



**Minutes of the Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District Meeting**  
**Held on Friday 21 February 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**  
**in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara.**

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

**Officials Present:** Ms C Barrett (District Manager), Mr R Linnane (District Engineer), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Ms S Barry (Administrative Officer), Mr D Conlan (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr M Hearn (Staff Officer), Ms A Coyne Sheridan (LPT Coordinator), Ms S Martin (Meetings Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathoirlach welcomed everyone to the February Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District meeting

**CL01/0225**

**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.

**CL02/0225**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the draft minutes of the Monthly Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District meeting held on Friday 17 January 2025 including the progress report and proposed amendment in the name of Councillor O'Rourke which had been previously circulated. The amendment was in regards Item CL24/0125 - Lands at Donaghcumper. and was to add the



line 'That it was agreed by six members of the Celbridge-Leixlip to invite the Office of Public of Works to make a presentation to the council on their step plans for Donaghcumper House'.

**Resolved:** On the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members, that the minutes inclusive of the amendment of the monthly meeting held on Friday 17 January 2024 of the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District be confirmed and taken as read and for a letter to issue to the OPW. The progress report was noted.

### **CL03/0225**

#### **Municipal District Works**

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

#### **Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District Schedule of Works - February 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, and general repairs to footpaths and kerbs. Calls received are triaged and then assigned to a crew as appropriate.

A significant number of trees fell in the Municipal District during recent red wind warning storm event Storm Eowyn. Outdoor crews commenced clearing roads on the afternoon of Friday 24 January when the storm dropped to a yellow warning. Outdoor crews were diverted from general winter maintenance activities for the week to clear debris from the storm.

#### **Winter Maintenance:**

The annual winter program of Jet-vacking of road gullies is not yet complete. Hedge cutting operations are complete. Final hedge cutting at critical junctions to be carried out during last week of February prior to commencement of bird nesting season. Restoration of water cuts complete for Leixlip.

Works are currently being carried out in Ardclough and rural areas south of Celbridge.

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

All projects at preparation of tender documents stage.



1. L1016 Ardclough Village (380lin.m)
2. R403 Dublin Road., Celbridge (1179lin.m)
3. L5061 Loughlinstown Road. (558lin.m.)
4. R148 Main Street, Leixlip (120lin.m)
5. R449 Kilmacredock to M4 (400lin.m)
6. L1015 Kellystown Lane to Confey (1574lin.m)

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

Surface dressing is scheduled to commence in June after the bank holiday weekend.

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

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

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

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

Vehicles are now traveling on the original alignment of the R148 and the temporary alignment is now closed to traffic. Tie-in works outstanding at Kellystown, Lane tie-in and the southwest quadrant of the new R148/R449 signalized junction are now complete. Works are now substantially complete.

The report was noted.

### **CL04/0225**

#### **LPT Schedule of Works 2025.**

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

### **CL05/0225**

#### **Coiste Gaeilge**

The members considered the nomination of a member of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District to Coiste Gaeilge.



Councillor Caldwell proposed Councillor O'Rourke and this was seconded by Councillor Killeen. There were no further proposals.

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by all members that Councillor O'Rourke be the Celbridge Leixlip representative for Coiste Gaeilge.

### **CL06/0225**

#### **Save Castletown Committee**

The members received a deputation from Ms Treasa Keegan from the Save Castletown Committee in respect of Rights of Way issues and Castletown in Celbridge entitled Correcting the Record the Old Celbridge Dublin Road.

The presentation referenced the OPW's Claim that the old Celbridge-Dublin Road runs along the south bank of the Liffey through Donaghcumper and that this claim was made circa November 2023 which was around the same time they entered negotiations to purchase Donaghcumper House. Ms Keegan explained that the road in fact runs along the north side of the Liffey through Castletown Demesne. It was asked that Kildare County Council as part-owner of Donaghcumper, publicly correct this factual error. Noting Kildare County Council were also responsible for the roads records

The committee felt that

- The historical accuracy of Celbridge and Leixlip's heritage was at stake.
- Official records must reflect verifiable facts.
- Errors could impact planning, conservation, public understanding and trust.
- That Kildare County Council had a responsibility to ensure public records concerning infrastructure were correct.
- OPW's approach on this topic was an insult to local history, known for generations.

