



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting held at 10.30 am on
Monday 19 July 2021 in the Council Chamber, Aras Chill Dara, Devoy
Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

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

Officials Present: Ms A Aspell (Municipal District Manager), Mr M Kavanagh (Assistant Municipal District Engineer), Mr D Reel (A/Senior Engineer), Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr B Leonard (Administrative Officer), Mr J Hannigan (Administrative Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator) and Ms M Richardson (Meetings Secretary)

AY01/0721

Declaration of pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended

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.

AY02/0721

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday 21 June 2021 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all the members that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 21 June 2021 be adopted and the progress report was noted.



AY03/0721

Update on the Municipal District Roadworks

The Assistant Municipal District Engineer stated that a report had been circulated to the members providing an update on works which had been undertaken prior to and since their last meeting and also details of future works.

The members complimented the team on great work done to date and requested that the Assistant Municipal District Engineer pass on their thanks to the roadworks crew who were continuing to carry out works in the extreme heat.

The members requested that resurfacing works on the Kilrush to Ballyshannon Road be added to the list of future works. The Assistant Municipal District Engineer advised that he would provide an update on this at the September meeting

The report was noted.

AY04/0721

Athy Distributor Road

The Acting Senior Engineer advised that the Tender Assessment Report was being finalised and should be with the Department next week and were now in a good position to be onsite in Quarter 4.

The members raised the following points:

- Would the tender winner be announced in advance of the next Municipal District meeting?
- What was involved in the Quality and Pricing Assessment?

The Acting Senior Engineer advised that:

- The winner could not be announced until it was approved but hoped that would be in advance of the next meeting.
- The Quality and Pricing Assessment was quite extensive and involved written statements regarding technical and health and safety strategies along with pricing of all elements.

The report was noted.



AY05/0721

Athy Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2021

The members thanked the Municipal District Manager and Mr B Leonard for all their work in this regard and if funds from public lighting works could be reallocated to residents' associations in need of funding?

The Municipal District Manager advised that as the overall spend had already been approved, any reallocation could be agreed online among members. See Appendix 1

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that the report be noted

AY06/0721

LPT Sports Grants Scheme

The LPT Sports Grants 2021 were considered by the members of the Athy Municipal District Committee.

GROUP NAME	PROPOSED PROJECT	PROPOSED GRANT	COMMENTS
Athy Rugby Football Club	General usage over a number of years has taken a toll, and we need New Exercise Equipment for our Gymnasium, Additional Training Aids and New Rugby Balls.	2,220	
Athy Anglers Club	Purchase of Quad and Trailer	2,220	
Crookstown Millview Athletics Club	Moss extraction from the 400m grass running track by way of scarification and rolling.	2,220	
Athy Tennis Club	We have reopened after five months of closure. Grant assistance is sought for: repaint the clubhouse, purchase new chairs, new club sign, two new tennis nets, equipment for junior tennis	2,220	
Castledermot GAA	To provide training tops for Under 13's to senior players.	2,165	
Nurney Camogie	our idea is Street Leagues - to expand our club to include all girls and target ages 11-17 in local areas Kildangan and Suncroft where there is no camogie club	1,480	



