



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District held  
at 11.00 am on Monday 9 December 2019 in the Boardroom,  
Áras Chill Dara, Naas**

**Members Present:** Councillor M Wall (Cathaoirleach), Councillors V Behan, A Breslin, B Dooley and I Keatley

**Officials Present:** Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Ms A Keaveney (Executive Engineer), Mr G Halton and Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officers), Ms S O'Gara (Project Manager), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms A Louw (Senior Staff Officer), Mr D Keogh (Safety Officer), Ms P Berry (Marketing Officer), Ms A Cummins (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary)

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**AY01/1219**

**Suspension of Standing Orders**

The Cathaoirleach proposed to suspend standing orders at 11.00 am for ten minutes.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Behan that standing orders be suspended for ten minutes until 11.10 am. The meeting commenced at 11.10 am.

**AY02/1219**

**Minutes**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 18 November, 2019.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday 18 November 2019 be taken as read and the progress report noted.



**AY03/1219**

**Athy Municipal District Roadworks**

The District Engineer circulated his report to the members at the meeting. A discussion ensued and the following matters were raised;

- Proposals for roads that required patching to be submitted to the District Engineer
- List of drains requiring cleaning to be submitted to the District Engineer and the members should prioritise these.
- Lights out on Church Road – several LED lights were not working.

The District Engineer stated that Mr Ron Dooley, Airtricity would be reviewing all the LED lights and the members comments were noted.

The report was noted.

**AY04/1219**

**Athy Southern Distributor Road**

The District Manager informed the members that Mr Coppinger was unavailable to attend the meeting. She stated that works on this project were ongoing.

The report was noted.

**AY05/1219**

**Athy Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2020**

The District Engineer stated he had met with the members previously to discuss historical and more recent projects and he stated he was waiting on designs for some of the bigger projects. The members agreed to defer this item to the January meeting.

**AY06/1219**

**Transfer of all Unspent 2019 LPT Funds into 2020**

The members considered the request to transfer all unspent 2019 LPT funds into 2020.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dooley that all unspent 2019 LPT funds be transferred into 2020.



**AY07/1219**

**Community and Development Issues**

A report was circulated by Ms Berry prior to the meeting. She stated she was co-ordinating the Athy Town Promoters €1000 prize money to support the shop local campaign. Each purchase made in any participating business in Athy in the run up to Christmas would be entered into a draw to win €1000 cash and spot prizes on the night. She added that she was also looking for stickers to be put on the parking machines in the town as people are still confused as to whether they had to pay for parking over Christmas in the town. She added that a letter would issue to all businesses in the town asking for their staff not to utilise the on-street parking spaces for the run up to Christmas. The members thanked Ms Berry for her continued hard work for the municipal district.

The report was noted.

**AY08/1219**

**Request for Receipt of Deputation from “In It to Bin It Athy” (Tús)**

The Cathaoirleach stated that Mr Brian Kenny, Tús Team Leader and some students from local schools would like to make a presentation to the members regarding their litter campaign “In It To Bin It”.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Behan that a letter be issued to this group inviting them to attend the January meeting of the municipal district.

**AY09/1219**

**Repair and Upgrade Programme of the Roads and Back Alleys in former council estates – Athy Municipal District**

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

That the council begin a repair and upgrade programme of the roads and back alleys in former council estates throughout the Athy Municipal District.

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



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A report was received from the District Engineer informing the members that these works would require a design and a source of finance (possibly LPT) which needs to be identified.

The Cathaoirleach stated that this matter was discussed at a meeting held last week and the members agreed to send in their proposals (list of estates) to the District Engineer for consideration.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Behan that the members forward their proposals (list of estates) to the District Engineer for consideration.

### AY10/1219

#### **HGV Ban around Scoil Mhicil Naofa and Mount Hawkins Street**

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

That the council introduce a HGV (Heavy Goods Vehicle) ban around Scoil Mhicil Naofa and Mount Hawkins Street during school opening/closing times.

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

Councillor Dooley read a letter received from the Parents Council of Scoil Mhicil Naofa to the meeting outlining safety concerns at the school. He added that illegal parking had stopped due to the presence of the traffic warden.

Councillor Breslin stated that residents of some of the estates in the area had trouble getting in and out of their homes at peak times due to inadequate parking facilities for the school. She asked that the school meet with the members to discuss a solution to this problem.

