



Minutes of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
held on Friday, 15 May 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara, Naas

Members Present: Councillor R. Heather (Cathaoirleach), Councillors
B. Caldwell, N. Killeen, C. O'Rourke, D. Ryan and D. Trost.

Apologies: Councillor P. Brooks

Officials Present: Mr. J. Boland (District Manager), Mr. R. Linnane (District Engineer),
Mr. M. McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Ms. S. Farrar
(Administrative Officer), Ms. P. O'Rourke (Climate Action
Coordinator), Ms. P. Pender (Senior Executive Officer),
Mr. D. Creighton (A/Director of Services), Mr. M. Hearn (Staff
Officer), Mr. T. Shanahan (Senior Executive Officer), Mr. B. McGrath
(Senior Staff Officer), Ms. D. Egan (Meetings Administrator) and
Ms. J. Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary).

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the members to the May 2026 Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting. He notes that apologies had been received from Councillor P. Brooks.

CL01/0526

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

CL02/0526

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on 17 April 2026, including the Progress Report.



Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Trost, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Friday, 17 April 2026 of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CL03/0526

Municipal District Road Works

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

Schedule of Municipal District Works – May 2026

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, general repairs to footpaths and kerbs. Calls received are triaged and then assigned to a crew as appropriate. Winter maintenance road salting operations are now concluded.

Road Works Programme 2026 and Surface Dressing – Restoration Maintenance 2026

Municipal District staff are currently preparing tender documents to procure contractors for this year's Road Improvement Programme of Works. The following locations have been identified following road condition surveys in the Municipal District.

- R403-28 - English Row, Celbridge (Tender complete, finalising contract award)
- R404 - Old Hill to Castletown Leixlip (Preparing tender documents)
- R157 - Old Carton Dunboyne Road. (Preparing tender documents)
- L1058 - Rear of Castletown House Estate (off Celbridge Interchange) (Tender complete, contract awarded)
- L5050 - Young's Cross to State Labs Celbridge (Tender complete contract awarded)
- L5056 /L50563- Easton Road. Accom. Road Leixlip (Tender complete, contract awarded)



Footpath Restoration Programme 2026:

Footpath repair works underway in Celbridge Abbey and Abbey Farm. Works will then progress to Dara Court. Other estates in the district are currently being assessed for footpath works for 2026.

Road Closures:

L1015: Uisce Éireann works on L1015 (Top of Kellystown lane to Confey) are currently ongoing. They recommended following the completion of the works and closure of the R149 at Confey over the Easter holidays.

L50651: Uisce Éireann works on The Drive in Castletown Estate are substantially complete with access now being provided to the estate from both the Main Street access and the north access off the R405.

R405: Uisce Éireann works on the R405 are progressing and are now past the entrance to Beaty Grove. Works are progressing at the programmed pace. Works are expected to reach Aldi Junction by mid-June 2026.

R405: Uisce Éireann commenced road closure on R405 Hazelhatch Road from Junction with Lucan Road R403 and the junction of the Shinkeen Road L1027. Closure to be lifted on 01/07/26. Local diversion via the Shinkeen Road.

CL04/0526

Deputation from the Celbridge Arts and Performance Group

The members received a deputation from Ms. Fifi Smith from the Celbridge Arts and Performance Group.

At the outset Ms. Smith acknowledged the foresight and commitment by the council acquiring the site and thanked the members for the opportunity to give this presentation. She explained that Celbridge has exceptional but underused assets. There were many different groups set up in the area including music, dance, theatre performance and youth theatre. She noted that Kildare County Council has already recognised tourism as a major growth opportunity for Celbridge.



The town contains over a dozen significant heritage attractions, including Castletown House, major Jonathan Swift connections, Guinness industrial heritage, and strong medieval and early settlement history, however, these assets operate in isolation.

The missing piece, is a landmark town-centre hub that can connect heritage, tourism, arts, and community life into a single destination that attracts consistent daytime and evening activity.

She asked that the forthcoming Celbridge Local Area Plan include a clear commitment to deliver a Community Arts and Performance Centre, ideally at the Parochial House by the River Liffey.

