



Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting

Held on Friday 15 November 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.

Members Present: Councillor B Caldwell (Cathaoirleach), Councillors R Heather, N Killeen, J Neville, C O'Rourke, L Panaite Fahey and Councillor D Trost.

Officials Present: Ms C Barrett (District Manager), Mr R Linnane (Municipal District Engineer), Ms S Barry (Administrative Officer), Ms C Brogan (Assistant Staff Officer), Ms A Murphy (Meetings Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathoirléach welcomed everyone to the November Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District meeting.

CL01/1124

Declaration of Conflicts or Pecuniary Interests

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.

CL02/1124

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the draft minutes of the Monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday 18 October 2024 including the progress report.

Resolved: On the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Panaite Fahey and agreed by the members, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Friday 18 October 2024 of the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.



CL03/1024

Municipal District Works

The members received an update on the municipal district road works.

Schedule of works – November 2024

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

Winter Operations:

Winter salting service operations for the 2024/2025 season commenced on the 14 October 2024. The annual jet-vacing of gullies has commenced. Significant resources are currently deployed to the sweeping of roads and other public areas affected by the seasonal shedding of leaves.

Road works programme for 2024

Road Overlays - Restoration Improvement

- R403 Clane Rd., (Ardras to Barberstown) - Works completed 13/05/24.
- R403 Barnhall RA to M4 overbridge - Works completed 03/05/24.
- R405 Maynooth Rd., Celbridge - Works completed.05/07/24.
- R149 Confey at Graveyard - Works completed. 12/09/24.
- L5061 Loughlinstown Rd. - Works completed. 04/10/24.
- L89945 Knockaulin Leixlip - Works completed 30/04/24.
- R449 Kilmacredock R/A to Matt Geoff Bridge - Works commenced 07/11/2024.

Surface Dressing – Restoration Maintenance 2024

Surface dressing was carried out on 04 June 2024.

Location: South Ardclough at Boston Cottages, Pluckstown and Oughterard.

Approx 3.250km length 14,000 sqm of local road L2008 and L6018.

Footpath repair and restoration:

Location: Footpath repairs in The Grove in Celbridge and footpath repairs in Castletown estate, Oaklawn and Leixlip park in Leixlip are all completed.



Realignment of R148 at Collinstown:

Location: Roadworks are progressing on the R148 at Collinstown, Leixlip. Area of works is from the roundabout at the R148/ R449 to the Junction of the R148 with Kellystown Lane. Roadworks are scheduled to be in place until February 2025 when works will be substantially completed. Temporary traffic management measures will be in place for the duration of the works.

Royal Canal Greenway:

Access to Royal Canal Greenway from Louisa Bridge is now open to access towpath from Louisa Bridge to Cope Bridge. Access from Louisa Bridge to Maynooth is closed off to facilitate construction of Greenway. Works from Louisa Bridge to Dee bridge are progressing and this section will be open in Q4 2024. Works for the cycleway on the R148 from Kellystown lane to Pikes bridge is now underway and a temporary speed limit of 50kph is now in place along this section of road.

Road users are requested to stay within this new speed limit, not to overtake on this section of road and to obey traffic management signage.

Liffey Bridge Celbridge – Emergency repair works:

Emergency repair works were carried out on the Liffey Bridge in Celbridge from Tuesday 29 October to Friday 01 of November 2024. Minor disruption to traffic flows was experienced in the area. All works are now complete. The patience and understanding of the public shown to the staff and contractors during these works was appreciated.

CL04/1124

LPT funding

The members considered the transfer of €4,100 of LPT funding from the Community Innovation Fund to the Local LPT Fund and allocate to Leixlip SOS to offset costs incurred by group in painting of ESB Site, Leixlip.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heather, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members that €4,100 of LPT funding from the Community Innovation Fund be transferred to the Local LPT Fund and allocated to Leixlip SOS to offset costs incurred by group in painting of ESB Site, Leixlip.



CL05/1124

St Patrick's School

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey

That the council moves to open a car park and path to St Patrick's School in Celbridge at the adjacent lands owned by Kildare County Council.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Panaite Fahey and seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that St Patrick's National School is a temporary school and therefore the development of a car park would not be appropriate. Future traffic management in respect of the school would be a matter for the Board of Management of the School to consider in respect of their long-term plans for the school.