Slides of evidence were shown including

- The book of evidence
- A view of Castletown Park and the Liffey
- Deed of Conveyance
- Archaeology report of excavation commissioned by OPW in 2008



It was asked that Councillors seek correction of the record ensuring future reports reflect the correct route and to advocate on behalf of Save Castletown Committee and write to Minister Kevin Moran setting out the facts and asking for a public retraction.

The members thanked Treasa Keegan and Save Castletown Committee on the detailed presentation, video and book entitled Book of Evidence which was distributed.

The members raised the following

- If the records were changed, what implications or impact would this have
- Concerns that if Right of Way were explored how would access be controlled in and around the Liffey
- Asked if OPW had seen the same presentation
- Sought clarity as to whether the committee felt that the OPW intentionally or somehow mistakenly intended to lock people out
- Asked what the current restriction times were regarding gate closure
- That a tour around would be helpful
- Any feedback from Batty Langley residents.

Ms Keegan advised the members that

- If records changed then the records would be accurate, the road would then be mapped and regarded
- Aware of security concerns if route was formalised, this could be addressed. Everyone wanted to ensure Castletown was secure
- The committee just wanted access and wanted the state to enable this
- Could only speak on behalf of Save Castletown Committee who represented the public's interest and asked that Kildare County Council including the Chief Executive would ask for the minister to correct the record, so the records were accurate.
- Save Castletown Committee were representing the public on a number of issues
- The OPW's own consultants notified them of the exact location of the road, felt it was strategic
- Batty Langley residents were not members of the Save Castletown Committee.
- The OPW currently control access with seasonal opening times of Dawn to Dusk



## **CL07/0225**

### **Roads Capital Projects**

The members received a PowerPoint presentation with an update from Mr D Conlan on the Roads Capital Projects in the county including projects within the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District

#### **Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor**

- Joint Application for consent and compulsory purchase of land was currently under review ahead of submission to An Board Plenala (ABP).
- Once submitted to ABP it could take a year until a decision was received.
- Further design and procurement required thereafter before the commencement of construction. Project completion date was indicatively post 2027 however this would evolve as the project progresses.

#### **Celbridge Leixlip Confey Area Based Transport Assessment**

- The next ABTA to be progressed is for Celbridge/Leixlip/Confey.
- A procurement process to appoint a consultant to complete this ABTA would commence in 2025 with the project to progress over the following year.
- An initial phase 1 consultation would take place to gather feedback from the area and this would be advertised and communicated to the members in due course.

#### **Captains Hill Part 8**

- Kildare County Council were working in conjunction with Ballymore Homes to deliver a Part 8 scheme to improvement walking and cycling infrastructure on Captain's Hill.
- This would link in with improvements to Cope Bridge and the development of lands to the north of the canal.
- The preparation of the design and all associated reports were ongoing with all reports due for submission and internal Kildare County Council review in Q2 2025.
- It was hoped to commence the Part 8 Consultation process thereafter with a decision before the end of the year.



### **Junction Improvement Programme Phase 1A and 1B**

- There were no junctions in the Celbridge Leixlip municipal district on this list. However, option reports had been received from the consultants for all junctions on the list and were currently under review.
- There was no budget for the delivery of scheme in Capital Programme. Funding potentially available for locations of interest from Collision Analysis for Regional Road Network completed by DoT/TSO

### **Bridge Remediation Program**

- This was an ongoing rolling programme of maintenance of masonry arch bridges
- Funding for this programme was from the Department of Transport (DoT) and Kildare County Council resources
- The 2025 DoT Grant was €517k
- Remedial works were scheduled to several bridges across the county for completion in 2025 with a contractor appointed, there were none in the Celbridge Leixlip municipal district
- Emergency repairs works continue to progress as required following accidents or inspections

