



Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
Held on Friday 17 January 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.

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

Apologies: Councillor P Brooks

Officials Present: Mr M McLoughlin (Acting District Manager), Mr R Linnane (District Engineer), Ms S Barry (Administrative Officer), Ms M McCarthy (Administrative Officer), Mr L McNeela (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr M Byrne (Staff Officer), Ms A Coyne Sheridan (LPT Coordinator), Ms S Martin (Meetings Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathoirléach welcomed everyone to the January Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District meeting, advising the members that apologies had been received from Councillor P Brooks and that the Cathoirléach had been asked to propose Councillor Brook's motions on his behalf

CL01/0125

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.

CL02/0125

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the draft minutes of the Monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday 20 December 2024 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 20 December 2024 of the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CL03/0125

Municipal District Works

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

Celbridge Leixlip - Schedule of Municipal District Works - January 2025

The outdoor crews were carrying out general footpath and road maintenance works in the Municipal District area. This included the mechanical sweeping of roads, road repairs with road patcher unit, restoring water cuts on rural roads, cutting back verges at junctions and general repairs to footpaths and kerbs. Calls received were triaged and then assigned to a crew as appropriate.

Winter Maintenance:

The annual winter program of Jet-vacking of road gullies to be complete by end of January. Hedge cutting operations complete. Final hedge cutting at critical junctions to be carried out during last week of February prior to commencement of bird nesting season. Restoration of water cuts complete for Leixlip. Works were currently being carried out in Ardclough , rural areas south of Celbridge would be completed in early January.

Road Works Programme 2025:

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

Footpath Restoration Programme 2025:

Assessments were currently being carried out in housing estates to determine locations for 2025 footpath restoration works programme.

Road Opening Licenses:

Moratorium on Road Opening Licenses for Christmas period now lifted.

Roadworks on R148 at Collinstown:

Vehicles were now traveling on the original alignment of the R148 and the temporary alignment is now closed to traffic. Tie-in works outstanding at Kellystown Lane and the



southwest quadrant of the new R148/R449 signalized junction. Substantial completion of works was planned for the end of February.

The members thanked the District Engineer and his team for works to date.

Concerns had been raised from the public regarding boundary trees in Ryevale Lands and Ryevale Lawns.

The District Engineer advised that after storm Daragh 7-8 trees fell in the area and caused weakening to other trees, An Arbus report was carried out by Ryevale House which the council had obtained. Unfortunately, there was no way to make these trees safe and therefore they would need to be removed for public safety. Exclusion zones would be in place during this process.

CL04/0125

LPT Schedule of Works

The members agreed to defer the approval of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2025 until the February meeting

CL05/0125

CPG Nomination

The members considered the nomination of a representative from the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District to CPG

Councillor Heather proposed Councillor O'Rourke this was seconded by Councillor Caldwell, there were no further nominations

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Heather, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members that Councillor O'Rourke be nominated as the representative from the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District to CPG

CL06/0125

Speed Bumps

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey
That the council places speed bumps as a matter of urgency at Chestnut Grove in Celbridge.



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

A report was received from the Transportation Section informing the members that there was no recorded evidence of excessive speeding in Chestnut Grove to warrant the installation of a ramp in the estate. The geometric layout of the estate road does not allow for the installation of a vertical deflection ramp as there is a requirement for 150m of a straight section of road in advance of a ramp. The longest straight section of road in Chestnut Grove is 38m. The total length of the road in Chestnut Grove is 90m.

Councillor Panaite Fahey asked if it would be possible for a meeting to be arranged between the District Engineer and the residents regarding possible traffic management options and to raise concerns over joyriders in the area.

The District Engineer advised the members that

- meetings had been held in the past, but the layout was too small for the installation of ramps.
- Firstly, speeding in the area would need to be detected for traffic calming measures to be investigated.
- If speeding was detected, then there was a process to follow in regard to traffic calming measures. This would start with additional signage, road markings, driver feedback and lane narrowing. Only after all these were implemented would speed bumps be considered.
- The reports of joyriding would be a matter for An Garda Síochána.

