

**Minutes of Athy Municipal District Meeting held at 10.00 am on
Monday 20 February 2017 in the Athy Municipal District Office,
Rathstewart, Athy, Co. Kildare**

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

Apologies: Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer)

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Ms E Wright (Senior Executive Officer), Ms S Scully (Administrative Officer), Ms M Dalton (Meetings Administrator) and Ms M Ahearne (Secretary)

AY01/1702

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of Athy Municipal District meeting held on 23 January 2017 and the special meeting held on 30 January 2017.

Councillor Wall, on behalf of the members asked that the breakdown of the €25k at *2 (ongoing contributions to local groups) at the special meeting, be removed to allow it to be updated for 2017 breakdown. The members agreed to meet and finalise the breakdown in the coming week.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Dalton, that the minutes, subject to the amendment outlined above, be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

AY02/1702

Matters Arising

Athy Train Station (AY/1610, AY02/1702)

Councillor Redmond asked that the meeting regarding the Waterford train line that was to take place in January/February 2017 be included on the progress report and asked that a letter issue to the manager of the Iarnród Éireann to update the members.

Part 8 Process for Car park at Kildangan, Kildangan Bridge and Re-Design of Edmund Rice Square, Athy (AY14/1609, AY12/1612)

Councillor Redmond asked for update. The District Engineer advised the members that the draft design was now complete and having met with Eir had resolved the previous issue raised. A meeting is to take place with Iarnród Éireann and subject to outcome temporary traffic lights should be in place in the coming weeks. Funding still has to be finalised for this project.

Presentation by Community Welfare Officer/Department of Social Protection (AY26/1701)

Councillor Redmond asked for urgent follow up in this regard and added his serious concerns regarding the lack of reply.

Emergency Meeting with Bord Na Móna - Kilberry Plant (AY25/1701)

Councillor Redmond expressed his concern that we were still awaiting a reply from Bord Na Móna. All councillors extended a thank you to Seán Ó Fearghaíl TD Ceann Comhairle, Seán Fleming TD and Brian Stanley TD for their support and letters issued.

National Transportation Authority Funding (AY08/1611 & AY02/1612)

Councillor Miley enquired if there was any update regarding National Transportation Authority (NTA) funding. Ms Wright informed the members that she had received the list for 2017 and it would be circulated this afternoon.

Illegal dumping in Athy Municipal District (AY15/1701)

Councillor Miley added that the illegal dumping in the district was horrific and whilst he understood that we cannot name and shame, CCTV was needed and strict enforcement when following up on fines.

Upgrade of Heating Systems in the new developments in Millview, Ballitore and Moatview, Kilmead (AY21/1701)

Councillor Miley asked for update regarding central heating. Ms Scully will arrange reply for the next meeting.

Proposed Respond Houses at Flinter's Place, Athy (AY01/1605, AY19/1610, AY19/1612)

Councillor Keatley asked for update. Ms Scully informed the members that a meeting can be arranged when the Part 8 process is launched.

Car Park - Meeting Lane - Athy (10/1609, AY02/1612)

Councillor Wall asked for an update, adding that it is vital that the public see some progress in the town. The District Engineer informed the members that draft plans were available to see and inspect. The drawings were circulated.

Taking Estates in Charge in Athy Municipal District (AY18/1701)

Councillor Wall asked if there was a date forthcoming and asked for an update from Planning.

Repair of Minor Roads and Cul de Sacs in the Athy Municipal District (AY17/1606, AY03/1611, AY02/1612)

Councillor Wall enquired if the pilot scheme under the Local Property Tax (LPT) is St Joseph's, Athy. The District Engineer informed the meeting that there was no timeline in place yet or further details regarding the extent of the works required.

AY03/1702

Update on Athy Distributor Road

The cathaoirleach extended apologies on behalf of Mr J Coppinger. Ms Wright informed the members that the project was progressing and the presentation, as requested would be put up on the council website.

AY04/1702

Proposed yellow lines/parking restrictions on Stanhope Street (R417) Athy

Councillor Wall enquired if there was communication with No 1 & 2 St Joseph's as the drawing circulated did not show double yellow lines outside these properties, whilst the earlier map did. The District Engineer stated the yellow lines would extend 15 meters from the junction to comply with guidelines. The cathaoirleach confirmed that the left turn lane was included at the lights. Ms Wright suggested a vote be deferred to clarify the drawing to be voted on when one drawing was at variance with another.

AY05/1702

Update on sewerage network planned for Narraghmore and Kilmead

The cathaoirleach welcomed the Oak Park residents from Narraghmore in the public gallery, especially the younger people. On the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Wall, item no. 13 on the agenda could be taken next.

