



Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting
Held on Friday 20 September 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.

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

Officials Present: Ms C Barrett (District Manager), Mr R Linnane (Municipal District Engineer), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Ms P Pender (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr T Shanahan (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms S Barry (Administrative Officer), Mr M Byrne (Staff Officer), Ms A Murphy (Meetings Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials

The Cathoirléach welcomed everyone to the September Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District meeting. He welcomed Ms A Murphy as the new Meetings Administrator.

CL01/0924

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.

CL02/0924

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the draft minutes of the Annual Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday 19 July 2024 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 19 July



2024 of the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CL03/0924

Municipal District Works

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

Schedule of Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District works – September 2024

The outdoor crews are carrying out general footpath and road maintenance works in the Municipal District area. These currently include jet-vacing of road gullies, mechanical sweeping of roads, road repairs with road patcher unit, restoring water cuts on rural roads and general repairs to footpaths / kerbs.

Calls received are triaged and then assigned to a crew as appropriate.

Road Works Programme for 2024

Road Overlays - Restoration Improvement

- R403 Clane Road., (Ardras to Barberstown) - Works completed 13/05/24.
- R403 Barnhall Round About to M4 overbridge - Works completed 03/05/24.
- R405 Maynooth Road, Celbridge - Works completed.05/07/24
- R149 Confey at Graveyard - Works 95% completed.12/09/24
- L 5061 Loughlinstown Road -Tender complete.
- L 89945 Knockaulin Leixlip - Works completed 30/04/24

Surface Dressing – Restoration Maintenance 2024

Surface dressing was carried out on 04 June 2024.

Location: South Ardcloagh at Boston Cottages, Pluckstown and Oughterard.

Approx 3.250km length 14,000 sq.m of local road L2008 and L6018.

Footpath Repair and Restoration:

Tender awarded for footpath repairs in The Grove in Celbridge, works to commence in September 2024. Footpath repairs in Castletown estate, Oaklawn and Leixlip park in Leixlip are now complete.

Realignment of R148 at Collinstown:

Roadworks are progressing on the R148 at Collinstown, Leixlip. The works area is from the roundabout at the R148/ R449 to the Junction of the R148 including Kellystown Lane.



Roadworks are scheduled to be in place until the end of 2024. Temporary traffic management measures will be in place for the duration of the works.

Royal Canal Greenway:

Access to Royal Canal Greenway from Louisa Bridge now open to access towpath from Louisa Bridge to Cope Bridge. Access from Louisa Bridge to Maynooth now closed off to facilitate construction of Greenway. Works from Louisa Bridge to Dee Bridge are progressing and this section will be open in Quarter 4 2024.

The report was noted.

CL04/0924

The County Kildare Twinning Committee.

The members considered a replacement for Councillor Panaite Fahey on the County Kildare Twinning Committee.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Neville and agreed by all members that Councillor Heather be appointed as the replacement for Councillor Panaite Fahey on the County Kildare Twinning Committee.

CL05/0924

Traffic Lights

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell
That the council installs traffic lights on the Bridge at Kellystown Lane, Leixlip.

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

A report was received from Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Informing the members that due to the difficulty in controlling, operating and maintaining signal controlled one-way shuttle systems, there are no plans to install traffic lights on the Bridge at Kellystown Lane.

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



CL06/0924

Local Link

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Trost
That the members invite the Manager of Local Link Kildare South Dublin to the October meeting of the municipal district for a report on the progress of the proposed Naas/Celbridge Local Link bus service.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that Kildare County Council, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces had made contact with Mr. Alan Kerry, Manager of Local Link who advised that Local Link Kildare South Dublin are working through the delivery of the 2024 programme of works at present. The progression of a Celbridge-Naas bus service as part of the Connecting Ireland Plan will be considered in early 2025 and the members will be updated on this service at that stage. Councillor Trost was happy with the report and looked forward to the update next year. The District Manager reminded the members that the NTA were due to meet with the members on the 30 September and that this would be an opportunity to raise concerns and issues. The NTA was an important funding stream for projects.

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

CL07/0924

Safer Road Crossing

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heather
That the council examines options to create safer road crossing for pedestrians at the junction of Shinkeen Road and Hazelhatch Road in Celbridge.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that there are currently three signal-controlled pedestrian crossings on each arm of



the Hazelhatch and Shinkeen Road junction. Signal controlled pedestrian crossings are the safest means of crossing a road.

