



**Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
Held on Friday 19 January 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
In the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.**

Members Present: Councillor B Caldwell (Cathaoirleach), Councillors M Coleman, Í Cussen, R Heather, N Killeen, V Liston, and Councillor J Neville

Officials Present: Ms C Barrett (District Manager), Mr R Linnane (Municipal District Engineer), Ms P Pender (A/Senior Executive Officer) Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscape Officer), Mr C Flynn (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms S Walsh (Executive Engineer), Ms S Barry (Administrative Officer), Ms M O'Brien (Administrative Officer), Ms C Brogan (Assistant Staff Officer), Ms B Sweeney (A/Head of Finance), Mr J Hannigan (Meeting Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathoirléach welcomed everyone to the January Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District meeting. He also welcomed Councillor Rupert Heather as the replacement for Councillor Ciara Galvin. Councillor Rupert Heather thanked the Cathoirléach for his words and for the warm welcome from the members.

CL01/0124

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of (a) conflicts of interest or (b) pecuniary or beneficial interests under section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

CL02/0124

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the draft minutes of the monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 15 December 2023 with the progress report.



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Resolved: On the proposal of Councillor Cussen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Friday 15 December 2023 of the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CL03/0124

Municipal District works

Schedule of Municipal District works - January 2024

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.

Winter Maintenance:

The annual winter program of jet-vacking of road gullies is to be completed by the 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 are currently being carried out in Ardclough and rural areas south of Celbridge and will be complete in early January.

Road works Programme 2024:

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

Footpath Restoration works:

- Footpath repair work in Crodaun is now complete.
- Tender for works in Dun Carraig in Leixlip awarded and due to commence imminently.
- Footpath works on Hazelhatch Road including the upgrade of junction entrances to Simmonstown Park and Primrose Hill now complete.

Road Opening Licenses:

- Moratorium on road opening Licenses for Christmas period now lifted.



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- Final reinstatement works for Uisce Eireann project on Dublin Road R403, Hazelhatch Road and Shinkeen Road to be complete Q1/Q2 2024. Road closures were advertised to facilitate these works.

The members asked regarding salting on the approach to schools and queried if schools are liable if they decide to salt areas themselves.

Mr. Linnane noted the recent cold snap and advised the members to give him names of specific schools. That hand salting could be an option in some cases.

The report was noted.

CL04/0124

Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2024.

The members agreed to adjourn the approval of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works until the February municipal district meeting. The District Manager reminded the members that the allocation of LPT is not exempt from the Public Procurement Rules.

Councillor Killeen asked how the council ensure the rules are followed and adhered to.

The District Manager advised that any expenditure has a public spending code and is also subject to auditing processing rules. The LPT Schedule of Works is more for the members information. As with allocations the departments cannot transfer any funds until it is shown that the rules have been followed.

The report was noted.

CL05/0124

St Patricks National School, Celbridge.

The members received a PowerPoint presentation with a deputation from the Secretary and Treasurer from the Parents Association of St Patricks National School, Celbridge to raise their concerns regarding school.

The members of the Parents Association advised the members that the school itself has grown by 20 percent and is experiencing congestion in and around the carpark, the road has a large traffic volume and includes a sharp corner. They reported an incident on 8 January when a mother and toddler had been knocked down with many more near misses reported also.



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They asked for assistance from the members in three areas.

- Traffic warden to be appointed.
- Another assessment on the road needed to look at possibility of widening it and the addition of pencil bollards.
- That the gate needed to be opened to help with access into the school in the medium term. A legal agreement would be required. If the gate were opened this would alleviate some issues but that the final outcome would need to be relocation of the school itself. This is where they were asking for support of members and TD'S in working with the Department of Education
- They thanked the members for meeting them onsite and thanked the council for their support to date.

Following the deputation, the members raised the following.

- Thanked the speakers for the presentation and for the opportunity to meet on site the previous Tuesday for a walkabout where some suggestions e.g. pencil bollards had been made. They noted that the opening of the pedestrian gate might not be the quickest option as this was a sensitive issue.
- Visibility issues were identified, a possible short-term solution could be a traffic warden, this was to be further discussed with the Road Safety Officer.
- Asked if there was any planning input required.
- Asked if the work done over the last 1-2 years had made any difference to the flow of traffic, questioning if the pinch point was the whole way or towards the GAA.
- Noted that infrastructure for the school was not in place but that the school was never meant to be in situ as a long-term plan.
- Asked if the issue was travelling to and from the school or the crossing of the Road.
- Dublin bus to be contacted to be mindful of the situation and they needed to be on board.
- Noted some people do not have the option to walk to school and therefore must drive.



