



Minutes of Athy Municipal District held at 11.00 am on Monday, 14 September 2020 in Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

Members Present: Councillors A Breslin (Cathaoirleach), B Dooley, I Keatley and M Leigh

Apologies: Councillor V Behan

Officials Present: Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr G Conlan (Senior Engineer), Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officer), Mr P Makhuzza (Executive Engineer), Mr B Leonard (Administrative Officer), Ms P Berry (Community Officer), Ms K Keane (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Secretary)

AY01/0920

Suspension of Standing Orders

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

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Leigh and all the members agreed that standing orders be suspended for fifteen minutes until 11.15 am. The meeting commenced at 11.15 am.

AY02/0920

Minutes

The members considered the minutes of the annual Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 20 July 2020, the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 20 July 2020 and to note the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Leigh that the minutes of the annual Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 20 July 2020, the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 20 July 2020 be taken as read and the progress report was noted.



AY03/0920

Update on the Athy Municipal District Roadworks

The following report was circulated by the District Engineer to the members.

Pedestrian Works: Pedestrian Works will commence later in the year.

NTA – Active Travel Measures Updates:

- Moone school works gone out to tender.
- Castledermot school works gone out to tender.
- Crookstown school works gone out to tender.

DTTAS – Climate Adaptation Projects: No funding allocated to Athy Municipal District.

Bus Shelters: No funding allocated to Athy Municipal District.

Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020:

- R-428 Brackney to Cardenton.
- R-418 Gallowshill to Russelstown.
- L-8037 Timolin to Wicklow bounds
- L-8100 Graney to Plunketstown.
- L-7071 Ironhills to Eagle Hill.
- L-4010 Newtownallen.
- L-4011 Mill Road, Castledermot.
- L-8009 Broomfield to N-78.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020:

- Kilberry Housing estate drainage/footpaths/roads.
- Mount Hawkins/Kirwans lane drainage/roads/footpaths.
- Garter lane drainage/roads.
- L-4009 Abbeylands, Castledermot.

Municipal District Road Surface Dressing Works 2020:

- R-415 Booleigh to Fontstown.
- R-417 Kildangan to Cloney.
- R-415 Walterstown to Mullane.
- L-8007 Ballyshannon to Martinstown.
- L-8006 Martinstown to Crawnglass.



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- L-8073 Russelstown to Inch.
- L-7055 Duneany to Walterstown.
- L-7066 Walterstown to Nurney.
- L-7072 Martinstown to Newtown.
- L-8809 Tippenan to Whitehouse.

National Secondary(N78) Surfacing Works 2020:

- Works on N-78 will commence in the coming weeks.

The following points were raised by the members;

- Was the District Engineer happy that all monies due for 2020 would follow through to 2021 and that it would be used.

The District Engineer made the following points;

- The school projects were slightly delayed due to Covid 19 lockdown but they were all out to tender at the moment and responses were due back in following week.
- That monies would extend to next year and would be used as villages were ideal for an upgrade.

The report was noted.

AY04/0920

Athy Distributor Road

The members welcomed Mr Gerry Conlan as the newly appointed Senior Engineer. The Cathaoirleach stated that this project was the number one project for South Kildare at the moment and it was important to keep the momentum high as everyone concerned wanted to see this project commence.

The following report from the Senior Engineer was presented to the members at the meeting. A series of advance works contracts including gas main diversions, site security, minor accommodation works, culvert installation and drainage works were now substantially complete.



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Third party agreements with affected landowners and state bodies such as CIE and Waterways Ireland are being negotiated at present.

The tender process for the main works contract had advanced as follows;

Stage 1 of the tender process involving the short listing of contractors had concluded with a short-listing board recommending that six contractors be invited to tender for the main works contract. Letters to successful and unsuccessful contractors are to issue in the next 2 weeks.

Stage 2 of the tender process involving the issuing of tender documents to the successful contractors was expected start by the middle of October with completed tenders being returned before the end of November.

Mr Conlan stated that Covid 19 had affected the contract being progressed initially, but the team were working to bring the contract up to date.

