



**Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting**  
**Held on Friday 20 December 2024 at 10:00 a.m.**  
**in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.**

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

**Officials Present:** Mr Mark McLoughlin (A/ District Manager) Ms A Granville (Senior Planner), Ms H Mulhall (Just Transition Tourism Officer) Ms S Barry (Administrative Officer), Ms A Murphy (Meetings Administrator), Mr A. Foran (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathoirléach welcomed everyone to the December Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District meeting and welcomed newly appointed Councillor Paul Brooks to Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District. Councillor Brooks said he was pleased to be there and looked forward to working with everybody. The Cathoirléach also congratulated Joe Neville TD and Naoise Ó Cearúil TD on their recent election to the Dail.

**CL01/1224**

**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.

**CL02/1224**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the draft minutes of the Monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday 15 November 2024 including the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell seconded by Councillor Heather and agreed by the members, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Friday 15



November 2024 of the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read.  
The progress report was noted.

### **CL03/1224**

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

#### **Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District (MD) Schedule of works – December 2024**

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, 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. The annual jet-vacing of gullies has commenced. Significant resources are currently deployed in the sweeping of roads and other public areas affected by the seasonal sheading of leaves.

**Storm Darragh:** Outdoor crews were deployed to multiple locations on Saturday 07 and Sunday 08 of December following the aftermath of Storm Darragh. Several roads in the district were blocked on Saturday morning due to fallen trees. All roads were clear and open by 16:00 on Saturday afternoon.

#### **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
- L 5061 Loughlinstown Rd. - Works completed. 04/10/24.
- L 89945 Knockaulin Leixlip - Works completed 30/04/24



- R449 Kilmacredock R/A to Matt Geoff Bridge -Works completed 22/11/24.

### **Surface Dressing – Restoration Maintenance 2024**

Surface dressing was carried out on 04 June.

**Location:** South Ardclough at Boston Cottages, Pluckstown and Oughterard. Approx 3.250km length 14,000 sq.m of local road L2008 and L6018.

### **Footpath repair and restoration:**

Footpath repairs in The Grove in Celbridge, now complete. Footpath repairs in Castletown estate, Oaklawn and Leixlip park in Leixlip all complete.

### **Realignment of R148 at Collinstown:**

Roadworks are progressing on the R148 at Collinstown, Leixlip. Works area 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 complete. 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 now open to access towpath from Louisa Bridge to Cope Bridge. Access from Louisa Bridge to Dee bridge now open to the public. 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.

The report was noted.

## **CL04/1224**

### **Restore Turn at Youngs Cross Celbridge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey. That the council undertakes to restore the left lane turn at Youngs Cross in Celbridge. The motion was proposed by Councillor Fahey and seconded by Councillor Caldwell.



A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section noting that Kildare County Council undertook a significant upgrade of the traffic signals at this junction as the equipment was beyond repair and the facilities not in accordance with national standards. The National Transport Authority funded the works and these included improvements for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. In particular, the existence of left-hand turning traffic lanes is a significant concern for cyclists using on road facilities.

As the safety for vulnerable road users has been significantly improved at this location, Kildare County Council is satisfied that the layout is optimum for all modes of traffic. A fault in the traffic signalling software that had been causing tailbacks on the approaches has now been resolved.

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

#### **CL05/1224**

#### **Litter Bins Celbridge**

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

That the council installs public litter bins on Maynooth Road and Shackleton Road, Celbridge.

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

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing members that Municipal District office will carry out a review of the litter bins at these two locations in consultation with the community warden in relation to any existing litter issues in the area. If it is deemed that a bin or bins are required, it will be necessary to identify an un-utilised bin/bins in the Municipal District to be relocated to serve these locations.

Members noted that there had been a lot of complaints about litter in this area, and that this was an ongoing issue. Mr McLoughlin informed members that the matter would be discussed with the Area Engineer and a timeline finalised if possible.



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

#### **CL06/1224**

##### **Pedestrian crossing at Confey Cemetery**

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

That the council puts in place a pedestrian crossing at Confey Cemetery.

