

**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District held at 11.00 am on Monday 11
March 2019 in Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas**

Members Present: Ms A Breslin (Cathaoirleach), Councillors B Dooley, I Keatley, M Miley, T Redmond and M Wall

Officials Present: Ms E Wright (A/District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officer), Ms A Louw (Assistant Staff Officer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendant), Ms P Berry (Marketing Officer), Ms A Cummins (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary)

Councillor Keatley advised the meeting that the Cathaoirleach would be late attending the meeting and took the chair.

AY01/0319

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 18 February 2019 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Dooley that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 18 February 2019 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

AY02/0319

Matters Arising

Invitation to Turas Nua to attend Athy Municipal District Meeting (AY31/0219)

Councillor Redmond noted the report from Turas Nua stating that they respectfully declined the members invitation to attend a forthcoming meeting of the Athy Municipal District. He stated that he had received over forty complaints from his constituents in regard to Turas Nua and confirmed he contacted the organisation himself prior to the council's letter being issued and they had declined his invitation previously. He asked that the council write to

the Chief Executive Officer of Turas Nua in Roscrea and ask him to attend the April meeting. Councillor Wall suggested that the members forward a list of their questions to the Meetings Administrator prior to issuing this letter.

Resolved that the members submit their list of questions to the Meetings Administrator and that a letter issue to the Chief Executive Officer of Turas Nua in Roscrea.

AY03/0319

Update on Athy Municipal District Works

A report from the District Engineer was circulated to the members at the meeting. The members thanked him for his comprehensive report to the meeting. Councillor Miley acknowledged the great work carried out at Narraghmore to date. He asked for an update on the cutting of the hedges at Old Grange Cross and Lipstown, Narraghmore. The District Engineer said he and the Community Gardai had discussions with the landowners and they would continue to put pressure of the landowners to resolve this issue.

Councillor Redmond stated that he had been contacted by people stating that the LED public lights were too bright and he asked that this be examined. The District Engineer stated that these lights could be tilted to resolve this issue.

Councillor Keatley asked whether the council cleaned bins outside the town of Athy. The District Engineer stated that he currently works off a map showing every bin in Athy and Monasterevin. He added there were currently 30 bins in Monasterevin and 60/70 bins in Athy.

The report was noted.

AY04/0319

Athy Distributor Road

Ms Wright informed the members that she was Acting District Manager for the meeting and that Mr Coppinger also sent his apologies that he was unable to attend. She informed the meeting that the issues with CIE such as extinguishment of the rail-track had been substantially resolved and the contract was on target. The report was noted.

AY05/0319

Community and Development Issues

Councillor Keatley thanked Ms Berry for her extensive report. He complimented her hard work with the Tidy Town Groups, the Community Groups and Residents Associations throughout the municipal district. Ms Berry thanked the members and informed the members that RTE had been in contact with her and would be televising this year's St Patrick's Day Parade in Athy. She had asked that a special effort be put in this year. Councillor Redmond was delighted to hear that Mr Colm Walsh, Ms Anna May McHugh and Sr. Consilio would be marshals for the parade. The report was noted.

AY06/0319

Traffic Calming Measures outside St Colmcilles National School, Moone

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley:
That the council address traffic calming measures outside St Colmcilles National School Moone.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there were no plans to install traffic calming measures at the National School in Moone at the present time.

Councillor Dooley stated he was disappointed with the report. He noted he had been contacted by the principal of the school who asked for assistance to make the outside of the school safer for students and parents. He added there was no pedestrian crossing or digital signage outside the school and that parents were trying to help by parking in the Church carpark and then walking down to the school. He asked that traffic calming measures be addressed at this school.

During the discussion that followed, the members made the following points;

- that the school had 133 students and 6 full-time staff and the school required adequate traffic calming measures.

- that it would not take an extensive amount of work to make this school safe and that some type of barriers need to be erected.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that the report be noted and that the matter be reviewed.

AY07/0319

Accessibility and Pedestrian Crossing Audit - Athy and Castledermot

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

That the council carry out an accessibility and pedestrian crossing audit in the towns of Athy and Castledermot.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this issue would be referred to the Accessibility Officer for examination in consultation with TAAG in due course.