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- That the speed limit review was done last year where this roads speed limit was down to be reduced to 50kph and outside school to 30kph, but the speed limit review was not passed by the members at full council so could not be implemented.

Councillor Killeen updated the speakers and other members of some negative news regarding the school's site progress and the Project Liffey National Finance agency. She explained that the stages were.

- Stage 1 – procurement stage no design yet.
- Stage 2a - planning application stage
- Stage 2b – detailed design stage

Currently she had been told that no date was available yet and the project was further behind than expected. Councillor Killeen agreed to advocate to the department to try get the project moved on and that two other schools had obtained grants for remedial works.

CL06/0124

Confey Cemetery

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

That the council investigate the area around Confey Cemetery with a view to installing speed reducing measures to slow traffic at this location.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that it was proposed to resurface a section of the R149 from the junction with Captains Hill with the junction with the L5052 Allenswood Road as part of the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District Roads Improvement Programme for 2024. Prior to these works, an assessment will be carried out on potential traffic calming measures that maybe appropriate for this location. Traffic calming measures can be delivered as part of the Roads Improvement Programme works.

The members raised the following,

- Ongoing issue with large volumes of traffic using the road, issues from Intel direction, especially on the bend.



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- Issues with cars reversing from the cemetery parking spaces into oncoming traffic.
- Signage and rumble strips had been added but had been informed no speed bumps could be installed as this was a regional road, questioned could this road be re classified?

The Area Engineer advised the members that.

- the road was being resurfaced not realigned. Works currently being carried out from Captain Hill down and then would be moving onto the next section down to the GAA club.
- After resurfacing works were completed traffic measurements would be investigated and agreed to investigate the parking. It was noted that the last traffic survey showed issues from the Fingal direction but no issues from other direction.
- The Council had a Traffic Calming Policy which must be adhered to, this policy was agreed at full Council. The policy states that no speed ramps can be installed on regional roads.

The District Manager advised the members that this was a statutory instrument so would need to investigate options on how to manage the traffic on the road.

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

CL07/0124

Royal Canal at Louisa Bridge

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

That the council finish off the entrance to the Royal Canal at Louisa Bridge to make it possible for people with disabilities to access and complete the pathway safely.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that the access arrangements and type of gates used to access the Royal Canal Greenway at this location is approved by Waterways Ireland. The civil engineering contract



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for works at this location was terminated in 2023 and has been retendered. A contractor is expected to be appointed in Quarter one 2024 to complete works to connect the scheme to Maynooth.

Councillor Killeen questioned whether disability access was to be incorporated and to ensure that the contractor met the requirements set out in the County Development Plan

The Area Engineer advised the members that he had seen the drawings, and the plans were to be fully accessible from the Confey side, Cope Bridge was awaiting works to be carried out.

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

CL08/0124

Ryevale Lawns, Leixlip

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

That the council install a light at the bottom of Ryevale Lawns, Leixlip near the Nursing Home.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that the request had been added to the KLIPS (Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule) register. This is a priority system, where requests for new lighting will be scored on various factors and placed within KLIPS according to that score. Requests will be reviewed once funds become available.

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

CL09/0124

Phone Boxes on Main Street, Leixlip

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

Can the council provide an update on the removal of the phone boxes on Main Street, Leixlip?



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A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that there was no update from the response given in November 2023.

The report was noted.

CL10/0124

Streetlights

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell. Can the council provide an update on when the streetlights that are out of order in Leixlip and Celbridge last had bulbs replaced?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that the Public Lighting Section has forwarded the details to the Maintenance Contractor, and they have confirmed that they will prioritise the repair of the lights.

The report was noted.