The District Manager addressed the meeting saying he had good news and acknowledged that this matter had gone on for some time and was not easy to resolve. It was a planning enforcement issue and needed a joint approach between Kildare County Council and Irish Water. The resolution to connect to the council sewerage line meant it had to go to tender. This tender process had now concluded and agreement had been met with Irish Water. Harbour View have been awarded the contract of €115k plus VAT funded by the bond of €40k and the balance to be paid 50/50 by Kildare County Council and Irish Water. The works will take approximately two weeks and will commence in approximately two weeks when the necessary insurance and health and safety details are in place. The District Manager did add that this is an interim solution and that the municipal treatment plant will need to be updated or replaced, more than likely the latter at some stage in the future.

Councillor Keatley welcomed the news and asked to confirm the start date as this issue was an ongoing one on the Athy agenda, adding that the green area will need reinstatement work, the wearing course will need to be finished and the public lighting needs to be connected, adding that the estate will need to be taken in charge then.

Councillor Miley thanked the District Manager for keeping the pressure on and bringing this matter to a conclusion. He also acknowledged the intervention of Deputy Fiona O'Loughlin and Deputy Martin Heyden following the initial refusal of Irish Water to progress the works. Councillor Wall thanked the District Manager for his honesty when dealing with this issue and the resident's for their patience. He extended a thank you to all the local Dail Deputies including the Ceann Comhaile for their assistance and representation which has led to a successful outcome.

Councillor Redmond thanked the parents and in particular the children for attending the meeting. He was assured that the contractor has a very good reputation and the work will be carried out in a timely manner to the required standard and specification.

Councillor Dalton welcomed the news and thanked the residents for their patience as it was ongoing for 18 years now.

The cathaoirleach thanked the small group for their patience and hoped that it would not be necessary to see this issue on the agenda again. The District Engineer assured the members that arrangements are now in place to start the process to take the estate in charge, having agreement with Irish Water.

As the residents could not put any questions to the members from the public gallery, the members agreed to invite them as a deputation to the March monthly meeting.

AY06/1702

Suspension of Standing Orders

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dalton, seconded by Councillor Keatley that standing orders be suspended for five minutes to continue the meeting.

AY07/1702

Schedule of Municipal District Works

The District Engineer circulated a comprehensive report of the works being carried out as part of the restoration maintenance works for Athy Municipal District. Councillor Wall asked if Rheban Lane was on the cul de sac list. The District Engineer replied that this area will be listed for works to be carried out on the half owned by the council. Councillor Redmond asked if a back road between Athy and Carlow could be included on the list and asked how often the bins are emptied and if there was a plan for the removal of chewing gum. The District Engineer agreed to discuss the location of the road with Councillor Redmond after the meeting adding that the bins are emptied on a weekly rota basis since the abolition of the town council in 2014. The District Engineer advised he will consider a programme for the removal of chewing gum. The report was noted by the members.

AY08/1702

Seeking of nomination to Kildare Cycling Forum

On the proposal of Councillor Dalton seconded by Councillor Keatley the members recommended Councillor Redmond be nominated.

AY09/1702

Improvement of Ballygreany, Grangebeg, Oghill Road

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

That the council as previously discussed, bring the Ballygreany, Grangebeg, Oghill Road up to an improved standard including dealing with the flooding issues on the road.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that drainage work has commenced as the area is included in Restoration Improvement works for 2017 adding that improvement works will be prioritised over next 2/3 years subject to funding.

Councillor Wall stated that this was a forgotten road and thanked the Engineer for meeting with the residents on site.

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

AY10/1702

Electronic Speed Indicators R417 approaching Kilberry

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

That electronic speed indicators be placed on the R417 approaching Kilberry from Athy/Monasterevin, Athy.

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 this will be examined by the Traffic Management Section and in the context of the County Wide Speed Limit Review underway.

Councillor Breslin added that the residents in Kilberry were concerned about the speed and asked that this item remain on the progress report for update.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and for the item to remain on the progress report.

AY11/1702

Completion of the Square, Narraghmore

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley:
That the council outline a timeline for the completion of the square, Narraghmore

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 on completion of the design of the Square and agreement with the Road Design Section, the procedure under Section 38 will commence.

Councillor Keatley enquired what the statutory timeline was and thanked the District Engineer for his commitment. Ms Wright advised that the statutory period is four weeks. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Miley that the report be noted.

AY12/1702

Safety Audit on the N78 Ballitore to Athy Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Miley:
That the council do a safety audit on the N78 from Ballitore to Athy and assess all junctions and turning circles on junctions, and assess the junction where the N78 meets the R448 for lighting and signage.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this will be considered by the Roads Design Section and the members will be updated.

Councillor Miley expressed concern regarding the safety of the road stating that seven people were killed on it since it opened in 2009. The local residents are concerned due to a number of rear-ended accidents also. Councillor Miley added that whilst the road was very welcome, the junctions are very dark with untidy signage. He asked that a safety audit be carried out and that the speed vans are on the road more frequently.

