

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

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

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer), Mr P Makhuza and Mr J Murtagh (Executive Engineers), Mr Ml Kavanagh (A/District Engineer), Ms E Wright and Ms A Aspell (Senior Executive Officers), Ms P Berry (Marketing Officer), Ms F Byrne (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary)

AY01/0618

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on 21 May 2018 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Miley that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 21 May 2018 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

AY02/0618

Matters Arising

Request for Special Meeting with Minister H Humphries - Closure of Athy International Concentrates Plant (AY21/0518)

Councillor Wall thanked Deputy Heydon for organising this meeting which was held on 14 June 2018. He asked following the outcome of this meeting that the members meet urgently to discuss the way forward and how to raise the profile of Athy as they now had a definite pathway of how to utilise the town of Athy. He asked that this matter be a quarterly standing item on the agenda for the foreseeable future. He added that he met with Coca Cola representatives himself and they assured him that there would be staff at the plant for some

time. The members agreed to meet at 11.15 am on Monday 28 June 2018 in Athy Library before the full council meeting and they asked that the Director of Economic, Community and Cultural Development, the Head of Enterprise, representative from KWETB (Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board) and a representative of the Department of Social Protection would attend this meeting.

LPT - Pay Parking in Monasterevin and works at Woodstock Street, Athy

Councillor Wall raised this matter and asked for an update on these issues. Mr Kavanagh stated that both issues would be measured and would be looked at by the District Engineer and these works would then be tendered. He stated that a further report would be available next month. Councillor Miley requested a special meeting (in committee) with the District Engineer on the LPT Spend for 2018 and the members agreed to meet at 10.45 am on Monday 28 June 2018 in Athy Library.

Update on Municipal District Road Works (Storm Emma) AY03/0518)

Ms Wright clarified the situation with regard to seeking additional funds for road repairs following Storm Emma. She stated that the council do not have to wait on the circular from the Department to seek such funding. The council would assess the damage to the roads concerned and the cost of repairs and would make a submission to the Department.

AY03/0618

Athy Municipal District Roadworks

The schedule of Athy Municipal District Roadworks was circulated to the members prior to the meeting and Mr Kavanagh gave an update on the works being carried out to date.

The Cathaoirleach noted that the litter bins were being installed and upgraded in Monasterevin. However, he asked that a bin be installed in Castledermot. Mr Kavanagh stated that a report would be prepared for the next meeting.

Councillor Wall acknowledged all the work carried out at Meeting Lane. However, there were serious concerns coming from Leinster Street as drivers are not stopping at the stop sign. He added this area was busy with the Youth Cafe and children crossing over to the skateboard park. This junction had to be controlled to a better standard. Mr Kavanagh stated that this junction would be looked at again and arrows would be installed on the road.

Councillor Wall raised his concerns regarding bins in Monasterevin. He added there seemed to be a problem with emptying these bins. He added he did contact the District Engineer's Office and he was informed that there was a lot of domestic waste being found in these bins every Sunday morning when they are being emptied. He added that businesses who had bins in front of their premises were complaining to him and that the council should get the message out to the community that these bins are not for domestic waste. Mr Kavanagh stated that these bins continue to be emptied every Sunday morning but domestic waste was a serious problem.

Councillor Miley asked when maintenance work on the L70581 would commence. Mr Kavanagh stated that a report would be prepared for the next meeting.

AY04/0618

Athy Distributor Road

Mr Coppinger stated that soil testing was starting on the site today and it would be ongoing for a while. He had a meeting with consultants on the advanced contract and he was preparing documents, costings, business case for the Department in order to get approval to treat. He hoped to start the advanced contract in September 2018. He stated he would have a further update at the next meeting of the municipal district in July.

Councillor Redmond asked whether the council were behind with soil testing, an update on leaflets to residents and his concerns with regard to lack of communication with sports clubs along the route. Mr Coppinger stated that soil testing was slightly delayed due to insurance issues with CIE but this was resolved, the leaflets were being worked on and should be ready by end of June 2018 and he also stated he had met with these clubs on a few occasions and he thought Kildare County Council had good communication with them.

