



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting held at 10.00 am on  
Monday, 14 December 2020 in Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas**

**Members Present:** Councillor A Breslin (Cathaoirleach, Councillors 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), Ms C Barrett (A/Director of Service), Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officer), Ms P Pender (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr B Leonard (Administrative Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary)

---

**AY02/1220**

**Suspension of Standing Orders**

The Cathaoirleach proposed to suspend standing orders at 10.00 am for fifteen minutes.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Leigh and all the members agreed that standing orders be suspended for fifteen minutes until 10.15 am. The meeting commenced at 10.15 am.

**AY 02/1220**

**Minutes**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 16 November 2020 and the progress report.

**Resolved:** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by the members that the minutes be adopted and the progress report was noted.



**AY03/1220**

**Update on the Athy Municipal District Roadworks**

A report was received from the District Engineer informing the members as follows;

**NTA – Active Travel Measures Updates**

- Moone School works. Preparatory drainage works were complete. Phase 1 of works were complete.
- Castledermot School works phase 1 were complete. Preparatory drainage works were complete.
- Crookstown School works phase 1 were complete. Preparatory drainage works were complete.

**Bus Shelters**

Funding had been allocated to Athy Municipal District for two bus shelters in Castledermot for 2021.

**Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2020**

- R428 - Brackney to Cardenton.
- R418 - Gallowshill to Russelstown.
- L8037 - Timolin to Wicklow bounds.
- L8100 - Graney to Plunketstown.
- L7071 - Ironhills to Eagle Hill.
- L4010 - Newtownallen.
- L4011 - Mill Road, Castledermot.
- L8009 - 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.
- L4009 - Abbeylands, Castledermot.



## Kildare County Council

---

### Drainage works

- R417 – Athy/Carlow road.
- Calverstown.
- Crookstown near R-415.

### Signage works

- R-418 – Castledermot/Tullow road.

### Municipal District Road Surface Dressing Works 2020

- R415 - Booleigh to Fontstown.
- R417 - Kildangan to Cloney.
- R415 - Walterstown to Mullane.
- L8007 - Ballyshannon to Martinstown.
- L8006 - Martinstown to Crawnglass.
- L8073 - Russelstown to Inch.
- L7055 - Duneany to Walterstown.
- L7066 - Walterstown to Nurney.
- L7072 - Martinstown to Newtown.
- L8809 - Tippenan to Whitehouse.

Aftercare works being undertaken on a number of the above works.

National secondary resurfacing works South of Athy had been completed.

4 Community Improvement Schemes (CIS) had been completed:

- Ballybough, Athy.
- Belan, Athy.
- Pit lane, Kildoon.
- Brennan's Lane, Kilcrow.

Hedge Cutting works were taking place to junctions on Regional Roads.



## Kildare County Council

---

Drains and gullies were been cleaned out.

Drainage works had taken place at:

- Abbeylands, Castledermot
- Gallowshill Lane
- Narraghmore
- Moone

The following matters were raised by the members;

- It had been a very unusual and difficult year, but a comprehensive list of works had been completed and the District Engineer and his team were commended for their hard work.
- The condition of the roads in South Kildare had greatly improved and walkers and cyclists were back using some of the roads.
- In regard to drainage works at Calverstown, an update was requested.
- In regard to CIS completed in Belan, Athy that the turning circle at the end of Belan Lane be surface dressed and some drainage works carried out.
- Where are the bus shelters going in Castledermot?

The District Engineer replied as follows;

- In regard to drainage works at Calverstown, some works had been carried out, but more works may be required at a later date.
- In regard to CIS in Belan, the turning circle at the end of Belan Lane would be surface dressed and some drainage works would be carried out.
- In regard to the bus shelters in Castledermot, JC Decaux would be carrying out the work in conjunction with contractors and details would be forwarded at a later date.

The report was noted.



**AY04/1220**

**Update on LPT Expenditure 2020**

Mr Leonard circulated an updated report to the members prior to the meeting – refer to Appendix 1. He indicated that the transfer of money would be completed in December 2020 for the following;

- Moone Ladies
- Grange GFC
- Christmas Lights Castledermot
- Kimead CE Scheme
- Moone Piers Café
- Castledermot Tidy Towns

The members thanked Mr Leonard for putting together the expenditure list for LPT as there was a lot of work involved in sorting LPT money and requested an update on Crookstown Community Centre and Christmas Lights for Ballitore and Calverstown.