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

CL08/0924

Bin Store, St. Patrick's School

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heather
That the council removes and relocates the bin store in front of the access gate to St. Patrick's School in Primrose Gate Estate, Celbridge.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that the bin store in Primrose Gate is not the property of, or under the control of Kildare County Council. The structure was constructed by the developer of Primrose Gate Estate under planning permission Ref 08/294 granted in 2008. Primrose Gate is not yet taken in charge by Kildare County Council and bin stores are serving apartment block developments that will not be taken in charge by Kildare County Council.

Councillor Heather in principle was happy with the response, noting that the bin in question was currently causing an obstruction at the gate. He noted that the land registry showed the land was council land and that planning approval was sought on a retention, whereas the developed map showed that it was not belonging to the council.

The District Manager agreed that this would be taken back to the Planning Section. It was hoped that Primrose Gate would come before the Members for Taking in Charge at the next month's meeting. Development Control had met with the Area Engineer and were currently negotiating remediations with Uisce Éireann in regards the pumping station and issues with surface defects. Once Taking in Charge was agreed, works would then start, including the Council addressing the gate. At this point the Council would then have no further involvement, and it would be a matter for the Department of Education.

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



CL09/0924

Greenway Access

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville
That the council provides an update on access for the Confey end of the greenway in Leixlip to include short term measures for the path under the bridge to the greenway but also an update on the plans for a longer term solution.

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

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Section informing the members that as part of the DART+ proposals, significant works are being undertaken at Confey Bridge in Leixlip. The scope of these works will directly affect the Royal Canal Greenway. Kildare County Council will continue to work with Irish Rail and their designers, the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Waterways Ireland to agree a solution that can facilitate all stakeholders at this confined location. Any interim measures are challenging as Kildare County Council does not have planning consent to amend the layout at or of the Bridge.

Mr McLoughlin advised the members that the location was outside the Greenway and under the control of Waterways Ireland.

Councillor Neville asked the Council to write a letter on the members behalf to Waterways Ireland asking for a response to the motion.

The members raised the following

- Asked for the DART + proposals to be rechecked as it wasn't felt this work was included.
- That the people of Leixlip needed an answer and that the area, if left, would not be accessible over the winter to anyone with mobility issues, wheelchair users or people using pushchairs.
- This matter had been ongoing the past 2 years. Would Kildare County Council consider putting in a temporary pathway if Waterways Ireland was in agreement.



Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members that the report be noted and a letter be issued to Waterways Ireland.

CL10/0924

Weston Airport

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen
That the council outlines the discussions and formal safety procedures Kildare County Council will be putting in place for the proposed helicopter search and rescue (SAR) base at Weston Airport [SD23A/0324] recently granted. Kildare residents are mostly impacted as the flight paths are mainly on the Kildare side including impact on water, air quality and noise exacerbations and to outline what the rationale for not making a submission on the proposed helicopter search and rescue (SAR) base at Weston Airport [SD23A/0324] despite being a notified party.

A report was received by Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services informing the members that Kildare Fire Service has a suite of standard operational guidance documents in place for a range of incident types, including aircraft incidents. Any incident involving an aircraft would also include a response from the other emergency services – National Ambulance Service and An Garda Síochána.

It was not appropriate to discuss ongoing planning assessments in a public forum and the Council notes that this file is on third party appeal to An Bord Pleanála.

The report was noted.

CL11/0924

Telephone Kiosks

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Trost
Can the council provide the members with an update on the removal of the telephone kiosks on the Main Street, Celbridge?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that this was a matter for Eir and outside of the control of Kildare County Council. Reports were issued previously (CL13/0524) and (CL24/1022) on this matter as follows:



“CL13/0524 Phone Boxes on Main Street

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that Kildare County Council has no update on the report issued at the November 2023 Municipal District meeting. A previous report issued to the Municipal District members in October 2022 on this matter confirmed that the Municipal District Engineer had contacted Eir requesting that the existing phone box be removed from the Main Street, Leixlip. Eir advised Kildare County Council that they were required by Comreg to provide pay phone services in the area and that a number of calls from that payphone were to numbers for assistance. Eir proposed an upgrade to the phone box to a new style Kiosk which would require planning permission. Planning permission (22/1013) for the new kiosk, integral communication unit and digital display board was refused by the planning authority. The District Engineer updated the members that an application for road opening license had been received to remove the phone boxes with further information to be supplied. The report was noted. CL14/0524.

