

**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting held at 10.00 am on Monday, 21  
January 2019 in the Athy Municipal District Building, Rathstewart, Athy**

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

Apologies: Councillor I Keatley

Officials Present: Mr N Morrissey (District Manager), Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr MI Kenny (Senior Planner), Mr J Boland (Director of Services), Mr L Dunne and Ms E Wright (Senior Executive Officers), Ms F Byrne (A/Administrative Officer), Ms P Berry (Marketing Officer), Ms A Cummins (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary)

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**AY01/0119**

**Suspension of Standing Orders**

The Cathaoirleach proposed to suspend standing orders at 10.00 am for ten minutes in order to finish the in-committee meeting in session prior to the monthly meeting.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Wall and agreed by all the members that standing orders be suspended for ten minutes until 10.10 am in order to finish the in-committee meeting in session prior to the monthly meeting. The monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District commenced at 10.10 am.

**AY02/0119**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 10 December 2018 together with the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Miley that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday 10 December 2018 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

**AY03/0119**

**Matters Arising**

**Regional Aid (AY27/1218)**

Councillor Redmond asked for an update as to when a report from Mr Conor Simpson, Regional Director of the IDA would be circulated to the members. The District Manager stated that he would speak with Ms McNabb, Head of Enterprise in regard to this report but he understood the report related to what the council can do for itself and what activities the council can move forward with. The members are to be kept informed.

**Kildangan Bridge (AY13/1018)**

Councillor Wall asked for an update on this matter. Mr Coppinger stated that he met with CIE recently and confirmed the insurance issues were resolved but it was still with the solicitors. It was hoped that it would be resolved shortly and then go to tender in the next couple of months.

**Roundabout at the top of Leinster Street, Athy (AY11/1217)**

Councillor Wall asked for an update on this matter and noted the report stating that the TII were looking at issues throughout the N78 network in Athy and the council would include this in the areas to be inspected. The District Engineer said that mini-roundabouts and railings sometimes create other problems and this would be reviewed. The members would be kept updated.

**Update on Sewage systems and capacity for future development - Athy Municipal District (AY19/1018)**

Councillor Miley asked for an update on this matter. Mr Kenny stated that this issue came up originally under the development of villages and towns and he was working with the Environment and Water Services Section to prepare a report for the meeting. He stated that the National Planning Framework developed new homes in towns and villages and many of them had servicing issues. He added that he raised this problem with the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government and he would bring a further report to the February meeting. Mr Boland gave an overview of which towns and villages were affected and stated that that the only town which had adequate capacity was Castledermot and towns such as Ballitore, Crookstown, Kildangan, Moone, Timolin, Kilberry and Narraghmore needed upgrading of their sewerage services. He stated he would circulate his summary

of the position to the members and confirmed that there were no plans at the moment to provide upgrading in these towns. Councillor Miley stated that all these towns/villages were at the centre of South Kildare and many of the local family members have no-where to build new homes due to lack of services. He asked what can be done from the council's prospective. Councillor Wall asked what the council's plans were to help these towns/villages. He added there were less than fifty homes to be built in Athy privately. He asked whether the council are going to force local people to build over the border into Carlow or Laois and therefore allows schools and post offices to close. He said he had spoken with the planners in this regard and it was now at crisis point. The District Manager stated he would convene a meeting to discuss this matter in the towns/villages in South Kildare. Mr Kenny re-iterated that this matter was in the National Planning Framework and the council were engaging with Irish Water and servicing issues had to be addressed and resolved. Councillor Redmond asked that a delegation of councillors and officials meet with the Minister for Planning, Housing and Local Government to discuss this issue. Councillor Miley asked that a comprehensive plan be put in place. Councillor Wall agreed that a comprehensive plan be prepared for these villages/towns before the council/officials meet Irish Water or the Minister for Planning, Housing and Local Government. Mr Boland suggested that Water Services in conjunction with the Planning Department put a plan in action and prioritise this and raise this matter again with Irish Water at senior level. The members to be kept updated.

### **HSE Invitation (AY21/0918, AY03/1118 & AY02/1218)**

The Meetings Administrator asked the members to confirm which meeting would be suitable for Ms Ann O'Shea, Chief Officer, HSE to attend and it was agreed that the members would meet her on Monday, 18 February 2019 at 9.00 am prior to the monthly meeting.

