



**Minutes of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
held on Friday, 17 July 2026 at 10:30 a.m.
in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara, Naas**

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

Officials Present: Mr. J. Boland (District Manager), Mr. R. Linnane (District Engineer), Mr. M. McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Mr. S. Wallace, (A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer), Mr. C. O'Toole (A/Administrative Office), Mr. R. McLoughlin (Administrative Officer), Mr. J. Ward (Senior Executive Planner), Mr. M. Hearn (Staff Officer), Ms. D. Egan (Meetings Administrator), Ms. J. Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The newly elected Cathaoirleach, Councillor Trost welcomed the members to the July 2026 Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting. He thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Councillor Heather for all his great work over the past year.

CL01/0726

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

CL02/0726

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on 19 June 2026, including the Progress Report.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed two positive responses which were received and had been circulated since the circulation of the Progress Report. The first was regarding Driving Test Centres and the second was regarding Information Boards on Luas Stops.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Heather, seconded by Councillor Brooks and agreed by the members that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Friday, 19 June 2026 of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report and two items of correspondence were noted.

CL03/0726

Municipal District Road Works

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

Schedule of Municipal District Works – July 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, and general repairs to footpaths and kerbs. Calls received are triaged and then assigned to a crew as appropriate.

Verge trimming works are being carried out at junctions at rural locations in the Municipal District to ensure sight lines are maximized. Crews are also clearing vegetation at locations where growth is obscuring roadside signage.

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 program of works. The following locations have been identified following road condition surveys in the Municipal District area:

- R403-28 - English Row, Celbridge (tender complete, contract awarded, works to be carried out at night). This work is scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday next week.
- R404 - Old Hill to Castletown Leixlip (gone out to tender)
- R157 - Old Carton Dunboyne Road (preparing tender documents)
- L1058 - Rear of Castletown House Estate (off Celbridge Interchange) (works complete)
- L5050 - Young's Cross to State Labs, Celbridge (Works complete)
- L5056 /L50563- Easton Road -Accommodation Road Leixlip (Works complete)



Footpath Restoration Programme 2026:

Footpath repair works underway in Dara Court.

New works tender being prepared for Abbeyfarm, Vanessa Close and Vanessa Lawns.

Other estates in the district are currently being assessed for footpath works for Q3/Q4 2026.

Road Closures:

L1015: Uisce Éireann pipelaying works on L1015 (Top of Kellystown Lane to Confey) are complete. The section of the R149 from the junction of the L-5052 Cullaghreeva to the Royal Canal Amenity Group compound is now closed until the 28 July 2026 to facilitate the final section of pipelaying for this project.

R405: Uisce Éireann works on the R405 have progressed beyond the junction with the Aghards Road. Works are progressing slightly ahead of the programmed pace with a lane closure in place. It is hoped this road will reopen around the 28 July 2026.

R405: Uisce Éireann have completed pipelaying works on the R405 Hazelhatch Road from junction with Lucan Road R403 and the junction of the Shinkeen Road L1027. Closure has been lifted. Permanent road reinstatement works will be carried out under lane closures.

The members raised the following:

- Concerns that information regarding road closures were being advertised too late, leaving little or no time to make submissions.
- Concerns raised over Google Maps routes, especially when routing HGVs. Enquired if any system is in place where the council can contact Google maps.
- Suggested a letter could be sent to Google maps to seek clarity on re-routing.
- Timeline sought for resurfacing of English Row.
- Enquired if the pipeline works on the Hazelhatch Road were complete.
- Acknowledged that road works lead to delays and that the council work to keep delays to a minimal.

The District Engineer explained that:

- There was a statutory requirement in place for the advertisement of road closures, depending on when submissions are received, determines whether it is advertised



locally or nationally. A local advertisement has a tighter timeline but confirmed that all road closure must be advertised nationally.

- Google Maps had previously been contacted when the Irish Open took place in the K-Club, but this engagement was unsuccessful in re-routing traffic.
- Confirmed English Row was scheduled to be resurfaced the following week during Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night.
- No timeframe available as to when the waterpipe would be swapped over on the Hazelhatch Road.

Mr. M. McLoughlin agreed to investigate the notification aspect with Google Maps and would revert back to the members.

CL04/0726

Main Street, Leixlip

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

That the council carries out necessary upgrades to the footpaths on Main Street, Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Team informing the members that the Public Realm Capital Project Team has completed a topographical survey of Leixlip Main Street. The survey will provide the information required to develop a Part 8 proposal for the renewal of the streetscape of Leixlip in line with the adopted Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplan.

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



CL05/0726

Duncarrig Estate, Leixlip

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

That the council considers installing a safe pedestrian crossing at Duncarrig Estate, Captain's Hill, Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that the location had been reviewed, given the alignment, topography, and geometry of this section of road it was not possible to provide a pedestrian crossing point that would comply with required national guidelines and standards for the provision of pedestrian crossings. However, there is an ongoing Part 8 for Captain's Hill.