Ms. Smith noted that such a facility would:

- Provide a major footfall driver for Main Street businesses.
- Support tourism growth by creating a central visitor and cultural hub.
- Strengthen community infrastructure in a rapidly expanding town.
- Support the evening economy and town-centre vitality.
- Harness North Kildare's strong and growing creative sector.

She also noted it was great to see that County Kildare received a total of €244,000 in Arts Council funding for 2026. The success of Riverbank Arts Centre in Newbridge demonstrates the impact such facilities can have. In 2023 alone, Riverbank attracted over 25,000 visitors, generating substantial town-centre footfall and economic activity both during the day and in the evening.

She asked for the elected members support Celbridge as it is one of Kildare's fastest growing towns. Without decisive investment in civic and cultural infrastructure, the town centre will continue to decline. A landmark arts and performance hub represents a high-impact, policy-aligned and deliverable intervention capable of transforming Celbridge's economic, cultural, and community life during both day and night.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Smith for the presentation and that a focal arts centre would be an opportunity to strengthen the nightlife in the area. There were a wide variety of groups in the area that could avail of such a venue, currently these groups were having to meet in unsuitable venues.



Councillor Trost enquired if research had been carried out to see what interest was out there from groups looking for a venue.

Councillor O'Rourke welcomed the presentation adding that Celbridge was overdue this kind of investment.

Ms. Smith explained that many people have to travel to Dublin for entertainment and there is a need for something more local, she noted that there were countless groups looking for venues but they faced barriers such as high rentals and high insurance.

A brief general discussion took place in which some members referred to the need to work collaboratively and to also acknowledge the commitment and investment by the municipal district to date.

CL05/0526

Glendale Meadows, Leixlip

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

That the council installs double yellow lines canal side at the entrances of the cul-de-sacs in Glendale Meadows, Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that the Municipal District office will commence the drafting of Section 38 documents for the installation of markings at the eastern pedestrian access to St. Catherine's Park in Glendale to restrict vehicles parking at junctions. Documents will be presented to Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District elected members for review prior to commencement of Section 38 statutory procedure.

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



CL06/0526

Aghards Road/Shackleton Road, Celbridge

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

That the council adjust the sequencing of the lights on Aghards Road/Shackleton Road, Celbridge as a priority during the current roadworks on the Maynooth Road as the flows have been severely impacted due to the diversions causing tail backs at peak periods and challenges for people trying to enter and exit their estates.

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

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that the Municipal District office had requested that the Uisce Éireann Project Team continuously monitor the traffic flows and queuing at this junction with the view to minimise the impact of the traffic lights and maximise the flow of traffic. The lights are required to facilitate the turning of buses at this junction and to give balanced flows from each approach.

Councillor Trost noted traffic flow issues over the weekend and anything to alleviate the issues would be welcomed. He accepted that the works were essential but communication with the public was also essential.

Councillor Caldwell questioned how works were expected to be carried out without any disruptions.

The District Engineer noted that works were due to be completed on this section between 16 and 18 July but would then be moving onto the Maynooth Road, which would cause further disruption. The majority of the work was being carried out at off peak times to try and alleviate delays. Peak time delays were noted but this was due to traffic light sequencing on the Aghards Road which was essential to all busses to exit the junction. He confirmed that Uisce Éireann and the council would continue to monitor the situation and work toward minimising impact as best they can.

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



CL07/0526

Letter to National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann

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

That this Municipal District writes to the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Bus Éireann to urgently address ongoing and unacceptable capacity and reliability issues at Celbridge on the Route 120 (Edenderry to Dublin) bus service, particularly at peak times, including repeated reports of passengers being unable to board at Celbridge due to overcrowding, and to set out immediate measures to increase frequency and improve service provision.

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

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that with the agreement of the members, a letter will be issued to the National Transport Authority on this matter.

Councillor O'Rourke explained that the motion was submitted following difficulties a constituent had in attending a medical appointment due to the bus being full, resulting in the constituent having to use a taxi to attend their appointment.

