



Minutes of the Athy Municipal District held at 11.00 am on Monday, 18 November 2019 in Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

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

Officials Present: Mr N Morrissey (District Manager), Mr MI. Kavanagh (Assistant Engineer), Ms E Wright and Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officers), Ms A Louw (Senior Staff Officer), Ms P Berry (Marketing Officer), Ms A Cummins (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary)

AY01/1119

Suspension of Standing Orders

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

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan that standing orders be suspended for fifteen minutes until 11.15 am. The meeting commenced at 11.15 am.

AY02/1119

Minutes

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 14 October, 2019.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley seconded by Councillor Breslin that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday 14 October 2019 be taken as read and the progress report noted.

AY03/1119

Athy Municipal District Roadworks

A report was circulated to the members at the meeting. Mr Kavanagh added that the N78



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overlay would be completed later this week and that surface dressing works on Leinster Street, Athy would commence that evening and tomorrow evening. Councillor Breslin asked whether there would be a traffic management plan in place. He confirmed that one side of the road would be completed tonight and the other side of the road tomorrow night. The Cathaoirleach enquired how long it was since the roundabout on the N78 was upgraded as many people had contacted him as to why it was being upgraded again. Mr Kavanagh stated that he would come back to the members with a reply for the next meeting. Councillor Keatley thanked the roads staff for cutting the hedge at Ballybarney and that the matter was now resolved.

The report was noted.

AY04/1119

Athy Distributor Road

Ms Wright stated that Mr Coppinger was unable to attend the meeting. A report was issued by Ms E Wright informing the members that advance works had commenced on the Athy Distributor Road. The ongoing works would consist of fencing, utility diversions, a small quantum of accommodation works and rail removal. It was anticipated that the main contract for the works would be tendered in Quarter 2 of 2020. The Cathaoirleach asked whether the timescale was still the same as given previously by Mr Coppinger. Ms Wright stated that the project was on target.

AY05/1119

Agreement to the Suspension of Standing Orders

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that agreement was required for them to suspend standing orders to enable the December Athy Municipal District Meeting commence at 11.00 am on Monday 9 December 2019.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all the members that standing orders be suspended to enable the December Athy Municipal District Meeting commence at 11.00 am on Monday 9 December 2019.



AY06/1119

Christmas Parking Arrangements in the Athy Municipal District for 2019

The members asked that the same arrangements be put in place as in 2018. Ms Wright stated that there would be free pay parking (unauthorised and illegal parking would continue to be enforced) in Athy from 8.30 am on 2 December 2019 to 8.30 am 2 January 2020

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all the there would be free pay parking (unauthorised and illegal parking would continue to be enforced) in Athy from 8.30 am on 2 December 2019 to 8.30 am 2 January 2020 in the Athy Municipal District, the same as in 2018.

AY07/1119

Installation of Salt Bunkers – Athy Municipal District

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

That the council install salt bunkers outside rural schools, community and parish centres, railway and canal bridges and secondary crossroad junctions that are not currently on the Athy Municipal District gritting routes.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this issue should be examined and considered on a countywide basis to consider and identify appropriate locations, funding mechanism and legal/insurance/safety implications of the proposal.

Councillor Behan stated she had been contacted by people who were interested in volunteering to help the council with this issue. She noted that there would be insurance costs to the council, however she stated that she got costings for such bunkers and they range from €66 plus VAT to €437 plus VAT and a bag of grit costed €9. She asked that this matter be considered as many rural areas can take a while to be gritted.



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Councillor Keatley said this matter had been discussed numerous times over the years and it was a practical idea to help communities tackle icy footpaths outside schools and other areas. It would be a small way to help rural areas off the main and regional roads. He asked that some type of scheme be organised.

The Cathaoirleach clarified that previous motions were always supported by the members. He stated that insurance costs would need to be investigated as groups were always willing and able to help.

Ms Wright stated that the best way forward was to formalise this request at the Roads Strategic Policy Committee and examine for Winter 2020/2021 and then the municipal districts would have to manage its workings and to clarify the issues around insurance. She stated that the council were not authorised to go to a shop as there were procurement rules which had to be adhered to.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Keatley that this matter be referred to the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee when established and Councillor Behan be invited to attend and revert to the members.

AY08/1119

Installation of a footpath – Fortbarrington Road, Athy

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

That the council installs a footpath along the group of houses at Fortbarrington Road, Athy.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the project would require a design, costing and identification of source of funding.

Councillor Breslin asked whether this matter could be put on the Roads Programme 2020 for the next three years.



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Councillor Dooley stated that a proper footpath was required at this location as there were 10 to 15 homes along this road who all pay local property tax.

