



Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting

Held on Friday 15 March 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, V Liston, and Councillor J Neville.

Apologies: Councillor N Killeen.

Officials Present: Ms C Barrett (District Manager), Mr R Linnane (Municipal District Engineer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscape Officer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Mr K Oluwatosin (Senior Executive Planner), Ms P O'Brien (Senior Executive Officer), Ms E McGrath (A/Administrative Officer), Ms C Brogan (LPT Co-ordinator), Mr M Hearn (Staff Officer), Ms P O'Rourke (Climate Action Coordinator), Mr T Shanahan (Meetings Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the March Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District meeting. Apologies had been received from Councillor Cussen and Councillor Killeen that they expected to be late arriving to the meeting.

CL01/0324

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.



CL02/0324

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the draft minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 16 February 2024 including proposed correction to January minutes with the progress report.

Resolved: On the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Coleman and agreed by the members, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Friday 16 February 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.

CL03/0324

Municipal District works

Schedule of Municipal District Works – March 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.

Road Works Programme for 2024

Road Overlays - Restoration Improvement

- R403 Clane Road (Ardras to Barberstown) At tender stage.
- R403 Barnhall Roundabout to M4 overbridge Preparing tender documentation.
- R405 Maynooth Road,(Ardrath to Lufthansa Preparing tender documentation.
- R149 Confey at Graveyard Preparing tender documentation.
- L 5061 Loughlinstown Road. Preparing tender documentation.
- L 89945 Knockaulin Leixlip Tender complete.

Surface Dressing – Restoration Maintenance

Surface dressing was scheduled to commence on May 28, 2024. Area identified for surface dressing for 2024.



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Location: South Ardclough at Boston Cottages, Pluckstown and Ougherard. Approx 3.250km length 14,000 sqm of local road L2008 and L6018.

Footpath repair and restoration:

Works now complete in Dun Carrig Leixlip. Currently identifying works in The Grove in Celbridge and Easton Park and Oaklawn in Leixlip

The report was noted.

CL04/0324

LPT Schedule of Works 2024.

The members considered the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2024. (appendix 1)

Councillor Coleman questioned if the pedestrian crossing at Applegreen at the Celbridge interchange was being funded by the NTA or from LPT allocations.

It was confirmed that this project was from LPT allocations.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members that the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2024 be agreed and approved.

CL05/0324

Leas Cathaoirleach

The members considered the nomination of a Leas Cathaoirleach following the absence and the maternity leave of Councillor Galvin.

It was proposed by Councillor Neville and seconded by Councillor Liston to nominate Councillor Rupert Heather as Leas Cathaoirleach

The members were asked if there were any further nomination.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by all members that Councillor Rupert Heather be elected as Leas Cathaoirleach.



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Councillor Rupert Heather thanked the members for their nomination and was happy to accept.

CL06/0324

Venue for the April Municipal District Meeting

The members considered possible venues for the April municipal district meeting.

Councillor Caldwell proposed the Springfield Hotel which had been used for Inter Kildare meetings and previous Town Council meetings.

The members raised the following:

- Questioned if there were technical issues with holding the meeting in the Springfield Hotel
- That the hotel was well associated with Leixlip but did not fall into the municipal district
- That the meeting should be held within the municipal district

The District Manager confirmed that there were no objections to it being held within the municipal district. Newtown House was suggested as a possible venue within the municipal district utilising the room where the Town Council meeting had previously been held.

Councillor Neville was asked to look into this as a possibility as he was on the Board for Leixlip Youth.

The members were asked if they were happy to consider this venue for either the April or May meeting.

The members were in agreement with the venue and Councillor Neville agreed to follow up on availability of Newtown House given his involvement with Leixlip Youth.



2024 NTA Active Travel Grants Allocation.

The members received a report on the 2024 NTA Active Travel Grants Allocation in advance of the meeting.

Mr Hodgins updated the members that:

- Just under €10M had been allocated in 2023 for Kildare County Council and €10.5M was drawn down for the year.
- Nationally, the NTA had been oversubscribed with requests for active travel funding and most local authorities received a cut in their 2024 allocations.
- In County Kildare, an allocation of over €10M had been provided for 2024 and the portfolio of projects had been scaled back as a result resulting in a more realistic streamlined list of projects for the allocation provided.
- Within this municipal district projects include:
 - The Royal Canal Greenway (Phase 1 complete)
 - Green Lane Active Travel Scheme received €1.2M and was due to be tendered in next 2-3 weeks.
 - Safe Routes Scheme on Aghards Road had an allocation of €20,000.
 - Celbridge Active Travel Bridge received an allocation of €225,000, this was currently at site investigation stage. The tender stage was expected in 2025.
- As clarification to the members, the portfolio was based on the Strategic Cycle Network and minor works (single pedestrian crossings) did not fall under the remit of this funding stream. Kildare County Council had made provision for some in the Capital Budget this year.