The members made the following points;

- Welcomed Mr Conlan to the meeting.
- This was a long running project for South Kildare and they were anxious to see works start on site
- They were disappointed with slippage due to Covid but understood the situation as long as the project gets back on track.
- They understood that Mr Coppinger, the previous Senior Engineer had built in some time for slippage, but the community want to see diggers on site.
- They wanted assurance that diggers would be on site soon and works completed on target.

Mr Conlan stated it would be 2 to 2.5 years and certainly not less than 18 months before works would be completed on site.

The report was noted.



AY05/0920

Community and Development Issues

Ms Berry circulated a comprehensive report to the members outlining works carried out on behalf of the Athy Municipal District over the previous couple of months. The report was noted.

AY06/0920

Update on LPT Expenditure 2020

A financial report from Brian Leonard, Corporate Services was circulated to the members prior to the meeting. He stated that some of the payments under community heading were still outstanding.

The following points were raised by the members;

- In regard to Festival Grants, there would be some unspent monies and would it be forwarded to 2021.
- Can applications be submitted for 2020 or can the closing date be re-opened for this year?

The District Manager stated that the members might want to include extra groups for 2020 due to some organisations not being able to move forward with their applications or these monies could be brought forward to 2021.

The members agreed to go through the figures currently submitted and then discuss the matter again at the next meeting of the municipal district.

This matter to be listed on the agenda for the next meeting.

AY07/0920

Taking in Charge of Branswood Estate, Athy

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

Can the council confirm if it has any plans to take in charge Branswood Estate, Athy?



A report was received from the Building and Development Control Section informing the members that the Development Control Engineer issued the final snag list to the developer nearly two years ago. The developer carried out the remedial works requested satisfactorily, apart from the remedial works to the Pumping Station. These remedial works remain unfinished. Until all works are completed and the estate brought to an acceptable taking in charge standard, the Development Control Engineer cannot recommend this estate for taking in charge by the Athy Municipal District. The Bond on this estate has expired. The Development Control Engineer would attempt to engage with the developer to try to resolve this matter.

Councillor Leigh stated he was happy with the response, but he asked how the council can get the developer to finish this work. Mr Makhuza, Executive Engineer re-iterated the council's position and that he would continue to engage with the developer until the matter was resolved.

The report was noted.

AY08/0920

Taking in Charge of Ard na Laoi in Castledermot

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

Can the council confirm if it has any plans to take in charge Ard na Laoi in Castledermot?

A report was received from the Building and Development Control Section informing the members that the estate known as "Ard A Laoi", Castledermot was taken in charge on the 17 December 2012. A full list of all the estates that had been taken in charge are listed on the council website.

The Cathaoirleach stated there were several areas in the estate which were derelict and very uneven. The residents were doing great work in the estate but two sites within the estate were causing problems. She asked that the remainder of this estate consisting of these two derelict sites be taken in charge and that they be cleaned up under the Derelict Sites Act.



The report was noted.

AY09/0920

Part 8 – Proposed Development of a Welfare/Training/Workshop Facility at Gallowshill, Athy

The Part 8 report was circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

The District Engineer stated that the proposed development was long awaited as the current depot was very old and it was important to bring the building up to the 21st Century. He added that the consultant was in the process of acquiring a contractor and was hoping to start the project by the end of the year.

The members raised the following points;

- They had looked at drawings pre-Part 8 and agreed it was a top class facility
- Were the outdoor staff happy with proposals?

The District Engineer stated all concerned were very happy with the proposal.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all the members present, that the proposed development of a Welfare/Training/Workshop Facility at Gallowshill, Athy under Part XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended be agreed.

AY10/0920

Dual Cycle Path from Town Centre to Educational Campus on the Monasterevin Road, Athy

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

That the council look to design and deliver a dual cycle path, from the town centre Athy to the schools in the educational campus, at Tomard on the Monastervin Road, Athy.

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



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A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the council were currently undertaking an Area Based Transport Assessment for Athy to inform the Athy Local Area Plan. This assessment would examine a range of options to support a modal shift from private cars to cycling, walking, public transport etc. A dual cycle path scheme from the town centre to the education campus at Tomard could be examined as part of this Assessment.

