

**Minutes of Athy Municipal District Meeting held at 11.00 am on Monday, 10 April 2017
in the Council Chamber, 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 D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Ms E Wright and Ms A Aspell (Senior Executive Officers), Ms P Berry (Marketing Officer), Ms M Dalton (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Secretary)

AY01/1704

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of 20 March 2017.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dalton, seconded by Councillor Redmond, that the minutes of the monthly meeting of Athy Municipal District held on 20 March 2017 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

AY02/1704

Matters Arising

Athy Train Station (AY06/1610, AY02/1702 and AY03/1703)

Councillor Redmond asked for an update as to when Iarnród Éireann would be available to meet with the members in this regard. Ms Wright stated that she had written to Iarnród Éireann back in October 2016. She stated that she had been in contact with Mr Cotter in Iarnród Éireann and he stated that he would meet with the members early this year. She confirmed she had written to Iarnród Éireann recently and they are to confirm whether they can attend the May or June meeting this year. The members asked to be kept updated.

Safety measures including removal of pole at Kildangan Bridge, Kildangan (AY08/1606, AY03/1609, AY02/1610, AY03/1611, AY02/1612, AY11/1701, AY03/1703)

Councillor Redmond asked for an update on this matter. The District Engineer stated works had started on preparatory excavations and the council are now waiting on Éir to assess chamber works to be carried out by the council. He stated the council are waiting on Éir to come in and move the pole and when this has been carried out, the next step will be the Part 8 procedure. The members asked to be kept updated.

Bridge at Distillery Court, Monasterevin (AY13/1505)

Councillor Redmond noted the report indicating that the council called in the bond for this development over twelve months ago. In response, the bond provider appointed a firm of consultant engineers to engage with the council on this matter. The council provided the consultants with a draft list of remedial works required (the list included the pedestrian bridges in the estate). They were to obtain quotations for these works and revert to the council. The members made numerous attempts to contact the consultants to set up a meeting to review the quotations but they are not engaging with us. The council has again written to the bond providers informing them that we require the bond amount in full and that we will no longer engage with any consultants on their behalf. The council has now been advised that the bond provider has agreed that the bond will be paid to the council. Councillor Redmond stated this matter has been on the agenda for the last two years and asked how much the bond was for all the works. The meetings administrator stated she did not have details of the bond with her at the meeting but would request this information to be available for the next meeting.

Emergency meeting with Bord na Mona - Kilberry Plant (AY25/1701, AY02/1702, AY03/1703)

Councillor Redmond asked for an update on the council's communication with Bórd na Móna in regard to arranging an emergency meeting with Bórd na Móna to discuss the situation with Kilberry Plant. Councillor Redmond stated that he had heard that a meeting had been arranged between Bórd na Móna and the Deputies on Thursday, 13 April 2017 and he was disappointed that Bórd na Móna had not yet agreed to meet with the members of the municipal district. Councillor Wall clarified that the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government had given a commitment to the deputies in question, three from Laois and three from Kildare to meet with Bórd na Móna. The cathaoirleach

stated she was glad that this meeting was going ahead but was deeply disappointed that Bórd na Móna have not yet met with the members of the municipal district. She asked that a further letter issue to Bórd na Móna stating her disappointment.

Sewerage network planned for Narraghmore (AY06/1611, AY14/1612, AY03/1701, AY05/1702, AY14/1703)

Councillor Miley asked for an update on this matter. The District Manager stated that works were progressing well and that the new pumps are currently being commissioned and confirmed he would be happy to meet with the residents after these works had been carried out. The members asked to be kept updated.

Sewage Treatment Plants at Kilmead (AY15/1610, AY03/1611)

Councillor Miley asked for an update on this matter. He noted the report stating that Water Services would be following up with EPS (contractors who installed the wastewater treatment plant in Kilmead) to review their latest estimate for the remedial works to bring the new wastewater treatment plant up to taking in charge standard. The District Manager stated that he was reasonably satisfied with the current position and confirmed he was meeting with the specialist company this week to speak about the programme of works. He was also in discussions with the developer, Irish Water and the council in order to agree a programme of works. He stated there was funding available to carry out these works. Councillor Miley asked for a timescale and the District Manager stated he would give a further update at the next meeting.