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

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing members that the area in the vicinity of Confey Cemetery shall be assessed by technical staff to determine what type of pedestrian crossing is appropriate. The delivery of any facility will be dependent on a future funding source being identified.

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

#### **CL07/1224**

##### **Bus Shelter, Leixlip**

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

That the council installs a bus shelter at the bus stops at Gleneaston, Leixlip.

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

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing members that the location outlined in the motion is one of many locations across the county that have been requested for upgrading. Kildare County Council, together with the National Transport Authority, is undertaking an audit of all bus stop infrastructure in all Municipal District areas and developing a priority list based on the requirements at different locations.

Whilst Kildare County Council will work towards installing bus shelters at all relevant locations, the programme is ambitious and will require a significant amount of financial funding and time to progress both design and construction works at multiple locations.



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

#### **CL08/1224**

##### **Public Seating Celbridge**

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

That the council considers sanding/varnishing and cleaning the 2 public seating areas in the Main Street, Celbridge which have become very dirty and in need of a complete revamp.

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

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing members that the Celbridge Municipal District Outdoor staff have commenced the cleaning and varnishing of these picnic benches.

Councillor Trost welcomed the report and noted it may be necessary to do further works as the benches were in bad condition.

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

#### **CL09/1224**

##### **Pedestrian Entrance Royal Canal Confey**

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

Can the council provide any update from Waterways Ireland on the pedestrian entrance to the Royal Canal at Cope Bridge, Confey?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing members that the Transport Department had made contact with Waterways Ireland in respect of the above and they advised that they are willing to work with Kildare County Council to come up with a solution to address the issue. The members will be aware that the lands in question are outside the scope of the Part 8 for the Royal Grand Greenway and are in the ownership of Waterways Ireland.



The report was noted.

#### **CL10/1224**

#### **Compulsory Purchase Land Celbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor O' Rourke. Can the executive confirm that all the necessary documents (for application to An Bord Pleanála for consent and for the compulsory purchase of land for the Celbridge - Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor) have been received and reviewed by the council on time, as per schedule given in the CE's Monthly December report, and are ready for submission to ABP before the end of the year?

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing members that the documents have been received from our consultant and will be reviewed internally prior to their submission to An Bord Pleanála. A further update on the submission date will be provided to the members in due course.

Councillor O' Rourke noted that there was no timeline and enquired if it would be on time. Mr McLoughlin advised that it would be a long process.

The report was noted.

#### **CL11/1224**

#### **Liffey Valley Park**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen. That the council expands the Liffey Valley Park (Leixlip-To-Celbridge): Public Survey (designed to develop the Local Authorities' understanding of the River Liffey corridor between Leixlip and Celbridge), permitting additional comments and expanding the deadline for completion and to detail what further proposals for public consultation will be made available.

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

A report was received from Forward Planning informing members that the online survey has been developed and formulated to gain specific information related to the



Liffey Valley Park (Leixlip-To-Celbridge) Feasibility Study project. This survey went live on the 26 November 2024 and will close on the 2 January 2025, which equates to 45 days or 1 month and 15 days excluding the end date. Approximately 240 responses were received in the first 2 weeks since publication which is considered to be a very favourable response rate. Extending the response deadline will impact on project progress, which is subject to deadlines associated with funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

Members expressed concerns on the response rate, noting it was low, and again requested that an extension for the first week of January be considered, to allow for proper adequate feedback from the public. It was agreed that the item remain on the progress report.

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

#### **CL12/1224**

#### **Tree Removal Leixlip**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Killeen.  
Can the council provide a progress report on tree removal from the site adjacent to Dun Carraig, Leixlip?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the Council were in the process of engaging consultants to develop a method to safely remove the boundary wall to access the tree.

Members noted that this had been going on a long time, and understood that the matter was further along in the process. They sought clarification as to what stage the consultancy was at, and Mr McLoughlin agreed to follow up with the Parks Department.





The report was noted.

