

**Minutes of Athy Municipal District held at 10.00 am on Monday, 21 November 2016 in
Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

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

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Ms A Aspell and E Wright (Senior Executive Officers), Mr B O'Gorman (Administrative Officer), Ms A Louw (Senior Staff Officer), Ms P Berry (County Enterprise Board), Ms A M Gough (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Secretary).

AY01/1611

Suspension of Standing Orders

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Dalton that standing orders be suspended for 10 minutes. Meeting started at 10.10 am.

AY02/1611

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly and budgetary meeting of 17 October 2016 subject to the following amendment on the monthly minutes:

Delete first paragraph under AY04/1610 and replace with;

" Mr Coppinger informed the members that the project was on target and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) screening report had been sent to An Bord Pleanála. It was hoped the project would be submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for approval to publish the scheme in the early part of 2017. There had been correspondence with the Department in relation to the scheme and Mr Coppinger reported that the Department had been helpful at all times. He also advised the project also needed to be in compliance with the Public Spending Code and that the National Roads Authority (NRA) model was being followed in this regard."

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Dalton, that the amended minutes of the monthly and budgetary meeting of Athy Municipal District held on 17 October 2016 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

AY03/1611

Matters Arising

Speed Ramp Policy (AY07/1610)

Councillor Wall noted that this issue was discussed at the Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 3 November 2016. However, he asked for an update. As a member of the Strategic Policy Committee, Councillor Dalton stated that it was agreed that this item be put on the Works Programme.

Provision of a New Secondary School for St Paul's Monasterevin (AY28/1609 and Matters Arising (AY02/1610)

Councillor Wall asked for an update on this matter. The District Manager stated he had a meeting months ago with the Planning Section with regard to surface water and associated issues but he had no current update . The members asked that this matter remain on the progress report.

Coill Diarmada - Ard na Laoi (end site) and Ardán na Coille (bonfire site) (AY09/1409)

Councillor Wall asked for an update on this matter. The District Manager stated that the creche site was not deemed derelict but it would still continue to be monitored. The bonfire site was not deemed derelict. The end site was listed for enforcement action, however, this matter has now been resolved. The members would be kept updated.

Safety Measures - Kildangan Bridge, Kildangan (AY08/1606) and Matters Arising (AY03/1609 and AY02/1610)

Councillor Redmond noted that the council had been in touch with Telecom Eireann regarding removal of the pole at the top of the bridge. The council intends to install a traffic management system which would include temporary traffic lights and a defined passage for pedestrians over the Railway Bridge. The District Engineer stated that traffic lights had been ordered and lane dividers to protect the walkway users would be in place. Works had commenced in regard to temporary traffic lights, and issues had arisen with regard to lighting on both sides of the bridge in conjunction with Telecom removing the pole. He stated that the temporary traffic lights should be in place before Christmas if the pole was removed by

Telecom. He stated that funding was in place for the temporary traffic lights. Mr Coppinger stated that the council were still in negotiations and pushing for funding on the permanent arrangement but they were on track to move on this project next year. The cathaoirleach asked if Mr Coppinger would meet the members later to discuss NTA funding for this and other projects.

Athy Train Station (AY06/1610)

Councillor Redmond noted that a letter had issued to Iarnród Éireann inviting them to meet with the members to discuss issues facing all rail users at the train station in Athy. Ms Wright stated that Iarnród Éireann do intend to carry out works on Athy Train Station and would meet with the members early in the new year. Councillor Redmond asked for a copy of the response from Iarnród Éireann to be circulated to the members. This was noted by the members.

Repair of minor roads and cul de sacs in the Athy Municipal District (AY17/1605)

Councillor Miley asked for an update on this issue. He asked whether these works would be done over a two/three week blitz as discussed at previous meetings. The District Engineer stated that works had started last week. A patcher had been hired to carry out works to local tertiary roads. He asked the members to send in their submissions and they would be prioritised. Councillor Keatley stated that he appreciated the efforts made on minor tertiary roads. The cathaoirleach asked that a timeline of two days be put on receipt of submissions and that the members would meet with the District Engineer early next week to discuss their submissions. This was agreed by the members.