Upgrade of Heating Systems in the new developments in Millview, Ballitore and Moatview, Kilmead (AY21/1701, AY03/1703)

Councillor Miley noted the report stating that correspondence had issued to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government highlighting this issue and enquiring if it was the intention of the Department to make funds available for the retrofitting of central heating in local authority homes. The members to be informed of the response. In the absence of a positive response, the members may wish to consider making provision for the scheme in the 2018 budget. An approximate cost per house is €5,500.

Councillor Miley was not happy with the report as originally the Department did fund the installation of central heating in council houses but these two estates were under construction, so did not qualify. He stated that the Department should fund this project and asked that a stronger letter be issued by the council to re-iterate this point.

Ms Aspell stated she had made a submission to the Department and was waiting on a response. The members asked to be kept updated.

Earl of Kildare Stone Table (AY11/1603)

Councillor Miley noted report stating that the council were currently awaiting a response from the Chief State Solicitors Office. Councillor Miley stated that this was going on a long time and the council need to take back ownership of this stonetable. The District Manager suggested that the matter be referred to the council's Heritage Officer for an update for the next meeting.

Electronic Speed Indicators R417 approaching Kilberry (AY10/1702)

Councillor Wall asked for an update on this matter. Ms Wright confirmed that as there were a large number of requests for road design, the council were currently setting up a new design assessment team which would report on a bi-monthly basis to each municipal district and this matter would be dealt with by them. Councillor Wall asked who would prioritise schemes and whether the members would have any input. He also asked when the first report would be available. Ms Wright stated that they were currently preparing the 2016 list (twenty five assessments) and also the 2017 list. She stated that the order of prioritisation would come back to the members. The members asked to be kept updated.

Meeting with Industrial Development Authority (AY15/1703)

The District Manager stated that at the last meeting it was agreed he would arrange a meeting between the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Education Training Board, members and deputies to discuss the future development of Athy. He gave the members a preliminary date of Friday, 5 May 2017 at 2.30 pm in the Clanard Hotel, Athy and this was agreed by the members.

Re-development of Edmund Rice Square, Athy (AY14/1606)

The Cathaoirleach asked whether there was any update on the design of this project as the money had been set aside to carry out the works. The District Engineer stated a

preliminary design was being carried out but it still needed appropriate assessment and has to go through the Part 8 process. The members asked to be kept updated.

**Presentation by Community Welfare Officer/Department of Social Protection
(AY26/1701, AY02/1702, AY03/1703)**

The members noted that a further letter has issued to the Social Welfare office in Newbridge requesting a meeting to discuss the role of the Community Welfare Officer and other issues of concern. The meetings administrator informed the members that Mr Alan Carroll, Area Manager of Social Welfare in Newbridge made contact and stated he or his colleague, Anita Cunningham from the Athy Office would be available to meet with the members in-committee at 12.30 pm after the municipal district meeting on the 22 May 2017. This was agreed by all the members.

AY03/1704

Update on the Municipal District Roadworks

The District Engineer circulated a progress report on the municipal district roadworks and the report was noted.

AY04/1704

Athy Distributor Road

The Cathaoirleach stated that due to the Senior Engineer being unavailable to attend the last meetings, the members requested that an update be emailed to them before the April meeting but confirmed no email had been received. She stated it was the number one project in the south of the county and asked that the members be kept informed.

Mr Coppinger stated that notices would be published the week commencing 24 April 2017. The main documents were produced and ready to be signed by the Chief Executive and they would then go to An Bórd Pleanála for approval. Following this, there would be a period for submissions and a period for An Bórd Pleanála to hold an oral hearing, if decided upon and this would happen later in the year, possibly Quarter 3. Mr Coppinger stated that the council and CIE had a lot of discussions about this scheme and CIE have not given their agreement as they are still concerned about the risks of the scheme on a whole. He stated that he would continue with discussions but reiterated the fact that the project can still proceed without their agreement.

Councillor Redmond asked whether approvals are in place for this project. Mr Coppinger stated that the council had overall approval for the project but at various stages, the council would have to seek further approvals throughout the process. He stated the only way this project would not go ahead would be if An Bórd Pleanála rejects it.