Councillor Panaite Fahey asked if Kildare County Council would consider taking steps to investigate a temporary measure to alleviate the current situation, which was said to have escalated in recent weeks, with An Garda Siochana being notified.

A lengthy discussion took place with members expressing a number of concerns, and they queried if all possible traffic calming measures had been investigated to try make the area as safe as possible for children travelling to the school.

The District Engineer confirmed that all options had been investigated with the Hazelhatch Road. Ramps and signage would be explored and also the possibility of utilising the GAA as a drop off point, or if the gate was to be opened in due course there would need to be a way to manage pedestrians and cyclists accessing the school entrance safely.

The District Manager advised the members that a solution would not be straight forward and would involve the Transportation Section and Planning Section. As the school was in a temporary location the Council would also need to work in conjunction with the Department of Education. The school now need to obtain valid planning



permission, which was explained in the documentation regarding the Unauthorised Development.

There was no current time frame available with the Taking in Charge, but the Council would continue to work with all parties.

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

CL06/1124

St. Mary's Park, Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell
That the council considers putting traffic lights or a pedestrian crossing between Avondale and St. Mary's Park, Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management.

Section informing the members that there is no external source of funding identified for new signalised crossings for pedestrians in the County. The location can be examined, however, until a source of funding is identified then a design cannot be progressed.

Councillor Killeen sought clarification as to whether a crossing was now possible here, as previous reports had stated that this was not an option.

The District Engineer confirmed that a surveyor had been on site and confirmed that it was a possibility.

The District Manager advised the members that in the short term no intervention would be expected. Members would need to wait until the schedule of works for the Confey Master Plan were available to see if Captains Hill was to be included.

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



CL07/1124

Scoil na Mainistreach

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

That the council puts in place road safety measures for pupils of Scoil na Mainistreach, Celbridge who enter the school via the Shackleton Road gate.

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

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management.

Section informing the members that this school was not part of the first three rounds of the An Taisce Green Schools - Safe Routes to School Projects. Therefore, National Transport Authority (NTA) will not provide external funding for outside of school improvements, at this time.

There were school warning signs on the Shackleton Road approaching Scoil Na Mainistreach. These signs appear to have been removed during the construction stage of the Oldtown Woods housing development and would now be replaced.

Councillor Heather queried how a school could become part of the Safe Routes to Schools Scheme and which schools were currently on the list.

The District Engineer advised the members that the idea behind the Safe Routes to Schools project was to reduce car usage and look at alternative ways for children to travel to school e.g. cycling or walking, and to use the signalised crossing to access the school. The idea was not to promote or facilitate dropping children as close to school as possible.

The District Manager advised that any schools wishing to be considered must make an application to An Taisce, who work in conjunction with the NTA on this project. The current list of schools was available in the Chief Executive's monthly report.

The District Manager agreed to circulate a list of the successful schools in Kildare for the first three rounds of the Safe Routes to School Programme.

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



CL08/1124

Backweston Campus

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heather
That the council puts in place measures to improve accessible transport links for the growing number of people who work in Backweston Campus, Celbridge. This includes safe routes for cyclists and rail commuters.

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

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Section informing the members that the Active Travel section is funded by the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the route from Backweston Campus to the Hazelhatch Railway Station is not included on the 2022 GDA (Greater Dublin Area) Strategic Cycle Network Plan prepared by the NTA. Therefore, there was no funding available from the NTA to progress a scheme at this location.

Councillor Heather noted there were bus connect routes at peak times but limited access for cyclists with no safe cycling routes.

Councillor Killeen gave commuter statistics and stated that a modal shift was required with most people still driving.

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

CL09/1124

School Zone Markings

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Trost
That the council considers installing school zone markings on the Clane Road at St Wolstan's Community School, North Kildare Educate Together school and Saint Patrick's School to increase the safety of all users.

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

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management.



Section informing the members that these schools are not part of the An Taisce Green Schools - Safe Routes to School Portfolio. Therefore, National Transport Authority will not provide external funding for outside of school improvements, at this time.

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

CL10/1124

Pay Parking over the Christmas Period

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Trost
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 10.00am to 1.00pm on dates between 9 December to 31 December inclusive.

