



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District
held at 11:30 a.m. on Monday 20 July 2020 in
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare**

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

Apologies: Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer)

Officials Present: Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr G Halton, (Senior Executive Officer), Ms P Berry (Marketing Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator) and Ms N Smullen (Meetings Secretary).

AY01/0720

Minutes

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 15 June 2020 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Dooley that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District committee held on Monday 15 June 2020 be taken as read. The progress report noted.



AY02/0720

Municipal District Road Works

The following report had been circulated to the members and was noted by them.

Drainage Works Prior to Surfacing:

Crockaun, Martinstown, Racefield, R-417 Athy-Monasterevin Road, Portersize and jetting drainage at Fontstown to Booleigh on the R-415.

Patching Works:

Kilbeg, Derryoughter, Nurney, Martinstown and the Crockaun area.

Restoration Works: Timolin to Wicklow bounds, Plunketstown to Graney and Ironhills to Kildoon.

Sweeping: General sweeping of streets and housing estates, particularly around Athy and Monasterevin. Cleaning up junctions after recent rainfall.

Litter Bin Cleaning: Being implemented.

Comprehensive maintenance operations undertaken throughout the south of the county including pothole repairs and sign replacement. Cleaning of signposting and all drains and gullies around the municipal district.

Public lighting Upgrade: Low pressure sodium lights being replaced by LED'S.

Grass Cutting at junctions of regional roads and some major local primary roads.

Hedge Cutting on all restoration improvement and restoration maintenance for 2020.



AY03/0720

Athy Distributor Road

The Cathaoirleach stated that Mr Coppinger had conveyed his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting that day due to having to attend another meeting at the same time.

The District Manager informed the members that the team were finalising the contract documents which would then go forward for checking. She stated first stage of the two-stage tender process was being assessed and the assessment had commenced. The District Manager stated that once this was completed and the relevant approvals were obtained, the process of obtaining the approvals to the second stage would commence. She stated that it should be noted there was a two-week standstill period involved which meant the overall period to the end of assessment should take about a month and overall the project was progressing well.

The members raised the following point:

- It was important that utility services were provided with the bridge crossing and it would be cheaper to include them in the original development rather than add them at a later stage.

The District Manager stated that the council could not give a commitment to incorporate utility services as such services fell under the remit of Irish Water.

AY04/0720

Capital Programme 2021 - 2023

The District Manager informed the members that the Capital Programme 2021-2023 was currently based on the assumption that funding would be provided from other sources. She stated that the works detailed in the report were dependant on funding being provided. The District Manager stated that the impact of Covid-19 on finances was not yet known and the members should be mindful of this. She stated a number of projects for Athy were listed on



Kildare County Council

the report which included, the Athy Distributor Road, the Barrow Blueway, Emily Square and Castledermot Playground and stated to date progress had been positive.

Councillor Keatley noted that the report would be re-evaluated in 2022 and the work scheduled would be dependent mainly on development levies being collected. He asked if there was a timeframe for the collection of levies for the Athy Municipal District and if there was an aspirational figure for same. The District Manager stated that she would check the figures with the Finance Department and revert to Councillor Keatley.

AY05/0720

Finance Committee Annual Report

The members noted the Finance Committee Annual Report.

AY06/0720

Friary Estate, Castledermot

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

Can the council provide an update to the members in relation to the taking in charge of the Friary Estate, Castledermot?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the estate had been sold by the liquidators, Mazars, to an investment company. They had carried out a survey of all infrastructure on the site. The investment company had been in contact with the Development Control Engineer in relation to the possibility of selling the development to the council to provide social housing. The contact details for the relevant housing staff had been provided to the investment company to explore this possibility. The Development Control Engineer had advised that the estate needed to be brought up to the required taking in charge standard prior to sale/occupancy of any of the properties. A lighting audit was carried out on the estate in March prior to the Covid-19 restrictions and the investment company was proposing to upgrade the lighting on the estate.

The report was noted.



AY07/0720

Winter Gritting Routes

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

That the council add all roads in the municipal district that primary schools are located on to the winter gritting routes including the Maganey to Castledermot Road and Woodstock Street along to R428 Athy.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that any alterations to the salting routes would have to be considered for the 2020/2021 season. Currently, the R428 to the Laois Bounds was salted.

The following points were raised by the members:

- As July was the month the list of roads for winter gritting was prepared it would be good to have the school roads added to the list.
- Was Woodstock Street on the list?
- Numerous school roads required salting and it should be possible to add these segments of roads to the list.
- It was envisaged that many rural schools would be opened in September and numerous requests had been received to have these roads gritted.
- As the list was drawn up annually would it be helpful for the members to meet with the District Engineer to discuss further?