Rural Light Policy (AY23/1609) & Matters Arising (AY02/1610)

Councillor Miley noted that a draft proposal on Rural Lighting Assistance Scheme was circulated to the members for discussion and he asked for an update. Ms Wright stated that she would welcome any feedback from the members.

Councillor Miley stated that he welcomed the policy. He stated that there was €5,000 still available from local property tax money that could be rolled over to 2017. He stated that the application should be limited to elderly and persons with disabilities.

Councillor Wall agreed with restricting the applications to also include those living by themselves.

The cathaoirleach asked that draft proposal on Rural Lighting Assistance Scheme be brought back to the members for consideration.

Athy Budgetary Meeting - 17 October (AY01/1610)

The cathaoirleach asked that the breakdown of community grants which was requested at the Budgetary meeting be circulated to the members.

Former Model School, Athy (AY23/1604 and AY12/1607)

Councillor Keatley asked for an update on this issue. The District Manager stated that subject to formalities agreement had been reached for an Apprentice Training Centre in part of the school. The members would be kept updated.

AY04/1611

Schedule of Municipal District Works

A report was received from the District Engineer updating the members on the progress of these works for the Athy Municipal District. Councillor Dalton noted that completion of works on Monasterevin Roads was not on the report. He added that a yellow box was required at the junction at Aldi, the school and Whitecastle Lawns. The District Engineer stated that the pedestrian crossing would be re-installed at the Council offices and the school only. He stated that the parking bye-laws would have to be reviewed due to illegal parking at schools. Councillor Redmond stated there were a number of yellow boxes around the town which had gone faint and he asked that they be re-painted. The District Engineer stated that he could discuss this with Councillor Redmond after the meeting. The report was noted.

AY05/1611

Update on Community and Economic Development Issues

A report was received from Ms Patricia Berry, Marketing Officer for Athy Municipal District outlining all works she was involved with since the September meeting of the municipal district. The cathaoirleach and members thanked Ms Berry for her dedicated work for the district and congratulated her on her efforts for the first Halloween event in Athy and also her work with new and established residents associations. The cathaoirleach reminded the members that there was a Promoters' meeting on Wednesday 23 November, 2016 at 1.00 pm and asked that they all attend. The report was noted.

AY06/1611

Update on the Improvements on the sewerage network planned for Narraghmore and Kilmead

Councillor Keatley clarified that this item has been a rolling item on the agenda since 2014 and the members and council would see this issue through to the end. He stated that he was told at a previous meeting that the tender was ready to go out and he hoped that there would be a positive report given at today's meeting.

The District Manager stated that the works had progressed and tender documents had issued but not returned yet. He added there were slight delays on ground investigations but they are now resolved. Tankering would continue in the interim. He stated he was currently dealing with funding aspects for these works and he stated that the cost would be in the vicinity of €100,000 to €150,000 and he indicated that there was some bond money available. He added there had been other similar cases like this and they were resolved. It was not an easy issue to resolve but the council and Irish Water were going in the right direction.

Councillor Keatley asked when tenders were expected back? He stated that the members were due to meet with Irish Water at 10.00 am on 28 November 2016 to discuss this case. Councillor Wall proposed that the members make a submission to Irish Water as a unit to get support for the District Manager to resolve this matter.

The District Manager stated that such a submission would be a good idea. He indicated that he meets with Irish Water every two to three months and they are very well aware of this issue. He apologised to the local community for the situation they had been placed in and stated that this issue would be prioritised by the council and Irish Water. He added that when estates are not taken in charge, it makes it difficult to resolve issues. He stated that he did not have a date for receipt of tenders yet, maybe about three weeks, with two weeks to assess and construction would take four to six months. He stated that another suggestion made was to look into the feasibility of Irish Water taking the water services element in charge.

Councillor Keatley stated that he asked for the sewerage element to be taken in charge a long time ago. The District Manager stated that the matter was being treated as a priority

and hoped to solve the funding issue in the interim. The members asked to be kept informed of progress. The report was noted.

In regard to sewerage issues at Kilmead, the members were informed by Ann Louw that Water Services were working with Planning/Development Control to identify the works needed to bring this wastewater treatment plant up to taking in charge standard. A meeting had been arranged for later this month between Development Control, Water Services and a specialist contractor to agree the works needed at the plant so that this plant was suitable for taking in charge. Following this, agreement would then be sought with the developer in relation to the funding of this work.