Councillor Dooley stated that in light of several accidents that it was necessary to audit and review these towns. He noted that a similar review was carried out in Celbridge and it was a great success.

During the discussion that followed, the members made the following points;

- that young children and an aging community were using these busy streets.
- that HGVs would be removed from these streets once the new distributor road opens.
- that people with disabilities had major issues using footpaths in these towns.

Ms Wright stated that the accessibility officer attended the February meeting of the Transportation SPC and his work plan was presented. She added that on the 1 May 2019 a meeting was scheduled to take place with the stakeholders to discuss the strategy for the public realm streetscape and the members would be invited to attend.

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

AY08/0319

Cycle/Pathways in Rural Areas of the Athy Municipal District

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

That the council put in place an appropriate and cost effective, engineering solution for cycle/pathways in rural areas of the Athy Municipal District to improve connectivity for villages and residences to sporting, educational, tourism or community facilities.

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 this issue would require examination and consideration by a number of Departments, including the council's Cycle Forum and Kildare Failte and in consultation with the NTA to determine the feasibility, cost and opportunities that might arise. The issue of cycling on non-urban roads could also be addressed by the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC.

Councillor Keatley stated that facilities were not accessible at present and the council needed to make these areas safer. He noted the cost of installing footpaths with public lighting along rural roads were very high, however, other counties seem to have no problem putting in cycle lanes where roads were wide enough. He added the council need to encourage people and children to cycle. He asked for suggestions from the council to encourage children and adults to cycle.

During the discussion that followed, the members made the following points;

- that safety was required on our roads and more education required when sending our children out on the roads.
- that drivers were not respecting cyclists.
- that a gravel footpath be provided in Nurney to provide a way for children/adults to arrive at facilities safely.
- that there were a number of roads not safe to cycle on.
- that a pilot scheme with cost effective measures be considered.

Ms Wright noted the members concerns. She stated that the Director of Services had looked at how to encourage children and adults to cycle on rural roads. The main issue found was driver behaviour. She added the council would need to engage further with local communities and see how they might pilot some areas. She noted a huge amount of work had been carried out by the Roads Safety Officer. She stated she would bring the members comments back to the Cycle Forum for consideration.

Councillor Keatley stated that the infrastructure had to be supplied in order to provide safety on these rural roads. He added if children could cycle to schools and sporting facilities it would alleviate traffic congestion.

The District Engineer stated that a plan/routes would need to be established and it would need a good road surface.

Councillor Keatley suggested pilot areas such as Nurney, Ballyshannon and Castledermot. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Miley that the report be noted.

AY09/0319

Road and Name Signage Audit - Athy Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley:
Can the council confirm when it will be carrying out a road and name signage audit in the Athy Municipal District?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that an initial county-wide signage audit of regional road junctions and local primary road junctions had been carried out. Work was now progressing on a signage audit of local secondary road junctions. This audit would be examined by the Senior Engineer and Director of Services in the context of the need for upgrades, replacements, repairs etc and the likely costs of same across each municipal district.

Councillor Dooley welcomed the report and he asked when the audit report would be available.

Ms Wright stated that she did not have a timeline but the matter had been discussed with the Road Engineers and it would be carried out on a phased basis.

The report was noted.

AY10/0319

WOW Days (Walk on Wednesdays) - Athy Municipal District

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

Can the council incentivise and encourage schools in the Athy Municipal District to have more "WOW" days (Walk on Wednesdays)?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Road Safety Officer was currently working with schools and parents in the Municipal District to encourage '*Trot of Tuesdays*', '*Walk on Wednesdays*' and cycling one day per week. Road and cycle safety training would be organised in support of these initiatives. These events would be encouraged during Quarter 2 2019 when weather conditions would likely support these activities.

Councillor Dooley welcomed the report and he asked that the Road Safety Officer attend the next meeting of the municipal district.

The report was noted.

Councillor Breslin took the chair.