CL11/0124

Maynooth Road, Celbridge

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

Can the council provide an update on any possible accessibility improvement measures identified on the Maynooth Road, Celbridge at Colourtrend?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that the Municipal District office made initial contact with local management personnel in Colourtrend to discuss potential alterations to the existing entrance of the Maynooth Road in Celbridge. Discussions on possible accessibility improvement measures at the entrance with Colourtrend have not concluded. Renewed efforts will be made to conclude discussions with Colourtrend.

The report was noted.

CL12/0124

Shackleton Road/Clane Road Junction, Celbridge

Can the council provide an update on any repurposed use ideas in the context of urban realm improvements for the Shackleton Road/Clane Road Junction, Celbridge?



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A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that there are no proposals for urban realm improvements at the location. However, it is understood the Tidy Towns may have ideas for the space. Any repurposing proposals would have to involve the Sustainable Transport Section and or the Area Engineer to advise regarding any road safety issues. Funding would also have to be identified. Any works required would also have to be considered in the context of existing works committed to within the Municipal District.

The report was noted.

The members agreed to take item 25 next from the agenda.

CL13/0124

Budget 2019 to 2023

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

Can the council confirm what percentage of the budget for each section [community, public realm, and open space] was spent in the years 2019 to 2023 and how much of that proportion of the budget was used in Celbridge and Leixlip?

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Section informing the members that all information relating to capital program expenditure and budget, by municipal district was set out in the circulated excerpt of the Annual Financial Statements which was previously circulated to elected members.

(see appendix 1)

The report was noted.

CL14/0124

Outdoor Teen Facilities for Celbridge

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

That the council align and launch Outdoor Teen Facilities for Celbridge in tandem with the Celbridge Town Renewal Plan to ensure the most desired locations are identified and facilitated.

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



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A report was received from the Public Realm Section informing the members that the Celbridge Town Renewal Plan is now at its final stage and ready for publication. The Plan progressed through a robust public consultation piece, which informed the project selection put forward in the document and a Draft Plan was presented to the elected members in advance of the publication of the document. Our Parks and Open Spaces team are working to deliver Outdoor Teen Facilities for Celbridge with locations currently being assessed. Councillor Cussen noted that these were both big projects and needed to ensure that they worked in tandem. The members received an update back in 2022 where teens had identified possible locations. It was included in the minutes last month that areas within housing estates were suggested. Councillor Cussen felt the location should be on land owned by Kildare County Council and questioned if the housing associations had been contacted regarding teen facilities as she felt they should be made aware of any possible future plans.

The members raised the following,

- Members concerned that plan was not joining up and asked that Public Realm work in alignment with the works done to date on the teen facility project to ensure that the youth's perspective was taken onboard. Questioned how teen facilities were reflected within Public Realm projects.
- The members hoped to have seen more teen facilities included in the Town Renewal Plan near shops cafes etc.
- Discussions held before Christmas with the Parks section and the teen facility project seemed to be progressing, now being told delays with the project. This must be very frustrating for the Parks Section.
- Concerns raised for a teen facility in Willowbrook Park as housing backs directly onto the area in question.

Ms Pender from Public Realm Section informed the members that surveys were carried out at the time, few comments were received but nothing specific. Projects from the Draft Town Renewal Plan came from public consultation and if teen facilities had been identified near the top there would have been more included. The Renewal plan was now at further design stage and would move onto Part 8 next, at this stage there would be a chance for further community input.



Kildare County Council

Mr Wallace advised the members that the briefing back in December was out of courtesy to the members and possible locations were suggested at the time. The council needed the public to be on board and open minded with the teen project. Five locations had been suggested, consideration would need to be given into which locations would be least controversial.

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

CL15/0124

Public Sector Duty

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

That the council report on how it meets its public sector duty in its functions and service delivery within the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Corporate, People and Cultural Services section informing the members that the Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 requires public bodies, including local authorities and regional assemblies, to publish an assessment of the human rights and equality issues it believes to be relevant to the functions and purpose of that public body, and the policies, plans and actions in place, or proposed to be put in place to address those issues, and to report on developments and achievements.

- (1) A public body shall, in the performance of its functions, have regard to the need to—
 - (a) eliminate discrimination,
 - (b) promote equality of opportunity and treatment of its staff and the persons to whom it provides services, and
 - (c) protect the human rights of its members, staff, and the persons to whom it provides services.
- (2) For the purposes of giving effect to subsection (1), a public body shall, having regard to the functions and purpose of the body and to its size and the resources available to it.