CL24/1022 Phone Boxes on Main Street, Leixlip

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

A report was received from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a previous report to members on this matter confirmed that the Municipal District Engineer had contacted Eir requesting that the existing phone box be removed from the Main Street of Leixlip. In response, Eir advised that they were required by Comreg to provide pay phone services in the area and also that a number of calls from that payphone were to numbers for assistance. Eir proposed an upgrade to the phone box to a new style Kiosk which would require planning permission. EIR submitted 3 applications to redevelop existing telephone kiosks by replacing them with a new kiosk with an integral communication unit and a 1.53 sqm digital advertising display. The applications submitted were for Main Street, Newbridge (PI Ref 221021); Main Street Maynooth (PI Ref 221020) and Main Street Celbridge (PI Ref 221013). All 3 applications were refused by the Planning Authority.”



The report was noted.

CL12/0924

Barnhall Shopping Centre

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

Can the council identify which party is responsible for Barnhall Shopping Centre Junction, Leixlip in respect of traffic and access improvements?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that Kildare County Council is in charge of the road, footpath and green area from the raised pedestrian crossing to the east at the junction for Barnhall Shopping Centre, all associated with lands taken in charge for Castletown Estate. There is currently a safe means for pedestrians to traverse this junction and the junction is functioning for vehicular access to the shopping centre carpark. There are no proposals by Kildare County Council to alter this junction.

Councillor Killeen noted that traffic had increased and asked for safety to be monitored on an ongoing basis, and that this item be placed on the Progress Report.

The District Engineer advised that the area had been assessed and lines were to be refreshed including the zebra crossing ramp

The report was noted.

CL13/0924

Castletown Estate

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to redirect HGVs to not go through the Castletown Estate, to improve pedestrian safety.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Section informing the members that there currently was a 3.5 Ton weight limit for the road through Castletown Estate in Leixlip.

Councillor Killeen asked if the safety assessment could be redone.

The report was noted.

CL14/0924

The Grove Estate, Celbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heather
Can the council advise on the progress made on the provision of a path around the green in
The Grove Estate, Celbridge?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that it had not been possible to progress the provision of a path at The Grove this year. This is for two reasons. Additional budget of €20,000 is required in addition to the LPT allocation. Parks have also concentrated on progressing the current years works programme outlined to the members in March. It is planned to progress this matter in 2025.

Councillor Heather asked for a firm commitment for this to be included on the Works Plan for 2025 to include, as previously agreed, a fence around the field and a footpath.

The report was noted.

CL15/0924

Housing Supports

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke
That the council outlines additional supports available to women in this municipal district who are seeking to flee from incidents of domestic violence and additionally facing homelessness.

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

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that Cuan is statutory agency under the remit of the Department of Justice dedicated to tackling and reducing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV).

In cases of domestic violence, the council is guided by the Policy and Procedures Guidance for Housing Authorities published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



The Social Work Team, the Tenant Liaison Team, the Tenancy Sustainment and the Homeless Team assist housing applicants or people who may qualify for social housing who are experiencing domestic violence. The council engages with Teach Tearmainn, who accommodate victims on a county wide basis, their refuge was funded through the Capital Assistance Scheme. The council also provided Teach Tearmainn with two properties to assist with the provision of transitional accommodation.

The Homeless Team provide an information and advice clinic to women experiencing domestic violence every 4 weeks in conjunction with Teach Tearmainn.

A member of the Homeless Team also sits on the Domestic Violence Steering Group Kildare

Councillor O'Rourke accepted the report asking if the clinic mentioned was the same as the Housing Clinic held in the library. She sought more information from the homeless team regarding Teach Tearmainn.

Councillor Killeen noted the great service being provided but more advertisement was needed to promote the service to the public.

Ms Barry agreed to obtain more information on Teach Tearmainn and to circulate it to the members.

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

CL16/0924

Main Street Improvements

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Neville
That the council puts in place a permanent design and solution for the benches and plants that were put in place during covid in both Leixlip and Celbridge.

