

**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District held at 11.30 am on Monday, 15 April 2019 in  
Castledermot Community Centre, Castledermot, Co Kildare**

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

Officials Present: Ms E Wright (Acting District Manager), Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer), Mr MI Kavanagh (A/District Engineer), Mr L Dunne and Ms V Cooke (Senior Executive Officer), Ms A M Conneely (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr M Dowling (Executive Planner), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms F Byrne (Senior Staff Officer), Ms B Loughlin (Heritage Officer), Ms P Berry (Marketing Officer), Ms A Cummins (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary).

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The Cathaoirleach welcomed the members, staff, press and public to the meeting and thanked the community centre for facilitating the meeting.

**AY01/0419**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 11 March 2019 together with the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 11 March 2019 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

**AY02/0419**

**Matters Arising**

**Invitation to Turas Nua to attend a meeting with Athy Municipal District (AY31/0219 & AY02/0319)**

The members were informed that a response was received from the CEO of Turas Nua who declined the members request to meet as under the contractual protocols outlined in

their service agreement for the delivery of JobPath by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, he was precluded from participating in a meeting with the members. However, he did give a comprehensive reply to the initial letter and this was circulated to the members. Councillor Redmond expressed his annoyance that this body had declined to meet with the members. He stated he was being contacted by people regarding the management of Turas Nua and how their clients were being dealt with. Councillor Wall stated he had also been contacted by people and he would be writing to this body himself to share their concerns. The Acting District Manager clarified that Turas Nua thanked the members for their invitation but had to decline due to their protocols and she confirmed that this body had a complaints procedure in place now and complaints could be directed through the website given [www.turasnua.ie](http://www.turasnua.ie) or by emailing [Hello@turasnua.ie](mailto:Hello@turasnua.ie). Councillor Redmond asked that a letter with items for discussion be issued to Turas Nua requesting them to meet with the members in-committee.

### **HSE Invitation (AY21/0918, AY03/1118, AY02/1218, AY03/0119, AY02/0219 & AY27/0319)**

Councillor Redmond asked for an update in regard to this invitation. The Meetings Administrator stated that a letter/email had issued requesting a meeting with Ms A O'Shea, Chief Officer, HSE and that her office had contacted the Meetings Secretary regarding dates but a response was still awaited. The Meetings Administrator stated that a further letter/email would be sent to Ms O'Shea.

### **Pedestrian Crossing opposite the Community Centre in Castledermot (AY12/0319)**

Councillor Wall asked for an update on this matter. The Acting District Manager stated that the meeting scheduled for 1 May 2019 between the stakeholders and the Accessibility Officer would be to discuss the development of a strategic plan and the members were invited to attend. In regard to the pedestrian crossing, two new Assistant Engineers were starting shortly in the Roads Section and this work would be prioritised and assessments would be carried out and brought back to the District Engineer for attention.

### **Flood Alleviation Works on the R415 at Fontstown Cross (AY22/0119, AY02/0219)**

Councillor Miley asked for an update on this matter. The Acting District Engineer stated that drainage works would be carried out in the next few weeks.

### **Completion Time for the Square in Narraghmore (AY15/0319)**

Councillor Keatley asked for an update on this matter. He welcomed works already carried out on Phase 1 of the project but he asked when Phase 2 would be done. The Acting District Engineer stated that they were working on a plan and it would be ready next month.

### **Tri- Athy**

The Acting District Manager informed the members that there was a notice of intention published with details of Tri-Athy and the road closures planned which would take place on Saturday 1 June 2019. She added that emergency access would be maintained.

### **AY03/0419**

#### **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. Councillor Miley asked that the hedgecutting at Lipstown Lower and Old Grange be carried out as a matter of priority. Councillor Redmond asked for an update on the following matters;

- the sweeper in the Athy and Castledermot areas
- footpaths on Woodstock Street
- Emily Square, Athy

The Acting District Engineer stated that he would report to the next meeting regarding the street sweeper, that the contractor was in place for works on the footpaths on Woodstock Street and this work would be carried out on a phased basis. The works on Emily Square following the removal of the trees, would be carried out in time once other works had been completed. The report was noted.

### **AY04/0419**

#### **Election Posters**

The members considered the following item which had been submitted from the Protocol Committee.