Mr Hodgins asked the members if they had any questions.

The members raised the following;

- Thanked Mr Hodgins for the presentation which had given the members a greater understanding.



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- The members understood that there was a limited allocation from state funding and were happy to see all allocated funds had been drawn down.
- Great to see funding being allocated to the Celbridge and Leixlip area and projects progressing. With €4 million for Leixlip and €250,000 for Celbridge.
- Asked for time frames for Leixlip projects and Aghards Road.
- Asked how works were prioritised.
- Asked if good news updates could be made public so people could see progress was being made around the municipal district.
- Updates needed to be filtered out regarding Bridge project to update the public that further studies were required and reasoning behind this. Communication was key to helping reduce despondency.
- Asked if the Active Travel Bridge would be put to the NTA after the Town Renewal Plan process was complete.
- Questioned where funding was coming from for the Section 38 on the Shinkeen Road.
- Concerns raised around footpath near St Wolstans school, the path was said to be very dangerous with a width of 1 metre in places . The road was experiencing high levels of traffic.
- Concerns raised regarding new primary school near Coláiste Chiaráin it was felt this would cause issues moving forward especially with 2 new housing estates in the area with an associated increase in traffic.

Mr Hodgins advised the members that:

- The Celbridge Active Travel Bridge was currently at site investigation stage, the results from this would be used for the detailed design stage.
- Start dates for all projects would be circulated to elected members and published to the public when available.
- Aim to bring members on site to projects where possible, this would enable Councillors to answer queries from the public about construction works.



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- With regard to other schemes, there were 16 schemes on hold in 2024 due to an over demand for funding. These would be progressed over time, subject to funding being available.
- Section 38 was being funded by Kildare County Council through the Capital Works Programme.
- Mr Hodgins cautioned about using the word “dangerous” in relation to the footpath around St Wolstans School. The safety concern was related to the behaviour of motorists.
- With regards to prioritisation, the team was progressing projects which if allocated funding would be able to be completed within the year.

The report was noted.

CL08/0324 **Public Car Park**

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

That the council engage with the owner of the car park on Captains Hill, behind Macari 102 and Captains Cleaners etc, with a view to leasing or purchasing the space for use as a public car park.

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

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing the members that the Transport Department will engage with the members prior to the review of the Leixlip Parking bye-laws during the course of 2024 and will consider all aspects of parking in the town and the appropriateness or otherwise of additional parking provision.

The members raised the following:

- Drivers experiencing delays and that the town needed more parking.



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- Purchasing of the site would be a better option than leasing.
- Purchasing land would give options to utilise as parking and would also be an option to work with the Public Realm team with the land for other projects.

The District Manager advised the members that the Town Renewal plan was being launched later in the day and that the Transportation Section were looking at back lands with areas available for parking. This motion would be used in these investigations.

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

CL09/0324

New Lighting on Canal

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

That the council request relevant authorities to have timers on the new lights along the canal between Louisa Bridge and Confey Bridge, Leixlip as there is no need for lights to be on all night.

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

A report was received from Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management informing the members that the provision of public lighting along the Royal Canal Greenway is agreed with relevant stakeholders (the National Transport Authority and Waterways Ireland). As this is a sensitive area, both in terms of personal safety and ecology, the provision of public lighting was agreed in advance of seeking planning consent. A review can be held into the provision of lighting after the completion of the construction works from Maynooth to Louisa Bridge but this will involve the stakeholders set out above.

Councillor Caldwell stated that Riverforest residents would appreciate if timers were used, could it be considered between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m, this in turn would reduce energy consumption and reduce the effects on wildlife.



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

CL10/0324

Stop Bar

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Coleman
That the council put in place a STOP bar and sign at the junction at The Elms and Castletown Lawn in Castletown Estate.

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

The District Engineer provided an updated report informing the members that the junction was investigated on the previous Wednesday and that conflicts were seen. It was agreed that a stop bar and sign be installed at this location.

Councillor Coleman thanked the Section for this update.