Mr Leonard noted the members requests and he stated he would follow-up on them for the next meeting.

The report was noted.

**AY05/1220**

**Transfer of all Unspent 2020 LPT Funds into 2021**

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all the members that all unspent LPT monies from 2020 be transferred to 2021.

**AY06/1220**

**Athy Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2021 (including the agreed list of road projects)**

The District Manager stated that this item was put on the agenda prematurely and requested that it be deferred to the next meeting.



## Kildare County Council

---

It was agreed by all the members that this matter be deferred to January/February 2021.

### **AY07/1220**

#### **Athy Distributor Road**

Mr Conlan stated that the council were continuing to acquire land and waiting on response from the Minister for Transport in regard to tender documents. They had a few technical queries which were not holding up the project and the council were waiting on ministerial approval.

The following points were raised by the members;

- Tender Documents did not arrive on the Minister desk until two weeks after the members meeting in November 2020.
- This project would be an invaluable piece of infrastructure for Athy and it was important to continue to be vocal with Oireachtas members in order to start works on site.

The District Manager stated that the Management Team had recently met with the Oireachtas members and they were keeping them updated.

The report was noted.

### **AY08/1220**

#### **Yellow Box outside the junction of Woodstock Industrial Estate, Athy**

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

That the council put a yellow box on the road outside the junction of Woodstock Industrial Estate, Athy.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that a survey of the traffic levels using this junction would indicate if there was a warrant for the yellow box under new guidelines.



## Kildare County Council

---

Councillor Leigh thanked the District Engineer for works already carried out on this road but stated that a yellow box was required.

Councillor Dooley said there was heavy traffic on this road, and it would warrant a yellow box to be installed.

The District Engineer stated there were new guidelines for box junctions and it depends of the level of traffic. He stated that a survey would be carried out to ascertain whether it was within the guidelines.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Dooley that the report be noted and that the survey be carried out.

### **AY09/1220**

#### **Works to be completed in the Villages Moone and Timolin**

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

That the council complete a design for the layout of parking, pedestrian crossings, cycle lanes, signage and all works to be completed in the villages of Moone and Timolin for public display before any further works take place.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that a survey was under way for the villages of Moone and Timolin. The survey would lead to a design for both villages which could be presented to the Athy Municipal District Councillors in 2021.

Councillor Keatley asked that parking arrangements around the school and Piers Café, Timolin be changed and he asked for all works to be outlined. He noted that the public toilets at the Church were open and were being used by the playground users. He noted that the District Engineer had met with local residents in regard to this new design. He asked for a brief outline and timeline for drawings to be put on display.



## Kildare County Council

---

Councillor Dooley stated there was excellent work to date and he welcomed money being spent on this design.

The District Engineer said he had started carrying out surveys for Moone, Timolin, Crookstown and Calverstown. The drawings should be ready by January or February 2021 and they would be brought before the members before they are put on public display.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Dooley that the report be noted and that the drawings be brought before the members early in the New Year before going on public display.

### **AY10/1220**

#### **Upkeep of the Walkway/Path from the Courthouse in Athy along the river to the Horse Bridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley:  
Can the council confirm who is responsible for the upkeep of the walkway/path from the courthouse in Athy along the river to the Horse Bridge?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this was not a public road and as such was not maintained by Athy Municipal District. Maintenance requests should be referred to Waterways Ireland.

Councillor Dooley said he had already contacted Waterways Ireland and this matter seems to be falling between the cracks. There were issues for pedestrians, wheelchair users/elderly and others currently trying to use this walkway. He asked that Waterways Ireland be contacted and ascertain who was responsible for upkeep of this route.  
The report was noted.

### **AY11/1220**

#### **Traffic Concerns – Entrance to Mr Price, Athy**

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





## **Kildare County Council**

---

Can the council confirm if it has any plans to address the traffic concerns at the entrance to the premises known as Mr Price in Athy, as this has become a very busy outlet with a large number of vehicles having to stop on the main road before turning onto the premises.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Athy Distributor Road was forecast to take circa 50% of traffic off the existing N78 and should alleviate the issue. This could be reviewed following the opening of the Distributor Road should concerns still remain.

