

**Minutes of Athy Municipal District Meeting held at 10.30 am on Monday,  
13 November, 2017 in Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, 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), Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer), Mr MI Kenny (Senior Planner), Ms E Wright , Ms A Aspell and Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officers), Mr B. Martin (Administrative Officer), Ms P Berry (Marketing Officer), Ms A Louw (Senior Staff Officer ), Ms F Byrne (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary)

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**AY01/1117**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 23 October 2017 together with the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Breslin that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 23 October 2017 be adopted and the progress report was noted.

**AY02/1117**

**Matters Arising**

**Proposal to build 30 social houses in Gallow Hill, Athy (AY19/0917, AY03/1017))**

Councillor Redmond asked for an update as to whether Respond had made a decision yet on these houses. Councillor Wall shared the frustration of the members in regard to looking for social housing at this location. The Cathaoirleach stated that he understood that the members were given an understanding that a decision was imminent after the summer. The members asked that a letter issue to Respond asking that this issue be progressed in the best possible timeframe.

**Administration of the TAAG System (AY07/0917)**

Councillors Redmond and Wall stated that a number of items which they had raised at previous meetings had not made the list and they were very frustrated about this. Ms Wright stated that there were over 100 items on the list but the report circulated to the members at the October full council meeting, consisted of assessments which had been looked at and also to let the members see the extent of the tasks before them. She stated that she understood the members' frustrations but they were progressing with tasks as fast as they can with the limited resources they had. The Cathaoirleach asked, in relation to the items not listed on the report, how do the members make sure these matters would be dealt with. Ms Wright stated that the system was a work in progress at the moment and they would need to improve communications and other areas to make this system work to its best ability. She added that the next progress report would issue in January 2018.

### **Replacement of Doors and Windows in Malone Place, Athy (AY18/1017)**

Councillor Breslin asked for an update on this matter. Ms Aspell stated that she had no update at present as the Housing Maintenance Engineer was not available at the moment. She stated that she would have a report for the December meeting.

### **Re-development of Edmund Rice Square, Athy (AY14/1606, AY03/1704, AY14/0517, AY04/0717, AY02/0917 and AY03/1017)**

Councillor Breslin asked for an update on this matter. The District Manager stated that some developments had commenced with this project and he stated that he would have a report for the next meeting.

### **Rural Village Christmas Lights Allocations (AY26/1017)**

Councillor Wall asked for clarification from the last meeting as it was indicated at that time that there was an additional €2,000 for Monasterevin Christmas Lights to be allocated but now he understood that there was an error made. The District Manager stated that this matter was sorted out by the Community Section and arrangements were in place to make this €2,000 allocation to Monasterevin Christmas Lights.

### **Superloo - Athy**

Ms Wright stated that the Director of Service had requested that approval be sought from the members to terminate the current contract. Notice would be given to terminate the contract in January 2018 and it would remain in place until December 2018. She stated that

the council would have to pay a termination clause. The Cathaoirleach asked that the current contract be outlined to the members in order for them to make a decision. Ms Wright stated that the current contract had been in place for approximately twenty years. She stated that JC Decaux operated four facilities in County Kildare at present and Athy was one of them. The annual cost was €32,000 and the income in Athy was €500 per annum. She added that useage was much lower than expected and the outlay was a very significant amount of money to provide for a facility with such low return. The lease for the Athy superloo ran until 2024 and there would be a pay clause of €82,000 to remove the facility from Athy in one year. This figure would include the rental charge for one year along with the termination fee. She added it was proposed to remove all four facilities in County Kildare in due course.

Councillor Dalton was surprised at the speed of this proposal and he asked where the €82,000 was coming from to pay this termination fee.

Councillor Redmond asked what provision was being made for the wheelchair community who use this facility in the town. He noted that a new library was being built and he asked whether there would be sufficient facilities there for the wheelchair users. He noted that on many occasion the facility was locked during the year and the removal of same would put extra pressure on businesses in the town to provide public toilets. He asked what the cost per use was.