Councillor Keatley said development levies for these homes need to be checked and maybe funding would come from those levies.

The District Manager stated that the three-year capital programme was laid out in fine detail with other priorities and he stated that the quickest solution would be for the funding to come from local property tax.

Councillor Breslin said she would need to get a costing first and she would proceed with sourcing this funding.

The District Manager reminded the members that the deadline for LPT proposals was Friday 22 November next and they were to be submitted to the Meetings Administrator.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dooley that provision of a footpath along the group of houses at Fortbarrington Road, Athy be listed as a LPT proposal.

AY09/1119

Outstanding Signage Issues- Carrigean

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

That the council address the many outstanding signage issues in Carrigean, namely The Pike Cross, Sheriffs Hill correct directional signage and the replacement of the old mileage distance directional signs to the main towns, with kilometre signage.

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 a county-wide survey of signage had been carried out, and work would proceed in the Municipal Districts 2020 to address signage issues.



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Councillor Dooley stated he was glad that the matter would be addressed. Councillor Keatley welcomed the positive report.

The Cathaoirleach asked whether funding was in place.

The District Manager stated that this work would be funded under the Revenue Budget and the monies would be made available to each Municipal District Engineer to carry out the work.

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

AY10/1119

Traffic Calming – Entrance to Abbeyfield Housing Estate, Ballitore

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

That the council install speed control measures and improve the sightlines on the L8035 at the entrance to Abbeyfield Housing Estate, Ballitore.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this would require a technical examination, design and a source of finance.

Councillor Keatley clarified that there were two issues within his motion. With regard to speed control measures, he asked what options were available and what can be done in regard to the piece of land to the right of the entrance which was blocking the sightline of those exiting the estate.

Mr Kavanagh stated he would bring back the members comments and that a safety audit would be carried out.

Councillor Keatley asked that this matter remain on the progress report until resolved.



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Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Behan that the report be noted and that a safety audit be carried out.

AY11/1119

Repairs to Minor Roads in Athy Municipal District

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

That the council carry out repairs to minor roads in the municipal district to include Pit Lane Kildoon, Mayo Lane, Graney and Chapel Lane, Kilmeade.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Athy Municipal District was carrying out repairs to a number of cul-de-sacs in the Athy Municipal District Area at the present time.

Councillor Keatley asked whether the areas mentioned in the motion were on the list of works in question. Mr Kavanagh confirmed that they were, and works would be carried out shortly.

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

AY12/1119

Installation of Street Lights in Kilburn, Walterstown, Nurney and provision of rural public lights for the Athy Municipal District

The committee agreed to consider items number 11 and 15 of the agenda together.

Item No 11 Motion – Councillor Behan

That the council install street lights in Kilburn Walterstown, Nurney.

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



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A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this had been assessed in accordance with the KLIPS scheme. There was no proposal to install public lighting at this location as the installation of street lighting to illuminate this rural settlement was not economically or environmentally sustainable. The provision of street lighting at this location would have a negative impact on the rural character of the local landscape.

Item No 15 Question – Councillor Wall

Can the council confirm if there will be funding allocated to the provision of rural public lights for the Athy Municipal District in the forthcoming council budget?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there was no proposal for funding the provision of additional rural public lights in the Athy Municipal District. The allocated budget would be used for essential repairs and maintenance of the existing lighting stock. It was anticipated that the National Public Lighting Retrofit Project would commence in 2020 and the project was anticipated to deliver a significant reduction in energy costs and contribute to the Council's Climate Action Strategy.

Councillor Behan disagreed with the report indicating that street lighting would not make a negative visual impact as the area in question was in darkness now. She added that the council need to encourage people to get out and go walking. She noted that there were also issues with anti-social behaviour including robberies and cctv cameras would be able to pick up on some of these crimes if the area in question was lit up.

Councillor Keatley agreed that adequate street lighting was required and very important in rural areas. He added that a pilot scheme was put in place a few years ago for people to get a grant to install their own lighting.

The Cathaoirleach stated that the Gardaí supported the provision of street lighting in rural areas. The council need to protect rural Kildare and provide lighting in strategic places and in locations where there are problems with crime as public lighting protects communities.



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The District Manager re-iterated that the council were not against providing public lighting. Under the budget, the council focus their expenditure on highly populated areas as funding allocated was low. He added that the retrofit programme would show savings in two to three years and maybe the budget could be increased at that time.

Ms Wright clarified that the Athy Municipal District had a pilot rural lighting scheme a few years back and it was supported by the council. However, no applications were received at that time due to the scheme not being formally advertised. She stated that this scheme could be re-activated.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that there were no applications submitted, as older people could not afford to pay the €200 with the grant to apply for the scheme.