With regard to the upcoming local elections 2019, that this Municipal District confirm what has been agreed to in relation to areas to be kept 'poster free' so that all candidates running in the local elections can be advised accordingly.

A report was circulated to the members detailing requests from the various Tidy Towns and Community Councils within the Athy Municipal District.

Correspondence regarding election posters issued on 28 February 2019 to representatives of the Tidy Towns Committees in the Athy Municipal District.

Three replies were received:

- Monasterevin Tidy Towns had requested that election posters are not excessive, “Less is more”, and after the event that all posters and cable ties are removed from poles and disposed of correctly.
- Calverstown Tidy Towns had no objections to election posters once they do not pose a health and safety risk with regard to visibility etc. and they are removed promptly and disposed of properly once the election was over. Calverstown was a small village and they feel it was not necessary to have more than one poster per candidate. They would prefer not to have posters on every pole on the approach to the village.
- Athy Tidy Towns would like to keep the following areas poster free;
  - The Railway Bridge down through Leinster Street
  - Offaly Street
  - Emily Square
  - Back Square
  - Edmund Rice Square
  - Duke Street
  - William Street
  - Woodstock Street from St Dominic Park.
  - Monasterevan Road from Council Office through Stanhope Street to Emily Square.
  - Catherine Mc Cauley Car Park.
  - Stanhope Place.

This was a matter now for the members to agree, bearing in mind any such agreed protocol was done so on a voluntary basis.

Councillor Redmond agreed that it was important to support these groups who had replied.

Councillor Miley stated that candidates should respect the decision made, however, he stated that social media would also require protocols to be put in place. He said posters had been around for a long time and many constituents do not use social media and look to posters to help them make their decisions. The Meetings Administrator stated that the details of the local arrangements would be put on the councils website and made available to incumbent candidates and new candidates running.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Miley and agreed by all members that the areas outlined above by Athy Tidy Towns be kept poster free and that the requestes from Monasterevin and Calverstown Tidy Towns be adhered to. The details of the local arrangements would be put be available so that all candidates running in the local elections can be advised.

### **AY05/0419**

#### **Taking in Charge of Cois Caisleann Estate, Nurney**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall:  
Can the council provide an update on the taking in charge of Cois Caisleann estate in Nurney?

A report was received from the Building and Development Control Section informing the members that it was not proposed to take Cois Caisleann in charge this year as there was no request to take the estate in charge. The council had received €40,000 bond money and should it receive a request to take the estate in charge, the Building and Development Control Section can liaise with Irish Water to progress the taking in charge, either towards the end of this year or early next year.

Councillor Wall thanked the Building and Development Control Section for their assistance on this matter.

The report was noted.

### **AY06/0419**

#### **Part 8 Report - Proposed Castledermot Playground**

The report was circulated to the members prior to the meeting. Mr Wallace presented the Part 8 report to the members outlining that the proposed site address was Keenan's Lane, Fairgreen, Castledermot and the display period was advertised, put on public display from 8

January 2019 until 8 February 2019 and submissions/observations were due by 22 February 2019. He added that 154 submissions were received in total and asked that this report be considered subject to conditions.

Following a discussion, the members made the following points;

- They were delighted this report was before the members and said it was a great day for the community of Castledermot.
- Parks Section to monitor the playground and the Community Garda would be involved to deter anti-social behaviour.
- River Lerr was nearby and its footpaths would need to be upgraded.
- When the work on the playground would commence.
- How the council would deal with flood risk in the area
- What was the budget for this project.
- Were the children of the community getting the equipment required.
- Whether street lighting would be upgraded
- The Playground Committee chaired by Peter Behan and the Tidy Towns Group were congratulated for their tireless work in getting this playground for the community of Castledermot.
- New houses and estates had been built and this new playground would be a great benefit to the children and their families.
- That the neighbours near the construction site be liaised with during the construction period.
- That the play equipment for children with disabilities was in line with their needs.

The Cathaoirleach paid tribute to all concerned and their hard work had paid off.