Councillor Wall stated that he listened to a programme on RTE 1 recently where businesses were compensated in towns where superloos were removed. He added that this might be a solution.

Councillor Miley stated that the council should work with businesses and library services to address the issues going forward.

Ms Wright stated that the cost to use the facility was 50 cent. She added that the termination of this contract was raised back in 2015 and the cost would be provided for in the budget. JC Decaux maintained the facility and it was never brought to our attention that the facility was locked anytime during the year. She added that the new library facility would have adequate toilet facilities for all. She added that the local chamber may get

involved and issues to replace the current situation could be explored over the coming months as there were fourteen months before the contract would be terminated. The members asked that this matter be discussed at full council to come up with a policy countywide. The Cathaoirleach asked for a show of hands with four members for and two members against the termination of the current contract.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Miley that this contract be terminated with Councillors Redmond and Dalton against the termination and that the matter of drawing up a policy countywide to replace superloos be discussed at full council.

### **Provision of additional playing fields in Athy - Local Area Plan (AY24/1017)**

Mr Kenny stated that the Planning Department proposed to commence the review of the Local Area Plan early in 2018 which would hopefully be adopted by the end of 2018. Mr Kenny stated Ms Alaine Clarke would be heading up the Forward Planning Unit in the Planning Department and that this area would be getting additional human resources late this year or early next year. Councillor Wall stated that expressions of interest should be requested in January 2018.

### **AY03/1117**

#### **Athy Distributor Road**

Mr Coppinger outlined the current situation with regard to the construction of this new road. He had discussions with the Department of Transport and he added that it would take two years to get to the stage of contract for the main construction. He added that preliminary works on the ground would commence in 2018 and he would be working with housing estates which would be part of these works. He stated that archaeology testing would also have to take place before contract stage.

Councillor Wall stated that he understood from a previous presentation from the consultants that the road would be completed by early 2020 but now it sounds like it would be 2022. Councillor Redmond asked if archaeology artifacts were found, how would that affect the timeframe for construction.

Councillor Dalton understood that tenders for the road would be going out in 2018.

Councillor Miley asked whether there were any problems with regard to funding for this project and when would it be going to compulsory purchase order (CPO).

Mr Coppinger stated that the project was moving faster than he anticipated and that there was no problem with funding. He stated that he cannot get the contract out in less than two years because of archaeology testing and other tests to be carried out and resolved. He stated that they had problems with CIE as they were objecting but those problems had now been sorted out. He added that preparatory works had to be carried out first, then go to tender and he would start compulsory purchase order (CPO) early January 2018. He reiterated that he would get his allocation from the Department of Transport early January 2018.

Councillor Wall asked for clarification as to when the road would be opened and when the first digger would be on site.

Mr Coppinger stated that there would be a series of smaller preliminary contracts to commence before the main contract and diggers would be on site in 2018 to commence these works. He added he would be meeting with housing estate representatives and councillors on a regular basis.

The Cathaoirleach asked Mr Coppinger if he was happy that he had sufficient resources available to him and he asked that the members receive a further update in January 2018. Mr Coppinger stated that he is happy with current resources but would seek additional resources if required.

Mr Coppinger confirmed that the projected completion date for this road would be early 2022.

Councillor Miley said it was extremely frustrating for the members and the people of Athy that this road would not be delivered until 2022 especially since the members were presented with a proposal by consultants at a previous meeting stating that the road would be delivered in 2020.

The Cathaoirleach stated that this road had to be delivered and he asked Mr Coppinger to try and get back to the members in January 2018.

Councillor Wall stated that the consultants had previously presented to the members that the road would be delivered in quarter 3 of 2020 and he was very frustrated that planning permission had now been granted and it would still take until 2022 for this road to be delivered.

It was agreed that Mr Coppinger would come back to the members with a further update at their January/February 2018 meeting and that the consultants would attend this meeting.

