



## **Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting**

**Held on Friday, 20 June 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**

**in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara, Naas.**

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

**Officials Present:** Ms C Barrett (District Manager), Mr C Buggie (District Engineer), Ms C Talbot (Administrative Officer), Mr M Ryan (Senior Executive Planner), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Ms S Barry (Administrative Officer), Mr M Hearn (Staff Officer), Ms P O'Rourke (Climate Action Coordinator), Mr T Shanahan (Meetings Administrator), Ms K Leslie (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

### **CL01/0625**

#### **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.

### **CL02/0625**

#### **Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the draft minutes of the Monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday, 16 May 2025 including the progress report.

**Resolved:** On the proposal of Councillor Trost, seconded by Councillor Panaite Fahey and agreed by the members, that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Friday, 16 May 2025 of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.



## **LPT**

The Meeting Administrator informed the members of a request made by Councillor Killeen to redistribute €1,000 local property tax from the municipal district activities LPT fund to Africa Day celebrations.

**Resolved:** On the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members that this LPT allocation be approved.

## **CL03/0625**

### **Municipal District Works**

The members received an update on municipal district road works.

#### **Schedule works for the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District area - June 2025**

The outdoor crews are carrying out general footpath and road maintenance works in the Municipal District area. This includes the mechanical sweeping of roads, road repairs with road patcher unit, restoring water cuts on rural roads, cutting back verges at junctions, general repairs to footpaths and kerbs. Calls received are triaged and then assigned to a crew as appropriate. Verge trimming at rural junctions are being carried out where sight visibility issues are present.

#### **Winter Maintenance:**

Winter maintenance operations for Q1/Q2 2025 are now complete.

#### **Road Works Programme 2025:**

1. L1016 Ardclough Village (380lin.m) (Tender complete) On site 30 June
2. R403 Dublin Road, Celbridge (1179lin.m) (Tender complete) On site 14 July.
3. L5061 Loughlinstown Road. (558lin.m.) (Tender complete) On site 07 July
4. R148 Main Street, Leixlip (120lin.m) (Tender complete) Date to be confirmed (TBC).
5. R449 Kilmacredock to M4 (400lin.m) (Tender complete) Date to be confirmed (TBC).
6. L1015 Kellystown Lane to Confey (1574lin.m) (Surfacing works postponed due to pending Uisce Éireann pipelaying works on this road)
7. R148 Blakestown Cross towards Pikes Bridge. (At Tender stage)



### **Surface Dressing – Restoration Maintenance**

Surface dressing works scheduled to commence on 26 May was postponed due to inclement weather. Works will be carried out at a later date in the summer.

**Location:** Allenwood L5052 from the R149 to the county boundary. 1.75km

Advanced works have commenced in preparing this road for surface dressing.

### **Footpath Restoration Programme 2025:**

Works on the footpath on the R403 Lucan Road from Rye River Brewing to Donaghcumper Cemetery are now complete. Assessments currently being carried out in housing estates in the district to determine locations for 2025 footpath restoration works programme.

### **Roadworks on R148 at Collinstown:**

The completed roadworks at Collinstown on the R148 are now Taken in Charge by Kildare County Council.

Mr C Buggie advised that the Municipal District Office had met with the contractors who won tenders for resurfacing works and that they were expected to be completed by late August. Surface dressing works were to commence on 12 July, subject to weather conditions.

The report was noted.

## **CL04/0625**

### **Capital Programme 2025 – 2027**

The members considered the Capital Programme 2025-2027, which had previously been circulated to them.

The District Manager informed the members that this programme had been noted during the last budget cycle and that they should raise any capital projects they would like included ahead of the next budget cycle.

The members noted the following:

- Some important, medium-term projects were missing from the list such as public realm upgrades to Ralph Square.
- Focus on the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District was not on par with other districts.



- Were there plans to complete the Confey Road Project section as far as Leixlip?
- Big spending would be needed to deliver on capital projects in the next 3-4 years such as Donaghcumper, Parochial House etc. which for now were only feasibility works such as surveys.