The members raised the following

- Regarding the 2 bridges in Celbridge, the footbridge and the main bridge, when would this be started as this was a vital project
- Noted there were only a few projects on the update for the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District. Housing was increasing but infrastructure still lacking in the area
- Sought clarity as to exact timeframe for the Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor as post 2027 was vague and the public needed a more indicative time frame. Asked if senior counsel had been appointed
- Asked if Ballymore Homes had been briefed on the Safe Systems Approach agreed as part of the Confey Masterplan.
- Any update with Barnhill sought
- Asked for update with Confey plan



- Any progress available with the entrance to the canal at Cope Bridge
- The members asked if 6 months updates could be arranged on projects moving forward

Mr Conlan advised the members that

- The footbridge project had started adjacent to the existing bridge but was under the remit of Mr Hodgins and the Sustainable Transport Section.
- The timeframe for the Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor would be down to An Bord Pleanála. Kildare County Council were currently working towards getting submission in as soon as possible. It was confirmed that the senior counsel had been appointed and the members would be kept updated on this
- Barnhill was in Fingal and this council would eventually have input but nothing available at this time.
- The Confey Plan would be down to Planning to provide updates
- The Dart Plus Plan and the Greenway was also under the remit of Mr Hodgins from Sustainable Transport Section. It was confirmed that the NTA were previously issued a letter on this matter.

The report was noted.

### **CL08/0225**

#### **Hazelhatch Park Junction Scheme**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heather  
That the council re-submits the Hazelhatch Park Junction scheme to the  
National Transport Authority for funding.

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

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Section informing the members that Kildare County Council had a portfolio of 27 Capital Active Travel Projects currently agreed with the National Transport Authority. In 2025, the council received funding of €9,500,000 for 22 of these schemes. The National Transport Authority (NTA) has indicated that this was the limit of funding available to Kildare County Council in 2025. It should be noted that a capital expenditure of over €120M was required to





implement the current portfolio and based on current funding levels, this would take some time to complete.

Implementing improvements for vulnerable road users at the junction at Hazel Hatch Park was a valuable scheme and subject to funding being made available, possibly through Local Property Tax (LPT), the council would seek to complete the works.

Councillor Heather advised that he had written to the NTA last year but was told that no funding was available, he questioned why this scheme was not included and whether the allocation of funding had increased.

Councillor Killeen noted that if LPT was the only funding source it would take 120 years to fund this scheme, she suggested that a letter be written to the NTA as she felt current funding allocation was insufficient to deliver the projects.

On the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Panaite Fahey and agreed by all members that a letter issue to the NTA.

Mr McLoughlin advised the members that allocation of funding from the NTA was consistent every year

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Heather and agreed by Councillor Caldwell that the report be noted and a letter issue to the NTA.

The members agreed to take items 9,10 and 14 together

### **CL09/10/14/0225**

### **Celbridge Abbey Car Park**

#### **Item 9**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heather  
That the council enforces section 10 of The Housing (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1992 to remove illegal encampments from the Celbridge Abbey car park.

#### **Item 10**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey



That the council moves immediately and engages with St John of God and An Garda Síochána to remove the illegal encampments from Abbey Car Park, Celbridge.

#### **Item 14**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Trost  
Can the council provide an urgent update in relation to the removal of the caravans located in the car park at Celbridge Abbey and the future plan for securing the car park and the public amenity facility.