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Athy Triathlon Club	Provide training equipment (and storage for same) to allow new members participate in the sport of Triathlon.	2,220	
Castlemitchell Ladies GFC	Training Equipment	1,130	
Castlemitchell GFC	We intend to put in new ball stops.	1,865	
Castlemitchell Underage	To protect our underage, by ensuring that there is adequate sanitizing equipment for the protection of all out underage players, parents, and other participants.	705	
Castlemitchell Walking Club	We have a walkway around Castlemitchell GFC pitches which has being well used in last number of years and is now in need of some repair.	1,920	
Athy Town AFC	For a new set of senior goals and the clubs insurance.	1,585	Cost of goals only funded.
CLONMULLION F.C.	ERECTION OF SPECTATOR FENCE AROUND PLAYING AREA	2,220	
Athy Camogie Club	1- Equipment for underage training 2- Funding for Feile 3- Fundraising for own pitch in the future	1,225	Equipment costs only funded.
Athy Golf Club Junior Section	Junior Golf Development & Inclusivity	1,335	
Athy GFC	Upgrades to pedestrian walkway & safety features to back wall.	2,220	
Athy Ladies Gaelic Football	Development of new underage ladies section to include 1.2m fenced off training area with ball stop nets.	2,080	
Athy Hurling Club	Purchase of sliotars, hurleys, hurling rope, cones, helmets	650	
Kildangan GAA Club	Purchase of additional sports equipment and development of our training area	2,220	
Athy Kenpo Karate Club	Return to training replacement gear project.	1,480	
St Laurence's GAA Club	We propose erecting fence around the compound area and railing in the carpark to improve safety measures for our underage members in the grounds	2,220	
Mill Celtic	Sports equipment, ball, kits, nets, PPE Covid 19 equipment, line marking paint, corner flags, training cones.	2,080	Equipment costs only funded.



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Castlemitchell Karate	Purchase of sparring head gear, gloves and padded foot coverings and eliminate the need for club members to share items, post COVID-19.	555	
Gouleyduff megger club	Have moved to new playing area	695	
Moone Celtic	Getting Moone Celtic back on its feet after COVID.	1,850	Equipment costs only funded.
Rundermot	To purchase training equipment to help with core strengthening to prevent injuries from running and a digital clock for timing runs.	2,195	
Rheban GFC	End of life pitch maintenance products.	1,795	
Castlemitchell Indoor Bowls Club	(1) Space bowls mats further apart to improve social distancing, this requires the installation of new lighting over the mats.(2) Supply and fitting of sanitising equipment and sanitiser.	955	
Athy Gymnastics Club	Purchase of new Trampoline spotting equipment	2,220	
Castle Villa AFC	Athy MD Sport/LPT Project 2021. Consists of:-Underage Mobile Goals - small sided non-competitive; First Aid Equipment; Training (Underage & Senior teams)Extra Training Equipment (Underage & Senior teams) due to COVID	1,865	
Grangenolvin Gfc	Upgrade to underage academy to deal with increase in demand and covid-19 restrictions	2,220	
Bridge United/Fortbarrington FC	The project is to upgrade our Line marker. Ride on Lawnmower repair. New Strimmer and new petrol push mower. To provide sports equipment to the teams Training Balls, matchballs, equipment.	1,970	
St. Michaels Boxing Club	Post covid safeguards	2,590	Works costs only funded.
Nurney GAA Club	Grant application for the purchase of jerseys.	1,480	
Total		60,070	



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Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members that the payment of the LPT Sports Grants Scheme as outlined be approved.

AY07/0721

Capital Programme 2022-2024

The Municipal District Manager advised the members that it was coming close to budget time and the Capital Programme was a rolling programme with a budget of €500 million spread across the county. She confirmed there was an opportunity now for the members to examine the projects in the capital programme for their municipal district and identify projects they wanted included or removed. She advised the members that funding must be in place prior to the commencement of any projects.

The report was noted.

AY08/0721

Finance Committee Annual Report

The members noted the Finance Committee Annual Report.

AY09/0721

Hedge Cutting and Grass Verge Maintenance – Athy Municipal District

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

That the council outline its role in maintaining hedges and grass verges in rural areas during the summer in the interest of road safety in this municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office's role during summer months was to ensure safety at junctions by cutting grass verges. Hedge Cutting was only carried out on road works sections in the interest of Health and Safety in relation to the workforce and use of machinery on public roads.



The members raised the following points:

- There was still a huge problem with sightlines on some crossroads.
- Encroaching hedgerows were a problem for people out walking.

The Assistant Municipal District Engineer advised that cutting at junctions was still ongoing and had been significantly delayed by Covid restrictions.

