



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting held at 10.00 on Monday,
20 September 2021 in the Council Chamber, Aras Chill Dara, Devoy
Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

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

Apologies: Councillor B Dooley

Officials Present: Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr Ml. Kavanagh (A/District Engineer), Mr. D Reel (Senior Engineer), Mr J Malone (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms M Hunt and Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer, Mr B Leonard (Administrative Officer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary)

The Cathaoirleach noted that Councillor Dooley was absent from the meeting and apologies were given to the meeting. He stated that his motions would be adjourned and his questions would fall.

The District Manager stated that under the new standing orders, Councillor Dooley would have to request that his motions be relisted for the October meeting. The Meetings Administrator stated that he would inform Councillor Dooley of this requirement.

AY01/0921

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.



AY02/0921

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday 19 July 2021 and the minutes of the annual meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 19 July 2021 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all the members that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 19 July 2021 and the annual meeting of the Athy Municipal District be adopted and the progress report was noted.

The members also considered the minutes of the Local Area Plan meeting for the Athy Municipal District held on 3 August 2021.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all the members that the minutes of the Local Area Plan for the Athy Municipal District held on 3 August 2021 be adopted.

AY03/0921

Update on the Athy Municipal District Roadworks

The A/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 report was noted.

AY04/0921

Update – Athy Distributor Road

Mr Reel stated that the tender assessment process had been completed. The tender assessment report was sent to the Department of Transport and the Minister for Transport and was approved at the start of September. Letters were subsequently sent to the successful and unsuccessful tenderers to advise of the result of the tender process. This commenced the ALCATEL period, which was a standstill period where tenderers may challenge the outcome of the tender process. Next, if there were no challenges to the



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tender process, the council would issue a letter of acceptance to the successful tenderer and prepare to formally sign a contract between parties. He confirmed that the project was still on target to be on site in Quarter 4 2021.

Councillor Breslin asked when the members would be advised of the successful contractor. Mr Reel stated that the council would have to follow the national process and it would be early October before the members would be informed.

The report was noted.

AY05/0921

Update – Athy Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2021

At the March Municipal District meeting, the members agreed to allocate €30,000 to Public Lighting project in Greenhills. As the works came in for considerably less than €30,000, there was the balance of €15,247.33 (remainder). The members agreed that the remainder would be retained by the Public Lighting Section, and that a project in Oaklawns to the value of €10,500 be funded by the amount retained by Public Lighting.

Cllr Breslin also stated at the meeting that the LPT allocation to Athy Anglers Club of €2,500 was now going to be used for the purchase of equipment.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan and seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by the members that €15,247.33 LPT be retained by the Public Lighting Section, and that the cost of the public lighting project in Oaklawns in the amount of €10,500 be funded from the retained amount; and that the change of use of the LPT allocation to Athy Anglers Club be approved.

AY06/0921

Taking in Charge of the Friary Estate, Castledermot

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin:
Can the council provide an up-to-date position on the taking in charge of the Friary Estate, Castledermot?



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A report was received from the Building and Development Control Section informing the meeting that the original developer LJM Ireland Limited went into receivership and there was no bond. A new developer purchased the site from NAMA, via Receiver Mazars. There were a number of infrastructural items incomplete that were preventing the estate from being taken in charge, e.g., no attenuation tank installed, no surface course asphalt laid, and no CCTV/as constructed drawings provided. In addition, there had been no request for this estate to be taken in charge from either the Developer or the majority of residents (via a Section 180 request).

Councillor Breslin stated she was slightly confused as there had been many discussions over the years with the residents and she did not understand that there was no formal request for this estate to be taken in charge. She also asked for an update regarding outstanding site works which was not answered.

Mr Malone stated he would check the position again with regard to the Section 180 as there was nothing on the file. He informed the members that a new team was starting in Building & Development Control today and they would have to be brought up to speed with their duties etc.