The District Manager advised the members of the following:

- Significant revision had been done on the programme and the works listed were the ones that had funding, were on a programme and had associated staff to progress them. While members may wish to add further projects, there was little point adding projects without the necessary human resources and funding to deliver them.
- However, if there were significant projects they wanted to add they should raise them.
- On the matter of differences between municipal districts, the Capital Programme ebbs and flows, based on the phases of capital development and funding sources. Development Contributions were being put towards bigger projects such as Parochial House, Donaghcumper and the Wonderful Barn, but there was a need for national funding.
- There were many towns in Kildare eligible for the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund and as a result were competing against each other.
- Other municipal districts had addressed funding gaps by prioritising the use of LPT towards achieving delivery of certain capital projects.
- The council were continuing to engage with the Department of Transport regarding funding for the Confey Road Project, but there was nothing as of yet. If funding arose this would be added.
- The development of Donaghcumper was linked to the Liffey Valley Strategy and there were a number of steps involved. Development contributions could start to be applied through phases, but likely external funding would be needed too.
- Strategic Projects and Public Realm works would be progressed as funding became available and a Part 8 was in the pipeline for later in the year to progress upgrades to Main Street, Leixlip, which would come before the members.

The report was noted.



**CL05/0625**

**Annual Meeting**

The members considered the date and venue for the Annual Meeting.

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, 18 July 2025 prior to the monthly meeting in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara, Naas.

**CL06/0625**

**Section 38 – Scoil Mochua Safe Routes to School Scheme**

The members noted the proposal under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 – Scoil Mochua Safe Routes to School Scheme, Celbridge.

**CL07/0625**

**‘Walk to School’ Events**

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

That the council supports holding ‘walk to school’ events in September or October for all schools in our municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Transport Department is supportive of such events and will work with schools on this and any other initiatives.

Councillor Caldwell asked for agreement on a proposed date for this event. Members raised the following:

- Writing a letter to the schools but targeting October for the event to allow time for schools to be fully operational again.
- Selecting some kind of mascot for the event.
- Green Schools were holding a Walk to School week from 08 to 11 October.
- Safety of the event was the issue that would best ensure parent’s participation.



The members agreed to propose 10 October as a date for this event to coincide with the Green Schools event and that Councillor Killeen would write the letter to the schools, first circulating a draft to the other members.

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

#### **CL08/0625**

##### **Markings on Accessible Parking Bays**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell.  
That the council re-marks all accessible parking bays in Celbridge and Leixlip with the proper blue markings.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office will inspect all accessible parking bays in the Municipal District and refresh markings and blue paint where markings have faded.

Councillor Caldwell welcomed the report, noting that people parking in accessible parking bays who did not require them was unacceptable and greater enforcement was needed.

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

#### **CL09/0625**

##### **Safety on Shackleton Road**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heather.  
That the council implements measures that will significantly improve the safety of Shackleton Road in the vicinity of Scoil na Mainistreach, Celbridge.

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



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A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Scoil na Mainistreach, Celbridge is not currently one of the schools on the approved list of schools for the An Taisce/National Transport Authority Green Schools Initiative.

There is significant existing active travel infrastructure located at and connecting the school to local residential areas. Students and their guardians can cross the Shackleton Road at the signalised crossing located close to the entrance to the school.

Councillor Heather informed the members that there were inadequate safety measures put in place in this location, that there was a high volume of traffic and that the pedestrian crossing was a significant distance from where it needed to be. He noted that the school would need to take responsibility for applying to the Green Schools Initiative.

The members suggested that as well as enforcement by An Garda Síochána, Kildare County Council should review their current position of not installing speed ramps as signage was being largely ignored, as well as looking at other options regarding traffic calming and safety.

Mr D Hodgins advised the members of the following:

- School safety was an international issue, not exclusive to Kildare. The council was not causing a lack of safety, but they did have a role to play.
- Main issues stemmed from motorist behaviour and increasingly from vehicle size. The Council as a whole, needed to be more forthright about asserting that driver behaviour is the primary factor. Everyone needs to acknowledge school drop/collect times are vulnerable times for vulnerable people; children.
- The safe routes to school were there, but parents were dropping their children off at inappropriate places and not advising them to cross at the designated crossings.
- Traffic calming measures often facilitated bad driver behaviour.
- The council's recommendation was a bottom-up campaign from the schools targeting parents to educate them on the need to change their behaviour at school times and their responsibilities when it came to teaching their children about road safety.
- He commended the importance of campaigns like the 'Walk to School' events in highlighting vulnerable road users.