Councillor Dooley stated that the problems were arising when people were coming from the town and turning right into Mr Price on the Dublin Road coming out of Athy. This was now a very busy outlet with large amounts of traffic coming in and out of this outlet. He asked that this matter be monitored.

The report was noted.

### **AY12/1220**

#### **Remedial Works – Roadway in Whitecastle Lawns, Athy**

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

Can the council confirm if it has any plans to carry out remedial works to the roadway in Whitecastle Lawns Athy?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Athy Municipal District would carry out repair works to Whitecastle Lawns in the near future. It can be considered for a resurfacing in light of finances made available in 2021.

The report was noted.

### **AY13/1220**

#### **Glass Bottling Recycling Area – Edmund Rice Square, Athy**

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

That the council identify a more suitable site in the town of Athy for the glass bottling



## Kildare County Council

---

recycling area currently situated in the Edmund Rice Square.

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

A report was received from the Environmental Awareness Officer informing the members that the current site at Edmund Rice Square was actually a very suitable site for the purposes of a recycling facility. The site was well used, going from 80 tonnes of glass in 2015 to 249 tonnes recycled in 2020 to date. The site also facilitates a nearby charity shop's clothing bank which reduces the number of bags left outside the shop when it was closed. The site was convenient for the people in Athy and surrounding areas. The council would welcome the opportunity to look at any potential additional sites in the town if the members can suggest any, as the town could certainly do with a second site. Using the Civic Amenity Site incurs a charge, so for people just recycling glass it was not equivalent to having a second glass recycling bank site in the town. For reference, the nearest recycling bank sites to the existing Athy site are in Castledermot, Narraghmore and Monasterevin.

Councillor Dooley said he understood why the town centre might be suitable but not Edmund Rice Square as the current recycling bank facility there looks untidy etc. He noted it had been used a lot over the last year, but the main issues were that it was unsightly and empty bottles were left everywhere. He added that when the bottles from the bank were removed by a 40ft HGV, the vehicle would have to drive in and reverse out and this was not safe in its current location. This facility was not suitable in its current location in Edmund Rice Square. He suggested that new sites be identified, one on the west end and one on the east end of the town away from the centre of the town and it would require CCTV being installed. He suggested that maybe the sports facilities would be approached.

Councillor Keatley stated there were many other suitable locations in the town which should be looked into further, but it needed to be taken out of Edmund Rice Square.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Keatley that this report be noted, and that the council identify other sites which would be more suitable for this facility.



**AY14/1220**

**Flood Alleviation – Moneen View, Athy**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh:  
Can the council confirm that when completed, if the new flood defence planned for Athy will prevent 1 in 100 flooding at Moneen View and allow insurance companies to cover the properties for flood insurance?

A report was received from the Senior Executive Engineer, Flood Risk Management informing the members that the proposed Athy Flood Relief Scheme would provide protection against 1% AEP (Annual Exceedance Probability Event) which was roughly equivalent to a 1 in 100-year storm and the level of protection required by insurers. This protection would be for all existing residential and commercial properties within the Athy Area of Further Assessment (as per the Flood Risk Management Plans) and would include those properties in Moneen View. The Flood Risk Management (FRM) Section, with support from the OPW were currently preparing the brief for consultancy services to design the scheme, with consultants due to be appointed in 2021. The FRM section would be attending the January meeting to give further details on the proposed FRS.

Councillor Leigh said people living in Moneen View were finding it very difficult to get flood insurance. It was decided at the meeting to defer this question to the January 2021 meeting and that the question be relisted as a motion in order to action this issue.  
The report was noted.

**AY15/1220**

**Update from the Technical Assessment Advisory Group (TAAG)**

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that at September plenary meeting, a report issued to the members advising that TAAG was no longer operational and the procedure for dealing with the items contained within TAAG was included in the report. All items had been extracted for each Municipal District and they were now being considered by the Municipal District Office & the



## Kildare County Council

---

Traffic Section to identify projects that need further assessment. For items on the TAAG list that had been dealt with or would not progress further, a response would issue.