The following points were raised by the members;

- It was important to highlight the need for a dual cycle path as there were a large number of schools on this road.
- If infrastructure was provided, the community would use it and the children, and their parents would walk/cycle to the schools
- It was very important to keep children active
- Under LPT, Cycle Engineer is now in place – looking forward to working with him on some pilot schemes as we need to look at road network to allow for cycle lanes.
- Cycle facilities would help tourism immensely.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Leigh that a meeting with the Cycle Engineer be arranged to discuss this matter.

AY11/0920

Erection of tall boundary fencing and gates at the carpark by the Skate Park on Meeting Lane, Athy

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

That the council erect tall boundary fencing and gates at the carpark by the skate park on Meeting Lane, Athy to prevent antisocial behaviour while maintaining access for permit holders.

As Councillor Behan was unable to attend this meeting, the motion was adjourned to the next meeting.



AY12/0920

Re-surfacing of Cockpit Lane, Ballitore

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

That the council resurfaces the Cockpit Lane in Ballitore.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that if the members agree, this work can be considered as an LPT Scheme.

The following points were raised by the members;

- Could this be considered before the end of the year

The following clarification was given by the District Engineer;

- The patcher would carry out temporary works
- The lane requires a complete overlay and surfacing works
- Large amount of other jobs need attention due to the Covid 19 lockdown and the team had not caught up yet on their schedule.
- The patching work would be carried out before Christmas.
- Resurfacing would be done after Christmas.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Keatley that patching work would be carried out before Christmas and the full re-surfacing would be carried out after Christmas.

AY13/0920

Replacement of Footpaths in Greenhills, Athy

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

That the council undertake to replace the footpaths in Greenhills, Athy as soon as possible.

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



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A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Athy Municipal District would carry out a survey of the footpaths and assess the condition of footpaths.

The following points were raised by the members;

- Mobility scooters were struggling with the current footpaths
- Elderly persons living at this location and footpaths needed to be repaired.
- Parking issues
- List submitted by the members previously
- Update on surveys to be given to the members.

The following points were raised by the District Engineer;

- Many older estates were over 30/40 years old and he would examine all of them to improve accessibility.
- LPT money can be forward to 2021 if necessary.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Dooley that following completion of surveys, discussions would take place with the members to prioritise the programme of works.

AY14/0920

Speed Signage – Horse Bridge to Rathstewart, Athy

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

That the council erect appropriate signage at the River Barrow indicating speed restrictions by the river from the Horse Bridge to Rathstewart, 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, if the members are in agreement, correspondence would issue to Waterway Ireland requesting appropriate signage be erected.

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



AY15/0920

Update on the School Streets Pilot Program for Scoil Mhichil Naofa, Athy

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

Can the council give an update on the school streets pilot program for Scoil Mhichíl Naofa, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the school street survey was conducted and closed. The two towns were Athy and Monasterevin.

Survey returns for proposed School Street

Athy – Mount Hawkins	21
Monasterevin – Drogheda Street	49
Did not answer	0

While most respondents were in favour of the school street initiative, there were some reservations and queries. From the feedback received, both towns would not favour a 'closed street'. Monasterevin would favour a part 'one-way' system while Athy may not suit. Parking outside both schools was identified in the survey as a problem and this was echoed from our own experiences.

The District Engineer had completed improvement works outside the school which, while being a separate project, would assist and add to the school street initiative. The Road Safety Officer met with some of the business owners on Mount Hawkins and outlined the school street programme to them. While there are some concerns for their businesses, he assured them that it should not interrupt or disrupt their businesses.

He also met with the School Principal last week and discussed the scheme. The Principal had agreed to create a new pedestrian entrance at the school and close-off and remove the current one at Convent View, pending approval from the Board of Management and planning approval. This should alleviate or minimise ongoing parking and local issues for the residents of Convent View. He also spoke about creating another entrance at the rear of



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the school, from the former Abbey Hotel roadside. This could facilitate students from the Monasterevin roadside of the town and school.

The Roads Safety Officer spoke to the District Engineer about additional works on the street outside the school to add to the 'school street' zone. Barriers had already been removed from the footpaths and it was proposed to erect 'pencil top' bollards and create a more 'school ahead' atmosphere on the street.