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

AY10/0721

Public Safety on Country Roads

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

That given the increase in members of the public walking on country roads, the council erect signs at popular locations in the Athy Municipal District warning motorists to take extra care.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Sli na Slainta routes across Kildare currently had signage in place making motorists aware of pedestrian movements in the vicinity. In addition, the Municipal District office would consider signage in areas where it was recognised that congregation of pedestrians was considerably high e.g. Castledermot Playground and Mullaghreelan Woods.

The members raised the following points:

- Sli na Slainte signs were very small
- The rear of stop signs could possibly be used as the signage was already in place with empty space on the back.
- A meeting with the Active Travel Team had been promised as the Blueway would provide similar challenges.



The Acting Senior Engineer advised that there were legal limitations and regulations which must be adhered to in regard to signage and that it must be consistent across the county. He also advised that a meeting with the Active Travel Team could be organised and he would follow up with the Senior Executive Engineer of the Roads, Transport and Safety Department.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Dooley that the report be noted and a meeting be arranged with the Active Travel Team.

AY11/0721

Bridge at Cloney

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley
That the council investigate the widening of the bridge at Cloney, Athy to accommodate traffic traveling on both sides of the road.

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 Kildare County Council were currently undertaking works to the existing structures of bridges in Kildare on a priority basis, with the focus on remediation. The widening of this bridge would include road realignment, land acquisition and considerable expense. Due to limited resources, it was not possible to facilitate this request at this time. Consideration could be given to warning signage at this location.

The members raised the following points:

- Could this project be identified as something that could be looked at over the coming years?
- Would traffic lights be an option?

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley and seconded by Councillor Behan that the report be noted.



AY12/0721

Traffic Calming Measures - Fortbarrington Road, Athy

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

That the council commit to adding the Fortbarrington Road from Ardrew Meadows to the border with County Laois to the Roads Programme in 2022, including placing traffic calming measures on both sides of the entrance of Ardrew Drive.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that Fortbarrington Road can be added to the 2022 road programme. Any requests for traffic calming would need to be assessed having regard to Kildare County Council guidelines.

The members raised the following points:

- Could the work be done in conjunction with Laois County Council to do the road as a whole?
- Visibility lines from houses opposite Ardrew Meadows were dangerous.

The Assistant Municipal District Engineer advised that he would investigate this.

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

AY13/0721

Green Alley onto Duke Street – One Way Traffic

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

That the council stop cars exiting Green Alley on to Duke Street and makes it a one-way street allowing entry only from Duke Street towards the Garda Station.

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



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A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the request would be assessed by the Traffic Team subject to resources being made available.

The members made the following points:

- As it stands Green Alley to Duke Street was a blind corner and highly dangerous.
- The two-way system causes significant traffic delays.

The Assistant Senior Engineer advised that this required an assessment by the Traffic Team and then would need to go through the public consultation process.

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

AY14/0721

Footpaths - Main Street, Castledermot

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

That a survey be carried out on the footpaths on Main Street, Castledermot to the entrance of the Pitch & Putt Club, with a view to carrying out remedial works where required.

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 the Municipal District Office can carry out a survey in late 2021 early 2022 to look at this issue.

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



AY15/0721

Parking in Castledermot

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley:
That Kildare County Council commence the parking review for Castledermot and seek to provide extra car parking for the Fairgreen and the newly opened playground.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Castledermot Parking Bye-laws are listed on a schedule of works for the review of parking bye-laws in the county and a review would commence as soon as possible.

The members raised the following points:

- Could a date be provided as there were many parking challenges in the area?
- Could double yellow lines be painted around the community centre by the playground?

Mr Reel advised that the parking bye-law were up for review soon and that he would request priority for the area.

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

AY16/0721

Peoples Park, Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley:
Can the council confirm how many bins are in the Peoples Park and how often they are emptied?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there were five bins in the People's Park. They are emptied twice a week.

The report was noted.



AY17/0721

Verge Cutting - Hacklow Cross

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley:
Can the council give a timescale for when verge cutting will be carried out at Hacklow Cross Calverstown?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that work on the R-418 had commenced and verge cutting at Hacklow Cross had been completed.