### **AY04/0119**

#### **Receipt of Deputation from Athy Comhairle na nÓg**

The members welcomed the deputation consisting of Evan Pereira, Stephen Fahy and Rene Mwana-Scoe from Athy Comhairle na nÓg to the meeting. The deputation represented the young people who use Athy Youth Cafe. Mr Pereira gave a full overview of the operation of the youth cafe. The cafe is run by Athy Youth Project which means that young people who attend engage with trained youth workers who can support them in an

informal way if required. The project has a wide range of services such as counselling, substance misuse counselling and employability programmes. The cafe is available to community groups free of charge with some conditions and it is used by KARE to assist their work in introducing their clients into social situations in a gradual way. However, he stated that the cafe has running costs and for the last five years the project had fundraised to meet those costs. He added that there was no regular funding in place only discretionary funding. He stated that Kildare Youth Services were happy to provide the staffing, training, insurance and provision of service required to make the cafe a success, but with reduced funding available in 2018 and into 2019, the cafe would be difficult to support financially. He confirmed the total running of the cafe for a year not including repairs would be €3,800 and asked the members for financial support for the future of this cafe.

Councillor Redmond congratulated the deputation on their great work and presentation given at the meeting. He noted there were 1902 visits by young people in 2018. He added it was a safe space for children and was very professionally run. He added it was sad to see the funding reduced and it was not right. He said he would be happy to help with the funding of this project.

Councillor Wall stated it was a very good presentation. He added it was a safe environment for young people to enjoy their own company and somewhere that they can speak about their problems. It was a great facility for the young people of Athy and its environs. He noted the members had already agreed on a figure under local property tax (LPT) funding for this project.

Councillor Dooley said he had used this space with groups such as Tri-Athy and complimented all concerned.

The District Manager said it was a great asset to the town and hopefully it would grow stronger in the years to come.

The Cathaoirleach stated she would bring the District Manager to the cafe to view it for himself. She confirmed that the members had looked at this request under LPT funding for this year and the final amount had not yet been approved. She suggested to the deputation

that they submit a submission to the council looking for future funding for the running costs of this cafe.

The deputation thanked the members for their support and stated they would make such a submission for next year.

The deputation withdrew from the meeting.

### **AY05/0119**

#### **Update on Athy Municipal District Works**

A report from the District Engineer was circulated to the members at the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach had to leave the meeting for a short period and Councillor Redmond took the chair.

Councillor Wall welcomed the roadwork report every month and asked for an update on the proposed new salting routes from Kildangan to Kildare. The District Engineer said his crews were out twice on nights when when salting was required and he hoped that the new salting route would be in operation in two to three weeks.

Councillor Wall asked for an update on the scheduling of the collection of bins and Monasterevin Tidy Towns.

Councillor Wall asked that the road markings at Woodstock Street near the fire station be investigated. The District Engineer stated that work on restoring the road markings would commence shortly.

Councillor Wall stated that the cats eyes were removed from the Kildangan to Monasterevin Road when the council were resurfacing and they needed to be put back. The District Engineer stated that the cats eyes were put in place as a temporary measure until the white line was installed.

Councillor Redmond stated that a number of people had contacted him with regard to cars being damaged while work was going on at Woodstock Street. The District Engineer stated

there was a high drop left on the road and bumpers were damaged. He asked that any complaints be forwarded to the council and they would be investigated.

Councillor Redmond raised the issue of emptying of public bins. The District Engineer stated that the bins were being used for household waste and there were some problem areas. He added this had become a serious issue and the matter was being investigated.

Councillor Redmond asked for an update on the meeting the council had recently with communication companies in the municipal district. The District Engineer stated he would keep meeting with these companies on a regular basis and checking that their reinstatement work was carried out to a high standard.

Councillor Miley stated he was glad to see the public realm works had started in Narraghmore.

Councillor Miley asked for an update on hedgecutting. The District Engineer stated he was trying to get agreement with the landowners and it would be followed up in the coming weeks as the season for pruning was coming to an end.

The Cathaoirleach resumed the chair.

