

**Minutes of Athy Municipal District Meeting held at 10.00 am on
23 May 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 T McDonnell (Director of Services), Mr D Creighton (A/Senior Architect), Ms E Wright, Ms A Aspell (Senior Executive Officer), Mr B Higgins (Head of IT), Mr C Flynn (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr J Treacy (IS Project Leader), Mr M McLoughlin (Administrative Officer), Ms H Dowling (RAPID Co-Ordinator), Ms M Mclvor (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Secretary)

AY01/1605

**Briefing from Respond Housing Association on proposed development at
Flinters Field, Athy.**

It was agreed to take items 4 and 8 on the agenda together.

Item 4 - To receive a briefing from Respond Housing Association on proposed development at Flinter's Field, Athy

Item 8 - Question - Councillor Wall

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

Can the council confirm the progress on the delivery of housing in association with Respond! Voluntary Housing Association at Flinters Field, Athy?

The cathaoirleach welcomed Mr Ned Brennan, Chief Executive, Respond and Parag Joglekar, Architect, Respond to the meeting. Mr Brennan circulated documentation and maps to the members. He gave a brief background of this organisation and its objectives to develop sufficient local community enablers, within five years of the opening of an estate, to enable residents to participate fully in and access the services and structures of the

community. There is particular focus on ensuring that it serves and is committed to those who are most disadvantaged in their estates.

Mr Joglekar outlined their proposals for Flinter's Field. Their plans include 33 units consisting of 2 and 3 semi-detached, terrace, dormer and bungalow type houses. They are considering entrances from Cardington Court, St Dominic's Park and the existing Flinter's Estate. He added that discussions had taken place with the Planning and Architect's Departments of the Council and planning permission should be granted by October 2016. They hope to be on site by the end of April, 2017 and it would take approximately fourteen to fifteen months to complete works.

The cathaoirleach stated that he welcomed this proposal which was positive. However, he noticed that a play area was missing from the drawings. He added that there was open space along the canal and urged that some facility would be provided for children living in this area. He added that the existing boundary fence at the canal was in bad repair and asked that its repair would be part of the development.

Councillor Redmond stated that there was a housing need for four bedroom houses in this area and this was not included in the plans before them today. He added that those on the housing list longest should be eligible for these houses. He asked whether the degree course which finished in 2013 would be re-started by Respond.

Councillor Miley welcomed the proposal. However, he had voiced his concerns at previous meetings about building houses at this location. He would prefer a playground or a park for children living in the existing housing areas. He stated that the housing development would be more suitable on the Dublin Road, Athy. He added that there were a huge number of people looking for one and four bedroom houses but these plans only show two and three bedroom homes and urged that access to this development be reviewed again.

Mr Brennan stated that the council would be recommending tenants for these houses and that the Degree Course would not be re-started as there was not a demand for same. However, diploma and certificate courses would still be available.

Mr Joglekar informed the members that these plans were only a preliminary layout and that there was flexibility to provide one, two, three and or four bedroom houses depending on the

housing need. He stated that he would go back and refine these plans. He added that landscaping on this development would be discussed with the Planning and Housing/Architect Departments. He further added that there was an open space available and that they would be looking at options for a play area. He confirmed that all the members comments would be reviewed with the Planning Department.

Councillor Dalton stated that he was concerned about access to this development as St Dominic's Park was an old estate and Cardington Court was well established as well.

Councillor Breslin stated that mixed estates would work best including private, affordable and social housing etc. She voiced her concerns about unofficial walkways currently in Flinter's Field and also in relation to anti-social behaviour and horses left in the estate. She added that an afterschool programme or a playground would be required for children living in this area. She also stated that the deposit for these homes of €500 was a problem for those moving into them.

Councillor Keatley asked that the fence and walkways be looked at under the planning process.

Councillor Breslin asked that a Liaison Group be set up to help people living in St Dominic's Park, Cardington Court and Flinter's Estate come on board with this development.

Mr Brennan stated that integrated developments would be positive. He stated that in regard to Councillor Breslin's question, that the full deposit was not demanded upfront and could be paid by instalment over a certain period of time. He stated it was important that a deposit was paid as it would deter the tenants from damaging the property.