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Councillor Heather noted many options had been taken to tackle this issue but that he would nonetheless discuss a review of Shackleton Road offline. He agreed that participation in Green Schools was vital but also that enforcement at school times may also be considered.

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

### **CL10/0625**

#### **Raised Crossings on the Dublin, Ardclough and Hazelhatch Roads**

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

That the council progresses the installation of raised pedestrian crossings at the existing crossings on the Dublin, Ardclough, Hazelhatch Roads in conjunction with the future Boardwalk Development at the Bridge.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that there are no plans to install raised crossings at this location. The Active Travel Scheme has been the subject of a public consultation process and contract documentation for the construction of the bridge are near completion.

Raised crossings would impact on the drainage levels of the existing carriageway and may result in a reduction in the level of service for pedestrians at this location as well as directly affecting adjacent landowners.

Councillor Trost informed the members that there were three junctions at this location with three pedestrian crossings very close together. Pedestrians were often forced to abandon their attempt to cross or to run across the road as motorists who were not familiar with the layout of the road would approach the crossings at great speed. He advised that additional signage was necessary to warn drivers that they were approaching a pedestrian crossing.





Mr D Hodgins advised that this junction was complicated and that as this was the centre of the town, motorists should know to expect vulnerable road users. There had been a suggestion in the past to close off one vehicular access point here as this would simplify the junction from an engineering point of view. He suggested that it may be time to revisit this idea and that he would come back in committee with a proposal.

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

#### **CL11/0625**

##### **Path Height**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Trost.  
That the council considers dropping the height of the path at (details provided) as cars trying to access the property are scraping the path and this may be a more general issue in the immediate area.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that this apron and footpath at this house entrance was inspected and no issue was observed.

Councillor Trost informed the members that the individual who brought this issue to his attention was strongly of the view that there was a problem here and that he would revisit and investigate further.

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

#### **CL12/0625**

##### **Park and Ride Facility for Leixlip**

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



That the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District calls on Kildare County Council to undertake a feasibility study to provide a Park & Ride facility to serve Leixlip, with the aim of increasing public parking availability and reducing traffic congestion. This should include an assessment of potential locations to connect and serve the M4 Bus Corridor and consider connectivity to all public transport and walking routes into the village and that this should be submitted to the NTA by the end of the year.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the National Transport Authority set up a Park and Ride Development Office (PRDO) in February 2020, following a recommendation from the Climate Action Plan 2019, which included this as one of 28 actions targeting transport related climate change.

The purpose of the Park and Ride Development Office is to facilitate the delivery of key Park and Ride sites by the NTA, in collaboration with Local Authorities, Irish Rail and transport agencies in the Greater Dublin Area and regional cities, by providing dedicated specialist resources for these projects.

Examining sites along the N4 forms part of their strategic remit.

Councillor Killeen informed the members that she did not want this issue to slip into obscurity and felt it would strongly support sustainable travel if the right location were chosen.

The District Manager advised that the NTA was the responsible authority for choosing locations and that the council has met with them several times. So far no locations along the M4 had been agreed.

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



**CL13/0625**

**New Bridge in Celbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey.  
Can the council provide an update on the new bridge in Celbridge and timeline for completion in circumstances where the old bridge is not safe in the long term?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the proposed Celbridge Active Travel Bridge Project is at detailed design stage and contract documents are being prepared so that Kildare County Council can commence construction when funding has been provided by the National Transport Authority (NTA).

Should information be available regarding the safety of the existing pedestrian bridge then this should be forwarded to Kildare County Council for urgent examination.

Councillor Panaite Fahey queried what the timeline was for delivery of the new bridge and whether there was funding.

Mr D Hodgins informed the members that he could not provide a timeline as the council was waiting for the NTA to provide funding and for documents to be approved. He advised that there was currently no funding in place for construction.

The report was noted.

**CL14/0625**

**Celbridge-Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor O'Rourke.  
Can the council provide a progress report for the completion of updates to the submission to An Bord Pleanála of the application for consent and compulsory purchase of land for the Celbridge-Hazelhatch mobility corridor, given the urgent need for a second vehicular bridge over the river Liffey in Celbridge? The submission was originally scheduled by the Executive in Q4 of 2024?



A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that a briefing on the Roads Capital Programme was delivered at the February Municipal District meeting that provided an update on the status of the Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor project. Further requests for an update have been on the agenda at the March, May and now June meetings.