Mr Wallace stated that the playground had three phases and it would cost €650,000 in total to build. The first phase, at a cost of €220,000 would commence this summer. It would be a state of the art playground and would cater for all accessibility needs. It would accommodate children with special needs and each phase thereafter would cost a further €200,000. He said the playground would be used in daylight hours only. Additional street lighting was not included in the plan. He added that a contact name would be given if queries arose during construction. He stated that if people had requirements with regard to

equipment then they should contact him prior to the start date. The members were informed that €50,000 of the Athy Municipal District's LPT funds will go towards phase one.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all members that the Chief Executive's Part 8 report for the construction of a new playground at Keenan's Lane, Fairgreen, Castledermot be carried out as recommended.

**AY07/0419**

**Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2019 Allocation**

The Acting District Manager asked the members if their circumstances met any of the requirements under Part 15 Section 177 of the Local Government Act, as amended for members to disclose a pecuniary (i.e. financial) or other beneficial interest, of which they have "actual knowledge" that they or a connected person had in a matter that arises at a meeting of the local authority.

The members stated they were members of some of the committees but did not have a pecuniary or beneficial interest to declare.

Ms Loughlin circulated her report prior to the meeting. She stated that a total of 64 applications were received under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2019 and 58 of the applications were deemed to be eligible for grant purposes. She added the total amount allocated by the council under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2019 was €51,160 and the total value of the applications seeking funding under this scheme was €143,273. The total number of applications for the Athy Municipal District was 9 and the total allocation was €8,500.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Wall with all members agreeing that Community Heritage Grant 2019 for the Athy Municipal District be approved.

**AY08/0419**

**Various Grant Schemes under the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department**

The Acting District Manager asked the members if their circumstances met any of the requirements under Part 15 Section 177 of the Local Government Act, as amended for members to disclose a pecuniary (i.e. financial) or other beneficial interest, of which they

have "actual knowledge" that they or a connected person had in a matter that arises at a meeting of the local authority.

The members stated they were members of some of the committees but did not have a pecuniary or beneficial interest to declare.

Ms Conneely outlined the following grants for approval;

### **Arts Act Grant Scheme 2019**

The members were informed that the total award under the Arts Act Grants Scheme for 2019 was €39,965 and the total award under other arts schemes was €27,850.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Wall with all the members agreeing that the Arts Act Grant Scheme 2019 for the Athy Municipal District be approved.

### **Athy Municipal District Sports LPT**

Applications were received from 30 sports clubs for the €30,000 set aside for this purpose. All clubs on the list given to the members were being recommended for approval.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Keatley with all the members agreeing that the Athy Municipal District Sports LPT Grant scheme 2019 for Athy Municipal District be approved.

### **Community Grants**

Under the Community Grant Scheme, there were 61 applicants for consideration. These had been assessed by the Community Development Team and a sum of €24,850 was recommended for award to 42 groups outlined on the list given to the members. Two further applications were pending awaiting further clarification. Councillor Keatley asked that the allocation to the Crookstown Community Centre be checked. Ms Conneely said she would take a look at this allocation.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Redmond with all the members agreeing that the Community Grants scheme 2019 for Athy Municipal District be approved.



**Festival Grants**

A total of 30 applications were received under the Festival Grant Scheme 2019, which had also been assessed by the Community Development Team. Festival Grants amounting to €13,282 were proposed to 29 groups.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Keatley with all the members agreeing that the Festival Grants scheme 2019 for Athy Municipal District be approved.

**AY09/0419**

**Athy Distributor Road**

Mr Coppinger stated that the project was proceeding well and the CIE difficulties which had arose were resolved. The council had access to CIE lands which was under licence at the moment.

Councillor Redmond stated he had been contacted by some residents in Branswood who had concerns regarding a wall being built. The wall was to be six feet high and now the wall was two feet high with a railing on top of it. The residents also had issues with the wide passageway which was wide enough to drive through and he asked Mr Coppinger to meet with the residents as soon as possible regarding their concerns.

Councillor Wall stated he had met with concerned residents also and added the residents had valid concerns and a meeting would be fruitful.

Mr Coppinger stated that the EIS had indicated fencing and the residents were happy with this, however, he said he would be happy to meet with the residents and this would be arranged after Easter. He added the access points were made wide but they would have bollards and access would be only for pedestrians and bicycles.

Councillor Wall stated that some of the residents may not have been at the initial meeting and he appreciated that a meeting would be arranged.

