there was a capability of recording missed calls.

Ms Barry updated the members that there had been a further update since the report was issued regarding a pilot scheme for a homeless clinic in Celbridge. This was due to start on 5 April 2023 with time of 2:00 p.m – 4:00 p.m the first Wednesday of every month in the Respond House in Celbridge. Further details would be issued to the members.

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

CL22/0323

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen. That the council provide a detailed report on the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) applications for Leixlip and Celbridge projects to include timelines in relation to proposed works starting and funding being drawn down.

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

A report was received from the Public Realm Section informing the members that a quarterly report was presented to members in December 2022, the next update is due to be given at the April meeting of this Municipal District.

Councillor Killeen expressed disappointment that the members had to wait until next month for an update and was looking for URDF funding sooner rather than later for this Municipal District and for the Wonderful Barn to be considered.

Ms Pender informed the members that with the URDF funding projects needed to have housing attached to them and that the Wonderful Barn did not qualify as a proposal under this aspect.



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

CL23/0323

North Kildare Civic Amenity Centre

The members received an update on the North Kildare Civic Amenity Centre from Mr Galvin, Senior Engineer. The plan was for a well-designed facility with educational features and that this was a significant corporate priority. The following points were noted:

- Capital costs of developing site continued to be an issue, construction costing had increased, currently standing at cost of circa €5million for construction only.
- The Council were arranging to meet the Oireachtas members to explore possible funding noting that the Council had Part 8 planning granted since November 2019, the Council own the land, all of this would mean that this project could go to tender reasonably quickly when funding was available.
- Annual operating costs would also have to be borne by Kildare County Council
- Only one valid response had been received arising from the 'Market soundings'.
- May need to look at more basic slimmed down design to reduce capital costs.

The members raised the following:

- A civic amenity centre was needed in North Kildare, it's disappointing that this started in 2018 and relatively little progress to date, notwithstanding the Councils efforts.
- That the catchment area of North Kildare would be over 100,000 people.
- The idea of small commercial usage could be revisited (as suggested in the Market Sounding)
- It was noted that there was only one reply to the Market Sounding, how could more interest be generated.
- The members expressed reservations regarding any proposal to downgrade or radically re-design the proposed facility.
- The fact that amenities are available in Dublin and South Kildare shouldn't be seen as a fall-back option, preventing progression of this essential service and the members have been supportive of a range of measures such as Christmas tree recycling, Mattress Days but a permanent facility is essential.



Mr Boland advised the members that:

- Notwithstanding challenges, the Council was determined to progress this project, and it remains a significant Corporate priority.
- There were no current proposals to tone the facility down, as it was agreed that it was a very progressive, modern design and the educational aspect was key too.
- The option of commercial use was just for consideration.
- There were currently not many major players in the waste market, a formal tendering process as opposed to *Market Soundings* should result in more commercial interest.
- The increase in construction costs was the main stumbling block, even if half the construction costs were available this would put the proposal in a better position.

Mr Boland agreed to keep the members updated on progress but advised a period of 3-4 months before the next update to allow for progress to occur.

The report was noted.

CL24/0323

River Liffey at Newtown, Celbridge

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

That the council clean the River Liffey at Newtown, Celbridge which is almost blocked to canoeists and other users.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the Council are investigating ownership. Responsibility lies with the riparian owners.

The members raised the following:

- That the international Liffey Descent Canoe Marathon Race was due back this year on 6 May. The event would start in Straffan.
- Last year the organisers had to unblock the debris themselves.
- It was understood part of the lands are owned by the Council.



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Mr Galvin confirmed with the members that responsibility lay with the Riparian owner and currently this is being investigated. If the land were found to belong to Kildare County Council then they would be out to the site as a priority.

Councillor Coleman asked again for this to be done before the 6 May ahead of the event.

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

CL25/0323

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Ms S Bookle advised the members that a report had been circulated to members prior to meeting on the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2028.

Ms Bookle went through the presentation with the members agreed that she will come back to the members with a further briefing as the year progresses, likely in May when the formal consultation phase begins.