AY11/0319

**Resurfacing of the road at Blackford beside the Laois County Bounds to
Castlemitchell, Athy**

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

Can the council confirm when the road at Blackford beside the Laois county bounds will be resurfaced to Castlemitchell Athy, to include the road safety measure at this location as previously discussed?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the work on the resurfacing of the R428 should commence late

March/April. The resurfacing work would not include any other road safety measures or the completion of a road safety audit.

Councillor Wall noted the report and queried whether a road safety audit and a low cost scheme could be carried out.

The District Engineer stated he was meeting with the contractor that day to discuss the starting date adding that resurfacing this road would be a vast help and he would look into carrying out a road safety audit.

The report was noted.

AY12/0319

Pedestrian Crossing opposite the Community Centre in Castledermot

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

Can the council confirm the up to date position with restoring the pedestrian crossing opposite the Community Centre in Castledermot?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Athy Municipal District had no proposals to restore the pedestrian crossing at the Community Centre in Castledermot at this time.

Councillor Wall stated he was not happy with this report as he understood that TAAG was to carry out a review here.

Ms Wright stated this matter had been discussed under Item 7 on the agenda and the issue remains with TAAG to be assessed. She stated that the Accessibility Officer would be meeting with the stakeholders on 1 May 2019 to discuss the development of a strategy and the members would be invited to attend. The SPC would then meet on the following day.

Councillor Wall stated there were serious concerns with regard to traffic management with a very busy community centre and school.

Ms Wright stated she would bring the members concerns back to the Accessibility Officer. The report was noted.

AY13/0319

Free Parking Permits - Electric Cars

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Redmond:
Can free parking permits be given to residents with electric cars in this municipal district and consideration given to countywide free parking for anyone with an electric car?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that of a total of 14 EV charge points identified in a number of locations throughout the county (and included in Bye Laws), six had been installed to date. The recent cost of installation of two charge points in Athy was circa €7,000 and to provide unlimited free parking would not be considered sustainable and would not assist the council in providing capital funding for additional charging units. Following recent engagement with Sustainable Energy Association of Ireland (SEAI) and other Local Authorities, their experience was that free parking for EV vehicles while charging had a negative effect on the turnover of spaces hindering other EV vehicle users to access the charging facility.

Councillor Redmond stated he was disappointed with the report and asked that this matter be looked at again. He also asked when EV spaces would be provided at the council headquarters.

Ms Wright stated that the difficulty was the management of providing these car spaces. She added that EV spaces would be provided in the council headquarters in the near future. The report was noted.

AY14/0319

Roads Surfacing Works - Junction of the Carlow Road and Ballyroe Road, Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin:
Can the council carry out road resurfacing works at the junction of the Carlow Road and Ballyroe Road, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this junction would be included on the Schedule of Resurfacing Works to be carried out in the near future.

The report was noted.

AY15/0319

Completion Time for the Square in Narraghmore

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

Can the council give the members a completion time for the Square in Narraghmore?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that work was progressing and it was anticipated that Phase 1 of the Square in Narraghmore would be completed by St. Patrick's weekend.

Councillor Keatley asked for a timeline for Phase 2 of the project.

The District Engineer stated that Phase 2 would be more difficult and he would have to meet with the members to discuss some issues.

The report was noted.

AY16/0319

Upgrade of footpaths in Ballitore in 2019

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

Can the council identify the footpaths due for upgrade in Ballitore in 2019?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that footpath upgrades were planned for the Athy Road and some areas around the centre of the town.

The report was noted.

AY17/0319

Traffic Calming at Prumplestown Road, Castledermot

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

That the council immediately examine the Prumplestown road in Castledermot to include the surface, the excessive speed on the road and the public lights at the cross roads which need to be repaired.

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 road surface at this location would be included in the Road Maintenance Schedule and in the long term, it can be examined with a view to including it in the Restoration Improvement Works. The repairs to public lighting had been referred to the Public Lighting engineer. The issue of excessive speed was a matter for an Garda Síochána.

Councillor Wall stated that the public lights had to be repaired and dirt had accumulated on the road.

During the discussion that followed, the members made the following points;

- that there was a long running issue and frustration had built up locally.
- that public lights were still not working
- how often should quarry companies be cleaning the roads.