Councillor Heather supported the motion and the importance of providing a reliable service.

Councillor Ryan noted the population has increased significantly and that this route would need a double decker service at all times and not just at peak times in order to meet the demand.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Ryan and agreed by all members that the report be noted and that on behalf of this municipal district the Transport Section writes to the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Bus Éireann regarding the issues as outlined in the motion.



The members agreed to take items 8 and 12 together.

CL08/0526

Parking Bye-Laws

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

That the council initiates a targeted review of parking bye-laws in Castletown, in Celbridge considering the growing safety issues and disruption to traffic, including issues arising during evenings and weekends when illegal or hazardous parking has been repeatedly reported by residents.

This review should:

- Examine current traffic volumes, movement patterns, parking behaviours, and safety risks,
- Review the adequacy and effectiveness of existing parking regulations and road markings at this location, including whether current byelaw timeframes (10am–4pm) are sufficient to address the safety concerns raised,
- Identify any measures required to improve road safety.

That a full written report of this review, including recommendations and any proposed actions, be brought back to the members of the municipal district for consideration at the earliest possible municipal district meeting.

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

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that the enforcement of parking bye-laws can only be carried out during the bye-law times of 10:00hrs to 16:00hrs Monday to Friday (excluding Public/Bank Holidays). Outside of these times, enforcement is a matter for An Garda Síochána.

It would not be possible to carry out a bye-law review for one particular location in a town without consideration of the effect on the entire town. It would also be an efficient way to review bye-laws. The review of Celbridge Parking Bye-Laws are included in the Parking



Bye-Law Review Schedule and will be considered following the completion of a number of other reviews ongoing at present. The review of enforcement hours and days will be included in the next review of the Celbridge Parking Bye-laws to bring Celbridge in line with other towns and with the County Framework Policy, as adopted by the elected members in December 2022. The Transportation Department cannot give a defined timeframe at present for a review of the Bye-Laws, however, the members will be kept informed of any progress. While measures such as the implementation of parking restrictions by means of double yellow lines can be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of the Roads Act, 1994, the enforcement of these measures would require a review of the parking bye-laws.

An Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) will be commenced later in the year and this will consider traffic flow, traffic volumes, movement patterns, parking behaviours etc. and this will help inform the delivery of future transportation measures in Celbridge.

Councillor O'Rourke welcomed the report asking if there was any time frame available for the Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) to be carried out, as she believed this needed to be done first ahead of considering the byelaws.

The members raised the following:

- Byelaws were due to be reassessed in 2024 and these needed to be examined.
- Parking issues at Castletown being reported and that there were no yellow markings in place at this location.
- The loss of car parking spaces at the Abbey had not helped the situation and alternative parking needed to be investigated.

Mr. M. McLoughlin confirmed that a consultant has been appointed but no timescale was available for the ABTA. He felt it would be better carried out over the Autumn after the Uisce Éireann works were completed. The Parking Bye-laws could be reviewed, but only if looking into extending the hours and including Saturday pay parking.

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



CL09/0526

Pedestrian Crossing

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

Can the council provide an update on the installation of a pedestrian crossing between St. Mary's Park and Avondale on Captain's Hill, Leixlip?

A report was received from the Capital Projects Team informing the members that a Part 8 (Planning) was being prepared for the delivery of these works, and a further update would be provided to the elected members in June on the overall project programme.

The report was noted.

CL10/0526

Public Car Parking

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

Can the council provide a detailed breakdown of the number and location of public car parking spaces currently provided by the council in Celbridge, including a distinction between on-street and off-street parking, accessible parking spaces and any time-restricted or paid parking, as well as whether the council has undertaken any recent assessment of parking demand in the area and any planned proposals to increase parking capacity or manage parking in the area?

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that the following is the number of designated pay and display on-street parking spaces in Celbridge.

- 143 designated on street pay and display parking spaces.
- 9 designated accessible parking spaces.
- 1 designated pay and display Age Friendly parking space.

There are no "free" designated parking spaces. There are no off-street Kildare County Council designated parking spaces.