The Director of Housing stated that this land was in the council's ownership and the three areas of concern were proximity to canal, boundary treatment and dwelling sizes. He stated that the drawings are only preliminary and are not ready to go to Planning yet. He added that all the members concerns would be taken into account and would form the Part 8. He added that the members would be provided with updated drawings at a later stage.

Resolved that the concerns of the members would be taken on board and that updated drawings would be forwarded to the members at a later stage and that the members be kept updated on this development.

AY02/1605

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the special meeting held on 31 March 2016 and monthly meeting of Athy Municipal District meeting held on 18 April, 2016.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Keatley, that the minutes be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

Matters Arising

Concerns of School Buses using The Cush Inn area as collection point (AY12/1512)

Councillor Redmond noted report stating that a meeting had been arranged between Bus Eireann and the council. He enquired whether this meeting had taken place. The District Engineer stated that the meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 25 May next at the Cush Inn.

Resolved that the members be informed of the outcome of this meeting.

24 Hour Accident and Emergency Department - Portlaoise Hospital (AY19/1509)

Councillor Redmond noted that there was no reply from the Hospital Action Group.

Resolved that a letter issue to Mr Simon Harris, Minister for Health asking that the 24 hour Accident and Emergency Services be retained at Portlaoise Hospital and of the importance of the health and safety of patients and to stress that a range of services need to be there on a 24 hour basis.

Bord na Mona - Meeting Request (AY30/1602)

Councillor Redmond noted that there was no reply from Mr Michael Quinn, Senior Executive Officer, Bord na Mona regarding meeting to discuss their plans for the boglands in the Athy Municipal District after milling of peat in 2028.

Resolved that a follow-up letter issue to Bord na Mona.

Efficiency of Two Sewerage Plants in Kilmead (AY16/1604)

Councillor Keatley raised this issue. The District Manager stated that this issue was primarily a matter for Building Control to progress with. Waste water operations staff had inspected the new Wastewater Treatment Plant and drafted up a snag list of work that was required. It was hoped that these works would be progressed in consultation with Development Control. On completion of required works, Water Services would be in a

position to take the plant in charge, at which stage, there would be engagement with Irish Water.

Resolved that Building Control attend the next meeting to update the members on this issue.

Detailed Timescale on the Upgrade of the Village Centre - Narraghmore (AY16/1512)

Councillor Keatley asked for an update on this matter. The District Engineer stated that he had met with interested parties, local representatives, Road Design Department on Monday, 9 May 2016 to discuss this matter and the plans have gone back to Road Design to be revamped and advertised.

Resolved that Road Design issue a report to the next meeting.

Upgrade of Emily Square, Athy (AY21/1510)

Councillor Miley asked for an update on this matter. The District Manager stated that he had met with the consultants and that he would revert to the members with an outline programme. He added that he was looking to go to preliminary public consultation in June 2016 as the project was almost ready to start.

Resolved that District Manager would revert to the members with an outline programme for this project.

Update on the Improvements on the sewerage network planned for Narraghmore (AY12/1604)

Councillor Keatley noted the report that tankering had taken place on a weekly basis and there has, therefore, been no further issues in recent times. The longer term solution was also proceeding well, being advanced by Donnachadh O'Brien and Associates, Consultants on behalf of the council and the matter was being prioritised. The District Manager stated that it was very close to tender to connect the wastewater plant at Lipstown Manor.

Councillor Keatley noted that tankering had reduced and asked that pressure be put on that tankering continue on a weekly basis.

Resolved that the members be kept informed and that tankering continue on a weekly basis as required.

Traffic Feasibility Study - Cardington Bridge Junction (AY12/1602)

Councillor Breslin asked for an update on this matter. The District Engineer stated that this design was done and it would be implemented in the coming months.

Resolved that works be implemented in the coming months.

Housing Maintenance Issues

Mr Flynn attended the meeting in order to answer the members questions with regard to turnaround of vacant council houses and other issues. He stated that Housing in general have had a very busy year. He added that trying to turn around letting units as well as new houses was extra pressure. It was getting harder to engage contractors as it was more attractive to work in the private sector. He added that finance was not an issue but there was extra demand on Housing in regard to staff resources and workload. He stated that they had carried out energy upgrades (replacement of doors and windows) on many houses, disabled person grants and many other works over the last couple of years. In some cases, there may be legal issues or specific conditions of houses that may also lead to delays in turning around letting units.