Ms Barrett stated that TAAG was dissolved and she would come back to the members at their January 2021 meeting with a list of all outstanding issues. Requests would be assigned to the appropriate areas and would be assessed. If they are deemed to meet the design standard, the council would investigate whether funding was available. If it turned out that funding was not available, then the matter would be placed on a waiting list. She proposed to have a more streamline system in place shortly.

The following matters were raised by the members;

- Will TAAG staff be re-deployed?
- Clarification to be given as to what projects had been assessed and what works were completed.
- Delighted TAAG was gone as from day one it was a non-starter.
- If any projects were borderline and were technically not viable for funding, can the members allocate LPT money.

Ms Barrett informed the members that

- TAAG never had staffing, people were doing TAAG jobs on top of their own normal work.
- Reports would be given on all issues received.
- If the members wish to allocate LPT money to any project it was a matter for them to agree.

The report was noted.

### **AY16/1220**

#### **Cycleway/Greenway/Walkway – South Kildare**

The members considered the following joint motion in the names of Councillors Keatley and Leigh:



## Kildare County Council

---

That the council, along with the appropriate agencies, fully investigate the possibility of providing (and obtaining available funding) South Kildare with a Cycleway/Greenway/Walkway that are so popular in many other counties and could link in all the villages of South Kildare into the overall tourism picture.

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

A report was received from the Road Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that Kildare County Council had engaged with the NTA and expressed interest in delivering more cycle infrastructure (cycle lanes and cycle parking) in the county for 2021 and onwards. Per the report issued to Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members on 20 November 2020, the estimated spend for 2021 based on the current resourcing was in the region of €4,400,000 for cycling projects. This represents a significant increase on last year.

Furthermore, Kildare County Council had been in discussions with the NTA regarding their 5-year cycling programme (2021 - 2025) and have expressed our ambitions for a substantial growth in cycling infrastructure in the county. This plan was decided upon by the NTA and the council hoped to see their plan sometime in the new year, at which point a further update would be provided.

Currently Waterways Irelands are continuing to install the shared use trail along the Barrow River and Barrow Line of the Grand Canal. This Blueway would support a myriad of recreational activities and help grow and develop business along the length of the Barrow Blueway. This type of proposal can be examined in conjunction with the Public Realm Team once the Barrow Blueway was completed in mid-2022.

Councillor Leigh noted the report. He added he was waiting to see how the blueway would work as the council need to link up all the villages in South Kildare and he hoped for this to be done before 2022.

Councillor Keatley stated that the municipal district had numerous rights of way, footpaths, historical sites etc that need to be connected. The Blueway was stopping in Athy as Carlow



## Kildare County Council

---

would not be connecting to it for the moment. He added he did not want Athy to be a dead end but a destination point. The council should be encouraging locals to walk and cycle on our older roads. He asked the Design office to design something before the council miss out on funding.

The following matters were raised by the members;

- Would be wonderful to provide infrastructure for people to walk/cycle in South Kildare
- Hoped to meet with the Cycle Engineer soon.

Ms Barrett understood the passion of the members in this regard. A new Team was being assembled but it would not be in place until the middle of 2021. She stated that there was a huge pot of money to be released by the Government next year and the council would apply for monies as soon as a Team was in place. She stated that at the moment, there were no resources to start a greenway in Athy, but she would come back to the members with a further update. She added the new Athy Distributor Road would make a huge difference to Athy. She stated she would arrange a meeting with the members and Stephen Cummins, Senior Engineer to discuss this matter further.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Leigh that the report be noted and that a meeting be arranged between Ms Celina Barrett, Mr Stephen Cummins and the members to discuss this matter further.

### **AY17/1220**

#### **Impact of the Construction of the Southern Distributor Road**

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

That the Athy Municipal District Committee immediately writes to the Minister for Transport outlining the positive and necessary impact the construction of the Southern Distributor Road will have on Athy from alleviating traffic congestion, to reducing air pollution in the town, to creating cycle lanes and safe walking routes and linking in with the Blueway.

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



The Cathaoirleach said this was a very important project for Athy and she asked that the council write to the Minister for Transport to visit the town of Athy and see the issues being encountered for himself.

The members looked forward to hearing from the Minister for Transport.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dooley that a letter issue to the Minister for Transport requesting him to visit the town of Athy to see the problems being encountered for himself.