Councillor Keatley supported the motion and he asked if it is Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) that are responsible for this road now. He agreed that the island at the R448 was extremely dark and he stated that if funding is not available we will have to look at sourcing funding locally.

Councillor Wall and Councillor Redmond stated that the speed van, when present is in a very obvious position and asked that this be brought up at the next Joint Policing Committee (JPC) meeting.

The District Engineer advised the members that a road safety audit was done by Roadbridge where no concerns were raised and stated that he would request funding from TII to realign the road and mark out junctions.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Keatley that funding be requested from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to realign the road and mark out junctions noting the report.

AY13/1702

Pilot of area plan at Passlands, Monasterevan

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

Can the council complete an area plan as a pilot for the Passlands community area of Monasterevin including drainage, footpaths, road surface and public lights?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the development of an area plan would require input from the Municipal District Engineer, Public Lighting Engineer and Road Design Section, including a cost estimate and identification of a funding source.

Councillor Wall welcomed the report and hoped that this area could be used as a pilot scheme for the other similar areas within the municipal district area. The District Engineer advised that stage one would be design, adding due to significant costs that the members would need to identify and list all the areas for consideration under the LPT. The report was noted.

AY14/1702

Replacement of Councillor Noel Scully memorial seat

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

Can the council confirm when it will replace the memorial seat dedicated to Cllr. Noel Scully at Plewman's Terrace, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the work will be carried out in the coming weeks. Councillor Breslin welcomed the report. The report was noted.

AY15/1702

Repair of Mill Lane & the Square Ballitore

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

Can the council confirm the up to date position with the repair of Mill Lane in Ballitore and the Square in the village as previously discussed?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this work has been included in the Restoration Improvement Programme for 2017.

Councillor Wall stated he was happy with the report and asked that priority be given for this work to be carried out as it has been listed before and not repaired. The District Engineer confirmed that the decision rests with the Senior Engineer as he receives the budget for the county. The report was noted.

AY16/1702

Athy Rural Lighting Assistance Scheme

Ms Wright asked that the members approval to proceed to pilot the above scheme.

Councillors asked that this scheme not be taken as a substitute for public lighting in rural

areas, adding that they felt it should not be limited to the over 66 population. Ms Wright advised that the scheme would go live tomorrow with applications available on line and that there was a frequently asked questions (FAQ) leaflet outlining that applications can be considered on health grounds also.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Wall that the pilot of the Athy Rural Lighting Assistance Scheme proceed.

Councillor Keatley conveyed his apologies to the cathaoirleach and members as he had to leave the meeting to attend a function as Mayor. He asked that Councillor Wall move his motions and note his questions on his behalf at the agreement of the members. The cathaoirleach and the members agreed.

AY17/1702

Local Property Tax monies for designs of villages

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

In light of LPT money being put aside for designs of villages that the council contact each tidy town and development association asking them to submit plans to the Athy Municipal District and the municipal district to consider which plan is most appropriate for this investment.

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

A report was received from Environment department stating that this is a really worthwhile initiative and funding has been allocated from Local Property Tax (LPT) funds to progress design work outlining that it will be a matter for the members to prioritise projects and in this context, a multi-annual programme could be considered.

Councillor Miley suggested that the council write to the tidy towns, through the MD office or Ms Berry's office for the submission of plans. Councillor Wall supported this motion and said it was a good example of having shovel ready projects and with so many little towns and communities there was a need to design to the future to see 1,3,5 or 10 year plans. The District Manager agreed that he would arrange to write to all the tidy towns, complimenting the members taking a strategic view and would encourage public realm schemes.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Wall, that the District Manager write to each tidy town and development association asking them to submit plans to the Athy Municipal District for consideration of LPT money for designs of villages and to note the report.

AY18/1702

Athy Town Development Plan

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

That the council confirm the up to date position with the preparation of the next Athy Town Development Plan following the recent adoption of the County Development Plan.

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

A report was received from the Planning department stating that background work has commenced on the preparation of the Athy Local Area Plan. It is intended to publish an "Issues" paper in March / April 2017 and to consult with stakeholders and members of the public as an initial step in the process. Submissions and observations will be invited from interested parties during this consultation process.

Councillor Wall stated that this was very timely with all the new developments in the town and with the southern distributor road going on public display, adding it was important to show commitment in Athy as the capital town of the municipal district area.

Councillor Redmond stated it was an exciting time for the town regarding housing, land use, changes for the southern area and highlighted the need to be strategic in all areas. All Councillors agreed this was vitally important for the growth of the town, stating that the infrastructure is now being put in place and the focus needs to be on employment with so many jobs lost in the industrial sector of the town. The District Manager welcomed the motion and agreed there are a lot of strategic issues coming online, sewerage line upgrade, tender process coming to an end regarding the Dominican, a very positive story and that the members should meet the re-generation group as they are now due their midterm review.