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

CL07/0125

Yellow Lines

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey
That the council extends the yellow lines on Church Road, Tea Lane, Celbridge to the corner bend.

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



A report was received from the Transportation Section informing the members that the yellow lines on Church Road / Tea Lane form part of the currently adopted Celbridge Parking By-laws. Any alteration or extension of these lines would require the parking by-laws to be amended. There currently is a solid white line in the middle of the road at this location. Vehicles are not permitted to park on a road where a centre solid white line is present. [S.I. No. 182/1997 - Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations, 1997 (Section 36.d)]

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

CL08/0125

Roads Capital Projects

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Trost
That the members receive a presentation from the Transport Mobility and Open Spaces Directorate with an update on the Roads Capital Projects in the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Section informing the members that an update would be provided to the members at the February meeting.

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

CL09/0125

139 Bus Service

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell
That the council engages with the National Transport Authority on the 139 Bus Service between Naas and Blanchardstown to request they put in place a Bus Stop at Confey Cemetery.

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



A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Section informing the members that with the members agreement, Kildare County Council would write to National Transport Authority in this regard.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by all members that the report be noted and a letter be written to the National Transport Authority on the 139 Bus Service between Naas and Blanchardstown to request they put in place a Bus Stop at Confey Cemetery.

CL10/0125

Accessibility Parking Space

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell
That the council installs an accessibility parking space on Main Street, Leixlip in the area around the old ESB site.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Section informing the members that the the disabled bay cannot be installed without a full review of the parking bye-laws, therefore, it would be considered under the review of the Leixlip Parking Bye-Laws.

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

CL11/0125

Backweston, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen
That the council outlines proposals for the transport masterplan for Backweston, Celbridge and confirms if funding has been sought via the NTA.

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

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management



Section informing the members that connections from the Backweston Campus to railway stations are not included on the National Transport Authority (NTA) Greater Dublin Area Strategic Cycle Track Network. The NTA has prioritised funding for schemes that are included on the strategic network and as set out previously, there is a portfolio of projects already approved, which based on the existing funding profile of allocations to Kildare County Council, will take over 12-15 years to complete.

Councillor Killeen asked if the members could be provided with the project portfolio. She expressed her disappointment as this was such a key site, seeking clarity as to how Backweston were not included on the strategic Cycle Track yet they had been awarded the Smarter Travel Quality Mark

The members raised the following

- Zoning had been permitted opposite the site which would see increase in vehicles, yet the NTA were not providing the infrastructure
- This was a strategic site and needed connectivity to be provided
- Asked if Backweston had made a submission and were therefore refused

Mr Hodgins advised the members that the Quality Mark was an award a business could apply for through the NTA. The award was credited to businesses who could demonstrate that they offered alternative options regarding sustainable travel including access to route planners, cycle parking, digital displays and other initiatives depending on the location of the business.

Backweston was not located on the current Strategic Cycle Network, developed by the National Transport Authority, and this network predominantly covered all major routes. Kildare County Council however were in support of improvements to public transport services and infrastructure, subject to NTA funding. It was noted that there were over 500 bus stops across the County that required improvements at present.

Following discussion, the members asked could a letter be written to the NTA asking for Backweston to be considered for inclusion in the Strategic Cycle Network ensuring sustainability to this key site.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members that the report be noted and a letter be written to the NTA asking for



Backweston to be considered for inclusion in the Strategic Cycle Network, ensuring sustainability to this key site

CL12/0125

Canal in Confey

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Brooks
That the council provides an update on the timing of the road safety plans ahead of any development across the canal in Confey.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Section informing the members that Kildare County Council are currently progressing a Part 8 for upgraded facilities for vulnerable road users on Captain's Hill. This is in the early stages of development and a timeline for the start of the formal Part 8 consenting process will be provided in due course.

