



**Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
Held on Friday 16 February 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
In the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.**

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

Officials Present: Ms C Barrett (District Manager), Mr R Linnane (Municipal District Engineer), Ms P Pender (A/Senior Executive Officer) Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscape Officer), Mr J Hennessy (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms S Walsh (Executive Engineer), Ms S Barry (Administrative Officer), Ms M McCarthy (Administrative Officer), Mr A Gaynor (Business Advisor), Mr C O'Toole (A/Senior Staff Officer), Ms C Brogan (Assistant Staff Officer), Mr J Hannigan (Meeting Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

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

CL01/0224

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.

CL02/0224

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the draft minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 19 January 2024 with the progress report. Councillor Liston requested an amendment to the January draft minutes



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“Is the analysis covering all byelaws of the County Development Plan e.g. impact on parking byelaws”.

This should have read,

“To what extent does public sector duty analysis cover policy such as parking bye laws and County Development Plan”

The Meetings Administrator agreed to look into this request and would circulate the amendment to the members prior to the next meeting for approval.

Resolved: On the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Friday 19 January 2024 of the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read with the agreement of amendment at the March meeting. The progress report was noted.

CL03/0224

Municipal District works

Schedule of Municipal District works - February 2024

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.

Significant resources have been deployed to remove fallen trees in the district that have fallen or become unsafe during recent storm events.

Winter Maintenance:

The annual winter program of Jet-vacking of road gullies is now complete. Final hedge cutting at critical junctions to be carried out during last week of February prior to commencement of bird nesting season. Restoration of water cuts is now complete.

Road works programme 2024:

Road pavement assessments are currently being carried out to identify locations for road restoration improvement and restoration maintenance projects to be carried out this summer.



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Footpath Restoration works:

Tender for footpath works in Dun Carraig in Leixlip awarded and due to commence. Footpath works on Hazelhatch road including the upgrade of junction entrances to Simmonstown Park and Primrose Hill now complete.

Road Opening Licenses:

Moratorium on Road opening licenses for Christmas period now lifted. Final reinstatement works for Uisce Éireann project on Dublin Road R403, Hazelhatch Road and Shinkeen road have now commenced and are due to be complete Q1/Q2 2024. Road closures have been advertised to facilitate these works. UE Contractor is currently exploring the possibility of carrying out some works at night to minimize disruption to daytime commuting traffic flows. They have indicated that they will be requesting night closures of R403 Dublin Road for 3 to 4 nights at the end of March and diversion will be in place. All closure would be advertised in local papers.

The members asked for an update on the two bridges.

The District Manager advised the members that,

- Bridges would be outside of the works of the District Engineer.
- **Celbridge Active Trave Bridge-** This was an National Transport Authority (NTA) funded walking and cycling bridge to be located beside the existing bridge. The NTA had continued its funding of this bridge in 2024 with an allocation of €225,000. This funding would allow the site investigation works to continue. People in Celbridge may have seen some of this survey work on the ground in recent days. This work was currently focused on surveying the landing points of the bridge on either side of the river. All the survey work should be completed in 2024. If funding was secured the bridge should be ready to go to construction in 2025.
- **Second Bridge Crossing:** This project was funded by the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF). Funding was currently in place to get this project to permission stage. It was expected that this project will require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), as such the planning application will go to An Bord Pleanála. It was expected the application would go to the Bord by June.



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- It was noted that 40 per cent of NTA funding had been allocated to the Celbridge Leixlip municipal district.

The members raised the following,

- Questioned if the project design would go to a Part 8 or direct to the board
- A timeframe was sought.

The second bridge crossing would require an EIAR and CPO and would therefore go to the Bord. The application for ABP was expected to be submitted in June this year and with money currently available would reach the permission gate. To progress this project further would depend on allocation of further national funding.

The members acknowledged that this was work in progress and that progress was being made on both bridges. Noting that it was important to keep public up to date as this was always a topic on social media forums.

The report was noted.

CL04/0224

LPT Schedule of Works 2024.

The members agreed to adjourn approval of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works until the March municipal district meeting. They advised that things were going well, and the plan was to meet the following week to discuss this matter further including any allocations for St Patrick's Day parades.

The Meetings Administrator reminded the members that the deadline for approval was 31 March and advised that a Special Meeting could be arranged for the approval of St Patricks Day allocations if required, but a request would need to be received giving three days' notice. The meeting could also be facilitated online.

Wednesday the 21 February was proposed for the discussions to be held offline between the members and Monday 26 February was suggested for a special meeting subject to members agreement.

The District Manager reminded the members that the allocation of LPT was not exempt from the Public Procurement Rules and must fall into the functions of the local authority. If clarity was required around this the members were advised to email for guidance.



The report was noted.