The report was noted.

AY18/0721

Flooding – Junction of R417 and R429

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin:
Can the council confirm if it has any plans to eradicate the flooding problem at the junction of R417 and R429?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that work was scheduled to be carried out in 2021 on raising the road at R417 to ensure flooding was minimised as this section of road was in a flood plain.

The report was noted

AY19/0721

Invitation to K-Doc to attend Athy Municipal District Meeting

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley:
That this council invites K-Doc to attend a meeting of the Athy Municipal District Committee.

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

A report was received from the Meetings Administrator informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree.



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The members stated K-Doc could use the new healthcare facility which would be hugely beneficial especially for elderly and vulnerable people who currently had to travel to Naas or use the Accident and Emergency unit of the hospital for out of hours services.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members that the report be noted and that an invitation issue to K-Doc to attend the September Athy Municipal District meeting.

AY20/0721

Housing Adaptation Grants

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley:
That the council provide a report on Older persons, Disabled Persons and Mobility Aid grants, outlining the number received and the number paid to date, in the Athy Municipal District in the last two years.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that it administers three grant options to assist people with a disability and older people in carrying out works which were necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for their accommodation needs. All schemes were subject to a household income means test.

The grants available are:

1. Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability
2. Mobility Aids Grant
3. Housing Aid for Older People Grant

The Housing Adaptation Grant for a Person with a Disability was available to assist in the carrying out of works which were reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who had an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment. The maximum available grant was €30,000.



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The Mobility Aids Grant Scheme was for older people and/ or people with a disability to address mobility problems in their home. The maximum grant under the scheme is €6,000. The Housing Aid for Older People Scheme was available to assist people aged 66 years or older living in poor housing conditions to have essential repairs carried out so that they can continue to live in their home. The maximum grant under the scheme was €8,000.

Updates on applications are provided to the members on a quarterly basis in the Chief Executives Report. The table below provides details of applications received and processed by the council over the past two years*. Data was provided on a countywide basis and was not available for each Municipal District area.

Year	Housing Adaptation applications received	Housing Adaptation Grants approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons applications received	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant approved
2020	410	195	254	209
2021	233	205	197	157

*No applications received under the Mobility Aids Grant scheme in 2020/2021.

A standardised application process was introduced nationally in January 2020 and applicants must submit the application with supporting documentation to be considered for the various schemes. The members were provided with information and details of the new application form. Supporting documentation to accompany an application includes evidence of household income, doctor's certificate, LPT payment (if applicable) and specialist trade contractor reports (for the Housing Aid Grant). The application form can be downloaded at:

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Forms/Housing/.pdf>

All applications are initially assessed by the Housing Department. The typical timeframe for processing applications was subject to a valid application being received by the council. Where an incomplete application had been received, the application as returned to the



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applicant specifying the outstanding documentation required. For Housing Adaptation Grants, an occupational therapist report was sought and can be submitted by the applicant or arranged by the Council. These applications are prioritised based on current medical need**.

In the case of private adaptation grants, approval letters are generally issued within 6-8 weeks of receipt of a valid application. For council owned properties, works for approved applications in the Priority 1 category are progressed by the Architects Department, subject to available funding (Priority 2 approvals are placed on a waiting list).

All works proposed under a Housing Aid Grant are assessed by the Architects Department and are processed in date order of receipt of the application.

In 2020, approximately 100 applications made under the Housing Adaptation Grant and Housing Aid Schemes were refused. The reasons for such refusals include - applicant over the income threshold, no works were recommended, requested documentation not submitted, applicant did not meet age criteria (Housing Aid), application withdrawn, etc. While these grants benefitted from an exemption under Covid restrictions, some applications were delayed due to the age/medical profile of applicants and Government restrictions on visits/inspections of houses.

