



Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
held on Friday, 16 January 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara, Naas

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

Online: Councillor N. Killeen

Officials Present: Mr. M. McLoughlin (Acting District Manager), Mr. R. Linnane (District Engineer), Mr. S. Wallace (Acting Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer), Ms. G. Allen (County Librarian), Ms. D. Egan (Meetings Administrator), Ms. J. Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the members to the January 2026 Celbridge-Leixlip municipal district meeting.

CL01/0126

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.

CL02/0126

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the draft minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meetings held on Friday, 19 December 2025 including the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Trost and agreed by the members that the minutes of the monthly meetings held on Friday, 19 December 2025 of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.



CL03/0126

Municipal District Road Works.

The members received an update on municipal district road works.

Schedule of Municipal District works – January 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. Verge trimming and hedge trimming at junctions are being carried out where sight visibility issues are present in advance of the commencement of the 2026 nesting season (March 01 to August 31).

Majority of leaves in Municipal District have now been swept of roads and footpaths.

Winter maintenance road salting operations have commenced and will continue until end of April 2026. Forecast road temperatures and recorded real time temperatures are monitored to determine requirement to deploy salting trucks in the county.

Road Works Programme 2026 and Surface Dressing – Restoration Maintenance 2026

Municipal District staff are currently carrying out pavement surveys in the district to determine locations for Road Improvement (RI) and Road Maintenance (RM) Works Programme for 2026.

Footpath Restoration Programme 2026:

Works commenced for footpath repair works package in Newtown Park and Avondale estates in Leixlip are substantially complete.

Tender awarded for footpath repair works in Dara Court in Celbridge, works to be carried out in early Q1 2026.



Road Closures:

Uisce Éireann works on L1015 (Top of Kellystown Lane to Confey) are scheduled to commence on Tuesday 13 January to be complete by Friday 13 March. This section of road will be closed for these works.

Uisce Éireann works on the Drive in Castletown Estate in Celbridge to commence on the 16 January 2026 and scheduled to be completed by 7 May 2026. This section of road will be closed for these works and local access will be coordinated by the Uisce Eireann Contractor as the works progress along the road.

Road Opening Licences:

Moratorium on Road opening Licences for Christmas period in effect from 01 December 2025 until 05 January 2026 is now lifted.

The members raised the following:

- Could the sequencing of lights on Captain's Hill be investigated.
- Aware works are essential and enquired would it be an option to do works at night.
- What is the remit if works are approved but continue to cause major disruptions, is there scope to roll back a project.
- Concerns raised over emergency vehicle access.
- Asked if whole road was being resurfaced.

The District Engineer explained that the sensors at the traffic lights are high-tech but problems occur due to driver behaviour. Drivers are breaking the lights which cause the sensor to go out of sequence. The sequencing has also been programmed to allow for cyclists. He advised that there is no more scope for altering the sequencing.

He informed the members that at a meeting in Confey GAA on Tuesday, members of the public raised their concerns. Since the meeting, Uisce Éireann has updated their website and their social media pages to include a number for community liaisons where concerns can be highlighted. He mentioned another issue outside of the municipal district on Tuesday night which had led to higher volumes of traffic being diverted.



Night works were not a viable option. Factoring in the setup and clear-up times each evening, it would take more time to complete, resulting in programme time increasing significantly. There are also road layout constraints involving the canal, bridge and narrow roads. There has always been large volumes of traffic, even prior to these works. He added that the first week of all new works can be chaotic. If problems continue then the council would have to suspend the works and go back to Uisce Éireann. It was felt that things had improved over the past few nights and mornings and the monitoring will continue.

The members asked for an update from Coffey and Uisce Éireann via the District Engineer at the next municipal district meeting.

The District Engineer explained that they are in regular contact with Uisce Éireann and would communicate the concerns raised. He confirmed that two thirds of road had already been resurfaced and the last third was due to be completed two years ago, but the council have been awaiting for these works to be completed.

The District Manager informed the members that they would discuss the issues raised with both Coffey and Uisce Éireann as they are in regular contact with both.

CL04/0126

LPT Schedule of Works 2026.

The members agreed to defer this item until the February municipal district meeting.

CL05/0126

General Municipal Allocation - Division H Service H09 - H0909

The members agreed to defer this item until the February municipal district meeting.