The forthcoming Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) will assist in informing parking demand in Celbridge. The Transportation Department is willing to engage with any landowner in relation to the provision of a long-term car park for the town.

Councillor O'Rourke sought clarity as to whether a resident living on the Main Street could obtain a parking permit.

Mr. M. McLoughlin confirmed that parking permits were available but did not automatically give a person a parking space, it just reduces the parking rates. He added that each case was assessed and permits issued on the basis of where the applicant resides.

The report was noted.

CL11/0526

Primrose Hill National School

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

Can the council advise when the feasibility work for a detailed review of road safety around Primrose Hill National School will begin?

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that the Active Travel Team is waiting the appointment of additional resources to fill current vacancies. This location would then be considered as part of the work programme when resources were available.

Councillor Heather noted the report and asked if there was a timeframe available.

Mr. M. McLoughlin suggested engagement with the Safe Routes to School Programme which can be accessed by Schools and suggested contact be made with the Road Safety Officer.

The report was noted.



CL12/0526

The Drive, Castletown, Celbridge

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

Can the council advise if a comprehensive traffic and road safety assessment of The Drive, Castletown, Celbridge and its surroundings can be considered in 2026?

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office propose to set up a meeting with Kildare County Council Pay Parking Section, An Garda Síochána and Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District elected members to discuss current issues with parking and explore potential solutions.

The report was noted.

CL13/0526

Cost Rental Schemes

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

That the council provide clarification on the range of Cost Rental Schemes (Housing) available in Leixlip and Celbridge, the number of units available, the rents paid per unit size and that the council provide a report on all cost rentals occupied within the last 5 years and active in this municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that Cost Rental housing offers affordable long-term, secure rented accommodation. The rent charged is based on the cost of building, managing, and maintaining the homes. The rent charge for Cost Rental homes is at least 25% below regular market rents in the area. 56 Cost Rental units have been delivered by an Approved Housing Body and 52 Cost Rental units have been delivered by the Land Development Agency in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District. At present there is no Cost Rental advertised in this municipal district. New schemes that



become available will be advertised by the Approved Housing Body, Land Development Agency or the Local Authority.

Councillor Killeen indicated a report in tabular format to set out what the rents on cost rental properties would be helpful. She mentioned she was aware recently of a unit that was previously rented for one particular amount and subsequently re-let for a much higher amount. She requested that details of this recent occurrence be made available. Councillor Killeen also noted that the council have ready for letting, Part V properties under the cost rental and one other scheme. She also enquired how many units were in cost rental at present.

Ms .S. Farrar, Administrative Officer, Housing Department, explained the council had no control over rent rates for the existing cost rental properties in this Municipal District as the units were delivered by and rents set by, the relevant Approved Housing Body. Ms. S. Farrar confirmed Clúid Housing had delivered the 56 cost rental units in Leixlip, the Land Development Agency had delivered the units in Celbridge. It was further clarified while no scheme for cost rental was being reviewed at present, the council was very supportive of Cost Rental Equity Loans and all future proposals would be considered.

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

CL14/0526

Cope Bridge

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

That the council writes to Waterways Ireland to ask that they improve the surface at the east side of the canal entrance on Cope Bridge, Leixlip to improve accessibility.

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

A report was received from the Meetings Administrator informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree.



Councillor Caldwell noted that the time frame for the project to start was two years and that in the meantime the surface needed to be made safer so as to improve accessibility. He added there were currently rocks on the path which were causing access problems for wheelchair users and people with pushchairs.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Trost and agreed by all members that the council writes to Waterways Ireland.

CL15/0526

Parochial House, Celbridge

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

Can the council confirm when a public consultation will commence in relation to the usage of the Parochial House, Celbridge as the legal conveyancing nears conclusion?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm informing the members that an application to develop a feasibility study for the Parochial House and lands has been submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Round 1 of the Town and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund (TCRIF) Category 1A. This will allow surveys and assessments to be carried out which will help develop a design proposal suitable for the site. It is intended that a public consultation piece will form part of this process. There are no timelines at present as to when successful applications will be announced so a timeline on when this work will be carried out cannot yet be established.