Kildare County Council

- (a) set out in a manner that is accessible to the public in its strategic plan (howsoever described) an assessment of the human rights and equality issues it believes to be relevant to the functions and purpose of the body and the policies, plans and actions in place or proposed to be put in place to address those issues, and
- (b) report in a manner that is accessible to the public on developments and achievements in that regard in its annual report (howsoever described).

Assessment: A formal assessment of all the Council's policy documents was carried out in 2022/2023 and while this was done separate to the Corporate Plan it should be noted that the current Corporate Plan itself is already addressing human rights and equality across all the municipal districts and their functions.

The formal assessment involved the engagement of a consultant to assess all the Council's policy documents and he together with staff in the Human Resources Section made a presentation to senior management and will be meeting with key stakeholders with a view to finalising the Public Sector Duty Framework document.

Framework: This in-depth assessment of all our policy documents was undertaken with a view to creating a framework document to act as a guide for all departments, to ensure that the Public Sector Duty is enshrined in all our policy documents. The framework will assist each department in assessing how they carry out their functions, address any gaps and report on progress on what each department is currently undertaking, or intends to undertake, to prevent discrimination, promote equality and protect human rights.

A presentation on the Public Sector Duty framework document will be made to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) when completed.

Training: The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) have produced a training video to assist in the implementation of the Public Sector Duty which is available to staff. The IHREC training video will also be available to elected members through the members portal in due course.

Councillor Liston asked.

- when this would be available and how it would be communicated to the public, noting that circulating information covering how duties are achieved and how the



Kildare County Council

council serve their communities in a non-discriminative way would be hugely helpful.

- Asked what scope is to be included, what is to be covered.
- Asked what mechanisms are in place for the EIA
- To what extent does public sector duty analysis cover policy such as parking bye laws and County Development Plan

The Meetings administrator agreed to take questions back to the section.

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

CL16/0124

Parochial House in Celbridge

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

That the council include a dedicated space for municipal district business and constituent meetings in plans for the Parochial House in Celbridge.

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

A report was received from the Corporate, People and Cultural Services Section informing the members that it is intended that the Parochial House will become the new library in Celbridge. In accordance with the Council's Guidelines for Booking Library Meeting Spaces, meeting rooms are available for free but "libraries are a democratic space and should not be used for events with a political or religious agenda or anything perceived as such by any fair-minded person." The motion does not conform with the guidelines and therefore it would be inappropriate to provide a dedicated space for municipal district business and constituent meetings.

The members raised the following.

- Concerns raised regarding lack of space for members to meet with constituents to discuss personal issues.
- GDPR issues raised over discussions being held in public space. Currently members having to meet up in cafes, hotels etc.



Kildare County Council

- Were not aware of guidelines explained in the report, could a designated area within Parochial House be investigated. There had previously been mention of an administrative building so could this be utilised.
- It was noted that not all meetings would not be seen to be of a political nature, rather of a social and practical agenda.
- When the library moved could this be reused as a customer contact point to be used by the members for meetings also. It was noted that €400,000 had been the costings given for a customer contact point in the past.
- Councillor Coleman suggested using the Local Area Office for meetings once discussed with the Area Engineer

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

CL17/0124

Range of languages

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

Can the council confirm the range of languages needed in delivering services in the municipal district and how it responds to these language needs and any gaps?

A report was received from the Corporate, People and Cultural Services Section informing the members that the delivery of council services is mainly through centralised services in person and online based in Aras Chill Dara. While many citizens speak languages other than English and Irish the vast majority of people have a level of English or may be assisted by a person with a level of English who helps them to communicate with staff. There are a number of staff throughout the organisation who speak a language other than English and if available can assist customers who have communication difficulties.

Staff at customer service don't receive very many requests but where they do, and they cannot communicate in the customers language the customer is asked to submit their query in writing and it is referred to the relevant section to be dealt with. As the language they require is not the ordinary working language of most people in the organisation and most probably not by someone in the section with whom they need to conduct business, their



Kildare County Council

query will have to be translated, a response drafted, and this response translated where it will then issue to the customer.