**AY10/0419**

**Survey Irish Rail Customers - Earlier Morning Train**

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

That the council ask the National Transport Authority to survey Irish Rail customers on the benefits and importance of an earlier 6.00 a.m. morning train, servicing Athy to Heuston Station, Dublin.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that if the members were in agreement, correspondence would be sent to the National Transport Authority (NTA) advising of the request from the members. NTA advises that requests can be forwarded directly to the following email address;

oireachtaslaiison@nationaltransport.ie

Councillor Dooley stated that an earlier service would be beneficial as it would take more cars off the public roads and asked that pressure be put on the NTA to carry out a survey on Irish Rail customers.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Wall that the report be noted and a letter issue to the NTA requesting that a survey of Irish Rail customers on the benefits and importance of an earlier 6.00 am morning train servicing Heuston Station in Dublin be carried out.

**AY11/0419**

**Athy Train Station - Staffless**

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

That the council immediately write to Irish Rail to state that plans as confirmed by the Chairperson of the National Transport Authority to make Athy a staff-less railway station is not in the best interest of the Athy town community.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that if the members were in agreement, the correspondence referred to under

Motion 6 (Councillor Dooley) would include the issue raised by Councillor Redmond. NTA advises that requests can be forwarded directly to the following email address; oireachtaslaiison@nationaltransport.ie

Councillor Redmond was informed on 26 March 2019 by the Chairperson of the NTA that Athy Train Station was earmarked to be a staffless station along with a number of other train stations in County Kildare. He asked the council to write to Irish Rail to express his regret that these plans had been confirmed by the National Transport Authority (NTA) adding that this was not in the best interest of the people of Athy. There was no lift, the toilet was not working and the elderly and people with disabilities would have difficulty accessing the station. He felt the people of Athy had been let down by Irish Rail.

Councillor Wall stated that the members met with Irish Rail a year ago and some work had been carried out at the station. He added that four months ago, the ticket machine had broken down. He asked what would happen in this case, if it was a staffless station, how would this problem be handled. He added a pedestrian crossing was also required at this station. He asked for an update from Irish Rail on all outstanding issues.

The Cathaoirleach left the chair briefly and Councillor Keatley took the chair.

The Acting District Manager stated that the policy on staffing was a matter for Irish Rail and the infrastructure would have to be in place before changes could happen.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Wall that a letter issue to Ms Ann Graham, Chief Executive, NTA outlining the issues of the members.

### **AY12/0419**

#### **Bridge at Booleigh, Athy**

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

That the council immediately improve the approach to the bridge at Booleigh, Athy side and Nurney side given the sudden reduction in the width of the road.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Athy Municipal District would erect extra signage at and approaching either side of the bridge on (L-4007) in the near future.

The Cathaoirleach resumed the chair.

Councillor Wall stated this was a narrow bridge and two cars meeting on this bridge was very dangerous. He welcomed the signage at this location. The Acting District Engineer stated that the signs were ordered and would be erected shortly.

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

### **AY13/0419**

#### **Provision of a Public Car Park at Kildangan**

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

That the council provide this committee with an update on the provision of a public car park at Kildangan.

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 preliminary survey work had been carried out and the District Manager was committed to discussing the provision of this car park with the Municipal District Engineer and agreeing a timeline for the completion of the required reports to commence the public consultation phase/Part 8 process.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and that this matter remain on the progress report.

### **AY14/0419**

#### **Street Lighting in Castledermot**

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

That the council survey the street lighting in Castledermot from The Green to the Town Centre to include Hamilton Road, Keenan's Lane and Church Lane to provide a continuously lit walking and cycling route.

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 the Public Lighting Section had determined that additional lighting was not required along Hamilton Road or Church Lane. On completion of the works associated with the Castledermot Community Playground, public lighting would be reassessed along Keenans Lane and The Green. It was proposed to include Ivor's Lane for assessment under Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Scheme (KLIPS). Lighting schemes would be scored on various factors and placed within KLIPS according to that score. The lighting within KLIPS would be installed as and when funds become available and depending on where the request sits within KLIPS.

Councillor Keatley stated he was concerned the area would get busier as it was a viable walking route and asked that the area be reviewed and the lights upgraded as part of KLIPS.

Councillor Miley stated the footpath should be extended up to Horan's Shop and LPT money could be used in this regard.