Councillor Trost welcomed the news that the Parochial House was now in council ownership and enquired in relation to next steps. Concerns were raised over the security of the building and grounds once the premises were vacated.

The District Manager confirmed that the facilities team were aware of the security concerns.

The report was noted.



CL16/0526

Casual Trading Bye-Laws

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

That the council advise what the timeline for review of the Casual Trading Bye-Laws is in respect of Leixlip, to include additional sites such as the Wonderful Barn, for implementation in 2027?

A report was received from the Corporate Section informing the members that the adoption of the Casual Trading Bye Laws is a matter for the elected members. The existing Casual Trading Bye Laws, for the Municipal District of Celbridge - Leixlip, came into operation in June 2022. There is currently no uptake of the trading pitches in the municipal district. In relation to the Wonderful Barn, subject to licence there is potential scope for one off event(s).

The report was noted.

CL17/0526

Donaghcumper House and Lands

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

Can the council provide an update on the current status of Donaghcumper House and lands, including the timeline for the masterplan and public consultation, and what funding or partnerships are in place for the restoration and public access?

A report was received from Strategic Property Management informing the members that the council has commenced preparation work on the masterplanning of the Donaghcumper lands for resources within the Forward Planning Team in the Planning Department. As there is a significant demand on resources within that team we will revert with a timeline as work progresses. Due to the relationship between Donaghcumper House and lands and Castletown House and lands, the council will also engage with the Office of Public Works (OPW), who are also procuring a consultant for the masterplanning of the Castletown Estate. (following their recent acquisition of the lands to the north of Castletown House).



Councillor Ryan noted that it was over two years now and asked if any time frame was available. He also reported damage to a wall on the Dublin Road after recent storms and enquired whether that had been looked at so as to avoid any further damage.

Mr. D. Creighton noted that it was his understanding that wall had been temporarily protected but advised that he had not visited the site recently. He agreed to arrange investigation of the stability and appearance of the wall.

The report was noted.

CL18/0526

Liffey Valley Park

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

Can the council provide a current status update on the proposed Liffey Valley Park walking and cycling route between Celbridge and Leixlip, including confirmed timelines, any completed sections and any outstanding land or planning constraints?

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that as per previous response at the March Municipal District meeting (CL24/0326), the final [Liffey Valley Park Feasibility Study – Phase 1 Celbridge Bridge to St Catherines Park, Leixlip](#) (linked) was completed in February and has now been published and available for viewing on the Kildare County Council Website. As this is the completion of the feasibility study only, the progression to project and consent stage will be required to be considered in the context of resources and funding.

Councillor Ryan sought clarity as to whether there were any problems with land or planning constraints.

The District Manager in order to enhance the familiarity with the project and to better explain the complexities involved suggested, that a workshop could be arranged with the Planning Section.

The members agreed to a workshop and the District Manager agreed to arrange same.

The report was noted.



CL19/0526

Centralised Communication Process

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

That the council provide a more robust communication to all groups supported by Local Property Tax (LPT) and other grants and a centralised communication process to cover social media, radio, local newspapers to better inform the public on all the valuable supports being provided and events being held.

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

A report was received from the Communications Team informing the members that the Council welcomes the motion and agrees that a proactive, coordinated and consistent communications approach would enhance public awareness and understanding of the valuable work delivered by groups supported through LPT and other grant schemes.

A centralised communications approach supports timely, consistent and accessible promotion of funded projects while improving transparency and strengthens public understanding of how council funding delivers positive community outcomes.

In practical terms, this could be facilitated by encouraging groups in receipt of LPT or other grant funding, through funding conditions or reporting arrangements, to submit key information on project milestones, launches, community benefits and upcoming events. This would support the Communications Team provide a planned and integrated communications approach, with coordinated messaging across social media, local radio, local newspapers, the council website and other relevant channels.

This aligns with Kildare County Council's Communications Strategy 2026–2030, which emphasises proactive, planned and integrated communications, strong audience targeting, consistent messaging and meaningful engagement with communities.