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

CL13/0125

Safe Routes

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen
That the council outlines details of the Safe Routes proposals as was adopted for the Confey Urban Development Zone (UDZ) and more specific provisioned designs in terms of design layout proposals and drawings.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Section informing the members that Safe Routes to School was one of a suite of national, regional and local planning and transportation policy documents which informed the Confey Masterplan. Safe Routes to



School is referenced in Section 2.1.9 of the Strategic Transport and Mobility Report as follows:

“The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme was developed in partnership with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Green-Schools in 2020 as a response to the need to support schools to increase walking and cycling to school. The aim of this guide is to provide technical guidance on design principles and considerations that will enable Local Authorities, in conjunction with Green-Schools, to create safer, calmer, more attractive routes to school and front of school environments. The guide aims to provide designers with a set of design concepts and ideas, and precedent examples of schemes that have successfully enhanced sustainable access to school.”

The County Development Plan under Objective TMA18 states that the objective of the Kildare County Council to carry out local traffic management improvements to provide safer routes to schools in order to support the Green Schools Travel Programme, including the ‘School Street Initiative’ and the ‘Safe routes to School Programme’ in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and agencies.

It would be a matter for developers to prepare the appropriate documents to comply with the contents of the Confey Masterplan and other relevant policies and guidelines.

Councillor Killeen asked that the members be kept updated with the Safe Routes initiative including the Confey Masterplan number 125. Councillor Killeen also questioned that Safe Routes was a design requirement that was this included in all road designs.

Mr Hodgins noted the importance of the public being aware of the planning process, especially at Design Stage. This was the critical stage of any project and where the public got the opportunity to raise concerns and observations, potential amendments could be incorporated by the developers. If, however observations came after the planning stage then any funding required at this point to retrofit changes would need to be sourced through National funding and this may not always be available.

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



CL14/0125

Celbridge Abbey Car Park

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey
Can the council confirm if it plans to add barriers in Celbridge Abbey Car Park to prevent future illegal encampments?

A report was received from the Transportation Section informing the members that the Transport Department have engaged with the car park owners to resolve the issue of illegal encampments and review preventative measures. This is ongoing at present. Councillor Panaite Fahey noted that this issue was raised prior to Christmas, it has had significant media coverage since with an incident reported as recent as that morning. Despite the nature of incidents being of criminal nature and therefore a matter for An Garda Siochana it was felt that the barriers being put back up would help with this matter. The District Engineer advised the members that when the Council started the lease, they did erect barriers, but as St John of Gods were the official landowners they were removed at their request. It was confirmed that the council were currently in discussions with St John of Gods over the current issues.

The report was noted.

CL15/0125

The Dart+ South West Project

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Trost
Can the council provide the latest update on The Dart+ South West Project?

A report was received from the Transportation Section informing the members that Kildare County Council have no role in the delivery of Dart+ South West apart from as the roads and planning authority. All requests for updates related to this project should be directed to the Dart+ Southwest Project Team in Irish Rail.

The report was noted.

CL16/0125

Boardwalk

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



Can the council provide the latest update on progress on the boardwalk at the bridge in Celbridge since the completion of the investigation works last year?

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Section informing the members that the consultants for the project are analysing the results of the investigation work and including the findings in the completion of the detailed design of the scheme. The progression of the detailed design is dependent on sufficient funding being provided in 2025 from the National Transport Authority.

Councillor Trost was unhappy with the report referencing an investigation that was carried out in June last year, it was noted that it was now January and still no plan in place.

Mr Hodgins advised that the council were waiting for the detailed design from the consultant. This was expected in Q2.

The report was noted.

CL17/0125

Castletown Estate in Leixlip

The following question in the name of Councillor Brooks fell as councillor Brooks was not present

Can the council provide an update on plans for road/pedestrian safety in Castletown Estate in Leixlip?

CL18/0125

Second Vehicular Bridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor O'Rourke Regarding the proposal for construction of a second vehicular bridge over the Liffey at Celbridge, can the council provide a revised submission date objective for its application to an Bord Pleanála for consent and compulsory purchase of land for the Celbridge – Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor following completion of its internal review as stated at the December municipal district council meeting?

A report was received from the Transportation Section informing the members that Kildare County Council were not in a position to provide a revised date at this point in time. The Roads Project Team were currently progressing two large projects at present, the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road and the Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor and the limited



resources in the team have been allocated to progress both projects in turn. It is hoped to complete the internal review of the documents submitted by our consultants as quickly as possible after which an update on the likely submission date can be provided.