A discussion ensued and the members stated that the turnaround of letting units should be tendered out to private contractors to do this work from start to finish in a short period of time. Councillor Keatley clarified that private contractors have had many problems with regard to payment and that was why, it was difficult to get contractors for such works. He added that some houses were given back in good condition and some in bad condition. Currently, houses are not secured and council property was being damaged unless this turnaround happens more quickly.

Mr Creighton clarified that procurement was a necessary evil and he added that a framework of contractors was difficult to engage. He clarified that a clerk of works was required to deal with each case and carry out inspections and arrange for schedule of works to be carried out.

Mr Flynn re-iterated that there were 4,000 houses in the county and the Housing Maintenance were responsible for general maintenance, response maintenance, lettings, energy upgrades and many other issues. There was currently one clerk of works in Athy and he added that they were constantly looking for ways to turnaround letting units.

The cathaoirleach asked whether the Housing Section had approached the Department in order to increase staff resources to deal with this crisis.

The Director of Housing stated that a workforce plan had been given to the Department and approval was given to seventeen extra staff for the capital programme. No approval was received for staff funded from the Revenue Budget. He had made requests for extra staff but he stated that the staff currently working in Housing were working to the limit.

Resolved that the members be kept updated with regard to the urgent need to turnaround houses more efficiently.

AY03/1605

Community and Festival grants for the Athy Municipal District

The members considered the Community and Festival Grants 2016 for the Athy Municipal District.

A report was received from Ms Conneely, Community and Enterprise Development Officer outlining the community and festival grants proposed for 2016.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all the members, that the community and festival grants 2016 proposed for the Athy Municipal District, be adopted.

AY04/1605

Update on Housing Projects in the Athy Municipal District

In regard to the Friary Building on the Dominican site, the Director of Housing stated that discussions were ongoing with the Peter McVerry Trust to convert this building into suites with communal cooking facilities. Some units would have a bedroom and toilet and others with a bedroom, toilet and living area. The plans are for eight suites of one and two bedroom units. He added that the contractor would be appointed shortly and the building should be ready to be occupied within three to four months.

Councillor Redmond was delighted with this news for women and children in the area even though the building would not be exclusively for them. He asked what the cost of running this facility by the Peter McVerry Trust would be.

Councillor Miley asked how the suites would be allocated and whether it would be on a short-term or long-term basis.

Councillor Breslin stated this building should be exclusively for women and children as domestic abuse was a huge issue and that allocations should only be given to those from the south of the county.

The cathaoirleach stated that this facility was long awaited in south Kildare as domestic abuse was on the increase unfortunately. He added that he hoped it would not be a shared facility with other counties.

The Director of Housing clarified that this facility would not be shared with other counties. He stated that some of the rooms were only single and may not be big enough for families. He added that the intention of the facility would be that persons would only stay there for a short period of time and move on when they find themselves ready to move to more suitable accommodation. He stated that the cost was not yet agreed and he added that there would be a full-time employee of Peter McVerry Trust stationed at the building.

The District Engineer stated that the Chief Executive had asked him to prepare the framework for the Dominican site.

In regard to the Library conversion, the District Manager stated that a consultant company had been engaged and that they were very close to finding a design for this project. He added that he would give a very detailed briefing to the members very shortly.

Councillor Redmond noted that the bell had gone missing from the Dominican site. The District Manager clarified to the members that the council had this in hand. He also noted that that the Bell Tower was a listed building.

Councillor Keatley commended the District Manager on the good progress of this project.

In regard to the Greenfield site, the Director of Housing stated that he would follow with a proposal for housing on this site. He added that there was a potential for sheltered housing at this location. However, flood levels may be a problem.

The members stated that a facility like McAuley Place in Naas would be ideal for Athy.

Resolved that a special meeting be arranged to discuss Part 8 process on Monday, 30 May 2016.

AY05/1605

Land known as Lipstown on the Calverstown Road in the village of Narraghmore

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

That the council move immediately to secure the council owned land on the Calverstown Road in the village of Narraghmore known locally as Lipstown and the housing section design a comprehensive plan for the construction of houses on this site.