### **AY04/1117**

#### **Update on the municipal district roadworks**

The District Engineer circulated a progress report to the members at the meeting. Councillor Breslin asked about the upgrade of N78 from Winkles to Barrow Bridge. The District Engineer said he had to meet with TII, the survey was carried out and he had to identify funding. He added that he would do interim works before Christmas and it would be night-time work. Councillor Redmond asked about carpark at Meeting Lane and when it would be completed. The District Engineer stated that there were many issues with this carpark and he had to revise plans a few times. He added that there would be an interim arrangement to partially open it with lighting in place before Christmas and it would be surfaced after Christmas/New Year.

### **AY05/1117**

#### **Update on Community and Development Issues**

Ms Berry circulated the members with a progress report for October and November 2017. The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms Berry for her work and that of the Athy Promoters and others, involved in the Halloween Event in Athy as it was a great success. He congratulated the residents associations and tidy towns for their achievements at the awards night in Maynooth recently. Ms Berry highlighted that the Big Switch would be commencing on the 3 December 2017 and she was visiting the schools regarding santa letters and the schools are encouraging the children to go to the Big Switch. She added that the santa boxes had been made by Athy Mens Shed in the town.

The report was noted.

**AY06/1117**

**Social Housing in Athy**

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

Can this council issue members with details of how many homes in the Athy Municipal District are under the management of approved housing bodies, the details of these homes (if possible) and the quantity of social housing in Athy?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that within the Athy Municipal District, there were 281 social housing units managed by approved housing bodies. Of these, 166 units were leased and 115 units had been delivered under the Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme. In addition to the above, there were 56 Capital Assistance Scheme bedspaces in the municipal district. The council owns 868 social housing units in the Athy Municipal District.

Councillor Redmond stated that looking at central statistics office figures, it shows that 9% of social housing was in Athy municipal district. He asked whether the council would be developing more social housing in Athy in the future.

Ms Aspell stated that the central statistics office figures come from social housing across the country. She added that Flinter's Field was in the pipeline and the council were looking for development opportunities over the Athy Municipal District.

The report was noted.

**AY07/1117**

**Consider and Agree Christmas Parking Arrangements in the Athy Municipal District for 2017**

Ms Wright stated that there would be free (unauthorised and illegal parking will continue to be enforced) in Athy from 8.30 am on Monday 4 December 2017 until 8.30 am on Tuesday, 2 January 2018. This was agreed by all the members.

**AY08/1117**

**Upgrade of the Junction at Old Grange Cross R415**

It was agreed to take item 6 and 7 together.

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

That the council produce drawings and costings for the upgrade of the junction at Old Grange Cross.

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

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

That Kildare County Council upgrade to a safe standard, Old Grange Cross as a matter of urgency.

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 low cost improvements had been made to this junction, including the provision of signs. The procedure to fully upgrade the junction would require a detailed design, incorporating land acquisition in consultation with the adjacent land owner and other ancillary civil works, which would facilitate a full costing of the upgrade. Due to the likely costs, planning permission in the form of a Part VIII procedure would also be required, which would include a public consultation phase.

Councillor Miley stated that he had discussions and meetings on site outlining the dangers at this junction and he was disappointed with the lack of progress to date. It was moved to TAAG and now it seems to be stalled. He asked that this junction be prioritised and that a traffic count commence at this junction in January 2018.

The Cathaoirleach asked what do the members need to do to get to Part 8.

Mr Coppinger stated that the cost to realign this junction would cost between €250,000 and €750,000 and that funding had not been identified. However, in discussion, a councillor

mentioned that maybe a four-way stop would resolve this problem and Mr. Coppinger that he would look at this solution over the next couple of months.

Councillor Miley asked that this junction be taken seriously and he stated that realignment would need to take place at this junction. He stated that the goodwill of landowners might still be there as he met with the District Engineer and landowners previously on site.

The Cathaoirleach asked that funding be identified and figures be clarified and that realignment be looked at first.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Keatley that funding be identified for realignment of the junction first and then look at four-way stop. The members to be kept updated.