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

AY19/1702

Taking in Charge of Oak Park, Narraghmore

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

Can the council start the process of taking Oak Park, Narraghmore in charge in its entirety?

A report was received from the Planning department stated that in accordance with the agreed protocol, the taking in charge of the water services in Oak Park can only happen with the agreement of Irish Water. The Director of Services in Water Services has raised this matter formally on an ongoing basis with Irish Water (IW) at a senior level. We understand that there is now a fully funded plan in place to undertake the remedial works required to bring the water services infrastructure in Oak Park up to taking in charge standard and to connect the estate to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). On this basis, we will include Oak Park in the next batch of estates to be advertised for taking in charge in the coming weeks. The report was noted.

AY20/1702

Working group with the residents of Canal Walk and Flinter's Field

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin:
When will the proposed Working Group/Committee be established with the residents of Canal Walk and Flinter's Field, Athy?

A report was received from housing department stating the Part 8 planning application for the development at Flinter's Field will be launched during Q1 2017. It is noted from the minutes of a meeting of the municipal district in May 2016 that Councillor Breslin raised the possibility that a Liaison Group be established, however, as no formal proposal was adopted by the members this has not progressed. However, the council will, of course, facilitate a meeting with local residents and Respond! Housing Association once the Part 8 has been published, as has been requested by members of the committee. Submissions or observations can be submitted as part of the process and a summary of any points raised will be incorporated in the Part 8 report.

Councillor Breslin expressed her disappointment with the report as she thought the group was already set up, asking that this be dealt with in a formal footing. Ms Scully advised that once the Part 8 is launched a meeting can be arranged. The District Manager clarified that with the agreement of Kildare County Council, as Respond! intend to build on council land the planning application can be progressed as a Part 8. Alternatively, Respond! could apply through the normal planning process.

AY21/1702

Progress on The Tanyard, Ballitore

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

That the council give an update of the progress on the Tanyard, Ballitore.

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

The District Manager informed the members that they have his support and stated that this was an ambitious project at an overall cost in the region of €500k. As an interim, the first phase could be completed and a Quantity Surveyor was now appointed.

Councillor Wall and Councillor Miley thanked the District Manager for meeting them in January and are looking forward to engaging with the community.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall seconded by Councillor Miley, the District Manager's update was noted.

AY22/1702

Launch of Lilywhite Mile for 2017

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

Can the council launch the Lillywhite Mile for 2017 and ensure the application forms are available for communities to apply and to demonstrate what fantastic work that is taking place in rural communities in the Athy Municipal District?

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent stating that the Lilywhite Mile initiative will commence in the spring of 2017.

Councillor Wall welcomed the report stating that when communities clean up it stays and rejuvenates an area.

The District Manager stated that this project is LPT funded and a pilot for Athy and will fully brief the members at the next meeting.

AY23/1702

Playground in Castledermot

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

Can the council give an expected completion date for the playground in Castledermot?

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent stating that it is proposed to develop a tender for the design and construction of Castledermot playground in March and April and to then launch a Part 8 for the playground and Fairgreen where it is to be located in June - July timeframe. It is hoped if the Part 8 is approved that construction will start on site in Autumn 2017. This timeframe is advisory due to the work load that is currently being requested across the county and the limited staff resources to deliver projects. It is also on the basis that this work is a priority in the Athy Municipal Area and that no other works will be requested or prioritised in the area ahead of this.

Councillor Wall noted the report.

AY24/1702

Model School, Athy

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

Can the council give an update on proposals for the Model School in Athy?

The District Manager informed the members that the plan is for an apprentice training centre to be set up. Whilst the main building will have significant costs to restore, works were progressing as a joint project with the Education Training Board (ETB) and Kildare County Council with the other section. A detailed structural review had taken place and the ETB will progress to tender now that Kildare County Council have completed a tidy up of the area. The tender process is expected to take approximately 3 months and the hoarding will come down within this timeframe.

Councillor Wall noted the report.

With the agreement of the cathaoirleach the members noted the following.

AY25/1702

Passlands Cemetery

Councillor Dalton informed the members that he was contacted by locals that have relatives buried in Passlands Cemetery, to say it is in very poor repair. Councillor Wall asked that this general area be upgraded with the completion of a pilot area plan. The District Manager stated that he would arrange a general tidy up of the area but could not commit to any structural works being carried out.

AY26/1702

Kilkea Castle New Ownership

Councillor Redmond asked that we write to the new owner of Kilkea Castle to welcome them and to wish them every success.

AY27/1702

Date for LPT meeting

The members agreed to meet in Naas at 11.30 on Monday 28 February in the Committee Room to finalise the breakdown of the €25k for the ongoing contributions to local groups.

The meeting then concluded.