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

A report was received from the Public Realm Section informing the members that the published Town Renewal Masterplans for Celbridge and Leixlip provides several priority



projects for the towns. The Town Centre - Main Street improvements project for Celbridge and Main Street – Thresholds for Leixlip addresses proposals for the Main Streets, including seating and planting. The progression of any projects requires the identification of a funding source and resources to bring forward. Most projects funded on the SPPR programme are grant funded and the principles of those funds mean that not all projects are suitable to that funding stream. SPPR is putting together a programme of projects, identified in all Town Renewal Plans and Masterplans published around Kildare. There are over 120 projects which will be prioritised for delivery, subject to funding and achieving planning where necessary.

Councillor Neville asked what the medium to long term plans were in this case, as the benches were only a temporarily measure by definition and design.

Ms Pender advised the members the delivery of the Master Plan was a key factor, all plans delivered over the 2 years needed funding identified, some projects required Part 8's and long term projects would require significant funding streams. All projects would include a public consultation process. Issues did arise on Main Streets whether to remove parking spaces in order to make the area more pedestrian friendly.

Councillor Neville asked what the Council's intentions were in the short term and what funding would be required, as if LPT was needed the members would need an idea on costings.

Ms Pender advised that currently the intention would be to improve what was already there, as upgrades would take place as part of the Main Street Programme, and to invest money at this stage wouldn't make sense in the long term.

Meanwhile the Council were happy to work with the groups who were currently maintaining the planters over the Winter period.

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

CL17/0924

Grand Canal Greenway

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



Can the council provide an update on the extension to the Grand Canal Greenway from Hazelhatch Bridge to the 12th Lock by South Dublin County Council?

A report was received from the Corporate Services Section informing the members that this item was under the remit of South Dublin County Council and not Kildare County Council. The Council would contact South Dublin County Council seeking an update. The report was noted.

CL18/0924

Database of Motions and Questions

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey
That the council provides a database of motions and questions submitted by this municipal district committee over the last 12 months.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Section informing the members that the agenda and minutes of all Municipal Districts and Full Council meetings are provided on the council's website

<https://kildarecoco.ie/YourCouncil/YourElectedCouncil/MunicipalDistricts/Celbridge-LeixlipMunicipalDistrict/ArchivedMinutes/>.

Subject to resources, during 2025 the Council's Meetings Team are exploring the development of a new system to manage the submission, review, storage and retrieval of motions and questions.

Councillor Panaite Fahey accepted the report.

The District Engineer advised that all progress was distributed to the members on the Progress Report, some of these items were ongoing and had been on the report for considerable time.

Councillor Panaite Fahey noted that the information she was looking for was not for herself but for the public to be made aware of what progress was being made, and this in turn she



hoped would reduce enquiries being made to the members. She asked if the Council would consider making the Progress Report public.

Mr Shanahan agreed that this could be looked at moving forward.

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

CL19/0924

Customer Service Point

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen
That Kildare County Council opens up a customer service point in Leixlip on the Main Street.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Section informing the members that the Current Customer Service Unit staffing levels mean the Council cannot meet new expectations of in-person outreach across the County.

Indeed, maintenance of current provision is challenging, considering growing demands for online and phone services, and the management of turnover in the sector, which is unprecedentedly high.

By way of illustration, CRM cases are up 117% since 2019 and continue to grow, currently running at +10% vs 2023.

In 2023, staff of Customer Service Unit answered over 130,000 phone calls, this too continuing to rise, because of significant population increases.

The landscape of in-person customer service is evolving apace. Since the last report, arising from take-up, promotion and expansion of online services, the Athy Customer Service Point has been subsumed into other Departments. A portion of staffing resources previously in this area have been deployed to voter registration activities given demands in this area.

Other staff have been reallocated to the Finance, Climate and Transportation Departments.

The last report confirmed that for in-person customer service outreach to take place staff would be required. This applies to all Districts.



As noted previously, the Corporate Services Department included in its submission to the Kildare County Council -wide Work Force Plan, a potential requirement for staff for delivery of customer service in the Municipal District.

The final submission and ultimate approval, by DPER, of the Kildare County Council Work Force Plan (WFP) would have to take place before there is clarity on the staffing position. This is outside the control of the Corporate Services Department.

To respond to the motion an update was sought from Human Resources and the LGMA on the Work Force Plan (WFP).

The update advised that the WFP process *at a sectoral level* is under review. This is in order to achieve a consistent approach sectorally, with the aim of producing standard guidance, templates etc. in order to expedite WFPs in 2025 and submit them to DPER.