Councillor Miley asked whether the Ard na Laoi Estate would be taken in charge and asked for a timescale as to when this could happen. Ms Louw stated that she would ask Development Control for an update for the next meeting. The report was noted.

AY07/1611

Athy Distributor Road

Mr Coppinger stated that review on work done particularly on preliminary design was on target. He had a meeting with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and there were no problems encountered at the present time. He stated that he would update the members at their December meeting regarding the oral hearing. The report was noted.

AY08/1611

National Transport Authority Funding

Mr Coppinger stated that he had met with the members and the NTA and it was agreed that some projects need more discussion such as funding for bridge at Kildangan and other issues in Athy. He added that bus stops were basically a commercial agreement between Dublin Council and Bus Eireann and the NTA are going to change this agreement in order to put more bus stops in place. He stated that the NTA would be putting this out to tender and it might give members a better opportunity to increase the number of bus stops in the area.

Councillor Wall was disappointed that not one area from Athy was in the briefing document at the NTA meeting recently. He asked that the cathaoirleach attend all NTA meetings in future as he had major concerns that Athy would be left behind. He asked that the members

get assurance that the council would fight for NTA funding for this municipal district area and not be reliant on local property tax money only.

Councillor Miley stated his concerns that Athy were being left behind and he reiterated that adequate funding was required for Kildangan and other areas in Athy. He added that local property tax seemed to be the last port of call for funding when the NTA leave us short.

Councillor Dalton stated he was alarmed with the report. He stated there were huge issues in the area and he added that the members and deputies need to continue to highlight funding required.

Councillor Keatley stated that there were serious issues with public perception and funding from the NTA. Funding needs to go towards more serious safety concerns. He added that local property tax should not be used as a "get out clause".

In reply to the members concerns, Mr Coppinger stated that he would fight for funding for Athy. He agreed that the NTA's focus was on the Dublin area, public transport and pedestrians when set up by the Government. He stated that the council and members have to fight for Athy as it has a lower population and is further away. He stated it would require executive and political levels to pull together. He clarified that local property tax monies were not extra as it was money taken away from the council and given to the members and it was now up to the members as to how they want to spend it.

The cathaoirleach asked Mr Coppinger to meet with the members regarding NTA issues next week and this was agreed by all.

AY09/1611

Pay Parking Arrangements for the Christmas period - Athy Town

Councillor Keatley asked that the issue of long term parking in the town be looked at for next year, as there had been cases where people are parking on street and then getting on a bus to Dublin for the day and this needed to be stopped.

Ms Wright enquired if the members wanted to suspend pay parking for the Christmas period. The members agreed that the Pay Parking Policy be suspended from 3 December 2016 to 3 January 2017 and that illegal parking still be enforced.

AY10/1611

Reinstate Pedestrian Crossing to the new Community Centre in Castledermot

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

That the council immediately reinstate the pedestrian crossing to the new community centre in the town of Castledermot as an urgent matter of public safety.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that originally there was a school at this location and the road was the national primary road to Kilkenny/Waterford/N9. As the school was no longer there, demand had reduced significantly and the road was no longer a national primary road. The replacement of the pedestrian crossing would require funding.

Councillor Wall stated that he did not agree with some of the report. Children are using this road, traffic in the centre of the Castledermot has increased and most people using the community centre are elderly and find it difficult to cross the road.

Councillor Keatley stated that since the school closed down, the lights were taken out but the road markings were still there. He stated that this was highly used and needed it to be looked at.

Councillor Miley asked that the council go back and re-assess the situation.

Councillor Redmond asked whether there was a report from the Road Safety Officer in regard to this location.

In response to Councillor Redmond's question, Mr Coppinger stated that the Road Safety Officer does not have technical expertise and his role was to promote safety, awareness and education of road safety. He stated that he would list this project for NTA funding and would discuss with the members at their meeting with him next week.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Keatley that this project be listed for NTA funding and would be discussed at meeting with J Coppinger next week.