If an appointment is required and the section notified, then the relevant section will arrange for someone in the organisation who speaks the relevant language fluently to act as translator or they will seek a person to provide this service.

Some staff at Customer Services speak languages other than English and if available can assist people if they speak the language concerned.

In addition, a number of language needs have been identified through Kildare County Councils Community Development work including French, Polish, Lithuanian, Romanian, Ukrainian and Russian. The community development team works closely with the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board which run several language support services when needs are identified.

Housing section have confirmed that there is a demand for Russian and Polish in communications with people and a member of the housing team can assist with Russian, Romanian and also with communications with people from Ukraine and Moldova. Often staff use google translate to assist. Sometime children attend with their parents to assist them with translation.

Councillor Liston was happy with the report, she asked would the council consider the usage of a language tool bar.

The report was noted,

CL18/0124

Electoral Process

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

Can the council confirm how it plans to communicate the electoral process, how to participate, and how to run as a candidate in the 2024 local elections, among ethnic minority communities within the municipal district and communities for whom English is not a first language?



Kildare County Council

A report was received from the Corporate, People and Cultural Services Section informing the members that the website of Kildare County Council was updated in Q4 2023 with information in relation to the local elections 2024.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have issued the How Members of Local Authorities are Elected guidance document which is available in 16 different languages ranging from Arabic to Ukrainian and can be accessed through links on the council website.

The Immigrant Council of Ireland have issued a migrant toolkit document, which we link to on the website. This appears to be only available in English but includes information on the Irish political context, party system, voting system, electoral rules, campaign management and finance, social media strategies and other topics relevant to successful election campaigns.

Please see link below

[Candidate Guides - Kildare County Council \(kildarecoco.ie\)](https://www.kildarecoco.ie)

Councillor Liston thanked the section for their report and asked if there were any other initiatives in addition to ones already mentioned regarding the website prior to the elections. The report was noted.

The members agreed to take items 18 and 19 from the agenda together.

CL19/0124

Louisa Park Estate, Leixlip

Item 18

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

That the council provide an update on progress with the works and the taking in charge of the Louisa Park Estate in Leixlip where a bond of €331,170.00 as a cash bond was lodged with Kildare County Council in respect of the estate 20 years ago. This bond was to cover items such as work not completed by the original developer. Essential works which remain outstanding include road surfacing, footpaths, drainage, boundary treatment. Residents are contributing to Local Property Tax and Management Fees without the benefit of a surfaced road etc.



Kildare County Council

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

Item 19

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

That the council provide an update on the Louisa Park taking in charge bond.

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

A report was received from Building and Development Control informing the members that Planning Condition No. 9 of the An Bord Pleanála planning approval (Ref 09.203905) for this development states:

9. Prior to commencement of development, a management scheme providing adequate measures relating to the future maintenance of private open spaces, roads and communal areas in a satisfactory manner shall be submitted to the planning authority for agreement.

Reason: To ensure the adequate future maintenance of this private development in the interest of residential amenity.

This development was therefore always envisaged as a private development to be operated and maintained by a Management Company, and it is not of a nature that will be taken in charge by the local authority. Notwithstanding this, Council do hold a bond of €322,895.42 which they can utilise, in line with Condition 12 of the An Bord Pleanála planning approval (Ref 09.203905), to secure the satisfactory completion of roads, footpaths, watermains drains, public open space and other services required in connection with the development. The Development Control Section have engaged with the Management Company of Louisa Park with a view to working with them to progress the outstanding works. The members raised the following.

- Dissatisfied with the progress to date and asked for timelines for when issues would be resolved, querying also what the delay had been.
- Asked if remedial works to estate included the road and front entrance area.
- Asked for this to be placed on progress report for a quarterly update on the resolution plan.



Kildare County Council

Ms Walsh confirmed to the members that it was not envisaged that this estate would be taken in charge. She confirmed that the council did hold a bond and were at preliminary stages of discussions with the management company on a site resolution plan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Neville and agreed by all members that the report be noted, and item placed on the Progress Report for Quarterly updates.

CL20/0124

Capital Budget

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

Can the council confirm what provisions in the Capital Budget is set aside for social infrastructure for the Confey Urban Development Zone and what projects are planned for the area?

