

Minutes of Athy Municipal District held at 10.15 am on Monday, 24 July 2017 in the Athy Municipal District Building, Rathstewart, Athy, Co Kildare

Members Present: Councillor I Keatley (Cathaoirleach), Councillors A Breslin, M Dalton, M Miley, T Redmond and M Wall.

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Ms E Wright (Senior Executive Officer), Ms V Cooke and Ms M McCarthy (A/Senior Executive Officers), Ms P Berry (Marketing Officer), Ms A M Conneely, (Administrative Officer), Ms K Keane (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary)

AY03/0717

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of 19 June 2017 together with the progress report. The meetings administrator proposed an amendment to the minutes to correct an inaccuracy under reference AY06/0617 as follows - second last sentence, to change the word "compete" and replace with "replicate their approach".

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Breslin, that the minutes of the monthly meeting of 19 June 2017, to include the amendment as outlined, be adopted and the progress report noted.

AY04/0717

Matters Arising

Re-development of Edmund Rice Square, Athy (AY14/1606, AY03/1704, AY14/0517)

Councillor Breslin asked for an update on this matter as it did not appear on the progress report. The District Engineer stated that there had been informal discussions with parties to carry out certain works. Discussions are ongoing and the members to be kept updated.

Crossing between McEvoy's Public House and New World Chinese Restaurant (AY12/0617)

Councillor Redmond noted report stating that this issue would be referred to the Technical Assessment and Advisory Group (TAAG) and a report would be issued to the members following completion of the assessment. Councillor Redmond asked when would the members be getting these updates from TAAG. Ms Wright stated that a report from TAAG would be available at the September meeting. She explained that there were approximately 24 items listed for the Athy Municipal District and the team are working on these matters. She added that as issues arise, they would be referred to TAAG and added onto their list.

White's Castle (AY07/0617)

Councillor Redmond noted that at the June meeting, Mr Kenny stated that he would ask the Conservation Officer to contact the owner as the castle was in private ownership and consequently the duty of care for the upkeep and maintenance of the castle lies with the owner. Mr Kenny had also stated that it could be a future decision for the members in regard to local property tax funding. The District Manager replied that he had discussed this matter with the Senior Planner and the matter was assigned to the Conservation Officer and he would issue a report in due course. The members to be kept updated.

Provision of a Water Sports Centre on the Dominican Site in Athy (AY21/0617)

Councillor Wall asked for an update on this matter. The District Manager stated that a master plan was being finalised which would look into a water based sports centre as requested. Some work had been done by the Community and Cultural Section in relation to fact-finding and works would progress on this matter over the summer period. Councillor Wall was happy with the positive reply from the District Manager. He asked whether the Community and Cultural Section could meet with local river based clubs in the area. The District Manager welcomed this suggestion and asked that the Sports Facilitator might arrange to meet with river based clubs early in September. The members to be kept updated.

Safety Issues for turning traffic at the Nags Head in Monasterevin (AY10/0517)

Councillor Wall asked for an update from TAAG. Ms Wright stated that a report from TAAG would be available at the September meeting. She explained that there were approximately 24 items listed for the Athy Municipal District and the team are working away on these

matters. She added that as issues arise, they would be referred to TAAG and added onto their list and a report would issue bi-monthly to the members. Councillor Wall stated that every two months is not enough to hear from TAAG and asked whether the members could email a member of the team or be given some sort of update on a more regular basis. Ms Wright explained that TAAG was there to streamline items and stated that the first port of call would be with the District Engineer as TAAG was created to support the District Engineers with design and costings.

Parking on Woodstock Street, Athy (AY18/0617)

Councillor Wall asked for an update on this matter. He stated that the bye-laws were currently up to the Methodist Church and need to be extended. He asked that a full review be carried out for all of Athy. Ms Wright stated that this review should commence shortly. The members to be kept updated.

AY05/0717

Presentation from Eimear Flood - New Garda Youth Diversion Project - Athy

The Meetings Administrator explained that Ms Flood had given her apologies she was unable to attend the meeting. The presentation would be listed for the September meeting. This was agreed by the members.

AY06/0717

Municipal District Roadworks

The District Engineer circulated a progress report on the municipal district roadworks. The Cathaoirleach thanked the District Engineer for all the works carried out especially at this very busy time of the year. The report was noted.