Councillor Behan asked that details of this scheme be forwarded to the members.

Ms Wright stated that she would circulate the scheme to the members after the meeting and that the matter would be referred to the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee for review.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the pilot rural lighting scheme be re-activated, and that the application form be circulated to the members for distribution and that the matter be referred to the Transportation SPC when established for review.

AY13/1119

Flooding – Churchtown Road, Athy

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

That the council investigate the persistent flooding along the Churchtown Road out of Athy.

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



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A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this work would be dealt with as part of Routine Drainage Maintenance works.

The Cathaoirleach enquired as to when this work would commence. Mr Kavanagh stated that the crew would be working on routine maintenance of drains over the next three to four weeks.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report was noted.

AY14/1119

Pedestrian Crossing on the Carlow Road, Athy

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

Can the council confirm if it has any plans for a pedestrian crossing on the Carlow Road, Athy at the Campus Service Station, to facilitate the large number of pedestrians that walk from the many housing estates into town each day?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that a pedestrian crossing was being considered as part of the Edmund Rice Square Redevelopment Project which, subject to funding, would incorporate a walkway along the River Barrow adjacent to Edmund Rice Square and a pedestrian bridge at an appropriate location. The Public Realm Team was managing this project.

Councillor Dooley stated that the report did not actually answer his question. He added that there were 800 houses from the campus to Ardreich and four or five of those estates were occupied by older people. He stated that a pedestrian crossing near Noonan's Shop was required. He asked for this issue to be reviewed as there was no safe place along this road to cross.

The District Manager apologised that the question was not answered correctly, and he stated that the matter would be referred to TAAG.

The report was noted.



AY15/1119

Completion of the New Square – Narraghmore

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley:
Can the council give a timeline for the completion of the new square in Narraghmore?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that work would re-commence at this square in Narraghmore in late January 2020.

Councillor Keatley asked to see the finalised drawing of the proposed works.

Mr Kavanagh stated that the finalised drawing would be circulated to the members.
The report was noted.

AY16/1119

Fitzgerald Family Historical Trail – Athy Municipal District

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley:
That the council develop the Fitzgerald Family Historical trail in the Athy Municipal District.

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

A report was received from the Heritage Officer informing the members that this was an excellent idea and that she would be willing to work with any community group in the Athy Municipal District to develop such a project. Councillor Dooley might contact the Heritage Officer to organise/discuss this matter further.

Councillor Dooley outlined some of the history of the Fitzgerald Family and stated they were one of the most powerful families in the country. He stated he would engage with the Heritage Officer and the Athy Historical Society to develop a historical trail as it would greatly benefit the District.



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Councillor Behan added that there was rich history locally and it should be developed.

The Cathaoirleach stated the future of the Blueway would create opportunities for such a trail and it would involve White's Castle and it was important to develop an international brand.

Ms Louw referred to the report and stated that the Heritage Officer would be in favour of such a project.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan that a meeting be arranged with the Heritage Officer and the Athy Historical Society to discuss the development of a historical trail.

AY17/1119

Funding from Europa Nostra

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

Can the council apply for funding from Europa Nostra, a leading citizens movement to protect and celebrate our cultural and natural heritage, for areas in the Athy Municipal District which is a hugely historical area with many castles, monastic sites and churches?

A report was received from the Heritage Officer informing the members that Europa Nostra was a grouping of European non-governmental organisations advocating the protection and promotion of natural and cultural heritage with members from over 40 countries. As an NGO and not-for-profit organisation, it was **not** a funding body. It receives support from the EU for its activities as a cultural heritage network.

Since 2002, Europa Nostra had organised the [EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards](#) scheme, which was launched by the European Commission and which was funded by the [Creative Europe](#) programme of the EU.

These awards honour outstanding heritage achievements from all parts of Europe. The number of awards each year would depend on the type and quality of entries received.

Outstanding heritage achievements are awarded in the following categories:



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- Conservation
- Dedicated service by individuals or organisations
- Research
- Education, training and awareness-raising

She stated she was not aware of any project in Kildare that would qualify for such an award.

Councillor Dooley noted the report. He stated he would like to speak with the Heritage Officer to seek funding for White's Castle, Woodstock Castle and other monastic sites in the municipal district as it would help tourism in the county.

Ms Louw stated that she would be forwarding details to the members regarding applying for grants for protected structures.

The report was noted.