Councillor Wall thanked Mr Coppinger for all the work so far but he said he was concerned as he had heard rumours that two years was added to the project due to problems arising. Mr Coppinger said this was not true as he had allowed for any issues that may arise in his original timeframe and he was happy that the project was on course. Councillor Wall said this was positive news for the town.

Councillor Breslin asked for an update on the archaeology report. Mr Coppinger said it should be ready by mid August to September 2018.

AY05/0618

Old Grange Cross

Mr Coppinger stated he was trying to develop a low cost solution for this cross which would help to improve sight visibility and he would pass on the details to the District Engineer. He stated that funding would still need to be identified. The members to be kept updated.

AY06/0618

Update on Community and Development Issues

The members were circulated with a comprehensive report from Ms Berry prior to the meeting. Ms Berry stated she helped organise the Darkness into Light event where 3,500 people took part and hoped to make a presentation to Pieta House in the next couple of weeks with a cheque for €33,000. The Cathaoirleach thanked her for organising the Local Hero Awards which was a great night. He noted she was extremely busy with residents associations and community issues.

Councillor Breslin asked when the residents association grants would be paid out. Ms Berry stated there was a slight delay due to changeover of staff but they should be paid out this week.

Ms Berry stated that judges would be visiting estates this Wednesday and Thursday for Pride of Place Awards.

She stated that in regard to Virgin Media, a community officer was assigned by them and would be organising a community day shortly. Councillor Redmond stated he had met with the District Engineer already in this regard and he asked that this matter of Virgin Media be on his schedule of works report next month.

AY07/0618

Date for Annual Meeting

The Meeting Administrator advised the members that the Athy Municipal District annual meeting would take place on 23 July 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in the Athy Municipal District Building, to be followed by the monthly statutory meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Wall and agreed by all members present that the annual meeting of the Athy Municipal District be held at 10:00 a.m. on the 23 July 2018, in the Athy Municipal District Building, followed by the Athy Municipal District monthly statutory meeting at 10:15 a.m.

AY08/0618

Capital Programme 2019-2021

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that the Capital Programme 2019-2021 had been included as an item on the agenda of all 5 municipal districts in June for consideration by the members.

The District Manager advised the members that if they had specific projects that they wished to be considered for inclusion in the Capital Programme 2019-2021, they should compile their proposals for submission to him by the end of June, and he would submit their lists to the relevant Director of Services.

The members requested that the relevant staff attend the next Municipal District meeting to discuss the Capital Programme.

AY09/0618

Taking in charge of Corran Ard and Branswood Estates in Athy, Tougher Wood in Monasterevin and the Friary Estate in Castledermot

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall:
Can the council give an update on the taking in charge of Corran Ard and Branswood Estates in Athy, Tougher Wood in Monasterevin and the Friary Estate in Castledermot?

A report was received from the Building and Development Control Section informing the members of the following;

Corran Ard, Athy - The Bond had been called in for Corran Ard Estate in order that works were completed to a taking in charge standard. Site investigative works by the Bond Receiver's engineers were completed last month. The Bond Receiver was no longer available to complete the works given that the cost estimate for carrying out the remedial works was above the existing bond. In the meantime, Development Control Department continues to engage and work with Irish Water to complete the Site Resolution Plan.

Branswood, Athy - Development Control engineers are meeting with Kingscroft Development this week to agree standards of works completed to date.

Tougher Wood, Monasterevin - Kildare County Council received a request to take the estate in charge through a Section 180 from the residents of the estate in 2015. Kildare County Council had been liaising with Irish Water and were progressing the taking in charge. Kildare County Council hoped to be in a position to advertise this estate with the next batch of estates.

Friary Estate, Castledermot - Kildare County Council met with Vincent O'Farrell, who was acting on the Receiver's behalf, in April 2018, and agreed not to proceed with Enforcement action for a period of six months (ending 19 September 2018) to allow the Bank to sell the site. From the sale of the site, a cash bond of €125,000 would be put in place to complete the outstanding issues in the estate. To date the site had not been sold by the Bank. If a buyer was not secured for the site in that timeframe, Kildare County Council can continue with Enforcement proceedings. The Receiver Mazar's are monitoring the site by maintaining the temporary fencing, cutting the grass in green areas and ensuring that there are no horses on the undeveloped section of the estate.