In addition, there is scope to expand the use of high-quality digital content, including short videos, photography and community-focused storytelling, to better highlight project outcomes and local voices (as demonstrated in previous content on the Kildare County Council's YouTube channel).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOQZ9XM8jE4>



The Communications Team will continue to work with relevant internal sections to strengthen funding conditions and reporting requirements at application stage, supporting a more centralised communications approach and enhancing public understanding of the impact of council funding.

Councillor Trost welcomed the positive report, noting that processes and committees change and knowledge can be lost. He noted that it is therefore important that information is communicated to the public and that positive success stories are conveyed.

Councillor Caldwell said that Local Property Tax allocations should be included, as it gives the public an understanding as to where funds are being allocated and what such funding allocations can achieve.

Councillor Heather supported the motion stating that there was a wider story to be told around the effectiveness and benefit that taxes have on the local community.

The District Manger welcomed the motion and explained that it fits in with the council's new Communication Strategy. He confirmed that the Communications Team would be taking this on as a Project.

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

CL20/0526

Lands at Celbridge Abbey

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

Can the council confirm whether any engagement has taken place, or is planned, with the relevant landowner(s) in relation to the potential acquisition of lands at Celbridge Abbey for use as a community asset, and whether an assessment has been undertaken of the site's suitability for support under relevant funding streams?



A report was received from x informing the members that in the context of the new bridge over the River Liffey at Celbridge, the Transport Team in Kildare County Council is looking at lands in Celbridge Abbey required for the delivery of that project. There is currently no engagement with the relevant landowner(s) in relation to the potential acquisition of lands at Celbridge Abbey for use as a community asset

The report was noted.

The members agreed to take item 21 and 22 together.

CL21/0526

Energy Master Plans

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

That the council through its Climate Action and Environment sections, supports the development of comprehensive Energy Master Plans for Celbridge and Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Climate Action Coordinator informing the members that the production of Energy Master Plans is associated with the setting up of a Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's) with the assistance of the County Mentor. Kildare's County Mentor is Ms. Emer Conway. (Contact details can be made available).

Ms. P. O'Rourke explained that there were vast amounts of information available regarding SEAI funding and that in some cases people can get up to 100 percent funding. By accessing Kildare County Council's website through Glasshouse, which is the Council's Climate Action Initiative, people can then access information on energy efficient home retrofitting, renewable energy and sustainable living this includes information on the DemoHouse in Maynooth. She added that visits to the DemoHouse can be booked online. She also suggested a tour of the DemoHouse for councillors could be arranged.

The members present agreed for a tour of the Demo House in Maynooth to be organised.



Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Heather, seconded by Councillor Trost and agreed by all members that the report be noted and for a tour of the Demo House in Maynooth to be arranged.

CL22/0526

Community Energy Mentor

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

That the Community Energy Mentor (Kildare) from the Sustainable Energy Communities Programme (SEAI) be invited to present to this municipal district on the subject of Energy Master Plans for Celbridge and Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Climate Action Coordinator informing the members that contact had been made with the County Mentor, Ms. Emer Conway. Ms. Conway was willing to present to the municipal district on the subject of Energy Master Plans (EMP's).

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

CL23/0526

Community Exchange Programme

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

That the council establishes a community exchange programme for Celbridge and Leixlip, linked to the Local Property Tax (LPT) application process, whereby established community groups are supported to share assets (including premises/ facilities) and/ or skills with smaller or emerging groups, to strengthen community capacity and sustainability pending the delivery of additional community space.

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



A report was received from the Community Section informing the members a meeting would be arranged to further discuss and clarify the actions arising from this motion, and what is feasible. It was noted that given the proposal has emerged mid-year, no funding or resources were in place to progress a pilot this year.

Councillor Killeen explained that she had spoken extensively with the Community Section when discussing Local Property Tax allocations and highlighted groups with no assets or no premises. She proposed that a Community Exchange Programme would help facilitate new groups.

Councillor Heather supported the motion, noting that this would allow groups to share their knowledge and expertise and would in turn benefit all groups. He suggested that this matter could be referred onto the Community Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for further investigation.