AY18/1119

Moneen River, Athy

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

Can the council confirm what plans they have to carry out works to the Moneen River, Athy?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the Moneen River forms part of the River Barrow drainage district and as such was part of the multi-annual river cleaning programme. This programme was subject to constraints from Inland Fisheries Ireland regarding timing of works and other issues. Works scheduled for this summer were deferred due to a crayfish plague in the River Barrow. The Moneen River remains on the programme and it was intended to do work during the next window (July-Sept 2020) subject to restrictions being lifted.



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Councillor Breslin stated that the river needs to be cleaned. She added that some houses beside the river in Moneen View and Moneen Drive were subject to flooding issues because of the condition of the river.

Mr Dunne stated the area would be monitored and works would be carried out as soon as the restrictions were lifted by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Mr Keatley asked for an update on the Barrow Drainage Works which were to be circulated to the members on a quarterly basis.

The report was noted.

AY19/1119

Barrow Blueway

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

Given the very positive news that funding has been secured for the Barrow Blueway, that the council outline the next steps in the process and that the council establishes a committee from all the interested areas along the Blueway to co-ordinate this very positive news.

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

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Section informing the members that this exciting and highly beneficial project would be managed by the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team in collaboration with Waterways Ireland. There would also be a need for substantial input from Into Kildare, LEO, elected representatives, local communities, businesses, landowners, and other relevant stakeholders. Once the funding terms and conditions had been received, a project prestart meeting with Waterways Ireland and Laois County Council would be arranged to discuss detailed design requirements, project milestones, and timelines.



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The Cathaoirleach acknowledged that funding was secured and he thanked all concerned especially the Deputies for the south of Kildare for their continued support. He asked that in light of the announcement what was the next step.

Councillor Keatley added that the funding was €5 million approximately and this blueway was the first of its kind in the area. He added that the council need to expand their network and utilise the project properly. He asked that Mr John Boyle be invited to any meetings in regard to this project.

Councillor Dooley added that Athy would become a destination to start or end the Blueway Trail. He asked that the road from Athy to the Horse Bridge be upgraded and brought up to a proper standard.

Councillor Breslin paid tribute to the Athy Promotors for their contribution in bringing one of the biggest developments, along with the Southern Distributor Road, and Re-development of Emily Square to the Athy Municipal District. It was a real opportunity to link all the developments and work together.

The District Manager stated it was a fantastic day for the Barrow Blueway and he thanked the members for their foresight and stated that the benefits would be reaped now. He added that Ms Mairead Hunt would oversee the project and there was a strong interaction with Waterways Ireland. He said there would had to be good discussion forums locally going through the project in order to have it up and running when the time comes. He said it was important to encourage people to come forward and advance the marketing of the project

The Cathaoirleach thanked all concerned for their joint efforts. He asked that a meeting be arranged with the LEO in Kildare County Council and Laois County Council in the next couple of weeks to discuss the way forward.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Keatley that a meeting be arranged with LEO in Kildare County Council and Laois County Council to discuss the way forward.



AY20/1119

Athy Municipal District Sports Equipment Grant

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall:
Can the council confirm the amount given to sports clubs under the Athy Municipal District sports equipment grant from 2015 to 2019 and can the members consider funding a similar grant from LPT for 2020?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Section informing the members that €30,000 was allocated for sports grants in the Athy Municipal District in 2019 and €20,000 was allocated in 2018. There was no record that LPT funding in this format existed before then. Further LPT funding in 2020 was a matter for the members.

The members agreed that they would consider funding a similar grant when allocating their LPT money.

The report was noted.

AY21/1119

Moone and Timolin Community Group

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley:
Can the council confirm what assistance the Moone and Timolin Community group (MATAC) has received in developing a main street design to incorporate speed calming, a pedestrian crossing between the playground, the parish hall and public toilets and a public realm for The Piers Café?

A report was received from the Economic Community and Cultural Development Section informing the members that the Moone and Timolin Community group (MATAC) had not received any support to date in respect of developing a main street design to incorporate speed calming, a pedestrian crossing between the playground, the parish hall and public toilets and a public realm for The Piers Café. However, a meeting with MATAC would be scheduled in the coming weeks to discuss and explore funding opportunities.

The report was noted.



AY22/1119

Other Business

The District Manager informed the members that he was taking a career break for three years and that the meeting today was his last. He thanked all the members and staff and he said it was an extremely exciting time for Athy with the great projects on the way. He added that Ms Annette Aspell would be taking over as the District Manager for Athy Municipal District.

The members thanked Mr Morrissey for all the hard and progressive work he put into the municipal district and wished him well in his new career. They welcomed Ms Aspell as the new District Manager.

The meeting concluded.