The Cathaoirleach stated that a separate meeting could be arranged in the next couple of months with Mr. Gearoid Hooban and Mr. Sean Leahy when they had settled in and the Director of Housing was to liaise with Development Control regarding outstanding site works ahead of potential acquisition of developer's unfinished units by the council.

The report was noted.

AY07/0921

Installation of broken yellow lines – Road in Racefield, Ballyshannon

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan:
That the council install broken yellow lines on each side of the road in Racefield, Ballyshannon.



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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that they had recommended that no works should be carried out on this section of road by the Athy Municipal District Office following legal advice and discussions with Kildare County Council Planning Department.

Roads Section and Athy Municipal District Office would be advised further by Kildare County Councils legal representatives and its Planning Department on this matter in the future.

The following issues were raised by the members;

- They had concerns for the neighbourhood of Ballyshannon and asked whether there was a timeline of when this could be looked at?
- Some members had attended many meetings regarding this issue and had asked previously for the Planning Section to meet with the members and residents.

The Cathaoirleach stated he would like to see the legal advice on this matter adding he was of the view there were major flaws in the decision by An Bord Pleanala given the nature of the road network etc.

Mr Reel stated that this issue was going through the legal process and the council could not interfere.

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

AY08/0921

Assessment and Costing of Safety Works at Dangerous Junctions

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

That the council put a procedure in place for the assessment and costing of safety works to be carried out at dangerous junctions in the municipal district.

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



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A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that they were currently assisting all five Municipal Districts in the county with the development of low-cost safety improvement schemes on an annual basis. The Roads Projects team were currently assessing capacity to facilitate the development of projects on a countywide priority basis. Resources (including funding) would be required to facilitate the development of schemes from conception, through preliminary design and to statutory process stage, including preliminary costings. Assistance would be required from each Municipal District to progress future projects.

The Cathaoirleach stated he was mindful that the Southern Distributor Roads was taking up many resources, but he asked that at least one project be processed yearly under this scheme as at the moment they were at a standstill.

Mr Reel stated that this scheme was looked at on an annual basis and the council apply once a year normally around October to the Minister for funding for each municipal district and a report is given on each junction. Following this, the Department would make their decision normally around January of the following year. He stated that he would liaise with A/District Engineer in regard to rural junctions that require extra repairs subject to resources in 2022.

The Cathaoirleach said he would email in a list of crossroads to be considered.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Behan that the report be noted and that a list of crossroads be submitted by the members for consideration.

AY09/0921

Footpath Remedial Works – Clonmullion

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

That the council carry out footpath remedial works in Clonmullion, Athy at the side of a number of houses where the original cobble lock paths are worn and in a poor condition.



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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 council were currently carrying out maintenance works to footpaths. This area would be added to the list.

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

AY10/0921

Attendance by Alan Kerry, Local Link

The members welcomed Mr Kerry to the meeting. In regard to school transport for Castledermot, Mr Kerry stated that this was a school transport issue. However, local link was mindful to arrive at 8.30 am or 8.45am. The Carlow to Naas service does not help with getting students and commuters travelling from Castledermot to Carlow. Service runs from Carlow at 7.25am and continues to Naas. He added that the route 880 (Carlow to Naas) would not be a solution to issues. He noted that the members had approved €40,000 to be allocated towards rural bus stops and he was very thankful.

He stated that the route 880 configuration was live and would be brought to the members attention at full council and their proposal would be to include Ballitore, Calverstown and Narraghmore to the route. With regard to the route 883 (Athy to Newbridge), there would be additional evening and weekend services. He added that the decision to upgrade this route was with the NTA awaiting their decision and he hoped for a decision on route 883 would be available before the end of Quarter 4 2021.

The members wished Mr Kerry well with regard to the route 880 proposals and stated they were delighted that usage on the route 883 had increased.



AY11/0921

Swan Population – Crom A Boo Bridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh:
Can the council advise who to contact to see what measures can be taken to prevent the swan population hitting the overhead cables at Crom A Boo Bridge?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the overhead lines at this location were ESB lines, as such, all queries should be referred to the ESB.

The report was noted.