The motions were Proposed by Councillor Heather and seconded by Councillor Panaite Fahey

A report was received from Transportation Section informing the members that Kildare County Council has a licence agreement to operate a carpark at this location and was engaging with the landowner to address the issue of unauthorised dwellings. The council was providing all the assistance that it can within existing legislation to assist in this matter

Councillor Panaite Fahey raised the following

- This was an ongoing issue since November, but had escalated over the past 2 days including reports of assault and an individual jumping in front of a moving vehicle
- The same answer was being received from the Council
- An Gardai Síochána were aware of the situation
- This situation could fall into civil remit also.
- Asked if all members agreed if a meeting could be arranged with St John of Gods, and the Superintendent of An Gardai Síochána to discuss this matter
- Asked why the encampments were not being charged parking fees

The members raised the following

- Correspondence had previously been sent to the Kildare Traveller Action Group but no response to date
- This carpark had recently been suggested as a possible location for the Youth space and at the present time people were currently afraid to use this carpark
- Could the council update the members on what powers the council have



- This was going on too long and felt St John of Gods needed to take action
- Could the council confirm that correspondence was ongoing

Councillor Killeen advised fellow members that they must be careful not to overstep the role of a councillor, she confirmed she had sent correspondence to An Garda Síochána in relation to this matter following the receipt of several complaints. Previously this would have been discussed at the JPC's. She noted the role of a councillor was not to instruct An Garda Síochána or St John of Gods as to what they must do.

Mr McLoughlin acknowledged the members frustration but that there were constraints as to what could be said. Ultimately Kildare County Council were not the landowners and in this situation the power lie with the landowner. It was confirmed that the council were giving as much assistance as possible to a third party. The Executive had procedures that must be adhered to.

Councillor Panaite Fahey raised concerns over legal cases and asked if an in-committee meeting be arranged with St John of Gods and the superintendent

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Heather, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by all members the report be noted and a letter issue by the members in regards an in-committee meeting.

### **CL11/0225**

#### **Footpath Cope Bridge**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell  
That the council considers extending the footpath from the bottom of Cope Bridge, Leixlip (cemetery side) to the houses on the GAA side.

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

A report was received from the Transportation Section informing the members that the cross-section area currently available in the road/verge at this location would not permit the installation of a footpath. The Municipal District office can open discussions with the adjacent landowner to explore the possibility of lands being made available to Kildare County Council to install a footpath.



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

### **CL12/0225**

#### **Royal Canal Greenway**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Brooks  
That the council provides an update on progress and completion date of the next phase of the Royal Canal Greenway from Deey Bridge to Maynooth?

The motion was proposed by Councillor Brooks 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 Royal Canal Scheme, the following works were ongoing:

- Section of the towpath/Greenway from Maynooth Harbour to the R406 Straffan Road, Maynooth has reopened to the public. A number of minor snag items remain outstanding.
- Section of the towpath/Greenway from R406 Straffan Road, Maynooth to Pike Bridge remains closed for upgrade works. This section of Greenway is now due to reopen in April 2025.
- The completion and reopening of this section of the Greenway has been delayed because of outstanding ESB works that needs to be completed prior to completion of all civil works associated with the Greenway.
- Upgrade works are continuing along the R148 road between Pike Bridge and Deey Bridge. Various traffic management layouts and a road works speed limit reduction (from 80km per hour to 50km per hour) are in place for these works. Works along the R148 are due to be completed in March-April 2025.
- Section of the towpath/Greenway between Pike Bridge and Deey Bridge remains closed for upgrade works. This section of the greenway is due to be reopened in April-May 2025.



- Section of the towpath/Greenway from Deey Bridge to Louisa Bridge, Leixlip has reopened to the public. A number of minor snag items remain outstanding.

Construction works on the full extent of the project including snag items were due to be completed by June 2025.

Councillor Brooks questioned what minor snag items were outstanding

The District Engineer advised all items were minor ,which included items such as utility covers

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

#### **CL13/0225**

##### **Bus Stop**

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

That the council urgently upgrades the bus stops at Hazelhatch providing roofs on current shelters.

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

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Section informing the members that the bus shelters at Hazelhatch Railway Station are located on private property and the council has no role in their maintenance or upgrade.

Councillor Killeen asked who owned the private land noting that currently the bus timetable and train times did not align

The District Engineer advised that Irish Rail own the land.

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members that the report be noted and a letter be sent to Irish Rail

#### **CL15/0225**

##### **Hedge Cutting**

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

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Can the council confirm that it will remind the public that it is prohibited to cut trees, shrubs and hedges from 01 March to 31 August unless they become a danger to people using or working on a public road?

A report was received from the Transport Section informing the members that an advertisement was published in local newspapers for the week commencing 17 February 2025 and similar reminders appear on Kildare County Council website and social media feeds.

The report was noted.

### **CL16/0225**

#### **Cycle Track**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heather  
Can the council advise if it intends to progress the Cycle Track Protection Rapid Build Scheme for Shinkeen Road, Celbridge?

A report was received from, Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Section informing the members that Kildare County Council intends to implement improvements to the on-road cycle track along Shinkeen Road when a funding source is confirmed.

Councillor Heather noted that he would like more specifics on this topic.

Mr McLoughlin agreed to discuss with Mr Hodgins from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Section and revert to Councillor Heather.

The report was noted.

### **CL17/0225**

#### **Liffey Bridge M4**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heather  
Can the council advise why no remedial work has been done to reduce the intrusive noise emanating from the Bridge Expansion Joint on the westbound carriageway of the Liffey Bridge on the M4 motorway?

A report was received from the Transportation Section informing the member that this matter had been referred to the National Roads Office (NRO) for comment.

Councillor Heather noted that he had been in discussions with a member of council staff on this matter and questioned why it was referred to the NRO.



He advised that the TII were called out to repair one side of the bridge and he assumed Kildare County Council were responsible for the other side.

District Engineer advised that the TII were responsible for the repair to both sides of the bridge as it was a carriageway. The NRO may have managed the works, but the TII were responsible to complete the works

The report was noted.

### **CL18/0225**

#### **Pedestrian Entrance, Cope Bridge**

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

Can the council provide any update from Waterways Ireland on the pedestrian entrance to the Royal Canal at Cope Bridge, Confey?

A report was received from the Transportation Section informing the members that the reply from Waterways Ireland had been circulated to the members in November 2024. No further correspondence had been received to date.

The report was noted.

### **CL19/0225**

#### **Riverforest Estate, Leixlip**

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

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

A report was received from the Transportation Section informing the members that there were no specific projects or works planned related to the road or pedestrian safety in Riverforest Estate in Leixlip.

Councillor Brooks questioned if there was any rationale as to why there were no speed bumps up to where the bus stop was.

The District Engineer advised that with the Traffic Calming Project used by the council there were no speed bumps installed on any bus routes. Although there may be examples where speed bumps did exist, these would have been installed prior to implementation of this project.



In general, where speed was detected, options would be signage, road narrowing and then if no improvement speed bumps would then be considered. But as this was a bus route this would not be an option. It was confirmed that a speed survey was previously carried out in the area, but no speed issues were detected.

Councillor Killeen asked when the last speed survey was carried out as funding was provided for 2 surveys over the past two years. The District Engineer agreed to revert with dates.

The report was noted.

### **CL20/0225**

#### **Celbridge–Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor O'Rourke  
Can the council confirm that it has submitted the application to An Bord Pleanala for consent and compulsory purchase of land for the Celbridge–Hazelhatch mobility corridor, and, if not, what is the new target date for submitting the completed application?

A report was received from the Transportation Section informing the members that Kildare County Council were not able to provide a revised date at present. The Roads Project Team were currently progressing two large projects at present, the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road and the Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor and the limited resources in the team had been allocated to progress both projects in turn. It was hoped to complete the internal review of the documents submitted by our consultants as quickly as possible after which an update on the likely submission date could be provided.

The report was noted.

### **CL21/0225**

#### **Cut Back Overgrowth**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Caldwell  
That the council removes or cuts back the overgrowth along Silleachain Lane from Glendale to Mill Lane.

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





A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that arrangements had been made to have this area tidied up. It would be completed in the next couple of weeks.

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

### **CL22/0225**

#### **Willowbrook Park, Celbridge**

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

Can the council provide an urgent update on the transfer of lands at Willowbrook Park, Celbridge to the council?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that the Councils solicitors had written to Tailte Eireann in relation to the completion of the transfer of the land. They plan to follow up with a phone call on the issue in the next week if no reply was received.