Councillor O'Rourke noted that she was still trying to understand why no date was available Mr Hodgins explained to the members that at the start of any scheme or project the council must apply for funding, if this was agreed, in principle, then project can commence but the funding stream was not guaranteed indefinitely. When the scheme/project progressed and came closer to completion the council would submit to confirm funding, and at this stage the funding may or not be available to progress to the next stage.

It was agreed that the council revert to the members as and when they receive updates
The report was noted.

CL19/0125

Traffic Wardens for Leixlip

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

Can the council provide an update on the recruitment and reinstatement of School Traffic Wardens for Leixlip?

A report was received from Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management section informing the members that the issue was being dealt with by our Human Resources Department. The recruitment process was being progressed.

The report was noted.

CL20/0125

Trees in Beatty Park

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

That the council adds trees in Beatty Park, Celbridge opposite houses (details provided) to the tree works programme for necessary action by the council.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the trees in question are Birch trees and are scheduled to be crown lifted 2-3m which involves removing



the lower branches from the tree. The work will be done as part of the upcoming tree works programme.

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

CL21/0125

All-inclusive Playground

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

Can the council provide a timeline for the completion and opening of the new all-inclusive playground at the Leixlip Amenities?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that a contractor has been appointed to construct the playground. They have indicated they will start construction of the playground in May. They were not in a position to start any earlier due to the large volume of work they are currently engaged in. Attached is the design of the playground. The construction is expected to take 12 weeks to complete. (Item 21a attached)

Councillor Caldwell was happy with the report and looked forward to the completion of the all inclusive playground.

The report was noted.

CL22/0125

Wonderful Barn, Leixlip

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

Can the council provide a progress report on works being carried out on the Wonderful Barn, Leixlip?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm section with an update Report on the Wonderful Barn Regeneration Project,

Part 8:

- The part 8 for the redevelopment and regeneration works to the Wonderful Barn and surrounding park was approved in October 2024.



- Kildare County Council are currently exploring funding options for delivery of the project which may include prioritisation of work areas and phasing of project delivery.

Contracts:

- The contract for emergency repairs to the barn and surrounding structures, part funded by Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS), was awarded to Oldstone Conservation Ltd and commenced in September 2024. The works are currently nearing completion stage (expected third week of January 2025) and include the following work items:
 1. Removal of vegetation from barn structures and walled garden surround.
 2. Structural repairs to barn and dovecotes as required.
 3. Repointing and repairs to walled garden including the provision of a soft wall capping.
 4. Lime render coating to the Wonderful Barn and dovecotes
 5. Removal and replacement of the slate wall covering to the Wonderful Barn structure
- The proposed M4 cycle bridge, to be delivered by the Kildare Innovation Centre (KIC), is projected for delivery in 2025 and will connect the KIC to the Wonderful Barn site.

An application has been submitted to ESB, by bridge consultants Clifton Scannell Emerson, for the undergrounding of overhead cables within the barn site which affect the landing position of the bridge deck.

Kildare County Council have submitted an additional application to underground the remaining cables within the site in conjunction with the KIC project. The undergrounding of all ESB cables within the site is proposed as part of the approved Part 8.



Other items:

- Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) will be applying for additional BHIS grant funding for 2025 to carry out further preventative repair works to barn structures and surrounds. Subject to approved funding, tender for the proposed works will commence in Q2 2025

Councillor Caldwell noted the detailed report asking if there were any further updates Mr Healey advised the members that the council would continue to seek further funding through grants under the new government. Currently the Public Realm Section were working alongside the Parks section in trying to break the project down into phases inclusive of standalone projects

The report was noted.

CL23/0125

Social and Affordable Housing

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heather
Can the council outline its plan to provide more social and affordable housing for Celbridge in 2025?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the Local Authority will continue to source social and affordable units in Celbridge under Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2021 and will continue to engage with developers regarding the purchase of turnkey units.

The report was noted.