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

CL11/0324

Commercial Vehicles in Housing Estates

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

Can the council clarify the situation regarding the parking of commercial vehicles in housing estates, as a dangerous blind-spot has been created in a lay-by in Simmonstown Manor Estate, Celbridge due to this issue?

A report was received from Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces informing the members that there is no legislation restricting commercial vehicles parking in housing estates. If a vehicle is parking illegally, contrary to the Road Traffic Regulations and/or parking bye-laws



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(if applicable), then a fixed charge notice may be issued. If the vehicle is parking illegally outside the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, then it is a matter for An Garda Síochána to enforce.

Councillor Heather asked about signage in other estates which stated no vehicles over 3.5 tonne and signed by Kildare County Council.

The District Engineer advised the signage in question was related to vehicles driving through estates and was not related to parking restrictions.

The report was noted.

CL12/0324

Celbridge Traffic Management Plan

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

Can the council provide an update on the progress of the Celbridge Traffic Management Plan?

A report was received from the Capital Projects Team informing the members that the Area Based Transportation Assessment (ABTA) team are working to the following ABTA schedule:

1. Maynooth and Environs ABTA is in the process of being finalised:
2. Newbridge ABTA is nearing consultations stage.
3. The next scheduled ABTA is Celbridge and Leixlip and the team will be putting together a brief for that work in Q2 2024

A full Area Based Transportation Assessment (ABTA) will take approximately 14 – 18 months to complete.

Councillor Heather welcomed the report noting more time needed to read over it in more detail.

The report was noted.



CL13/0324

Transport Assessment

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

Can the council confirm when the Transport Assessment for Celbridge will be undertaken?

A report was received from the Capital Projects Team informing the members that the Area Based Transportation Assessment (ABTA) team are working to the following ABTA schedule:

1. Maynooth and Environs ABTA is in the process of being finalised:
2. Newbridge ABTA is nearing consultations stage.
3. The next scheduled ABTA is Celbridge and Leixlip and the team will be putting together a brief for that work in Q2 2024

A full Area Based Transportation Assessment (ABTA) will take approximately 14 – 18 months to complete.

Councillor Liston thanked the Section for the report and sought clarification if the LEP was due after this.

The District Manager confirmed that the LEP was due after this.

The report was noted.

CL14/0324

Parks Works Programme 2024

The members received a report on the Parks Works Programme 2024 in advance of the meeting.

Mr Wallace went through a PowerPoint updating the members of staffing levels within the section, a review of 2023 programme including

- Leixlip Playground – Part 8
- Celbridge Outdoor Youth Facility – consultation
- Celbridge Outdoor Gym



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- Tree Planting Main Street
- Communications Board
- Wonderful Barn

The Parks works programme for 2024 including

- Projects
 - Leixlip Playground - install
 - Celbridge Outdoor Youth Facility
 - St Catherines Park Sensory Garden
 - Castletown Woods – Conservation Plan
- Operations
 - Tree Works
 - Grass Maintenance
 - Tree Planting – Oct – Dec
 - Apprenticeship Scheme
- Planning
 - LRD Applications / Planning Applications/ Compliance / Part 8s
 - Taking in Charge
 - Local Area Plans
 - County Development Plan – Allotments Strategy, Parks Assessment Criteria and Amenity Infrastructure
- Administration
 - CRMS
 - Legal Works
 - Allotment Administration

Mr Wallace asked the members to address the operations teams with any requests moving forward. He asked the members if they had any questions.

The members raised the following:

- Thanked Mr Wallace and his team for all their work to date.
- Questioned if the pathway at the back of the Grove Estate was still on the list.
- Great to see projects progressing and that the increase in staffing would assist with moving projects forward.



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- Would like to see the Teen Project progressing.
- Noted Cherrywood was down for Q2-Q3, asked if possible, could this be done in Q2 as a priority as Q3 too late.
- Great to see funding being allocated to the Parks Section to increase staffing levels.
- Hoped that the playground facilities would be able to be progressed now with the increase in resources.
- Complaints reported on pathway at Shinkeen Lane, any help would be greatly appreciated.

Mr Wallace advised the members that,

- The Path at The Grove Estate would be completed if LPT funding available this year.
- Cherrywood would be completed when the ground had improved.
- Shinkeen Lane was expected to be completed over the next few weeks.

The members received a presentation from Ms. P O'Rourke, Climate Action Co-ordinator in relation to Open Space Management – Alternative Maintenance and Biogas Dashboard.