The report was noted.

### **CL23/0225**

#### **Part V Criteria**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey

That the council outlines the Part V criteria and process for social and affordable housing in this municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the Part V requirement is added as a condition on any grant of Planning Permission in accordance with the requirements of section 94(4) and section 96(2) and (3) (Part V) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, unless an exemption certificate shall have been applied for and been granted under section 97 of the Act, as amended



Planning permissions for housing development on lands purchased on or after 1 August 2021 has a 20% Part V requirement.

A 10% Part V requirement applies where land has planning permission or was purchased between 1 September 2015 and 31 July 2021 and planning permission is granted before 31 July 2026.

On lands where there is a 20% Part V requirement at least 10% of the Part V provision must be used for social housing units and the remainder can be used for affordable housing, which can be affordable purchase, cost rental or both.

An applicant/developer is entitled to seek a Part V exemption certificate for the construction of 4 or fewer units, or any number of units on land of 0.2 hectares or less, without having to reach an agreement relating to the provision of social and affordable.

The Housing Acquisitions team negotiates with developers in the early stages of development identifying and agreeing units for social and affordable housing delivery having regard to the housing demand in the area.

Councillor Panaite Fahey thanked the Housing Section for explaining the Part V criteria, she questioned on what basis a developer may be refused under Part V and also where the affordable housing scheme would be advertised.

Ms Barry advised that part V was a condition when seeking planning permission and would need further details from the councillor to understand the situation she was referring to, but noted there would be no basis under part V to be refused. It was asked for the planning application number to be forwarded. She noted that this would be the first affordable housing scheme north of the county and statutory notice would be given 2 weeks prior to applications opening.

Councillor Killeen noted applications were set to open from 4 March till 31 March. She asked for it to be noted in the minutes any discussion in relation to planning issues with developers could be viewed as lobbying.

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



The members agreed to take items 24 and 25 together

**CL24/25/0225**  
**Old ESB Site, Leixlip**

**Item 24**

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?

**Item 25**

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

Can the council provide an update on the vacant property at the old ESB site in Leixlip village?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the design for the site was agreed with Cluid and the internal departments. The planning would progress by way of Part 8 and a briefing would be given to the members in advance of the launch. It was expected to commence on site Q1 2026.

Ms Barry advised the members that they would be notified when informal briefing was arranged

The report was noted.

**CL26/0225**

**Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints**

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

Can the council provide the number of anti-social behaviour complaints that have been reported in this municipal district in the last 5 years, indicating how many are open, closed and the number resulting in enforcement action?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that Anti-social behaviour was defined in Section 1 of Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, as



amended and was included Kildare Council Council's Anti -Social Behaviour Strategy which was adopted by Council in April 2024.

Our current complaints system does not specifically record Anti-Social Behaviour complaints, it also includes issues varying from noise/nuisance issues, breaches of tenancy up to and including anti-social behaviour. In the Celbridge/Leixlip municipal district for the period January 2024 through to January 2025 there were 237 complaints, the majority of these cases were of a minor nature and were now closed. The few remaining cases were of a more serious nature and require more intense investigation and effective approach where legal proceedings were ongoing or would be enacted to ensure successful prosecution in the District Court. Anti-social behaviour cases can prove to be lengthy and liaison with external bodies such as An Garda Síochána, Department of Social Welfare, Probation and Welfare services, mental health services etc is undertaken when necessary.

Councillor Killeen thanked the Housing Section for the report and noted the importance of highlighting the anti-social behaviour process to the public. Councillors were happy to report incidents but that there was a formal process including the role of an Garda Síochána within the process.

The report was noted.

### **CL27/0225**

#### **Social Housing**

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

Can the council indicate the number of social homes allocated per town in the last 5 years, in this municipal district indicating how many under each funding stream and if any are with an approved housing body?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that since January 2020 a total of 592 properties had been allocated in Celbridge and Leixlip and this includes 132 properties allocated to approved housing bodies. A breakdown of the allocations was set out in the tables hereunder.