The Cathaoirleach suggested that in line with the process that has occurred at meetings of other Districts, that members collate any questions regarding the LECP and forward them collectively to Ms Bookle, who will then issue replies to all members.

The report was noted.

CL26/0323

Open Space Management 2023

Ms P O' Rourke advised the members that a report had been circulated to members prior to meeting on Open Space Management 2023. Ms O'Rourke went through the presentation on Open Space management.

The members thanks Ms O'Rourke and the Cathaoirleach suggested the members collate any questions regarding the Open Space Management 2023 and forward them collectively to Ms O'Rourke.

The report was noted.

CL27/0323

Parks Works Programme 2023.

Mr S Wallace advised the members that a report had been circulated to members prior to meeting on the Parks Works Programme 2023.



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Mr Wallace updated the members that 5 extra positions had been allocated to the Section including 1 technician, this was achievable with the budget passed at the end of last year.

The members thanked the section for their works to date and raised the following:

- What impact on delivery was expected from the additional staff members?
- Were there any outdoor staff within the Section?
- Cherrygrove to reinstate open space showing as Q2, Q3 could this be expected to be completed for the Autumn?
- The figure of €50,000 for Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District Tree Works did this have any Capital funding attached?
- Wonderful Barn, members needed this to progress, going to be costly ensure the money was there to cover this?
- If Leixlip Playground was to be completed this year, should the members be looking for next projects?

Mr Wallace informed the members that

- Outdoor staff had one general supervisor and 2 general operatives.
- The increase in staff numbers would give a dedicated projects team and the ability to give more definite time frames for works.
- The Parks Section were working alongside Public Realm Team and had a potential project to improve paths around the area at the Wonderful Barn
- Cherrygrove was hoped to be completed over the summer dependent on quotes received.
- There is no Capital Funding available for tree works. It could only be funded from Parks Maintenance Budget or LPT.
- In terms of playgrounds, Leixlip would be next, Wonderful Barn would also need to be considered.
- Mr. Wallace observed that priorities will be determined by the Capital Programme, and the priorities the members determine.

CL28/0323

Wonderful Barn, Leixlip

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



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Can the council provide a progress report on plans for the Wonderful Barn, Leixlip?

A Report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the Council are progressing Stage 1 Preliminary Design/Part 8 application preparation, to include the input of a Feasibility Study /Business plan which is essential to advise the scale of project and will be critical to getting URDF funding. Separately, a Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) application made in February has received partial funding of €11k approx which will go to essential repairs of the Barn (Tower) itself. A cost estimate/ contract will be prepared for this work which has to be completed by September 2023. In addition, in advance of applying for funding from a URDF funding application at the end of 2023, the Design Team is looking at earlier delivery of smaller advance works, probably within the park area, which would not require a Part 8 and will advise the members of the details once decided.

The report was noted

CL29/0323

Parochial House in Celbridge

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

Can the council provide a timeline by which the Parochial House in Celbridge will become available for community use and what measures or steps need to be in place in advance?

A report was received from the Library Section informing the members that the purchase of the Parochial House and lands in Celbridge is not yet completed. The draft contracts were issued on the 9 March to the Council solicitor for review. There are still outstanding legal steps regarding the deeds that need to be completed by the vendor before the sale can be closed. We have been advised by the Diocesan solicitor of a tentative date of summer 2023 but the delays to the completion of the sale are not within the Council's or the Dioceses' control.

The Library Service are already engaging with the Public Realm Team to prepare a spatial analysis and site strategy for inclusion in the Celbridge Town Renewal Master Plan that will include plans for a library, recreational and community facilities.

This masterplan will then help inform the application process for the next URDF funding call which is expected by the end of this year.

URDF funding will be required to progress the project forward to the Design Stage and Part 8 consultation.

The report was noted.



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The District Manager thanked the members for their cooperation in the running of today's meeting and for their agreement on LPT allocations, noting there were several generous allocations for community projects and asked for the members to assist these projects to ensure the proper open procurement was adhered to. She advised that the Community Section were unable to sign off any allocation of LPT funding without all the relevant information being submitted by the organisations receiving funding.

The meeting concluded.



