

**Minutes of Athy Municipal District Meeting held at 10.00 am on Monday,  
17 September 2018 in Athy Municipal District Building, Rathstewart,  
Athy, Co Kildare**

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

**Officials Present:** Mr N Morrissey (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer), Mr L Dunne Ms E Wright (Senior Executive Officers), Ms F Byrne Administrative Officer, Ms S Fitzpatrick, Ms A Cummins (Meetings Administrator) and Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Secretary).

**Apologies:** Ms P Berry (Marketing Officer).

As the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Breslin was delayed, Councillor Keatley took the chair.

**AY01/0918**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting and the annual meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday 23 July 2018 together with the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dalton, seconded by Councillor Redmond that the minutes of the monthly meeting and the annual meeting of the Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 23 July 2018, be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

**AY02/0918**

**Matters Arising**

**Bridge at Distillery Court, Monasterevin (AY13/1505, AY03/1704, AY02/0518)**

Councillor Redmond asked for the name of the contractor appointed to do the works.

### **Pedestrian Crossing from Community Centre in Castledermot (AY10/0718)**

Councillor Redmond was informed that the Road Safety Officer did not have a role in this and the office was awaiting a report from the Technical Assessment Advisory Group (TAAG).

### **Free Drop Off event for Mattresses in the Athy Civic Amenity Site (AY26/0618)**

Councillor Redmond asked that the free drop off service be arranged around the Christmas period.

### **Kildangan Bridge and Sweep Lane**

Councillor Redmond enquired about Kildangan Bridge and Sweep Lane and whether could the remainder be completed in 2019

### **Hedge Cutting Lipstown Lower**

Councillor Miley and Keatley raised the issue of the cutting of roadside hedges in Lipstown Lower. The District Engineer informed the members that in cases where land owners were not cutting the hedge, the council would cut them.

### **Sweepstown**

Councillor Miley asked that improvement works in Sweepstown be prioritised.

### **Traffic Congestion Athy**

Councillor Dalton asked if road works could be carried out outside of peak traffic times for schools to minimise traffic congestion.

The Municipal District Engineer explained that there were number events which contributed to the traffic disruption and that further works were planned for Woodstock starting in October and the traffic situation should improve. He stated that when future works were being carried out the plan was to future proof them.

The issues with Kildangan Bridge were raised. The members were informed that the Roads Design team were working on this.

### **Improving Drainage**

The District Manager informed the members stated the Transport Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) had considered the matter and Mr McGowan Senior Engineer would be communicating with landowners and the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) in relation to making cuts to improve drainage.

### **Old Grange Cross**

The Municipal District Engineer informed the members that a design for the junction had been prepared and he would arrange a meeting with them to discuss the design.

### **AY03/0918**

#### **Public Lighting Report**

A report was circulated to the members providing an up to date position on Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS). The members welcomed the report.

### **AY04/0918**

#### **Municipal District Road Works**

The District Engineer informed the members that surfacing works on the meeting Lane car park had been completed and drainage and road works in Sweep Lane, Nurney, the upgrading of Bawne Lane, Kildangan, provision of disability bays at the primary school in Monasterevin and provision of car parking at Bigstone primary school, drainage works at the railway bridge and car parking bays at Kilberry had all been completed. He stated that hedge cutting works had been completed on the R418, R448 and R417 and depots had been upgraded in Gallowshill and Botherbui Athy. The District Engineer stated that restoration improvements had been carried out on the R445 Monasterevin and surface dressings had been completed on the R415, L8002, L8001, L8005, I3009, L7062, L7061, L4007, L8095, L80781, L4004, L4003, L8062/8027 and L8017. The District Engineer stated that a total of 40 Kilometers of road had been repaired throughout Athy Municipal District this year.

**AY05/0918**

**Athy Distributor Road**

Mr Coppinger informed the members that works on the Athy Distributor Road were progressing on schedule and there were some minor issues with Córas Iompar Éireann (CIE). He stated there would be a press release and leaflet drop to householders in the area early in 2019. Councillor Redmond enquired if there was a time frame for erecting the fencing in Dun Brinn. Mr Coppinger advised that this would possibly commence in September and work would continue through October and November. The members welcomed the report.