### **AY18/1220**

#### **Dog Friendly Walking Park – Athy Municipal District**

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

That the council seek expressions of interest from landowners in the Athy Municipal District, to establish a Dog Friendly Walking Park that could offer an income opportunity for the landowner but more importantly create a safe space for dog owners and walkers in our community.

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

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that there was no objection in principle to the establishment of dog parks in the county. Any work associated with seeking expressions of interest can be considered for inclusion in the Parks Section 2021 works programme. However, there was no budget available to lease or rent land for a dog park or to develop them. Therefore, any costs associated with developing and running the park would have to be borne by the landowner.

Councillor Dooley noted the report. He added there were many dog owners in the municipal district and it was important to find expressions of interest from landowners to create a tourism hub in order to provide a dog park as many restaurants and hotels were now allowing dogs, in the company of their owners, on their premises.



Councillor Keatley said this matter should be looked into further and some locations should be identified.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted, and this matter be investigated further.

### **AY19/1220**

#### **Rural Broadband Hubs – Athy Municipal District**

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

That the members receive a progress report on the council's plans for the roll out of Rural Broadband Hubs in the Athy Municipal District to include will they accept applications from Community Groups, will they support private hubs.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) were public locations which had been selected to receive high-speed connectivity in the first year of the National Broadband Plan. The locations of the BCPs had been selected by the local authorities and include public areas such as community halls etc. Each BCP would provide 150Mb high speed, high quality fibre broadband access to the local community.

Four sites had progressed in Kildare, three of which are in the Athy Municipal District area:

- **Bigstone Community Hall, Castledermot** - This site was now live. Tenders being sought to decorate room to provide working desk space.
- **Lullymore Heritage Centre** – Vodafone to make live shortly.
- **Crookstown Further Education and Training Centre** – Ready for NBI to install the broadband connection.
- **Back Gate Lodge, Kilkea Castle** – ready for NBI installation.





## Kildare County Council

---

There were also two School BCP sites identified for Kildare:

- Rathmore National School.
- St David's National School, Pipers Hill, Naas.

These sites are being dealt with by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Department of Education.

The role of the local authority is that of a co-ordinator to work between the operators of these four facilities; NBI; Vodafone; Dept of Rural & Community Development; to facilitate getting the site up and running. The responsibility for operation and running of these BCPs lies with each facility with some offering internal and external broadband access and others only offering external broadband i.e. carpark availability.

The Cathaoirleach asked that the council try to get connections up and running as soon as possible.

Councillor Keatley said connection to broadband in rural areas was urgently required.

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

### **AY20/1220**

#### **Walkability Report**

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

Can the council confirm following the delivery of the Walkability report, have the council outlined a plan of action for all the necessary requirements outlined in the report?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Section informing the members that Athy Town was well on its way to becoming an Age Friendly town. The library already had the status of being an age friendly library. The developers of the new Primary Care Centre consulted with the age friendly programme from the very beginning and as a result, applied age friendly principles at every stage of construction and layout.



## Kildare County Council

---

For the purpose of encompassing and delivering age friendly principles across as many services, public realm projects, and community initiatives as possible, the Athy Implementation Team had been set up. This team was made up of Director of Service, Architects, Engineers, Housing specialists, Planners, Parks Department, Town and Village Renewal, Enterprise, Community and Age Friendly staff. This team meet on a regular basis and work collaboratively with each other in order to dovetail the timing and roll out of the specific works identified in the walkability audit. The findings in the audit report are paramount for the Athy Implementation Team and their members participated in the audit. Athy had a great advantage in that so many projects are shovel ready at this time and all departments within the Council are committed to including age friendly principles when designing and implementing projects.

Councillor Leigh thanked the Team for the detailed report which was circulated to the members at the November meeting. He asked for an indication of what projects were ready and their timeframes.

Mr Dunne confirmed that the Team was in place, but he did not have timeframes. He stated he would come back to the members with their plans for 2021.

The report was noted.

### **AY21/1220**

#### **Castledermot Playground**

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

Can the council give a completion date for Castledermot playground?

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that work on Castledermot playground was delayed due to weather and the resulting ground conditions on the site. The anticipated completion date was now the end of January 2021.



## **Kildare County Council**

---

Councillor Keatley paid tribute to Mr Wallace and his Team for their work on this playground.

The report was noted.

The meeting then concluded.