A discussion ensued and the following matters were raised;

- Traffic wardens should be allowed to patrol the school areas from 8.30 onwards.
- Parking needs to be regulated.
- That the School Board of Management be asked to meet with the members to discuss solutions.



Mr Keogh stated that Scoil Mhicil Naofa could be included in the School Street Scheme. He added that there was no requirement for the traffic warden to be present at opening and closing times as there were pedestrian crossings in the area.

Councillor Dooley stated that he had received further email from Scoil Mhicil Naofa stating that the school were going to provide a parking free zone in front of the school on a trial basis.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Breslin that this matter be included in the School Street Scheme.

### AY11/1219

#### Cycle and Walkway Routes

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

That the council carry out a feasibility study on potential cycle and walkway routes to inform best practice on how the municipal district can begin to connect our towns, villages, community facilities and tourists' sites by a suitable cycleway/walkway network.

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

Councillor Keatley asked that a feasibility study on potential cycle and walkway routes be carried out and that he asked that the council provide an officer to roll this study out.

A discussion ensued and the following matters were raised;

- That cycling would benefit many users in the municipal district.
- Cycle paths were requested on the N78

The District Manager stated that the Accessibility Officer could link into discussions regarding cycle and walkway routes and she said she would discuss this matter with the Director of Roads, Transportation and Public Safety and would come back to the members.



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Mr Keogh welcomed the promotion of cycle routes and a suggested Cycling Officer with an engineering background would be a great advantage.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Behan that a person be appointed to roll out a feasibility study on potential cycle and walkway routes to link in with the Barrow Blueway.

### AY12/1219

#### Directional Information – Kildare Village Retail Outlet

The members agreed to consider items 11 and 12 on the agenda together.

#### Item No 11 – Motion – Councillor Veralouise Behan

That the council liaise with Kildare Village retail outlet to explore ways to discourage motorists using L80251 as a shortcut to Kildare Village retail outlet.

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

#### Item 12 – Question – Councillor Ivan Keatley

Can the council confirm if it has had any communication with Google Maps to inform their directional information on suitable routes to help address heavy volumes of traffic using secondary and minor rural roads in South Kildare coming from the M9 to Kildare Village retail outlet?

Councillor Behan stated that there was a high volume of traffic on this road and she asked for motorists to be discouraged from using this road when travelling to Kildare Retail Village Outlet. She asked in the short-term that a sign be erected over the Christmas period to help with this problem. The members requested that a letter issue to the Kildare Village Retail Outlet to explore ways to discourage motorists from using the L80251 as a shortcut to the outlet.

Councillor Keatley asked that a letter issue to Google Maps asking them to delete the road L80251 as the route option when travelling to the Kildare Village Retail Outlet.



**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Keatley that a letter issue to the Kildare Village Retail Outlet to explore ways to discourage motorists from using the L80251 as a shortcut to the outlet and that a letter issue to Google Maps asking them to delete the road L80251 as the route option when travelling to the Kildare Village Retail Outlet.

### **AY13/1219**

#### **Remedial Works – Back Alleways in St Dominic’s Park, Athy**

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

Can the council give a timeline for remedial works to be carried out to the back-alley ways in St Dominic's Park Athy?

A report was received from the District Engineer informing the members that these works would require a design and finance identified from LPT monies. The members agreed earlier in the meeting to send in their proposals (list of estates) to the District Engineer to be considered.

The report was noted.

### **AY14/1219**

#### **Update regarding National Transport Authority and Irish Rail Meetings**

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

Can the council give the members an update on previous invitations to the National Transport Authority and Irish Rail to attend a meeting of the Athy Municipal District?

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that Irish Rail and the National Transport Authority had previously met with the municipal district. However, a follow-up meeting was to take place regarding Athy Railway Station, overcrowding on trains and other issues and this had not happened.

Mr Halton stated he would issue a letter to both parties requesting a follow-up meeting in regard to Athy Railway Station, overcrowding on trains and other issues.



The report was noted.

### **AY15/1219**

#### **Chain of Office**

A report was received from Corporate Services informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree. However, by way of background both the Naas and the Kildare-Newbridge Municipals Districts had a Chain of Office and the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District recently voted to introduce one also. From a consistency point of view, Corporate Services would be supportive of the introduction of a Chain of Office in all the Municipal Districts but this decision rests entirely with the members. The cost of procuring a Chain is approximately €750 and a budget was available within the Corporate Services budget for same. An image of the recently commissioned medallion for the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Chain was circulated to the members.