Councillor Wall said he asked three months ago that the presentation made by the project team be put up on the website as it would be beneficial for the community to have this information but it is still not available for viewing.

The members thanked Mr Coppinger for the great work to date and thanked him for his commitment to push this road forward for the south of the county.

Mr Coppinger stated he thought the presentation was up on the website and assured the members this would be done. He thanked the members and the deputies for the south of the county for their support as it was very critical to progress this project.

AY05/1704

Local Improvement Schemes and Community Improvement Schemes for Athy Municipal District

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley:
That the council provide a list of Local Improvement Schemes and Community Improvement Schemes in the order that they have been applied for in the Athy Municipal District.

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 Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) and Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) are similar in terms of the level of grant contribution i.e. 80%/20% funded by residents. A list of schemes which date back to 2010 are set out below. The schemes outstanding can be discussed in consultation with members to determine what schemes could be progressed in 2017 based on funding available;

Athy Tennis Club	2010
Milltown, Athy, Co Kildare	2010
The Hollies, Dunlavin, Co Wicklow	2010
Kilberry, Athy, Co Kildare	2013
Prumplestown, Castledermot, Athy	2014
Mooretown Castle Kilcullen Road R418	2014
Ballindrum, Athy	2014
USK Dunlavin, Co Kildare	2014
Levitstown, Maganey, Co Kildare	2015
Forest Farm, Ardscull Dublin Road	2016
Rheban North, Athy	2015
Newtownnallen, Maganey	2014
Narraghmore, Athy	2017

Councillor Keatley asked whether a priority system could be set up to ensure fairness to all those who have applied. Councillor Wall asked whether the District Engineer would meet with the members regarding roads issues.

Councillor Miley stated that if expectations are raised, there will be a huge influx of requests and the job would become overwhelming.

Councillor Redmond asked how works can get on this list. The Cathaoirleach clarified that there was an application form and asked that this application form be forwarded to Councillor Redmond after the meeting.

The members agreed to meet with the District Engineer before the May meeting of the municipal district.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Miley that the members meet with the District Engineer and that the application form be forwarded to Councillor Redmond.

AY06/1704

Left Turning Lane at the Meeting Lane Junction on the R417

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breslin:
As part of the proposed redevelopment works of the Meeting Lane car park, that the council consider a left turning lane at the Meeting Lane junction on the R417.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this issue was referred to the Technical Assessment and Advisory Group (TAAG) and a report would issue to the members when the assessment was completed.

The Cathaoirleach stated that there had been a lot of discussions about carparks and maybe people are not aware of all the attainable parking in Athy. She stated that this junction needs to be looked at in conjunction with works at Meeting Lane carpark.

Councillor Wall stated that it would be better to move the junction as per the traffic management plan which was designed for Athy Town Council.

The District Engineer stated that the matter had been referred to the TAAG team for assessment.

Councillor Wall asked whether the small carpark beside Meeting Lane carpark could be done in conjunction with the re-development of Meeting Lane carpark. He said it was included in a motion he tabled two years ago that these spaces would be included.

The District Engineer said that he did not have the resources at the moment.

The Cathaoirleach stated that there was terrible illegal dumping going on there and asked him to try and source funding to clean this area which would help greatly in alleviating the dumping problem which will only get worse if left in the condition it is currently in.

The District Engineer stated that he would carry out the works at Meeting Lane carpark first and he will look later to see if the other six spaces can be done. He clarified that the dumping was happening on private land.

Councillor Redmond asked for clarification as to whether LED lighting would be used for this project. The District Engineer stated that the lighting designed for this project was LED.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Wall that the Meeting Lane carpark would be completed first and then the other six spaces would be looked at and also that the left turning lane at the Meeting Lane junction on the R417 be referred to TAAG for their assessment.

AY07/1704

Provision of a Community Carpark in Kildangan

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

That the council confirm the up to date position with the provision of a community car park in Kildangan as previously discussed.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that discussions and agreements are underway with the management of Kildangan Stud to progress the carpark proposal to Part 8 and public consultation stage.

