



Kildare County Council

Minutes of the Athy Municipal District held at 11.00 am on Monday 17 February 2020 in Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

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

Officials Present: Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer), Mr G Halton and Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officers), Ms J McNabb (Head of Enterprise), Ms C Barrett (Chief Fire Officer), Mr J Murtagh (Executive Engineer), Ms P O'Rourke (Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms P Berry (Marketing Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary)

AY01/0220

Minutes

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 20 January 2020 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Breslin that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday 20 January 2020 be taken as read and the progress report noted.

AY02/0220

Deputation – Transition Year Students from Ardscoil na Trionoide and Athy College re Litter Campaign

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the transition year students from Ardscoil na Trionoide and Athy College, their teachers and members of "In It To Bin It" to the meeting. Ms Rona Toft



Kildare County Council

from the “In It To Bin It” team welcomed the students and their teachers and informed the members that the students would give an update on their transition year programme.

Three students from Ardscoil na Trionoide spoke about the following projects;

- Fashion competition to design and model junk couture,
- Introduction of cigarette butt bins around the town in order to help keep the town tidy and reduce cigarette waste and to help with biodiversity
- Install water refill stations around the town.

Three students from Athy College spoke about the following projects;

- Colouring competition with local primary schools to encourage use of litter bins
- Re-usable bottles, food bins inside and outside school
- Litter wardens to be appointed within the school to educate all students.
- Compost bins to assist Tidy Towns

Ms Toft stated that the “In It To Bin It” team were very happy with the projects.

The Cathaoirleach congratulated all the students for their presentation and highlighting their brilliant projects and showing great pride and passion for the town. He added these young people give great encouragement for the future of the town. He suggested that a follow-up meeting be arranged in a few weeks in Athy Municipal District offices.

The following matters were raised by the members;

- Initiatives were great, made so much sense and are practical solutions
- Suggestion that the students visit the Green Generation Company Plant in the town to help with their ideas
- Inspirational, great imagination and all their ideas made sense.

The District Manager thanked the students for attending the meeting and congratulated them on their projects.



Kildare County Council

The members agreed that a follow-up meeting with the “In It To Bin It” team and the students be arranged in the Athy Municipal District Offices in a couple of weeks in order to progress their ideas.

AY03/0220

Matters Arising from Minutes

AY23/1219 Provision of Tourist Attraction signage for Athy on the M7 and M9 – Kildare Fáilte Strategy

Ms Mangan, CEO Kildare Fáilte stated she had spoken with Mr Dunne about improving signage locally but signage on the M7 and M9 motorways was outside of her control. She added that Mr Dunne had received a response from Mr Griffith, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) which was not very positive. Ms Mangan advised that she would like to carry out a full review of tourist signage in the county.

The Cathaoirleach highlighted that the concern was more for the lack of brown tourist signs when exiting the motorway as there was no mention of Athy Town on the M9.

Ms Mangan stated she appreciated the need for motorway signage, but she could only assist with local signage. However, she stated she could issue a letter of support regarding motorway tourist signage which could be forwarded to the TII. She added she would be upgrading the Kildare Fáilte website and would use any funding available to upgrade signage locally.

The following matters were raised by the members;

- There might be a need to approach private landowners in order to put up signs
- Tourist numbers would increase if the town was identified as a heritage town.
- Welcomed letter of support from Kildare Fáilte.

The members thanked Ms Mangan for her attendance.



AY04/0220

Athy MD Schedule of Roadworks

The District Engineer informed the members that drainage works, patching, restoration improvement programme was currently being undertaken throughout the municipal district.

The members raised the following points;

- Geraldine and Kildare Road – ponding problems
- Signage on rural roads – laneway only servicing one or two families
- Footpath from Woodstock Industrial Estate up to entrance to Minch Norton
- Condition of Cardington Road – left in terrible condition by contractors.

The District Engineer confirmed the following;

- Water was coming off private property onto public roads and the council were currently trying to deal with the drainage networks on Geraldine and Kildare Road.
- Safety signs were being installed by the Athy Municipal District office as the laneway was a public road. A stop sign had to be erected at the end of it for safety reasons. These works were in conjunction with a directive from the Department of Transport.
- Area from Woodstock Industrial Estate to Minch Norton entrance would be reviewed.
- Any issues with contractors are followed up. Contractors are insured and they have a duty of obligation to leave the road in good and safe condition.

The report was noted.

AY05/0220

Athy Distributor Road

Mr Coppinger informed the members that the project was still on track and there were no major issues of concern.

In regard to the taking in charge of Forbarrington Road, the Cathaoirleach asked that a map be circulated to the members highlighting the works concerned in order to avoid confusion.

Mr Coppinger stated that a map would be circulated to the members.