CL06/0126

Pedestrian Crossing

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



That the council provides a pedestrian crossing at the Green Lane entrance to Castlepark Estate in Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Team informing the members that the Green Lane active travel scheme design includes for a raised pedestrian crossing with pedestrian priority over vehicles on the south side of the Green Lane where it crosses the north entrance to Castletown Estate. Subject to an appropriate active travel grant allocation being provided by the National Transport Authority (NTA), Kildare County Council intends to start construction on this scheme in Q3, 2026.

Councillor Brooks welcomed the report and was pleased to see progress at this location. He advised that at this location there are a large number of children at peak school times. He enquired in relation to a time frame for these works.

The District Manager explained the works were still awaiting NTA allocation. He informed the members that further information should be available next week regarding applications and that would then determine start dates.

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

CL07/0126

Clane Road (R403), Celbridge

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

That the council paints the kerb on the Clane Road (R403) in Celbridge between the footpath and the road at the narrow point to clearly indicate the reduced width to road users.

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



A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District office will install pencil bollards and paint a section of kerb at this location to promote the separation of vehicles and pedestrians at this pinch point in the footpath.

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

CL08/0126

Electronic Speed Warning Signs

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

That the council installs electronic speed warning signs in Castletown Estate, Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that currently there are two driver feedback signs on the through road in Castletown Estate in Leixlip. There are plans to install a raised pedestrian crossing in the estate in the new year to add to traffic calming measures in the estate.

Councillor Caldwell welcomed the report.

The members raised the following:

- New road from Celbridge Interchange (Junction 6) to Barnhall Road R404 through Kildare Innovation Campus was much awaited and would be great to see it delivered in 2026.
- Referenced previous discussions regarding safety measures and enquired if these can be progressed or are they to be implemented after the new road.
- Reports of issues on Captain's Hill and congestion at Barnhall and Green Lane.

The District Engineer explained that:



- The recorded 85 percentile speed in Castletown is below 50kph, which was the current speed limit at this location. This limit could however reduce when Jake's Law is implemented.
- It was expected that when the new road through the Kildare Innovation Campus was in place, drivers will not use Castletown and will instead go over the Motorway Bridge onto the M4. It was hoped this would be delivered over the summer

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

CL09/0126

Speed Checks

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

Can the council confirm if there is an update on the two speed checks that were approved in 2025 in this municipal district to be completed and the results made available.

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the traffic survey equipment has been returned to service. Traffic surveys will recommence in mid-January 2026. Results will be shared with the municipal district members post survey.

The report was noted.

CL10/0126

Adverse Weather Conditions

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

Can the council provide an update on measures in place and its plan to deal with adverse weather conditions over the winter period within this municipal district?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that in relation to the salting of roads in County Kildare a winter maintenance plan is produced each year detailing the extent of the roads that are salted in the county. Kildare County Council



winter maintenance plan is available online

at <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Transport/WinterMaintenancePlan/>

In relation to storm events generally all routine operations are suspended and all resources within the Municipal District are on standby to respond to storm related issues like fallen trees and flooded roads. Tree surgeon contractors are retained and are mobilised in storm events for the removal of larger trees.

A report was received from the Assistant Chief Fire Officer informing the members that Kildare County Council maintains a comprehensive Severe Weather Plan that defines appropriate action levels for various weather events. The Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) continuously monitors alerts issued by Met Éireann and the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM). Based on the severity of these alerts, the Director of Services may convene a SWAT meeting to confirm resource availability across all relevant departments. Public advisories are communicated through the Council's official social media channels. SWAT members also participate in national briefings chaired by NDFEM, where updates from Met Éireann and ESB Networks are shared. When required, the team coordinates with partner agencies, including An Garda Síochána and the Health Service Executive, to ensure an integrated local response.

Separately, the Roads Operations Department and Municipal District Engineers review and update the Winter Maintenance Plan annually. This plan details procedures for salting approximately 750 km of local and regional roads across 10 designated routes. Route information is available at:

<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Transport/WinterMaintenancePlan>

Councillor Brooks welcomed the report and the links to access information.

The report was noted.

CL11/0126

Crodaun Wastewater Upgrade

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



Can the council confirm that, on completion of the works by Uisce Éireann on the Crodaun Wastewater Upgrade at the entrance to the Castletown Estate on the Drive, including the cobblestones that currently pose a hazard to both traffic and pedestrians, reinstatement will be carried out according to the Department of Transport Guidelines to ensure safety for all road users?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that this location was in the ownership of the Office of Public Works (OPW) and was not a location under the control of Kildare County Council. Any reinstatements will be a matter for agreement between the OPW with Uisce Éireann.