AY07/0717

Community and Economic Development Issues

Ms Berry circulated a comprehensive progress report on her works during the months of June and July. Councillor Breslin thanked Ms Berry and Alannah for all their hard work organising and attending the Local Heroes Awards. Councillor Miley congratulated Ms Berry on the presentation evening to John Breslin of Pieta House, as the Athy Darkness into Light Committee handed over a cheque in the sum of €33,880 on behalf of the Athy Municipal District area. The report was noted.

AY08/0717

Nominee to the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator advised the members that a nominee was required from the Athy Municipal District to sit on the Corporate Policy Group.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Wall that Councillor Keatley, the Cathaoirleach, be appointed to the Corporate Policy Group and this was agreed by all the members.

AY09/0717

Update on Two promised bus shelters in Castledermot and Barrow Quay, Athy

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

That the Athy Municipal District receive an update in relation to the two promised bus shelters in Castledermot and Barrow Quay, Athy, and can the council work with Local Link to identify and install bus stops.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Miley and seconded by Councillor Wall.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the National Transport Authority (NTA) had taken over responsibility for the installation of bus shelters nationally. The NTA had appointed a contractor, JC Decaux, to examine and assess the proposed bus stop locations submitted by the council. When this assessment was complete, the council expect to be notified of the timescale for completion.

Councillor Miley stated that he hoped the NTA would make their decision shortly and asked the council to support the local link committee to identify and install bus stops. Councillor Wall supported this initiative and thanked Councillor Miley for his work on this committee. Ms Wright stated that the report would be nationwide and she did not know what counties would be prioritised. The members asked that the NTA be contacted to enquire when the Athy Municipal District members would get a response on this matter.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Wall that the report be noted and that the NTA be contacted and asked when the council could expect to be notified of the timescale for completion of installation of bus shelters.

AY10/0717

Pilot Scheme - Fire Fighters in Athy to answer emergency ambulance calls

The members agreed that items 8 and 19 be taken together.

The members considered the following motions in the name of Councillor Redmond:

Motion 8

That we ask the Director of Roads, Transportation and Public Safety and the Chief Fire Officer to initiate a pilot scheme, whereby the fire fighters in Athy can answer emergency ambulance calls such as those of the community first responders.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Redmond and seconded by Councillor Wall.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that Kildare Fire Service currently responds to requests for assistance from the HSE ambulance service. A Joint Working Committee (JWC) was established under the Fire Services National Oversight and Implementation Group (FSNOIG) to look at the potential for Retained Fire Services to respond to 'Echo' Calls (life threatening emergencies). This process was still ongoing at national level and Kildare Fire Service was willing to participate in any pilot projects that are proposed as part of this process.

Motion 19

That this municipal district receive a deputation from the Health Service Executive (HSE) to discuss the difficulties the ambulance paramedics find themselves in regarding staffing issues.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Redmond and seconded by Councillor Miley.

A report was received from the Meetings Administrator informing the members that this was a matter for them to decide upon.

In regard to motion 8, Councillor Redmond stated that the reply was positive and he asked that the council write to FSNOIG to ask that the retained fire service in Athy be used as a pilot scheme to be able to answer emergency ambulance calls such as those of the community first responders.

Councillor Wall welcomed the motion and also noted that there was an excellent ambulance base in Athy. He asked that the council write to the National Ambulance Services requesting an update in relation to ambulance vehicles serving the Athy area.

Councillor Redmond stated that there were overtime issues and the number of ambulances available had dropped, therefore, relying on other counties to assist and this could not continue.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Wall that the report be noted and that the council write to FSNOIG to ask that the retained fire service in Athy be used more extensively as a pilot scheme to be able to answer emergency ambulance calls such as those of the community first responders and to write to the National Ambulance Services requesting an update in relation to ambulance vehicles serving the Athy area.

In regard to motion 19, Councillor Redmond asked that the council write to the HSE requesting the Health Service Executive to attend a meeting of the Athy Municipal District to discuss the difficulties the ambulance paramedics find themselves in regarding staffing issues.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Miley that a letter issue to the Health Service Executive inviting them to attend a meeting of the Athy Municipal District to discuss the difficulties the ambulance paramedics find themselves in regarding staffing issues.

AY11/0717

Junction at Cowpasture Road and the R445 in Monasterevin

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

That Kildare County Council outline their plans for the junction at Cowpasture Road and the R445 in Monasterevin, given the housing development under construction, the increased use of the junction, and the need to secure the safety of pedestrians cyclists and motorists.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Wall and seconded by Councillor Redmond.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that a condition of the planning permission was that a special contribution of

€45,000 was to be paid by the developer to fund road improvement works necessary to facilitate the development. The junction would be examined in detail to design the improvements necessary to ensure the safety of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Councillor Wall noted that the report does not outline who was responsible for the €45,000. He asked who would do the work and would it include a footpath and would there be adequate sight lines. Councillor Redmond stated that this matter had been discussed with Mr Hannigan last month and heavy traffic was to be looked at.

The District Engineer stated that he had no plans to carry out works at this time. He added that originally this was a planning application made about 10 years ago and it was updated in recent times and he understood the money was going towards the re-development of the area and improvements to the junction but there had been no works carried out to date.

The footpath was to be installed by the developer but there was no timescale given.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Redmond that report be noted and that Development Control write to the developer and ask for a timescale for the footpath. Development Control to check whether the footpath was included in the €45,000. The members asked for the feedback to be given to them before the September meeting.

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 Whelen 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 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.

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.

AY13/0717

Community Facilities Grant Scheme 2017

Ms Conneely outlined the scheme to the members and stated that eight applications were received from the Athy Municipal District. Due to the large volume of applicants in the Athy

Municipal District and the quality of applications, the council were increasing the allocation to €16,000. This would allow two groups an allocation of €8,000 each. The groups being nominated are Athy Town AFC and Monasterevin Youth Action.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Redmond and agreed by all the members that the nominations be approved.

AY14/0717

Update on the Old Grange Junction R415

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

That Kildare County Council provide an update on the Old Grange junction, R415.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Miley and seconded by Councillor Redmond.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that a site visit had taken place with the National Road Design Office, Safety Advisor to discuss the junction and to consider a four-way stop at this location. Alternative solutions would require agreement with adjacent property owners to improve sight lines. The Senior Engineer was to examine the junction and consider NRDO advice and a report would be provided to the members at the September municipal district meeting.

Councillor Miley asked whether the council had met with landowners on site. The District Engineer stated that property owners were not involved yet as Mr Coppinger would be examining the matter first. The District Engineer stated that the main road had been upgraded in recent times. Councillor Miley asked that the council start negotiations with landowners.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that report be noted and that the members receive an update at the September meeting.

AY15/0717

Access and Mobility in Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Redmond:

Can council officials meet with the Athy Access Group, or failing that meet with a number of the disabled people who have made representations to me on the dangers and difficulties of access and mobility in our municipal area?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer would engage with the Athy Access Group to discuss mobility issues in the municipal area and arrange for a walkabout of areas of concern. Councillor Redmond stated that he was happy with the report. The District Engineer stated that any new works would incorporate improvements for people with disabilities and access for buggies/double buggies on footpaths and street furniture.

The report was noted.

AY16/0717

Replacing the existing fence on the green area at Coneyboro (old) housing estate

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

Can the council consider replacing the existing fencing on the green area at the Coneyboro (old) housing estate?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this can be considered in the context of 2018 Local Property Tax (LPT) projects.

The District Engineer stated that this problem was highlighted by the work carried out recently and that the railings needed to be upgraded. The members agreed that a costing be sought for the next meeting.

The report was noted.

AY17/0717

Upgrading the L60951-0, R448-21 junction, Ballymount

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

That Kildare County Council commit to upgrading the L 60951-0, R448 -21 junction, Ballymount, to allow for a HGV pull-in as an urgent matter of health and safety.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Keatley and seconded by Councillor Wall.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this issue was referred to Technical Assessment and Advisory Group (TAAG) for examination.

The Cathaoirleach stated that the landowner was willing to give land and added that as it was coming into harvest time now, there would be a large volume of heavy vehicles using this junction which may cause issues.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Wall that the council inspect the site to assess the issues raised.

AY18/0717

Resurfacing of the Mill Lane and The Square in Ballitore

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall:

Can Kildare County Council update its' members on the resurfacing of the Mill Lane and The Square in Ballitore as previously discussed?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that it was proposed to carry out this work after the ESB had completed work on the Lane.

The District Engineer stated that the ESB were nearly completed their works.

The report was noted.

AY19/0717

Back Entrances and Alleyways of St Evin's Park and Drogheda Street, Monasterevin

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall:

Can Kildare County Council work with residents in Saint Evins Park and Drogheda Street, Monasterevin on the back entrances and alleyways to their homes?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this work can be considered in the context of 2018 LPT projects.

Councillor Wall stated that there had been great work carried out at the back entrances and alleyways in Upper St Joseph's and added that the District Engineer had asked the members to submit a list of estates that needed such works. The District Engineer stated

that many of the back entrances/alleyways were in disrepair for many years. He confirmed that he would have to examine these lanes, prioritise them and cost how much each area would require.

The report was noted.

AY20/0717

Completion of roadside verge trimming at dangerous junctions in the Athy Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley:
Can Kildare County Council give an indicative timeframe for the completion of roadside verge trimming at dangerous junctions in the Athy Municipal District?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the council does not have resources or personnel to carry out roadside hedge trimming in the Athy Municipal District. The council reminds all landowners annually through the media to maintain hedges and boundaries.

The District Engineer stated that back in 2014, the boundaries changed and Athy Town Council became Athy Municipal District and with that came extra work with less manpower and a bigger road network. He added that the council does not have specific funds for hedge trimming in the road maintenance budget.

The Cathaoirleach asked that a list of junctions for hedge trimming be completed and prioritised. The District Engineer stated that he could compile a list of junctions, get a costing which could be a possible pilot project. He added that it could be carried out over a three/four week period over the summer next year if the members agreed to fund this project.

The report was noted.

AY21/0717

Upgrade Roadworks in Monasterevin Area

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Miley:
Can Kildare County Council provide an update to the municipal district in relation to upgrade roadworks in the Monasterevin area, and plans for future roadworks?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety informing the members that it was proposed to carry out some improvement work in Monasterevin and the surrounding area in the coming months.

Councillor Miley stated that he was happy with the report.

The report was noted.

AY22/0717

**Development of Affordable sites in rural villages and rural nodes in the Athy
Municipal District**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley:
That Kildare County Council develop affordable sites in rural villages and rural nodes in the Athy Municipal District, to be made available to local people who do not qualify under the local need category for rural planning in the County Development Plan (CDP).

The motion was proposed by Councillor Keatley and seconded by Councillor Miley.

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the rural housing guidelines/local need criteria was currently under review by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. The Department had advised that the existing Planning Guidelines remain in place and that, pending the conclusion of national policy review processes (Departmental Working Group deliberations and the publication of the National Planning Framework (NPF)), local authorities should defer amending their rural housing policy/local housing need criteria in existing statutory development plans either by way of the cyclical review or variation procedures. The council does not have the powers to provide incentives to developers to develop housing on privately owned lands.

A further report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the Government discontinued the provision of Affordable Housing under the 1999 Affordable Housing Scheme in 2011. The need to provide affordable housing was recognised in Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness, with mechanism being to increase the supply of high quality homes at an affordable cost as quickly as possible. The Strategy for the Rental Sector, published in December 2016, included a commitment to develop an affordable rental model (as referenced in Rebuilding Ireland) and the Housing Officer understood that the Department was currently examining the broad issue of housing affordability. The Cathaoirleach asked that this matter be forwarded from the municipal district to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC for consideration. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Miley that this matter be forwarded from the municipal district to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC for consideration.

AY23/0717

Infill Sites - Possible Viable Housing Schemes - Athy Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Redmond: Can we be given the information as to what infill sites were highlighted and brought to the attention of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government as viable options housing schemes in our municipal district?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the monthly management report to full council contains a list of all current and proposed construction projects, including infill sites. The July monthly management report includes the following information with regard to infill sites in the Athy Municipal District.

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley:	4 units	Stage 1 Approval received 23/03/2017
Glandore, Athy		Design phase
Skenagun, Castledermot		Design phase

Councillor Redmond stated that it would be helpful if there was a timeline for the projects given and asked to be informed on how far into the design stage they were and how many houses were going to be built.

Ms McCarthy stated that Skenagun was in the early stage of design and would be brought to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government as quickly as possible. She confirmed the other sites were more advanced.

The report was noted.

AY24/0717

Update on site beside Abbeyfield in Ballitore and plans on the stone wall

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Miley:

Can Kildare County Council's Housing Department and Roads Department give the municipal district an update on the site beside Abbeyfield field in Ballitore and plans on the stone wall?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the subject lands are currently in receivership and while the lands are to be transferred to the council on foot of an agreement, this transfer had not yet completed. The council had been in contact with the receiver who was aware that the transfer of the land remains outstanding. It was not possible for the Housing Department to progress any plans for the site in the absence of the land transfer being completed.

Councillor Miley asked what the timescale was to transfer ownership to the council and stated that the Planning Department had given a commitment to the members there would be monies available to repair the wall in Ballitore.

Ms McCarthy stated that the transfer of ownership can be a slow process and added that the Planning Department would be dealing with the issue of the financial contribution towards the repair of the stone wall. The members agreed that the position should be checked with the receivers.