<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/proposed-captains-hill-active-travel-scheme-leixlip-planning-reference-p8202606>.

Mr. M. McLoughlin, Senior Executive Officer noted that the Public Consultation is now open and this is the opportunity make submissions.

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

CL06/0726

Survey of all Public Roads

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

That the council undertakes a survey of all public roads within the municipal district to identify road signs where visibility is impaired by overgrown vegetation, hedgerows, trees, or other growth, and that a programme of maintenance be implemented to remove such growth and restore full visibility of all regulatory, warning, directional and informational road signs in the interest of road safety.



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

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office outdoor crews, as part of their general summer maintenance schedule clear vegetative obstructions from roadside signs. This is an ongoing weekly activity carried out throughout the spring and summer growth periods. The works are both planned proactive works and reactive where necessary.

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

CL07/0726

Paths on Main Street, Celbridge

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

That the council power washes the Main Street paths in Celbridge to improve the overall appearance of the streetscape and includes removal of weeds and chewing gum to support the businesses on the Main Street.

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 will carry out power washing of the footpaths on Main Street, Celbridge in August.

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



The members agreed to take items 8 and 13 together.

CL08/0726

Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor

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

That the council provides a detailed delivery programme for the Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor, including design milestones, statutory approvals, procurement timetable, funding drawdown and anticipated construction commencement and completion dates.

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

A report was received from the Capital Projects Team informing the members that the Planning and the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for land acquisition is in place for this project along with funding following the recent Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund announcement. The next stage is to complete the detailed design for the scheme, and this is due to be completed by Q1 2027. It is hoped to issue a tender for the construction of the scheme thereafter with a view to commencing works onsite in Q3 2027 with works to be completed in 2028. A more detailed delivery programme will be provided over the coming months once project timelines are confirmed.

Councillor Heather noted the report and that the Compulsory Purchase Order for land was now in place. He asked that the public be kept informed of the next steps and that he had hoped the report would have contained more detail.

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



CL09/0726

Complete Ban on E-Scooters

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

That the council engages with the Road Safety Authority (RSA) and An Garda Síochána to work towards a complete ban of e-scooters being operated by those under 18 years of age, on public roads and footpaths within the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that The Road Traffic (Electric Scooters) Regulations 2024 came into effect on 20 May 2024 legalising e-scooters in Ireland with usage restricted to persons 16 years or older with a maximum speed limit of 20 km/h. The legislation banned the use of e-scooters on footpaths and prohibited the carrying of passengers. Enforcement of the regulations is a matter for An Garda Síochána.

Councillor Brooks raised serious concerns regarding young people using e-scooters and that the Emergency Department had seen a significant increase in incidents relating to e-scooter usage by young people and adults. He acknowledged that the council were awaiting guidance from legislation but felt that something needed to be done at a local level. He noted that responsibility also lies with parents who purchase these for young people and also the companies selling them.

Councillor Heather suggested this should be referred and discussed with the Community Safety Partnership Group and that legislation must clearly distinguish between very young children on low powered scooters, people who use them for commuting purposes and individuals abusing such vehicles.

The District Manager agreed to place this item on the Progress Report.



Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Brooks, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agree by all members that the report be noted, that this item be referred to the Community Safety Partnership Group and placed on the Progress Report.

CL10/0726

Walled Gardens, Castletown

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

That the council provides a report setting out the reasons why the Transport and Mobility Department is not proposing to undertake repair works to the wall at the Walled Gardens, Castletown, including details of all inspections, engineering assessments and other examinations carried out, together with the findings, recommendations and the basis for the decision not to proceed with repairs.

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

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office carried out a visual inspection and determined that there was no immediate risk to public safety and that the wall in its current condition is structurally stable. The Transport Department will continue to monitor the situation. A comprehensive assessment of this structure by an appropriate person such as a qualified Architectural Conservation Officer, to establish the condition of the wall, would require a funding source and is not normally within the scope of day-to-day operations, especially when there is no immediate issue.

Councillor O'Rourke noted that the wall forms part of the historic Castletown Walled Garden and is included in the Kildare Record of Protected Structures under reference B11-14, Castletown Walled Garden and pedimented arch together with the nearby temple. Planning applications relating to the Walled Garden also identify the site as lying within the curtilage of Protected Structures B11-13 and B11-14, confirming that the Walled Garden wall is a protected structure in its own right. Councillor O'Rourke requested that the council consider facilitating or funding an assessment by the Architectural Conservation Officer, or



alternatively assisting in identifying and pursuing appropriate conservation or heritage funding streams to support such an assessment and any subsequent conservation works. A conservation assessment would establish the condition of the structure and identify conservation measures to safeguard this important heritage asset.