All stakeholders in the consideration of this matter must have regard to the best use of public funds.

It is noted the precise volume, nature, duration and scope of services needed has not been defined by the member, and the action sought in the motion would require expenditure.

If the members of the District support this motion, they presumably have an understanding of demand, given that they interface extensively with citizens.

This puts them in a unique position to provide useful information to the Council regarding service gaps, which can inform the business case as part of the Work Force Plan process. Objective and comprehensive information on service types/Directorates, days, locations, times, frequency, volumes would all be vital to understand the precise demand.

It is noted that in previous discussions on this matter that Housing related in-person services were referenced. Significant service developments occurred in this area in the last two years and if this is the primary issue, an update on the Progress Report regarding new services in this area may be helpful and promotion of new developments online, and indeed resources to assist housing applicants, may benefit from a targeted information campaign.

Councillor Killeen appreciated the report and raised the following



- That Leixlip in particular was underserviced. Pre budget last year the members were told a value €440,000 for a Customer Service point North of the County this could now be different due to cost of materials.
- Agreed that CRM cases were up since 2019
- Government did not allocate enough staff to population
- Currently 1-2 Housing Clinics in Leixlip and other services also being provided

Mr Shanahan advised the members that the council needed data and statistics in regards in person services, currently the council were decreasing services e.g. Athy Service Point, as people are using the CRM system instead. There was possibility of investigating how the libraries could be utilised using digital aids and information stands, this could happen as early as next year. The council again would need data and information into what key services the public were looking for. The Council did not have the resources to provide extra staff, or a building, as there is no funding available, and the figure given last year was an indication of estimate of costings for the members information.

Councillor Killeen advised that she would work on obtaining data and submit the information next month. She welcomed the innovative use of library space, especially around the housing clinic, which she noted requires more advertisement, other services could be older persons grants forms and information around the housing services that the council provide. Mr Shanahan advised that it would be limited to possibly a leaflet stand.

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

CL20/0924

Unspent Budget and LPT

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey
Can the council provide a report in relation to what happens to unspent budget and LPT monies in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District?

A report was received from the Finance Section informing the members that's at the November 2023 Council Budget meeting the following motion was passed by the Members re the unspent LPT Budgets:



BM02/2023

Motion Cllr. Durkan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Tim Durkan.
That all unspent Local Property Tax monies, plus pay parking surpluses, are retained and rolled over within their respective municipal districts.

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

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by the members present that all unspent Local Property Tax monies, plus pay parking surpluses, are retained and rolled over within their respective municipal districts.

Unspent LPT Budgets in previous years are part of the current years Municipal District's LPT Schedule of Works that are agreed by the Municipal District's.

The report was noted.

CL21/0924

Donaghcumper Lands

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey
Can the council provide a timeline for the Donaghcumper first public consultation?

A report was received from the Corporate Services Section informing the members that the Council had no immediate plans or timeline for a public consultation related to Donaghcumper. The primary and initial aim was to secure the site within Kildare County Council's ownership and safeguard it for future generations. As a very recent acquisition, it is not on the current list of priority capital projects. However, it will be considered by Management Team in Q4 2024 having regard to relevant planning, heritage and other pertinent considerations. Timelines will be dependent on prioritisation in the capital programme for 2025-2028 and/or the prioritisation of projects of the Parks and Recreation Department as there are already 4-5 other key Parks and Recreation projects in the pipeline across the Municipal District

The report was noted.

The members agreed to take item 22 and 23 together from the Agenda as they were all regarding the Donaghcumper Lands.



CL22/23/0924

Donaghcumper Lands

Item 22

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

Can the council provide more information on its plans for the lands at Donaghcumper, including the amenities that will be created and the timeline for completing the project?

Item 23

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

Can the council provide an update on the next steps and timelines for the Donaghcumper lands?

A report was received from the Corporate Services Section informing the members that the primary and initial aim was to secure the site within Kildare County Council's ownership and safeguard it for future generations. It is likely that any future plans will be contingent on a broader Historical Landscape Assessment and/or an Architectural Conservation Architect's Report on Donaghcumper House and Gate Lodge. The latter will inform the potential future use of the buildings on the site. Due to other work priorities a timeline for the procurement of specialist consultants and indeed their availability to commence such work is not currently available. It is likely that opening up public access to the lands and developing parkland and open space amenities (with possible playing pitches) would be the initial objective, however, there are concerns around the boundary between the fields and the house and outbuildings which will require a very sensitive design approach to prevent unauthorised access and/or anti-social behaviour particularly in advance of any occupation and defined use for the House and outbuildings. This is likely to be the immediate focus. Timelines will be subject to prioritisation in the capital programme for 2025-2028 and/or the prioritisation of projects of the Parks and Recreation Department as there are already 4-5 other key.