In addition, it had also not been possible for some successful applicants to have internal works carried out by contractors at their homes due to restrictions. All works were carried out with the consent of applicants and in some cases vacating the property for a short period of time is necessary (i.e., bathroom works) and in the current Covid crisis, this was not an option for all.

While there was an unavoidable backlog in applications, work was underway to prioritise certain works and new protocols are in place to ensure full compliance with restrictions (i.e., questionnaires are issued to applicants, written agreements are put in place prior to any inspections, works etc). We are relying on information from applicants in order to assist in progressing works in a safe and compliant manner.

A total of 468 applications (205 Housing Adaptation and 263 Housing Aid) are being considered at present.



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For the current year, a grant allocation of €3,162,288 was approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for private homes, and €517,504 for relevant works to the council's social housing stock.

Updates on the progress of applications are provided to the members on a quarterly basis in the monthly Chief Executive's Report..

** Definition of Priority Categories 1-3:

Priority 1

Terminally ill or fully/mainly dependant on family or carer; or where alterations/adaptations would facilitate discharge from hospital or alleviate the need for hospitalisation in the future;

Priority 2

Mobile but needs assistance in accessing washing, toilet facilities, bedroom etc; or where without the alterations/adaptations the disabled person's ability to function independently would be hindered;

Priority 3

Independent but requires special facilities to improve the quality of life, e.g. separate bedroom/living space.

The members raised the following points:

- There was insufficient staffing in the Housing Department
- The impact of Covid was delays in works being carried out
- There was a severe gap with local authority tenants and those in category A could wait as long as two years for works to be completed.
- Could the services of a second occupational therapist be organised?
- Could decisions be appealed?



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The Municipal District Manager advised that this service had been severely impacted by covid. This was due to the fact that applicants were elderly or vulnerable and could not have workers in their houses. Resources had always been under pressure and no additional funding had been provided in the revenue budget. Despite continual requests for budget increases this has not happened and has impacted local authority applicants. There had always been two occupational therapists. All decisions could be appealed to the appeals committee which was chaired by the Senior Executive Officer.

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

AY21/0721

Update on the Plans for the housing project - Dominican Lands

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

Can the council provide an update on the plans for the housing project for the Dominican lands Athy?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Cluid Housing were developing a 30-unit Older Persons Housing Scheme for this site and Kildare County Council were preparing the Capital Assistance Scheme Stage 2 Application for expenditure approval. A statutory approval process would commence following an approved Stage 2.

Councillor Dooley stated he would speak further to Ms F Byrne regarding dates and timelines.

The report was noted.

AY22/0721

Proposed Development - Ballyshannon Community

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

That the members of the Athy Municipal District fully support the decision of Kildare County Council to refuse planning permission for file reference number 19/1097 and furthermore,



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the members fully support the Ballyshannon community and will work with them in their campaign to stop the proposed development.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Keatley

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree.

The members raised the following points:

- The Ballyshannon Community faced a very worrying future as this decision by An Bord Pleanala would severely impact them and they did not have the resources to fight the case.
- The Roads section would face enormous pressure.
- Conservation would be adversely affected.
- There was a need now to call time on community destruction and protect our environment.
- The Municipal District members needed to send a letter to the Office of the Planning Regulator to have the decision of An Bord Pleanala reviewed and investigated.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all members that a letter be sent to the Office of the Planning Regulator to have the decision reviewed and that Councillor Breslin would follow up with the Director of Services - Planning in this regard.

AY23/0721

Blueway – Provision of Defibrillators and Life Buoys on route

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

Can the council confirm that Waterways Ireland, as part of the development of the Blueway, will provide defibrillators and life buoys on the route?

A report was received from the Public Realm Team informing the members that Kildare County Council along with Waterways Ireland and Laois County Council were considering the requirements in relation to defibrillators and life buoys along the route, including



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possible locations, maintenance requirements and responsibility in relation to maintenance of those items. These are items to be discussed by the Steering Group over the coming weeks.