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

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that the suspension of parking bye-laws for the Christmas period has not been carried out in recent years in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District and has not been proposed in any other municipal districts in 2024. Such a measure would be inconsistent with policies contained in the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and Chapter 5 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029, which encourages the use of more sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. The regulation of parking during the Christmas period encourages a greater turnover of parking spaces and maximises usage during this busy period. It is further noted that there are budgetary implications in waiving parking charges which would have a negative impact on the municipal district budget.

Following a debate between the Members, Councillor Trost decided to withdraw this motion.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Trost, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members that the motion be withdrawn.



CL11/1124

Second Bridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville
That the council outlines the step plan for the second bridge in Celbridge.

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

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that the delivery of the Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor would take the following non-exhaustive step plan:

1. Joint application for consent and compulsory purchase order to An Bord Pleanála.
2. Procurement of consultant to develop the design, compile tender documents and manage the procurement of a contractor with the delivery of the project thereafter.
3. Landowner negotiations following the compulsory purchase order process.
4. Procurement of a contractor to deliver the scheme.
5. Construction of the scheme.

There would be numerous other tasks to complete during the delivery of the project and these will be completed as and when required as the project progresses.

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

CL12/1124

Traffic Lights

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey

Can the council confirm if it plans to review the synchronisation of the traffic lights at Youngs Cross in Celbridge which are causing traffic issues for locals?

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management.



Section informing the members that Kildare County Council, Traffic Management Section (TMS) has worked closely with our maintenance contractor over the past number of weeks to diagnose and repair a fault with the equipment at this signalised junction. Improvements have been reported in the area and the TMS will continue to keep the junction under review.

Councillor Panaite Fahey questioned if the lights had been checked within the last month as she was still receiving complaints.

The District Engineer advised that they had been assessed and no issue was found with traffic management at Young's Cross, and the lights were working efficiently. The report was noted.

CL13/1124

Pay Parking

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Trost
Can the council provide the members with an update on the pay parking review for this municipal district?

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that a review of parking bye-laws requires a significant investment of technical resources in mapping and survey work and these resources are limited at the present time with reviews under consideration in a number of towns in the County. Parking bye-law reviews will only be considered where there are significant proposed amendments to the current parking bye-laws. Significant proposed amendments would include expansion of the parking bye-law area, an increase in enforcement time, or an increase in parking tariffs. The Transport Department are available to discuss the parking bye-laws with the members to examine the merits of any potential changes to the bye-laws when required.

The District Manager advised the members that they would meet in the New Year to discuss any changes. She suggested the members prioritise areas most needing change as the Section had limited technical resources.

The report was noted.



CL14/1124

Roadworks at Intel

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Neville
Can the council confirm the timeline in place for the completion of the roadworks at Intel, Leixlip?

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that the road works on the R148 at Collinstown are expected to be substantially completed in February 2025. As part of the sequence of the works and to tie in with the works, it is planned to have live traffic diverted onto the partially completed sections of the R148. Permanent diversion of live traffic onto the new alignment is expected to commence in December 2024.

The report was noted.

CL15/1124

River Liffey

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell
That the council opens up the visibility to the River Liffey from the Main Street Car Park in Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the Parks Department will arrange for the shrubbery to be cut back to facilitate a view to the Liffey. Any work beyond this would require design work to ensure public safety. This work would have to be considered for a future works programme with existing commitments and resources to carry out the work.

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



CL16/1124

Scoil Mochua

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey

Can the council give an update on the land transfer for Scoil Mochua?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the completion of Kildare County Council getting title to the land which Scoil Mochua are requesting is still with Tailte Éireann. The status of the dealing is listed as 'for further attention'. Our legal representatives have contacted Tailte Éireann in relation to the issue in October and are due to follow the matter up again this month.

Councillor Panaite Fahey asked if there was a possibility to accelerate this.

The District Manager advised that once the land is transferred, a Section 183 would be bought before the members at Full Council, but no timeframe was available.

The report was noted.

CL17/1124

Wonderful Barn

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

That the council implements adequate security for the Wonderful Barn site to protect this heritage site and status and to ensure the remediation works are not compromised.

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 the contractor is currently on site at the Wonderful Barn and will be there until the end of the year, weather permitting. Strategic Planning and Public Realm (SPPR) are actively engaged with the contractor and are not aware of any incursions on the site or breaches that would be of concern. An Garda Síochána and the Municipal District office are also carrying out visits to the site, when in the area, to monitor any irregular activity. SPPR will continue to monitor the situation on the ground with the Contractor.



Councillor Killeen referred to reports of anti-social behaviour on site at night and raised concerns with the main building and the out houses and advised that the project should not be compromised in any way. An Garda Siochana had been made aware of the situation and were said to be monitoring.

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

CL18/1124

Update from CLUID

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen
That the council seeks an update from CLUID in respect of implementation progress and site management plan for ESB building, older persons accommodation and details of community gain following 2020 and 2021 feasibility studies and full transfer of site to them for development.

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

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that Cluid is in the process of responding to queries from our internal departments prior to seeking statutory approval. These issues are close to being resolved.

The site is currently still under the ownership of Kildare County Council.

The proposal is for older people housing with a community element comprising a common room including kitchen and toilet facilities to the front of the site that will be accessible to the wider community and can be used for suitable complimentary activities.

The scheme will facilitate a pedestrian link to St. Mary's Park to the north of the site. As part of our vacant site inspections, the site is inspected monthly by Kildare County Council to ensure it is secure.

Councillor Killeen asked for an update on the current situation and a timeframe for when the plans would be available as it was four years since being transferred to Cluid. She was happy to see that monthly inspections were being carried out.



Ms Barry advised the members that the issues were close to being resolved and she would arrange a briefing with the members regarding the redesign, and would then move to the statutory planning and Section 179A. Members sought clarification as to what a Section 179A was, and Ms Barry agreed to circulate the criteria to the members.

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

CL19/1124

Old ESB Site

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell
Can the council provide an update on the development on the old ESB Site on Main Street, Leixlip?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that Cluid is in the process of responding to queries from our internal departments prior to seeking statutory approval. These issues are close to being resolved.

The report was noted

CL20/1124

HAP Recipients

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Killeen
Can the council confirm the number of HAP recipients in Leixlip and Celbridge per year in tabular form for the past 5 years?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that to date there are 1716 active HAP tenancies in Kildare County Council.

This figure changes from week to week. 8.7% of tenancies are in the Celbridge/ Leixlip Municipal District, equating to 149 active tenancies.

Please find below a table on tenancies set up in Leixlip and Celbridge Municipal District in the years 2019 to 2024 as requested.

Some of these tenancies may be inactive due to



- Notice to Quit from landlord
- Tenant moving to Social Housing
- Voluntary exit from HAP

Year	Tenancies
2019	56
2020	64
2021	40
2022	37
2023	46
2024	25

The report was noted.

CL21/1124

Public Realm Plan

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Killeen
Can the council provide an implementation update and timeline in respect of public realm plan for Leixlip as set out in March 2024?

A report was received from the Public Realm Section informing the members that The Leixlip Town Renewal Plan was published in March 2024 which included several project concepts for Leixlip. The progression of these proposals required a funding stream to be identified.

Councillor Killeen sought clarification as to where the LPT money set aside over the past 6 years for the Town Renewal was.

The District Manager agreed to take this back to the Public Realm Section for an update.

The report was noted.



CL22/1124

New School in Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey

That this council writes to the Department of Education requesting an update on the provision of the new school in Celbridge and possible timeline for delivery.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Panaite Fahey and seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

A report was received from the Corporate Services Section informing the members that this is a matter for the members to agree.

The members noted that the lack of school places was a nationwide issue. North Kildare was explaining rapidly and that the new education campus was needed as soon as possible

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Panaite Fahey, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members that the report be noted and a letter to be sent to the Department of Education requesting an update on the provision of the new school in Celbridge and possible timeline for delivery.

CL23/1124

Donaghcumper site

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heather
Can the council confirm that plans for the Donaghcumper site will include the provision of a children's playground?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the provision of a playground will be considered as part of the development of plans for Donaghcumper.

The report was noted.



CL24/1124

Swimming Pool

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Neville
Can the council outline what the timeline will be for a new Swimming Pool in North Kildare?

A report was received from the Community Section informing the members that Kildare County Council is currently completing a site feasibility study to locate a pool in North Kildare. The progression of a pool in North Kildare will be subject to funding being available.

The report was noted.

The Cathairleach wished Councillor Neville best wishes in the upcoming elections.

The meeting concluded.