AY06/0220

Community and Development Issues

A full and comprehensive report was circulated prior to the meeting. Ms Berry stated that she was currently speaking with businesses and starting to put up signs and banners to promote the St Patrick's Day Parade this year. She informed the members that a meeting was arranged to discuss this parade on Wednesday 19 February 2020 at 1.00 pm in the Athy Municipal District Offices.

Councillor Dooley commented that it was great to see all the organisations out at the weekend for the duathlon. The members thanked Ms Berry for all her hard work to date. The report was noted.

AY07/0220

Taking in Charge of Estates

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley:
That the council list the number of estates not taken in charge (T.I.C) in the Athy Municipal District and set a realistic timeline for the completion of the T.I.C of these estates.

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

A report was received from the Building and Development Control Section informing the members that there were 35 estates not taken in charge in the Athy Municipal District and a breakdown was provided to the members.

The following matters were raised by the members;

- There were funds set aside to help with taking in charge of these estates
- The members requested direction as to how to spend the €35,000 LPT funds available
- An update was requested on The Friary, Castledermot
- Most of the estates were paying LPT and works need to be carried out.



Kildare County Council

The Chief Fire Officer confirmed the following points;

- She appreciated the LPT money provided by the members and she hoped to give a good return on their investment and that many estates would be taken in charge.
- She added that Mr Murtagh would work through the estates in the Athy Municipal District and they would come back each quarter with an update.
- In regard to The Friary, Castledermot, Mr Murtagh would contact the developer this week.
- Their main focus would be on the priority list at the end of the report for this year and then another priority list would be drawn up for next year.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Behan that the report be noted and that a quarterly report be issued to the members.

AY08/0220

Briefing from Local Link

The members agreed to take item 7 and item 13 together.

Item 13 – Question – Councillor B Dooley

Can the council be given an update on the review of the rural transport link to include Calverstown, Ballyshannon, Kilgowan, Usk and Halverstown?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that item 7 on the agenda refers and Mr Kerry would be providing a presentation to the members at which point this question may be put forward. The report was noted.

Item 7 – Local Link

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr Alan Kerry, Transport Manager of Local Link, Kildare and South Dublin to the meeting.

Mr Kerry informed the members of the following points:



Kildare County Council

- Local Link Kildare South Dublin currently operated 291 scheduled trips on 45 routes which created over 2,000 passenger trips a week
- In 2019 13,058 service trips were provided which was an increase of 4.7% compared to 2018
- Local Link Services covered 559,839 kilometres on the roads of Kildare and South Dublin.
- 109,027 passengers availed of Local Link scheduled services in 2019 which was an increase of 17.8% compared to 2018
- In 2019 Local Link offered 3 daily services to Maynooth University
- 47 groups and individuals had received funding for transport from the Annual Once Off Social Fund (€12,000) - the average subsidy per trip was €60.00 which allowed participation in social and recreational activities.
- Applications were usually open from June to October
- Applications currently being considered for the 4 Rural Regular services included routes from Celbridge to Naas via Sallins Train Station, Athy to Carlow, Allenwood to Naas via Sallins Train Station and Route 880
- 2017 saw the roll out of their first Rural Regular Service – Athy to Newbridge and in 2019, this service carried 33,395 passengers, averaging 109 passengers per day. Showing growth from 2018 to 2019 of 57.8%.
- Bookabus Services was established in 2019 and 1140 service trips were delivered under this banner that provided 22,870 passenger trips. In total the scheduled and bookabus services in 2019 recorded 131,897 passenger trips. He outlined the bookabus customer locations and informed the members of the annual once off social fund which was also available to Local Link through the Department of Transport noting that 47 groups and individuals received funding for transport through the fund, 7 of which were for individuals who needed assistance travelling to medical appointments. He provided details of the regular rural services funded under public service obligation and stated that all regular rural services would incorporate evening/nighttime services on weekend schedules.

The members raised the following points;



Kildare County Council

- The Castledermot to Naas Route – did it take in the hospital in Naas.
- If funding was approved for route 880 when would it go ahead.
- Can Rural Link, link in with other organisations and provide extra services i.e. KARE
- Many students from Athy attend Maynooth University and this route needs to be looked at.
- Review of rural transport link to include Calverstown, Ballyshannon, Kilgowan, Usk and Halverstown.

Mr Kerry confirmed the following points;

- Naas Hospital was included on the Castledermot to Naas route
- Mr Kerry asked the members to email any suggestions of routes in order to fill in the gaps where there was no service at present.
- He was not in control of the budget, but he had worked with the NTA a long time.
- He added that KARE had a strong relationship with them.