The report was noted.



CL24/0924

Tourism Office

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke
That the council considers setting up a functioning tourism information office in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District to invite tourism and celebrate the rich heritage and attractiveness of the area.

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

A report was received from Into Kildare thanking the members for the motion to consider a tourism information office for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.

While this was a wonderful idea to celebrate the area's rich heritage, recent trends show a shift in how tourists gather information, with most now researching online before visiting. Failte Ireland, the national tourism authority, has responded to this trend by continuing to close many of its offices, as the number of tourists visiting them no longer justifies the high operational costs. It has been found that the majority of visitors to these offices were locals rather than tourists. Libraries, community hubs, and local businesses also serve as excellent points of contact for both locals and tourists.

Into Kildare continues to support tourism through digital channels and printed brochures. We will continue to enhance our digital presence and collaborate with local hospitality and tourism attractions network, as well as the community, to ensure that both residents and visitors have access to the information they need to enjoy the rich heritage and beauty of the area.

Councillor O'Rourke raised concerns she had for individuals who found digitalisation difficult and therefore could not access information.

The members raised the following

- The public were looking for a tourist information hub to showcase what the Municipal District had to offer, as many were unaware of what was around the area.
- Local people know places exist, but no information was available giving details for tourists regarding local history or places of interest to visit locally.

The District Manager agreed to take all the comments back to Ms Mangan of Into Kildare.



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

CL25/0924

Unauthorised Development Files

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor O'Rourke
Can the council provide an update, in tabular form, on how many unauthorised development files are opened per year, how many enforcement letters are issued and how many inspections site visits are carried out per town, in this municipal district, from 2019 to 2024? A report was received from the Planning Department's informing the members that the Unauthorised Development (UD) System does not provide a breakdown of Unauthorised Development (UD) cases by Municipal District or by Town.

Members have previously been provided with statistics of Unauthorised Development cases for the county. Please be advised that we cannot discuss Unauthorised Development cases in the public domain.

Please see below Unauthorised Development statistics for the County for the period 2019 to the 31 August 2024.

	New Cases	Warning Letters Issued	Enforcement Notices Served	Legal Proceedings	Files Closed
2019	238	356	184	33	162
2020	268	360	159	22	136
2021	268	434	81	10	150
2022	205	357	128	26	250
2023	241	358	178	18	200
2024*	190	325	115	5	223

- Figures to 31 August 2024



Councillor O'Rourke noted the reply and expressed her concerns that the system was unable to categorise results by Municipal District, as she was hoping for a more detailed report.

The report was noted.

CL26/0924

Vacant Squash Courts

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey
That the council explores the possibility and cost of taking over the two vacant squash courts in Celbridge with a view to opening to the public.

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

A report was received from the Community Section informing the members that Kildare Sports Partnership team would work with any local identified group to investigate the potential of reopening of the squash courts in Celbridge.

Councillor Panaite Fahey agreed to liaise with the Sports Partnership Section regarding location of courts.

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

The members agreed to take items 27 and 28 from the agenda together.

CL27/28/0924

Recycling Day

Item 27

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell
That the council considers holding a Recycling Day in Leixlip for either used Electrical items or used Mattresses as soon as possible.

Item 28

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

That the council hosts a free Waste Mattress Recycling Event in this municipal district on a regular basis.

The motions were proposed by Councillor Caldwell and seconded by Councillor Trost.

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that as a practice, waste management should be a responsibility and a duty of each citizen. The primary responsibility for the management of any waste, including costs for removal or disposal, lies with the person in possession of the waste, or the producer of the waste.

We are all aware of the problems caused by illegal dumping. Illegal dumping is a matter of individual responsibility and compliance with the law. An Anti-Dumping Initiative, co-ordinated through the DECC and the Waste Enforcement Lead Authorities (WERLAs) works in partnership with local authorities and community organisations in identifying high risk or problem areas,

One of the successful projects in Kildare partially funded by the DECC under this initiative was the mattress amnesty day held by Kildare County Council last month in Naas which was open to householders throughout the county.

The council has no plans currently to host WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) or waste mattress recycling days in Leixlip. Further such events anywhere in the County will be subject to availability of funding and a suitable location among other considerations.

Members will be aware that the responsibility for promotion and enforcement of the WEEE Regulations rests with WEEE Ireland.

When it has reached the end of its useful life, you can return your electrical and electronic waste to any local authority recycling centre (at no charge) or participating electrical retailers.



WEEE Ireland hold free collection days in areas where they identify a particular demand – two such events have been held in north Kildare to date in 2024.

Retailers, wholesalers, schools and colleges etc can also make a request directly to WEEE Ireland to hold a free electrical recycling collection event in their area. (see below).

FREE WEEE RECYCLING

For further information please call us on **1890 253 252** or log on to weeireland.ie
Find us on

Call 1890 253 252 for collections or bring to local civic amenity site or WEEE Ireland electrical recycling collection event.

Blue areas indicate WEEE Ireland areas.

How Much Is Needed For A Direct Collection



The members raised the following

- ongoing issues of dumping still being reported
- previous event held at the Celbridge interchange, cost in the region of €80,000
- WEEE have held events in the past for recycling in Confey GAA also
- could WEEE be contacted to see if events could be held biannually for mattresses and toxic paints



Mr Kavanagh advised the members that the amnesty in Naas was a great success and prevented dumping incidents. He estimated that cost was approx. €30,000 and was grant aided. It was hoped that the event will run again next year. Members were also advised of a paint amnesty taking place the following week in Aras Chill Dara and it was asked that the members promote this.

There was a tender process to run an amnesty for Celbridge Leixlip with no submissions from contractors.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Trost and agreed by all members that the report be noted, and a letter issue to WEEE from the members.

CL29/0924

Confey Graveyard

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell
Can the council provide an update on the repair to the cemetery wall at Confey Graveyard?
A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the council was in the process of providing a columbarium wall in Confey Cemetery. When this installation was complete, the Council would look at other works in the cemetery including the boundary wall.

The report was noted.

CL30/0924

Land Confey Cemetery

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Caldwell
Can the council provide an update on the purchase of land for a new Cemetery in Confey?
A report was received from Environment Section informing the members that the council were currently investigating the suitability of a potential site near Confey.

The report was noted.

CL31/0924

Flood Risk Insurance

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



Can the council clarify that their flood risk assessments for the planning process are robust and that flood risk insurance would be achievable for Part 8 and private developments at Oldtown in Celbridge?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that in relation to recent P8 application for Oldtown in Celbridge, the subject site was subject to Flood Risk Assessment by our engineering consultants and provided as part of the planning documents. The FRA is robust and indicates that the proposed site is not expected to be impacted during the occurrence of 1 in 1000 year fluvial flood event. (river flooding)

OPW Flood maps website was also consulted in relation to historical or anecdotal information of flood instances in the vicinity of subject site. There are no recorded recurring instances of flood events mapped within the vicinity of the site

The overall conclusion from the FRA is that “the development of the site is not expected to result in an adverse impact to the existing hydrological regime of the area or to result in an increased flood risk elsewhere”

Our insurers have clarified that in relation to flood cover they would assess each property individually to determine the flood risk. If the property was in a flood zone they would not provide flood cover unless flood mitigation measures are in place.

In this case the site is not within a flood zone.

As it can be seen from the above the design process ensures that flood risk is considered early in the design process.

Further information regarding the relationship between flood risk and insurance can be found on the Council’s website at:

<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Environment/Water/FloodRiskManagementRiverDrainage/>

Councillor O’Rourke sought clarification on what individuals could do regarding house insurance following flood risk assessments if they were then unable to get insurance.

Ms Barry advised that her report was only regarding Oldtown in Celbridge which was the Councillors question and couldn’t comment on private insurance.

The report was noted.



CL32/0924

Capital Budget

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

Can the council provide an update on the Capital Budget available for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District for the Wonderful Barn/North Kildare Swimming pool etc?

A report was received from the Community Section informing the members that the provision for capital funding for the North Kildare Swimming Pool and Wonderful Barn will be considered as part of the annual capital programme 2025- 2027.

The report was noted.

The Meeting Concluded.

These Minutes were adopted at the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting on 18 October 2024

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator