

**Minutes of Special Athy Municipal District Meeting held at 3.00 pm on 31 March 2016
in Athy Municipal District Office, Rathstewart, Athy, Co. Kildare**

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

Officials Present: Mr J Boland(District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr, Ms E Wright and Mr Liam Dunne (Senior Executive Officers), Mr D Costigan (Environmental Overseer), Ms M Dalton (Meetings Administrator) and Ms AM Gough (Secretary)

AY01/1603

To adopt schedule of municipal district works 2016

The District Manager informed the members that the schedule of municipal district works incorporated the retained local property tax monies and pay parking. He stated that the total figure for the schedule of municipal district works 2016 was €876,607. Of which €332,737 was from local property tax and €50,000 from pay parking.

The Cathaoirleach stated that the members had discussed the schedule of municipal district works that was submitted to them and they proposed two changes. They proposed to reduce the Roads allocation from €230,000 to €220,000 and to increase the allocation to Athy Community Projects from €86,737 to €96,737.

In reply to Councillor Redmond's request for a breakdown of figures for Athy Community Enterprise Centre, the District Manager informed the members that they had proposed to carry out eleven projects in 2015 and most of these had been delivered. He stated that he would prepare a draft list for 2016.

Councillor Miley seconded the proposed amendments to the schedule of municipal district works 2016. In reply to Councillor Miley's query in relation to the Council making money from bottle banks, Mr Dunne informed the members that there are approximately 40 bottle banks in the county and there was a contractor engaged to look them. He stated that the council do

receive a grant on a 6 monthly basis but they the council does not make money from the bottle banks.

In reply to Councillor Keatley's query if the residents association grants were up or down from last year, Mr Dunne informed the members that he did not have the figures. Councillor Keatley stated that the extra money in 2015 for residents association grants was beneficial and requested that the members keep this in mind when it comes to considering the budget.

In reply to Councillor Redmond's query if the €118,928 for Library Maintenance was for the new library, the District Manager stated that it was not, that the funding for the new library would come from capital funding from the department of the environment and from the council.

The Cathaoirleach enquired if the burial grounds - special works of €28,000 included the upgrade of St. Michael's cemetery. The District Manager stated that the upgrade of St. Michael's Cemetery came from capital funding. Mr Costigan gave the members an update on the works in the cemetery.

In reply to the Cathaoirleach's query on the €386,240 for street cleaning, the District Engineer informed the members that this included all the towns in the Athy Municipal District area which involved emptying bins, footpath sweepers, road sweepers and sweeping housing estates. Councillor Miley stated that this money was well spent. The Cathaoirleach complimented the district engineer and his staff for all the work that they have done.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Miley and agreed by all members that the schedule of municipal district works for the Athy Municipal District for 2016 be adopted subject to the following amendment roads to be reduced to €220,000 and Athy Community Projects to be increased to €96,737 and, subject to an allowance for possible emergencies or reallocation of funding from scheduled works that cannot, for any reason, proceed and subject to any such reallocation of funding being within the overall budgetary framework.

AY02/1603

Illegal Dumping/fly tipping in the Athy Municipal District

Councillor Redmond stated that there was a vast amount of dumping going on at the moment and that he was concerned that pay by weight would make the matter worse. He enquired if the bye-laws could be strengthened so that a proper fine could be incurred. He asked if the waste centre could be opened every 3 or 6 months free of charge to people. He informed the meeting that there was a van collecting rubbish as a commercial venture and then dumping it illegally.

Councillor Miley stated that illegal dumping effects the rural area more than urban and that every road you drive has black bags dumped. He stated that the CCTV was not effective as people are not been named and shamed. He also informed the meeting of a silver van dumping rubbish as it was driving along. He stated that the community needed to be prepared to support the council.

Council Dalton stated that the people that are subscribing to the van are making this business viable.

Councillor Keatley stated that this was an issue for a long time and stated that he had suggested at full council the bye-laws be amended so that people could be named and shamed and was told that this was not possible.

Councillor Breslin stated that she shared the sentiments of the other councillors but did not feel that pay by weight would increase the amount of dumping. She also stated that the bye-laws needed to be looked at. She suggested that a special meeting with the guards be set up.

The Cathaoirleach stated that it was throughout the county that there was a blue van going around also dumping and when he informed the guards he was told that it was a matter for the council. He informed the members that there was a site close to the office that was on private property that needed to be cleaned up and enquired what powers the council had in doing this. He also stated that if the local communities did not get involved and do the cleaning that the matter would be a lot worse. The Cathaoirleach stated that he had requested that phone number for reporting dumping be published on the councils website and also in Athy Town Councils time he had requested signs with this number on it.

Councillor Breslin enquired why it had taken 4 weeks from the time the dumping at the Carlton Abbey had been reported for the health officer to investigate and the owner to be found.

The District Manger agreed with the sentiment of the meeting and stated that despite €2 million a year been spent on waste management that it was still an issue. He stated that if it were not for the involvement of the local communities it would be a lot worse. He stated that the council had a lot of measures in place. For example, higher number of fines had been issued , there are 6 wardens and 2 crews covering the county collecting the fly tipping, CCTV, 2 free recycling centres and assist regularly with community clean ups. He stated that he agreed that the council had to be vigilant when pay by weight commences but informed the members that this had been piloted in two councils already and it had resulted in a decrease in fly tipping.

The District Manager requested that the details of the vans that are illegally dumping be given to him and that those that were involved would be prosecuted and stated that the customers of these vans are also in breach of the waste management act. He stated that the pilot scheme of the Green KM might be extended if it is successful. He stated in relation private property sites, that the council can go in under Section 56 of the Waste Management Act, but the down side of this was that it would keep happening. The District Manager agreed that the rubbish dumped in the Carlton Abbey site would be removed.

In reply to Councillor Breslin's query about recouping the money from the receiver, the District Manager stated that a bill would be sent to the receiver. In reply to Councillor Keatley's query about naming and shaming people who have been caught dumping, the District Manager stated that he had sought legal advice and that legally, the council cannot name and shame. He stated that he would circulate the letter to the members.

Mr Costigan informed the members that for every successful conviction there was that the press can report on it. In reply to Councillor Miley's query when a person is fined for dumping and they pay the fine does that name appear in the paper, Mr Costigan stated that it does not.

Mr Dunne informed the members that that the litter line number is 1800 243 143 and that this number goes through to the environment department and after hours goes to an answer

machine that was checked daily. He stated that CCTV was good for getting car registrations but was difficult to capture individuals.

In reply to the Cathaoirleach's question on the length of time it takes to respond to a call on the litter line, Mr Dunne informed the members that the phones are checked daily and it depends on the issue how long it takes to act on it.

Councillor Redmond requested that a mobile number be set up so people could send photos to if they seen people dumping. In response to this, Mr Dunne stated that the photographs could be used but if the case had to go to court the person would have to be a witness.

The Cathaoirleach enquired why are the council saying that it was a confidential line if the person who reports the dumping has to go to court. Mr Dunne explained that if the fine that was issued was not paid, then the case goes to court. He informed the members that there are approximately 500 fines per year, but there are a lot more investigations. The District Manager informed the members there are 1200 environmental complaints annually. The Cathaoirleach stated that Athy should be used as a pilot project and when the Carlton Abbey site was cleared that it should be published that the council carried out this work.

Ms Wright stated that in other councils she had worked that they had carried out various initiatives and they were successful. The District Manager stated that he was willing to make some money available to any community initiatives. He also stated that he would get Mr Dunne to look in to the matter of the mobile number and people submitting photographs.

The Cathaoirleach stated that he had been presented with the Athy Tidy Towns report 2015-2016 requested that as a pilot scheme that the council should target some of these issues.

The meeting concluded.