AY12/0921

Completion of Works – Wood Road and the Square, Narraghmore

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley:
Can the council give a time for the completion of the works scheduled to take place on Wood Road and the Square Narraghmore?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that works were underway at this location. The council were currently awaiting return of Tenders and availability of a contractor, at which time a schedule for delivery can be agreed.

The report was noted.

AY13/0921

Re-design of Older Estates in Athy Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan:
Can the council give an update on any progress made regarding the redesign of the older council estates, in the municipal district?



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A report was received from the Road Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that survey works were continuing. When completed, a priority list can be established with a view to upgrading of the footpaths and roads.

The report was noted.

AY14/0921

Update on Public Realm Projects

Ms Hunt circulated the quarterly report to the members prior to the meeting.

The following issues were raised by the members;

- In regard to the Barrow Blueway, was this project on track for completion.
- In regard to the Dominican Lands, section of the Barrow by Ardreich, was there a timeframe on when the master plan would happen?
- In regard to the Tanyard, Ballitore what was the update?
- In regard to Emily Square, when would this commence?

The following replies were given by Ms Hunt;

- the Barrow Blueway should be completed by early 2023 at the latest.
- In regard to the Dominican lands, she would be briefing the members at the November meeting of the municipal district.
- In regard to the Tanyard, Ballitore the wall collapsed, and the council would manage this project between the Community and Facilities Sections.
- In regard to Emily Square, she was liaising with the Road Section as it was interlinked with the commencement of the Southern Distributor Road.

The Cathaoirleach stated that works on Emily Square would need to happen sooner rather than later and possible before the commencement of the Southern Distributor Road.

The report was noted.



AY15/0921

Proposed Grant Allocations for Tidy Towns Groups for 2021

The members considered the grant allocations for Tidy Towns Groups for 2021 as follows;

	TT Group (10)	Population Category (from TT report)	Proposed Budget Allocation	Proposed LPT Allocation	Total	
Athy MD	Athy	E (5,001 to 10,000)	€ 10,380	€ 6,470	€ 16,850	
	Castledermot	C (1,001 to 2,500)	€ 1,641	€ 1,024	€ 2,665	
	Kilmead	B (201 to 1,000)	€ 648	€ 404	€ 1,052	
	Calverstown	B (201 to 1,000)	€ 648	€ 404	€ 1,052	
	Ballitore	B (201 to 1,000)	€ 648	€ 404	€ 1,052	
	Narraghmore	B (201 to 1,000)	€ 648	€ 404	€ 1,052	
	Nurney	B (201 to 1,000)	€ 648	€ 404	€ 1,052	
	Kilkea	A (up to 200)	€ 260	€ 162	€ 422	
	Moone	A (up to 200)	€ 260	€ 162	€ 422	
	Timolin	A (up to 200)	€ 260	€ 162	€ 422	
	Total			€ 16,041	€ 10,000	€ 26,041

Councillor Breslin stated that many Tidy Towns were struggling and asked that the allocation of funds to these groups would happen earlier in the year i.e., March or April. Mr Kavanagh said there were two elements such as budget and LPT allocation and they must be paid together. He noted that this year he had requested a brief report from the Tidy Towns Groups as to what the money would be used for and many were not forthcoming. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by the members present that the grant allocations for Tidy Town Groups for 2021 be approved.



AY16/0921

Upgrading works at Cemetery in Castledermot

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

That the council carry out upgrading works to the Cemetery in Castledermot including upgrading the footpaths.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that there were no plans in the current budgetary programme for works to be carried out in Castledermot cemetery. These works can be looked at in the context of the Budget for 2022.

Councillor Breslin stated that the surface was uneven and access for older persons and people with buggies was difficult. She stated she would highlight this issue again with the Environment Section. She asked that the road be looked at outside the graveyard and footpaths need to be considered. She asked that this upgrade be put on a priority list for 2022.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Behan that this report be noted and that this matter be put on a priority list for 2022.