Councillor Killeen agreed that referring to the SPC would be worth pursuing and enquired if a meeting with the Community Section could be arranged prior to the July SPC in the hope that this proposal could be implemented in January 2027.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor O'Rourke and agreed by all members that the report be noted and that this motion be referred to the Community, Culture and Integration SPC.

CL24/0526

Swimming Pool North Kildare

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

Can the council provide an update on the site for the Swimming pool for Leixlip?

A report was received from the Community section informing the members that following on from previous reports to the members, discussed at the March meeting (CL27/28/29/0326), the Community Department can confirm it has concluded its assessment of three sites for delivery of a swimming pool in North Kildare and made draft recommendations. It is



consulting the Planning Department and Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team, before arranging an internal briefing of the members on the next steps in the process, this is expected during May.

Councillor Caldwell welcomed the recent announcement, which was made yesterday, that a feasibility study was to be commissioned for a swimming pool in North Kildare. He spoke on behalf of all councillors and politicians, noting that this had been a joint effort from everyone over the past forty years. He sought clarity as to whether funding from previous applications was still available.

The Cathaoirleach referred to the news as a wonderful development for the whole municipal district. He acknowledged that there could be hurdles to jump, but that the news was very promising.

Mr. T. Shanahan advised that the old funding was no longer available and that the Community Team would be applying for funding through the Large Scale Infrastructure Fund.

The report was noted.

CL25/0526

Dog Warden

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

Can the council confirm if the dog wardens have a specific schedule of when they visit Celbridge/Ardclough, or is it based on direct complaints from residents on an ad hoc basis as local visibility is very important?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the dog warden service is contracted to a third party (employing three wardens) on behalf of Kildare County Council. Its personnel work closely with other agencies including An Garda Síochána (AGS).



The warden's role and responsibilities include:

- Dealing with queries and complaints from the public, supporting enforcement actions and related court proceedings,
- Investigating complaints from the public in relation to dogs
- Working in close co-operation with AGS in relation to matters pertaining to control of dogs
- Co-ordinating activities in relation to the control of stray dogs and the operation of the pound

While currently two wardens are carrying out licence checks in the Celbridge area, the wardens typically operate on a responsive, countywide basis. If there are specific areas of concern to the councillor, he might contact the Environment Department who can liaise with the dog wardens accordingly.

Councillor Trost welcomed the report and the recent advertisement that the dog warden would be in the Celbridge area.

The report was noted.

CL26/0526

Riparian Landowners

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

That the council advise on the enforcement process in relation to riparian owners (waterways) where maintenance of overgrowth is not attended to?

A report was received from the Flood Risk Management Team informing the members that under the Local Authority Works Act 1949, if the council is of the opinion that lands or structures not owned by them:

“Has sustained or is likely to sustain damage from flooding, landslide, subsidence or other similar occurrence and that it is in the public interest to afford relief or protection from the damage, the local authority may execute such works as they consider reasonable for the purpose of affording such relief or protection.”



These works are subject to consent being obtained by way of a Notice being served on the relevant landowner and occupier (if appropriate). The relevant landowner may object to the Notice and apply to the District Court for an order to prohibit entry.

Given the requirement to demonstrate that any proposed works must be shown to prevent damage from flooding and be in the public interest, the serving of Notices under the 1949 Act is usually reserved for the construction of flood relief schemes, where there is a direct benefit to communities in the provision of flood relief and protection to their homes and businesses.

The rights and responsibilities of riparian landowners with regard to maintenance of their own watercourses are detailed in an Office of Public Works (OPW) guidance booklet, available on the Council's website at:

<https://kildarecoco.ie/YourCouncil/Publications/Environment/>

The report was noted.

Any other Business

Councillor Caldwell reflected on the recent success of the Inclusivity Festival held on Sunday, 10 May 2026 at The Curragh Racecourse. The event was funded through Local Property Tax and supported by main sponsors Intel and NUA Healthcare. This was the second year of the Inclusivity Festival and the first of its kind in the country.

The meeting Concluded.