AY11/1611

Four Way Road Stop - Old Grange Cross R415 meets L8017

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

In light of the lack of meaningful progress on Old Grange cross R415 meets L8017, that the council move immediately to design and implement a four way road stop similar to the traffic control measures at Mile Millcross Road, Kilcullen and put a timescale for implementing these measures.

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 issue had been referred to Road Design for survey, outline of works required, and estimated cost. The members would be updated when the work was completed.

Councillor Miley stated that no works had taken place at this junction yet. He called on all members to support his motion to put a four way road stop at this junction. He asked the Roads Safety Section to carry out this work and make the road safe for all road users such as parents with young children, elderly people etc. Councillor Miley stated that Road Design were well aware of this crossroads and added that there had been a number of near misses at this crossroads on a daily basis.

Councillor Redmond agreed that works need to be done at this junction.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that a four way road stop be installed at this junction.

AY12/1611

Safety Updates at Bolger's Cross, Grangebeg, Old Grange Cross and Pike Cross, Carrigeen

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

Can the council give an update on the required safety upgrades at Bolger's Cross, Grangebeg, Oldgrange Cross and Pike Cross, Carrigeen?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that Bolger's Cross would be upgraded in the near future. The other areas

have been referred to Road Design for survey, outline of works required, and estimate costs. The members would be updated when the work was completed.

In regard to Old Grange Cross, Councillor Keatley stated that he would prefer the crossroads to be staggered and he asked the District Engineer to review his suggestion. In regard to the other crossroads, he stated he was glad to hear that Bolger's Cross would be updated but afraid that the others would be put on the long finger.

Ms Wright stated that resources are tight but she would speak with Road Design again in regard to the other crossroads. She stated that she would bring the concerns of the members to Road Design's attention and she would come back to the members regarding timeframes and funding.

The report was noted.

AY13/1611

Safety Audit - Thomson's Cross, Kilcullen

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

In light of the works done at Thomson's Cross, Kilcullen that the council do a safety audit on these works from a pedestrian cyclist and motorist point of view, and that Athy and Naas Municipal District call on Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the council to provide a roundabout at this location taking in the Sunnyhill Road, Cookstown, Ballitore Road and the Athy Road, similar to a motion already passed in 2010.

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 issue had been referred to the Naas Municipal District and District Engineer and was on the December agenda for the Naas Municipal District .

Councillor Miley stated that this cross had previously been in the Athy Municipal District area but was now outside due to change of boundaries. He stated that the works done at this cross were a disgrace. He stated that three lanes had been removed and there was no footpath or filter island provided. He stated there was an accident with a cyclist there last week and more accidents were waiting to happen. He stated that the roads mentioned in the motion were very busy roads. He asked that a design for a roundabout be put in place.

Councillor Redmond stated that the roads were all blocked up and he asked that the media be notified of roadworks.

Councillor Keatley stated that he was glad this matter was on the agenda for the Naas Municipal District meeting as this cross needs to be repaired properly as there were no footpaths or slip road and cyclists have to go out into the main traffic which was causing serious safety issues.

Councillor Wall stated it was unbelievable what had happened at Thomson's Cross. He stated the solution was a roundabout and he asked how much these works would cost.

Ms Wright stated that she would bring the members concerns to the Naas District Engineer and she stated that she would update the members at their December meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that this matter be placed on the agenda for the Naas Municipal District meeting and that the members be updated at their next meeting.

AY14/1611

Improve Visibility and General Safety at the R448-N78 Junction

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley:
That the council improve visibility and general safety at the R448 - N78 junction.

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 this issue had been referred to Road Design for survey, outline of works required, and estimated cost. The members would be updated when the work was completed.

Councillor Keatley stated that he had discussed this matter with the District Engineer. He added that street lighting was required at this junction as the dark winter months were upon us.

Councillor Miley stated that public lighting should have gone in at this location at construction stage.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Miley that street lighting be installed at this junction.

AY15/1611

Parking Restrictions on all day parking on the Main Street, Castledermot

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Miley:
In light of the positive news in Castledermot on the opening of a number of new businesses on the main street, can the council move immediately to put parking restrictions on all day parking in the main street and provide alternative parking for all day parking in Castledermot?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Parking Enforcement Officer would examine this and commence the preparation of Draft Parking Bye Laws for Castledermot. The Draft Bye Laws would be presented to the members prior to the statutory public consultation phase.