Councillor Dooley noted the image which was suggested. However, he asked that each municipal district have their own emblem on the chain of office.

The Meetings Administrator noted the members comments and stated she would relay their request for an alternative design for their Chain of Office, back to Corporate Services.

The report was noted.

### **AY16/1219**

#### **HAP – Athy Municipal District**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley:  
Can the council confirm how many people are in receipt of the HAP (Housing Assistance Payment) in the Athy Municipal District and what is that monetary figure per annum?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that there were currently 519 active HAP tenancies in the Athy Municipal District area. The HAP payments made to Landlords for the Municipal District are as follows:





	2018	2019
<b>Athy</b>	€3,607,509.71	€3,845,981.72

The report was noted.

### **AY17/1219**

#### **Zoned Land – Athy Municipal District**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley:  
Can the council confirm how much zoned land is owned by Kildare County Council in the Athy Municipal District and are there any residential building projects planned for this land?

A report was received from the Acting Senior Architect informing the members that a spread sheet of current land zoned or partly zoned for residential purposes within the Athy Municipal District with status of each was circulated with this report. In some instances sites were not suitable due to lack of services to facilitate development.

The report was noted.

### **AY18/1219**

#### **Additional Emergency Accommodation**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin:  
Can the council confirm what steps they are taking to provide additional emergency accommodation for families and individuals in the Athy Municipal District area?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that Supported Temporary Accommodation for families was provided in the form of the Family Hub in Athy which caters for up to seven families. Supported Accommodation for twelve people was also provided for individuals in the Youth for Peace facility which has also located in the Athy Municipal District Area. The Peter McVerry Trust were also granted planning permission for a further two two-bedroom apartments at the Priory Athy and it was expected these would be used for Homeless purposes.



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Councillor Breslin stated that she was not totally happy with this report as there was no emergency accommodation for separated women with children. These women and children were being placed in accommodation not suitable for their needs.

The District Manager stated that under CAAS funding, the council were trying to facilitate these women but she could not guarantee that the accommodation would be in Athy but they were actively trying to finalise something with the Approved Housing Bodies.

The report was noted.

### **AY19/1219**

#### **Quarterly Update on Strategic Projects and Public Realm**

Ms Sharon O’Gara, Project Manager, outlined the quarterly report on Strategic Projects and Public Realm to the members and the members were given a copy of the report at the meeting.

With regard to the Barrow Blueway Development, the Cathaoirleach requested that the council engage with LEO and hold public consultations and he asked whether this was going to happen. Ms O’Gara said it would be happening and they would be setting up a Steering Group to co-ordinate the project.

In regard to the Dominican Lands masterplan, the Cathaoirleach asked for clarification as to what would be on site. Ms Whelan said the library, sports hub, public square and housing schemes would be on the site.

With regard to Emily Square, the Cathaoirleach asked whether funding was identified yet. Ms Keaveney stated that the Steering Group were looking at overseas investments and they had €2.4 million available to them so far. She added the project was tied into the realignment of the Southern Distributor Road and the work would be carried out in tandem.

With regard to the Castledermot Health Check, the Cathaoirleach noted it was an ideal time for public consultation in this regard.



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Councillor Keatley raised the matter of the public realm upgrade for Kilmeague and Moone. He noted that LPT money had been set aside for Kilmeague. He also noted Kilmeague and Moone did not qualify for funding last year. He asked for an update on this matter for the next meeting.

Councillor Dooley asked who would be overseeing the Barrow Blueway Project. Ms O'Gara stated that Ms Hunt, Senior Executive Officer would be overseeing the project.

The report was noted.

### **AY20/1219**

#### **Athy Local Area Plan**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall:  
Can the council give the members of this committee an update on the Athy Local Area Plan?

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Section informing the members that as a result of the adoption of the Regional Social and Economic Strategy (RSES), a variation to the County Development Plan (CDP) was required in order to incorporate the content of the RSES into the CDP. All local area plan reviews, with the exception of the Leixlip Local Area Plan, have had to be postponed until the variation had been completed. It was planned to commence work on the Athy Local Area Plan in 2020 with a view to having it completed in 2021.