Councillor Wall asked for a definite date for the taking in charge of Corran Ard. Mr Makhuza stated that all the investigative works had been completed. The Bond was not sufficient to complete the outstanding works. He had written again to the Receiver to get extra funding and then they would review the remedial works. Councillor Wall asked if the receiver came back to the council stating that no extra funding was available, what would happen the estate. Mr Makhuza said some of the money had already been used, such as €25,000 for investigative works and he was optimistic that an agreement would be reached.

Councillor Wall asked for an update on the Friary Estate, Castledermot. Mr Murtagh stated he would contact Mazars again but the council had given them six months up to September 2018 before enforcement action would be taken.

The report was noted.

The Cathaoirleach excused himself from the meeting for a short period and Councillor Breslin took the chair.

AY10/0618

Remedial Work to alleviate flooding on the Kildare Road (opposite Shamrock Stores)

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

That remedial work be carried out to alleviate flooding on the Kildare Road (opposite Shamrock Stores).

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

Councillor Dalton stated he was happy with the report as the area in question had ongoing problems with water lodging on the road.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Water Services Section had agreed a programme of works with Irish Water which would be necessary to bring the "new" Kilmead Waste Water Treatment Plant as constructed by the developer up to a standard that would allow for it to be taken in charge. Upon either completion of these works by the developer and/or his representatives, or indeed provision of funding for same, Kildare County Council/Irish Water would commence maintaining this plant and would decommission the existing facility.

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

AY11/0618

Removal of Obsolete Telephone Boxes in the Athy Municipal District

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

That an update be given on the removal of obsolete telephone boxes in the Athy Municipal District.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that quotations were being sought to remove these boxes.

Councillor Dalton stated that this matter was raised a number of years ago and was informed then that the companies did not exist anymore. He added that these telephone boxes were now an eyesore especially when the tidy towns were doing such great work with the towns in the municipal district. He asked for a timescale as to when these would be removed.

Councillor Wall asked that the obsolete boxes on the Barrow Bridge be included in this removal project and he added that funding should be identified.

Councillor Redmond said it was now a health and safety issue as a member of the community had contacted him and stated they had received a shock from old phone box and glass was broken around it.

Councillor Miley asked that the old telephone box at Ballyroe be removed too.

Councillor Keatley returned to the meeting and took the chair.

Ms Wright said the District Engineer had spoken with her in this regard and it was decided to remove them and to close off the electricity supply to them and she stated that funding was not an issue.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dalton, seconded by Councillor Wall that obsolete boxes in the Athy Municipal District would be removed subject to quotations being sought.

AY12/0618

Installation of CCTV Cameras - Meeting Lane Car Park, Athy

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

That CCTV cameras are installed as part of the redevelopment of the Meeting Lane Car Park in Athy.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that it was proposed to install CCTV as part of the works in Meeting Lane. Councillor Breslin was happy with the report but she asked when the works would be finished as local businesses were losing out when road was closed. Mr Kavanagh stated that surface dressing would start next week to the end of June and it would be surfaced by the end of July.

Councillor Redmond asked who would monitor the cameras as there were issues with anti-social behaviour at times and we need to act on them. Ms Wright stated that the CCTV sub-committee would meet this afternoon and the Roads Section was on this committee. She stated that the service level agreement would be shared with the Gardai and would be agreed by the sub committee.

Councillor Wall stated that the council need to protect the residents of the area and he asked that this matter be raised at the sub-committee meeting today.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Redmond that monitoring and enforcement of CCTV cameras be raised at the next CCTV Sub-Committee meeting.

AY13/0618

Road Surface - Cowpasture Road past Brocan Wood Estate

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

Given the completion of the footpath on the Cowpasture Road past Brocan Wood Estate, that the road surface now be completed to that point and will there be a pedestrian crossing provided to link Hopkins Haven to the town.