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

AY08/1704

Safety Measures at the dangerous bend on the R747 at the entrance to Lawler's Pit and update the junction where the R747 meets the R448 with public lighting

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

That the council put safety measures in place at the dangerous bend on the R747 at the entrance to Lawler's Pit and upgrade the junction where the R747 meets the R448 with public lighting.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this issue was referred to the Technical Assessment and Advisory Group (TAAG) and a report would issue to the members when the assessment was completed.

Councillor Miley stated that last month, three cars had gone through the ditch on this bend and asked for reflective signage to be installed at this location. He stated that he would wait on the report from TAAG.

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

AY09/1704

Resurfacing of the Carlow Road and Offaly Street, Athy

The members agreed to take items 8 and 10 together on the agenda.

Question - Councillor Breslin

When will the resurfacing of Offaly Street, Athy commence?

Question - Councillor Wall

Can the council confirm when they will finish the resurfacing of the Carlow Road to include Offaly Street Athy?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that preparatory drainage work was ongoing with a view to a final surfacing overlay.

The Cathaoirleach commended the District Engineer on work carried out on Carlow road to date and asked that Offaly Street be included and finished off in conjunction with the Carlow road.

The District Engineer stated that drainage works were in progress and stated he would make sure that Offaly Street was finished in the next month.

The report was noted.

AY10/1704

Sight Distance at Cloney Cross

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin:
Can the council improve the sight distance at Cloney Cross where the R427 meets the R417?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this issue was referred to the Technical Assessment and Advisory Group (TAAG) and a report would issue to the members when the assessment was completed. It should be noted that this would require land acquisition.

The report was noted.

AY11/1704

Ballagh Road Monasterevin

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall:
Can the council bring the Ballagh Road Monasterevin up to a proper standard?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this work was included on the 2017 Roads Maintenance Scheme.

Councillor Wall asked whether there was a timeframe for this work. The District Engineer stated that preparatory works had started today but he had no date yet for surface dressing but it would take place as quickly as possible. These works would normally happen between May and August each year.

The report was noted.

AY12/1704

Upgrading of the Stone Wall in the Village of Ballitore

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Miley:
Can the council give an update in relation to the upgrading of the stone wall in the village of Ballitore?

A report was received from the Building and Development Control Section informing the members that Abbeyfield in Ballitore was formally taken in charge on 14 December 2015 and the wall in question was on the public road so Building and Development Control Department has no further involvement. Building and Development Control had previously confirmed that it can make a contribution towards the cost of any repairs to the wall and these funds are still available.

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that although this was not primarily a matter for environment section, he did inspect the wall with Councillor Miley and it was agreed the wall was in very poor condition. However, a more fundamental issue exists as there is a substantial undeveloped area bounded by the wall which is in a very unkempt state. The District Manager understood that this may be the subject of a planning condition, possibly in the context of an unfinished estate. Accordingly, the state of the wall was unlikely to be the main issue and therefore, the matter should be referred to planning/building control.

Councillor Miley stated that the wall was in a terrible state and needs to be rebuilt. He noted that Development Control had some funds available.

The District Engineer stated that the whole area should be looked at. The wall was originally covered over by ivy which held it together for many years but now the ivy has been removed and the wall is falling apart. He stated that the area behind the wall also needed to be re-developed and upgraded and noted it would be a waste of resources repairing the wall unless the area behind was developed as well.

The District Manager stated that he was not aware of the full history of this area and asked Building Control to investigate the area and report to the next meeting.

Councillor Miley stated that the council owned the site behind the wall so it would be timely to develop it possibly with social housing for elderly persons with a view to rebuilding the wall. He asked for a report from the Housing Section for the next meeting.

The report was noted.

AY13/1704

Alleviation of Foul Smells on Main Street, Castledermot

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

That the council alleviate the foul smells entering businesses and private homes on the Main Street in Castledermot.

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that this complaint should be logged directly with Irish Water at 1890 278 278.