### **AY09/1117**

#### **Update on the provision of additional/new bus shelters and stops in Kildare South**

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

Can the council give Athy Municipal District an update on the provision of additional/new bus shelters and stops in Kildare South?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the National Transportation Authority (NTA) had advised that its contractor, JCDECAUX had carried out site visits and some analysis at locations in Kildare. A new shelter would be provided at the R448 Castledermot (adjacent to the Library). A shelter would not be provided at the R448 Castledermot opposite the Library due to footpath space restrictions and the location would generate safety concerns in relation to visibility and sightlines as the stop was located adjacent to an entrance / exit from a private property. The new LOCAL LINK service from Athy to Newbridge was being monitored and examined to consider if there was a need for bus shelters, the locations for same and if it was feasible and safe to provide such shelter.

The report was noted.

Councillor Breslin, Leas-Cathaoirleach took the chair.

**AY10/1117**

**Funding Proposals to the National Transport Authority for 2018 for provision of cycle lane from the town of Athy to the Schools' campus at Tomard**

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

Can the provision of a cycle lane from the town of Athy to the schools' campus at Tomard be included in funding proposals to the National Transport Authority for 2018?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the provisions of a cycle lane would have to be designed from the Town Centre to the school campus at Tomard and agreement from NTA to consider funding the cycle lane would be required. As the Athy municipal district does not have the resources to carry out this outline design and costing, this would require referral to TAAG .

Councillor Breslin stated that this matter was on the list for NTA funding but it seems to have come off it. The District Engineer stated that there were no plans in Athy for cycle lanes. Councillor Breslin stated that there was a huge capacity for children/parents cycling to the schools. She added that there was a safety factor involved and the schools are encouraging children to cycle to school. She asked that this provision for cycle lanes from Athy to the school campus' at Tomard be put back on the list for funding for 2018 and she asked that this be clarified at the next meeting.

The report was noted.

**AY11/1117**

**Public Lighting on the roadway at Cluain Aoibhinn Estate, Calverstown**

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

Further to previous motion and commitments given that the public lighting on the roadway at Cluain Aoibhinn Estate, Calverstown are in place, can the council now give an exact time frame when the lights will be operational?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the provision of public lighting was part of the development and as the

estate was not taken in charge of Kildare County Council, the time frame for the operation of the lighting was not known at this time. The Public Lighting Engineer had contacted the developer and requested that they turn on the lights.

Councillor Breslin stated that public lighting should be turned on and that the developer should be given a timeframe for this to happen.

The District Engineer stated that he would ask the Public Lighting Section to investigate this matter and that the members be updated at the next meeting.

### **AY12/1117**

#### **Vacant Sites Register**

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

That this council be proactive now in compiling a list of sites and lands in and around the towns of Athy, Monasterevin and Castledermot which people are not actively developing or have done anything with but are sitting on sites.

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

A report was received from the Director of Service, Planning Community and Culture informing the members that the Urbanisation Regeneration and Housing Act defines a vacant site as any land (exceeding 0.05 hectares) where:

- In the case of residential land, there was a need for housing in the area, the site was suitable for housing and the majority of the site had not been in use (i.e. vacant) for an extended period of time.

In the case of regeneration land, the majority of the site had not been in use (i.e. vacant) for an extended period of time and where the fact that the site being vacant was having a negative impact on existing amenities or on the character of the area.

An identified vacant site can be entered on the vacant sites register when the council, was of the opinion, that it had been vacant for a minimum of 12 months preceding its entry on the register.

At present, the Register does not contain any entries, as the council was in the process of satisfying itself that relevant sites met the relevant criteria including being vacant for the preceding 12 months. It would be necessary for the council to engage in a detailed assessment of all potential vacant sites in the county.

The report was noted.

### **AY13/1117**

#### **Accident and Emergency Services - Portlaoise Hospital**

It was agreed to take items 15 and 16 together.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Redmond:  
That this municipal district immediately write to TDs in this area including those who represent Monasterevin to state the absolute importance of Portlaoise hospital and all its services to the community in South Kildare.

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

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillors Breslin and Wall:  
That this municipal district calls on the Minister for Health to ensure that there is no downgrading of Accident and Emergency services at Midlands Hospital Portlaoise, given that hospitals importance to the entire South Kildare area, and that this committee supports the recently formed action committee to fight against any downgrading.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Wall.  
Councillor Redmond stated that a leaked report showed that the downgrading of accident and emergency services at Portlaoise was being considered . He said he would not stand over such downgrading. Naas Hospital was over-run and there was a crisis for beds there. He added that the accident and emergency services in Portlaoise were crucial to the people of South Kildare.

Councillor Wall stated that all the deputies for the south of the county had stated that they were not supporting such a downgrading. He added that the Hospital Action Group were doing great work. He said this hospital was very important as it was only twenty minutes away for many people in the south of the county. He said the consultants at the hospital

and GPs were not even consulted about this and had asked for non-downgrading to happen. He said it was disgraceful and unacceptable to hear about this action through a leaked report and he stated that people would protest and sign petitions to stop this downgrading from happening.

Councillor Miley stated that the service was great in Portlaoise hospital and that if this downgrading was to happen, Tullamore and Naas would have to take up the slack.

Councillor Dalton stated that he was a member of the Regional Health Forum and he agreed with all the members comments.

Councillor Breslin stated that the fear factor in south Kildare was tenable and with so many sports clubs in the county, sports injuries are more frequent and Portlaoise accident and emergency was only a short distance away. She asked that this Government report be published straight away.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Wall that a letter issue to the Minister for Health and Deputies of South Kildare requesting that the downgrading of the accident and emergency services at Midlands Hospital Portlaoise not happen.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Breslin that a letter issue to the Hospital Action Group stating the members support in not downgrading the accident and emergency services at Midlands Hospital Hospital in Portlaoise.

### **AY14/1117**

#### **Safety Works at Pike Cross, Graney**

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

Can Kildare County Council give a timeline for the completion of safety works at Pike Cross, Graney?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that It was anticipated that work would commence at this cross by the end of this year.

The report was noted.

**AY15/1117**

**Re-instatement of the pedestrian crossing at Teach Diarmada in Castledermot**

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

Can Kildare County Council include the reinstatement of the pedestrian crossing at Teach Diarmada in Castledermot on the 2018 works programme?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this issue was scheduled to be examined by TAAG before the end of November after which time outline costings would be available for consideration by the Municipal District Engineer and members for funding consideration in 2018.

The report was noted.

**AY16/1117**

**Additional Post Boxes in Athy Municipal District**

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

Can this municipal district write to An Post to ask if they could provide additional post boxes in the municipal district area?

A letter to issue to An Post requesting additional post boxes to be provided in the Athy Municipal District. This was agreed by the members. Councillor Redmond to liaise with the Meetings Administrator regarding specific areas for the post boxes prior to a letter being sent to An Post.

**AY17/1117**

**Improvements on the sewerage network planned for Kilmead**

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that the sewerage and pollution problem in Kilmeade does not emanate from new Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Cluain Ard or the Cluain Ard estate. It was from the existing municipal wastewater treatment plant which was substandard. This had been acknowledged by all parties. This was not an issue for the Development Control Department and was a matter for Water Services Department/Irish Water. There are two options for making the new wastewater treatment plant (provided in conjunction with Cluain Ard estate) the municipal wastewater treatment plant for Kilmead.

**Option A :** Wait until the estate was taken in charge in the normal manner on the basis of Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Building & Development Control Department had not received any As Constructed Drawings or CCTV survey for the estate and the wearing course macadam was required on the entire estate. Estates such as this which are serviced by Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) cannot be taken in charge according to the existing Irish Water (IW) taking in charge protocol. In this case, the DPI was a new Waste Water Treatment Plant. The taking in charge of this estate would require an amendment to the Irish Water taking in charge protocol so cannot be considered unless the Irish Water taking in charge protocol was amended.

**Option B :** The new wastewater treatment plant could be handed over to Water Services Department/Irish Water with the agreement of the owner of the wastewater treatment plant on the basis of existing Water Services legislation. This could happen as soon as the owner agrees to hand the wastewater treatment plant over to Water Services Department/Irish Water. This could happen in advance of the estate being taken in charge.