Councillor Ryan noted that there was a piece of stone recovered by a member of the public and enquired as to whether this could be reinstated.

Mr. M. McLoughlin explained that following the visual inspection it was deemed that there was no immediate risk and would continue to be monitored into the future. Should a funding stream become available then a report could be considered. The piece of stone in question could possibly be reinstated in the future.

Councillor O'Rourke noted that she was not looking at this from a transport perspective, rather from a heritage perspective, enquiring what the process would be to access an architectural assessment officer, she noted that funding was a separate issue.

Councillor Heather noted that there was a similar situation at Donaghcumper Cemetery regarding a ruin and a group was set up and they subsequently applied for funding support through LPT.

The District Manager agreed to take all points back to the Planning Department and that this item should be placed on the Progress Report.

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

CL11/0726

New Road Opening, Leixlip

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

Can the council provide an update on the opening of the new road adjacent to the Kildare Innovation Campus on the Celbridge Road, Leixlip?



A report was received from the Capital Projects Team informing the members that the opening of the new road adjacent to the Innovation Campus on the Celbridge Road was a matter for the campus developer. Given its ongoing role in supporting construction operations, the developer feels it would not be appropriate to open the road to public use at this stage. Kildare County Council will continue to engage with the developer and will provide updates should the situation change.

The report was noted.

CL12/0726

Abbeyfarm Estate, Celbridge

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

Can the council advise when the repair works to the footpaths in the Abbeyfarm Estate, Celbridge are scheduled to take place?

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that the footpath works in Abbeyfarm are to be re-tendered late in July in a new works package for August/September.

The report was noted.

The members agreed to take items 8 and 13 together.

CL13/0726

Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor

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

Can the council inform members of the current status of the Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor and advise when it is expected that a decision on the planning application will be made by An Coimisiún Pleanála?



A report was received from the Capital Projects Team. Informing the members that a decision was made by An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) on 03 July 2026, approving the development and confirming the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO).

The report was noted.

CL14/0726

Main Street, Celbridge

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

Can the council confirm arrangements to have the road shores from Main Street, Celbridge along Maynooth Road to Crodaun cleared, as soon as the roadworks are completed, as the shores are overflowing due to a build-up of dust and stones due to ongoing road and construction works?

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that road gullies would be cleaned by Jetvac on the Maynooth Road in Celbridge in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

CL15/0726

Wheatfield Cottages, Ardclough

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

Can the council advise if 50km per hour speed limit signage can be placed along the Wheatfield Cottages in Ardclough in the interest of road safety?

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that a review of the speed limit signage at this location was currently being carried out. Lost/missing assets would be replaced.

The District Engineer confirmed that he had reordered a replacement feedback sign.

The report was noted.



CL16/0726

Public Lighting Maintenance

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

Can the council provide a report on public lighting maintenance across the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District, including the number of outstanding faults, average repair times over the past 12 months, faults outstanding for more than 30, 60 and 90 days, and measures being taken to reduce repair times and improve public safety?

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Team informing the members that the Public Lighting Asset Management System records maintenance data on a county-wide basis only. Consequently, the figures outlined below are based on the available countywide data and not Municipal District level data. The average time taken to repair public lighting faults over the past 12 months is approximately 5 days. While this reflects the performance of the Public Lighting Maintenance Contractor for faults within their control, repair times can be significantly longer where works require the involvement of ESB Networks. At present, there are 16 faults outstanding for more than 30 days, 3 faults outstanding for more than 60 days, and 78 faults outstanding for more than 90 days. In many cases, these long-outstanding faults require ESB intervention before repairs can be completed. The current process requires Kildare County Council to submit a service request or fault report to ESB Networks. ESB attendance is required for certain fault types, particularly where there is no feeder pillar separating ESB infrastructure from Local Authority infrastructure. As a result, some public lighting faults may remain unresolved for extended periods. The Road Management Office (RMO) is working with Local Authorities and liaising directly with ESB Networks in an effort to improve communication and reduce response times for faults requiring ESB intervention.

Kildare County Council will continue to monitor maintenance performance and work with all stakeholders to ensure that public lighting faults are addressed as quickly and efficiently as possible in the interests of public safety and service delivery.



Councillor Killeen requested a detailed breakdown of figures showing how many cases there were after 90 days and enquired if there was a Service Level Agreement with the ESB.

Mr. M. McLoughlin advised that he would discuss this matter with the Public Lighting Section and revert back to the members.

The report was noted.

CL17/0726

Maynooth Road Roundabout

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

That the council carries out works on the Maynooth Road roundabout ensuring it is fully cleaned and planted to reflect a much more welcoming entrance to Celbridge and consideration be given to a new sponsor.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that arrangements will be made to have the roundabout improved and the sponsorship re-advertised before the end of the year. The roundabout was covered in Mares Tail, a weed which can be difficult to control.