**AY06/0918**

**Community and Development update**

A report was circulated to the members confirming 150 people had attended the Age Friendly Kildare Road Show had taken place and 150 older people had attended, 3,500 people attended the Athy Darkness into Light event and €32,000 was raised for Pieta House. Plans were progressing for the annual Halloween event in Athy and bonfire letters were being prepared to be delivered in the coming weeks to all schools and estates. Meetings for the Woodstock Forum were being organised and help with assisting various events throughout the Athy Municipal District had taken place. Meetings with the Kildare Leader Partnership had taken place to establish a new Care and Repair Programme for the more vulnerable and older people in the Athy Municipal District.

The report was noted

**AY07/0918**

**Draft County Speed Limit Review process**

The members considered holding an in committee meeting on 15 October 2018 at 09:00 am to discuss the Draft County Speed Limit Review process. Ms Wright informed the members that the Speed Limit Review Team was hoping to have an hour to discuss the Speed Limit Review process.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Miley seconded by Councillor Redmond and agreed by all members present that an in committee meeting be held on 15 October 2018 at 09:00 am in respect of the Draft County Speed Limit Review process.

**AY08/0918**

**Regeneration Strategy**

A report was circulated to the members on the work carried out by Mr Holligan in relation to the Regeneration Strategy. The District Manager gave the members a brief outline of the key points contained in the report, detailing the grant application process for walkways and exercise routes.

The District Manger stated that there was plans to restore the

a)Boat Pump Out facility at the canal,

b) to improve the visual impact of vacant properties in Athy,

c) to support the local community by providing trading services and shop local campaigns.

He also stated that works had been undertaken to improve the visual appearance of the town, and discussions were taking place with the local angling club to explore the possibility of hosting an international angling event. He also discussed the need to identify key sites for enterprise.

The members welcomed the report and the progress and direction of the strategy. It was suggested that a meeting should be arranged with Mr Holligan, the members, the District Manager. This was agreed.

The report was noted

**AY09/0918**

**County wide protocol for road closures**

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

That the council develop a county wide protocol for closing roads to help groups and organisations in this municipal district who want to hold events within this municipal district but want the safety of a road closure.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the procedure for a temporary road closure was set out in

Section 75 of the Roads Act 1993. A Local Authority may close a public road to traffic for a specified period and subject to specified conditions, which could include the provision of an indemnity, a traffic management plan or other conditions deemed appropriate. A road authority may recover from a person who holds, organises or promotes an event any costs reasonably incurred by it to facilitate the holding of the event or to repair damage or remove defacement from the public road arising from the holding of the event. A person who intends to hold, organise or promote an event must give at least six weeks' notice in writing to the road authority and to the Superintendent of An Garda Síochána within whose district the event was to be held. The procedure followed by the local authority, in accordance with Section 75, was the publication of a notice in one or more newspapers circulating in the area of the intention to close the road for a specified period and inviting submissions from the public. The Fire and Emergency Services were also notified as part of this process. Following the consideration of any submissions, the local authority subsequently published a notice of its' intention to grant a road closure. All notices of intention to close a road and final decisions to close a road were uploaded onto the council website/social media outlets. An Garda Síochána had the power to close any road without the requirement for prior publication of notices and/or public consultation.

Councillor Redmond expressed his disappointment with the report. He stated roads had been closed in the Athy Municipal District without the proper procedures being followed. The District Engineer informed the members that roads could not be closed without following the required procedures as if there were any problems when the work was being carried out someone had to be accountable.

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

### **AY10/0918**

#### **Bridge over the canal at (53.1496820,-7.0622423)**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Redmond. What is the process that the community in Passlands, Monasterevin need to undertake to close off the bridge over the canal at (53.1496820,-7.0622423) thus making it a cul de sac?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that if such a request was received resources would be required to examine the feasibility of such a proposal, which would include, but not be limited to the following actions;

- report from the Municipal District Engineer would be required identifying the road proposed to be closed, number of residences and other properties affected and an assessment of whether warranted.
- an assessment of traffic volumes would be required.
- engagement with the local community, including the farming community, schools etc.
- engagement with Fire and Emergency Services and Waterways Ireland.
- identification of an alternative route for traffic and determining the impact of such traffic on other local roads.
- a public consultation process.

Councillor Redmond expressed his disappointment with the response and enquired about procedures for organising a petition. He was advised that a written request should be submitted by the residents to the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department.

The report was noted.

### **AY11/0918**

#### **Traffic calming in the village of Nurney**

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

Can the council look at introducing traffic calming in the village of Nurney on the three approach roads to the village, from the Athy side, the Kildare Town side and at the eleven houses at Walterstown from the Monasterevin side?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this would have to be examined by the Technical Assessment Advisory Group (TAAG), as it would involve completing surveys of traffic speed and traffic volume.