The report was noted

AY24/0721

Playground Equipment – Accessible for those with Disabilities

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

Can the council outline its plans to make all play equipment in playgrounds in the Athy Municipal District suitable for children with disabilities?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there was existing provision for children with disabilities in the playgrounds within the municipal district with the provision of equipment and facilities that is universally accessible. The Parks Department would review the playgrounds to see if this can be improved but this review would have to be considered for the next works programme as it won't be possible within the current programme. Any works would require a budget to be identified to carry them out.

Councillor Behan was advised by the Cathaoirleach to raise this as a motion at the September meeting.

The report was noted.

AY25/0721

Wheelchair Swings

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

Can the council outline its plans to have wheelchair swings in all parks in Athy Municipal District?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members there were no plans at present to provide wheelchair swings in all playgrounds in the Athy Municipal



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District. Basket swings and/or jetfighter type seats have been provided in all of the playgrounds like The Peoples Park, Nurney, Castledermot, Moone Castlemitchell and St Laurences. Best practise in playground design had been to provide these as they were universally accessible while specific wheelchair swings are not. Additionally, wheelchair swings are heavy units and had to be located away from other units, and were locked which also presents difficulties. However, further consideration can be given to the provision of some of these units in playgrounds where there was sufficient space and if a budget can be identified to provide them.

Councillor Leigh was advised by the Cathaoirleach to raise this as a motion at the September meeting.

The report was noted.

AY26/0721

Presentation – Energy Efficiency Officer

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr P Mulhern, Energy Efficiency Officer to the meeting.

Mr Mulhern delivered a presentation to the members highlighting the following points:

- He explained his role as Kildare County Council's Energy Efficiency Officer.
- He outlined Kildare County Council's Energy Reduction Commitments including: 50% Energy Efficiency Improvement, 50% Emissions Reductions, Public Sector bodies commit to Climate Action Mandate to support climate reform, Decarbonation Strategy and that all public buildings to achieve a B BER rating.
- He described Kildare County Council's current Energy Efficiency projects including: the Energy Bureau, the Energy Management Team, Analysis of top energy users, Climate and Energy Week and the Sustainable Energy Communities.
- He informed the elected members of their role in the communicating and promoting of these projects.
- The members could work directly in the projects, in the development of the partnerships and garnering support through their networks.



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The members raised the following points:

- It was exciting to see that a much-needed energy efficiency officer was now in situ and that they could look forward to a better future
- The more rural communities in the municipal district are large turf users and it would be important to bring them together
- The facilities team have done great work regarding energy efficiency in Áras Chill Dara
- If residents association and community groups want advice can they contact the energy efficiency officer directly
- Woodstock Forum Athy would be ideal as a starting point for a Sustainable Energy Committee if Mr Mulhern would be willing to address them directly

Mr Mulhern advised that there were a number of groups in the Athy area which would have serious potential for Sustainable Energy Communities, and he would be willing to help out in this regard.

The meeting then concluded.



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Appendix 1 – list of projects from the LPT historic balance

Project Details	Amount
Biodiversity Action Plan (Bridget Loughlin)	€12,000
Kildare Failte (Aine Mangan)	€10,000
Narraghmore Development Association	€10,000
Tus Scheme Athy	€3,000
Playground at St Laurences [disability access]	€6,000
Griese Youth Theatre	€3,000
Ballyshannon Community Hall	€1,000
Presbyterian Church Wall	€6,500
Athy Wheelers	€750
Radio Castledermot	€1,500
Sing & Sign QQI Level 5	€2,500
William Pearse Terrace, Castledermot [Lawn Mower]	€2,500
Samaritans	€500
Men's Shed	€500
Allotments Townspark	€5,000
Grass Cutting [Parks Department]	€200
Kilberry	€1,000
Ard a Laoi, Castledermot	€2,500
Ramps - Kilkea	€5,000
Memorial Bench [John Shaughnessy]	€1,500
Creative Places Athy	€28,125
Mother and Baby Home Memorial	€20,000
Athy Community Council [office refurbishment]	€1,500
Total	€124,575