Councillor O'Rourke sought clarity as to whether the council has a duty to oversee all road works in the municipal district.

The District Engineer explained the location in question is under the control of the OPW and therefore is not on the council's roads schedule. So, the council would be unable to condition Uisce Éireann.

The report was noted.

CL12/0126

Road Closure

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

Can the council give a technical rationale for Uisce Éireann's proposal for a period of total road closure on the Maynooth Road near Crodaun instead of the previously agreed Stop/Go System and if there is another technical solution to avoid the closure of this arterial road?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Uisce Éireann project team has indicated that the initial proposal of a traffic shuttle system was in the absence of detailed topographical and ground investigation surveys. Following the completion of slit trenching, borehole surveys and topographical surveys the



extent of the presence of rock below the road surface and the available works area was established. This resulted in a re-assessment of construction techniques and plant required and the determination that a full closure was required.

The report was noted.

CL13/0126

Playground at Willowbrook, Celbridge

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

That the council establishes a specific plan for the complete upgrading of the playground at Willowbrook, Celbridge including specific time bound delivery.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that work on this is being considered for the 2026 Parks Works Programme but will have to be considered in the context of existing commitments to projects within the Municipal District and the staff resources to deliver projects.

Councillor Trost noted the report and explained that the playground was very dated and tired and needed more than just a revamp. He asked for an idea of costings and whether LPT funding could be allocated.

Councillor Heather supported the motion explaining that some repair works had previously be carried out on the equipment, but an upgrade was essential.

Mr. S. Wallace recognised that the playground requires an upgrade and suggested looking at the whole open space, and that the first step would be to bring it to a Part 8.

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



CL14/0126

Playground, Hazelhatch Road, Celbridge

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

That the council commits to the delivery of a playground on council-owned land at Hazelhatch Road, Celbridge, and that the council proactively advances this project during 2026, including:

- Confirmation of the suitability and indicative location of the Hazelhatch Road site, with particular regard to passive surveillance, accessibility, and proximity to residential areas
- Early-stage design and community engagement to ensure a high-quality, inclusive playground is delivered
- The allocation of funding within the 2026 Capital Programme to meaningfully progress the project beyond the feasibility stage.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the site on the Hazelhatch Road is considered suitable due to its zoning and location. Work on this is being considered for the 2026 Parks Works Programme but will have to be considered in the context of existing commitments to projects within the Municipal District and the staff resources to deliver projects across the county.

Councillor Heather welcomed the report and was glad to see this location was being considered due to the location and zoning. He would like to see this on the 2026 Parks Programme as currently there are 22,000 people and only one park.

The members raised the following:

- Previously there were two playgrounds in the area but lost the playground at St. Raphael's.
- The new Leixlip playground was a huge success and something similar would be welcomed at this location.
- Requested that costings be provided.



- Location was ideal for a playground and the members offered to consider the allocation of LPT funds.
- Increased population and requirements.
- Council must be proactive in providing provisions for the community.
- Would be great to see this initiated this year and a funding stream identified.

Mr. S. Wallace recognised the need for an additional playground. He explained that there was small amount of funding in the Capital Programme but only up to a max of €20,000, so LPT allocations would be appreciated. He agreed to look at the Works Programme but explained that his team work across all 5 municipal districts and his staffing was still very low.

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

CL15/0126

Tree Pruning

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

That the council prunes the trees along the Clane Road (R403) in Celbridge to improve visibility and road safety.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the trees in question are in private ownership. Any work required to them will have to be discussed with the landowners first before they can be considered for the next programme of tree works in the Municipal District.

Councillor Ryan welcomed the works to date and that the lights were now working. He advised of concerns raised about the visibility at this location and further down the road. Reports of buses having to drive against the trees causing branches to snap and fall off.



The members raised the following:

- That this could be rectified quite quickly.
- One tree had fallen during the last storm and trees are weakening.
- Suggested the council contacts St. John of God's as the problem is worsening as each season passes.

Mr. S. Wallace asked for clarity on exact location and agreed to meet on site to discuss.