Councillor Miley stated that all day parking was causing problems in the town and he asked for this to be resolved. He added that those parking use off-street parking instead and they can still use the services. Short-term parking should be looked at.

Ms Wright stated that the members comments would be noted and brought back to the Parking Enforcement Officer. The report was noted.

AY16/1611

Kildare County Council (Athy) Control of Horses Byelaws 2016

The members considered the draft Kildare County Council (Athy) Control of Horses Byelaws 2016. The members were circulated with the byelaws and it was clarified that the new location as previously discussed was included. Mr O'Gorman informed the members that they would commence on the 1 February 2017.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Miley that these byelaws be adopted.

AY17/1611

Policy for the Collection of Refuse in the Athy Area

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

That the council confirm if they have a policy for the collection of refuse in the Athy area, is there a time limit on such a policy and if not, can one urgently be developed.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that refuse contractors must not commence before 6.00 am and must finish not later than 10.00 pm in any areas served by a speed limit of 60kph or less. These times are set down in the Waste Management (Collection Permit) (Amendment) Regulations 2016.

Councillor Wall stated that there was a major problem in the Athy area with refuse contractors collecting rubbish at two and three in the morning, causing untold problems for families with young children and all those living in the area who have to get up for school and work and go about their daily jobs. He asked what the council can do if these refuse contractors are not adhering to the policy of the council. He stated he had been contacted by three housing estates, two in Athy and one in Monasterevin and they were asking for the support of the council to enforce the policy for collection of waste.

Councillor Redmond asked whether the companies could be staggered that they would be collecting at different times.

The District Manager stated that Oxigen had been contacted and received a reply from them stating that they had rescheduled their collections to 8 am. He stated that the byelaws were national not local. He added that the Senior Executive Officer had met with all the contractors earlier this year to streamline collections and he stated that he would ask him to re-visit this area again in 2017.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Redmond that a formal letter be written to the companies and remind them of their legal obligations and that the Senior Executive Officer would meet with the contractors again in the 2017.

AY18/1611

Repair and Restoration of the Graveyard Boundary Wall

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

That the council assist St. James, Castledermot in the repair and restoration of the graveyard boundary wall.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the site was to be inspected to assess condition of wall and determine required works.

Councillor Keatley stated that he had been contacted by a family who had a family member buried there and they were concerned about the danger of the wall falling onto the road. Councillor Dalton added that the church and grounds were beautiful and should not be allowed to deteriorate.

Councillor Wall stated that he had spoken with the Heritage Officer regarding funding.

The District Manager stated that the issues can be complex. He added that the wall goes back to the 1660s and that he would arrange a meeting with the owners and get a plan of action.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Dalton that the District Manager would arrange a meeting with the owners and agree a plan of action.

AY19/1611

Upkeep of the Linear Park

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

Can the council assist Timolin tidy towns group in the upkeep of the Linear Park?

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that the Parks Department need more detail before they consider this, as there was no provision in next year's budget for extra work.

Councillor Keatley stated that the tidy towns committee in Timolin were getting elderly and he would hate for the grass not to be cut. He stated that he would liaise with the Parks Superintendent and the tidy towns to maintain the roadside verge.

The report was noted.

AY20/1611

Waste Disposal Facilities near Kildangan and Kill

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

Can the council state if there are people operating waste disposal facilities in our municipal area where licenses have expired? In relation to this, can a report on what is being dumped in sites near Kildangan and near Kill Hill be provided?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the Environment Section would examine all locations to ensure that such facilities are operating within the required regulations. The locations stated would be examined.

Councillor Redmond stated that the issue was the smell at these locations especially if illegal practices were in place. He stated that the report was not satisfactory.

The District Manager stated that this was a highly complex case. It was before the courts and he stated that he would brief the members after the meeting.

The report was noted.

AY21/1611

Woodstock Castle and White's Castle, Athy

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

Can the council confirm the up to date position with Woodstock castle in Athy, have they any plans for its upkeep and what is the latest contact with the owners of White's Castle in Athy given its importance to the town?

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that it was proposed to develop a conservation plan for Woodstock Castle. Initial works involved in the preparation of this plan have been completed. This involved gaining access to the internal structure to assess its condition. It was hoped to further progress the preparation of a conservation plan next year.