The position is unchanged from last month with the submission currently being updated to take account of comments raised during the review process. An updated date for the submission of the application to An Bord Pleanála will be provided in due course once the updates have been completed.

Councillor O'Rourke advised that she wanted more information regarding a timeline and what stage the process was at as initially a target date had been given.

The District Manager informed the members that the next stage was submission and that they would be informed when the submission had been made. It was impossible to provide a timeline as this was a discursive process, with ongoing amendments and legal review/advice.

The report was noted.

#### **CL15/0625**

##### **Maintenance of Pedestrian Bridge in Celbridge**

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

Can the council advise if it plans to power wash and repaint the existing pedestrian bridge in Celbridge?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office currently have no plans to power wash or repaint the pedestrian bridge in Celbridge.

The report was noted.



**CL16/0625**

**Rewiring on Celbridge Main Street**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heather.  
Can the council advise if it intends to complete underground rewiring work at the lower section of Celbridge Main Street?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that currently there is no planned works/project by the Municipal District Office to underground the overhead (OH) cables from the Bridge to the Grotto. As part of the new pedestrian bridge over the Liffey project it is proposed to underground the cables associated with the pole outside the old Bank of Ireland premises on the Main Street.

The report was noted.

**CL17/0625**

**Junction of the Elms and Castletown Estate, Celbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Trost.  
Can the council provide an update on the provision of a stop bar and sign at the junction of the Elms and Castletown Estate, Celbridge?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the stop sign is now installed. The stop bar, centre line marking and stop wording will be installed in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

**CL18/0625**

**Leixlip Parking Bye-Laws**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Killeen.  
Can the council confirm when the scheduled Parking Bye Laws for Leixlip will be implemented as urgent action needs to be taken to relieve the parking issue at Captains Hill which is impeding progress of traffic and causing tailbacks?



A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the schedule for the review of parking bye-laws is being prepared at the moment, however it will take a considerable period of time to progress bye-laws throughout the county. The specific issue raised by the Councillor could be considered separately under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994.

The report was noted.

### **CL19/0625**

#### **Gym Equipment at Abbey Car Park, Celbridge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey. That the council moves the gym equipment at Abbey Car Park, Celbridge to a new location as soon as possible to enable the public to use the limited amenities available in our municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there are no plans to move the gym equipment at Abbey Car Park, Celbridge the gym is available for use and is being used.

Councillor Panaite Fahey expressed disappointment with the report. She informed the members that the gym equipment was not currently safe for use due to illegal encampments in Abbey Car Park and that this was worsened by the lack of other amenities and the bad state of the playground which was not suitable for the size of the town.

The members raised the following:

- Understood intent of motion but did not agree that equipment should be moved.
- The Youth Outdoor Spaces Project sought to construct a canopy and benches next to this equipment and moving them could jeopardise this.
- The situation with the encampments was temporary.



- Concern that the legal process to remove the encampments could drag on for some time.
- Saint John of God as owners of the car park had requested that Kildare County Council swear an affidavit citing loss of income from pay parking at this location in order to move legal process along.
- Some members of the public were still using this equipment frequently.
- The funding was there to provide a playground; the issue now was to identify a location for it in an estate where residents would be agreeable.

Councillor Panaite Fahey informed the members that the legal process here could take years and suggested that they look at this issue bearing this in mind.

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

#### **CL20/0625**

##### **Trees in Glen Easton and Riverforest, Leixlip**

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

That the council undertakes an impact study of how trees impact traffic and reduce lighting at night on main avenues in both Glen Easton and Riverforest Estates in Leixlip.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the council undertakes a programme of works every year to improve any issues in relation to how trees impact traffic and reduce lighting. This involves a combination of pruning and tree removal. We will assess both locations and see what works if any may be required to address the issues highlighted. However, these issues also need to be considered in relation to the benefits trees present in slowing traffic, improving air quality, biodiversity and mitigating climate change. Additionally, the spectrum of opinions that the public hold in relation to management of trees also must be considered.



Councillor Brooks welcomed the report and informed the members that some of these trees had been hit by trucks and had become hazardous as a result.