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



The members agreed to take items 18, 20 and 21 together.

CL18/0726

Willowbrook Park Playground, Celbridge

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

That the council carries out short-term improvements to the playground at Willowbrook Park, Celbridge while the wider masterplan for the park is being developed and executed. Given that Willowbrook is Celbridge's only major public playground and is heavily used by families from across the town, the council should prioritise upgrades to play equipment, seating, surfacing and other facilities where needed.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the surfacing in the playground was replaced last year. Repair of the communications sign and replacement of an accessible toddler swing will be arranged in the next 4-6 weeks. All other equipment in the playground has been inspected, and upgrades or repairs are not considered necessary.

Councillor Heather noted that Celbridge only have one playground since the facility at The Abbey was closed. Willowbrook Playground was heavily used and asked if there was any scope to add additional equipment, suggesting if the relocation of the equipment from The Abbey could be considered.

The members raised the following:

- Current playground too small to serve the population.
- Requested also that improvements be made to the area surrounding the playground.
- LPT allocation was suggested for 2027.
- Enquired if safety zone referred to internal zones.
- Can fencing be extended.



Mr. S. Wallace felt that expanding the fence would not be the best option, confirming that the playgrounds footprint gave no scope for additional equipment. He informed the members that there would be a publicity campaign launched next week for the provision of teen facilities in the area and that a questionnaire would be available on the council portal. He reminded the members that both Hazelhatch and Willowbrook were on the Capital Programme and that many new estates include play areas.

Councillor Caldwell informed the members of an upcoming Play Date Event at the new Leixlip Playground on the 16 August 2026, offering an open invitation to all.

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

CL19/0726

Riverforest Estate, Leixlip

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

That the council considers the introduction of open space infrastructure such as outdoor exercise equipment and commits to providing bench seating along the main avenue in Riverforest Estate, Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that there were no resources available to carry out any works in Riverforest at present. Any proposed works could be considered for next year's works programme but would have to be considered in the context of existing commitments to deliver projects, staff and financial resources to deliver them.

Councillor Brooks described Riverforest Estate as one of the largest estates in the area, which was transitioning into a more youthful estate. The addition of seating would give people an opportunity to sit, relax and rest and requested that it be considered for the Capital Programme next year.



Councillor Killeen noted the unique layout of Riverforest Estate. The estate includes bus services, a school and the proposed Dart connectivity link. She enquired if the installation of “Happy to Chat” benches could be considered.

Mr. S. Wallace explained that it was hard to accommodate extra works to the existing Works Programme noting that the Parks Section staff work across all municipal districts. He asked for locations of benches to be forwarded on for consideration.

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

CL20/0726

Celbridge Playground

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

Can the council outline what plans are in place, or proposed, to expand and enhance Celbridge Playground to meet current and future demand, including addressing the shortage and availability of play equipment such as baby swings and the wheelchair-accessible swing, and indicate any proposed funding source and delivery timeline for such works?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that there were no plans to carry out any works to the playground in Celbridge. The safety surfacing in the playground was replaced last year. A replacement accessible toddler swing and repair of the communications board would be scheduled. Any further upgrade works would have to be considered as part of the development of a masterplan for the site. Provision for this work had been included in the 2026-2028 Capital Programme. It was anticipated to commence this work by the end of the year.

The report was noted.



CL21/0726

Celbridge Playground at Willowbrook

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

Can the council provide details of whether there is potential to expand the current footprint of the Celbridge Playground at Willowbrook?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that there was no potential to expand the playground due to the need for safety zones around the existing equipment.

The report was noted.

CL22/0726

Open Spaces in Leixlip Village

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

Can the council provide a detailed schedule for the next 12 months of works planned for open spaces in Leixlip Village?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that all details of works proposed in Leixlip were presented to the elected members in March. This included works in St. Catherine's Park Sensory Garden, which is underway. Works to install goal netting, and commencement works to have a design prepared for the boundary walls on Black Avenue are proposed to commence later in the year.

Councillor Brooks noted the report and welcomed the presentation in March but was hoping for a more detailed plan.

Mr. S. Wallace explained that the Town Renewal Plan is dealt with by the Public Realm Team and he will have to get clarity on what is in the plan.

The report was noted.



CL23/0726

Transport Link, Ardclough

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

That the council writes to the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation requesting that funding be allocated in the forthcoming budget to progress the delivery of a transport link serving Ardclough, following recent correspondence with the National Transport Authority (NTA) (ref CL04/0426) and the positive response to this important transport infrastructure project.