- Timeline Highlights 2019 to 2024.
- Ms. Sophia Couchman, PHD Student, Maynooth University and was part of a collaborative project with Maynooth University, Trinity College, Teagasc, National Biodiversity Data Centre and Kildare County Council.
- All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2024 - Council Conference would be held on 13 June 2024 and Tickets were €20.
- National Biogas would like to use research data to update the public.
- Grass to Gas - €50,000 funding approved.
- GIS Data was renewed this year.
- Approval in the pipeline to agree the use of bio gas for new Climate Action Bus, which would travel around the county.
- Climate Action Plan supports delivery of up to 5.7 TWh (Terrowatt Hours) of indigenously produced biomethane by 2030.
- National Biomethane Strategy, Public Consultaion, closed 27 February 2024.
- National CAP 2024, Public Consultation would close on 5 April 2024.



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- Top 5 Counties, Kildare was the lead County.
- Test sites at Wonderful Barn, Monread and Parc na nOg.
- Data collected through drone, satellite and ground based management data.
- Completed Data - Q2, Start Q3 2024.
- Awareness Awards – Ms. Leah Berry and Ms. Sophia Couchman – Athlone Institute of Technology.

Ms O'Rourke asked the members if they had any questions

The members raised the following

- Thanks given for a detailed presentation.
- Asked for information to be communicated to the public, informing people of what was currently being done and what needed to be done in the future. Informing public of the plan stage and progress being made.
- Education was key to changing attitudes, the council must work alongside Residents Associations

Ms O'Rourke advised the members that the results from the dashboard are expected in Q2-Q3. There was another meeting scheduled for mid-April with Maynooth and other interested parties. Information would be communicated with further details when funding was secured and moving onto the next stage. Biodiversity was number one and the PHD results showed plants were needed to be available throughout the season and for grass cutting to be left longer. It was hoped the detailed poster would help people understand the reasoning behind this.

CL15/0324

Reopening of the St. John of Gods Swimming Pool

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

That the council, given recent developments, explore all options, including a multi-agency approach to facilitate the reopening of the St. John of Gods swimming pool and playgrounds at Celbridge Abbey.



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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that Kildare County Council had engaged with St John of God regarding the reopening of the playground previously. The organisation had indicated that due to health and safety concerns they weren't in favour of the playground opening. There are no plans to re-engage with the organisation at present.

Councillor Heather questioned why there was no reference to the swimming pool in the response and asked if the Council could use this opportunity to re-engage with St John of Gods.

The District Manager advised the members that residents on site currently used the pool and on examination of the swimming pool facilities it was deemed not suitable for public use. The facility would require significant upgrades to the pool area and the Council were looking into other options.

The report was noted.

CL16/0324 William's Grove

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

That the council take part in a consultation with Ardclough Community Council to consider their plans for the creation of a multi-use, multi-generational space at William's Grove Community Dividend Land.

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

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



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representatives. When this is complete, we will engage with the community regarding the potential uses of the site.

Councillor Heather welcomed the report and questioned how long the process would take. He suggested the land in question would resolve issues of parking and give option for a columbarium wall.

Mr Wallace advised that there was no time frame available as it was currently with legal team. The land was previously given permission to be a graveyard so could be potentially difficult to look at different uses.

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

The members agreed to take item 29 from the agenda next.

CL17/0324

Biodiversity Indicator

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

Can the council confirm what the latest results on biodiversity indicator improvements are in our municipal district as a result of the Park's Department Open Spaces Management strategy for biodiversity recovery and the reduction of the use of glyphosates across the county?

A report was received from Environment Section and Parks Section informing the members that based on the research being undertaken the Wonderful Barn is the site associated with Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District. The Wonderful Barn site changed elements of its maintenance regime in 2019/2020 and therefore the two years of data collated for the Masters by research during 2021/2022 would not show notable biodiversity indicator improvements given there was no baseline to compare data prior to the change in maintenance practices. Also, the variance of weather conditions and temperature effects the sequencing of plant availability with fauna emergence and requires data collection over a



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number of years to properly assess. The decrease in hay harvesting volumes over the recent years is relative to reduced soil fertility which over time may give rise to additional flora and associated fauna as conditions become more favourable. The Wonderful Barn has a status of a town park and in the 2022 research report data regarding pollinators found on the margins and open grass areas of agricultural lands (Ag) and town parks (TP) stated: 'A total of six hundred and ninety-six pollinators were found foraging on thirty-six different flowering plants on both types of site. TPs had a count of one hundred and ninety-five pollinators. Bramble was the most popular on Ag (280 pollinators) and TP (76 pollinators). Buttercup species accounted for sixty-eight foraging pollinators (Ag -60, TP- 8), dandelion for forty-eight (Ag -33, TP- 15), hogweed for forty-one (Ag - 18, TP- 23), white clover for twenty-four (Ag -4, TP- 20), ragwort for twenty (Ag -18, TP- 20) and spear thistle for fifteen (Ag -14, TP- 15).' The data shows the importance of such sites and the variety of native flora needed to provide the food sources required by species adapted specifically to flora types.

