



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting held at 10.00 am on
Monday, 15 November 2021 in the Council Chamber, Aras Chill Dara,
Naas, Co Kildare**

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

Apologies: Councillor M Leigh

Officials Present: Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr James Malone (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr M Kavanagh (Assistant Engineer), Mr D Conlan (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks), Ms C Moran (A/Senior Staff Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Mr C O'Toole (A/Staff Officer), Ms C Dempsey (Meetings Secretary) and other officials

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Councillor Leigh had sent his apologies.

The Cathaoirleach introduced a new member of staff to Kildare County Council Ms Eilish Langton, Coordinator for Creative Places Athy. The Cathaoirleach invited Ms Langton to brief the members on her new role. The Cathaoirleach and all the members welcomed Ms Langton and wished her well in her new role.

AY01/1121

Declaration of pecuniary or beneficial interests

The Cathaoirleach asked if there were any declarations to be made at this time. There were no declarations from the members of pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.



AY02/1121

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday 18 October 2021 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all the members that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 18 October 2021 be adopted, and the progress report was noted.

AY03/1121

Co-ordinator for Creative places

Ms Langton thanked the Cathaoirleach and the members for the invite to attend the Athy MD meeting. Ms Langton advised she would be responsible for the creative places, Athy three-year programme. She said she was really looking forward to meeting and engaging directly with communities, artists and stakeholders to successfully realise the programmes aims and objectives. She would identify adequate means for availing of proper funding in this area. She would explore ways to reach out to groups and individuals that did not usually engage with the arts.

The members noted Ms Langtons enthusiasm for this role adding it was a massive opportunity for creative arts in Athy.

They suggested a meeting in the new year to support and assist Ms Langton in her work.

They questioned when she expected to have an outline of work.

Ms Langton responded she was planning on meeting all parties first and would then look at outline of work, it would need engagement with all groups and patience to ascertain what community groups and individuals were looking for from this programme in their area.

AY04/1121

Update on the Athy Municipal District Road Works

The Assistant Engineer stated that a comprehensive report had been circulated to the



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members prior to the meeting providing an update on works which had been undertaken prior to and since their last meeting and also details of future works.

The following points were raised by the members;

Was there any time scale on funding for the Moone project?

The Assistant Engineer advised this funding should be available in the new year.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department on the great work at Narraghmore and that they anticipated entering Narraghmore into the Pride of Place competition in the new year and these improvements would help with this entry.

Councillor Breslin asked was the work at Dominics Park finished as there was an issue with the ESB.

The Assistant Engineer advised it was not completed yet as there was a wayleave to be rectified, then it could be completed.

Councillor Dooley stated Kilberry bridge needs extra signage following a recent accident in the area, he asked for a survey to be carried out on sight lines and if traffic calming measures could be considered. The Assistant Engineer said he would review this.

The report was noted.

AY05/1121

Update on the Athy Distributor Road

The Senior Executive Engineer advised that the contract had been signed on the 9 November, and that machines were on the ground that day.

The Cathaoirleach asked the members were they satisfied with the quarterly reports. The members requested a monthly snapshot email be given to them with updates. The Senior Executive Engineer agreed to this.

The Senior Executive Engineer advised a 6 person Project Team would be in place to manage construction works and the council staff would engage with the landowners and relevant parties as required.



AY06/1121

Christmas Parking Arrangements in the Athy Municipal District for 2021

The Cathaoirleach requested that item 6 and 12 on the agenda be taken together. All the members agreed.

Item 6

The members considered Christmas parking arrangement in the Athy Municipal District for 2021.

The item was proposed by Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Dooley.

Item 12

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley
Can the council confirm what date the free parking in Athy comes into effect over the Christmas period to support local shops?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this would be a matter for the members to agree.

The following points were raised by the members;

- The members were in favour of free parking especially after the difficult period businesses have had during the last 18 months due to Covid-19.
- It would encourage people to shop locally which would help local businesses
- They suggested employers and owners of businesses parking on hinterlands to prevent lack of parking spaces for shoppers.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all the members that there would be free on street pay parking (unauthorised and illegal parking would continue to be enforced) in Athy Municipal District from 8.30 am on 3 December to 8.30 am on 03 January in the Athy Municipal District.