### **AY06/0119**

#### **Athy Distributor Road**

Mr Coppinger gave the members an update on this project and he informed the members that the Advance Works contract would commence on Wednesday, 23 January 2019 by Clonmel Enterprises Limited and the contract would involve the following works which would take place between the N78 and Fortbarrington Road via Corran Ard housing estate and these works were due to take place over an estimated period of six months assuming no unforeseen conditions arise;

- General site clearance
- Installation of a new precast box culvert
- Installation of permanent and temporary boundary walls and fencing
- Landscaping and planting

He said he had met with Irish Rail and he was increasing the frequency of meetings with them in order to commence the abandonment of the railway which was needed before the council can progress works. This matter was moving on and it would be sorted. He said it would take two to three months for this process to be completed but it depended on CIE and Iarnrod Eireann.

Councillor Redmond welcomed that the preliminary works would be starting but disappointed that the abandonment of the railway could delay works. He asked how they would get heavy machinery on site. Mr Coppinger stated that the heavy machinery would be entering the site from the N78 not through the estate.

Councillor Redmond asked whether any other works could start. Mr Coppinger said the longest part of the project would be the building of the bridges over the river and railway.

Councillor Wall asked whether there were any delays forthcoming and was the project on target and achievable. Mr Coppinger stated the project was on target and going to tender in 2019 and it was achievable but confirmed he still had to speak to the Department of Transport regarding funding.

The District Manager stated that the council continually seek funding from the Government. The members to be kept updated.

**AY07/0119**

**Old Grange Cross**

The District Engineer stated that he was currently speaking with the landowners in regard to hedgecutting at this location. The members to be kept updated.

**AY08/0119**

**Community and Development Issues**

Ms Berry circulated a comprehensive report to the members prior to the meeting and the report was noted. The members thanked Ms Berry for her continued work for the municipal district.

**AY09/0119**

**Supply of Social Houses**

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

That the following motion in the name of this municipal district committee be submitted to the plenary session of Kildare County Council "that a quantity of social houses to be set aside for Kildare people who have lived in England or the USA or further afield for many years and who now wish to return home, but are now in council or trust accommodation abroad".

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

Councillor Redmond stated that Safe Home Ireland had previously met the Housing SPC. He noted that many Irish people had to move abroad to seek employment and the process of getting back to Ireland had become very difficult for them.

Councillor Wall was concerned about the quantity of houses and that this matter had to be teased out. People had to leave to make a living and now they are finding it hard to get on the housing list in their home towns. He commended Councillor Redmond and his work with Safe Home Ireland and he agreed that something had to be done to help these people.

Ms Byrne stated it was up to the members to bring this issue to the full council.

The Cathaoirleach suggested that this matter be brought to the Housing SPC again.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Wall and agreed by all the members that this matter be brought to the next meeting of the Housing SPC.

**AY10/0119**

**Road Resurfacing and drain cleaning works on the R417 at Tomard**

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

That the council carry out road resurfacing and drain cleaning works on the R417 at Tomard.

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 this work can be considered in light of finances for the 2020 restoration improvement works. The work would be from the intersection with the R-417 to Tomard Cross at its intersection with the L-8067.

Councillor Dooley stated that this road was utilised more and especially at school times. There were heavy goods vehicles using this road and drainage cleaning need to be carried out. He added the residents were very concerned with the current situation.

Councillor Wall stated he brought a petition two years regarding Tomard. He said the drainage works need to be carried out before 2020. The situation was dangerous at school times and it needs more than just patching works to be carried out.

The Cathaoirleach added that the sight lines are extremely poor and this should be looked at as well.

The District Engineer stated he would take a look at this work and he added that a weight restriction might be put on this road to stop heavy goods vehicles except for oil deliveries using it when there are better routes for them to use.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Wall that the report be noted and that the District Engineer would look at this location again before 2020 and that the introduction of a weight restriction be investigated for this road.

#### **AY11/0119**

#### **Traffic Calming Measures - R417**

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

That the council introduce traffic calming measures to ease traffic congestion at school times on the R417, the approach road for the three primary schools in Athy and consider using flashing digital signage displaying "reduce speed " to improve safety.

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 any traffic calming measures and congestion easing measures would

require a design and finance. There were no plans to carry out work at this location at the present time.

Councillor Dooley said there were two signs at the Gaelscoil and one at Rathstewart Crescent and none are working. He said the signs are too close to the schools. He added that flashing solar power signs should be used and they should record speeds. These were not expensive.

Councillor Wall asked that a meeting with the school principals be arranged which was discussed at a previous meeting of the council and that funding be sought for proper signage to be installed.