Councillor Miley stated that he would discuss the matter with the Municipal District Engineer.

The report was noted.

### **AY12/0918**

#### **Signage at Lipstown, Narraghmore at the Calverstown Road junction**

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

Can the council replace the signage at Lipstown, Narraghmore at the Calverstown Road junction that was removed some time ago?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the issue of signage at this location could be considered in light of signage improvements in this area.

The report was noted.

### **AY13/0918**

#### **The Square in Narraghmore**

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

Can the council give a timeframe for the completion of The Square in Narraghmore that is now long overdue?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the origin of the plan of works in Narraghmore was the local community. A community-led plan was produced and checked by Roads Design. This plan was then presented for consultation under the Section 38 process. Local parking issues arose during this public consultation process. These issues required a review of the proposed layout and modifications to the design and agreement from local property owners. The Athy Municipal District currently did not have the personnel to deal with the design issues which were raised in the objection. As there is no road design capacity in the Athy Municipal District Office, a timeline for completion of the works could not be provided.



Councillor Keatley expressed his disappointment with the report and asked if there was any assistance that could be given to the Municipal District Engineer. The District Manager stated that he would discuss the matter with the Municipal District Engineer.

The report was noted.

Councillor Breslin took over as Cathaoirleach.

### **AY14/0918**

#### **Signage for Tourism/Heritage attractions**

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

That the council calls on Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to erect adequate signage indicating the Tourism/Heritage attractions in Athy and surrounding area on the M9 and on the N78 junction.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that previous correspondence from TII, issued in October 2017, had been circulated to the members and was attached. Engagement with the Director of Service for Community, Enterprise and Economic Development, Kildare Failte, and the council's Heritage Officer to clarify the tourism strategy was warranted. The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department could then assist with any signage installation requirements.

Councillor Breslin stated that Athy needed to be on the tourist trail and without directional signage, tourists would bypass Athy. Councillor Keatley supported Councillor Breslin and reiterated the importance of tourism to Athy.

Councillor Milley supported the motion and stated it was important and timely. He noted the work undertaken by Robert Redmond had helped to bring the community together.

Councillor Redmond stated that all of the information and photographs prepared by Robert Redmond had been done on a voluntary basis and stated directional signage to Athy need to be improved.

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

### **AY15/0918**

#### **CCTV and additional public lighting for Castledermot**

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

That the council considers a pilot project on the provision of CCTV and additional public lighting for Castledermot, given the recent concerns raised at a public meeting and the need to support local Gardaí.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that if the community in Castledermot wished to apply for community CCTV under the Department of Justice scheme then the Community and Cultural Development Department could assist and facilitate. However if the motion was suggesting that the council provides CCTV then this was not an issue that Community and Cultural Development could respond to.

A report was also received from the Public Lighting Section informing the members that the Public Lighting Section would engage with the Community and Cultural Development Department with regard to examining and assessing public lighting requirement if a decision was made to pilot a CCTV scheme.

Councillor Wall informed the members that CCTV was needed to help combat anti social behaviour and stated one section of the council were saying they would support the upgrade of the lighting while another was saying they would not help provide CCTV in Castledermot. Councillor Wall recommended that CCTV be piloted in Castledermot. Councillor Keatley supported Councillor Wall and informed the members that piloting CCTV had been approved at the Joint Policing Committee (JPC). He stated the introduction of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) had put a halt to the plan and this had now been resolved. Councillor Keatley stated that it was unfair to ask communities to contribute

40% of the cost for CCTV and applications from communities requesting CCTV were needed. He asked what assistance could be given to these communities.

Councillor Miley supported the motion and highlighted the area known as the Laurels where there was only one street light. He informed the members that additional lighting was required in this area to help combat antisocial behaviour .

The District Manager informed the members that the Department of Justice had commenced working on a template for CCTV schemes and if successful the management of the system would be reassigned. He stated any grant assistance for these schemes within the Municipal District would have to be funded by the members.

Councillor Wall informed the members that mobile CCTV was already in use in the county. Local support was available for the installation of CCTV.

The District Manager informed the members that there was a pilot scheme commencing in Athy and suggested that they meet with the members when the results of the pilot were known.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and a meeting with the District Manager and the members be arranged when the pilot scheme in Athy was completed.

### **AY16/0918**

#### **Footpaths in William Pearse Terrace and Abbeylands**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breslin. That the footpaths in both William Pearse Terrace and Abbeylands be upgraded and that remedial works including filling of pot holes be done to the rear lanes of William Pearse Terrace, Castledermot.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a survey of footpaths in William Pearse Terrace and

Abbeylands would have to be undertaken and subsequently costed with a view to including same in the 2019 LPT. Remedial works on rear lanes would take place in the interim.

Councillor Breslin informed the members that the footpaths could not be left the way they were and asked that the lane be surveyed as soon as possible. She stated that the lane needed to be included in the 2019 works.

Councillor Redmond informed the members that the issues in relation to the lane were ongoing. Councillor Wall suggested if Local Property Tax (LPT) money could be put towards the work.

The District Engineer informed the members that this could be considered at the LPT meeting in October and advised that this lane was on the priority list for older estates.

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

### **AY17/0918**

#### **Pilot scheme regarding removal of lighting from junctions**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin. Has the council received an update from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to their pilot scheme regarding removal of lighting from junctions, particularly in relation to the M9 at junction 3 (N78)?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that in response to the EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU), the Department of Communications, Climate Change and Natural Resources published a series of National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAP), the most recent of which was in 2017. This sets out Ireland's approach to delivering the 20% energy efficiency savings required by the Directive by 2020 and further recognises that the Government must take a lead role in this process and sets a higher target reduction of 33% for the public sector. Electricity consumption on route lighting on national roads and tunnels represents c.45% of the total electrical energy use for Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

This represents a major element of the electrical energy consumption for TII and therefore this had become an important focus in terms of meeting the NEEAP requirements.

TII carried out a pilot scheme which commenced in August 2017 where lighting was turned off at the following junctions;

- M1 Junction 6 (Balbriggan)
- M6 Junction 3 (Rochfortbridge)
- M9 Junction 3 (Athy)
- M4 Junction 9 (Enfield)

Following a year of operation and monitoring, no adverse effects resulting from the changes in lighting, had been found at these locations. TII had assessed 16 further motorway junctions constructed which contain significant surplus lighting when compared with current standards. The following junctions in the Athy Municipal District area were programmed for turning off of surplus lighting during August 2018:

- M7 J13 Kildare
- M7 J14 Monasterevin
- M9 J4 Castledermot

Councillor Breslin expressed her disappointment that further changes were happening at these junctions.

The District Manager explained that this was an energy saving exercise and safety was not being comprised, and stated the data gathered supported the action being taken.

The report was noted.

### **AY18/0918**

#### **Installation of electronic speed signs in Kilberry**

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

Can an update be given in relation to the installation of electronic speed signs in Kilberry, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the costs of installation and maintenance for electronic speed signs need to be examined and considered in the context of budgets for the Athy Municipal

District, in addition to considering whether they should be installed in other similar areas throughout the Athy Municipal District. The policy on installation of electronic speed signs could be discussed with the Countywide Speed Limit Review team, at the proposed update meeting with the team in advance of the Athy Municipal District meeting in October.

The report was noted.

### **AY19/0918**

#### **Taking in charge of Mill Lane Road, Ballitore**

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

Can the council take the Mill Lane Road, Ballitore in charge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this lane had been surfaced in recent times and was in good condition and could be considered by Kildare County Council to be taken in charge.

The Athy Municipal District office would prepare the necessary report and map . The public consultation process could then commence.

The report was noted.

### **AY20/0918**

#### **Harbour Apartments, Nelson Street, Athy**

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Redmond.

That the council engages immediately with all individuals managing former council tenants in the Harbour Apartments, Nelson Street, Athy including the management company, to ascertain if there are delays in completing maintenance works.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that all units at this location were either in private ownership, the ownership of an Approved Housing Body [AHB] or being leased by an AHB. It was a matter for the owners and the AHBs to engage with the relevant management companies to resolve maintenance issues which arose in the communal areas. The management of units at this location has been raised with the

relevant AHBs by the Housing Department. Tenants were entitled to lodge a complaint with the Residential Tenancies Board [RTB] regarding maintenance issues which occurred within the confines of their apartment.

Councillor Redmond informed the members that the issues experienced by the tenants from anti social behaviour together with the lifts not working should be resolved by the Approved Housing Body (AHB) and stated it was not acceptable that this organisation was not taking responsibility for the problems. He stated the head office for the AHB was based in Donegal and a representative from the company was required in Kildare, the District Manager agreed.