The Cathaoirleach stated that the members would be complimenting the work of Local Link with the NTA at the next meeting of the full council and he thanked him for his comprehensive presentation and wished him continued success. He added that all the members would make a submission to VTOS and Mr Kerry stated he would send the local link submission to the members.

AY09/0220

Update on The Athy Food and Drinks Hub - Athy Model School

It was agreed to take Item 16 and Item 19 together.

Item 16 – Update on the Athy Model School

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms McNabb, Head of Enterprise to the meeting and she gave her presentation to the members outlining the following;

Kildare's primary hub for excellence in food, drink and skills development would comprise of;



Kildare County Council

- Skills hub
- Community timeshare incubator kitchen
- Community food discovery centre
- Co-working/collaboration zone
- She stated that the council had secured €500,000 from Coca Cola before Christmas. They would give 25% of the funding up front, 50% at tender stage and the remainder at construction stage.
- She was disappointed council did not get funding from Enterprise Ireland.
- Design just completed by Morgan Kilgallen Consulting Engineers and then the Part 8 process would commence.
- Rural Regeneration Development funding (RRDF) had still to be finalised – no closing date yet known.

The members raised the following points;

- This item to remain on the progress report for updates
- Application was excellent and disappointed that the council did not get funding from Enterprise Ireland's Regional Enterprise Development Development Fund but happy that the council would work ahead to secure funding from RRDF.
- Athy had one of the highest rates of unemployment in the county.
- Acknowledged support of Mr Peter Carey, Chief Executive Officer and glad that the council were fully behind this project.

Ms McNabb confirmed the following;

- This project was on the Chief Executive Management Team agenda and was prioritised.
- The council were hosting "Start your own business for the Blueway" on Thursday, 20 February 2020 at 7.00 pm and all details were on the website.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms McNabb for her presentation.



Kildare County Council

Item 19 – Motion – Councillor B Dooley

That the council include the Athy Food and Drinks Hub, the Model School Athy in the monthly progress report, in order to monitor and support this incredibly important project so it may proceed as quickly as possible.

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

A report was received from the Meetings Administrator informing the members that this item can be included on the progress report if the members agree.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and that the matter remain on the progress report until concluded.

AY10/0220

Suspension of Standing Orders

As it was now 1.00 pm, the Cathaoirleach requested that standing orders be suspended for a period of 30 minutes to conclude the business of the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Breslin with all members present agreeing that standing orders be suspended for a period of 30 minutes from 1.00 pm to 1.30 pm to conclude the business of the meeting.

AY11/0220

Footpath from Dairy Lane in Castledermot into the town

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

That the council investigate and further plan a footpath from Dairy Lane in Castledermot into the town given the obvious safety issues.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the provision of a footpath in this location would require a design, costings and a source of finance identified.



The Cathaoirleach stated that the condition of the road had to be looked at as muck/dirt was being left by some road users.

The District Engineer stated that a footpath can be designed but the Athy Municipal District office did not have a design team. In regard to muck/dirt on the roads, this was a matter for An Garda Siochana to enforce.

Mr Halton stated that he would bring the members concerns back to the Road Design Team in order to carry out a review and to see whether a design can be carried out.

The Cathaoirleach asked for an update on TAAG. Mr Halton stated that the Senior Engineer was reviewing all the cases currently in TAAG and would come back to the members with this report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Breslin that the report be noted and that the Road Design Team carry out a review to establish whether a design could be carried out.

AY12/0220

Additional Parking Spaces at Moatview Estate, Kilmead

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

That the council immediately investigate providing additional parking spaces at Moatview Estate, Kilmead.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the provision of additional parking spaces at this location would require a design, costings and a source of funding to be identified.



Kildare County Council

The Cathaoirleach stated there was a need for additional parking spaces here and he asked for a design to be carried out.

Mr Halton stated that he would bring the members issues back to the Road Design Team in order to carry out a review and to see whether a design can be carried out.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and that the Road Design Team would carry out a review to establish whether a design could be carried out.

AY13/0220

Parking in Lee Drive, Castledermot

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

That the council look at the redesign of parking in Lee Drive, Calverstown to have an additional three spaces for residents from (details provided), to also include resurfacing and replacement of damaged footpaths.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this issue would require a design, costing and subsequent source of finance to be identified.

Mr Halton stated that he would bring the members concerns back to the Road Design Team to carry out a review and establish whether a design could be carried out.

Councillor Dooley stated that additional spaces were required for families in this estate.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan that the report be noted and that the Road Design Team would carry out a review and establish whether a design could be carried out.



AY14/0220

Flooding – Houses in Foxhill

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

That the council puts in place measures to resolve the problem of flooding along the row of houses in Foxhill.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this work would be carried out by Athy Municipal District office soon.