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

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

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members that the report be noted and that the council writes to the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation requesting that funding be allocated in the forthcoming budget to progress the delivery of a transport link serving Ardclough, following recent correspondence with the National Transport Authority (NTA) (ref CL04/0426) and the positive response to this important transport infrastructure project.

CL24/0726

Public Consultations and Surveys

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

That the council reviews and strengthens its approach to publicising public consultations and surveys by adopting a broader communications strategy that extends beyond notification of Elected Members and registered Public Participation Network (PPN) groups only, so that all residents have a fair opportunity to participate in consultations that may affect communities within the municipal district.



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

A report was received from Corporate Services informing the members that the council acknowledges and supports the intent of the motion, which seeks to ensure that public consultations and surveys are promoted as widely, consistently and accessibly as possible, so that all residents have a fair opportunity to participate in matters that may affect their communities. This approach is aligned with the council's Communications Strategy 2026–2030, which emphasises the importance of communicating through a variety of methods and approaches, meeting audiences where they are, and providing information in a way that is understandable, targeted and tailored to audience needs. The Strategy also supports meaningful two-way communication with the public and stakeholders and recognises the need to make participation opportunities accessible and easy to use.

The council currently promotes public consultations through its dedicated Consultation Portal, where members of the public can view open consultations and make submissions. Users of the portal can also subscribe to receive notifications when new consultations are published, helping to ensure that those who wish to engage with the council's consultation processes are kept informed of future opportunities.

The council's website homepage also includes a direct and prominent link to online consultations through tile-based web features. This provides an accessible and visible route for residents who visit the council's main website to find current consultation opportunities. This is consistent with the Communications Strategy's focus on using digital channels and a broad channel mix to improve public awareness and engagement.

In addition to the Consultation Portal and website, the council already uses a range of communication channels to promote public consultations. Where statutory advertisements or public notices are being placed, the Communications Team is notified by the Advertising Team, and these notices are included in the council's weekly public notices and advertisements post, which is published each Wednesday. In many cases, individual service areas also notify the Communications Team directly when a consultation is due to open. The Communications Team then supports promotion through the council's social media channels, including LinkedIn, Facebook, X and Bluesky. These posts are generally



issued at key stages during the consultation period, including when a consultation opens and, where appropriate, again in advance of the closing date.

The council recognises, however, that there is scope to further strengthen and standardise how consultations and surveys are promoted across the organisation. To support this, consideration could be given to developing a corporate policy or protocol requiring all council consultations and surveys to be published on the Consultation Portal. This would provide a single, accessible and reliable location for members of the public to find and participate in consultation and engagement opportunities across all service areas.

Once this approach is further embedded, the Communications Team could undertake a targeted promotional campaign to raise awareness of the Consultation Portal, encourage members of the public to subscribe to consultation alerts, and increase participation in consultations and surveys. This would support the Communications Strategy's objective of increasing stakeholder engagement, public participation and confidence in council decision-making.

The council is also exploring the expanded use of MapAlerter as an additional tool to support localised public engagement. MapAlerter already includes "Public Consultations" as a council alert category. The MapAlerter staff guidance confirms that alerts can issue through the dedicated app, email and social media platforms, and can also appear on the council's website feed. It also notes that subscribers may receive alerts by email, text message and push notification through the app.

As all elected members have MapAlerter accounts, and members of the public can also register for alerts, there is potential to make greater use of this platform to promote consultation awareness at municipal district level. Where a consultation relates to a particular local area, notifications could be issued to registered users when the consultation opens and again a few days before the closing date. This would help ensure that residents who may not be connected to formal networks, such as the Public Participation Network, are still alerted to consultations that may affect their community.



From a Customer Services perspective, there is also an opportunity to further support public engagement by ensuring that consultation activity is reflected across appropriate customer contact channels. This is consistent with the Communications Strategy's focus on customer service engagement analytics, channel mix and removing practical barriers to participation. Customer Services can assist by signposting residents to live consultations, ensuring frontline staff have access to clear and approved information, and helping residents understand how they can participate, whether online, by phone, by email or in person.

Potential enhancements could include:

- preparing short briefing notes for Customer Services staff on significant consultations;
- developing a standard consultation communications checklist for departments;
- using posters and QR codes in public-facing council locations;
- preparing clear plain English summaries of consultations;
- providing assisted digital signposting where surveys or submissions are online;
- using MapAlerter for localised reminders when consultations open and before they close;
- and improving post-consultation feedback to show how public input has informed decisions.

The Communications Strategy also identifies the importance of closing the feedback loop by publishing how public input has influenced decisions and reporting outcomes back to participants. In this regard, improved post-consultation communication would further support transparency, public trust and confidence in the consultation process.