The District Engineer confirmed that Woodstock Street (R428) was on the list. He stated that the Municipal District Office was at full capacity with the gritting trucks and he would be happy to meet with the members to discuss the matter further.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and the District Engineer meet with the members to discuss the salting routes further.



AY08/0720

Public Transport Model

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

That the council work with the relevant bodies to review the current public transport model in the municipal district to encompass the promotion and marketing of these services.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council currently engaged with all relevant bodies in the provision of public transport throughout the county. The council would welcome any opportunity to further engage with these bodies in an effort to promote the use of public transport within the Athy Municipal District.

The following points were raised by the members:

- It was difficult for people to access information on the details and availability of public transport within the municipal district.
- It would be helpful to have all the information accessible in one place to make it easy for all generations to avail of it.
- There was a need to develop further public transport routes throughout the municipal district.
- It was requested that Kildare South Dublin Local Link be asked to advertise services in local newspapers and KFM and other local media platforms.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Dooley that the report be noted and that the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department ask Kildare South Dublin Local Link to advertise services in local newspapers and KFM and other local media platforms.



AY09/0720

Safety Issues at Junction of the R747 with R448

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

That the council address issues at the junction of the R747 with R448, onto the main Castledermot Kilcullen Road, where the lighting is not sufficient for such a busy junction and the crash barriers are damaged and need to be replaced.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that crash barriers would be replaced in the near future. The Public Lighting Section would visit the location of the requested new street lighting, and it would then be assessed using a priority system within the Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS). Lighting schemes would be scored on various factors and placed within the KLIPS according to that score. The lighting within the KLIPS would be installed as and when funds became available and depending on where the request sits within KLIPS. From a review of the location, the Public Lighting Section estimated the cost of installing lighting at this location to be in the region of €100,000 to €200,000. Please note that there was sufficient funding available in 2020 Public Lighting Budget to progress this project.

The following points were raised by the members:

- It was good that the crash barriers were going to be replaced.
- The lighting quality was very poor at the junction at Castledermot Road.
- If funding was available the lighting should be improved if the members were in agreement as it was a decision which needed to be supported by the members.
- People turning off the R448 who were not familiar with the road were ending up on the wrong side of the road and several accidents had occurred because of this.
- The members were optimistic that KLIPS would recommend lighting in the area.



Kildare County Council

- It was requested that KLIPS contact the An Garda Síochána locally in relation to the issues at the junction.
- It was requested that this item remain on the progress report.
- **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and that crash barriers be replaced at the location. The Public Lighting Section to visit the location of the requested new street lighting and assess it. KLIPS to contact An Garda Síochána locally in relation to the issues at the junction and that this item remain on the progress report.

AY10/0720

Recycling Bins

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

That the council installs bins that takes both recyclable waste and ordinary waste, when replacing litter bins in the municipal district area.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that at the present time, all the bins which were collected by the Athy Municipal District were waste material. There was no provision made in the budget for recycling waste collection.

The following points were raised by the members:

- It was requested that bins were replaced by dual bins to take both recyclable and ordinary waste.
- A pilot programme had been trialled in Prosperous and given the fact there were over 80 bins in Athy Town alone could a similar programme be trialled in Athy.
- Was it possible to look at Suncroft (to trial a pilot programme in a smaller town)?
- Was it possible to work with Tús in progressing this initiative as they had previously given a very comprehensive presentation to the members.



Kildare County Council

- When old bins were removed could they be used at other locations?

The District Engineer clarified the following points:

- The Athy Municipal District Office were not ready at the moment to engage in a recycling programme.
- Recycling bins in some car parks were provided
- An additional budget would be required for the provision and cleaning of replacement bins.
- It would be more beneficial to have the recycling centres opened for longer periods.
- The Environment Section would have to provide a budget for replacement bins.
- Pilot Schemes could be looked at.

The Cathaoirleach stated that she would pursue the matter further with the Environment Section.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dooley that the report be noted and that Councillor Breslin pursue the matter further with the Environment Section.

AY11/0720

Parking in Clonmullion Estate

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

That the council immediately review the parking situation in Clonmullion Estate with the view to extending the parking area and spaces.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the members were required to clarify whether they wished for this area to be regulated under Pay Parking. If this was the case, the proposed extended parking spaces could not be regulated until a review of the Athy Pay Parking Byelaws was



Kildare County Council

completed. If the members wished for the parking in this area to be extended and not regulated under Pay Parking this was a matter for the Municipal District Engineer to extend this parking area. A survey would be required and then a subsequent design and the scheme quantified. Finance for the scheme would have to be identified.

The following points were raised by the members:

- There were a number of issues in relation to parking issues in the Clonmullion Estate and people were parking everywhere except in front of their own houses.
- There was space within the estate to install additional parking spaces.