**CL13/1224**

**Affordable Housing Schemes Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District**

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

Can the council confirm if it has plans for delivery of affordable housing schemes in Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District in the next year?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Kildare County Council is currently in the process of negotiating a Part V agreement on the basis of social and affordable delivery in Leixlip. There are no other affordable purchase schemes in the Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District Area for 2025, however, the Council is exploring all opportunities for affordable delivery and has an open call for expressions of interest for affordable opportunities.

The report was noted.

**CL14/1224**

**Vacant Dwellings Leixlip**

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

Can the council provide a progress update in relation to Vacant Dwellings in Leixlip, Main Street?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing members that An Bord Pleanála has received an objection to the Compulsory Purchase of 29-39 Main Street, Leixlip, and an Oral Hearing will take place on 13 February 2025.

The Vacant Homes Section are communicating with the owners of other vacant properties on Main Street, Leixlip and will use Compulsory Acquisition powers where necessary if vacancy issues are not addressed.

The report was noted.



**CL15/1224**

**Castletown Celbridge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen. That this council facilitates a presentation by representatives of the Save Castletown Committee to the Members in respect of Rights of Way issues and Castletown in Celbridge.

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

Ms Murphy, Meetings Administrator, informed members that this was a matter for members to agree.

Members agreed to receive a presentation for the next meeting in January, if this could be arranged.

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

**CL16/1224**

**Tourism Strategy Celbridge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heather. That the council develops a Celbridge-specific tourism strategy that reflects the town's unique potential in terms of culture, heritage, conservation and natural resources.

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting of Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District Meeting.

**CL17/1224**

**Public Right Of Way Castletown Demesne**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke.



That the council acts to identify, list and map the route of a defined public right of way on the north side of the river at Castletown Demesne in Celbridge (a book of evidence for which has been supplied to the council executive on 6 December 24, The Riverside Walk) in accordance with Objectives LR 069, LR070, of the County Development Plan: *Identify existing rights of way and walking routes prior to any new infrastructural development and ensure that new development does not have a negative impact on established walking routes/public rights of way.*

This is in accord also with the council's plan to improve our understanding of the River Liffey Corridor between Leixlip and Celbridge as part of its strategy to deliver a Liffey Valley Park.

The motion was proposed by Councillor O'Rourke and seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing members that the report from Save Castletown had been forwarded to the Office of Public Works. The members will be advised when a response is received.

Members noted that clarity was needed regarding the report. There were local fears that walkways would be restricted, and there were historical access rights at this location. A lengthy discussion ensued whereby members queries timelines for this issue to be addressed, and to examine legal aspects.

Ms Granville, Senior Planner, outlined to the members that it was a complex process regarding rights of way, which were identified through the Courts. Furthermore, identifying permissive access was not a function of Kildare County Council. Mr McLoughlin informed members that the executive was cognisant of the concerns raised but would not give a determination on rights of way. Ms Granville agreed to circulate a 'Public Rights of Way' paper by the Office of the Planning Regulator to the members.

Members agreed to come back to this in February.



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

### **CL18/1224**

#### **Bower at Celbridge Abbey**

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

That the council provides an update on progress to date of the repair of the Bower at Celbridge Abbey, detail all efforts made to ensure speedy and urgent completion of the repairs, and provides a project timeline with the expected completion date.

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that it should be noted that Vanessas Bower was in private ownership. Kildare County Council Conservation and Heritage Team had made a number of approaches to the owners (and representatives of same) regarding Vanessa's Bower in the past and remain committed to continuing this engagement. However, notwithstanding this, ongoing engagement and commitment to supporting the necessary repairs to the Bower, the Elected Members will be aware that the specialist Executive Architectural Conservation Officer post in Kildare County Council remains vacant despite recruitment campaigns in February and October 2024. As a result of this and a significant nationwide shortage of suitably qualified professionals in the private market, a number of conservation related projects are behind schedule in order to prioritise the progression and completion of time bound external grant aided projects. Further updates on Vanessa's Bower will be provided to members in due course.

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

Members noted that the Bower was in a bad state of disrepair and Kildare County Council should have it listed as a protected structure. It was also noted that as there was currently no Heritage Officer, this complicated matters. Members requested that Kildare County Council again engage with St. John of Gods to progress the matter, as a tree had recently fallen on the structure and had damaged it further.