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

### **AY15/0419**

#### **Re-surfacing and Remedial Works - R418 Road into Castledermot**

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

That the council carry out resurfacing and remedial works on the R418 road into Castledermot.

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 works on this R-418 Garterfarm were scheduled to commence on the 15 April 2019.

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

**AY16/0419**

**Upgrade of Footpath in Ballitore Village**

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

That the council upgrade the footpath in Ballitore Village from the Post Office to the Meeting House.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that sections of the footpaths in Ballitore would be resurfaced in the near future with LPT monies.

Councillor Wall stated this footpath required upgrading either to reduce the height of the footpath or provide a railing and stated that there was discretionary money available from the Cathaoirleach and other LPT monies would be used.

Councillor Keatley stated that a group in Ballitore had previously met with the District Engineer to discuss these footpaths.

The A/District Engineer said the contractor had to finish works in Athy first and then he would be going to Castledermot to carry out some overlay works and other works inside the speed limits.

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

**AY17/0419**

**Fence on the boundary of Shackleton Village, Moone**

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

Can the council repair the fence on the boundary of Shackleton Village, Moone, between the public footpath and the river which is a major health and safety risk?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that work on the boundary fence between the footpath and the river would be commencing in the near future.

The report was noted.

**AY18/0419**

**Installation of Speed Indicators at Kilberry**

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

Can the council outline the progress being made in relation to the installation of speed indicators at Kilberry?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that it was proposed to meet with the local community to determine and agree the location of traffic counters and traffic speed detectors. The members would be kept informed on progress and the outcome of the traffic counts/speed.

The Cathaoirleach asked for confirmation that this meeting would take place within the next two weeks and that a traffic counter would be put in place in the meantime.

The report was noted.

**AY19/0419**

**Recommendation from the Civic Memorial Technical Committee and the Corporate Policy Group**

The members received a report on this issue prior to the meeting. The Civic Memorial Technical Committee had accessed applications on hand in accordance with the policy and recommend approval of the following two applications;

- i) WW1 Memorial at St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy
- ii) Ardrew Residents' Association – Memorial Garden

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Redmond that the two applications as outlined be approved.

**AY20/0419**

**Review of Bye-laws - Athy Municipal District**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Redmond:  
Can this committee be advised which bye laws are up for review in this municipal district and when?

A report was received from Corporate Services informing the members that the Draft Alcohol Bye-Laws for the County of Kildare had been agreed with the councils legal advisors and the maps for the 20 town/villages had been prepared. The members would be briefed in June on the new bye-laws before they go on public display. The display period would be not less than 30 days with a submission period of 2 weeks after this. It was proposed to bring a report on the bye-laws back to the members at their September Municipal District meetings with a view to them being listed for consideration at the full council meeting in September. The list of towns included in the bye-laws are Athy, Ballymore-Eustace, Castledermot, Celbridge, Clane, Johnstown, Kilcock, Kilcullen, Kildare, Kill, Kilmeague, Leixlip, Maynooth, Monasterevin, Naas, Newbridge, Prosperous, Rathangan, Robertstown and Sallins.

Councillor Redmond thanked Ms Gough for her report on alcohol bye-laws but he had asked for all the bye-laws under the council's remit to be included in this report.

The Acting District Manager stated that the review of parking bye-laws would be deferred until the re-generation of Emily Square was completed.

Mr Dunne stated that the Control of Horses Bye-Laws or Cemetery Bye-Laws were not due for review.

The Meetings Administrator stated that a full list of bye-laws and their current status would be circulated to the members.

The report was noted.



**AY21/0419**

**Re-building Ireland Home Loan**

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

Given the Central Bank's recent statement in relation to Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan can the council confirm what discussions and contact they have had from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to securing further funding for the loan scheme for the Athy Municipal District?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the RIHL was introduced in February 2018 and approval was given by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, and by the elected members, for a loan facility of €15 million, which had been fully committed. At present, loan applications can only be advanced as funding becomes available, ie. where loan offers expire. Nationally, local authorities are liaising with the Department in regard to additional funding. Should a further loan facility become available from the Department, the approval of the elected members to borrow additional funds for the RIHL would be required. Kildare County Council was aware of the Central Bank's Statement in relation to the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan (RIHL).