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

#### **CL21/0625**

##### **Repairs to Wall at St. Catherine's Park, Leixlip**

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

Can the council outline the timeline for repair to the wall at St. Catherine's Park, Leixlip and if stonework repair will preserve the original design?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the council has completed temporary repairs of the wall. The permanent repair of the wall is going to require additional resources to design and construct a solution and it may be into next year before we can commence these given existing commitments to a range of works and projects across the county.

Councillor Killeen thanked the Parks Department for the report and noted that it was important to begin looking into long-term repairs.

The report was noted.

#### **CL22/0625**

##### **Community Space at the ESB Housing Site, Leixlip**

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

That the council submits a proposal that a designated community use aspect be added to the ESB housing site, Leixlip open for public consultation with a view to progressing accessible community assets that groups can use for activities in certain rooms for meetings, art exhibitions and a museum space etc.

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





A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Cluid Housing will manage the development. The proposal is for housing for older people with a community element comprising a common room including kitchen facilities near the front of the site.

The primary function of this space is for activities and events for the residents. Whilst its focus is for use by residents within the scheme, the use of the space can be arranged for an external group, if the use is appropriate.

Councillor Killeen noted that it was essential that a community space be included in this development and that the plans should be more ambitious.

Ms S Barry informed the members that the Architects Department were dealing with the design of this space but that Cluid were managing it. She advised that she would reach out to Cluid regarding these proposals, and revert, but that primarily Cluid were, understandably, focussed upon the needs of residents.

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

### **CL23/0625**

#### **ESB Site on Main Street, Leixlip**

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

Can the council provide an update on the development on the old ESB Site on Main Street, Leixlip?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the design of the proposed development at the ESB site on Mill Lane, Leixlip was finalised in 2024 and approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). It is currently being prepared for a Part 8 consultation, it is expected the Part 8 will be launched in July 2025.



The report was noted.

#### **CL24/0625**

##### **Invitation to Celbridge Community Council**

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

That this municipal district invites Celbridge Community Council to attend the next meeting and present a "Vision for Celbridge".

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

A report was issued from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that this is a matter for the members to agree. Any such meeting shall be in line with the Standing Order for Deputations.

The members agreed to issue a letter to Celbridge Community Council inviting them to present at the September meeting of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Heather, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by all members that the report be noted and a letter of invitation be issued to Celbridge Community Council.

#### **CL25/0625**

##### **M4 Entrance to Castletown House**

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

That the council joins the action being taken in the High Court by the community group Save Castletown Committee to challenge the legality of a gate and fence constructed without planning permission at the M4 entrance to Castletown House that blocks a route that has been in open public use for more than ten years.

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



A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that Kildare County Council has outlined its position in respect of the issues at Castletown on a number of occasions, including at meetings of the Celbridge-Leixlip municipal district. The council acknowledges the sensitive and unique qualities and importance of Castletown House and its demesne as provided for in the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029. The council is willing to work with all parties in respect of Castletown, however it would not be appropriate for the council to become involved in proceedings involving third parties.

Mr T Shanahan, Meetings Administrator reminded members that this was an ongoing court case and that, in line with the Code of Conduct, that members should exercise caution in their comments to avoid prejudicing the proceedings of the case.

Councillor O'Rourke expressed that she would like the council to offer any support possible to the people who wish for the grounds to be open to the public again.

The District Manager noted that Kildare County Council had worked to progress anything within its remit relating to this issue, and would do so.

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

### **CL26/0625**

#### **Update on Invitation to Uisce Éireann**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor O'Rourke  
Can the council provide details of Uisce Éireann's reply to the invitation (sent following our March meeting) to attend a municipal district meeting to provide a step-plan and timeline for the replacement of approximately 5.3 km of six-inch asbestos watermain along the Hazelhatch Road in Celbridge and indicate a proposed date for that attendance?

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that on foot of the motion ref: CL21/0425, in the name of Cllr O'Rourke, a written request for a meeting issued to Uisce Éireann on 23 April. The letter set out the motion and stated the



request for the organisation to attend an MD Meeting and included a list of upcoming dates for the MD Meetings, up to and including September 2025. The response to this was listed on the May MD Agenda indicating that work was scheduled to commence in Q3 2025. The Meetings Team again issued a follow up email seeking a response on the matter of a meeting, and while an acknowledgement email was received no further reply has been received. A further request will issue if needed.

Councillor O'Rourke suggested that a further request be issued.