The District Manager stated that the report gave two options and the members needed to decide which option they wanted to proceed with and identify funding for same.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Behan that the report be noted and that the members decide whether they wished for this area to be regulated under Pay Parking or for parking in this area to be extended and not regulated under Pay Parking. Finance for the preferred option to be identified by the members.

AY12/0720

Junction at R418 and R415 on the Kilcullen to Athy Road

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

That the council review the junction at R148 and R145 on the Kilcullen to Athy Road.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this should read the R418 and R415. A survey would be required and then a subsequent design and the scheme quantified. Finance for the scheme would have to be identified.

The following points were raised by the members:



- The stone wall at the junction had been rebuilt several times because of vehicles crashing into it.
- It was requested that the District Engineer look at the possibility of carrying out works under the Low-Cost Safety Scheme to make the junction safe.
- The landowner would be happy to repair the wall once crash barriers were installed.

The District Engineer confirmed the following points:

- A survey would need to be carried out on the junction and a design drawn up and the Municipal District Office did not have the resources to carry out either.
- The Municipal District Office would replace the signage at the junction.
- The wall at the junction was private property therefore the landowner was responsible for rebuilding it.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and the Municipal District Office replace the signage at the junction.

AY13/0720

Speeding on Woodstock Street, Athy

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

Can the council confirm if it has any plans to introduce solutions to eliminate the problem of speeding on Woodstock Street, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were no plans at the present time to install any traffic calming in Woodstock street. The members might wish to raise the issue of speeding through the Joint Policing Committee (JPC).

The report was noted.



AY14/0720

Cycleway Engineer

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley.
Can the council confirm if the position of cycleway engineer for the Athy and Clane-Maynooth Municipal Districts has been filled?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that discussions are ongoing with the Director of Service for Roads, Transportation and Public Safety in relation to this position.

Councillor Keatley asked for a further report to be issued to the members before the September meeting clarifying exactly where the council were in terms filling the post of Cycleway Engineer. Mr Halton stated he would convey Councillor Keatley's comments to the Human Resources Department. The Cathaoirleach requested that this item remain on the progress report.

The report was noted.

AY15/0720

The Square, Narraghmore

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley.
Can the council confirm when work on the completion of The Square in Narraghmore is to be completed?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that due to the lockdown for Covid-19, operations were about two months behind schedule. It was hoped to recommence work before the end of the year.
The report was noted.

AY16/0720

Council Owned Land in Sweep Lane Nurney

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

That the council give an update on the development of Kildare county council owned land in Sweep Lane Nurney since last discussed at the January municipal district meeting.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the site (site 1) discussed at the Athy Municipal District meeting was currently not in the council's pipeline under the current housing strategy. While the site was suitable for residential development there is a constraint on the wastewater system in Nurney and the site could not be developed until additional capacity was provided on the wastewater system. There was considerable growth on the site and the council would look at sourcing funding to cut back the overgrowth.



Site 1



Site 2

In addition to the constraints on the waste-water treatment capacity, the council's second site, bounded in red on the above drawing, contained a waste-water treatment plant which was an Irish Water asset, the footprint of which had transferred to Irish Water. This



Kildare County Council

treatment plant would require upgrading to facilitate any future development in Nurney and might require a larger footprint. Kildare County Council had proposed to Irish Water that the wastewater treatment plant needed to be upgraded. The council had not received an update on the upgrade as of today's date.

The members raised the following points:

- The report did not give any assurance that the site development was going to progress.
- The members had asked in January that the entrance to the site be identified in order that the footpaths could be finished.
- It was understood that there were constraints to developing the site because the waste water treatment plant needed upgrading.
- Could the District Manager suggest any ways in which the members could assist the council in terms of contacting Irish Water to progress the development the site.

The District Manager confirmed the following points:

- The council had raised and continued to raise these issues with Irish Water at every available opportunity.
- Further guidance was due to issue from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) in autumn in terms of possibly extending the Service Sites Funding (SSF) to be used on a wider range of sites other than just affordable housing sites.
- If the SSF was extended it would help the situation.
- It would not be cost effective to use additional funding now to finish the footpath when this work would be included in the overall delivery of the site.
- It was requested that in the meantime the members correspond with Irish Water requesting them to prioritise the development of the site.



Kildare County Council

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Behan that the report be noted and that the members write to Irish Water requesting them to prioritise the development of the site.

AY17/0720

Catch and Release Clause

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

Can the council confirm if it has received any update from Inland Fisheries on the Catch and Release clause discussed at the meeting with them in October 2019?

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that an update had not been received. A letter would issue to the Inland Fisheries seeking an update.

Councillor Dooley stated that he had spoken with the Meetings Administrator and he would provide contact details for Inland Fisheries to him in order that an update could be requested.

The report was noted.