The Cathaoirleach stated that the biggest issue on the doorsteps while canvassing was this loan.

Ms Byrne stated that a further report would issue on this matter for the next meeting.

The report was noted.

**AY22/0419**

**Update on Vacant Sites Process**

Mr Dowling informed the members that the intention of the legislation was to deliver houses in applicable towns within the Athy Municipal District. Mr Dowling gave an outline of the various steps involved in the process. He stated there were 21 vacant sites in Athy and 14 vacant sites in Monasterevin.

Councillor Keatley asked what the situation was with regard to agricultural land and Mr Dowling stated that if the land was farmed it would not be considered vacant and would be exempt from the vacant site fee.

The members thanked Mr Dowling for his report.

**AY23/0419**

**White's Castle**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley:  
That the council write to the owner of Whites Castle asking what are their intentions in relation to the castle structure and the upkeep of the building.

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

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that the statutory duty of care for upkeep and maintenance of a protected structure was the responsibility of the owner/occupier. White's Castle was in private ownership and consequently the duty of care for the upkeep and maintenance of the Castle lies with the owner. The previous District Manager had engaged in discussions with the owners, and as the District Manager had previously stated, the council was happy to discuss future proposals for White's Castle with its owner.

Councillor Dooley asked that the owner of the castle be contacted as to what their intentions were in relation to the castle structure and upkeep of the building. He said he had fears for the state of the roof of the castle and the walls had cracks appearing in it. He understood the owner of the castle may be in the process of selling the castle.

Councillor Redmond said it was a beautiful and iconic building and he urged the council to purchase and take ownership of this building. He stated that a survey was carried out by the council's Conservation Officer and he would like to see a copy of his findings.

Councillor Wall agreed that it was in the best interest of the town to take public ownership of this building as it would be great to see the gates of this castle opened again.

Ms Cooke said the castle was on the Register of Protected Structures and the council were not in a position to write to the owner. She added the Conservation Officer did an external survey and there was nothing more the council could do on this matter as it was privately

owned. She added there was no budget in place to purchase this castle as it would be a major project of significant cost to the council. She added that the council would be happy to discuss future proposals with its owner.

The Acting District Manager stated that if the owner sells the castle, a structural survey would have to take place prior to finalisation of sale.

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

### **AY24/0419**

#### **Quarry at Ballyburn**

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

That the council, on foot of residents complaints, investigate the quarry at Ballyburn to consider if it is in breach of its planning conditions.

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

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that any legitimate complaints which the council receives regarding planning matters were investigated.

The Acting District Engineer stated that the council were liaising with the quarry in regard to the condition of the road and other issues.

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

### **AY25/0419**

#### **Upgrade of the Wastewater Treatment Plant at Molling Way Terrace, Timolin**

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

That the council give a timeline for the upgrade of the waste water treatment plant at Molling Way Terrace, Timolin.

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

A report was received from the Water Services Section informing the members that Irish Water need to progress the detailed design and procurement of the waste water treatment plant. The elected member should contact Irish Water via the dedicated Local Representative Service Desk in compliance with Irish Water instructions and protocol. The contact details are as follows; Telephone: 1850178 178 or 01/7072854 and **Email:** [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie)

Councillor Keatley stated he was not happy with this response especially when he was told twelve months ago that this project was ready to go to tender/construction. He added that the council's Water Services Section should still be coming to the municipal district meetings regardless of Irish Water.

Councillor Miley said it was a very unsatisfactory answer adding the members passed a Part 8 for this project and the council gave the members an indication that it would commence construction by Quarter 3 of 2018 and funding was available. He asked what happened to this funding.

Following a discussion, the members made the following points;

- That there were continuous problems with raw sewage at these properties and it was totally unacceptable.
- That Irish Water need to attend a meeting of the Athy Municipal District.

Mr Dunne stated that because the council had an agreement with Irish Water, the members had to go to Irish Water directly with their complaints. Irish Water were the funders of these projects and procedures were in place to deal with them.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Miley that the report be noted and that the matter remain on the progress until a detailed answer was supplied to the members.