Accordingly, the council is supportive of the principle of the motion. The council will continue to use and further develop a broad mix of communication channels, including the Consultation Portal, Council Website, Social Media, Elected Members, PPN structures, Customer Services and MapAlerter, to strengthen awareness of consultations and support meaningful public participation across municipal districts. This approach reflects the council's Communications Strategy 2026–2030 and its commitment to accessible, targeted, consistent and inclusive communication with the public.



Councillor O'Rourke welcomed the positive response asking what measures the council have planned to progress this and if a time frame was available. She noted that further action was needed when putting projects to public consultation to ensure full accessibility to all.

Councillor Killeen felt that the current process was only suitable to people who have advanced online literacy and noted that there was no Public Counter within the municipal district, where people could get assistance with form filling. She said more computer workshops would be beneficial.

Mr. M. McLoughlin acknowledged that not everyone was digitally literate. He suggested that local libraries could be investigated as an option for walk in clinics to be held and used for signposting the public.

The members were updated that Corporate Services were currently working on a bespoke training programme on the MapAlert system, and it was hoped this would be rolled out in September 2026. It was agreed that there would be an update on this at the next meeting.

The District Manager gave a commitment to investigate more digital adult literacy classes in Leixlip Library.

Councillor Killeen welcomed the suggestion of both drop-in clinics and digital adult literacy classes in Leixlip Library.

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

CL25/0726

Capital Programme

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

Can the council advise what the allocated funding from the Capital Programme in 2027 (€200,000) and 2028 (€266,669) for the Celbridge Library and Cultural Centre will be used for?

A report was received from the County Librarian informing the members that the allocations of €200,000 in 2027 and €266,669 in 2028 are included in the Capital Programme to progress the proposed Celbridge Library and Cultural Centre in accordance with the Infrastructure Guidelines. Pending the acquisition of the former Parochial House and associated lands as the preferred site, the project remains at an early stage of development. No central government funding has currently been identified or approved beyond the site acquisition phase, and progression will be dependent on securing future funding and Departmental approvals through the relevant project stages. The capital programme allocations are expected to contribute towards match funding, feasibility studies, surveys, design development, planning and statutory processes, specialist consultancy services and the preparation of documentation required to advance the project. These indicative allocations will enable the council to continue progressing the project and position it to avail of future capital funding opportunities as they arise. Any future central government funding secured for the project is likely to be subject to a local authority funding contribution. Accordingly, Kildare County Council will be required to provide match funding as part of the overall project financing arrangements.

Councillor Heather sought clarity on the funding streams post 2028 and how the funding would be used and requested that the public be kept updated.

The District Manager confirmed that the council were very committed to this project and that the legal process was ongoing, and it was expected to close the sale soon. He confirmed that an application had been submitted for funding under the Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund Scheme and that the council were awaiting an outcome.

The report was noted.



CL26/0726

Confey Masterplan

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

Can the council provide a current timeline for phased delivery on the Confey Masterplan, including the primary and post-primary school sites, given that Confey is now designated one of Kildare's four priority urban extension sites for accelerated housing delivery and confirm whether delivery is contingent on completion of the Captain's Hill upgrade?

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that Figure 78 of the Confey Masterplan sets out the Indicative Phasing Table (see page 53). Kildare Land Activation Office (KLAO) are collaborating with the developers and a multiplicity of state and semi-state agencies to advance the delivery of the Confey Lands in accordance with the Indicative Phasing Table.

Captain's Hill: Captain's Hill is to be upgraded as part of Phase 1A. The Part 8 for Proposed Captain's Hill Active Travel Scheme was published on 4 July 2026.

Primary and Post-Primary Schools: The primary school is targeted for delivery in Phase 3. The Post-Primary is targeted for Phase 4. The Department of Education will be responsible to delivering the proposed schools in alignment with the indicative phasing.