AY17/0921

Payments of LPT Grants to Tidy Towns Groups

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

That the council confirm that payments of LPT grants to Tidy Towns groups will take place immediately.

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that consideration of Tidy Towns grants (LPT & Budget allocation) was listed on the agenda for each of the Municipal District meetings in September. Payments would be processed following approval by the respective Municipal Districts.



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

AY18/0921

Refuse Bins – Horse Bridge to Ardreigh Bridge and along the Carlow Road Athy

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

Can the council confirm if it has plans to install refuse bins along the stretch of the Barrow from Horse Bridge to Ardreigh Bridge and along the Carlow Road, Athy?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the council's drainage crew sometimes tend to some basic maintenance of the existing pathway when in the area, but only when available. Our crew are not responsible for the pathway in general nor do they tend to litter-picking or bins.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this request was being examined at present, and an update would be provided for the next meeting.

Councillor Breslin stated she was happy with the report from the Roads Section but not with the report from the Environment Section. She asked for clarification as to why the bins along the River Barrow were not being emptied more regularly. This route was heavily walked and used all the time. She added that the blueway was a huge initiative for Athy and services had to be provide.

The report was noted.

AY19/0921

CFRAM and Athy Flood Relief Works

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

Can the council confirm when the CFRAM and Athy Flood Relief works are to commence and to be completed?



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A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the Athy Flood Relief Scheme had commenced, although it was in its very early stages. Kildare County Council had held meetings with the Office of Public Works and, currently, procurement documentation to appoint a design consultant was being prepared. It was expected that these documents would be published as part of the tender process before year end, and a consultant appointed in early Quarter 1 2022.

Councillor Leigh asked that a letter issue to the Insurance Ombudsman to clarify this matter. The District Manager stated that this matter would need to be raised as a motion before a letter could issue. The Cathaoirleach stated that a joint motion would be submitted for the October meeting for discussion.

The report was noted.

AY20/0921

Upkeep of the River Lerr on the Barrow Basin

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

Can the council confirm which body is responsible for the upkeep of the River Lerr on the Barrow Basin?

A report was received from Mr J Boland, Director of Service informing the members that under Standing Order 13, the reply would be conveyed in writing to the member as quickly as possible after the meeting and recorded in the progress report of the subsequent meeting.

Mr Kavanagh stated he would follow-up with Mr Boland on this matter and that a reply would issue after the meeting.

The report was noted.

AY21/0921

“Made of Athy” Project – Permanent Home for Exhibition

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



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That the council help the Made of Athy Project find a permanent home for an exhibition in Athy.

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

A report was received from the A/Director of Service informing the members that the County Arts Officer would respond directly to the Councillor after the meeting and the members would be advised of the outcome.

Councillor Leigh stated there was a need for a permanent exhibition area for this project. He added that there may be a number of buildings in the centre of town i.e., Emily Square that might be suitable. Councillor Breslin stated she was a member of the committee and many projects were coming up and support was needed. She added that the next unveiling was at the end of September

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Behan that the report be noted, and they would await a report from the Arts Officer in due course.

AY22/0921

Gardening Allotments

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

That the council commit to providing gardening allotments in this municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that there was no objection in principle to the provision of allotments in the Municipal District, but suitable locations would have to be identified and resources to deliver the facilities. There would also need to be a group or groups which would administer the rental and management of them. Any further work required to investigate this further could only be considered once the existing commitment to projects in the current Parks Works Programme are completed.

The following points were raised by the members;



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- This would be money well spent as people would love to grow their own produce.
- Need to find a suitable piece of land and set up a committee.
- The HSE offered the council some land a few years ago, so maybe make contact with them and see if they would have any suitable land.
- Children need this education and could this be incorporated into schools e.g., school gardens etc.

Mr Wallace stated there was limited council land suitable however, he would look at what was available and its feasibility. He did confirm that an anchor tenant would be required to manage these allotments and a committee would need to be set up.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Breslin that the report be noted and Mr Wallace to review suitable lands and their feasibility.

The meeting concluded.