CL24/0125

Lands at Donaghcumper

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke
That the council outlines the step plan for the development of lands at Donaghcumper and the preservation and restoration of Donaghcumper House as public amenities.

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



A report was received from Corporate, People and Cultural Services Section informing the members that Kildare County Council was awarded funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) to fund a feasibility study to assess and evaluate the potential to develop a section of the wider Liffey Valley Park on public lands. The Liffey Valley Strategy which was launched in 2007, identifies the Liffey Valley as an area that can contribute to recreational and green space facilities for the wider area by building up the public parks and spaces in the Valley. The Strategy was developed by the Office of Public Works (OPW) and the Kildare, South Dublin, Dublin City and Fingal County Councils. Phase One of the feasibility study is confined to lands between Leixlip and Celbridge and JBA Consulting has commenced the preparation of the study. In that regard, the council has identified the Donaghcumper House and lands as integral to the study. The council will in the first instance review material in relation to the historic landscape setting.

In relation to Donaghcumper House, this is now in the ownership of the OPW and therefore the council has no plans for its preservation and restoration – the future plans for the House will be a matter for the OPW but we understand their intention is to conserve the building and use it as a public/tourist attraction in due course.

Councillor O'Rourke noted that the report only sets out the first step and would have liked it to include a broader picture.

Following discussions the members asked if a meeting could be organised with the OPW to discuss their step plan, receive any updates and seek feedback to queries and any possible time frame. It was noted that the public had raised concerns and wanted to see the lands put to good use and developed in a timely manner ensuring that the house was safeguarded.

It was agreed by six members of the Celbridge-Leixlip to invite the Office of Public Works to make a presentation to the council on their plans for Donaghcumper House

Mr McLoughlin agreed to revert to the relevant section, informing members that the Director had a meeting with the OPW scheduled and would ask that these be raised during the meeting.

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



Celbridge-Leixlip to invite the Office of Public of Works to make a presentation to the council on their plans for Donaghcumper House.

CL25/0125

Save Castletown Committee

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey
Can the council confirm if it has an update on the meeting with Save Castletown committee following the municipal district meeting of December?

A report was received from the Corporate Section informing the members that a letter issued to the Save Castletown Committee following the municipal district meeting in December and they have confirmed that they would like to attend the February Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District Meeting

The report was noted.

CL26/0125

Parochial House, Celbridge

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

Can the council provide an update on the purchase of the Parochial House, Celbridge?

A report was received from the County Librarian informing the members that the delay on the purchase of the Parochial House and Lands by Kildare County Council was due to legal issues around the title deeds which required approval by the Charities Regulator through a two stage process.

The statutory public notice for the second phase has now ended with no objections and the Archdiocese will now revert to the Charities Regulator.

We expect the Charities Regulator to approve and grant the Archdiocese permission to sell to Kildare County Council shortly thereafter.

The Library Service will inform the Municipal District members as soon as the purchase is completed.

The report was noted.

CL27/0125

Donaghcumper



The following question in the name of Councillor Brooks fell as Councillor Brooks was not at the meeting

Can the council confirm if it will be commencing environmental impact studies ahead of proposed plans for work in Donaghcumper, so work can begin to set out facilities for the site?

CL28/0125

Celbridge-Specific Tourism Strategy

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

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

A report was received from Into Kildare and Local Enterprise Office informing the members that the promotion of tourism in County Kildare is undertaken at a county wide level and is the responsibility of Kildare Failte who are known as Into Kildare.

Kildare Failte are a company that was established to effectively reflect a public / private partnership model in the promotion of Kildare on a county-wide basis as opposed to on an individual town or Municipal District level. The company's work includes the promotion of both public and private tourism assets including new products such as Greenways, Blueways, hotels, events, festivals, cultural sites, heritage sites etc. This approach is consistent with all other Economic Development initiatives across the county, such as the Kildare Hub Strategy, the Local Economic and Community Plan and Kildare 2025, the county's former economic strategy, as well as the work of the Kildare Chamber of Commerce which also operates on a county wide basis. The work of Kildare Failte (Into Kildare) is governed by a county wide strategy entitled the County Kildare Tourism Strategy 2022 – 2026 and Celbridge and its environs features heavily in the document, in addition to other areas of the county with significant landmarks and attractions.