Councillor Ryan explained that the problem starts across from the recent works carried out by the District Engineer up to St. John of God's and on then further up to the petrol station.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all the members that the report be noted. Mr. S. Wallace agreed to meet Councillor Ryan onsite.

CL16/0126

St Catherine's Park

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

That the council provides toilet facilities for the range of sports clubs that utilise the Kildare County Council playing fields in St Catherine's Park.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there are no immediate plans to provide toilet facilities in St. Catherine's Park. The sharing of facilities with Fingal County Council will be investigated first given the close proximity of an existing facilities within their boundary. If this is not possible then further investigation on the provision of toilet facilities within our boundary will be carried out.

Councillor Brooks explained that there were increasing number of clubs using the facilities at St. Catherine's Park, in the region of 1000 -1200 children and that the current situation with



facilities was not adequate. Investigations and discussions were to be held with Fingal County Council.

The members raised the following:

- This issue had been raised in the past at onsite visits.
- Currently teams have to get changed in metal cabins with no toilet facilities available.
- Requested update on discussions with Fingal County Council.

Mr. S. Wallace advised the members that he understood that Fingal County Council opened up their facilities for use. It was agreed to discuss further with Fingal County Council. However, providing more facilities when there are already facilities onsite would prove costly, noting also that a location would also need to be identified.

Councillor Brooks thanked the Parks Department for all their work and appreciated the constraints. He welcomed the discussions with Fingal County Council on this matter.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Brooks, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all the members that the report be noted and this item to be placed on the Progress Report.

CL17/0126

Wonderful Barn Playground Seating

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

That the council installs extra seating in the Wonderful Barn Playground.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that additional seating will be installed at the playground in the next 4-6 weeks.

Councillor Caldwell welcomed the report and asked if a clean-up could also be arranged.

Councillor Killeen asked if a 'Happy to Chat Bench' was also being installed.



Mr. S. Wallace confirmed that there would be seating in the playground and also a 'Happy to Chat Bench'.

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

CL18/0126

Damage to Garden Walls

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

Can the council confirm if there is a repair process and budget in place for home garden walls damaged and cracked by tree roots and large trees on public green areas in estates taken in charge in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that any reports of damage to garden walls are considered on a case-by-case basis. The basis for the report has to be assessed as there are a number of factors influencing this including the construction and quality of boundary walls. There is no specific budget in place to cover any work.

Councillor Trost explained that he had received a number of enquiries in relation to damage to walls and asked what the criteria was when assessing.

Mr. S. Wallace explained that the council will continue to assess on a case by case basis, explaining that some situations can be caused by inadequate root space, wrong trees being planted, or can also be caused by natural subsidence.

The report was noted.

CL19/0126

Outdoor Gym Equipment

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



Can the council advise on its plans to relocate the outdoor gym equipment from the Celbridge Abbey Car Park, given that this car park will no longer be leased by Kildare County Council?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the cost and work required to relocate the gym equipment will be considered for the 2026 Parks Works Programme. A budget and new location will need to be identified before the work can progress.

Councillor Heather asked if there were any potential locations.

Mr. S. Wallace advised that options were limited, but gave suggestions of Willowbrook or the Hazelhatch Road.

The report was noted.

CL20/0126

Grove Estate, Celbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heather.
Can the council advise when construction of the path in the Grove Estate is expected to begin, given that the project has been approved, funded, and a contractor has been appointed?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the construction of the path in the Grove Estate, Celbridge will be carried out as soon as ground conditions allow. Due to the very wet winter, this work is likely to be until late Spring 2026.

The report was noted.

The members agreed to take items 21 and 22 together.



CL21/0126

Public Realm Improvements

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

That the council commits in 2026 to advancing the delivery of public realm improvement works in Celbridge and Leixlip town centres, and that the council reports to this municipal district on a prioritised and costed programme of works, including timelines, identified funding sources, and Capital Programme allocations, sufficient to meaningfully progress at least one package of public realm enhancements in each town during 2026.

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

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team informing the members of the following Leixlip Delivery Projects;

1. Main Street and Key Spaces – Terraces and Thresholds.

- a. Arthur Guinness Square.
- b. Captains Hill/Ralph Square.
- c. Town Thresholds East and West.

The Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) Department with the Municipal District Office are currently preparing a plan to address some of the items referenced in point 1 above, this will include:

- The preparation of a Part VIII (planning) application for works to the Main Street from the west at Station Road to the East at the R148 on the town side of the River Liffey.
- Works will include replacement of footpath surfaces to the Main Street, the creation of more public realm space as well as addressing and improving the appearance of the entry thresholds to the town, the junction at Mill Lane, Leixlip Library Car Park and at Station Road.

A topographical survey has been completed to the area before Christmas and will be reviewed and progressed to schematic proposals in the coming months.



Works to the approach from the north of the town into Captains Hill junction and the upgrading of the junction are currently being progressed by the Transport Department to the Part VIII stage. Following Grant/Approval, the Part VIII proposed by the SPPR Team, it is intended that the Municipal District Office will deliver the project on a phased basis through to completion.

2. The Wonderful Barn.

Completed Works:

- External conservation of the barn and dovecotes.
- Structural works inside the dovecotes.
- Structural works to the door headers of the barns.
- Renovation of the Walled Garden and main entrance wall (except for a future construction access point).

Planning Status:

- Part 8 approval for the area is in place.

Next Steps and Funding:

- Significant funding is required for SPPR to begin park development works.
- SPPR intends to seek Historic Structure Funding (HSF) of approximately €200,000 to continue conservation efforts, specifically for the internal works of the barn.

3. Heritage Trail and Play Interventions.

This proposal is not currently a priority and will be progressed when funding is available.

4. Cycle Infrastructure Improvements.

This proposal is not currently a priority and will be progressed when funding is available. The improvement of Cycle Infrastructure from the Northern side of the town will be partially addressed by the Part VIII being published by the Transport Department in the coming months.



Celbridge Delivery Projects

There are currently no projects on the works plan for the Celbridge Area.

Councillor Heather noted the report as being both positive and negative. It was positive to see a clear plan and clear initiatives set out for Leixlip but there were no projects identified in the report for Celbridge. He asked for commitment from the Public Realm Team to further Public Realm Projects in the Celbridge area. Councillor Heather suggested the members write to see why no projects have been identified.

Councillor Killeen explained that previously there had been a lot of projects in Celbridge completed and now only fair to see a list of projects for Leixlip. May seem unfair initially after reading the report but there has been a balance over previous years. The Public Realm plan was published in 2024 and is a helpful resource. Councillor Killeen sought clarity over works on Mill Lane and whether they would be delayed until after the ESB site was completed.

The members raised the following:

- Could an onsite visit be arranged to both Celbridge and Leixlip to discuss upcoming projects.
- Concerns raised over losing further parking spaces, which was not an option.
- Asked if timelines for projects were available.

The District Manager suggested that it would be helpful to arrange an onsite visit with the Public Realm Team.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heather, seconded by Councillor Trost and agreed by all members that the report be noted and an onsite visit for both Leixlip and Celbridge be arranged.

CL22/0126

Public Realm Improvements

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



Can this council give details of an exact timeline as to when we will see much needed public realm improvements within Leixlip Village as detailed in the Masterplan?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team informing the members of the following Leixlip Delivery Projects;

1. Main Street and Key Spaces – Terraces and Thresholds.

- a. Arthur Guinness Square.
- b. Captains Hill/Ralph Square.
- c. Town Thresholds East and West.

The Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) Department with the Municipal District Office are currently preparing a plan to address some of the items referenced in point 1 above, this will include:

- The preparation of a Part VIII (planning) application for works to the Main Street from the west at Station Road to the East at the R148 on the town side of the River Liffey.
- Works will include replacement of footpath surfaces to the Main Street, the creation of more public realm space as well as addressing and improving the appearance of the entry thresholds to the town, the junction at Mill Lane, Leixlip Library Car Park and at Station Road.

A topographical survey has been completed to the area before Christmas and will be reviewed and progressed to schematic proposals in the coming months.

Works to the approach from the north of the town into Captains Hill junction and the upgrading of the junction are currently being progressed by the Transport Department to the Part VIII stage. Following Grant/Approval, the Part VIII proposed by the SPPR Team, it is intended that the Municipal District Office will deliver the project on a phased basis through to completion.

2. The Wonderful Barn.

Completed Works:

- External conservation of the barn and dovecotes.
- Structural works inside the dovecotes.
- Structural works to the door headers of the barns.



- Renovation of the Walled Garden and main entrance wall (except for a future construction access point).