A report was received from the Water Services section informing the members that a number of site inspections were undertaken by both Water Services and Development Control in 2015/2016. As previously reported to the Athy Municipal District, numerous works including the construction of vent stacks and the provision of non return valves have been completed along Dublin Road/ Main Street, Castledermot over the past number of years in order to alleviate foul odours in this area and the Water Services section or Irish Water have received any further complaints regarding odours following on from the completion of these works. However, a further inspection will be undertaken in the coming weeks to determine the current situation in this regard. It would be beneficial if further details in relation to names and locations of persons affected by foul odours be forwarded to Irish Water/Kildare County Council. If the odours are internal to buildings rather than in the public space, the internal traps and vents may need to be checked, to ensure that they are in working order.

Councillor Miley stated that the smells were still affecting a number of businesses at times and confirmed he was happy with the report and ongoing negotiations.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Dalton that the District Manager would formally write to Irish Water in this regard.

The report was noted.

AY14/1704

Drainage and removal of debris from the River Lerr

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

Can the council put plans in place to drain and remove debris from the River Lerr from Doyles Bridge in Castledermot straight through to the River Barrow?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the River Lerr was included in the multi-annual river cleaning programme for 2017. It was confirmed that an ecological survey had been carried out on the river. There are strict guidelines in relation to the timing of carrying out of works at the River.

1. In-stream works can only take place during the months of July to September (due to constraints imposed by Inland Fisheries).
2. Tree cutting can only be carried out between the months of September and February. Staff would arrange to survey the section in question. It may be possible to remove the debris safely (without in-stream interaction) or without the removal of trees. If so, the works can be carried out.

The report was noted.

AY15/1704

Housing Assistant Payment Scheme (HAP)

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

That the council confirm the number of Housing Assistant Payment Scheme (HAP) applications in the Athy area and advise if the transition from rent allowance has worked for both tenants and landlords and does the council feel there are any other ways of encouraging more landlords to join the scheme.

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

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP) housing support was available to local authorities to provide housing assistance for households who qualify for social housing, including many long-term rent supplement recipients. Currently, 239 HAP applications have been approved in the Athy area since commencement of the scheme in November 2015. Under HAP, any

household that is on the local authority housing list is eligible to apply. HAP recipients are responsible for finding their own accommodation in the private rented market, they initiate the application and engage with the landlord regarding the rental of the property. To date, 284 rent supplement cases for the entire county of Kildare have been approved for HAP but it should be noted that there is no requirement to have been on rent supplement prior to being approved for HAP. While the responsibility rests with the potential tenant to source accommodation, the HAP Section provides information and assistance to landlords and outline the benefits of the scheme. The uptake on HAP is increasing monthly and the feedback from tenants and landlords has been very positive.

Councillor Wall stated that some landlords were still struggling and not happy with the HAP scheme as there was a delay with receiving payments of rent. Some are saying that the RAS scheme was better as they feel they had more security with RAS. He asked whether the HAP scheme could be advertised further by the council.

The Cathaoirleach stated there was a huge shortage of houses for rent and stated there may be a problem with tax clearance forms.

Ms Aspell stated that the council do not look after the payment side of HAP but she would speak with the HAP Office in Limerick who deal with the payments. She added that the scheme was new and she meets her counterpart in other authorities on a regular basis and she would keep the issue of slow payments on the agenda when she meets with them again. She stated that the HAP scheme was as secure as the RAS scheme but noted that supply of rented properties was an issue. Ms Aspell said she would look into advertising the scheme further.

Councillor Redmond asked for an information evening or clinics to be held.

Councillor Wall stated that the council need to work with auctioneers and need to publish and get more information out on the HAP scheme and get the scheme up and running to its full capacity.

Councillor Miley added that anti social behaviour was another reason why landlords are not coming forward and maybe there needs to be a stronger tenancy policy.

Ms Aspell stated that HAP tenants are not council tenants and the landlords are responsible for their tenancy agreements. She stated that she would endeavor to advertise the scheme further but she was unsure about being able to provide clinics around the county. She stated she was quite happy to see how HAP can be improved and changed through discussions with her counterparts and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Miley that the payment system of rents through the HAP scheme be investigated and that the HAP scheme be further advertised.

AY16/1704

Arts Act Grants for the Athy Municipal District

The members considered the Arts Act Grants for Athy Municipal District.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall and seconded by Councillor Miley that the Arts Act Grants for Athy Municipal District be adopted.

The meeting then concluded.