In regard to Woodstock Castle, Councillor Wall noted that works had been carried out to gain entry. He asked what this meant for Athy and how would the area be used. He added the great work done by the Parks Superintendent but he asked for a more detailed report.

In regard to White's Castle, Councillor Wall stated there was damage done to a window as the rear of the castle on the Pettits side. He asked that the council liaise with the owner as the yard could be used as a Christmas Market and it would add to the atmosphere in Athy for the festive season.

The District Engineer stated that he did meet with the owner during the summer and she stated that she had no immediate plans to do anything with the castle. He noted that the yard was overgrown.

Councillor Wall asked that the District Manager contact the owner again and relay that a window at the rear of the castle had been broken and ask for consent to use the yard of the castle for a christmas market. This was agreed by the members.

AY22/1611

Establishment of Soccer Club in Kilberry

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Redmond:
Can we help the Kilberry community in establishing a soccer club?

A report was received from Kildare Sports Partnership informing the members that Sport Partnership can meet with the committee to provide support in the setting up of a club.

The report was noted.

AY23/1611

Purchase lands - Monasterevin

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Redmond:
That this council immediately purchase lands in the Monasterevin area for the development of housing.

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

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that earlier this year, the council sought expressions of interest from landowners and developers who may have been interested in selling lands with or without permission, or completed units to the council. A number of proposals were received, and one, a site in the area referred to above, was currently the subject of further discussions between the council and a landowner.

Councillor Redmond welcomed this and asked that land be secured in the Monasterevin area and Councillor Miley requested that the Castledermot area also be considered.

Councillor Keatley stated that the council need to get value for money for tax payers as well and he was encouraged about the purchase of land.

Ms Aspell acknowledged the comments of the members. She added there was activity in the market and the capital delivery would be dealt with by David Creighton in the Housing Capital Section.

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

AY24/1611

Provision of Emergency Family Accommodation in association with the Fr Peter McVerry Trust - Dominican Site, Athy

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

Can the council confirm the up to date position with the provision of emergency family accommodation in association with the Fr. Peter McVerry Trust at the Dominican site in Athy?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that following earlier discussions with the Peter McVerry Trust and a subsequent submission to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, the Department had confirmed that funding had been approved for the development of eight short term homeless units in the former Priory building in Athy. The funding would be used to complete the renovation of the Priory into eight short term homeless units for families. On-site works had commenced.

Councillor Wall thanked former and current deputies for their support on this matter. He thanked all those concerned for their input and he welcomed these units for the most vulnerable families in south Kildare.

Ms Aspell thanked him for his comments. The report was noted.

AY25/1611

Vacant Business Premises in Athy Area and all areas

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

That this council immediately work with all councillors to identify why business premises in our municipality are being left empty and to the blight of all areas.

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

A report was received from the Director of Services for Economic Development, Enterprise and Corporate Services informing the members that she and the new Head of Enterprise, Ms. Jacqui McNabb, would be happy to work with the councillors in this regard. If the members would like to suggest a date; a meeting would be arranged.

Councillor Redmond stated that young people are now coming into the town and opening businesses and pubs have closed and re-opened again. He asked for an audit of businesses that have closed to see what can be done with them.

Councillor Miley stated that the visual aspect had improved with the painting scheme and it injected some energy into Athy. Certain buildings are in bad condition and need to be improved.

Councillor Dalton stated that there was positive work done during the summer. He stated the council have powers under derelict sites legislation which could be used. He welcomed the meeting with the new Director of Enterprise early in 2017.

Councillor Wall stated that the town improvement scheme had been used and the Athy Regeneration committee had been trying to find out who owns some of the rundown premises.

The cathaoirleach stated that twelve new businesses had been set up in the towns of Athy and Castledermot and something had to be done about the rundown vacant properties.

Councillor Miley stated the people are sitting on properties waiting to sell them when prices increase.

The District Manager stated that the members could discuss this further with the new Head of Enterprise and the Director of Services, Economic Development, Enterprise and Corporate Services early in the new year.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Miley that a meeting be arranged with the new Head of Enterprise, Ms Jacqui McNabb and Ms Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Services early in 2017.

The meeting then concluded.