Notwithstanding the above, and the responsibility that Kildare Failte has for the promotion of Kildare, at a countywide level, Celbridge is recognised as a key strategic location for tourism development due to its natural and built heritage, as well as culture. As such, the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 under RE O160 specifically sets out to protect and promote key sites and tourist facilities in the north of the county such as the Wonderful Barn, Obelisk, Arthur's Way and other key sites linked to the estates of Carton, Lyons and Castletown and to encourage the development of Leixlip and Celbridge as tourism gateways to these significant tourism sites and facilities. In addition to this Kildare County Council's Economic Development and Tourism Section has developed a project brief to incorporate these assets into a new strategic project, building on key stories and association with milling, distilling, malting, and brewing. The proposal also links into the Greenway development opportunities as well as new advancements in digital/smart tourism sector.

The working title of this project is "The Grain Trail" and emphasises slow travel and regenerative tourism with a view to achieving longer stays and improved visitor experiences and product development in Celbridge and along Arthur's Way. Following a competitive tender process, leading tourism development consultants Runda Tourism and Hospitality have been awarded the contract for the development of this strategy in 2025.

This project will complement and create synergies with the existing Thoroughbred Country strategy and the Just Transition Tourism Activation and Regenerative Tourism SME Investment Scheme, as well as the County Kildare Tourism Strategy.

Councillor Heather was satisfied with the report and appreciated that it was managed on a county level, noting the importance of local tourism including the story of Castletown, the Guinness Story, the Grain Trail and other buildings of national importance around the municipal district.

Ms Managan advised the members that her team was made up of many volunteers who give a lot of their free time to promote the county.

Following lengthy discussions the members raised the following



- The importance of advertising local tourism within the Municipal District and Heritage sites
- Asked if more information was available in relation to the Grain Trail Story.
- Could a CE Scheme project similar to one in Blessington be used in Kildare.
- Could leaflets be updated and made more available showcasing the walks and cycle routes available around the municipal district
- Donaghcumper and Parochial House projects both need a strategy and the council need to look into reopening Celbridge Abbey

Ms Mangan advised that

- To promote sustainability there had been a movement away from paper leaflets to more digital forms of advertising
- In regards the Grain Trail there was an upcoming meeting arranged with a consultant, Collaboration from the community will be important from a tourism perspective for this project.

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

CL29/0125

Liffey Valley Area

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heather
That the council provides the Positioning Paper and Scoping report (including details of cost and resource requirements) as required to inform the next stages of identifying a Special Amenity Order for the Liffey Valley area.

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

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that the Forward Planning Team are currently preparing a position paper to consider the options for exploration of the feasibility for designation of an Area of Special Amenity under the Planning and Development Act (PDA) for the River Liffey between Leixlip and Celbridge. This will



require a strong demonstration of the value of the area for "outstanding natural beauty" or "special recreational value" and benefits for nature conservation (s266 of the PDA 2024). In this context, it is of significant to note that Kildare County Council is also exploring the potential for the provision of a Liffey Valley Park between Leixlip and Celbridge, extending over approximately 6.35km between St. Catherine's Park, Leixlip to Celbridge Bridge, Co. Kildare under the Department of Rural and Community Development's Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS). If delivered, this would be the first phase of a potentially wider Liffey Valley Park within County Kildare that is rooted in the Liffey Valley Park Strategy (2006). This strategy presents a vision for access opportunities to a "necklace" of (mainly) public lands along the River Liffey to provide for the recreational needs of the area and help to conserve the biodiversity and amenity value of the river corridor. This Strategy was developed by the Office of Public Works and the Local Authorities of Dublin City, Fingal, South Dublin and Kildare. Work on the Feasibility Study (for the provision of a Liffey Valley Park) has commenced, and will be completed in 2025, which will evaluate the opportunity and deliverability of the proposed park. It is important that the SAAO is considered in the context of the feasibility study currently underway for the Liffey Valley Park and vice versa and that neither undermine or compromise the other.

