



22 August 2022

**AY12/0717**

**Part 8 Report for Flinters Field, Athy**

It was agreed by the members that item 18 and item 20 be taken together.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breslin:

That confirmation be given by the relevant section of the council that all necessary works to prevent illegal occupation etc. of the field adjacent to Flinter's Field Estate, Athy will be taken. Also in future, if damage etc. is caused to the preventative measures that repairs be carried out immediately.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Dalton.

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that as a result of a recent illegal encampment on the proposed construction site at Flinter's Field, works were undertaken to secure the site. If further works are considered necessary, this should be reviewed in conjunction with the municipal district office. The proposed development at Flinter's Field for new housing (currently subject to a Part 8 process) would address issues around unauthorised access. The proposed housing units are designed to be back to back and overlooking the public realm, thereby, providing increased security and passive surveillance. While the proposed construction works for Flinter's Field are ongoing, it would be the contractors responsibility to secure the site.

Mr Liam Furey and Ms Angela Tunny from Respond and Ms Sharon Whelan, Project Manager and Ms Mary McCarthy, A/Senior Executive Officer attended the meeting. Ms Whelan asked the members to consider the Part 8 report for the development off 35 social housing units at Flinter's Field, Athy. She confirmed draft proposals for the scheme were presented to the members at a previous municipal district meeting on 20 March 2017 and subsequent design revisions were confirmed on 3 April 2017. The

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Part 8 was placed on display on 4 May 2017 and copy of the Part 8 documents and particulars were issued to the members of the Athy Municipal District. Written submissions were invited up to 4.00 pm on 3 July 2017. Submissions were received and detailed in the planning report. The Planning Section assessed the proposal, including the submissions set out and prepared the planning report circulated to the members of the Athy Municipal District. The report concludes that the proposed development would be in accordance with the provisions of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023, in accordance with the provisions of the Athy Town Development Plan 2012-2018 and would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. It was recommended to the Cathaoirleach and members of Athy Municipal District that the proposed development be proceeded with, subject to 14 modifications which she outlined to the members.

Mr Furey stated that from Respond's point of view, all parties had gone through the scheme and were happy with the content and he was looking forward to the tendering of the project and getting the houses built. Ms Tunny stated that all comments were taken on board and the scheme was amended accordingly. She added that the play area would be used by the new estate and by other estates in the area. Additional disability areas were provided and all open spaces are overlooked. The play area would create a great focal point for all who live or frequent the area.

With regard to the motion tabled, Councillor Breslin stated that the illegal encampment had gone on the site. She stated that the people living in Cardington Court had a very difficult time while the encampment was on the site and the site needed to be secured before a similar scenario arose again. Councillor Wall understood that there was to be a longterm solution to secure the site and to stop illegal encampments entering the site.

Councillor Redmond stated that it took three days for notices to be served to the illegal encampments on the site and asked for clarification on whether the Gardai could attend with one member of staff or do you have to wait until two members of staff are available. The meetings administrator stated she would revert to the members after the meeting with a reply to Councillor Redmond's query.



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Mr Furey stated that it would be February 2018 before construction commences and the site would not transfer to Respond until then. The site would be in the ownership of the council until that time. Ms McCarthy stated that housing would link with the municipal office for further preventive action and that further security works would be looked at with a view to carrying out a permanent solution to the problem.

Councillor Wall asked whether the existing fence would be repaired or would a new fence be installed. Ms Tunny stated that a new fence would be installed on canal side and that the gate would be a lockable and self-closing.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Miley and agreed by all members that the Part 8 for Flinter's Field, Athy be carried out as recommended in the Chief Executive report.

**Also Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Miley that the site be secured in order to prevent illegal encampments.

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(END OF EXTRACT)

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*I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true extract from the minutes of the monthly meeting of Athy Municipal District held on 24 July 2017.*

Tony Shanahan  
Acting Senior Executive Officer  
Corporate Services