The District Engineer stated that the gravel pit had re-opened and it was causing the dirt on the road. He added he would speak with the Environment Section and ask them to monitor the situation on this road and keep it under review. He added he would contact the quarry to remind them to clean the road after they use it.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Breslin that the report be noted and that the District Engineer contact the Environment Section and ask them to monitor the road and keep it under review and that he would contact the quarry reminding them to clean the road after their use.

AY18/0319

Re-surfacing of Sweep Lane, Nurney

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

That the council continue the resurfacing of Sweep Lane in Nurney to include the footpaths and public lighting.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there were no financial provision was made available in 2019 to carry out any further works on Sweep Lane. Prior to any works being carried out, discussions needed to take place with the Housing Section in relation to their lands on Sweep Lane.

Councillor Wall stated that the first stage of this project had made a difference but he asked when the job would be finalised.

During the discussion that followed, the members made the following points;

- that the role of the Housing Section should be to take a pro-active measures.
- the need to see progress on this matter.
- families feel cut off from school

Councillor Wall requested that a meeting be arranged with the Housing Section to find a solution with regard to council land and its development.

The District Engineer stated that this meeting would be arranged.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and that a meeting be arranged with the Housing Section to find a solution with regard to council land and its development.

AY19/0319

Installation of Electronic Speed Indicators in Kilberry

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

That the council confirm the up to date position on the installation of electronic speed indicators at Kilberry.

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 there was no update in relation to the installation of Electronic Speed indicators in Kilberry at this time.

The Cathaoirleach stated that there had been two accidents on this road and she was informed previously that this matter was with TAAG for assessment. She was disappointed with the response and she asked that this matter remain on the progress report until it was resolved. She stated she had put some LPT money aside to carry out these works.

During the discussion that followed, the members made the following points;

- that several speed indicators were not working and the process for repair and installation were requested.
- that they understood that this work was to be carried out.
- that speed indicators work
- Athy should be getting the same service as other towns in the county as speed indicators would help reduce the speed vehicles travelled at.
- that most speed indicators had cameras.

The District Engineer stated that if there was an issue with speeding then the council should write to An Garda Siochana.

The Cathaoirleach stated that the area was patrolled quite often and An Garda Siochana fully supported speed indicators in the area as there was an issue with speeding in the area.

The District Engineer stated that speed indicators can be put in and monitored but enforcement was an issue.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Redmond that the report be noted and that the matter remain on the progress report until the matter was resolved.

AY20/0319

Upgrading of footpaths and necessary remedial works at Woodstock Street, Athy

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

That the council commence as a matter of priority the upgrading of the footpaths and necessary remedial works at Woodstock Street, Athy.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that work was scheduled to commence on the footpath in Woodstock Street in April/May 2019.

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

AY21/0319

Moone High Cross

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

That this Municipal District Committee ask the Office of Public Works to take charge of The Moone High Cross and to immediately provide parking and other necessary facilities at the site in conjunction with the community "Piers Café".

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

Councillor Keatley stated that this issue was first raised over twenty years ago. During the summers, bus loads of tourists visit this location to view one of the finest High Crosses and early Christian art in the country. He stated that now the only way to progress this issue was to ask the Office of Public Works to take this monument in charge and to formally take over the maintenance and care of the High Cross.

During the discussion that followed, the members made the following points;

- that carparking facilities need to be provided and it was a disgrace that this had not been addressed.
- that the high cross was ranked in the top 100 monuments in the world.
- the area should be enhanced as it would create employment.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Dooley that a letter issue to the Office of Public Works requesting them to take this monument in charge and a copy be sent to Mr Kevin Moran T.D., Minister of State for the Office of Public Works and the Oireachtas members for South Kildare.

AY22/0319

Kilberry Forum

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Redmond:
Can this Municipal District Committee prioritise the work of the Kilberry Forum as was agreed at the November meeting?

A report was received from the Head of Enterprise informing the members that the Chief Executive had met Bord na Mona and both he and the Head of Local Enterprise were in discussion about the future development of the site.

Councillor Redmond asked what proposals had been put forward in this regard. He asked that the CEO and the Head of Enterprise give a more comprehensive report giving an update from these meetings with Bord na Mona as the members had a role to play. The report was noted.