Mr T Shanahan, Meetings Administrator informed the members that this item was on the Progress Report and that the council had and would continue to pursue it.

The report was noted.

#### **CL27/0625**

##### **Material Contravention of the Celbridge Local Area Plan 2017 - 2023**

The members considered the proposed Material Contravention of the Celbridge Local Area Plan 2017 – 2023, Planning Reference 24/60371 O'Flynn Construction Co Unlimited Company, Oldtown, Celbridge, Co Kildare.

Mr M Ryan informed the members that the land proposed for the school site was currently zoned for agricultural use, that the site boundaries had been amended and that the contravention would require consent through an agreement under Section 47 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 to transfer the land from the ownership of O'Flynn Construction Co. Limited to Kildare County Council. It was advised that this mechanism would maintain the objective of the school site on adjacent lands.

The members raised the following:

- The submission by the Department of Education showed a lack of clarity on the issue and their claim that there was no need for a school until after 2028 was incorrect.
- A need to start preparing for safe routes to school and related infrastructure.
- Would the planned creche be moved from within the residential development?



- What was the distance between the current and proposed sites zoned for educational use?
- What would the timing of the delivery of the agreement be – to protect the objective for a school site?
- Would construction of the new entrance pose any risk to biodiversity?
- The importance of continuing to put pressure on the Department of Education to engage with Kildare County Council on school delivery.
- Houses in Oldtown were purchased with the understanding that a school would be constructed.
- Concern over flood risk insurance for proposed development as residents of previous developments here had no initial issues getting insurance but one year later it proved to be much more difficult and expensive.
- The members stated they did not object in principle to the proposal but subject to clarifications around the S47 Agreement.

Mr M Ryan advised the members that the new site was adjoining the old site, that the necessary infrastructure would be put in place to facilitate cycleways and walkways, and that the planned creche would still be constructed within the residential development. He noted that the existing entrance was used by O'Flynn Construction Co. Limited for equipment storage and that a new entrance would be constructed.

Mr M Ryan advised that the Parks Department did not deem there to be any significant risk to biodiversity. He informed the members that the council's solicitors had advised putting in place the condition that O'Flynn Construction Co. Limited must come to a Section 47 agreement in order to safeguard the deal. This mechanism required that the developer sign this agreement prior to commencement of the residential development.

Mr M Ryan advised that maps from the Office of Public Works showed no flood risk and that any necessary infrastructure would be put in place.



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**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Trost, seconded by Councillor Brooks and agreed by the members that the proposed Material Contravention of the Celbridge Local Area Plan 2017 – 2023 be approved.

The members agreed to take items 28 and 29 from the Agenda together.

**CL28/29/0625**

**Celbridge Campus Project**

**Item 28**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey. That the council immediately provides a clear update on the status of the new school campus as this is a worrying growing concern, with many new developments contravening the current local area plan and temporarily schools are becoming dilapidated and no longer suitable for our children.

**Item 29**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke. Given the dilapidated and run-down state of St Patrick's NS (housed in a 'temporary' school building now in place 17 years that is not fit for purpose), that the council provides an update in lay-persons language on the status of the three-school campus project at Donaghcumper in Celbridge described on the Dept of Education website as at: 'Stage 2A – developed Sketch Scheme' to clarify what this means for the three schools – St. Raphael's, Celbridge Community School and St. Patrick's National School.

The motions were proposed by Councillor Panaite Fahey and Councillor O'Rourke and both were seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that it should be noted by the Elected Members that school delivery is a matter for the Department of Education and not Kildare County Council and that, in general, any requests for project updates and/or timeline should be directed to the Department. In this instance, council officials have received an update from the Department of Education to the following effect:



There are 5 stages to a school delivery project:

- Stage 1: Preliminary Design
- Stage 2a: Developed Design
- Stage 2b: Detailed design/planning, obtaining the necessary statutory permissions and the preparation of tender documents
- Stage 3: Tender Action - Evaluation and Award
- Stage 4: Construction
- Stage 5: Handover of Works and Final Account

The Department of Education has devolved the delivery of the Celbridge Campus Project to the National Development Finance Agency (NDFA). This project entered Stage 2a of the process in April 2025. Stage 2a has a duration of approximately 12 months, during which the design of the school campus is progressed by the project design team. Following completion of the Stage 2a report by the NDFA/Design Team, and its review/approval by the Department's Professional and Technical Team, the project will then progress to Stage 2b. Stage 2b provides for the detailed design, the planning application process (which may potentially include an appeal to An Bord Pleanála) and preparation of tender documents. On completion of this stage, the project moves to tendering for a contractor (Stage 3) and onwards to construction (Stage 4). As this project is still at an early stage in the delivery process, it is not currently possible for the Department to give a date for its completion, however commencement of construction in mid-2028 is possible, depending on third party appeals etc.