The Roads Safety Officer held a Virtual meeting with An Taisce's Green Schools Coordinators on Friday evening last and they are in favour of both schemes and are happy to assist and co-operate with the council going forward.

The following points were raised by the members;

- The survey was carried out back in June 2020 and advertised in media and newspapers
- Important not to park outside of this school and to keep this road open. Parents can park a short distance from the school and walk their children to school gate.
- Work has started on another entrance/exit and the principal, management board and all concerned are on board with this.
- Businesses need to be brought on board.

The report was noted.

AY16/0920

Delivery of Housing Units for the Elderly on the Dominican Lands, Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley:
Can the council give an update on the delivery of housing units for the elderly on the Dominican lands in Athy?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the housing site at the Dominican Lands, Athy was allocated to Cluid Housing on foot of a request for expressions of interest to develop the site by an approved housing body (AHB).

Cluid had CAS1 approval for the development of the site and had engaged a design team who had prepared a preliminary design for 30 units on the site. This proposal was currently



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being reviewed by Cluid Housing who expect to issue their proposal to Kildare County Council in early October for comment with a view to preparing a Planning Application by the end of the year. Cluid would brief the members of Athy Municipal District in advance of submitting a planning application.

The report was noted.

AY17/0920

Status of Kildangan – LPT Grant Funding

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin:
Can the council confirm the status of Kildangan and whether it is located in the Athy Municipal District or the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District as issues have occurred for community groups/resident associations when applying for LPT grant funding?

A report was received from Corporate Services informing the members that the Polling District for Kildangan (RA) is in the Kildare – Newbridge Municipal District Polling Districts. Nurney (MM) and Ballybracken (NA) are in the Athy Municipal District.

The following points were raised by the members;

- Clarity was required as issues had occurred for community/resident associations when applying for LPT grant funding.

Mr Dunne stated that he would discuss this matter with the Cathaoirleach separately. The District Manager said she would take this matter on board and she would raise the issues with the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District.

The report was noted.

AY18/0920

Update on Blueway

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley:
That this council invite a representative from Waterways Ireland to give an update on the scheduled progress of the Blueway and timelines of the project's completion.



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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Section informing the members that the council was the lead partner on this project and as such all updates would be provided by the Strategic Project and Public Realm Team (SPPR).

Works to the trailway are progressing well through two Waterways Ireland (WI) direct labour crews. Crew no 1 started at Ballyteige South and have approximately 1.5 km complete to 804 level, Crew No 2 started just past Milltown Bridge and similarly have approximately 1.5 km complete to 804 level. Once the 2 crews meet in the middle at approximately 5.5 km total, WI will complete the 5.5 km length with quarry dust. Waterways Ireland would continue to work on the trailway until November this year and would recommence in February 2021. Some of the issues we had encountered on the trailway are in relation to existing entrances and the right to access – including the right to move livestock. WI legal team were addressing these issues. Other issues were in relation to poor ground conditions, where there was a necessity to excavate further and stabilise with additional stone.

The SPPR Team procured the services of an Ecological Clerk of Works for independent oversight of all works to the Barrow Blueway as required by the planning permission and are working well with Waterways Ireland to ensure all works are carried out in compliance with Environmental Conditions and in compliance with current legislation.

The SPPR Team were currently running a tender on etenders for the detailed design and procurement of a Works Contractor for all road crossings and junction improvements, including all associated signage, this was due to close on 16/09/2020, but a 3 week extension had been requested, moving closing date for tender returns to 7/10/2020. It was envisaged this work would go to site Spring 2021.

The SPPR Team were currently working on a tender for bridge design and procurement of Works Contractor and hope to be able to upload to etenders by the end of September 2020. Images of some of the works to date would be forwarded by email to the members.

The SPPR team propose to update the council website on a bi-weekly basis, providing an update to the public as to how the works are progressing.



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The following points were raised by the members;

- Why were works stopping in November 2020 until February 2021
- The E-tender extended for three weeks – reason why?

The District Engineer clarified works were stopping in November until February for protection of wildlife.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and that the reason for e-tenders being extended be explained.

AY19/0920

Upgrading and Re-Commission of the Dry Dock, Athy

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

That given the development of the Blueway, can Kildare County Council in conjunction with all relevant agencies, investigate the possibility of upgrading and recommission the Dry Dock in Athy.