AY23/0319

Self Help Scheme 2019

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin:
Can the council confirm when the 2019 Self Help Scheme will be open for applications in the Athy Municipal District?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the Self Help Scheme was being offered to unsuccessful 2018 applicants. The maintenance section had written to applicants requesting that they confirm that they are still interested in availing of the scheme and updating their quotations. The closing date for receipt of submissions was the 8 March 2019.

The Cathaoirleach accepted an apology on behalf of Ms Byrne from the Housing Section who was unable to attend the meeting. The Cathaoirleach asked how much was available for this year and how many were offered to unsuccessful 2018 applicants.

The report was noted.

AY24/0319

Local Town Lottery

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

That the council investigate if there is a possibility of establishing a local town lottery whose funds would be used to help local projects and teams.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Section informing the members that it was not within the remit of the Local Authority to get involved in the setting up of a local lottery. This was a matter for a local group to investigate and to contact the Local Court Services to apply for a license to operate a lottery.

Councillor Redmond stated that this country had the national lottery and why not a town lottery which would help with the funding of local issues. He stated he did not want to take away from the great work that the local GAA clubs do with their lotteries.

During the discussion that followed, the members made the following points;

- that they had concerns over how it would affect GAA clubs as their lotteries keep the clubs going and volunteers sell these tickets faithfully every week.
- that the idea was good but it would need more discussion and consideration.

Ms Wright stated it was a matter for local groups to contact the Local Court Services to apply for a license to operate a lottery. The council was not in a position to support this.

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

AY25/0319

Playing Fields - Athy Municipal District

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

That in light of the councils delays in finding appropriate playing fields for teams in this municipal district, that this council hosts a meeting with affected teams in the Athy Customer Services Point chamber to move the process on as soon as possible.

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

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that a meeting was not necessary to progress this matter. What was needed was a survey of the requirements of the various sporting and recreation clubs in relation to current membership, membership structure (age groups) number of teams, current facilities the clubs have and avail of and what their future requirements are. Additionally, what scope was there for clubs sharing facilities. This information would assist in developing a process for additional recreational facilities in the Athy Municipal District.

Councillor Redmond stated that this issue had been discussed since 2014 and there was still no plan in place. He added that the role of the Athy Town Team needed to be clarified.

During the discussion that followed, the members made the following points;

- that children were being discommoded and problems not addressed
- that there was an ambition in the town plan to develop a site
- that there was a need to identify land for a facility like the one in Naas.
- that the facilities in Athy are not fit for purpose and additional playing fields were required in Athy.

Mr Wallace stated that he was dealing with clubs and he was trying to put proposals together. He said he would speak with Councillor Redmond further on the issue after the meeting. He asked that the members come back to him with proposed sites and their proposals, he would gather this information and he would come back to the members with the outcome.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Wall that the report be noted and that the members come back to Mr Wallace with proposed sites and their proposals.

AY26/0319

Re-scheduling of the May Athy Municipal District Meeting due to Local Elections

The Meetings Administrator stated that the March meeting had been moved back to the 13 May at 11.00 am in Áras Chill Dara in advance of the monthly plenary meeting. The members agreed to start their April meeting at 11.30 am on 15 April 2019 and it would be held in Castledermot Community Centre after the CPG meeting in Áras Chill Dara. This was agreed by all the members.

Resolved that the April meeting of the Athy Municipal District be held at 11.30 am on Monday, 15 April 2019 in Castledermot Community Centre.

AY27/0319

HSE Invitation (AY21/0918, AY03/1118, AY02/1218, AY03/0119 and AY02/0219)

Councillor Redmond informed the meeting that Ms O'Shea had not attended the recent Housing Forum meeting. He had emailed her to set up a meeting to discuss health issues but there was no response to date. Councillor Wall stated that he needed to meet with Ms O'Shea urgently and he asked that a letter issue to her requesting her to meet with the members in the HSE Headquarters in Naas at date and time suitable to her and this was agreed by the members.

Resolved that a letter issue to Ms O'Shea requesting her to meet with the members in the HSE Headquarters in Naas at date and time suitable to her and this was agreed by the members.

The meeting then concluded.