The District Manager stated that the meeting took place in November or early December last. Pick-up times were to be analysed as movement of traffic was the responsibility of the schools and the council had suggested ways to improve these issues at the meeting. He said after fifteen minutes approximately, the congestion around these schools was gone. He added that the Roads Safety Officer was considering bringing in a Junior Safety Officer programme to see if the problems can be resolved.

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

### **AY12/0119**

#### **Model School, Athy**

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

That the council confirm the up to date status of the former model school in Athy, to include outcome of any discussions with the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board on developing a training and apprenticeship center and any other future plans for this important site in the town.

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

Councillor Wall asked for an update on this matter. The District Manager stated that the Chief Executive Officer, the Head of Enterprise and he had met on site and looked at the potential for this building. He stated it was a good investment to sustain this building and

they were trying to secure funding to develop various services including training facilities. They hoped to make an announcement on the situation in the coming weeks.

Councillor Redmond asked whether a formal application had been sent to the Department for funding. The District Manager stated that they were currently looking into funding sources before making an application to the Government for funding. He said there would be capital funding and funding from other sources involved.

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

### **AY13/0119**

#### **Speed Surveys**

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

Can the council please give a summation of the speed surveys that have been conducted on roads in the municipal district area to include what will be done with irregularities for example the Old Kilcullen road is 50 km/h and the road running adjacent to the hotel is 80 km/h?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that as the members were aware, there was a speed limit review being carried out at present. The Draft Speed Limit Review would include a statutory public consultation process which would take place in 2019. It was anticipated that anomalies on roadways (some of which were carried over from the former Athy Town Council) with different speed limits would be regularised as part of the Review.

Councillor Redmond stated that this review had been going on for the last four years and asked whether there was a time limit involved.

The District Manager stated this process was hampered by a lack of resources and the departure of the team leader. He added that the team leader would be in place in four to five weeks time and then the review would proceed.

The report was noted.

**AY14/0119**

**Footpath from the Village of Nurney to the local football field**

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

That the council put plans in place to deliver the footpath from the village of Nurney to the local football field. This would connect the village to the local activity centre of the community.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there were no plans or resources in place at this present time to carry out this work. The distance from Nurney Village to the football pitch was approx 1km. To construct a standard footpath with lighting (without land acquisition) costs would be in the region of €300,000.

Councillor Miley stated he was alarmed at the estimated cost of providing this footpath but it was needed as this pitch was used by children on a weekly basis. He added that LPT funding had yet to be agreed and he would be pushing for this project to be included in LPT funding.

Councillor Dooley asked that this work be carried out on a phased basis.

Councillor Wall stated this footpath needed to be delivered.

Councillor Redmond added that he supported the delivery of this footpath on a phased basis.

The District Engineer stated that €300,000 was a rough estimate and it would include the length and width of the footpath, taking away grass verges, formalising the drainage system and installing public lighting. He stated that money could be sought from the National Transport Authority (NTA) but there were no plans yet until a source of funding was identified.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Dooley that the report be noted and that delivery of the footpath be looked at on a phased basis and a source of funding be identified.

### **AY15/0119**

#### **Upgrade works in the villages of Narraghmore, Ballitore, Kilmead and Booleigh**

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

In light of LPT (2017) funding being made available for the villages of Narraghmore, Ballitore, Kilmead and Booleigh, that Kildare County Council commence the upgrade works in these villages.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that work at Narraghmore would commence in the coming weeks. Some footpath improvement works would be carried out in the coming year in Ballitore. There were no plans for works to be carried out in Kilmead. There were no plans agreed for works in Booleigh.

With regard to Kilmead, Councillor Miley stated that a plan was required and that he spoke with Ms Hunt about going to tender on these works. With regard to Booleigh, he was looking for kerbing and lighting in this village.

The District Engineer said he did not have the expertise in-house to carry out these works at present.

The District Manager said these two villages would be included in the design list and this would take in the public consultation period as well.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that the report be noted and that the villages of Kilmead and Booleigh be included in the design list.

### **AY16/0119**

#### **Plans for Derelict Building in Athy Town**

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

Can the council investigate with all stakeholders what are the plans for derelict buildings on the Main Street of Athy town, many now in the ownership of financial institutions?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that there were currently three (3) properties in the town listed on the Derelict Sites Register (Derelict Sites Act). A further six (6) properties were being monitored by the Section. A number of statutory notices had issued. None of these were located on the main thoroughfare through the town. It should be further noted that eight (8) of these cases were residential properties. The Environment Section was in consultation with the Housing Section to assess these properties with a view to their possible acquisition by the Council (and use of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), where appropriate).