Ms Louw stated that works would commence in Quarter 3 of 2020 and that pre-planning meetings could be arranged for variations to be looked at.

The report was noted.

### **AY21/1219**

#### **Expansion and Renovation of the Dog Pound in Portersize, Kildare**

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



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Can the council give a report on the progress made on the expansion and renovation of the Dog Pound in Portersize, Kildare?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that extension works were scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

Councillor Keatley noted the report and stated there was an on-site meeting happening on 12 December 2019 and asked that a report from this meeting, be circulated to the members at the January meeting.

The report was noted.

### **AY22/1219**

#### **Proposed Athy Municipal District Sports Hub**

The members considered the following joint motion in the name of Councillors Behan, Breslin, Dooley, Keatley and Wall:

That the council immediately begin the process to provide community playing pitches and a running track to be known as the “Athy Municipal District Sports Hub” for the Athy Municipal District area to be in the town of Athy.

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

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that to begin this process, a needs analysis needs to be provided to ascertain what the clubs and recreational needs of the town are to determine the size of area needed. Possible locations, availability of land and zoning had also to be considered. Sources of funding to purchase and develop the land had also to be identified. Finally, progression of the issue would have to be considered in the context of the Parks Section works programme of the municipal district.

Councillor Keatley thanked Mr Wallace for his report stating there was a need for extra pitches and playing surfaces. It was an excellent idea and he would like to see the Sports



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Hub developed in Athy. He noted that a needs analysis would need to be carried out and that funding would have to be identified.

Councillor Dooley noted this development was necessary as the Athletic Club were currently using the GAA grounds and many of their members, adults and children were running on the roads around the town.

Councillor Behan said every sports group needs somewhere to train and it would be a great investment.

The Cathaoirleach stated that the Athy Camogie Club now had ten teams and they were dependant on using the GAA grounds and local schools for their training. He noted that a site had to be identified quickly. He said the council needed to meet with those concerned as many of the clubs were at full capacity. It was about the future of young people in Athy and the council needed to focus and make this Sports Hub a reality. He added that some LPT money could be put towards this.

Mr Wallace stated that the lack of facilities was a theme across the county. He said he would be liaising with Forward Planning and having more discussions in the New Year.

Mr Dunne said this would be major undertaking and he would be working with Mr Wallace and consulting with the Planning Section to progress this project.

The Cathaoirleach asked the council to agree to facilitate a meeting in early January 2020 with Planning and the Community Section in order to identify lands.

The District Manager said she would have to carry out some research in this regard but she would get back to the members with an answer as to whether this meeting would be arranged.



**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley and seconded by Councillor Dooley that the District Manager come back to the members about a meeting being facilitated in early January 2020.

**AY23/1219**

**Provision of Tourist Attraction Signage for Athy on the M7 and M9  
Kildare Failte Tourism Strategy**

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

That the Athy Municipal District Committee request Kildare Fáilte to include the provision of tourist attraction signage for Athy on the M7 and M9, in their tourism strategy.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Section informing the members that this matter could be raised with Kildare Failte. A source of funding would need to be identified and approval from Transport Infrastructure Ireland would also be required.

Councillor Breslin stated that proper signage was required on the motorways to indicate where Athy was located and asked that Kildare Fáilte be contacted to include this signage in their strategy.

The Cathaoirleach stated that over a year ago, he contacted the TII but received no reply in this regard. He asked that a letter issue to Kildare Fáilte requesting that tourist signs be provided on the motorways.

Mr Dunne said he had spoken with Ms Áine Mangan, Kildare Failte and she stated she would look at signage within the town and national signage and write to all the municipal districts looking for funding. He said there was strict criteria for signage on motorways.



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The Cathaoirelach asked that Ms Mangan, Kildare Fáilte attend the next meeting in January to discuss this issue.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Behan that the report be noted and that Ms Mangan, Kildare Fáilte be invited to attend the January meeting of the Athy Municipal District to discuss the issue of tourist signage on motorways.

### AY24/1219

#### Other Business

The Cathaoirleach stated the members were almost at the end of LPT discussions and noted that people need to write to them quickly if they wish to be considered for LPT grant funding in 2020.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that Ms Kavanagh had drawn up an application form for LPT proposals to apply for and draw down monies. The members agreed the proposed form would be used.

The District Engineer informed the members that the CIS Scheme closed last week and there were nine projects for 2020/2021.

The meeting then concluded.