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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Section informing the members that the council in conjunction with other relevant parties can investigate the possibility, but it would be subject to a separate funding stream, and as such this funding would need to be identified.

The District Manager said she would open up the line of discussion with the Public Realm Team.

The following points were raised by the members:

- This was an opportunity to create employment
- The area around the dry dock needs upgrading and if Waterways Ireland could find funding to keep it operational it would be great.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dooley that the report be noted and discussions to take place with the Public Realm Team.



AY20/0920

Festival Grant Scheme

The members considered the grant awards under the Festival Grant Scheme administered by the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department.

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that if any of them had an interest in any of the groups being recommended for grants in relation to conflict of interest under Section 179 of the Local Government Act 2001 regarding pecuniary/beneficial reasons they should step out of the meeting while that particular group was being discussed.

The District Manager confirmed the following with the members:

- Total of 20 festival grant applications were received. Due to current circumstances, it was expected that several the events would not proceed, and groups were contacted to establish if they proposed event had been cancelled, postponed or would take place in a different format.
- 13 groups had responded indicating that their event would proceed and details of awards to them totalling €7,375 were outlined on the attached for approval.
- Due to constantly changing restrictions, it may be necessary to revert to groups again before the payment of these grants can be processed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members present that the payment of grants as proposed under the Festival Grant Scheme be approved (see appendix 1 attached).

AY21/0920

Covid 19 Signage

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

That the council erect Covid-19 signage in areas of public congregation in this municipal district to include areas such as playgrounds, train stations and skate parks.

As Councillor Behan was unable to attend this meeting, the motion was adjourned to the next meeting.



AY22/0920

Findings of the Age Friendly Survey

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh:
Can the council provide this committee with the findings of the Age Friendly survey completed in Athy last year as soon as possible?

A report was received from the Senior Community Worker, South East Region & Kildare Age Friendly Programme Manager informing the members that the Athy Age Friendly Walkability audit was just being finalised and would be presented to the members as soon as it was ready, possibly at the October or November meeting. A working group would then be established to follow up on actions.

The report was noted.

The meeting then concluded.



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Appendix 1

M.D. Athy Festival Grants 2020 for approval			
No.	Group	Proposed Award	Project Details 2020
1	Ardrew Meadows Residents Association	€200	to host a Christmas event in the estate.
2	Athy Community & Family Resource Centre	€750	to host a family fun day in summer 2020
3	Athy Town Promoters	€750	to run intercultural cooking classes to replace the usual street food festival
4	Ballitore Tanyard Community Ltd	€750	to run a variety of family fun days including easter egg hunt, visit from Mrs Claus and welcoming the Gordon Bennett Rally
5	Carbury Park Residents Association	€200	to run a community fun sports day for all the residents
6	Churchtown & Castlemitchell Comm. Dev. Assoc.	€200	to run the Annual Goose Club in Castlemitchell Community Hall
7	Ernest Shackleton Autumn School/Festival	€750	to run the 20th annual Shackleton Autumn International Festival in new Covid friendly format.
8	Kildare County Show Society Ltd	€325	to cover expenses incurred in planning the annual county show
9	Kingdom Life House	€200	to run a community family fun day and festival showcasing members talents
10	Narraghmore Development Assoc.	€1,000	to purchase equipment to build a sustainable re-useable grotto for Christmas festivals and to purchase a wall mounted projector for family movie nights
11	Narraghmore Vintage Club	€750	to run a vintage tractor/car run along with a vintage display and entertainment
12	Teach Dhiarmad	€750	to run a Christmas fair.
13	Womens Integrated Network (WIN) Athy	€750	to run the annual event celebrating diversity in Athy festival.
Total for approval		€7,375	



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Funding not being awarded		
1	Athy Anglers	Event will not take place
2	Athy Town Promoters (Teddy Bears picnic)	Event will not take place
3	Kildare Pride	Event will not take place
4	Moone and Timolin Events and Festival Group	Event will not take place
5	Moone Ladies Group	No response to second offer.
6	Moone Ladies Group	No response to second offer.
7	Street Feast	Event will not take place