Councillor Dooley asked whether the council could contact the banks in regard to these buildings.

Mr Dunne stated there were a number of vacant properties and he proposed to investigate the owners and see what their plans were for these buildings. He said he would give them options such as shop fronts schemes to assist them.

The Cathaoirleach left the chair at 11.50 am and Councillor Redmond took the chair.

Mr Dunne stated he would work closely with the Housing Section to utilise these properties and he would come back to the members in due course.

The District Manager stated he got funding from LPT and the Lions Club. He added that Mr Holligan was to deliver objectives for the Regeneration Strategy encouraging owners to look at options for vacant buildings. He stated that this matter would be looked at under the working groups of the Athy Town Team under the Regeneration Strategy.

The report was noted.

### **AY17/0119**

#### **Taking in Charge of Road at Ballyfarsoon, Monasterevin**

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

Can the council confirm when the road at Ballyfarsoon Monasterevin will be taken in charge?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this was under examination by the District Engineer. In accordance with current policy, the council must satisfy itself that the road was of general public utility, i.e., that a public right of way exists and which serves at least five domestic dwellings and/or commercial premises, and also consider the financial implications of taking the road in charge.

Councillor Wall asked for a timeframe for these works. The District Engineer said it was not currently on his list. It would need a CIS scheme as opposed to upgrading the road and then taking in charge.

Councillor Wall said the road was in good condition. The District Engineer said he would look at these works again.

The report was noted.

### **AY18/0119**

#### **Nomination of Member as a Director on the Athy Community Enterprise Company CLG**

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all the members that Councillor Wall be nominated to this committee.

The Cathaoirleach resumed the chair.

### **AY19/0119**

#### **Postering at Election Time**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Redmond:  
That the Athy Municipal District put an initiative in place to prevent the out of control postering that happens at every election and that Kildare County Council identify a number of agreed sites with councillors where posters could be displayed in the next local elections.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the issue of election posters was dealt with in current legislation wherein there were exemptions [ subject to conditions ] outlined in the Litter Pollution Act . This proposal would require a protocol to be agreed locally by candidates/political parties, but this would have to be on a voluntary basis. In the event that this matter was progressed, it should be noted that an appropriate budget allocation would be required to cover the relevant costs.

The issue had also been discussed at a number of other Municipal District Committee meetings (in the county) and at the Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee. As a consequence, the matter had been forwarded to the council's Protocol Committee for further consideration. A response was awaited.

Councillor Redmond stated that posters cause problems for the environment and reducing the number used should be looked at before the next local elections.

Councillor Wall stated that from an environmental point of view, cable ties need to be removed and the candidates should work with the Tidy Towns committees in their areas.

Councillor Redmond asked whether a pilot scheme could be arranged to reduce the number of election posters for display.

The Cathaoirleach noted that the matter was with the Protocol Committee at the moment but she stated that the members should meet and discuss this matter in full.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Wall that the report be noted and that the members meet to discuss this matter.

### **AY20/0119**

#### **Illegal Dumping and fly-tipping in Athy Municipal District**

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

That the council urgently reconvenes the meeting that was to take place of all agencies with a remit for illegal dumping in the municipal district, given the amount of illegal dumping and fly-tipping taking place in all areas at this time.



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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the Environment Section would arrange a meeting with the relevant local stakeholders and the members would be advised of arrangements.

Councillor Wall stated that at least ten bags were dumped on separate occasions over the last three days and it was causing problems with drainage and that illegal dumping in the People's Park was destroying the attraction of the Park. He added that you can travel on the new N78 and the litter dumped along the roads was terrible. Illegal Dumping had become a major problem in South Kildare and was destroying the countryside. He asked that the meeting with relevant stakeholders take place quickly as we need to start naming and shaming those dumping via the press.

Councillor Miley stated that the problem was getting increasingly worse over the last number of years. He added that hedgecutting was happening at the moment and evidence of dumping was now showing up because of this. He added that the council staff were doing a great job on a weekly basis but the CCTV needed to be utilised and more prosecutions were needed.

Councillor Redmond stated that this problem had been raised many times and many young people had been educated on recycling but there are many who do not care. He asked that the council write to the Courts Service and ask for the fines to be increased from €300. He added that the AES Centre in the town should be opening up more than just three days and asked that the District Judge in Athy be also invited to attend this meeting with local stakeholders.