The report was noted.

AY25/0717

Improvements on the Sewerage Network Planned for Narraghmore and Kilmead

A report was received from the Water Services Section informing the members that the Water Services Department was currently awaiting the final snag list from Irish Water which would set out the agreed requirements for completing and taking in charge of the Kilmead Wastewater Treatment Plant. Irish Water had agreed in principle with the Water Services Department, that the correct course of action in this regard was to fully commission the new treatment plant and decommission the old one. The Narraghmore (Oak Park) Sewerage Improvement Scheme was now complete. The Water Services Department was currently working with the contractor to progress the last remaining snags on this scheme.

The District Manager stated that there were minor snagging issues to be attended to and added that the scope of works for Kilmead was agreed in conjunction with Irish Water. He confirmed that the Kilmead works were due to start soon but that the long-term solution would be a new plant.

The Cathaoirleach stated that the treatment plant in Narraghmore was in the ownership of Irish Water and added that the council should liaise with Irish Water on an ongoing basis to find a long-term solution as the cost of tankering long-term would be expensive.

The members asked the District Manager to write to Irish Water seeking an update on the proposed upgrade of the Narraghmore wastewater treatment plant as they were particularly mindful of the objectives of the County Development Plan which envisaged that Narraghmore would develop as a rural settlement with a target dwelling number of 422 from 2016 to 2023. The members asked for an update at the September meeting.

The report was noted.

AY26/0717

Extension of St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin:
What plans have the council to extend Saint Michael's Cemetery, Athy?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that there was sufficient space available to cater for the next five to ten years at the cemetery. The future requirements would continue to be monitored.

Councillor Breslin acknowledged the work done in the cemetery to date. The District Manager stated that he had preliminary discussions with landowners/religious orders to acquire more land for the cemetery.

The report was noted.

AY27/0717

Taking in Charge of the Castleraven Estate, Nurney, Branswood and Corran Ard, Athy

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

That Kildare County Council outline the current position with the taking in charge of the Castleraven Estate, Nurney, Branswood and Corran Ard Estate, Athy.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Wall and seconded by Councillor Miley.

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that the taking in charge process for Castleraven had commenced but had been delayed because the status of a sewerage pipe serving the estate had not yet been verified. Building and Development Control staff would make enquiries with Irish Water/Water Services Department to confirm the status of the sewerage pipe in order to process matters. Building and Development Control staff met with the developer of Branswood in 2016 and requested details of the services in the estate to facilitate the taking in charge process. To date, this information had still not been submitted. The developer would remain responsible for all aspects of maintenance until the taking in charge process had been finalised. All funds from the 2016 National Taking in Charge Initiative Scheme had now been drawn down and spent and all works had also been completed on site in Corran Ard. The next stage was to engage with Irish Water in relation to the taking in charge of the development. When Irish Water approval had been received, the Council would then include Corran Ard in the next batch of estates to be advertised for taking in charge later this year.

Councillor Wall stated that it had been three years since he first tabled this motion and he was receiving the same reply now as he did originally. He noted that there were problems with public lighting and footpaths in the estate and the estate cannot be taken in charge until piping issues were sorted. He added that the council need to find out who the owner of the sewerage pipe was in order that the estate could be taken in charge. He noted that Branswood was ongoing and was happy that there was money available for Corran Ard. He asked that the council meaningfully engage with Irish Water and fast track these issues.

Councillor Miley stated it was his understanding that the pipe was going across council land and as such, the answer lies within the council.

Ms Cooke stated that Irish Water were a separate entity and the council were awaiting their feedback in regard to Corran Ard. She acknowledged that Castleraven was taking a long time and confirmed that she would communicate further with Irish Water to speed things up but that agreements would have to be sought from third parties.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Miley that Irish Water be contacted again with regard to ownership of sewerage pipe at Castleraven.

AY28/0717

Playground in Castledermot

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley:
Can Kildare County Council give a completion date for the playground in Castledermot?

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that tenders had been advertised for the design and construction of the playground in Castledermot. The tender closes the end of August. Quotations are also currently being sought for Landscape Architects to prepare a masterplan for the Fairgreen to enhance the amenity value and use of the space. It was planned that this would be ready for the end of October. It was then proposed to combine both the playground design and the over masterplan for the Fairgreen into a Part 8 which would be advertised the end of November.

The members stated that urgent action needs to be seen on this matter.

The meeting then concluded.