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

Councillor Miley stated that this site was currently being used as a tip site, storing trailers etc. There was a serious risk of it being illegally occupied and he advised that mounds of clay would need to be lodged there immediately to secure the site. He suggested that in the long term, a housing development would be suitable on this site, otherwise, there would be serious dumping at this location. He added that the community were very proud and the council needed to support the community. He stated that children from the area are currently playing on the road and he asked that the council have a look at suitable accommodation for families.

Mr Creighton and Mr McNulty, Project Engineer were in attendance. Mr Creighton stated that the site would be secured and that they were looking at putting five housing units on this piece of land with a small green space and a proposal was being generated. He stated that he would be liaising with Mr Simon Wallace regarding a boundary fence.

The cathaoirleach stated that the council's duty of care would need to be for the people living there already.

The Director of Housing stated that the role of the council was to provide accommodation where there was a housing need and the main issue that there was not enough dwellings available for the demand.

Councillor Miley stated that he would welcome the proposed plan by Mr Creighton.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Keatley that a plan be drawn up for this land and members to be updated.

AY06/1605

Local Authority Houses in Monasterevin

The members considered the following motion from Councillor Redmond:

That this municipal district look to build local authority houses in Monasterevin, through land purchase or land swap with developers. We own lands in areas that someone would be interested in.

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

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that as the council was subject to public procurement rules, the council may only purchase land which was publicly advertised for sale or for which the council had advertised for. Similarly, the disposal of land would require public notice of the intention to sell.

Councillor Redmond proposed that the council advertise all their lands in places such as Kildangan, Kilmead, Ballitore and other areas and offer developers to land swap or land purchase with the council.

Councillor Miley stated that it would be vital to have mixed housing developments. The Director of Housing stated the council were trying to expedite the delivery of houses. He added that not all lands were suitable for housing and many of the locations may not be serviceable. However, we can identify lands suitable for servicing and housing and he noted that there was a lack of social houses in Monasterevin. He stated that the council were looking to purchase suitable land. He added that if a developer wished to purchase council land, then the council would speak with them.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Miley that report be noted.

AY07/1605

Emergency Accommodation

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

In light of Kildare County Council spending almost €900,000 emergency accommodation, can the council present their plan to Athy municipal district of how this housing problem will be alleviated?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the increase in expenditure on emergency accommodation can be correlated to the reduction in available private rented accommodation for applicants on the housing list. Increased availability of rented accommodation would see a reduction in expenditure on emergency accommodation. The Council's Housing Strategy aims to increase the provision of additional housing stock through Part V, housing construction and our acquisition programme. In addition, the provision of additional units through Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS), Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and leasing together with the Voluntary Housing Bodies' housing construction, acquisition and leasing programmes would increase the number of available units for housing applicants. As new housing developments come on stream, there should be more units available to rent in the private market. The council, in partnership with the Peter McVerry Trust, would also bring on an additional six emergency family units in Athy in the coming months and an additional 9 beds for single persons would also come online in Newbridge. We are also in the process of sourcing additional emergency accommodation units throughout the county and we anticipate having four additional family units online in Naas by the end of the summer.

The Director of Housing stated that this was a national issue and stated that currently there were two staff available to deal with homeless support.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY08/1605

Self Help Scheme

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

When will the Self Help Scheme for 2016 commence in the Athy Municipal District and what works will be covered under the Scheme?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that a request for an additional staff resource had been made to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in order to administer the self-help/tenant support scheme for 2016.

Subject to a positive response from the Department, the scheme would be rolled out as soon as the staff member was appointed to the housing maintenance unit. Given current demand on resources in the housing department, it was not possible to administer the scheme in the absence of appropriate staff resources.

Councillor Breslin welcomed the scheme. She added that most of these works would need to be carried out over the summer months and asked that pressure be put on the Department to give staff resources.

Ms Aspell stated that the Housing Section had made their case to the Department and the scheme would be put in place as soon as staff were provided.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY09/1605

White's Castle, Athy

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

Can we, as a the local government in this municipal district, ask the owners of Whites Castle what their intentions are going forward as it's the central building in our town and with nobody occupying it or developing it we must make an issue out of this?

The District Manager stated that he would meet with the owner and ascertain what her intentions were with the building.

Resolved that the District Manager arrange to meet with the owner and members to be kept updated.