Councillor Wall advised that it was the council who nominated the tenants thus the council also had a responsibility to these tenants and stated action was required.

Ms Byrne informed the members that the council had contact the Approved Housing Body and stated she would report the members concerns to the Director of Service for Housing. The District Manager suggested a meeting be held with the AHB to discuss the concerns of the members.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Miley that the report be noted and that the concerns of the members be reported to the Director of Service for Housing.

### **AY21/0918**

#### **Meeting with the Health Service Executive (HSE)**

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Redmond.

That the council write to the manager of the Health Service Executive (HSE) in this area to request a formal meeting with the councillors of this municipal district to discuss a variety of issues.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Housing Department engages with the Health Service Executive [HSE] in a number of areas associated with medical and disability issues, both in relation to housing applicants and tenants of the local authority. A number of facets of the HSE, including mental health, were represented on Kildare County Council's Housing and Disability Steering Group which met on a quarterly basis. The HSE was represented on the Mid-East Region Homelessness Forum and Kildare County Council's Homeless Action Team [HAT]. The Housing Department was represented on the Kildare-West Wicklow Aftercare Steering Group, which while managed by Tusla, also had representation from the HSE. In addition to the above the Housing Department engages with HSE staff on a one-to-one basis through the council's Homeless Team, Social Work staff and Assessments and Allocations Teams.

Councillor Redmond agreed that there was regular interaction with the Health Service Executive (HSE) and stated there had been a recent change in personnel in the Athy district and he felt it would be beneficial to meet with HSE representative who had recently taken over responsibility for the Athy area. He stated there were a number of issues which needed to be discussed. It was agreed by the members that an invitation be issued to the representative to meet with the members of the Athy Municipal District.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Miley that the report be noted and that an invitation be issued to the representative of the HSE to meet with the members of the Athy Municipal District.

### **AY22/0918**

#### **Vacant Houses**

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

That councillors be informed of all houses in this municipal district that are vacant for more than one month, as this council has left a dwelling in this municipal district that is not damaged empty for two years (details supplied).

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



A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the vacant house report provides the members with the number of vacant properties on a monthly basis. The format and information contained in the report was agreed by the Housing Strategic Policy Committee. The specific dwelling referenced was the subject of a request for funding to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, on foot of a proposal to extend the unit from a bedsit type dwelling to a one-bed unit. Unfortunately, no funding was available at this time as the Department had indicated that the priority was to add units to the housing stock. On this basis the Housing Maintenance Department had been instructed to carry out normal pre-letting repair works at this property.

Councillor Redmond informed the meeting that it was unacceptable that properties lie vacant when there is a housing shortage.

Councillor Wall welcomed Ms Byrne to the meeting and asked her to follow up on the empty houses. Ms Byrne thanked the members for their assistance and explained that she was looking for privately owned houses that were currently vacant. She stated she would forward details of any vacant council owned properties to the Housing Department.

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

### **AY23/0918**

#### **Closure of post offices**

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

That the council work with relevant agencies including the Minister for Communications and An Post to assist communities following the closure of their post offices in this municipal district and that mobile offices and community shops be considered as part of the solution to these problems.

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

A report was received from Corporate Services informing the members that if the members were in agreement, correspondence could issue to the relevant agencies including the Minister for Communications and An Post requesting that assistance be given to communities in this municipal district following the closure of their post office and asking

that mobile offices and community shops be considered as part of the solution to these problems.

Councillor Wall praised the service provided by the post mistresses in Narraghmore and Moone and stated the local Post Office was part of the fabric that held the community together and the use of mobile post offices should be considered. This matter could also be considered by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

Councillor Miley supported Councillor Wall and complimented the post mistress on the service that she had provided to the community and stated Central Government need act on the implications of these closures for rural regeneration stating funding had been allocated but yet Post Offices were closing. Councillor Keatley supported Councillor Wall's motion.

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

### **AY24/0918**

#### **Halting site in Athy**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Redmond.  
Can the council address the ongoing problems of overcrowding in the halting site in Athy whereby at least one family are living in extremely bad conditions?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Kildare County Council provides Traveller specific accommodation in line with the current Traveller Accommodation Programme. Families housed on halting sites were accommodated in accordance with the preference set out at the time of application. As per normal procedure applicants whose accommodation becomes unsuitable may apply for a transfer, the transfer would be considered in accordance with normal criteria, including history of anti-social behaviour, up to date rent account and housing need. Transfers may be considered should a suitable property become available. Subject to assessment, support was also available to provide mobile homes on site to meet accommodation needs where requested.