It was previously confirmed by Water Services Department to Building and Development Control that option B was the preferred option of Water Services Department and Irish Water. If this was not the case, the estate can be taken in charge as set out in Option A above but only if Irish Water agree to amend their protocol.

Building and Development Control Department had been informed recently that the existing Cluain Ard development in Kilmead was to be sold. If a new owner acquires the site, Building and Development Control Department would inform Water Services Department/Irish Water of their contact details as soon as they are informed.

The delivery of Option B above was a matter for Water Services Department/Irish Water. Otherwise, Building & Development Control Department would pursue the delivery of Option A above if the Irish Water protocol was amended.

The District Manager stated that he had met with Irish Water and it was agreed to amend our protocols, specifications and cost of works with Irish Water. He added there was no point in carrying out works on the old wastewater treatment plant. He said that he needed to get access to bonds in place and he needed to find the name of the owner.

Councillor Miley noted that the council were getting closer to a resolution and he said he would work with the Planning Section to find out who the owner was.

The members agreed that option B be approved.

The report was noted.

**AY18/1117**

**Upgrade of the sewage system in Calverstown**

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

That Kildare County Council give the Athy Municipal District an update on the position of the upgrade of the sewage system in Calverstown.

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

A report was received from the Water Services Section informing the members that tender documents to increase the capacity at Calverstown Wastewater Treatment Plant were prepared and submitted to Irish Water. Irish Water had informed the council that they had approved the scheme for progression to construction. The tender process had not yet been completed by Irish Water.

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

**AY19/1117**

**Ongoing Flooding Issues at Levistown, Athy**

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

That Kildare County Council immediately engage with Waterways Ireland and all relevant agencies to solve the ongoing flooding issues at Levistown, Athy.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that Ms Edele O'Brien, Executive Engineer, Environment was currently liaising with Councillor Wall in regard to this matter.

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

**AY20/1117**

**Erection of a columbarium wall in St Michael's Cemetery, Athy**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breslin:  
That the council erect a columbarium wall in St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy.

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that this was a very worthwhile suggestion and would be accommodated as part of the 2018 Environmental Capital Programme.

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

**AY21/1117**

**Proposed Kildare County Council Sports Grants for Clubs**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall:  
Can Kildare County Council update this municipal district on the proposed Kildare County Council Sports grants for clubs, discussed previously at full council, in light of current and ongoing council budget discussions?

A report was received from the Community Section informing the members that a proposal would need to be developed and referred to the Community & Culture Strategic Policy Committee to consider and a framework developed regarding a grants scheme. Members would have to consider this when allocating both the 2018 budget and LPT.

Councillor Wall stated that he was not happy with this report. He added it was almost a year ago when this matter was raised at full council and he noted that the sports capital grants were out next week. He added he proposed to discuss this matter at LPT time in order to come up with a grant for these sports clubs.

The report was noted.

**AY22/1117**

**House Alarms for the most vulnerable in our Communities**

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

Can Kildare County Council consider assisting with the cost of house alarms for the most vulnerable in our communities, in the Athy Municipal District, maybe as part of our rural light scheme?

A report was received from the meetings administrator informing the members that they can consider this as part of the LPT 2018 projects.

Councillor Wall stated that there was a scheme for rural lighting and he asked that the council would take a look at house alarms for elderly people and those vulnerable in our community. He noted that there was a panic alarm scheme in place which he commended. He stated that it would cost approximately €600/€650 to provide house alarms and make elderly persons secure in their homes. He added that the council need to come up with a scheme and discuss this issue at the Budget meeting.

The report was noted.

**AY23/1117**

**Meetings Calendar 2018**

The meetings administrator circulated a letter to the members outlining the proposed changes for the meetings calendar for 2018 for the Athy Municipal District meetings.

The report was noted.

**AY24/1117**

**Other Business**

Councillor Miley stated that a number of applications were successful for the Kildare Green Kilometre. This was noted by the members.

The meeting concluded.