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 these works would have to be scheduled into the maintenance programme and would be dependent on this developer carrying out the works in compliance with his planning conditions.

Councillor Wall stated he had met with Hopkins Haven and Brocan Wood and that the footpath had been developed. Mr Kavanagh stated that this road would be included in the maintenance work. Councillor Wall stated that a pedestrian crossing was also needed. He noted that it would require €40,000 to be paid to bring Brocan Road up to standard. He asked whether the money already paid to date could be used to get this pedestrian crossing which would give safe passage to residents of Hopkins Haven to the middle of the town. Mr Kavanagh stated that drainage works were to start in a couple of weeks.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Redmond that the report be noted and that the District Engineer would look into the matter further.

AY14/0618

Flash Flooding at Woodstock Street, Athy

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

Given the recent flash flooding at Woodstock Street, Athy that a survey be carried out of the drains in the area to ensure that they are clear and in good working order and fit for purpose.

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 the drainage system in Woodstock Street was in good condition. The flooding occurred because of the intensity of the rain.

Councillor Wall thanked the council and the emergency services for bringing sandbags to the residents in case of flooding in their homes. He added that the Duke Street area of Woodstock Street had been a problem for some time. He asked that all areas in risk of flash flooding should be monitored.

Mr Kavanagh stated that this matter would be reviewed and report for the next meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Breslin that this matter be reviewed and report for next meeting.

AY15/0618

Road Safety Measures at Ballyshannon National School

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

That the council upgrade the road safety measures at Ballyshannon National School.

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 there were no proposals for any work at Ballyshannon School.

The Cathaoirleach stated he was not happy with this reply. There were currently 130 children attending this school and 40 children attending the afterschool service. He asked that a speed survey be carried out at this school urgently as there was a serious problem with drivers not obeying the speed limit on the road. The speed van would be on the road occasionally but not at school times. He asked that the existing warning light be upgraded and a new warning lighted installed at the other side of the school. The capacity of the school had gone from 25 to 130 in the last fifteen years and this rural school had only one flashing amber light and this was not acceptable.

Councillor Miley stated that the old N78 had heavy traffic and speed checks were rarely there now. The speed limit was 60 kph and 30 kph during school times. He asked that the Gardai in Kilcullen be written to requesting more speed patrols at school times.

Councillor Redmond asked whether the loss of the Road Safety Officer had impacted the situation at this school.

Councillor Wall stated there was no point in the speed van being on the road at 7.00 pm when the issues are around school times. He stated that the warning lights need to be

upgraded and drivers need to stop ignoring the speed limits. He suggested that this matter be referred to the Joint Policing Committee for their attention.

Ms Wright stated that the Roads Safety Officer would be appointed the first week in July. She stated that the members should submit their issues at the pre-consultation stage of the Speed Limit Review before the end of June and then the public consultation stage would follow thereafter. She stated the District Engineer would look at signage and speed count on both sides of this school.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Miley that the District Engineer would look at signage and speed count on both sides of this school and the members to submit their issues for the pre-consultation stage of the Speed Limit Review before the end of June and a letter to issue to the Gardai in Kilcullen asking them to increase their patrols in this area at school times.

AY16/0618

N78 from the Railway Bridge to the Castledermot Road, Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin:
When will remedial works including the upgrading of footpaths and the resurfacing of the road commence on the N78 from the railway bridge to the Castledermot Road, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the council were working with Transport infrastructure Ireland (TII) to quantify works on the Dublin Road, Athy. It was hoped that this work would commence later in the summer.

Councillor Breslin asked that this work be carried out during the summer and not when the children return to school in September. She asked that the District Engineer look at the sight lines at the entrance to the graveyard in this area.

Mr Kavanagh stated the council were meeting with the TII this week and he hoped to begin the tender process.

The report was noted.