CL05/0224

Refuse Bins

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen
That the council provide members with a report on refuse bin locations and usage in Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District to include Celbridge, Leixlip and Ardclough with a view to relocating and prioritizing areas etc.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office carried out a location survey of all the bins in the district earlier this month. Information on the usage of the bins is currently being collected from the bin emptying crews and data will be available for review at the end of March.

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

CL06/0224

Cycling Infrastructure

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Liston
That the council provide an update on planned cycling infrastructure development for Celbridge for 2024, including planned funding requests to the NTA.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section
Section informing the members that the Active Travel Investment Grants for 2024 have been published by the National Transport Authority. The portfolio has been streamlined to concentrate on schemes that can be funded in the short term to progress to the next stage of development in accordance with the NTA's Project Approval Guidelines. The proposed Celbridge Active Travel Bridge has received



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funding of €225,000 to complete the detailed design of the scheme. Subject to approval and funding from the NTA, this can then proceed to construction in future years.

The other scheme in Celbridge that was allocated funding, is the SRTS Round 2 Project at Scoil Mochua which received an allocation of €20,000 to progress to public consultation stage.

Councillor Liston thanked the section for the report and asked if there were any further schemes in the pipeline which had yet to be in receipt of funding.

The members welcomed the allocation of 40 percent of NTA funding to their municipal district, referring to this as a great opportunity which would lead to more infrastructure.

The District manager advised the members that the full NTA list identifies all projects at design stage. Yearly it is expected that 9-10 million euro will be allocated from the NTA Projects to date include

- The Royal Canal project with funding of 2.75 million, the tender has been awarded and will now move to construction stage.
- Green Lane active travel project with an allocation of 1.2 million
- Active Travel bridge with an allocation of €225,000
- Scoil Scoil Mochua with an allocation of €20,000

There is no easy fix for Celbridge Main Street as the width isn't available.

The members will receive a presentation from Mr Deegan and Mr Hodgins with updates in April.

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

CL07/0224

Hazel Park, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman
That the council carry out a safety audit of the entrance to Hazelhatch Park, on the Hazelhatch Road, Celbridge with a view to upgrading the entrance for the safety of all users.

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



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A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office have carried out a GPS survey of this junction and are currently drafting drawings for the junction to allow a design review to identify potential improvements for vulnerable road users at this location.

The members raised the following:

- Recent meeting was held with St Patricks Parents Association and the Resident's Association regarding dangers posed at the entrance. A number of near misses and an accident were reported.
- Pillars at entrance were very tall and the entrance width caused issues.
- Both the management company and Residents Association were being proactive.
- Meeting had also been held with the Area Engineer.
- Thanked Area Engineer for assistance with removal of debris which had been reported, thanks from Parents Association were passed on also

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

CL08/0224

Clane Road, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman That the council install a footpath on the Clane Road, from the Killeenlea Road to Springfield Bed and Breakfast, Celbridge for the safety of all users especially school children.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office will carry out an assessment of the location to determine the viability of installing a footpath at this location and the potential costs of delivering the footpath.

The members raised the following

- Concerns raised for children travelling to and from school.



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- Some areas of the footpath was said to be less than one metre in width.
- The road had large volumes of traffic including HGV's
- Parents were having to revert to driving children to school as it was too dangerous to walk or cycle.
- Asked regarding costings, would this be from the NTA or reliant on LPT funding.

The Area Engineer advised the members that once a survey was carried and out and if no drainage issues were identified then the process of looking at different options would begin. This project would require substantial funding and widening the footpath would be investigated. Any allocation of LPT funding would be welcomed.

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

CL09/0224

Greenways

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen
That the council roll out a crime prevention and a road safety programme in this municipal district at points where Greenways and roads converge and that a cyclist information campaign be rolled out to support the flow of pedestrians, cyclists and other road users.

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

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Section and the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Section informing the members that the feasibility of a crime prevention programme, where greenways and roads converge can be brought to the next Joint Policing Committee meeting. Kildare County Council currently run a Community Crime Prevention Programme through its Text Alert system, "Cairde". This system has 1,216 members around the county with approx 660 members in the Leixlip Garda District.

The Sustainable Transport Section is concentrating on completing the section of the Royal Canal Greenway to connect Maynooth to the Fingal County boundary. Any available resources will be dedicated to delivering this section of this national project. It is premature to



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develop a bespoke programme just for County Kildare and it is considered appropriate to request that the National Transport Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, and Waterways Ireland develop a national programme for implementation.

Councillor Killeen felt this could be an opportunity as a municipal district to support the modal shift with an information campaign for Blueways and Greenway, and asked the other members for their support. Councillor Killeen had already sent this to JPC prior to submitting the motion.

Councillor Neville suggested looking at pinch points to start with, then to possibly investigate road colourings and extra markings.