AY18/0720

Athy Local Area Plan (LAP)

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

That the council give a timeline for the completion of the Athy Local Area Plan (LAP).

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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that the necessary background research work was nearing completion and publication of the Draft Athy Local Area Plan (LAP) was scheduled to take place during Quarter 4, 2020. The process took approximately 41 weeks and it was hoped that the Athy LAP would be adopted by the members during the first half of 2021.



Kildare County Council

Councillor Keatley stated that he welcomed the completion of the LAP.

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

AY19/0720

Public Toilets in Athy

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

Have the council any plans to provide public toilets in Athy following on from the difficulties experienced by members of the public during the Covid-19 pandemic?

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that the council did not have any plans to provide public toilets in Athy. For information, the council terminated the contract for public toilets in various towns throughout the county in 2017 due to the significant operational costs involved. A motion by Councillor Keatley in November 2017 was referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) to consider a scheme to incentivize businesses in Kildare's towns and villages to allow public use of their toilet facilities which could replace the council's current public toilet contract. The matter was referred to the SPC but did not progress further due to the complexities involved.

The members agreed to ask the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) to reopen the case.

The report was noted.



AY20/0720

Local Link Service 880

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

That the council look for the Local Link service 880 to service the village of Calverstown and Ballyshannon area on route from Castledermot to Naas and on the return trips.

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

A report was received from the Local Link Service informing the members that Local Link Kildare South wished to advise that a proposal for the reconfiguration of Route 880 was currently under consideration of the Public Transport Services Team within the National Transport Authority. The Manager of Local Link Kildare South would be happy to meet with the councillor if and when agreement in principle for the proposal was received.

The following points were raised by the members:

- It would be beneficial for Castledermot to avail of the Local Link 880 service.
- It would only take an additional 12-13 minutes to service Castledermot and arrive back at Kilcullen.
- It would be preferable to use the additional route as a pilot scheme for six months.
- An upgrade on the services to Narragmore, Crookstown and other highly populated areas along the route would be hugely beneficial.
- It would be a huge opportunity to upgrade bus services and bus stops.
- The National Transport Authority (NTA) would be participating in a Teams Meeting with the members on 27 July and it might be an opportunity for the members to discuss the matter.
- The members agreed they would like to discuss the matter further with Mr Kerry and asked the Meetings Administrator to arrange a meeting.
- **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Keately that the report be noted and the Meetings Administrator arrange a meeting with Mr Kerry, South Dublin Kildare Local Link Manager to discuss the matter further.

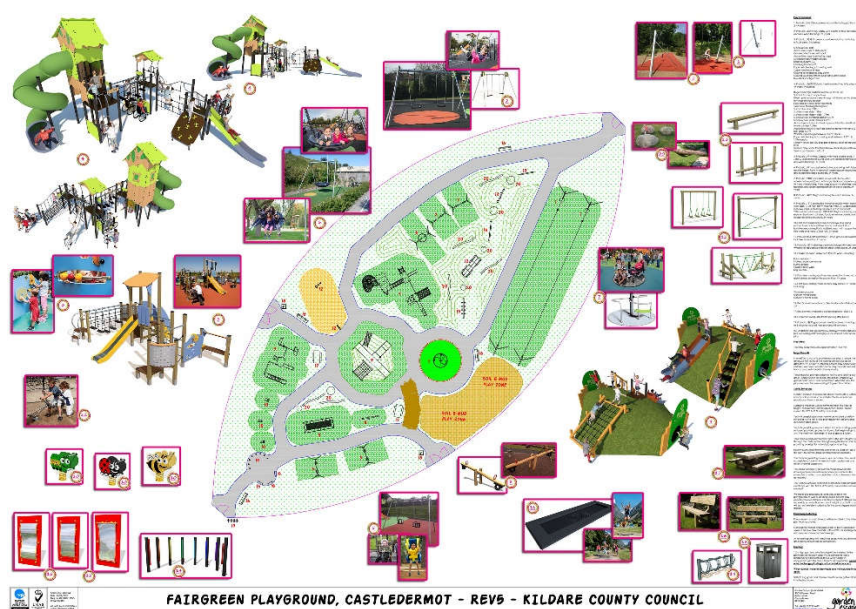
AY21/0720

Castledermot Playground

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan.

Can the members be given an update on progress with the Castledermot Playground?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that works on the entrance area was due to commence in early August and it was planned to start work on the playground in September. The final design for the playground is detailed below:



The report was noted.



AY22/0720

Tree Maintenance

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.
Can the council confirm the current list of tree maintenance to be carried out in this municipal district and confirm if trees at Hillview Drive, Narraghmore are part of the maintenance programme?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the list of works in the Athy Municipal District had been circulated to the members. Hillview Drive was not included but would be, as a commitment was already given to carry out this work.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.