	Residential Units	Infrastructure to be provided as part of each phase	
Phase 1a	450 - 325 units on MU1 and R1 lands, 125 units on R5 lands	- Upgrade the L1015 local road including widening, footpath and cycle route - All necessary works to Captains Hill south of Cope Bridge to Main St are complete. - Landscaping of 1 ha of OS1 lands west of Cope Bridge is complete and for R5A + R5B (east of Cope Bridge) to be agreed - Deliver new Cemetery outside Masterplan area - First phase of creche and mobility hub complete in MU1 lands - Landscaping of 1.6 ha of OS1 south and east of R5a and R5b lands - Lands to be reserved for community building/Civic space east of cemetery - Upgrades to Captains Hill - Reconfiguration of parking south of existing cemetery	- Upgrade R149 between Cope Bridge and L1050 - Upgrade of Cope Bridge to include footpaths and cycle lanes - Feasibility study for swimming pool/sports centre within the Community Hub lands. - Feasibility study for a civic/community building incorporating a dedicated performance space within the Community Hub lands
Phase 1b	211 -211 units on R1 lands	- Upgrades to Cope Bridge - Western Active Transport Bridge across Royal Canal and railway line	Pedestrian and cycle route north of R1 lands
Phase 2	450 - 325 Units on MU2 and R2 lands, Sports hall and community facilities, 125 units on R3	- Upgrade of Cope Bridge - Completion of landscaping of OS3 parkland and parkland south of R5A lands - Civic space in MU2 4 court sports hall (site for swimming pool) on CH2 lands and playground north of cemetery on CH1 lands - A new pedestrian crossing over the Royal Canal Greenway and railway line connecting to the existing open space area at Riverforest Park. - Landscaping of OS1 lands south of MU1	- Extension of R1 pedestrian and cycle route between the L1050 and L5051 - Upgrade of R149 up to OS3 - New link road north of CH1 - New link road between OS3 and R2 lands - New link road north and South of R3 lands
Phase 3	Primary School	- A new pedestrian crossing over the Royal Canal Greenway and railway line connecting to the existing open space area at Glendale Meadows connecting to Riverforest Park - Reserved lands for primary school - New Link road south of R3 lands	- Upgrade of road link along R4 - Pedestrian and cycle link from Royal Canal to R149
Phase 4	140 - R4 lands, Post-Primary School	- Lands for post primary school - Development of OS2 parklands - Eastern active Transport bridge - New link road north of CH2 lands	- Pedestrian and cycle link through OS2 lands - Extension of link road between R3 and R4

Figure 78; Indicative phasing table

The indicative timeline for the completion of development at the Confey Lands is set out below. This timeline is subject to change, given the complexity of the infrastructure to be delivered in support of the urban extension.

Phase	Indicative timeline for completion
1A	2029
1B	2030
2	2032
3	2033
4	2034

The report was noted.



CL27/0726

LPT funded Celbridge-Leixlip Community Innovation Fund and Residents Association (Projects) Grants

The members considered the approval of allocations under LPT funded Celbridge-Leixlip Community Innovation Fund and Residents Association (Projects) Grants.

Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District Local Property Tax Funded Community Innovation Fund 2026				
No		Project	Grant Requested	Grant Proposed
1	Celbridge Bobcats Baseball Club	Equipment	€920.00	€ 920.00
2	Parents Association St Patrick's Primary School Celb	Entertainment	€1,150.00	€ 1,150.00
3	The Acre Project	Material Costs	€6,780.00	€ 2,100.00
4	Leixlip Community First Responders	Solar Power AED Cabinets	€5,000.00	€ 5,000.00
5	Celbridge Community Council	Training Costs	€750.00	€ 636.00
6	Scoil na Mainistreach Parents Association	Sensory Garden & Equipment	€4,978.00	€ 4,978.00
7	silverthreadclubcelbridge@gmail.com	Transport Costs	€2,944.00	€ 2,944.00
8	Ardclough Community Council	Equipment	€5,000.00	€ 5,000.00
9	Leixlip Village Renewal	IT Works	€4,151.00	€ 4,151.00
			Amount Allocated	€ 26,879.00

Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District Local Property Tax Funded Residents Projects 2026				
No		Project	Grant Requested	Grant Proposed
1	The Grove Celbridge	Planting and Bench	€1,703.62	€ 1,700.00
2	Residents Association - Kildroch Court	New Entrance Stone	€2,150.00	€ 2,150.00
3	Beatty Park Neighbourhood Group	Painting and Clean Up	€1,065.00	€ 1,065.00
4	Backlots Group Castletown Residents Association, C	Planting	€1,827.00	€ 1,825.00
5	Beatty Grove Residents Association	New Raised Beds	€990.00	€ 990.00
6	Leixlip Castletown Residents Association	Pruning of Shrubbery & Rockery	€2,000.00	€ 2,000.00
7	Oaklawn West Residents Association	Memory Garden	€2,000.00	€ 2,000.00
			Amount Allocated	€ 11,730.00

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Heather and agreed by all members that the allocations under LPT funded Celbridge-Leixlip Community Innovation Fund and Residents Association (Projects) Grants be approved.



CL28/0726

River Rye

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

That the council writes to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Inland Fisheries Ireland and Uisce Éireann seeking urgent action following recent and previous fish kill incidents on the River Rye, including the establishment of a formal rapid response protocol for serious river pollution incidents, a review of continuous water quality monitoring, an update on actions arising from the joint EPA/ Inland Fisheries Ireland report of 2022, and further measures to prevent recurrence.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that an active investigation was currently taking place in relation to the incident at the River Rye and Kildare County Council was not in a position to discuss further until the investigation was concluded. It was noted that the Inland Fisheries Ireland protocol was followed and implemented.

Councillor Killeen noted that the incident was reported 10 days ago. She enquired in relation to how things were being measured and if there had been any changes to the process since the last reported incident involving fish kill.