Ms Granville informed members that Kildare County Council had been unsuccessful in filling the vacancy of Conservation and Heritage Officer, and the structure required appropriate expertise. Kildare County Council currently did not have the expertise to progress the project. Councillor Trost agreed to approach St. John of Gods on the matter, on behalf of the Committee.

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

#### **CL19/1224**

#### **Vanessa Bower, Celbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Trost.  
Can the members receive a response from the council on the current situation in relation to Vanessa's Bower?

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that it should be noted that Vanessas Bower is in private ownership. Kildare County Council Conservation and Heritage Team has made a number of approaches to the owners (and representatives of same) regarding Vanessa's Bower in the past number of months and remain committed to continuing this engagement.

However, notwithstanding this, ongoing engagement and commitment to supporting the necessary repairs to the Bower, the Elected Members will be aware that the specialist Executive Architectural Conservation Officer post in Kildare County Council remains vacant despite recruitment campaigns in February and October 2024. As a result of this and a significant nationwide shortage of suitably qualified professionals in the private market, a number of conservation related projects are behind schedule in order to prioritise the progression and completion of time bound external grant aided projects. Further updates on Vanessa's Bower will be provided to members in due course.



Councillor Trost informed members that there is a new Chief Executive in St. John of Gods and he would be happy to make contact to see if the issue could be progressed.

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

#### **CL20/1224**

#### **New School Campus Celbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heather.  
Can the council provide an update on the status of the new school campus for Celbridge?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the provision (and delivery) of school facilities is a matter for the Department of Education.

The Department provide ongoing updates on their website

<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/d73cb-building-works-for-the-construction-extension-and-refurbishment-of-schools/#school-building-projects-large-scale-additional-accommodation-scheme-current-status-lists>

Councillor Heather expressed disappointment with the report received and sought further information.

Ms Granville informed members that no further information or updates had been provided from the Department of Education, and if Kildare County Council had an update it would be shared with members.

The report was noted.

#### **CL21/1224**

#### **Celbridge-Leixlip Local Area Plan**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor O'Rourke.  
Can the council confirm, or at least estimate a timeframe for the Celbridge-Leixlip Local Area Plan?



A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the review of the Celbridge Local Area Plan is not in the current work programme and therefore timelines are unknown.

Councillor O'Rourke asked if this could be elaborated on, and Ms Granville noted that there was nothing further to add at this time, as Local Area Plans were due to change, and it was unknown what this would look like going forward.

The report was noted.

#### **CL22/1224**

#### **Development of Amenities at Donaghcumper**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heather.  
Can the council outline its plan to involve the community in the development of amenities at Donaghcumper?

A report was received from Corporate Department informing the members that the Council's primary focus to date has been to finalise the sale of Donaghcumper House and ancillary buildings to the Office of Public Works. When the sale is complete, we will engage with the Office of Public Works to develop a timeline for the preparation and coordination of the proposed Masterplan. This is likely to include a pre-plan consultation exercise with the community.

Councillor Heather noted that it was vital that the community were involved in the development of amenities in the area, and also involved in how the masterplan would be implemented.

The report was noted.



## **CL23/1224**

### **Christmas Lights Celbridge**

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

Can the council clarify what happens with the funds allocated for the Christmas lights in Celbridge in the circumstances where the lights are not going up, such as this year?

A report was received from the Community Department informing the members where funds had been allocated to a specific project and the group were no longer in a position to deliver this project, Kildare County Council would engage with the organising committee to ascertain their next step. There were two avenues open to the Local Authority depending on the outcome of the engagement, (a) the Local Authority will request that the funding is returned or (b) the Local Authority will allow the group to carry the funding into the following year for a specific project, however, the group will be excluded from applying for any additional funding.

In relation to the issue identified with Celbridge Christmas Lights for this year, Kildare County Council have contacted the organising committee who have advised that lighting installations have commenced.

Members noted that Kildare County Council do a great job in providing funding and that more volunteers were needed to help with Christmas lights and other projects in Celbridge.

The report was noted.

The Cathaoirleach wished all present a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2025.

The meeting concluded.