Councillor Dooley added that all roads in the county had litter but zero tolerance was required. He stated that the council needed to go back into schools and educate the children of the effects of litter. He agreed that a name and shame policy should be put in place.

Mr Dunne stated that the council can now ask how refuse was discharged as the bye-laws which would be in place on 1 March 2019 would give the Council this authority. He added

that CCTV was used in hot spots and it had good success. He added that the press can name and shame the offenders. He added he was planning on issuing a leaflet drop to all households regarding disposal of rubbish and other environmental issues and confirmed he had contacted Coillte and the Gardai to attend the meeting also.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Miley that a meeting be arranged with the local stakeholders including Coillte and the Gardai and the members to be informed of arrangements.

### **AY21/0119**

#### **Provision of Electronic Speed Indicator signs at Kilberry**

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

Can the council give the up to date position regarding the provision of electronic speed indicator signs at Kilberry?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the provision of such speed indicators, estimated to cost circa €5,000, was under discussion within the Roads Department in terms of policy on their provision, optimum locations, and funding mechanisms.

The Cathaoirleach stated that this matter was raised two years ago and it was referred to TAAG. These signs were urgently required. The District Manager stated there had been major movement of staff on the TAAG team. The full team and an additional person would be available soon and then the TAAG assessments would re-commence.

The report was noted.

### **AY22/0119**

#### **Flood Alleviation Works on the R415**

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

Can the council carry out flood alleviation works on the R415 where it meets the R418?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that work was scheduled to be carried out at this location in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

**AY23/0119**

**Upgrade the L8048 at Sheriff Hill**

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

Can the council upgrade the L8048 at Sheriff Hill?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this work can be considered in light of the 2020 Restoration Improvement Works.

The report was noted.

**AY24/0119**

**Engagement with Business people in Athy Municipal District**

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

With less than 70 days to Brexit what if any engagement has the council had with business people in this municipal district and can we please get a stepped up campaign in the next few weeks?

A report was received from the Head of Enterprise informing the members that Kildare Local Enterprise Office would be the “first-stop-shop” for micro and small businesses for BREXIT guidance and supports. The following supports are now available from your local office;

- Access to the ‘Brexit SME Scorecard’ online tool where micro and smaller businesses can self-diagnose their readiness for Brexit
- A ‘Technical Assistance for Micro-enterprises’ grant to help LEO clients to find new markets and exports:
- Rollout of ‘Lean for Micro’ Countywide which will make small businesses more efficient and competitive.
- A ‘LEO Innovation and Investment Fund’ pilot programme to support innovation in micro-enterprises and get them investor ready to scale their businesses

40 Tailored mentoring clinics across the county to address BREXIT related business challenges had been conducted. Major Free Brexit Briefing on 31 January for all Businesses which was widely publicised - this was the 4th in a 12 month period.

The report was noted.

**AY25/0119**

**Development of Moone High Cross**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley:  
What plans have the council to develop, what is the monastic jewel in Kildare's crown, Moone High Cross, both from a tourism and infrastructural perspective?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Section informing the members that there were no current plans or budget allocation set aside for the development of this attraction. Of course there was a desire to improve the tourism attractions across the county but this desire must be matched by capital funding.

Councillor Dooley stated that this monument was ranked in the first one thousand monuments in the world and there was no-where to park.

The report was noted.

**AY26/0119**

**Sports Clubs Grants**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall:  
Can the council confirm when the sports club grants as agreed by members will be open for applications?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Section informing the members that the Community section was awaiting formal notification of agreed LPT allocations for 2019. Once this information was available, all grants schemes agreed by members would be opened to the public as soon as practicable thereafter.

The report was noted.

**AY27/0119**

**Landscaping Works behind the Green in William Pearse Terrace, Castledermot**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin:  
Can landscaping works etc be carried out to the area behind the green in William Pearse Terrace, Castledermot to prevent the area being used for illegal dumping?

A report was received from the Meetings Administrator informing the members that under Standing Order 13, a written report would be provided to the member as soon as possible after the meeting.

The report was noted.

**AY28/0119**

**Athy Municipal District - LPT Schedule of Works 2019**

The members considered the draft Schedule of Municipal District works for 2019

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Redmond, subject to amendments, that the LPT funding for 2019 be approved.

The meeting then concluded.