AY17/0618

Road Improvement Works in Kilkea

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

Are there plans to carry out road improvement works in Kilkea?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that resurfacing works were scheduled to commence from Kilkea towards Castledermot in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

AY18/0618

Kildangan Bridge

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

Can the Athy Municipal District Committee receive an update on the position of the upgrade of Kildangan bridge?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Roads Project Team continue to engage with CIE on this project. A draft licence had been issued by CIE, the conditions of which were now under examination by the engineering team and the Council's insurers. Following agreement and finalisation of the licence conditions, the tender process would commence.

The report was noted.

AY19/0618

Safety Audit on the N78 Mullaghmast to Athy and the intersection between the R747 and the R448

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

Can the Athy Municipal District Committee receive an update on the requested safety audit on the N78 Mullaghmast to Athy and the intersection between the R747 and the R448?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that a request to improve safety at Mullaghmast Cross Road was referred to TAAG. A technical inspection and preliminary survey had to be completed by the group.

Councillor Miley stated that since 2010, seven people had lost their lives on this road. Directional arrows had been installed but were removed by the TII. This matter had been listed as a motion by many councillors over the years, the matter was now with TAAG and it was still not resolved. He added a family recently were rear-ended trying to turn off this road. He said white lined islands were needed on this road.

Ms Wright stated that the objective of TAAG would be to make a recommendation and this was in hand.

Councillor Miley stated there were 7,000 vehicles using this road daily and there were 271 projects in TAAG two months ago. He asked how many had surveys done to date. He added that public lighting was seriously required on the R747 and R448 as well.

Ms Wright stated that there were a number of significant jobs to be done and they were looking at these as quickly as possible. She stated that examination and review of accidents would be assessed and they would go back to the TII to request islands for this road. She stated she would write to the operators of the speed vans to request that they be more vigilant on this road and that a letter issue to the Gardai in Kilcullen to request more patrols on this road.

The report was noted.

AY20/0618

Cutting of Hedges in the Athy Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley:
Can the council give a timeline for the cutting of hedges previously requested at Athy Municipal meetings over the last four years?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there had been no progress on this issue as the Restoration

Improvement and Restoration Maintenance programmes were ongoing. Hedge cutting notices can be issued in the Autumn.

Ms Wright stated that the Roads Section advertises a general notice to cut hedges each year. The Roads Authority had powers to issue notices to landowners where hedges were not cut and power to recoup costs through the courts. However, they had to be mindful of wildlife when hedgecutting.

The Cathaoirleach stated he was aware of two landowners living on the L80130 Ballybarney to Ballymount Bog Road and the L802510 Wood Road from Mullaghmast who do not cut their hedges and the district office were aware of the persons responsible. He added that recoupment costs needed to be sought and the legal route needed to start. He added that petitions would be sent in as the locals cannot use this road properly and safely. Ms Wright stated that she would speak with the District Engineer in the coming weeks with regard to resolving this problem.

The report was noted.

AY21/0618

Review of Alcohol Bye-Laws in Athy Municipal District

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

That the council immediately review alcohol bye-laws in this municipal district following information that current bye-laws are inadequate and there has been zero fines issued for consumption of alcohol in public areas in this municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Section informing the members that after discussions with some of the Joint Policing Committees, it had been suggested that the individual town alcohol bye-laws be replaced by a county wide bye-law with the relevant towns named. This approach was considered to be more efficient as the Municipal District boundaries and the Gardai Districts currently do not match and with a boundary commission report due out, the boundaries are liable to change again. It also allows the members the opportunity to list any other towns they consider would benefit from the introduction of alcohol bye-laws. At present the towns that had alcohol bye-laws in the Athy

Municipal District are Athy and Castledermot. It was proposed to add Monasterevin as one of the towns. It was proposed to bring the Draft Alcohol Bye-Laws before the members in Q4 2018 so that they can go on display for public consultation.

Councillor Redmond stated he was quite concerned about the number of fines paid to date as there were serious issues with outdoor drinking in the municipal district.

Councillor Miley stated that the Gardai would shortly be using mountain bikes which would help with apprehending the culprits.

Councillor Wall said this matter needed to be addressed and that every village in the municipal district would benefit by having these bye-laws in place. He said it would be this time next year before they would be ready and that the members needed to look at bye-laws for Emily Square in line with its regeneration.