Planning Status:

- Part 8 approval for the area is in place.

Next Steps and Funding:

- Significant funding is required for SPPR to begin park development works.
- SPPR intends to seek HSF of approximately €200,000 to continue conservation efforts, specifically for the internal works of the barn.

3. Heritage Trail and Play Interventions.

This proposal is not currently a priority and will be progressed when funding is available.

4. Cycle Infrastructure Improvements.

This proposal is not currently a priority and will be progressed when funding is available. The improvement of Cycle Infrastructure from the Northern side of the town will be partially addressed by the Part VIII being published by the Transport Department in the coming months.

The report was noted.

CL23/0126

Parochial House

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

That the council commences an immediate review of the options to use and secure the Parochial House and grounds in Celbridge for community use in the short term in the expectation that the issues with the title are finalised early in 2026.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Trost and seconded by Councillor Brooks.
A report was received from the People and Property Management Section informing the members that once the building transfers the council will immediately explore options to



facilitate local groups using the Parochial House. However, it is most likely that this use will be confined to the current users and to the basement area which is currently used by them. The costs and resources to facilitate this will need to be considered as there has been no provision in the 2026 budget for this. The council will follow up with the Parish Council to get a list of users and times that the facility is in use. The main dwelling is a residential dwelling and to facilitate public use of this is likely to require a change of use and/or compliance with fire regulations for use as a public building. The council has no immediate plans to open up the grounds for community use as the council do not have the capacity to manage and maintain the grounds for community use until such a time as the overall plans for the new library and cultural centre are complete.

Councillor Trost noted the report and awaited further updates. He referred to this as a fantastic facility and highlighted the importance of ensuring the building was secured and maintained.

The members raised the following:

- Fully aware of the current legal situation and enquired if there was any update.
- Would security be 24 hours a day, as there were concerns raised over the property being empty and not monitored overnight.
- Importance to make the space available to the community.

Ms. G. Allen explained that:

- No further update, Solicitors were still awaiting documents to be signed over.
- Informed members that there was commitment given from Facilities Management Team that they would take over the caretaking element of the property and land.
- Libraries were monitored 24 hours a day, and would assume that the same company would be employed at this property.
- Meeting had taken place with the Parish Priest and details were provided in relation to community groups that currently use the facility. In the short to medium term these groups will continue to use the space once key holders are identified and subject to relevant insurance.
- The Parish Centre has now rented a building on the Main Street and she will discuss with the Parish Priest in relation to available space in the new building for community groups to use.



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

CL24/0126

Parochial House Site

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

That the council has regard to the conclusion a survey of Celbridge residents on the future preferred use of the former Parochial House site, where a majority voted for a performing arts venue at this site, that could accommodate a centre equal in size or larger than the Riverbank Arts Centre in Newbridge that hosts theatre, cinema, music, comedy, dance, workshops and visual arts events.

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

A report was received from the County Librarian informing the members that the purchase of the Parochial House and Lands has yet to be finalised and we await an update from the Archdiocese of Dublin. Any future development on the site will require extensive public consultation and a full feasibility study and business plan. The Parochial House has been identified by Kildare County Council Senior Management as the location for a new community library and cultural centre and is included in the Capital Programme.

Councillor O'Rourke thanked the County Librarian for the update, noting that this was a large site with sufficient space to be used as an Arts Centre, similar to that at the Riverbank in Newbridge.

The members were in support of the motion and raised the following;

- A theatre space and art studio would have huge potential and great value for the community as a mixed use site.
- Currently a lack of such facilities within the municipal district.
- Currently lots of groups meeting in inadequate spaces.
- Commitment was needed to ensure that this will be investigated as an option.



- Members have been allocating LPT.
- Uncertainty around the outdoor space as and arts venue, as it was felt the weather could make this unworkable at times.

Ms. G. Allen explained to the members that as stated in the report it was still premature in the process:

- It was confirmed that there would be extensive public consultation, followed by a feasibility study and then a business plan.
- Informed the members that she also manages the Arts Team and was fully aware of the potential at this site and the need for performance venues.
- Fully supported the multi-purpose use of the space, but noted that it would all come down to what funding was available.
- Any funding that was available for the Library element could only be spent on that project, anything further would need to be funded from another stream.

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

The meeting concluded.

These Minutes were adopted at the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting on 20 February 2026

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator