



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting held at 10.00 am on  
Monday 21 June 2021 via Microsoft Teams**

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

**Officials Present:** Ms A Aspell (Municipal District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (Municipal District Engineer), Mr D Reel (Senior Engineer), Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms A O'Malley (Administrative Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary)

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**AY01/0621**

**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.

**AY02/0621**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday 17 May 2021 and the progress report was noted.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, 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, 17 May 2021 be adopted and the progress report was noted.

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**AY03/0621**

**Matters Arising**

**Remedial Works on Footpaths – Woodstock Street, Athy (AY08/0521)**

The members noted the progress report advising that these works had been put out to tender but there were general issues with too few contractors to carry out works.

The District Engineer stated that the money was in place, but the council were finding it difficult to find a contractor ready to start these works. The first contractor they went to was too busy thus not available and they would now be going to the second-choice contractor to see whether they were available.

The report was noted.

**AY04/0621**

**Update on the Municipal District Roadworks**

The 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 Municipal District Engineer stated that they were currently carrying out restoration improvements and should be finished in Kilberry this week.

The members complimented the team on great work done to date.

The report was noted.

**AY05/0621**

**Athy Distributor Road**

Mr Reel stated that stage 2 tender – full assessment would be completed early next month and then the report would be drawn up and forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer for approval following which, it would be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment for their approval.



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In regard to land acquisitions, notices had been served and the council had taken over all the lands required. Over 80% of the compensation agreements were completed and the council were working on the remainder. He added that the council were still on target with this project.

The following matters were raised by the members;

- Would the draft report be ready for the July meeting of the Athy Municipal District which would issue to the Minister?
- Following the report being issued to the Minister, how long would it take to receive approval?

Mr Reel stated that the report would be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer first and then the Minister for the Environment and he hoped that approval would be given within a reasonable timeframe but he could not give a definitive time at this point. He added that once approval was given by the Minister, the award process would commence the contract would be awarded to the contractor and then the contractor would commence on site.

The report was noted.

### **AY06/0621**

#### **Date and Venue for the Annual Meeting**

The Cathaoirleach asked for the members agreement to the annual meeting taking place in the council chamber at 10:00 a.m. on Monday 19 July 2021 prior to the monthly meeting confirming that standing orders would be suspended until 10.30am to allow the monthly meeting commence at 10.30am.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all the members that the annual meeting of the Athy Municipal District would take place in the council chamber, Aras Chill Dara at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 19 July 2021 and standing orders would be suspended until 10.30am to allow the monthly meeting commence at 10.30am.



**AY07/0621**

**Traffic Calming Measures – Geraldine Crossroads**

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

That the council carry out works to improve the visibility/sight lines at the Geraldine Crossroads, and that additional signage and rumble strips be installed at the crossroads following recent accidents.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that in order to improve the visibility/sight lines at this location, a detailed design would be required. Depending on the design, this may also involve land acquisition and relocation of existing services. There were currently no resources available or funding identified to progress the request.

In relation to the request for additional lining and signing, an application for funding under Low Cost Accident Scheme can be considered for 2022.

The following matters were raised by the members;

- There had been numerous accidents at this location as was a very dangerous junction with poor sightlines.
- Many of these accidents had been witnessed by people living in this area.
- Drivers were going through these crossroads without taking due care
- Traffic calming measures were required and rumble strips and extra signage would help in the short-term.

The Municipal District Engineer stated that in recent years signage had been improved at this location and visibility had improved as hedges had been cut. He added a low-cost accident scheme was carried out years ago and the situation did improve for a while. He said he would look at these crossroads again. He added rumble strips can be noisy and the people living in the locality might not appreciate the noise they create.



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The Cathaoirleach asked that this matter be put on the progress report and maybe a detailed design could be carried out early next year.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dooley that the report be noted and that the Municipal District Engineer would review these crossroads again.

### **AY08/0621**

#### **Safety Survey – Bridge at Fullers Court, Ballytore**

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

That the council carry out a safety survey on the bridge at Fullers Court, Ballytore.

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 location had been referred to Bridge Rehabilitation Team for review. Any surveys would be subject to resources and funding being available.

The following matters were raised by Councillor Keatley;

- That a new housing development had been granted permission at this location and this road was a very small rural road, the bridge and partial parts of the road had been damaged and a structural survey would be required.
- Who were the Bridge Rehabilitation Team and how could they be contacted?

Mr Reel stated that he could contact him directly. He added that on an annual basis the council put through a number of bridge projects, normally five to six bridges a year and then they carry out an assessment on them and then prioritise them. He added he can put this bridge in for assessment in 2022.

Councillor Keatley thanked Mr Reel and he stated he would speak to him further after the meeting.



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**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Behan that the report be noted and that this bridge would be listed for assessment for 2022.

### **AY09/0621**

#### **Installation of a footpath from the town of Castledermot to the cemetery at Coltstown**

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

That the council gives a commitment to install a footpath from the town of Castledermot to the Cemetery at Coltstown.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there were no plans to install a footpath from Castledermot to Coltstown Cemetery.

The following matters were raised by the members;

- That a footpath was necessary on this rural road in order to service those attending funerals and visiting the cemetery.
- Older people frequent this cemetery and it was dangerous for those walking on the side of the road returning to Castledermot.
- Was this a project that could be looked at for next years budget?

The Municipal District Engineer stated that the council had installed a footpath to the soccer pitch and to extend this footpath would require land acquisition and the bends on the road would have to be removed. He confirmed that currently there were no plans as a detailed design would have to be drawn up and a source of finance identified.

The following points were raised by the members;

- that a cycle lane or a narrow walkway was required and maybe they could speak with the landowners along this route and look at widening the road.
- Speed management measures were also required.



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- That this matter be monitored and see what can be done.

Mr Reel stated that an active budget was required, prioritise works agreed and then a schedule put together and then engage a consultant. The area in question was about 800/900 metres long and it would require public lighting, realignment of bends and landowners would have to engage with the council.

Councillor Keatley stated an alternative option was required other than a full design for a standard footpath and realignment of road etc, as a safe walkway was all that was required for those attending funerals and visiting the cemetery which would normally be done in daylight hours. A hard shoulder/cycle lane was all that was required and maybe if the council engaged with landowners along this route that the road could be widened in order to provide this walkway.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Leigh that the report be noted and that a workable solution be found in order to provide a safe walkway for those attending funerals and visiting the cemetery.

### **AY10/0621**

#### **Entrance/Exit - New Primary Health Care Centre – Athy**

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

Can the council confirm what are the required measurement for sight lines in meters, for exiting the New Primary Health Care Centre in Athy?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the speed limit at this location was 50kph. The sight visibility requirements must comply with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) standards which were as follows for a speed limit of 50kph:

45m for standard road conditions.

49m for roads with bus routes.

The required sight visibility is, therefore, 49m as there are bus routes on this section of road.



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Following concerns expressed by Councillor Dooley, the Municipal District Engineer stated that a Health and Safety audit was to be carried out by the Planning Section under the conditions of the planning application and that safety audit would need to be reviewed when completed.

The report was noted.

### **AY11/0621**

#### **Completion of Works in Narraghmore Village**

It was agreed that items 10 and 11 would be taken together:

##### Item 10

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

Can the council confirm the date for the completion of works in Narraghmore Village?

##### Item 11

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

Can the council inform the members when the paving works in the Square at Narraghmore will commence and when the works on the Wood Road, Narraghmore will be completed?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that it was proposed to commence works in the Square and recommence works in on the Wood Road, Narraghmore later in the year. The works had been delayed due to Covid 19 restrictions in 2020/2021.

Following concerns made by the members, the Municipal District Engineer stated that circumstances i.e. Covid restrictions had delayed the completion of these works and stated he should be able to get back to them by September this year. He added there were two parts to this project i.e. public realm – phase 2 in the Square and Wood Road works to be completed and this would be done following surfacing works being carried out was works had to be prioritised.





The report was noted.

**AY12/0621**

**Temporary Suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws – Athy Municipal District**

A report was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting and Ms Hunt made the following points in relation to the report:

- The Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team had secured funding for the roll out of temporary measures such as the provision of parklets and outdoor seating areas for use by the public in the towns across the county.
- The temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws including enforcement may be required when providing the proposed outdoor seating areas on a temporary basis in the coming weeks, the Municipal District Engineer would be consulted in the roll out of the temporary measures.
- Expressions of interest had been received from a number of businesses for the provision of parklets for their customers use at locations across the municipal district and in order to do this a Section 254 licence (under the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended) was required.
- S254 licence applications were reviewed by the Municipal District Engineer and the Public Realm Team who provide a report to the case planner for a full planning assessment of the proposal.

Ms Hunt asked the members to consider granting approval for the following two scenarios for the period 07 June 2021 to 30 November 2021:

1. The temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws including Enforcement at various locations across the municipal district to enable the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team to provide outdoor seating/parklets for general public use (subject to available funding).
2. The temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws including Enforcement at various locations across the municipal district to enable businesses to re-open for outdoor dining through the provision of parklets/outdoor seating for the exclusive use of their customers (subject to a full planning assessment and S254 licence approval).



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Councillor Keatley asked that the area beside the new playground in Castledermot be also considered.

The Cathaoirleach asked whether the benches would be installed in the town this week. Ms Hunt stated that the benches were being finished and should be ready and installed by the end of the week or early the following week.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all the members that the temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws including Enforcement in various locations across the municipal district area to facilitate the re-opening of businesses subject to S254 licence approval be approved.

### **AY13/0621**

#### **Metered Power and Water Points for Mobile Campervans – Dominican Lands**

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

That the council look to install both metered power and water points for mobile campervans in areas around either the Dominican lands or the back of Emily Square, to further strengthen the council's commitment to tourism in Athy and on the Blueway.

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Section informing the members that the public realm team would assess the potential to incorporate proposals for metered power and water points for mobile campervans into the Dominican Lands Masterplan which were currently being developed.

The Barrow Blueway Steering Group would consider the requirements and appropriate locations for serviced sites for campervans along the route of the Barrow Blueway including Athy.



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The following points were raised by the members;

- Would be ideal to have these facilities for those using campervans especially as we were encouraging tourism and it would increase footfall into the town to use our pubs, restaurants, shops, service stations etc
- Possible location could be back of Emily Square, Athy.
- Kildare County Council could look at a similar model in Ferrybank Camping Site in Wexford Town.
- Location would need to be central to the town which would be near the facilities. A site outside the town would be too far away.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that there was a presentation from Ms Annette Keaveney scheduled for 10.30 am on Wednesday, 23 June 2021 regarding the Blueway.

Ms Hunt stated she would take on board the members comments. She added that she was currently working with Waterways Ireland to find the proper solution.

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

### **AY14/0621**

#### **Development of the Old Barrow Towpath from Athy to Monasterevin**

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

That the council consider developing the Old Barrow towpath from Athy to Monasterevin on the Kildare side into a Blueway to complement the Blueway on the opposite bank, creating a 47km continuous Blueway around Waterways in South and West Kildare.

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Section informing the members that it would appear from discussions with Waterways Ireland that this towpath was not in the ownership of Waterways Ireland, though Waterways Ireland would investigate further and confirm. Should Waterways Ireland confirm it was not in their



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ownership, the Strategic Projects & Public Realm team would investigate the ownership of the lands. If the towpath was in private ownership, it may make delivery of a Blueway over these lands more difficult and costly. If the member had any information with regard to ownership, they can share it with the SPPR team. Viability of the proposal and funding opportunities would be investigated.

Ms Hunt stated that this issue would be looked at once the Barrow Blueway was completed and operational.

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

### **AY15/0621**

#### **Athy Local Area Plan**

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

That the council confirm that the current Athy Local Area Plan (LAP) is fit for purpose when deciding on planning applications, until the new LAP is in place.

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

A report was received from the Forward Planning, Conservation & Heritage Team informing the members that in the interests of clarity, it should be noted that there was no current Athy Local Area Plan. The current statutory planning policy document for the town of Athy was the *Athy Town Development Plan 2012-2018*.

Section 11(C) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) states that "Where after the passing of the Electoral, Local Government and Planning and Development Act 2013 provision is made by law for the dissolution of town councils (being town councils within the meaning of section 11A(1) ) then, irrespective of whether or not any relevant decision was made pursuant to section 11A(2) —

- (a) the development plan for the administrative area of such a town council shall continue to have effect to the extent provided for by that plan and be read together



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with the development plan for the administrative area within which the dissolved administrative area is situated, and

(b) a development plan as so read in accordance with paragraph (a) shall, except where section 11B(2) applies, be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of section 9 as that section applies to the development plan for the administrative area within which the dissolved administrative area is situated.

Furthermore, Section 34 of the Act states that when making a decision in relation to a planning application, planning authorities are restricted to considering the proper planning and sustainable development of the area having regard to specific policy documents, which includes the Development Plan and Section 28 Guidelines. Draft Local Area Plans are not included in Section 34 of the Act.

Having regard to the foregoing, the Athy Town Development Plan 2012 -2018 was the current statutory planning document for the consideration of planning applications, the plan was fit for purpose and remains in place until the adoption of a new LAP (ca. August 2021).

The following points were raised by the members;

- They were concerned over decisions on a number of planning applications over the last couple of months
- Concerns given we are in the midst of a housing crisis
- Concerns regarding rezoning of lands in new Local Area Plan
- Would be a positive step to see more private houses being built in Athy – need balance of social housing and private housing.

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

### **AY16/0621**

#### **Provision of Public Toilets in Athy**

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

Can the council give an update on the provision of public toilets in Athy and what public buildings can be used in this regard?



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A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Municipal District offices were too small to allow public access for toilet use on a regular basis. If someone came to the offices and they needed access, it could be arranged but it was not something that could be promoted. With current pace of the reopening of society, the need to provide public toilets to support outdoor activities may diminish.

The report was noted.

### **AY17/0621**

#### **Water and Sewerage Services for council housing site in Nurney**

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

That the council contacts Irish Water in relation to the council housing site in Nurney with regards to Irish Water's role in providing water and sewerage services for the site.

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

A report was received from the Water Services Section informing the members that if this motion was passed by the Municipal District, it would be referred to Irish Water for investigation.

The Cathaoirleach noted that Irish Water were to be invited to attend a meeting with the members to discuss a number of their concerns and she asked for this meeting to be arranged. She added that a list would be drawn up by the members and submitted to Irish Water for discussion.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Dooley that the report be noted and that an invitation issue to Irish Water to attend a meeting with the Athy Municipal District.



**AY18/0621**

**City Solar Compacting Smart Litter Bins – Athy Municipal District**

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

That the council introduce a City Solar Compacting Smart Litter bin in the Athy Municipal District as a pilot programme, to get a measurement as to what is achievable and how costs and litter can be reduced.

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

A report was received from the Municipal District Engineer informing the members that, at the present time, there were two of these compactors in Maynooth and they were piloting them for the last two years. To implement these in the Athy Municipal District, it would have to be agreed with the Environment Section as they are ultimately the Section that controls the litter collection budget.

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that solar Compacting bins were expensive both to install and to maintain. The merits of the installation of such a bin in Athy and the servicing of same would need to be considered in consultation with the Athy Municipal District office.

The following points were raised by the members;

- There were issues around smaller bins overflowing and this was an issue nationally not just in Athy.
- Solar powered compacting bins allows for collection of ten times the amount of rubbish normal bins allow.
- Currently being used in Europe.
- Should look at putting them in areas with larger footfall.
- Could be used in Parks but away from trees as they need solar power.
- Would be cost effective as would not need to be collected as often as smaller bins.



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Ms O'Malley reiterated that these bins were expensive to install and maintain but she stated she would have this bin costed and would investigate it further.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the council staff for the additional emptying of bins at the weekend in Athy and it seems to be improving the situation.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan that the report be noted and that the Environment Section would get a costing for such a bin and investigate the matter further.

### **AY19/0621**

#### **Bins at the Old St Michael's Cemetery in Athy**

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

Can the council provide bins at the Old St Michael's Cemetery in Athy?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the council already provides a number (seven) of wheelie bins at the Old St Michael's Cemetery in Athy which were emptied on a regular basis, at least every two weeks.

Councillor Leigh noted report but he stated maybe people had not seen some of these bins as there was a pile of rubbish/weeds/dead flowers at the back wall of the cemetery and he asked for this to be removed.

The report was noted.

### **AY20/0621**

#### **Derelict Buildings – Castledermot**

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

Can the council advise of any plans they may have for the derelict buildings in Castledermot?





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A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that it was not clear from the question as to which buildings in Castledermot were being referred to. While there may be some vacant properties on the Main Street in Castledermot, the council had no record of any properties being reported to it as derelict. If there was a particular site(s) of concern, if the Environment Section was provided with the details, we would arrange to follow up accordingly.

Councillor Leigh stated that he would forward the information required to the Environment Section.

The report was noted.

### **AY21/0621**

#### **South Kildare Beekeeping Association – Setting of Bait Hives – Athy Municipal District**

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

That the council allow South Kildare Beekeeping Association set bait hives to trap swarming bees on suitable council lands in the municipal district during the months from April to July.

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

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that further details would be required to consider this request. Confirmation of the locations proposed also health and safety requirements and insurance details would need to be provided and details of how the hives would be secured so as not to endanger the public. Following receipt of these details, the issue would also have to be discussed with our insurers.

The following points were raised by the members;

- need to find suitable land
- roof tops of council buildings used in other parts of Europe



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Mr Wallace stated he would need to consider locations and speak with the insurers.

Councillor Leigh stated he would speak with Mr Wallace after the meeting in order to progress this situation.

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

### **AY22/0621**

#### **Erection of trees and planting signage at the People's Park**

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

Can the council confirm if there are plans to erect signage at the People's Park, Athy, explaining and identifying the details of the trees and planting in the park?

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that there were no plans to erect signs at The Peoples Park in relation to trees and planting in the park. However, it can be considered when park upgrades, which the members are providing LPT funding for, were being carried out.

The Cathaoirleach stated that she had received a proposal from a member of the public and she would forward to Mr Wallace for his review.

The report was noted.

### **AY23/0621**

#### **Other Business**

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that she had received an email from the Planning Section stating that there was a meeting scheduled for 3 August 2021 in relation to the Chief Executive Officer report for Athy Local Area Plan. The members agreed to attend.

She reminded the members that there was a Blueway presentation at 10.30 am on Wednesday, 23 June 2021.



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The Cathaoirleach asked that a meeting with Mr Alan Kerry, Local Link be followed up.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Cathaoirleach)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Meetings Administrator)

The minutes were adopted by the members of the Athy Municipal District at their meeting held on 19 July 2021.