Social allocations for Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District area



Year	Town	Total	Type of Property
2025	Celbridge	3	Turnkeys
	Leixlip	1	Council Stock
2024	Celbridge	95	Mixture of Part Vs/Leasing
	Leixlip	5	As above
2023	Celbridge	77	Part Vs/Leasing/Council stock
	Leixlip	90	As above
2022	Celbridge	40	Part V/Turnkey
	Leixlip	53	Part V/Leasing
2021	Celbridge	4	Council Stock
	Leixlip	66	Part V/Leasing
2020	Celbridge	15	Council Stock
	Leixlip	11	Council Stock

AHB nominations for Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District area

Year	Town	Total
2025	Celbridge	0
	Leixlip	0
2024	Celbridge	50
	Leixlip	5
2023	Celbridge	16
	Leixlip	14



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2022	Celbridge	10
	Leixlip	21
2021	Celbridge	1
	Leixlip	7
2020	Celbridge	3
	Leixlip	5

The report was noted.

**CL28/0225**

**Community Safety Partnership**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Brooks  
That this council requests a meeting with the Garda Superintendent to discuss local issues in this municipal district while we await the new Community Safety Partnership that has replaced the Joint Policing Committee.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Section informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Brooks referenced reports of anti-social behaviour within the municipal district and the urgency for the commencement of the new Community Safety Partnership

Councillor Killeen explained to the new councillors about the previous Joint Policing committee and how the meetings were carried out, she suggested that the letter be sent seeking clarification on current status of the new Community Safety Partnership. It was proposed by Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members that a letter be issued



**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councill Brooks, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members that the report be noted and a letter be sent to the Garda Superintendent.

### **CL29/0225**

#### **Castletown House and Demesne Lands**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke  
That the council proceeds to initiate a CPO process for the purchase of the historic demesne lands at Castletown House currently in private ownership with a view to re-uniting the historic Castletown House and demesne lands and to bring them into state ownership.

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 Local authorities have powers to acquire land compulsorily, in certain circumstances. These powers were conferred on the local authority via a number of acts with the Housing Act 1966, as amended by the Planning and Development Act 2000, being the one most frequently used. In this context, it was of significance to note that there was a constitutional right to own and enjoy property and the forced sale of property must, therefore, be strictly justified. The compulsory acquisition of land or a property must be for a purpose authorised by law and the acquiring authority must have a "legitimate aim" which seeks to further the common good. In any CPO process the local authority must be able to prove their legitimate aim to An Bord Pleanála. The basis of this proof would ordinarily be contained in the objectives outlined in the County Development Plan or other statutory plans of the local authority.

While Kildare County Council recognises the importance of Castletown House and its Demesne to the communities of North Kildare it was owned and managed by another state agency, the OPW. The Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) recognises the particular historical importance of the House, Demense and the associated vistas, however there was never any intention or statement of intention for Kildare County Council to own or manage the site. In this case the Board, considering the fairness and proportionality of using CPO



powers, would also have to consider the fact that the land was, relatively recently, placed on the open market for sale.

Kildare County Council undertakes the CPO process when it is required for purposes under our remit, where there is a sufficient statutory basis with an evidence based demonstrable justification for doing so and Kildare County Council have expertise in this area.

Having regard to the foregoing, Kildare County Council do not consider it appropriate to progress a CPO for the lands in question.

Councillor O'Rourke advised that she understood the limitations to progress to CPO and planned to revisit this matter in general in light of the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 which gave powers to cross over state bodies lands.

Councillor Killeen noted a presentation last November and the powers the members held, currently at fact finding stage and would require a proactive approach moving forward

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

### **CL30/0225**

#### **Deputation from Ryevale Lawns**

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

That the members agree to facilitate a small deputation from Ryevale Lawns at the March Municipal District Meeting.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Section informing the member that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Killeen explained that the deputation would be to discuss heritage issues from concerned residents about documenting issues with trees. She asked for the support of the other members on this matter.

