



Weston's new hanger in the background.

New Search & Rescue Hangar for Weston Airport

by Natasha NI Chaomhánaigh

WESTON Airport, located on the Dublin/Lucan road out of Celbridge, commenced its Coast Guard Search and Rescue (SAR) operations last month as of July 8th, and they've gotten off to a flying start.

In a statement released this month, Weston Airport welcomes An Coimisiún Pleanála's decision to grant planning permission for a purpose-built SAR helicopter hangar at the location, which is said to be a vital investment in Ireland's emergency response infrastructure.

Weston Airport CEO Daniel Clarke spoke on the development to say, "The national interest in saving lives - coupled with careful design, regulation, and oversight - makes this development both necessary and responsible".

The hangar will accommodate two AW189 helicopters.

It will also include both office space and accommodation and rest areas for pilots and air crew, and will support 24/7 lifesaving operations for the Irish Coast.

"We look forward to delivering a facility that strengthens Ireland's Search and Rescue capability, supports additional highly skilled aviation jobs for the Weston area, and operates closely with local people and organisations," said Mr Clarke.

No commencement date has been given for the construction, however it is said that the project will commence in the "near future" and that it is anticipated to be completed before the end of next year, and will be undertaken utilizing extensive environmental safeguards and noise mitigation measures to ensure minimal impact on the surrounding community.

In the interim, the service will continue to operate out of existing facilities and infrastructure at Weston.

Heritage Week Events

THE list of events for National Heritage Week 2025 has been confirmed by Kildare County Council.

This national event is now in its 20th year and the theme for 2025 is: "Exploring Our Foundations".

This year's programme offers something for everyone, with over 80 events taking place across County Kildare during the week.

A number of craft display and training events have been planned which aim to reflect the definition of "Heritage" as the "practices, knowledge and skills that have been passed from one generation to the next and are still in use today". Heritage features of national significance, such as the canal network (consisting of the Grand and Royal canals and the Barrow Navigation) are also incorporated in the programme. Other events showcase conservation works done to maintain historically important buildings into the future.

Some highlights include:

- Tower of Allen, Hill of Allen – Weeklong event
- Peatlands Immersive Experience, Monasterevin – Weeklong event
- The Curragh Military Story, Curragh Military Museum – Weeklong event
- Moth Morning, Maynooth – Saturday 16th August
- Tour of Ballitore Quaker Burial Ground - Saturday 16th August
- Guided Walk of Ballynafagh Lake – Tuesday 19th August
- Making Connections Through Traditional Music and Dance, Clane - Tuesday 19th August
- Heritage at Play, Leixlip Library – Wednesday 20th August
- History of the Irish National Stud, Kildare Town - Wednesday 20th August
- Ceardlann Tógála Bád, Naas Harbour – Wednesday 20th August
- Seal le Ré Ó Laighléis, Kildare Town Community Library – Thursday 21st August.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL DARA
Kildare County Council

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) – PART XI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED) - PART 8

Site Location: Mill Lane, Leixlip, Co Kildare

Proposed Development In accordance with provisions of Part XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, notice is hereby given by Kildare County Council Proposed age friendly social housing development at Mill Lane, Leixlip, Co Kildare. The development will include:

- Demolition of existing ESB building to the south of the site at Mill Lane,
- The construction of 36 apartments will be contained in the following 4 no. buildings,
 - Building A - 1 Storey**
 - 1 No. 1-Bed/2P apartment
 - Building B - 3 Storey**
 - 7 No. 2-bed/3P apartments
 - 14 No. 1-bed/2P apartments
 - Building C - 1 Storey**
 - 2 No. 1-bed/2P apartments
 - Building D - 2 Storey**
 - 2 No. 2-Bed/4P apartments
 - 5 No. 2Bed/3P apartments
 - 5 No. 1Bed/2P apartments
- 1 No. Common room and reception area located in building A located to the South of the site at Mill Lane,
- 8 no. car parking spaces,
- 1 vehicular entrance and 1 pedestrian entrance from Mill Lane,
- New rear vehicle access to no. 333 Mill Lane,
- New cladding to the fence and railing to the existing ESB mast and substation,
- Traffic re-alignment and alterations to road junction at Mill Lane, Main Street and Leixlip Rd,
- Removal of 1 no. parking space at the road junction of Mill Lane and Leixlip Rd,
- All associated site development works including new site entrance, access road, footpaths, boundary treatments, public lighting, drainage, utilities and services.

The proposal has also undergone a preliminary examination under the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, (and the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended) and the Planning Authority has concluded that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

Where any person considers that the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, he or she may, at any time on or before **Monday, 15 September 2025**, apply in accordance with the provisions of article 120 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have such effects.

The proposed development has undergone Appropriate Assessment Screening under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EC) and the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and the Planning Authority has determined that a Natura Impact Statement is not required in this instance.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development (Part 8 Ref No. P82025.04) may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at **Public Display Area, Level 1, Kildare County Council, at the address below** during its public opening hours during the period between **Monday, 18 August 2025 to Monday, 15 September 2025**.

Details of the Part 8 process will also be available to view on Kildare County Council's website at <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/browse>

And <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/p8202504-part-8-proposed-age-friendly-social-housing-development-mill-lane-leixlip-co-kildare> between **Monday, 18 August 2025 to Monday, 29 September 2025**.

Submissions and/or observations with respect to the proposed development and dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made in writing before **4:00p.m. on Monday, 29 September 2025** to:

Conor Moore, Architectural Services Department, Level 5, Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X77F.

Or online at: <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/p8202504-part-8-proposed-age-friendly-social-housing-development-mill-lane-leixlip-co-kildare>

Submissions should be headed: **"Proposed age friendly social housing development at Mill Lane, Leixlip, Co Kildare., Planning Reference No. P82025-04"**.

All comments including names of those making comments submitted to the Council in regard to this scheme, as outlined above, will form part of the statutorily required report to be presented at a meeting of the elected members. Accordingly, they will also be included in the minutes of that meeting and may appear in the public domain.

Please note that the data collected from this consultation will be shared by Kildare County Council with their Consultants. Any information which you submit via Kildare County Council's websites will be treated with the highest standards of security and confidentiality, strictly in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Please refer to the Privacy Statement included with the plans and particulars of the proposed development and to the Kildare County Council Public Consultation Portal Privacy Policy.

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
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