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that it is of importance to note that Confey is not a designated Urban Development Zone. Details of the Masterplan for Confey are set out under Draft Amendment No.1 of the Leixlip Local Area Plan 2020-2023 (as extended) published on the 15 December 2023.

Councillor Killeen felt the report given did not answer her question and requested another response.

Ms McCarthy advised that before design stage the plan would need to be adopted and the council was not at this stage yet, she agreed to take it back to the planners noting that different infrastructures were being dealt with by different departments.

The report was noted.

CL21/0124

Westfield Estate, Leixlip

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

Can the council specifically outline why the planned playground in Westfield Estate, Leixlip is not required under conditions 1, 6 and 8 of the ABP permission for the estate?

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that while Kildare County Council conditioned a playground in their decision 16/282. The decision was subsequently appealed to Bord Pleanála and there was no specific condition attached to



Kildare County Council

Bord Pleanála's decision on the provision of a playground. Ref ABP PL09.247909, condition 8, specifically conditions the areas of open space to be levelled, contoured soiled and seeded and landscaped in accordance with the landscaping scheme submitted as part of the planning application.

Please see condition 8 below.

Condition 8 of ABP PL09.247909

The areas of open space shown on the lodged plans, together with the additional open space required under condition 2 of this order, shall be reserved for such use and shall be levelled, contoured, soiled, seeded, and landscaped in accordance with the landscaping scheme submitted to the planning authority on the 8 November 2016, and as required by the conditions of this permission. All this work shall be completed before any of the dwellings are made available for occupation, or, in the event of phasing of the development before any of the dwellings within the relevant phase are made available for occupation. These open space areas shall be maintained as public open space by the developer until taken in charge by the local authority. When the estate is taken in charge, the open spaces shall be vested in the planning authority, at no cost to the authority, as public open space.

While Condition 1 states that the development shall be carried out in accordance with the plans and particulars submitted on the 8 November 2016, it also states except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with their conditions and condition 8 specifically conditions the areas of open space to be levelled, contoured soiled and seeded.

Condition 6 relates to the planting proposals and additional planting measures required and not does refer to the provision of a playground.

The report was noted.

CL22/0124

Ryevale House

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

Can the council provide an update on the next steps on the enforcement order process at Ryevale House?



Kildare County Council

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that given the non-compliance with the measure set out in the Enforcement Notice dated 10 May 2023, which gave a period of 6 months for compliance, this file has been referred to the Council's solicitors.

The report was noted.

CL23/0124

Development Contributions

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen. That the council outline what amount of development contributions were collected in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District in the years 2019 to 2023 and how much of that proportion of the spent budget was spent in Celbridge and Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Finance Section informing the members that the Members adopted the 2023-2029 Development Contribution scheme in December 2022. This scheme estimated that €14.4m of development contributions would be generated in Kildare per annum.

The scheme as adopted divides development contributions received as follows:

- Transportation, Surface Water and Flooding – Countywide 60%
- Community and Civic – Municipal District element 32%
- Community and Civic – General element 8%

Community and Civic covers the areas of Community, Environment, Economic Development, Public Realm, Open Spaces and Recreation.

The Development Contributions schemes prior to the 2023-2029 scheme had the development contributions allocated as follows:

- Carparking - Countywide
- Roads and Transport - Countywide
- Surface Water - Countywide



Kildare County Council

- Community and Enterprise – retained within the Municipal District in which it was generated.
- Recreation and Amenities – retained within the Municipal District in which it was generated.

All elements of any development contribution for the years prior to 2023 for Community and Enterprise, Recreation and Amenities and from 2023 for Community and Civic have been assigned to the Celbridge and Leixlip area for spending in that area. Many projects are multi-annual projects that, for various reasons, may take a number of years to complete. Members were previously provided with the timeline for the delivery of a library project, where Kildare had owned the building prior to commencement, and yet the project still took 7 years from start to delivery. Members can be assured, however, that the development contributions raised in the specific categories are retained within the Municipal District until spent.