The report was noted.

Items 17,18, 24 and 28 on the agenda fell as Councillor Killeen was not present.

CL18/0324

Post Office in Leixlip

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

That this council writes to An Post outlining a request that An Post must keep the Post Office in Leixlip Village/Town Centre. This is a key focal point for the town and to ensure accessibility to people in all areas of the town access must be maintained in the central location of Leixlip Village.

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

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



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The members raised the following:

- Post Office was seen as a central hub.
- It was felt there was no benefit to having Post Office in a housing estate, needed to keep amenities Central and easily accessible to all.
- It was felt that the decision was based on a finance deal

Resolved: on proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all member that the report be noted and a letter issue to An Post

CL19/0324

Casual Trading Licenses

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

Can the members be informed on the number of Casual Trading Licenses that were issued for 2024 in Celbridge and Leixlip?

A report was received from Corporate Services S1 Licence has been granted for the Slip in Celbridge for 2024, no licences granted for Leixlip in 2024.

Councillor Coleman asked what the Casual trading license had been for. The Meetings Administrator agreed to check this and revert back to the Councillor.

The report was noted.

CL20/0324

District Heating

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

That the council outline how it is currently acting on development plan objective EC036 of our County Development Plan on district heating in our Municipal District i.e. to 'Promote and encourage the use of district heating systems in new residential and commercial developments where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding



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environment, landscape, biodiversity or local amenities', and how it can further promote and encourage its use.

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

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that Kildare County Council in conjunction with CODEMA has initiated the process of developing feasibility study for the purposes of District Heating in the county. Having regards to objective EC036 in the development plan, it is the intention that new residential and commercial developments will be District Heating Compliant and as such any grant of permission for significant housing and commercial development shall include a district heating condition.

Councillor Liston asked what stage the study was at and if the visibility study covered geothermal. It was suggested that Kildare County Council take a leadership role on this.

Mr Oluwatosin advised the members that the process was initially to gather information and then look at types of district heating and heat sources, Geothermal was one that would be investigated. After background information had been gathered, a feasibility study would then commence.

It was expected that the study would be completed in Q4 of 2024 into Q1 of 2025.

When applying for Planning there was a condition to reflect network infrastructure and compliance with district heating requirements.

Councillor Liston queried if the compliance was based at the time of submission or into the future.

Mr Oluwatosin confirmed that compliance was assessed at the time of submission with options to connect to district heat in the future.

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



CL21/0324

An Bord Pleanala and Glenveagh

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

Can the council ascertain from An Bord Pleanala and Glenveagh as to how Glenveagh were able to proceed with the development at Leixlip demesne(KDA 3) without the access through the Leixlip Innovation Campus. This was an express condition of the zoning set down by the Councillors in the current Leixlip Area Plan. The wording of the zoning around the Leixlip Area Plan were “To reduce impact and ensure road safety, the through public road to connect the Celbridge Road(at Former HP site) to M4 Interchange, Junction 6 must be completed and operational prior to the commencement of Celbridge Road East KDA in accordance with Objective MT3.13 as outlined in Section 8”.

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

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that a decision to permit the proposed development has been made by An Bord Pleanala, subject to a number of conditions which the developer must adhere to. It is noted from the excerpt below (Inspector’s report) that the inspector was satisfied with the measures to mitigate any potential traffic impact detailed in the EIAR and concluded as follows:

‘I conclude that the proposed development would have likely imperceptible neutral effects in terms of traffic and transportation’.

Councillor Neville referred to conditions in zoning. It had been a condition when signing off that the road at the Celbridge interchange would have to remain open. This had since been deemed irrelevant and seemed from a legal perspective that Councillors had no power. Conditions were in place, it was questioned why were they not complied with. He questioned if this undermined the Confey Master Plan

The members raised the following

- That Confey was already zoned in the Masterplan.