Councillor Breslin stated that dumping of cans by outdoor drinkers along the River Barrow was one of the biggest blights in the district and funding for CCTV along the Barrow had been received.

Councillor Dalton supported this motion and looked forward to report in quarter 4 of this year.

The meetings administrator stated that Ms Gough would be contacting all the members looking for the names of towns that they wish to be included in the new Alcohol Bye-laws.

Councillor Redmond asked that the Vintners be circulated with the Draft Alcohol Bye-laws when available.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Miley that Ms Gough would contact all the members looking for the names of towns that they wish to be included in the new Alcohol Bye-laws and that the Vintners be circulated with these bye-laws when available.

AY22/0618

Approved Housing Bodies

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Redmond: Can the council make councillors aware of the policies that all the Approved Housing Bodies which operate in this municipal district have in place for maintaining their properties? These policies should include details of the sinking funds in place for local estates.

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the role of Kildare County Council in relation to Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) was to (a) ensure AHB compliance with funding schemes, (b) enter into new Payment and Availability agreements, Capital Advance and Leasing Facility agreements and provide funding under the Capital Assistance Scheme, (c) enforce the conditions of mortgage agreements, (d) ensure AHB compliance with tenant nomination policies. AHBs are not required to provide Kildare County Council with details of their maintenance policies. In order to qualify for the maintenance subsidy payable under the Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme, AHBs are required to provide evidence in their annual accounts that an amount equal to the subsidy had been spent on maintenance.

Councillor Redmond stated that many people had contacted him with serious problems with approved housing bodies. They seem to have no policy for dealing with maintenance of their houses.

Ms Aspell stated that the council had no enforcement role with these housing bodies. The council looks after the governance but the AHB manage their own properties. She asked Councillor Redmond to give her details of the housing body in question and she would refer this to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

The report was noted.

AY23/0618

Halting Site in Athy Municipal District

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

Can we as councillors be made aware of the following with regard to Health and Safety in halting sites in this municipal district, the amount of maintenance work done, when the electrical certification was carried out and what is the current management in place? Can we also be given an account of complaints from residents regarding health and safety concerns?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that Kildare County Council 's housing maintenance department recently completed detailed electrical checks on all of the units in the Ardrew Halting Site. All recommended improvement works were followed up on promptly and had been completed. Housing Maintenance respond to repair reports for the day units in line with the same process as general housing. Tenants telephone the maintenance section to report repairs which are then assessed and, if deemed to be the councils responsibility, they are inspected as soon as possible and closed out. The Housing maintenance section currently had no reports of issues relating to health and safety. In relation to general site maintenance, weekly checks are carried out and addressed as appropriate. A warden was employed on site to manage day to day issues and report any health and safety concerns to the Traveller Accommodation Unit in Housing. The issue of horses and domestic waste being brought on site was an ongoing challenge and one which poses health and safety concerns. The Housing Department had met with the Environment Section with a view to addressing these issues. The Tenant Liaison Officer was also in weekly communication with residents regarding these issues and had met each family individually in an effort to address the matter.

Councillor Redmond stated that many problems had been highlighted by those living at the Halting Site. He asked for details of the role of the Tenant Liaison Officer and Warden at this site. There were issues of domestic waste, scrap yard business on the site and a bin from the halting site was dragged around Dun Brinn Estate. The site was not monitored properly. He asked for an in-committee meeting with the Tenant Liaison Officer and the Warden to discuss the many problems at this site.

Ms Aspell stated she would send contact details by email.

The report was noted.

AY24/0618

Purchase of Nine Houses at Corran Ard, Athy

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

Can the council confirm the purchase of nine homes at Corran Ard Athy, the turnaround time for occupation of these homes and if the council are considering the purchase of any other housing units in the Athy area?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that Kildare County Council Housing Department had recently completed the purchase of 9 units in Corran Ard, Athy. The Housing Officer was not in a position to confirm the turnaround time for these units at present. However, this matter was currently being considered by the Housing Capital and Maintenance Teams. In addition to Corran Ard, the council was currently progressing the purchase of 5 other properties in the Athy area and actively seeking units to purchase.