The NDFA has and will continue to engage directly with the school authorities to keep them informed of progress on this important project. As regards the St. Raphael's Special School and St. Patrick's National School, the Department is committed to ensuring appropriate accommodation is available for the pupils in these two schools and will in the wider context outlined, ensure that these projects - as for all projects on the school building programme - are subject to the due diligence required under the Public Infrastructure Guidelines. In relation to St Patrick's National School, following a review of demographics in the Celbridge area, the schedule of accommodation will be increased from a 16 classroom to a 24-classroom school.



Councillor Panaite Fahey noted that she understood that Kildare County Council had limited say on this issue. She informed the members that the population was overgrowing and that it could possibly be 2030 before the school campus was ready. She queried how much the members could engage with the Department of Education in this regard.

Councillor O'Rourke informed the members that St. Patrick's National School was dilapidated and that there was serious concern that the roof would come off in the next significant storm. She suggested that the members could pay a visit to the school.

The members raised the following:

- St. Raphael's Special School, St. Patrick's National School and Celbridge Community School were all in a state of dilapidation.
- Some students were having their entire education in prefabs.
- This was brought up three years ago in a meeting with the members of the Oireachtas and that there had yet to be any significant movement.
- There was a need for members to put regular pressure on the Department of Education.

Councillor Killeen proposed that an amendment be made to the motions to ask that a letter be issued to the Department of Education requesting an urgent meeting: to add at the end of each motion “,and that a letter issue to the Department of Education seeking a meeting with this Committee regarding these projects.”. This was seconded by Councillor O'Rourke, and it was agreed to list the request for a meeting on the Progress Report.

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

### **CL30/0625**

#### **Tidy Town Grants 2025**

The members considered the proposed Tidy Town Grant Allocations for 2025.



Mr M Hearn informed the members that applications could be re-opened if other groups wished to apply and sought members approval of the grants as circulated.

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Trost and agreed by all members that the proposed Tidy Town Grant Allocations for 2025 be approved.

Tidy Towns Grants Allocation 2025							
				Municipal District	2025 Budget Allocation €	2025 LPT Allocation €	Total MD €
				Celbridge - Leixlip	26,592	25,000	51,592
Celbridge-Leixlip MD (3)	TT Group	Category 2025		2025 Budget Allocation €	LPT Allocation	Total	
	Celbridge	G		12,728	10,000	22,728	
	Leixlip	G		12,728	10,000	22,728	
	Ardclough	B		1,136	5,000	6,136	
	Total			26,592	25,000	51,592	

### CL31/0625

#### Cemetery Committee Grants 2025

The members considered the proposed Cemetery Committee Grant Allocations for 2025.

Mr M Hearn informed the members that applications could be re-opened if other groups wished to apply, and sought members approval of the grants as circulated.

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Trost seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by the members that the proposed Cemetery Committee Grant Allocations for 2025 be approved.



Celbridge-Leixlip MD	Cemetery/Graveyard	Total Grant 2025 (Rounded to the nearest 5)
	Tea Lane Cemetery	€ 740
		€ 740

### **CL32/0625**

#### **Alternative Methods of Weed Control**

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

That the council investigates the use of alternative methods for weed control across our municipal district given the reduced use of spraying with pesticide to control weeds along our roads and footpaths.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the Climate Action Team have done extensive research into the use of alternative methods for weed control. The council has found the most effective means for control of weeds is strimming and this is currently employed instead of herbicide application on roadside verges, parks and open spaces.

A report was also received from the Climate Action Team informing the members that our native flora is essential to assist biodiversity which is struggling to hold onto niche habitats required to provide the basic elements for survival. The alternative maintenance practice



manual, based on research to date, provides various methods to remove vegetative material, where necessary, in line with biodiversity need. Options include mechanical methods and alternatives to glyphosate spraying. The methods have been adopted by the municipal district area offices and are used when and where suitable.

Councillor Brooks noted that he welcomed the reduction in herbicide usage and recognised the mention in the report of manual methods, but that other alternative measures such as spraying of apple cider vinegar should be considered. He advised that there was a need to strike a balance between maintaining urban spaces and promoting biodiversity. He strongly welcomed the wilding of road margin areas outside urban areas.

Members raised the following:

- Supporting the motion and noting the importance of educating the public about alternative methods of weed control.
- Noting that judging time is coming for Tidy Towns and it was very labour intensive for volunteers to control weeds in urban areas, and that business owners needed to assist these efforts by maintaining their own premises as they cannot rely solely on Tidy Towns to do this work.

Ms P O'Rourke informed the members that mechanical means were also being used and that their suggestions would be taken on board. Research was currently being undertaken into this issue and a comprehensive report would be made available when this had been completed. She advised the members against using the word "weeds" and instead to refer to them as our "native flora" as they play a crucial role in biodiversity.

Councillor Brooks noted and agreed with the point about weeds as flora, but felt the research would have to find biodiversity-friendly alternatives to mechanical means in urban areas, as this was simply not feasible.

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



**CL33/0625**

**Recycling Centre for North Kildare**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey. Can the council advise if a recycling centre is planned for North Kildare which has been promised for many years in circumstances where over 80,000 residents of North Kildare have no recycling facilities and if so, what is the estimated time frame for delivery?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that this matter was discussed with Councillors at the Capital Projects meeting on 14 March in context of funding and Capital Projects within the municipal district area.

Councillor Panaite Fahey expressed frustration that this report was exactly the same as the one provided the last time she raised this issue. She queried whether there was funding available and whether there were plans to construct a recycling centre in any part of North Kildare.

Mr M Hearn advised that no other funding was available for 2025. The members had agreed to use the site, that had been previously identified, for other purposes and although this issue is acknowledged as a long-term need, no other site had yet been identified.

The report was noted.

**CL34/0625**

**Swimming Pool for Leixlip**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell. Can the council provide an update on the proposed Swimming Pool for Leixlip?

A report was received from the Community Department informing the members that Kildare County Council has identified a priority site to locate a pool in North Kildare. Meetings are continuing with various suppliers, consultants, and Swim Ireland with a view to exploring alternative solutions to deliver a swimming pool in the area.



Councillor Caldwell noted that many excuses had been made over the years and that he wanted to know concretely if this project was going ahead.

The District Manager informed the members that provisions had been made, development contributions had been set aside, and contact had been made with the landowner of the location identified but that she didn't propose discussing individual sites in this forum.

The report was noted.

#### **CL35/0625**

##### **Donaghcumper Graveyard**

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

Can the council provide an update on the current existing capacity for new graves in the Donaghcumper Graveyard and is there now a plan to provide an urgent implementation programme for the provision for the Columbarium Wall?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that there is estimated to be 3-4 years capacity remaining in the cemetery. Land has been acquired to further extend the cemetery when required. The provision of a Columbarium Wall is included on the works programme for 2025/2026.

The report was noted.

#### **CL36/0625**

##### **Youth Facilities and Amenity Spaces**

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

Can the council outline its current and future plans for the provision of youth facilities and amenity spaces within the municipal district?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that the council is currently in the process of providing outdoor youth facilities in Celbridge. This includes a hangout area and some multi-use games areas. We are proposing a location off the Main



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Street for the hangout area and we are trying to identify locations for the other facilities. Any other plans for amenity spaces are detailed in the Capital Programme 2025-2027.

The report was noted.

**CL37/0625**

**Confey Cemetery**

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

Can the council provide details of current capacity at Confey Cemetery?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that there is estimated to be 9 to 12 months capacity remaining at Confey Cemetery.

Councillor Brooks queried how these timelines were estimated and how reliable they were.

Mr M Hearn advised that a number of factors went into these estimations such as the amount of available plots, average annual use, etc. and that this was the best estimate they could provide. He informed the members of a scheme by the council to buy back pre-bought plots which families may no longer need, in order to increase capacity and that this had been advertised in local churches.

Councillor Heather queried the average cost of a plot.

Mr M Hearn advised that he would circulate this figure to the members.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.