Councillor Heather noted that this had been raised in the past asking if the Special Amenity Order was still the intention and if there was a timeframe for the Feasibility study

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

CL30/0125

Primrose Gate Estate in Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke
That the council provide an update on the progress of taking in charge of Primrose Gate Estate in Celbridge.

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



A report was received from the Building Control Section informing the members that Kildare County Council met with the Owners Management Company (OMC) in December 2024 in relation to progressing the taking in charge (TIC). The OMC were to consult with their legal representatives regarding land transfer. Kildare County Council were advised in late December to expect an update regarding the OMC support in progressing the TIC. No update has been received at this time.

The members asked if there was a time frame available and if the OMC could be contacted. Ms Walsh advised that the council had met with the OMC prior to Christmas and have contacted them again on foot of this motion

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

CL31/0125

Donaghcumper Three-School Campus

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor O'Rourke
Can the council confirm how often the planning department has met with Department of Education officials in the past 3 years to progress the Donaghcumper three-school campus and can they update us on the progress to date?

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that as advised to the members at the Municipal District meeting on the 20 December, the provision (design and construction) and progression of school delivery projects is a matter wholly for the Department of Education. Kildare County Council has no role in the delivery of such projects save for ensuring sufficient lands are zoned in each settlement and the subsequent assessment of planning applications, including all technical submissions therein. The Department provide ongoing updates with respect to specific projects on their website <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/d73cb-building-works-for-the-construction-extension-and-refurbishment-of-schools/#school-building-projects-large-scale-additional-accommodation-scheme-current-status-lists>

The Forward Planning team engage with the Department of Education at regular intervals when information is sought from the Department or vice versa under a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and County Managers Association [CCMA] (on behalf of



Local Authorities) and the Department. These meetings take the form of general project updates including preparatory work for County Development Plans and Local Area Plans and are not specific to any individual school project.

Councillor O'Rourke enquired as to how many scheduled meetings took place throughout the year

Ms McCarthy advised that meetings were scheduled but would not cover construction specifically, they would be to discuss topics such as zoning requirements and Local Area Plans. Kildare County Council do not play a role in providing specific schools, this was a matter for the Department of Education.

The Cathoirleach suggested the members refer this matter back to their local TD'S to discuss with the Department of education

The report was noted

CL32/0125

Louisa Park Estate in Leixlip

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

Can the council provide an update on progress with the works and the taking in charge of the Louisa Park Estate in Leixlip?

A report was received from Development Control informing the members that an updated condition survey was completed in 2024. A priority work schedule had been identified.

Development Control sought legal advice regarding expenditure of the bond. To expend the bond Kildare County Council have been advised they must first take in charge the development as required by the National Road Act. Development Control continue to engage with the Owners Management Company (OMC) in relation to expenditure of the bond. The OMC are now actively pursuing a taking in charge plebiscite with the property owners in Louisa Park. On receipt of a valid Taking in Charge request it is the intention of Development Control that a site remediation plan will be tendered.

Councillor Killeen questioned if a taking in charge (TIC) request had already been received approximately a year ago. The residents were currently under the impression that this was progressing and would be TIC this year



Ms Walsh advised the member's that historically a receiver was appointed and site resolution drawn up. The receiver was due to commence works but the receiver left. This was when Kildare County Council took over the bond.

It was confirmed that the OMC continue to actively engage with the council. There had been no TIC received to date, noting that the council can only put to tender once the TIC is received.

The report was noted

CL33/0125

Cemetery in Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Brooks
That the council provides an update on the expected time left for the current cemetery in Leixlip and the timeline for a new one.

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

The council is currently investigating the suitability of a potential site near Confey. There is no definitive timeline at present, and I will keep the members updated on progress.

The members raised the following

- Ongoing for the past 5 years and councillors were receiving enquiries weekly from the public looking for updates.
- There had been a spike in cremations due to lack of space in Confey
- Asked for any updates as they arise

Mr Byrne advised the members that although there was a perspective site currently being investigated if the members knew of any other sites to pass the details onto the Environment Section to look into.

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

The meeting concluded