Councillor Heather asked what the issues were in Ryevale.

Councillor Killeen advised that she could arrange to have a tour of the area the following week and the concerns were over the open space, the river, planning and heritage.





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

**CL31/0225**

**Lifebuoy Ring**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor David Trost  
That the council replaces the lifebuoy ring that was removed from the storage box on the pedestrian bridge in Celbridge.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the ring buoy was replaced on Wednesday 13 February.

Councillor Trost noted that there were reports that another lifebuoy was missing from the Abbey Carpark location.

The report was noted.

**CL32/0225**

**Illegal Dumping**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey  
Can the council explain the process of enforcing its policy on illegal dumping in our municipal district and steps to stop further illegal dumping taking place?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the Councillor's attention is drawn to the Council's Litter Management Plan which details the measures being taken by Kildare County Council in relation to litter prevention and control. The plan includes information on existing litter prevention and control measures, the policies of the council, enforcement, community involvement, recycling and recovery facilities, etc.

It was important to state that litter/ illegal dumping remains a national problem that requires the co-operation of all community sectors to address effectively.



For serious littering incidents, it was council policy to commence legal proceedings under the Litter Pollution Act with a view to the maximum penalties possible being imposed by the court.

The members may wish to note that the Litter Management Plan is due for review by the Environment Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). Inherent in the review process is a requirement for public consultation, at which time all comments /suggestions are welcome. Councillor Panaite Fahey was happy with the report asking if the public could report illegal dumping.

Mr Hearn advised that the public should email [environ@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:environ@kildarecoco.ie) or email [customerservice@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customerservice@kildarecoco.ie)

The report was noted.

### **CL33/0225**

#### **Control of Dogs**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Panaite Fahey  
Can the council outline the process of how the dog warden enforces policy on the control of dogs in this municipal district following a rise of dog attacks in the last 6 months?

A report was received from the Environment section informing the members that the ISPCA provides a dog warden service (employing two wardens) on behalf of Kildare County Council and its personnel work closely with other agencies including An Garda Síochána.

The warden's role and responsibilities include:

- Dealing with queries and complaints from the public, court cases etc
- Investigating complaints from the public and An Gardai Síochána in relation to dogs
- Working in close co-operation with An Gardai Síochána in relation to matters pertaining to control of dogs
- Co-ordinating activities in relation to the control of stray animals and the operation of the pound



The primary legislation in this area is the Control of Dogs Act 1986. The Department of Rural and Community Development has policy and legislative responsibility for the area of Dog Control in Ireland

The Dog Warden service looks after stray and unwanted dogs and enforcement in relation to the Control of Dogs Act. The warden can seize dogs not under control in a public place and have them impounded.

Under the Act, a dog warden may take reasonable steps to seize and detain any dog that appears to him to be a stray dog, and he may enter any premises (other than a residence) where he has reasonable grounds for believing that a person is committing, or has committed an offence under the Act, as well as seizing and detaining any dog in order to ascertain whether an offence is being or has been committed.

Dog owners play a vital role in preventing incidents and ensuring the safety of others.

All dogs must be kept under effectual control when in any public place i.e. street, road, park etc.

Certain breeds must always be leashed, muzzled and accompanied by a person over the age of 16 years when in a public place.

Under the Act, dog owners are strictly liable for any injuries caused by their dogs, regardless of prior behaviour or negligence.

Generally speaking, any dog attack should be reported to local An Gardaí Síochána.

With regard to dangerous dogs, where a complaint is made to the District Court by any interested person that a dog is dangerous and not kept under proper control, the Court, in addition to any other penalty which it may impose, may order that the dog be kept under proper control or destroyed. Resulting from recent legislation, XL bullies may be destroyed in



a humane manner where owners do not have a certificate of exemption, without the need for a court order.

Mr Hearn confirmed that there were currently 2 dog wardens in the county.

The report was noted.

The Cathairleach and the members extended their condolences to Councillor Rupert Heather on the passing of his father.

The meeting concluded