The District Manager advised the members that pilot project would require

- Engineering element
- Educational piece
- Enforcement aspect

The sustainable transport team were using their resources on the engineering aspect and wouldn't have the resources at the present time to move onto an educational piece.

However, if an educational piece was to be investigated at any stage it would need to meet national policy inclusive of what rules people needed to adhere to, similar to that of Safe Cross Code. The definition of rules would need to be referred to the NTA and Waterways Ireland. Kildare County Council had a Safety Officer who worked on education based on national material, with Greenways there were lots of variables which would need to be taken into account, ie who had precedence, the area around exiting and entering.

Currently at a national level the area around speed limits on greenways was being looked into. The Council wouldn't have a role in the enforcement aspect of such a project.

Councillor Killeen asked if a letter could be written to assist with developing a piece and to seek any evidence based findings with regards to the managing element of Greenways and Blueways.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by all members that the report be noted and a letter to issue

CL10/0224

Sound Barrier M4

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



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That the council ensure that any extension of the sound barrier proposed for the M4 continues past the houses at Beech Park and Barnhall Meadows, Leixlip or indeed any new estates close to the M4.

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

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that the M4 motorway was constructed in the mid-1990s and pre-exists the estates now seeking noise protection. Kildare County Council in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) are delivering a scheme: the M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures on the existing M4 motorway corridor which includes the provision of noise barriers and low noise surfacing.

M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

As part of the scheme, a noise assessment was completed on the M4 between Maynooth and Leixlip. The recommended noise mitigation (e.g. barriers) was included in the Part 8 publication for this scheme. A public consultation was held as part of the Part 8 process, including a presentation to the elected members, with valuable comments and submissions gathered and taken into account. The scheme proposals were amended to take onboard relevant submissions made during this consultation period and the Chief Executives report was presented to and accepted by the members without modifications on the 27 February 2023.

Beech Park

As documented in the Chief Executive Part 8 report (accepted by the elected members), in response to Submission 12 the noise barriers were amended to extend and align with the length of Beach Park following a sensitivity analysis – extract report



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below.

Comment – “Whilst the scheme does provide some noise barriers, the extent of which does not mitigate the noise where it is needed for houses which are adjacent to the scheme in Beechpark estate”

“I would like to suggest the following:

Noise barrier be included the full length of the Beechpark estate

Noise barrier height to be 3.5m to adequately mitigate.

Low road noise road surface up to junction 5 as previously intended planned by KCC.”

Response: In accordance with the Part 8 documents, the project includes for low noise surfacing in the eastbound, the extent of which is outline on the Part 8 drawings.

A draft sensitivity analysis has been completed and the proposed noise barrier shown on 272691-ARUP-07-CF-DR-CH-000063 will remain but may be extended approximately 200m further east. This means the proposed noise barriers would now align with the length of Beech Park estate.

The project intends to follow the recommendations of the noise assessment, provided that the installation of the recommended noise barrier heights do not generate other indirect impacts. This will be assessed in the subsequent stages of this project.

Any new estates (Barnhall Meadows): In accordance with proper planning and development. The requirement is on the new developments (e.g. estates) to provide any required mitigation as part of the development as the motorway/national road network pre-exists the new development/new estates. The provision of a noise assessment and mitigation (if required, based on assessment), is a requirement of planning.

The members raised the following,

- Council had zoned areas and must ensure people were not impacted by noise.
- Trees were a natural sound barrier, could the council ensure to keep tree cutting to a minimum especially around junction 6 and junction 5. Issues around St Brigid’s Barn also

Ms Whelan advised the members that,

- Update on M4 Bus Pilot Scheme was that the part 8 process was completed in 2023 which included noise barriers at Beech Park.



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- Kildare County Council through the NRO continued to work with the TII as the scheme would be delivered by the TII MMarC contractors who had been on site in recent weeks carrying out surveys and investigations.
- The speed limit was set to be reduced from mid April to December from Junction 6 and Junction 5 on the M4 Eastbound to enable the works to commence.
- Westbound had already been resurfaced and there had been a noted decrease in noise already.

The Eastbound carriageway would be resurfaced with SMA as part of the Bus Pilot scheme and this would aid noise reduction in addition to the provision of noise barriers as set out in the Part 8.

- Resurfacing expected April – December with first stage of noise barriers also.
- Kildare County Council through the NRO were continuing to engage with TII about the Wonderbarn and what noise barriers may or may not be possible at this location (depending on clear zones and existing trees etc)

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

CL11/0224

N4

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville
That Kildare County Council contact South Dublin County Council and work with them to secure a second lane exit at the roundabout on the junction past the Springfield Hotel getting onto the N4. Each morning traffic is regularly backed up to the Salmon Leap due to a consistent flow of traffic coming from the Celbridge side and with the new road at Adamstown and Leixlip cars can't get out even when the N4 is quite light with traffic. This bottleneck is unnecessary and a small change at the roundabout would improve the flow significantly.

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



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A report was received from the National Roads Office informing the members that the motion refers to the functionality of Junction 5 on the M4 eastbound and the current difficulties the traffic joining the M4 may have at this location. Kildare County Council, South Dublin County Council and TII are currently involved in a project to deliver Bus priority on the M4 eastbound with works from junction 5 to 6 expected to commence in Q2 2024. This will involve a change in the layout of the M4 and the modal choice for the route. Once the works are completed and operational, Kildare County Council and South Dublin will monitor the operation of junction 5 and can examine if the delay reported in Councillor Neville's motion is continuing post works and consider what might actions can be taken at that time.

The members raised the following,

- Poor design from South Dublin County Council (SDCC) on the Adamstown to Lucan Road, concerns were raised 5 years ago but no consultation with the members. The 2 main roads north of County were controlled by SDCC.
- Reports of Leixlip traffic building up from 07.10 a.m. at the roundabout near the Springfield Hotel, although once cars reached the N4 no issues being reported.
- If a filter lane could be added it was felt this would ensure a continual flow of traffic. It was asked could this be further investigated.
- More houses being built with more cars on the road.
- Concerns raised regarding people coming in from Celbridge direction as would not want changes made relieving one problem but then causing other delays from the Celbridge direction.
- Asked if changes to traffic light sequences prior to bridge would make a difference with traffic flow.
- Bus lane on N4 would not alleviate traffic coming from Leixlip to the roundabout.
- Asked if South Dublin County Council could be contacted.
- These issues had been raised previously and response was that road was too narrow, hard to see a solution

Ms Whelan advised the members that the bus lane was coming on M4 which would support modal shift and hopefully give people option to use this as a mode of transport. It was hoped this would relieve traffic at the junction. This would be monitored closely and Kildare County Council were liaising with South Dublin on an ongoing basis



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

CL12/0224

Aghards Road, Shackleton Road Junction

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Cussen
Can the council provide an update on the Aghards Road/Shackleton Road Junction, Celbridge assessment?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office have carried out a GPS survey of this junction and are currently drafting drawings for the junction to allow a desktop design review/ road safety audit of the junction.

The report was noted.

CL13/0224

Big Belly Bin

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Cussen
Can the council provide a timeframe for the installation of the Big Belly Bin on Main Street Celbridge?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office have received quotations for the supply of Big Belly Bins. Funding will need to be identified to purchase the bin. Bins can be delivered within eight weeks of placing of orders.

The report was noted

CL14/0224

Ardclough Triangle

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Liston
Can the council confirm the final outcome of the consultation on the revised layout to the Ardclough Triangle and confirm if this has been communicated back to the community with planned next steps in terms of collaborating on progressing suitable safety measures?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that following the advertisement of the Section 38 Proposed Revision of Road



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Layout including New Footpath at Ardclough a significant number of submissions were received by Kildare County Council from residents in the locality. The majority of the submissions were not in favour of the proposed alterations due to the negative effect the changes would have on vehicle and pedestrian movements.

It is proposed to abandon this Section 38 process. This has been communicated to Ardclough Community Council. It has also been communicated to the community council that the Municipal District Office would welcome and assess suggestions for improvements in the layout of the roads and footpaths in Ardclough that would address concerns relating to pedestrian movements and would also facilitate established vehicle movements in the village.

Councillor Liston was happy with the report and asked following the consultation if there could be a formal way to publish the outcome.

The report was noted.

CL15/0224

Playground at Leixlip Amenities

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell
That the council provide an update on the playground at Leixlip Amenities to include a commencement date for works to begin and a time frame for when the all inclusive playground will be open to the public.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that a tender to relocate the existing playground equipment to the Wonderful Barn has been advertised and closes in early March. Tenders for reinstatement of the playground site and existing car park are being finalised and we expect to advertise these in early March. Similarly the tender for design and construction of the new playground. Contractors for all works should be appointed by the end of April followed by construction over the Summer. It is not possible at this stage to give more accurate time frames for the works to commence or an opening date until contractors are appointed.

The members raised the following:



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- Complex project including higher than expected costings. Ideally would have wanted completed 3-5 years ago but confident should be completed this year and would be in situ for years to come for children to enjoy both in Leixlip and surrounding areas.
- Will be great to have an all-inclusive playground. The access network would be delighted on completion.
- Drawings completed along with the part 8. The next stage was to be put out to tender and then onto construction. This was a very positive project.
- Thanks expressed to Mr Wallace and the Parks team for all works to date
- Would be great to have project complete and the Parks Section could then move onto other much needed projects
- Thanks given to Intel for supporting this project

Mr Wallace advised the members that the carpark design was more difficult than anticipated and there were cost implications with recycling the old playground. Once tender was agreed a time frame could then be expected.

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

CL16/0224

Second Playground in Celbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heather
Can the council provide an update on the progress of the feasibility study for a second playground in Celbridge?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that a number of sites were identified around Celbridge as potential sites for a playground. No further progress has been made on these as the emphasis has been on progressing the delivery of outdoor teen facilities. Until this is complete it will not be possible to progress work on other potential playground sites.

The report was noted.

The members agreed to take items 30 and 31 together next on the agenda



CL17/0224

Community Lands in Ardclough

Item 30

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

Can the council provide an update on when it will engage with the community of Ardclough on the three acre community lands in Ardclough?

Item 31

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

Can the council provide an update on the Ardclough community lands transferred over and the measurement of such community lands so the plans of same can be progressed?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the transfer of title to these lands remains to be completed. This is being undertaken by our legal representatives. When this is complete we will engage with the community regarding the potential uses of the site.

Councillor Coleman asked if the stakeholders could be informed in tandem.

Councillor Killeen asked if a time frame was available.

Mr Wallace advised the members that,

- Under the section 47 it was specified for use as a graveyard. It needed to be established now if this could be used for other purposes

Councillor Coleman advised that the land wasn't suitable as use for a graveyard.

The report was noted.

CL18/0224

Affordable Housing Units

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

That the council put in place urgent measures to increase the supply of affordable housing units in Celbridge and Leixlip.

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



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A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that Kildare County Council is proposing the construction of 10 direct build affordable units on the Ardclough Road in Celbridge. A planning decision by An Bórd Pleanála is imminent.

There are no other affordable purchase schemes in the Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District Area, however, the Council is exploring all opportunities for affordable delivery and has an open call for expressions of interest for affordable opportunities.

Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) are also delivering a number of Cost Rental Units in the Municipal District. Respond Housing Association are delivering 16 units at Westfield, Leixlip, expected delivery Q2 2024. Cluid delivered 56 Cost Rental units in Barnhall Meadows, Leixlip. The Land Development Agency (LDA) is delivering 73 Cost Rental units at Harpur Lane, Leixlip.

The Members will be updated on schemes through the monthly Chief Executives Report. Councillor Heather was happy with the report noting that this topic is coming up whilst doing canvassing, the public have lack of hope with the the lack of adequate housing available

The members raised the following,

- Noted schemes identified in report but some had already gone and ones available were being over subscribed.
- More properties needed to be invested in.
- Housing Section were thanked for their work utilising the resources available.
- First time buyers were getting no opportunity to purchase as housing was being taken by Housing Bodies.
- Nationally local authorities needed to initiate their own separate options, urgently needed to be investigated with perhaps a call out for expression of interest.

Ms Barry advised the members that the council had one affordable scheme in Kill which was under review, there was also the Right to Buy Scheme and the First Home Scheme available to first time buyers whereby the bank would own part of the property.

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

CL19/0224

Old ESB Site

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



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Can the council provide an update on the proposed Cluid housing development on the Old ESB site in Leixlip?

A report was issued by the Housing Section informing the members that a final draft planning application package has been received from Cluid Housing Association for review by Kildare County Council prior to launching the application.

Councillor Caldwell asked if there had been any further updates.

Ms Barry advised the members that the application was under review and would revert back to the members.

The report was noted.

CL20/0224

Support for Disadvantaged Individuals and Families

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

Can the council confirm what specific initiatives, projects and measures it undertakes to support disadvantaged individuals and families within the municipal district, both within the remit of its functions, and collaborations it enters into where those functions are outside its scope?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the Housing Department supports households to secure accommodation, who cannot afford to do so from their own means.

The council's social housing programme is outlined in the monthly Chief Executive Report and includes delivery in the Municipal District area. The provision of housing in a particular area or support for housing provision by an Approved Housing Body is based on the number of households included on the social housing list in an area, this demand is reviewed annually through the Summary of Social Housing assessment.

Assistance is provided to private households through the Housing Aid and Housing Adaptation Grant Programmes.

The Tenant in Situ Scheme was introduced to allow local authorities to buy properties where tenants are facing eviction when the landlord is selling the property.



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The Homeless Outreach Team continues to facilitate monthly housing advice clinics in each Municipal District

An Age Friendly Coordinator will commence work in Kildare in the coming months. The role of the coordinator is to assist social and private homeowners in relation to housing related matters.

The Housing Department engages with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders through the following committees: After Care Steering Committee, the Homeless Action Team, the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, the Disability Steering Group Forum, the Mid East Regional Homeless Forum

The council employs an interdisciplinary team, this team engages with housing applicants and council tenants and includes the following: Social Workers, Tenant Liaison Officers, Tenancy Sustainment Officers, Homeless Outreach Officers, Homeless Support Officers.

When assessing the needs of individuals and families in a specific geographical area, the Community Department creates profiles using the Pobal Deprivation Index and Census 2023 information in addition to a Needs Analysis based on a consultation with the local community.

Depending on the levels of needs identified the following supports and measures may be considered and implemented:

- Community programmes using community development principals to promote engagement.
- Support and assistance to individuals to access education and employment information.
- Collaboration with agencies including:
 - NUIM Access Programme
 - CKLP employment support
 - Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board
 - Older Voices programme



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- Heads Up Programme

Various network meetings are held with organisations which identify local needs including Child and Family Support Network, Celbridge Manor Support Network. Collaborations with key agencies and groups also assist in implementing initiatives to support disadvantaged individuals including:

- Kildare Traveller Action
- InSync
- Kildare County Childcare Committee
- County Kildare Leader Partnership
- Garda Youth Diversion Programme
- Community Gardai
- Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board
- Residents and community committees
- Kildare Sports Partnership
- Healthy Ireland
- Southwestern Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce
- Libraries and Arts Programmes

The report was noted.

The members agreed to take item 20 and 22 from the Agenda together

CL21/0224

The Wonderful Barn

Item 20

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell
Can the council provide an update on restoration works at The Wonderful Barn, Leixlip?

Item 22

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Neville
Can the council outline the plan, timeline and scope around the application for Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) funding for the Wonderful Barn, Leixlip?



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A report was received from the Public Realm Section informing the members that the Consultants, Metropolitan Workshop, have almost completed the design for the preferred Option. A Part 8 for that design is in preparation and will be lodged end March or early April this year. A Historic Structures Fund (HSF) funding application was submitted in January to assist in funding the Advanced works contracts and those contracts will be prepared and carried out in 2024. Works include the conservation-led specialist contractor portions of the project- a complete re-slating of the Barn / restoration of the dovecotes / works in the Walled Garden area. A full security system will also be installed. An announcement by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for URDF Call 4 and the qualifying criteria is awaited. Liaison with third parties to increase the potential for BHIS funding will continue. M4 bridge has been granted permission.

The report was noted.

CL22/0224

Income Sources to Support the Wonderful Barn

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Killeen
Can the council outline what monies have been set aside using LPT, Capital Funds, Development contributions and all other income sources to support the Wonderful Barn and the proposed project since it was handed over to the care of Kildare County Council?

A report was received from the Public Realm Section informing the members that the Wonderful Barn is an ongoing project contained within the Capital Programme, which provides a breakdown of funding as follows:

Capital Programme

Page 9	2024-2026 Phase 1	€1,697,001
Page 14	2027+ Phase 2 and 3	€4,000,000
Total		€5,697,001

The following is a breakdown of the funding elements for this project:



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Funded as per development contributions collected to date and ringfenced:

Phase 1	€1,697,001
Phase 2/3	€2,442,800

Funded as per development contributions collected in the future:

Phase 2/3	€1,557,200
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LPT has been assigned to this project by the elected members, in the sum of €132,500 during the years 2021 and 2022 with expenditure incurred from 2022 onwards.

LPT 2021	€82,500
LPT 2022	€50,000

BHIS funding of €11,000 was also secured by way of a grant in 2023.

Expenditure to date on this project is €304,038 with LPT used initially, followed by BHIS and development contributions.

A Part 8 design is now being prepared and due to be lodged end of March/early April this year.

The report was noted

CL23/0224

April Municipal District Meeting

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

That the council agree to hold the April meeting of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee in Celbridge or Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Section informing the members that Standing order 6 of the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District Standing orders provides that "in so far as practicable the place for holding Meetings of the Municipal District shall be the principal



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offices of the council at Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas and Meetings shall normally be held there. From time to time, by resolution, the Municipal District may appoint an alternative location for a particular meeting". It is therefore a matter for the members to agree to hold a particular meeting within the district and also to agree a suitable venue, preferably a premises in public ownership with suitable facilities for the members and staff who will be in attendance.

The meetings administrator advised the members that this would be a matter for the members to agree. A motion would need to be submitted identifying possible venues, ideally this should be a public building to ensure no restriction on public attending and to be aware that staff would need to travel to attend. There was no budget available to move the meeting but could be facilitated as a hybrid meeting if the members wished.

The members raised the following,

- Felt other Municipal District had the opportunity to hold meetings outside of the council chamber.
- Felt would be a welcomed gesture to support the local demographic process offering local public inclusion. Members coming to end of their term, this would be first time it had been requested
- Questioned costings of other Municipal District meetings eg Barge used by Clane Maynooth Municipal District and Athy Municipal District.
- Could LPT be investigated as an option to cover cost.
- Options of Community Centres, ESB site, Youth Centre, Town Council Building, Newtown House , Cluid Site and the Wonderful Barn were all given as suggestions which were all publicly accessible

After further discussion the members agreed to talk offline and to send in a list of venues.

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

CL24/0224

Main Street, Celbridge and Leixlip

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

That the council undertake research and focus group based engagement with businesses on Main Street, Celbridge and Leixlip, to identify their current challenges and opportunities, root



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causes, as well as trends (opportunities and threats) that can inform the preparation of the next Draft Celbridge Local Area Plan.

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

A report was received from Forward Planning, Heritage Conservation and Biodiversity advising the members that Local Area Plans prepared for settlements in County Kildare take a bespoke approach based on the specific needs and characteristics of the town and its surrounding area. Currently the LAP team produce up to 8 audits/reports to provide an evidence based assessment to land use planning which are published alongside the LAP. The Forward Planning Team engage with all stakeholders during consultations (both at draft and predraft) in terms of preparing audits and studies to inform each Local Area Plan. It is of significant importance to note that Kildare County Council have also recently prepared Town Renewal Masterplans for Leixlip and Celbridge in the form of a health check which identified a range of potential improvements to enhance the character and amenities to provide for the needs of the current and growing population. A number of places within Celbridge and Leixlip have been listed as target areas for improvements, including the Main Street as part of this masterplan.

Councillor Liston welcomed the report and raised the following

- Technology was moving at a fast pace and having an affect on the Main Streets.
- Younger generation did not go shopping as retail purchasing had shifted online.
- Insight was needed into how this shift would feed into the Main Streets and how this would feed into the Town Renewal Plans
- There had been cafes shut down recently in Celbridge, and current business reporting that they were earning more money by being positioned off the Main Streets. Was there an opportunity to liase with businesses on this matter
- How or what could the council do to get people to come to the Main Streets, could infrastructure for cycling be investigated in order to reduce congestion.

The members raised the following,

- LAP's gave the opportunity for people to put ideas forward and have an input



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- The Local Enterprise were available to offer advice and assistance available to support Councillor and business.
- Decision to not give free parking was raised, businesses felt let down. There were 30 businesses in Celbridge and 27 in Leixlip in support of the initiative.
- Could a focus group be investigated to see what could be done in the area.

Ms McCarthy advised the members that good points had been raised. The local enterprise office along with Town Centre First and the Public Realm initiatives were all working on efforts to make Main Streets more attractive. The council needed public engagement. It was agreed to take comments back to management.

Councillor Liston raised concerns that the general trends needed to be looked at, as the current assumption would not hold much longer. Examinations were needed to create a space between LEO, technology, the Council and the generational change in trends and how this would all feed in the LAP's.

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

CL25/0224

Primrose Gate, Celbridge

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

Can the members receive an update on the taking in charge of Primrose Gate, Celbridge?

A report was received from Building Control Section informing the members that Primrose Gate, Celbridge was established and conditioned through the Planning Process to be operated and maintained by an Owners Management Company. Condition No. 18 of Planning Reference PL 05/1436 states:

18. The developer shall submit full details of the proposals for a management company for the maintenance of all relevant public and communal areas of the development (including services, security, waste disposal, lighting, landscaping and periodic decoration) and shall obtain the written agreement of the Planning Authority for such a management company. The Management company as approved shall be put in place at the latest within three months of the first occupation of any of the units.

Reason: In the interest of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.



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It is therefore clear that the development was always envisaged to be operated and maintained by a management company and not put forward for taking in charge. Notwithstanding the above there may be scope for the conventional housing element of the development to be Taken in Charge in line with Kildare County Councils Taking in Charge Policy 2023. This would be subject to there being clear delineation between the conventional housing element of the development and the apartments (which would remain under the Management Company). Additionally, all public infrastructure in the areas of the development being put forward for taking in charge would need to be brought up to an appropriate public utility standard. During 2023 the Management Company for Primrose Gate commissioned investigative surveys for infrastructure within the development. These surveys identified some deficiencies in the foul water infrastructure in the development and along with some other minor deficiencies.

Kildare County Council met with the Management Company and residents from the development on the 8 February 2024 to discuss the taking in charge request. Kildare County Council have offered to assist the Management Company and residents in putting forward an application to Uisce Eireann for the remediation of foul water infrastructure in the development. A decision on the proposed remediation and any potential financial assistance is required from Uisce Eireann before any further progress can be made.

Councillor Coleman referred to the plebiscite in 2019. Following on from the report he felt that not much had been done between then and now, questioning if Kildare County Council planned to TIC.

Ms Hennessey advised the members that with regards Planning permission it was agreed that the Owners Management would oversee. The plebiscite referred to TIC but issues with waste water and other remedial works. The Council had a meeting last week to discuss and have referred to Irish Water with no reassurance that Irish Water would agree.

The report was noted .

CL26/0224

Commercial Premises

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



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That the council work with relevant stakeholders and service providers to ensure the upkeep of the facades of commercial premises that are no longer trading on Celbridge and Leixlip High Streets and surrounding areas.

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

A report was received from the Public Realm Section informing the members that Kildare County Council have recently prepared Town Renewal Masterplans for Leixlip and Celbridge, which identified a range of potential improvements to enhance the character and amenities to provide for the needs of the current and growing population. Several places within Celbridge and Leixlip have been listed as target areas for improvements, including the Main Street as part of this masterplan.

Councillor Heather raised trading issues and the importance of maintaining character whilst enhancing the Main streets. Several businesses had closed opposite the Mill and had now fallen into disrepair with a danger of further degeneration. Any grants available were greatly appreciated.

Councillor Caldwell highlighted that grants were available but could be difficult to get businesses to avail of such grants e.g the Halloween and Christmas grants

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

CL27/0224

Grants

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen
That community and other grants, usually received by successful applicants / groups between March and June and that must be used by October of the same year that it be considered that some groups with prior permission for specific uses, have one calendar year from the date of approval to use the funds, as there are various requirements throughout the year and that provision be made for grants to be used for insurance.

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



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A report was received from Forward Planning, Heritage Conservation and Biodiversity advising the members that many grants administered by Kildare County Council are from Government Departments and other agencies. The terms and conditions of these schemes are determined by the governing authority and therefore amendments to these schemes by Kildare County Council is not permissible.

Heritage Grants awarded by Kildare County Council are generally an annual funding stream and dependent on budgets each year. To date the Heritage Office has not experienced an issue with projects not being completed on time. It is of importance to note that throughout projects, the Heritage Office liaise with applicants to ensure that the scope of the project applied for can be completed within the time frame allowed i.e. before end of November in a given year.

Grants funded from the Revenue Budget must be drawn down and used within the financial year it is allocated. Kildare County Council is aware that groups availing of these grants may encounter delays due to unforeseen circumstances and the Community Department will engage with these groups should these issues arise. It should be noted that where these issues arise and where the conditions of the funding have not been complied with, this will delay the release of other sources of funding until such time as compliance with the conditions has been achieved.

Where funding is provided from external funding bodies, the time scales are set by the funding body. Kildare County Council has no discretion to extend these time periods.

The use of grants, administered by Community Department, to offset running costs approved by Local Community and Culture SPC and adopted by Kildare County Council on 29 March 2021. Any amendments to the policy will require referral of the policy back to the Local Community and Culture SPC for consideration.

Councillor Killeen raised concern that one condition of grants was that it could not be used for Insurance purposes, this was difficult for Community First Responder groups in the area. The groups were run on a voluntary basis and received funding each year. Insurance for such groups was very high and would like to use the grants towards



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this. Councillor Killeen felt there was a gap in the system and felt this should be further investigated.

The members raised the following,

- Grants must be used within the year they were allocated
- LPT funding could roll over.
- Community grants stated they could not be used for running costs

Mr O'Toole advised the members that if they wished they could go back to the SPC with the concerns around insurance, with regards grants if groups had money left over at the end of the year they can approach the section in regards rolling funding over. The members were advised that in this situation no further allocations would be considered until all previous funding had been spent

Councillor Killeen questioned if the SPC would look at the gap in the system. She was aware that CFR groups also fall under the remit of HSE, noting that these groups were vital in the community.

Mr O'Toole advised that if agreed by the SPC changes would need to be made across all five municipal districts It was noted that groups would need to show that they remained viable in operation and not dependent on community funding to operate.

The District Manager suggested this be referred onto the HSE also.

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

CL28/0224

Uisce Éireann

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Neville
Can the council confirm if it has obtained a detailed update and timeline of the capital infrastructure plan from Uisce Éireann to alleviate the odour issue at Leixlip at the Rye and the Old Hill?

A report was received from the Water Section informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree and if agreed, the members should contact Uisce Eireann directly via their dedicated email support address at localrepsupport@water.ie or by phoning



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0818178178, or raise it at their next dedicated Councillors Clinic which takes place online on Monday 27 February at 11a.m.

The report was noted.

CL29/0224

Recycling Centre for North Kildare

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

Can the council provide an update on the planned recycling centre for North Kildare?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that collaboration has commenced with the Municipal District offices on scoping the project and engaging a designer.

Councillor Heather asked for a detailed report to issue.

The members advised that a presentation had been received at the end of last year,

Councillor Heather asked for the presentation to be emailed to him.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.