In addition to the above, notice had recently been received to prepare the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019-2024. Part of this plan was to consider future accommodation needs of Traveller families based on family projections. A need assessment is currently

being completed and, in line with the guidelines, submissions had been invited from stakeholders. Any member who wished to make a submission may do so in accordance with the correspondence issued.

The report was noted.

### **AY25/0918**

#### **River Lerr in Castledermot**

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

That the council put a plan in place to clean the River Lerr in Castledermot and make the river a focal point for the village and the tidy towns.

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

A report was received from the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that the River Lerr was within a drainage district whose maintenance forms part of the Drainage Channel Maintenance Programme. It had been cleaned by hand already this year and would continue to be monitored. Should it need further cleaning by hand, this would be carried out, subject to the usual constraints from Inland Fisheries and Health and Safety.

Councillor Miley stated that he was disappointed with the response as people living close to the bridge were concerned their houses would be flooded and he requested a more detailed report.

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

### **AY26/0918**

#### **Illegal dumping**

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

Can the council investigate the illegal dumping that is taking place on a daily basis in the Moat View housing estate, Kilmead and come to an arrangement to clean the domestic waste that is disposed on the adjoining abandoned site?

A report was received from the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that this location has been the subject of illegal dumping in the past.

Kildare County Council undertook a cleanup of the area some years ago.

In relation to the current dumping activity, a number of notices had issued under the Waste Management Act in relation to this matter. The Environment section would follow up on the notices and would continue to monitor the area. Mr Dunne stated he would consider using CCTV in this area.

Councillor Miley stated illegal dumping was rampant in the municipal district and action needed to be taken and he also noted that the laneway between houses no 3 and no 23 needed to be closed to prevent further illegal dumping

The report was noted.

### **AY27/0918**

#### **Village design plan**

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

That the council develop a program to put funding in place to prepare a village design plan for each village in this municipal district so that when further village renewal funding becomes available, the council will be in a position to apply immediately and draw down funding.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that applications for funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018 had been submitted to have a "Health Check" assessment of both Castledermot and Monasterevin carried out and an associated Town Renewal Plan developed in close collaboration with each community and other relevant stakeholders. In order to protect and encourage the viability and vitality of town and village centres, the following four qualities were vital, accessibility, attraction and amenity supported by action. The Health Check assessment was the starting point in developing a Renewal Plan for each location. It was a periodic and consistently measured evaluation of a town assessing the balance of the four qualities stated above. An initial Health Check should form the baseline against which future Health Checks were measured to review performance.

These Health Check assessments in time series then provide a systematic assessment of strengths and weaknesses to inform Local Authority programmes and locally driven action plans. Members of the public, the local community, and voluntary groups were invited to participate in a collaborative process to create the Health Checks and associated Town Renewal Plans. A decision on the applications for funding to have the Health Checks carried out was expected in the coming weeks.

Councillor Miley stated an investment of between €8k to €10k would be required to prepare these plans and suggested that Local Property Tax (LPT) funding could be used to prepare three plans annually.

Councillor Redmond supported the motion and recommended that this should be considered when discussing the allocation of LPT funding.

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

### **AY28/0918**

#### **Playground in Castledermot**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley.  
That the council give a timeline for the completion of the playground in Castledermot.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the Part 8 for the development of the Fairgreen in Castledermot including the playground would be advertised in November. The completion of the playground was dependent on the Part 8 being approved.

Councillor Keatley stated he looked forward to the Part 8 process commencing.

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

**AY29/0918**

**Playground in Moone**

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

That the council assist the community in Moone to install an adult outdoor gym in the playground in Moone.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that a meeting was held with the local community and it was proposed to advance the project subject to finance being available in 2019 and match funding from the community. The cost of the work would be approximately €10k- €15k Councillor Keatley thanked the organisers of the Tractor Run and supported the community effort.

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

**AY30/0918**

**Public realm and future direction of Monasterevin**

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

Can the council confirm when the public consultation on the public realm and future direction of Monasterevin will take place given that money has been secured for same?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that on foot of the funding set aside by the Athy Municipal District members in 2017, initial public consultation would commence in Monasterevin in late September/early October 2018.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.