Councillor Wall thanked Ms Aspell and her staff for obtaining these houses but needed to acquire houses much faster than two years as this matter was first raised in 2016. He thanked the District Manager and the Housing Department and he hoped the housing maintenance team would turn these homes around as quickly as possible as families are crying out for these homes.

The report was noted.

AY25/0618

Road and Footpath Network in Kilmead Graveyard

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

That the council assess and immediately improve the road and path network in Kilmead graveyard.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that they would have the area inspected with a view to having appropriate repairs carried out.

Councillor Miley stated that this cemetery opened in 1978 and a few potholes had been generated over the years. He stated it was great that the district still had great work done in community graveyards. The District Manager stated he would try to get this work included in the 2018 programme.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Keatley that this work would be included in the 2018 programme and would be done by the end of the year.

AY26/0618

Household Free Drop-off event for Mattresses in the Athy Civic Amenity Site

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

That we as a council support a household free drop off event for mattresses in the Athy Civic Amenity Site.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the proposal can be investigated to establish (a) if there was financial assistance available (grants etc) and (b) the operational requirements involved in arranging such an event. It should be noted that at present mattresses can be brought to the two Civic Amenity Sites (Athy and Silliot Hill), where they are sent on for recycling. There was a charge for this in line with the 'polluter pays' principle. In addition, there was a collection service in place for mattresses operated by a company called Eco Mattresses:

www.ecomattressrecyclingireland.com They collect mattresses and bed bases for a fee. It was noted that some furniture retailers also provide a take back arrangement when a new bed/ mattress was purchased. While mattresses can sometimes be part of illegal dumping within the county, the Council does not have the resources to provide the proposed service. The public are encouraged to report illegal dumping to the Council's Litter Report Freephone 1800 243143.

Councillor Redmond stated that the cost of disposal of mattresses was quite high and due to this many mattresses were being dumped along our county roads. He noted there was amnesty available in Carlow and Laois and he asked that a pilot scheme be developed for Athy.

Councillor Miley complimented the Environment Section and noted that there had been a primetime programme broadcast in regarding to disposal of mattresses. He added it was an absolute disgrace that mattresses were being dumped and that bye-laws need to be put in place and enforced by the Gardai. He said Wicklow County Council had focussed on this and the community were urged to report persons dumping. He said it was time the council came down hard on those responsible and that the technology was needed to catch those offending.

The District Manager stated he would look at the cost of disposal of mattresses and he would look at some kind of amnesty even on a once-off basis. He added that subject to further examination, he would look at running a pilot scheme for the Athy Municipal District and he would bring some form of initiative to the September meeting of the Athy Municipal District.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Wall that the District Manager would look at the cost of disposal of mattresses, look at some kind of amnesty and subject to further examination, look at running a pilot scheme for the Athy Municipal District and bring some form of initiative to the September meeting of the Athy Municipal District.

AY27/0618

Presentation from Hope Cottage

The meetings administrator informed the meeting that Hope Cottage which was the South West Regional Drug and Alcohol Project who support families and concerned persons who are impacted by drug and alcohol misuse in the Kildare and West Wicklow areas requested to meet with the Athy Municipal District at their July meeting. The members agreed that a letter issue to Hope Cottage inviting them to attend the July meeting.

AY28/0618

Upgrade of Jetty in Athy

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley:
That the council in conjunction with Waterways Ireland upgrade the jetty in Athy.

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

The District Manager stated that he was sorry for the delay and he was looking at the feasibility of upgrading the jetty as it was now in the ownership of the council.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that the District Manager look at the feasibility of upgrading the jetty which was now in the ownership of the council.

AY29/0618

Other Business

The Cathaoirleach on his behalf and on behalf of the members thanked Ms Byrne, Meetings Administrator who was due to leave Corporate Services and take up another post in the council. He thanked her for her huge input at the meetings and her help in running the meetings smoothly.

The meeting then concluded.