The total amount of development contributions collected in the 5-year period 2019-2023 in these categories are as follows:

Community and Enterprise – Cel/Leix Municipal District element	€1,363,772
Recreation and Amenities – Cel/Leix Municipal District element	€7,445,004
Community and Civic – Cel/Leix Municipal District element	€ 10,467
Total	€8,819,243

As part of the process of compiling the annual three-year capital programme each September, the actual amount of development contributions collected from start of scheme in 2004 to that August is compiled to assist in the preparation of this three-year capital programme. Any unspent development contributions assigned to projects are shown in the capital programme. The three-year Capital Programme 2024-2026 that was presented to Council at the November 2023 Budget meeting shows the expenditure for each project by Municipal District and each project was also analysed under their current stage with an Estimated Start Dates for their next stage. There was also a separate meeting on the Capital Programme 2024-2026 with Members to go into detail any other queries they might have had on the programme. Members also have the opportunity to discuss the Capital Programme for their



Kildare County Council

Municipal District each year in Quarter 2 in advance of the new Capital Programme being drafted.

Councillor Killeen expressed her concerns regarding lack of investment in the Celbridge Leixlip municipal district compared to other municipal districts. Noting that 3 years services have been sought and still have not been provided, this includes sports, creche and community facilities. Contributions have been paid to provide infrastructure, but they are not being delivered.

Councillor Neville supported Councillor Killeen on this matter noting that he had been raising the same issue regarding lack of investment and inequality within the municipal district noting a figure of €50 per head in Naas compared to €1 in Celbridge Leixlip

The members raised the following:

- Members needed to also look at the improvements that had been achieved to date both socially and physically.
- The purchase of Parochial House would not have happened without the members intervention.
- The municipal district had a bus service and two train stations and the members worked well collaboratively on projects.
- Noted funding issues but focus must be on moving projects forward and looking for time frames.

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

CL24/0124

Columbarium Wall

Mr C Flynn from the Environment Department gave a presentation to the members on the proposed Columbarium Wall installation at Confey Cemetery, Leixlip as part of the 2024 Cemeteries Capital Improvement Program.

Mr C Flynn informed the members of the following:

- The location was at the front of the cemetery.
- There would be three walls with 20 niches on each.



Kildare County Council

- The columbarium walls were becoming more popular with Naas cemetery being the first to have one installed in the county and further ones planned for Athy, Maynooth, Confey, Leixlip and Crookstown.
- They were common in other countries.
- Any proposals or queries could be emailed to Mr K Kavanagh or Mr C Flynn from the Environment Department within the next 3-4 weeks, the tender was set to be the middle to end of February with a contractor set to be appointed hopefully at the start of the summer.

The members raised the following points:

- Currently space constraints at Confey Cemetery and that the installation of a columbarium wall was not the answer to these issues, not everyone was wanting to choose the option of cremation.
- Concerns raised regarding location as it would be just beside the angel plots, this area needed upgrading and not happy if this was to be the location.
- This had been an ongoing request from the church, it was asked could the drawings be shared with the pastoral team.
- Queried what the process was in regards the design process can alterations be made with the design.
- Could a redesign incorporating angel plots be investigated?
- Question raised regarding future proofing and expansion if needed.
- Request for a columbarium wall was submitted back in 2019 at Donaghcomper, Celbridge. In 2020 the members were advised that it was at work plan stage and in 2021 updated it was then at design stage, why is it that now this location is not appearing on the current list?
- Asked where the Council were with plans for a columbarium wall at Donaghcomper.

Mr C Flynn informed the members that:

- Suggested the members go onsite with the plans to look at the exact location,
- Next year after installations at these locations the Council should have a better understanding of costings.
- He suggested the members write to the Director / Chief Executive regarding the current list and decision behind this.



Kildare County Council

- Design process comes under the Capital Delivery Programme. Informing the members that the process is
 - Technician
 - Management team
 - Preliminary stage
 - Architect
 - Advance design

Councillor Caldwell expressed his dissatisfaction at lack of availability in Confey Cemetery and that the new space was already full. He noted the urgency of land needing to be purchased to accommodate the expansion of current cemetery.

Mr C Flynn confirmed current design did not include the Angel plots, he agreed to take on board all suggestions and agreed to meet members on site to discuss the issue of Columbarium wall installation. He also confirmed site investigations had been carried out alongside the HSE but the area surrounding the current Cemetery had water issues and was not suitable. The Council must ensure if land was to be purchased that it was the right site in the right location, whilst ensuring that it was good value for money.

The meeting concluded.