### **AY26/0419**

#### **Derelict Sites**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Redmond:  
Can the council consider contacting the owners of the following addresses (details provided) in Athy as they are derelict and fallen into disrepair?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the properties would be examined and appropriate action, if required, would be taken under the derelict sites legislation.

The report was noted.

### **AY27/0419**

#### **Future Upgrades of Sewage Systems in Various Towns in Athy Municipal District**

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

Can the council update this Municipal District Committee on discussions with Irish Water for future upgrades of sewage systems in Kilmead, Narraghmore, Calverstown, Moone, Timolin, Kilkea, Nurney, Kilberry, and Castleroe West?

A report was received from the Water Services Section informing the members that this was raised as a matter of priority at the recent biannual meeting with Irish Water. The response was generally encouraging and, in this context, attached was an extract from Irish Water's investment programme relating specifically to small towns and villages. The amount of funding available nationally had yet to be confirmed but it was likely to be reasonably substantial and was expected to be confirmed shortly following confirmation from the Utilities Regulator. The programme would likely be rolled out formally in Quarter 3 of this year and as there would not be funding available for every town and village, clearly, the local authority would have to prioritise based on given criteria.

Councillor Miley asked that this matter continue to be raised as investment was required in these areas.

The members asked that this matter remain on the progress report.

The report was noted.

### **AY28/0419**

#### **Development of Public Realm Plans for the Village of Kilmead and the rural nodes of Booleigh**

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

That the council give an update to Athy Municipal District on the development of Public Realm plans for the village of Kilmead and the rural node of Booleigh.

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

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Section informing the members that expression of interest submissions were currently being assessed for the provision of Healthchecks and/ or the development of public realm plans in various locations across the county. Once the consultant had been appointed, project time lines in respect of each proposed location would be agreed.

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

### **AY29/0419**

#### **K-Leisure in Athy**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley:  
Can the council indicate if the management of K-Leisure in Athy consulted with them regarding price increases and the removal of the facility to purchase family tickets for the swimming pool?

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Section informing the members that K Leisure (Kildare Sports and Leisure Facilities Ltd) was a special purpose company that manages Swimming Pool facilities in Athy and Naas. The CEO of K-Leisure (in consultation with the Board of Management) makes decisions in relation to pricing structures. Kildare County Council was not consulted. Having checked with K leisure, it was confirmed that this was the first price adjustment in 10 years and some prices had actually decreased. They had also confirmed that family passes were still available.

Councillor Dooley stated that the family swimming pool pass was €13 and now it was €19.50. He asked for clarification regarding this pass and whether it still existed. Councillor Keatley said he was on the board of K-Leisure and he would bring the matter of pricing structure up at their next meeting and he would come back to the members.

The report was noted.

**AY30/0419**

**Utilisation of council owned lands - horticultural allotments or community gardens**

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

Can the council utilise some of the lands in council ownership, along the Athy perimeters, for the purpose of horticultural allotments or community gardens?

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that if the councillor can provide details for the lands in question, the status of the lands can be checked with the Property Interest Register to see if the lands could be considered for allotments. Any further progression beyond this would have to be considered for a future parks works programme as there are no staff resources to allocate to this.

Councillor Dooley said the Ardreich site opposite the old graveyard might be suitable and it would be great to utilise the grounds properly and maybe allotments/community garden would be suitable.

The report was noted.

**AY31/0419**

**Community Building - Kilberry**

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

Can the council consider providing a community building at an appropriate location at Kilberry, Athy, Co Kildare?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Section informing the members that the council would explore the options available in Kilberry and revert back to the municipal district members with an update.

The report was noted.

**AY32/0419**

**Pruning of Trees at Lipstown, Narraghmore and Timolin**

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

Can the council give a timeline for when the pruning of trees for safety reasons at Lipstown, Narraghmore and Timolin will be completed?

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that if the councillor could outline where exactly the tree requests relate to at these locations, the council would assess the requests and include them on the programme of tree works for the municipal area for this year. This was planned for the Autumn/ Winter time this year.

The report was noted.

### **AY33/0419**

#### **Moat of Ardscoil**

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

Can the council give this committee an update on plans for the majestic Moat of Ardscoil in light of funding being made available from LPT?

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that works at the Moat of Ardscoil would not take place until the second half of this year when the council had completed other works already committed to, around the county.

The report was noted.

The meeting then concluded.