AY07/1121

Bus Service provided to third level students

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



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That this council write to Bus Eireann asking them to review the bus service provided to third level students from this municipal district attending Carlow IT and St. Patrick's College, with a view to improving the service and aiding climate action objectives.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that subject to members agreement, correspondence could issue as requested

The following points were raised by the members;

- There was a substantial number of students driving or being driven to Carlow, as there was a shortage of accommodation in the area.
- This problem could escalate next year as Carlow upgrades to university status and numbers attending could increase.
- It was crucial to support students with adequate transport and suitable facilities.
- An improved bus service would also assist with climate action objectives.
- Could the council write to Carlow IT and the relevant principals outlining this issue and tap into what suggestions they may have to improve the bus service.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Dooley that this council write to Carlow IT, St Patricks, the relevant principals in the schools and Bus Eireann to establish could they review bus services and how it could be improved and that the report be noted.

AY08/1121

Pedestrian path along the N78

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

That the council design and develop connectivity with the extension of a pedestrian path along the N78 to connect out to the Clanard Hotel

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



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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this issue requires a master plan for the area as it was connected to a number of planning permissions in the area.

The members raised the following points:

- The Clanard hotel was one of the biggest family run hotels in the south of the County. It needed footpath access to the town centre.
- They asked the Municipal District office to do a pricing / costing estimation of how much it would cost to provide a footpath?
- They suggested a meeting with relevant parties before Christmas to move the project in the right direction as quickly as possible.

The Assistant Engineer supported this motion. He advised that the council needed to talk to the Clarard Court Hotel and the filling station so that all parties linked together and it tied into the master plan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor and agreed by all members that the council talk to the Clanard hotel and the filling station and update the members accordingly and that the report be noted.

AY09/1121

NTA survey open for public consultation

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

That the council seek to make the residents of Narraghmore and Calverstown aware of the NTA survey open for public consultation until December 10th as this survey would form and identify the significance of the proposal in allowing Local Link route 880 connect these villages to the Carlow-Naas route.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The NTA was looking for the views of Kildare constituents on



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its proposals to improve public transport in rural Ireland. The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan was an ambitious programme of enhancements to create a more integrated, accessible, and sustainable public transport network for rural Ireland. The NTA would be holding online public information events on the 15, 16 and 18 November, where the public would have the opportunity to hear from the NTA team and to learn more about Connecting Ireland. The webinars could be accessed using the links below:

[Public Webinar 1 – Monday 15 November 11:00 AM](#) (Sign Language Interpreter available)

[Public Webinar 2 – Tuesday 16 November 7:00 PM](#)

[Public Webinar 3 – Thursday 18 November 1:00 PM](#) (Sign Language Interpreter available)

Submissions on this ambitious and welcome Plan could be lodged before the closing date of December 10. The Transportation Department would work with our Communications Team to highlight the importance of this publication, encouraging public engagement with the process.

The members welcomed the report and thanked the local link team on all work completed to date, they raised the following points;

- A cohort of residents do not have access to broadband or internet and would not have access to the webinars.
- Could the council write to the NTA and ask them to send a hard copy of the survey questionnaire.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department the members would discuss the matter amongst themselves and revert to Alan Kerry, Local Link Manager.

AY10/1121

Upgrading and enhancement works at Kilmead

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

That the council give a time scale for carrying out the upgrading and enhancement works at Kilmead.



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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Planning team have prepared a preliminary design for Kilmead and were working with the Public Realm team and the Athy Municipal District team in developing a detailed design for the village. It was expected to progress this towards construction in 2022.

The members noted the report and were disappointed this project had not moved forward quicker.

They made the following points;

- They got commitment from the Municipal District office it would be completed.
- The Public Realm and Municipal District Office were meant to have met to discuss this project.
- The €60,000 put aside for this project was to move it forward.

The Senior Executive Engineer said it would investigate the status of this project and update the members accordingly.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members, the senior Executive Engineer would investigate status of this project and update the members accordingly and that the report be noted.

AY11/1121

School traffic along the Carlow Road, Athy

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

Can the council confirm if there were plans to help alleviate the school traffic along the Carlow Road, Athy each morning?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there were no proposals to do any works at the present time. This matter had been referred to Traffic section to investigate changing of sequencing of traffic lights as a possibility.



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The District Manager advised that the Public Realm team did not have a time frame yet, however Ms Hunt was looking into this.

The report was noted.

AY12/1121

Upgrading works carried out at Booleigh Crossroads, Booleigh.