AY10/1605

Request to form a regional group to process ideas and policies

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

Can we ask the local municipal districts in neighbouring counties to form a group for progressing ideas and policies? This would be municipal districts in Carlow, Wicklow and Laois county who border us. Policies like housing, litter and the environment could be tackled by this proposal.

The District Manager agreed, in principal, that this would be a good idea.

Resolved that Councillor Redmond forward details of any issues such as the blueway, fire service, speeding, litter and others to the members and to the District Manager for attention.

AY11/1605

Athy Distributor Road

Mr Coppinger updated the members in regard to this project. He stated that it was progressing well and that work had started on the preliminary design and surveys on the ground.

Councillor Redmond stated that he had requested, at a previous meeting, the survey figures for using the northern and southern routes which would have been provided at a briefing meeting which he had been unavailable to attend, but had received no response to date.

Mr Coppinger stated that he was proposing to publish the route selection report by the end of May or early June and the information Councillor Redmond was requesting would be in this report. He added that the council needed to be mindful and careful with the contractors time as they are running to a tight programme. He added that he would circulate a report to the members regarding timeframe for this project.

Resolved that the consultants meet with the members in Naas prior to the Full Council meeting on Monday, 30 May 2016.

AY12/1605

Update on Pilot Wi-Fi proposal for Athy

Mr Higgins and Mr Treacy presented the pilot Wi-Fi proposal to the members. It is proposed to utilise existing broadband infrastructure in Athy Council owned premises to create a public Wi-Fi location in the Emily Square area. The solution identified utilises an outdoor Wi-Fi access point. It was proposed to mount one panel on the corner of the Heritage Centre and Museum that would provide Wi-Fi access to the public for the Emily Square area by connecting this panel to the existing broadband infrastructure in the library upstairs in this building. This project will tie in with the re-development of Emily Square and will be cost effective, giving maximum coverage. The cost of installing this new router would be €3,000. The advertisement and promotion of the Wi-Fi solution will be done at the Heritage Centre using a purpose-designed "Free Wi-Fi from your Council" logo to be displayed at various information points around the square and the cost of doing so will be minimal. Installation for the router will take four to eight weeks approximately.

Councillor Keatley welcomed this proposal as it would help to increase the footfall in the town of Athy. The members were delighted with this proposal stating that it would be a small investment with a big return.

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

AY13/1605

Community Heritage Grant Scheme

The members considered the Community Heritage Scheme 2016 for the Athy Municipal District.

A report was received from Ms Bridget Loughlin, Heritage Officer, informing the members of the groups and projects to be considered for grant allocation in 2016.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all the members, that the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2016 for the Athy Municipal District, be adopted.

AY14/1605

Suspension of Standing Orders

On the proposal of Councillor Dalton, seconded by Councillor Redmond that standing orders be suspended for an hour in order to finish the meeting.

AY15/1605

Safety Assessment on the Junction entering Whitecastle Lawn, Athy

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

That a safety assessment be carried out on the junction entering Whitecastle Lawn housing estate following the opening of the new Aldi store.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Roads Design Department was currently assessing this issue and would report back to the members when finalised.

Councillor Dalton stated that since the construction of Aldi, there was an increased volume of traffic at this location. He added that the line markings at this junction were not good. The District Engineer stated that he was proposing to carry out resurfacing work on the Monasterevin Road but he was waiting until this issue was sorted.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dalton, seconded by Councillor Redmond that report be noted and District Engineer to keep the members updated.

AY16/1605

Provision of Improved Directional Signage at Sheriff Hill, Moone

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

That an update be given on the provision of improved directional signage at Sheriff Hill, Moone.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that directional signage on minor roads causes a problem in relation to destinations. Putting a sign in isolation can create more issues than it solves. The signage at Sheriff Hill would have to be examined in conjunction with an overall design for the area.

Councillor Keatley stated that signage would help at this location.

The District Engineer stated that signage in rural areas was difficult as, in many cases, crossroads were linking regional roads. He added that signage had to have continuity from junction to junction and in a lot of cases, there are many ways to get to a destination.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dalton, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the signage at Sheriff Hill would have to be examined in conjunction with an overall design for the area.

AY17/1605

Provision of Right Turning Lanes at all junctions on the new N78 and Monitoring of Speed on a continuous basis on this road

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

Following on from previous motion on 20 September 2010 item 14, I call again on the council and the National Roads Authority (NRA) to provide right turning lanes at all junctions on the

new N78 and following the number of frequent accidents taking place on this newly constructed road, that the council lobby to have the speed monitored on a continuous basis on this road.

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 this was a National Road and was 100% financed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). If the members are in agreement, a request for the provision of right turning lanes would issue to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). An Garda Síochána are responsible for the enforcement of speed limits. If the members are in agreement, a request would issue to An Garda Síochána to monitor and to enforce speed limits on this road.

Councillor Miley welcomed the report and that urgency was required on this matter. He added that the N78 had been opened since April 2010 and too many accidents had occurred since then. He asked that the Gatso van be available again to monitor this road as a matter of urgency.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that letters would issue to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) requesting the provision of right turning lanes and an Garda Síochána to monitor and to enforce speed limits on this road.

AY18/1605

Wood Road in Narraghmore

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

That the council bring the wood road in Narraghmore up to a proper standard.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this road can be included in Municipal District Office road works scheme for the next few years. However, it would be dependent on finance from the Department of Transport.

The cathaoirleach welcomed the report. The District Engineer stated that the sewerage problem had to be alleviated first and these works were on a priority list depending on finance.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Breslin that this road can be included in Municipal District Office road works scheme for the next few years. However, it would be dependent on finance from the Department of Transport.

AY19/1605

Speed Monitoring Exercise on the Carlow Road near Levitstown Lock

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

That the council do a speed monitoring exercise on the Carlow Road near Levitstown lock.

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

The members were circulated with an automatic traffic count from May 2015 on the R417 Athy to Maganey Road.

Councillor Redmond stated that 60% of traffic travelling on this road near Levitstown Lock were going above the speed limit and that there was a history of accidents on this road. He asked that this matter be referred to the Gardai and request them to enforce the speed limit at Levitstown Lock.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Keatley that this matter be referred to the Gardai to enforce the speed limit at Levitstown Lock.

AY20/1605

Roadworks - Ballymount Area

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

That the members be told when the works will commence in the Ballymount area.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that work would commence in the Ballymount area in the next few weeks. This was part of strengthening works, drainage and surface dressing of the road which would be undertaken in late May/early June.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Keatley that report be noted.

AY21/1605

Signage between Junction 14 and the Main Street, Monasterevin

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

That the council assist Monasterevin Tidy Towns in removing old signage and refreshing existing signage between junction 14 and the Main Street, Monasterevin.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office would assist in whatever way possible to remove old signage and to improve or replace existing signage in Monasterevin. A survey had been undertaken by the Tidy Towns to highlight this issue.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Miley that that the Municipal District Office would assist in whatever way possible to remove old signage and to improve or replace existing signage in Monasterevin.

AY22/1605

Road Surfacing on Church Lane, Kilmeade, Tankerstown, Mayo Lane, Carrigeen, Posy Park Lane, Inchaquire

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

That the council repair the road surfacing on Church Lane, Kilmeade, Tankerstown and Mayo Lane, Carrigeen, Posy Park Lane, Inchaquire and now that budgets have improved to change its policy of allowing tertiary rural roads to disintegrate to such an extent that makes them almost impassable.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the council would have to increase its resources to undertake this work. If all of the Municipal District Office resources were directed to local tertiary roads, then the maintenance of regional, local primary and local secondary roads would be detrimentally

affected. At the moment, the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) works very well at addressing issues with local tertiary roads.

Councillor Keatley acknowledged the work of the district office. He stated that the council need to prioritise the policy for rural roads. Councillor Dalton asked for the matter to be referred to the Transport Strategic Policy Committee and this was agreed by all the members.

The cathaoirleach asked that the members form a list of all laneways, rights of ways in south Kildare that need to be serviced and require funding.

The District Engineer stated that there was 80 kilometres of local territory roads in South Kildare and the problem was resources to carry out this work. Staff resources had not increased since 2008. He added that every job had to be planned and an undertaking to service all laneways was not possible.

Councillor Miley asked that general maintenance be carried out.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Dalton that a list be put together by the members and forwarded to the District Engineer for costing and to see whether resources would be made available. This matter to be referred to the Transport SPC for their attention.

AY23/1605

Extension of Public Light at Booleigh Cross at Conlan's and at the High Cross Inn Pub, Belan

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Miley:
Can the council do an extension of public light at Booleigh Cross at Conlon's and at the High Cross Inn Pub, Belan?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Public Lighting Unit would examine these locations and assess the need for an extension of public lighting and would report back to the members.

Councillor Miley welcomed the report and stated that the local community use both these locations and that they were two strong rate payers in the county. There was extremely poor

lighting and anti-social behaviour in this area. He asked that a design and costing be prepared to carry out this work.

The cathaoirleach stated that a presentation was given on the public lighting policy at the last Corporate Policy Group meeting and would be presented to full council shortly.

Councillor Miley said he would meet the Public Lighting Unit on site and he asked that they would make contact with him to arrange a date and time.

Resolved that the Public Lighting Unit make contact with Councillor Miley to arrange a date and time to meet on site and they would examine these locations and assess the need for an extension of public lighting and report back to the members.

AY24/1605

Re-development of Edmund Rice Square, Athy

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

Can the council proceed with the next stage of the process for the redevelopment of Edmund Rice Square?

The District Engineer presented a revised plan to the members and he advised the members that this project needed to be progressed to the next level. He stated that there would be implications for bye-laws and recycling banks. He added that draft discussion documents and maps would be circulated to members and he asked that the members would come back to him with their observations.

Resolved that the members would meet with the District Engineer in the coming weeks to discuss the draft plan.

AY25/1605

Speed Control Measures on the approach to the National School in Nurney

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

Can the council improve the speed control measures on the approach to the national school in Nurney?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Roads Design Department and the Municipal District Engineer would arrange to meet Councillor Keatley on site to discuss this issue.

Resolved that the Roads Design Department and the Municipal District Engineer would arrange to meet Councillor Keatley on site to discuss this issue.

AY26/1605

Safety Measures at Bolger's Cross, Athy and Pike Cross, Graney

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

Can the council outline its plans to improve safety measures at Bolger's Cross, Athy and Pike Cross Graney?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Roads Design Department and the Municipal District Engineer would arrange to meet Councillor Keatley on site to discuss this issue.

Resolved that the Roads Design Department and the Municipal District Engineer would arrange to meet Councillor Keatley on site to discuss this issue.

AY27/1605

Development of a Community Sports Field for the town of Athy

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

That the council as previously discussed, immediately begin the development of a community sports field for the town of Athy, given the progress with the Athy Distributor Road.

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

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that provision would have to be made within the capital programme to facilitate the progression of this, if additional lands are required to cater for sporting clubs who may be losing facilities associated with the distributor road. The issue will also require consultation with the transportation department. Prior to any of these steps the needs of the sporting clubs needs to be established.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Breslin that report be noted.

AY28/1605

Provision of a Playground in Castledermot

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall:
Can council confirm the up to date position with the provision of a playground in Castledermot?

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that it was proposed to prepare a tender for the Castledermot playground once work on Kill and Ellistown playgrounds had been completed. This was anticipated to be June /July. Once the tender had been awarded, it was proposed to incorporate this into an overall masterplan for the site and then advertise the Part 8 for this.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY29/1605

Meeting with IDA and Enterprise Ireland

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dalton:
Can Athy Municipal District seek a meeting with representatives of Industrial Development Authorities (IDA) and Enterprise Ireland to discuss the provision of future employment in South Kildare?

A report was received from the Director of Economic Development, Enterprise and Corporate Services informing the members that this was a matter for the members and if it was agreed, the Council would contact the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to seek a meeting. In the meantime, she confirmed that the members could be assured that herself and the Chief Executive had met with the IDA's Regional Manager on a number of occasions over the past nine months and promoted the possibility of citing new or expanding businesses in the South of the County.

Resolved that a letter be issued seeking a meeting with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to discuss the provision of future employment in South Kildare.

AY30/1605

Blueway Project

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breslin:
That an update briefing be given to members on the "Blueway Project".

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

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that Waterways Ireland are currently preparing a planning application for the cycleway project which was a major element of the Blueway Project and are meeting with the various Local Authorities involved before lodging the application.

The District Manager confirmed that the planning application would be submitted in and around September.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Miley that report be noted.

The meeting then concluded.