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- Similar situations had been seen in the past.

Mr Oluwatosin advised the members that firstly it went through the LRD process and all elements were then taken into consideration by the different subject experts. A grant was then issued by Kildare County Council. He advised that the said road was outside the planning application and during the planning process there were no objections to the development from agencies relating to transport. The decision to grant permission was appealed to An Bord Pleanala in which Kildare County Council's decision to grant was upheld. Under a separate grant of permission for the redevelopment of the Kildare Innovation Campus (former HP site) the said road was to be delivered.

The members questioned the power of Councillors with regards zoning and felt that it undermined their trust in planners if advice could be disregarded.

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

CL22/0324

S254 Licence Applications

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

Can the members be informed on S254 Licence applications that were received/granted/refused for 2023 and up to date for Celbridge and Leixlip?

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that the following two Section 254 applications were received, and granted, in 2023:

App No.	Applicant	Type	Location	MD	Date Received	Decision	Licence Expiry
790	National Broadband	Communications Rollout		Celbridge/ Leixlip	28/02/2023	Granted	16/05/2048
799	Benduff Ireland Ltd.	Scaffolding	Captain's Hill, Leixlip	Celbridge/ Leixlip	18/05/2023	Granted	19/01/2024



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No Section 254 applications have been received to date for 2024.

Councillor Coleman expressed his disappointment that there was no street furniture included.

The report was noted.

CL23/0324

Ryevale House

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

Can the council provide an update on the legal status of the enforcement Notice at Ryevale House?

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that as previously advised, this case has been referred to the Council's legal team for review, and at this time there is no further update available.

Councillor Neville expressed his disappointment in reading about this in the newspaper.

The report was noted.

CL24/0324

Biodiversity Net Gain

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

That the council outline how a policy of Biodiversity Net Gain is being pursued and measured in our municipal district according to policy BI07 in our County Development Plan. Pursue insofar as possible and practical, a policy of biodiversity net gain through strategies, plans, developments, mitigation measures, appropriate offsetting and/or investment in Blue-Green infrastructure.

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



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A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that the Council does not currently measure Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). While BNG has been mandatory in the UK for certain types of development since 12 February 2024 there is no similar legislative requirements in Ireland at this time. The implementation of the County Development Plan will take time and significant resources.

Notwithstanding same, Kildare County Council is committed to progressing objectives and actions of the CDP as part of the Forward Planning work programme and acknowledges the importance of measuring BNG (which is reflected in policy BI07 of the CDP).

The creation of a BNG tool for use by both developers and practitioners may be considered for the 2025 work programme.

Councillor Liston thanked the Section for the report noting that the UK had taken leadership whereby the size and types of habitat were measured before and after development.

She asked if Kildare County Council could take leadership with regard to the report in the Development Plan 2025 for a tool to be developed, she advised she would follow this up with the Planning Section.

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

CL25/0324

Flood Relief Scheme

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

That the council engage with the OPW to prioritise the flood relief scheme for Celbridge and Hazelhatch to include a timeline for delivery.

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



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A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that Celbridge and Hazelhatch has not been identified as a scheme by the OPW in either Tranche 1 or Tranche 2 following CFRAMs.

Kildare County Council was currently working with on the delivery of schemes in Tranche 1.

A scheme viability review was currently underway by the OPW for Celbridge and Hazelhatch, and we await results of this review.

Councillor Coleman expressed his disappointment noting he was previously advised that this was already done. He questioned why another review was now needed. The current situation was affecting a lot of people. People now had concerns regarding insurance issues following on from last year's flash flooding. Councillor Coleman asked how this could be prioritised and what time frame was expected.

A meeting was needed to be arranged to get answers as Councillor Coleman had been trying to get a reply since last October.

Mr Hearn agreed to take back concerns and questions to Mr Galvin and revert back.

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

CL26/0324

Swimming Pool in Leixlip

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

Can the council provide an update on the possibility of a new swimming pool in Leixlip now that the Maynooth University is exploring the option of reopening the pool that they have?

A report was received from the Community Section informing the members that Kildare County Council are currently in discussions with Swim Ireland and other bodies with a view to advancing a swimming facility for North Kildare. Meetings are ongoing with various suppliers and consultants with a view to exploring alternative solutions.



Kildare County Council

Councillor Neville advised that this question arose from the previous full council meeting after receiving presentation from Maynooth University. This had now been raised for the past 8 years.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.