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

Can the council confirm when upgrading works would be carried out at Booleigh Crossroads, Booleigh?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Planning team have prepared a low cost safety improvement scheme for this junction and presented the design to the Athy Municipal District team for delivery. This work would be completed before the end of the year.

The report was noted.

AY13/1121

Traffic speed review

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

Can the council inform the members on what stage the implementation of the findings of the traffic speed review were at?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the review of the public submissions (290) was continuing and amendments to the associated mapping was ongoing in parallel. It was expected that the reports would be ready for discussion with the elected members in January 2022 with a review to completing the review process in Q1 2022. The tender documents for the purchase and installation of new signage, especially for residential estates, was being actioned in anticipation of the conclusion of the process.

The report was noted.



AY14/1121

Hostel/shared accommodation for women in the Athy Area

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

Can the council confirm what the up to date position is in relation to providing a hostel/shared accommodation for women in the Athy area?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that expressions of interest were sought for the management of shared accommodation provision in the Athy and Naas Areas. Teach Íosa were adjudicated as the successful applicants for management of the two Athy units and it was expected both would be in operation in the immediate future. One of these units would be used for females and the other for males. The Peter McVerry Trust were adjudicated as the successful applicants for the management of a five bedroom property in the Naas area and it was expected that works would be carried out on this property in the coming months to have it available for shared accommodation for females.

Councillor Breslin thanked Mr O Brady, in the housing section and all the staff.

The report was noted.

AY15/1121

Climate Action initiatives and funding towards Climate Innovation Fund

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms C Moran, from the Climate Action Regional Office. Ms Moran conveyed Ms P O'Rourke apologies as she was unable to attend this mornings meeting.

Ms Moran updated the members on the climate action initiatives currently being undertaken and informed them that €25,000 LPT funding was being sought from each municipal district.

The Cathaoirleach advised the members were very climate responsible in Athy. He advised it was top of their list and they would come back to the District Manager with a list of proposals.



AY16/1121

Fitzgerald graveyard, Kilmead

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan.
That the council repair and develop the Fitzgerald graveyard, Kilmead, with a view to further recognising its historical significance and tourism potential.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Keatley.
A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the council's Heritage Officer had advised that this was a recorded monument and so consent for any activity would have to be sought from the National Monuments Service. The Heritage Officer had also said she was happy to work with Cllr Behan and the local community group on this.

Councillor Behan welcomed the report. The members made the following points;

- It was very important to recognise this area as an important historical site and redevelop this area.
- There was an issue with antisocial behaviour in the past, there were caravans parked illegally and dumping had taken place.
- Did the members need to meet with the Heritage Officer to see if they could apply for grants to upgrade the graveyard.

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

AY17/1121

CCTV cameras in Castledermot

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan
Can the council confirm if there are any plans, in conjunction with An Garda Síochána, to install CCTV cameras in Castledermot?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Department informing the members that The Community CCTV scheme announced by the Department of Justice in



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2017 remains open to applications from groups wishing to install CCTV schemes in their areas.

Any proposed community CCTV system must:

- be approved by the local Joint Policing Committee
- have the authorisation of the Garda Commissioner
- have the prior support of the relevant local authority which must also undertake to act as data controller

No CCTV scheme was in place anywhere to date and the council was not aware of any application submitted to the department from Castledermot at this time. A group in Clane was planning to have a CCTV scheme designed and it was hoped that in time this scheme could become a template for similar schemes elsewhere in the county.

The members welcomed the report noting that the meeting with An Gardaí Siochána prior to the November Municipal District Committee meeting covered some of this item. The members stated they planned to contact Councillor Pádraig McEvoy, Clane-Maynooth MD and the Oireachtas members as they had a similar CCTV scheme designed previously, to get ideas and suggestions.

AY18/1121

Cathaoirleach Business

The Cathaoirleach thanked and congratulated Ms P Berry, Athy Municipal District office and Garda Sean O'Mahony, Athy who would be attending the Convention Centre, Dublin on Saturday 27 November, at the All Ireland Council Community IPB insurance and LAMA Awards where they were shortlisted for nominations.

The following 3 initiatives were also submitted by the council;

- Kildare Cycly Café
- Amber Thursday
- Entertain us Athy



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The Cathaoirleach wished all participants well and thanked them for all the work they carry out on behalf of their communities.

The report was noted.

The meeting then concluded.