Mr. M. Hearn explained that this was an ongoing, active investigation and that the council were working alongside other bodies. Presently, he was unable to comment but assured the members that the results would be circulated to them when available.

Councillor Killeen asked if this item could be placed on the Progress Report.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor O'Rourke and agreed by all members that the report be noted and this item be placed on the Progress Report.



CL29/0726

Leixlip Smart Community Dashboard Pilot Project

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

That the council prepares a proposal for a Leixlip Smart Community Dashboard pilot project, bringing together existing real-time information for residents on traffic, transport, environmental alerts, council works, facilities, events and consultations on a single public platform, and outlining data sources, costs, funding options and potential countywide expansion.

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

A report was received from both the Corporate Services Section and the IT Department informing the members that the MapAlerter service already in place in Kildare and across most local authorities provides free, location-specific alerts by text and email on a range of topics including, public consultations, planning applications, flood and severe weather warnings, community notices, roadworks, road closures and diversions. There are over 5,000 registered subscribers in County Kildare, including elected members. Users can register via [Register for Kildare Alerts](#) link on the council's homepage and once registered, select updates relevant to their chosen locations and interests through the website or app. The council is also investigating other potential unified communications platforms that may provide the functionality outlined in the motion. This is still at an early stage of investigation and progress updates will be provided in due course. The council will explore opportunities to expand the use of MapAlerter, alongside other communication channels, to provide additional localised public information as outlined in the motion, subject to the availability of reliable data sources. This approach would align with the council's Communications Strategy 2026–2030, particularly its focus on integrated communications, targeted messaging and accessible engagement. Any associated funding requirements could be considered through normal budgetary processes, service budgets, Municipal District or Local Property Tax allocations, or relevant external funding streams subject to eligibility and approval.



Councillor Killeen noted the report but felt that the MapAlerter system was inaccessible to many people especially people those with no access to computers or who struggle to navigate such systems. Councillor Killeen explained that she was looking for more of a visual option.

Mr. McLoughlin explained that the MapAlerter system had great potential including an option of visual alerts and that he was currently working on a bespoke training package. He suggested that once the training was completed, he could present Map Alerter system features to all members.

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

CL30/0726

Confey Cemetery

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

Can the council provide an update on the extension to Confey Cemetery?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the council is seeking potential other sites in the Confey area. An auctioneering firm has been employed to progress site selection and purchase. The members will be kept updated on progress.

Councillor Caldwell noted the urgency of this situation and that a solution was needed.

The District Manager explained that a shorter-term option was being investigated and the members would be kept updated on any progress.

The report was noted.



CL31/0726

Nitrous Oxide Canisters

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

Can the council clarify what is the process for the safe disposal of nitrous oxide canisters which are often dumped in green public areas and around bins in the municipal district and picked up by children and sometimes brought home?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the safe disposal of potentially dangerous nitrous oxide canisters has in recent years become a major issue for the recycling and waste management industry. The gas is sold legally for medical, industrial and commercial purposes, and is easily obtained online. Revenue has the power to seize canisters of the gas where officers believe they are intended for illicit purposes. Kildare County Council has no facilities to store and dispose of these canisters, nor are they accepted by locally based waste collection operators for health and safety reasons. Due to the physical nature of the canister, it is difficult to ascertain if the product is empty or full. Whilst an empty canister is widely recyclable, if gas remains in the container – it may explode if crushed - it cannot be processed through standard recycling facilities. This issue of disposal is not unique to Kildare and is rather a national issue that requires addressing at a nationwide level.

Councillor Trost noted the response, highlighting that the use of Nitrous Oxide was increasing among young people. He acknowledged that this was a national issue but felt that something needed to be done at a local level regarding disposal of these canisters. He enquired as to what should people do if they come across these canisters.

Mr. M. Hearn explained that the council were awaiting National Legislation for guidance, as currently there were no waste collectors or amenity centres that would facilitate disposal of these canisters.

The report was noted.



CL32/0726

Illegal Dumping

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

Can the council provide a report on the alleged illegal dumping at the Walled Gardens site, Castletown, including details of any assessments or enforcement actions undertaken or considered in response to reports received or whether it has received any advice from An Garda Síochána or any source that would restrict or prevent the council from initiating assessment or enforcement action in respect of the site?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that as this matter relates to a specific property which is in private ownership and involves issues of a confidential nature, it would not be appropriate for the council to discuss the details in a public forum. The matter can be discussed offline, directly with the Councillor.

Councillor O'Rourke sought clarity as to the council's statutory response and whether an assessment had been carried out and if enforcement had been considered.

Mr. M. Hearn referred to the report and noted that it would not be appropriate for the council to discuss the details in a public forum.

Councillor O'Rourke agreed to discuss this matter further offline.

The report was noted.