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

AY15/0220

Repair of Verges on L8097 Carrigeen

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

That the council repair the verges on L8097 Carrigeen.

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 the road verges on the road from Pike Cross/Carrigeen on the back road to Baltinglass would be included in the Maintenance Program for verges.

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

AY16/0220

Upgrading of Lighting outside Athy Railway Station

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

Can the council confirm if it has plans to upgrade the lighting directly outside Athy Railway Station?



A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that Lighting along Church Road which was maintained by the council, would be upgraded as part of the National Public Lighting Upgrade Project. It was anticipated that Region 2 which includes Kildare, would go to tender in 2020, with a two-year installation period for the region. Specific project commencement dates and locations for Kildare are not available at present. However, the members would be informed once these dates are confirmed. Upgrading of lighting which was not maintained by the council would not be included in the project and would be a matter for the landowner.

The report was noted.

AY17/0220

Speed Limiting Signs at Walterstown, Nurney

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

Can the council consider using speed limiting signs at Walterstown, Nurney?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there was a 60kph speed limit in Walterstown at the present time. If members agree, a speed assessment could be carried out at the site and a report issued to An Garda Siochana to assist them with enforcement.

The report was noted.

AY18/0220

Suspension of Standing Orders

As it was now 1.30 pm, the Cathaoirleach requested that standing orders be suspended for a further 30 minutes to conclude the business of the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Breslin with all members present agreeing that standing orders be suspended for a period of 30 minutes from 1.30 pm to 2.00 pm to conclude the business of the meeting.



AY19/0220

Parks Works Programme 2020

A report outlining the Parks Work Programme 2020 was circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

The report was noted.

AY20/0220

Presentation - Open Space Management in County Kildare

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms O'Rourke to the meeting. Ms O'Rourke gave an overview of the Open Space Management in County Kildare as follows;

- How public spaces were currently maintained and how the council would continue to maintain them in the future
- Areas of concern in relation to public opinion included pesticide/herbicide usage – glyphosate (a major issue), pollinator friendly work practice, climate change mitigation, water quality, tree coverage quality of open space facilities and the greater need for them
- Current environmentally friendly maintenance practices – meadows and hay crops, grazing on pastures (e.g. Carton Avenue) were cost effective and fruitful
- Reduced mowing and spot spraying and hand weeding together with working with the Tidy Towns and community groups would be helpful for biodiversity
- Remove noxious weeds as it was not necessary to remove all weeds and use alternatives to pesticide
- Buy in was the key to success by way of education, activities for different age groups, policies and legislation plans to assist implementation was required together with research to provide scientific based solutions
- The plan for 2020 was to pilot trial areas in each municipal district and to maintain areas in an environmentally friendly fashion, reduce mowing regimes, maintain wildlife verges and progress with funding and procurement of scientific research



Kildare County Council

- Potential areas to be trialled in reducing grass cutting and spraying in the Athy Municipal District were the People's Park, Woodstock Industrial Estate, Athy and N78 verges at roundabout, Athy.
- Scoping exercises were required to identify gaps in research and funding of €50,000 would be needed for an initial scoping exercise to be undertaken
- The members help might be needed later to allocate matching or additional funding to raise the necessary money needed.

The following points were raised by the members:

- Great initiatives – hopefully cost neutral
- Some housing estates had large open spaces and would like to keep them litter free
- Green areas need to be planted with appropriate trees/shrubs
- In regard to public liability insurance, what cover do farmers require for cutting grass
- Grass cutting going towards renewal energy
- Ivy on trees/wall – should try to encourage people to remove ivy
- Japanese knotweed – Roads Department to continue to investigate this
- Great work with Tidy Towns and the “In It To Bin It” team.

Ms O'Rourke confirmed the following;

- Farmers would have their own insurance to carry out works in public areas
- Ivy had to be looked at on an individual basis.
- Japanese Knotweed would continue to be reviewed.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms O'Rourke for her comprehensive presentation.

AY20/0220

Installation of Drinking Water Stations

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

That the council consider installing a number of drinking water stations throughout the town of Athy.



Kildare County Council

The adjourned motion was proposed by Councillor Wall 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 provision of water stations. However, the Parks Section do not have a budget to provide or install water stations or to meet the ongoing running and maintenance costs. If a budget can be provided, then consideration can be given to the best and most feasible locations for them.

A report was received from the Water and Environmental Services informing the members that the Water Services Department would be pleased to assist with this initiative, and this should be considered as a pilot. There was a €50,000 seed fund available in for Climate Action initiatives and perhaps the costs could be defrayed from this.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and that the council pursue a pilot scheme to install water stations in Athy from the seed fund available for climate action initiatives.

The meeting then concluded.