



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 11 April 2022  
on Microsoft Teams**

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

**Apologies:** Councillor V Behan

**Officials Present:** Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr  
S Deegan, Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineers), Ms P O'Brien, Ms M Hunt  
(Senior Executive Officers) Ms A O'Malley (Administrative Officer), Mr  
S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms S Walsh  
(Executive Engineer), Ms Lucina Russell (Arts Officer) Mr B McGrath  
(Meetings Administrator) and Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Secretary).

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**AY01/0422**

**Declaration of Pecuniary Interests**

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**AY02/0422**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held  
on Monday, 28 March 2022 and the special meeting of Athy Municipal District held on  
Tuesday, 29 March 2022



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**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by the members that the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 28 March 2022 and the special meeting of Athy Municipal District held on Tuesday, 29 March 2022 be adopted and the progress report be noted.

### **AY03/0422**

#### **Municipal District Road Works**

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that last month's update was still relevant as the previous Municipal District meeting was 2 weeks ago. The Municipal District Engineer was at the meeting to address any queries the members may raise.

In response to a query on proposed works at Old Grange and Kilrush, the Municipal District Engineer informed the members that the works had been put out to tender.

On the works required on the R417, there would be delays as the roads had to be closed when the works were taking place as the road was too narrow allow traffic pass the work area safely.

### **AY04/0422**

#### **Athy Distributor Road**

To receive the quarterly update on the Athy Distributor Road.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Roads design would include this project in the presentation (item 5). The next update is due in July 2022. As agreed, the members would get a monthly email update in the interim.

The report was noted

### **AY05/0422**

#### **Roads Design Update**

Mr Deegan delivered an update to the members highlighting the projects being carried out in their municipal district by the Roads Design Team:



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- Roads Projects and Planning Team
- Athy Distributor Road
  - o Fencing works ongoing along the scheme. • Topsoil strip for archaeology ongoing. • Asbestos removal ongoing. • Commencement of traffic management at the following locations: o Kilkenny Road Roundabout Phase 1 to commence after Easter. o Carlow Road Phase 1 to commence in May. o Castledermot Road Phase 1 to commence in May. • Work to new railway bridge to commence shortly. Works include: Installation of temporary fencing. Installation of piling platform. o Piling works. o Concrete works to the bridge. • Works to River Barrow Bridge to commence shortly. Works include: o Installation of piling platform. o Piling works. o Concrete works to the bridge
- New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn
- Transport Strategies
- Junction Programme
- Bridge Programme
  - o Moone Bridge – section 177AE planning application lodged with ABP and decision due later this year. Will try to complete remediation works in 2022 subject to in stream working restrictions. ii. Cloney Bridge – has been included on the 2022 Bridge remediation program of planned works and would be surveyed shortly. iii. Finnelly Bridge – had been included on the 2022 Bridge remediation program of planned works and will be surveyed shortly. iv. Bo Choill Road Bridge has been included on the 2022 Bridge remediation program of planned works and would be surveyed shortly
- Roads Planning
- Department of Transport Support Office. Mr Deegan confirmed that while these projects came from the Department of Transport, he liaised closely with the Department of Transport Support Office.

Mr Deegan responded to members queries on the following junctions Berts Cross, Kilmeade, Ballyshannon Old Grange Cross



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He informed the members that his presentation would be circulated when all municipal district committees had been briefed and he provided his contact details to the members.

The members thanked Mr Deegan for his presentation.

Councillor Breslin informed the member that she had to leave the meeting early and asked for her items to be moved early. The members agreed.

### **AY06/0422**

#### **Meeting Lane Athy**

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

That the council arrange to have the area adjacent to the parking spaces in Meeting Lane, Athy cleaned and the dumping removed

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the land in question was privately owned and registered to an individual owner who was responsible for the property. It may be difficult to ascertain who currently owned the land but the council would attempt to find this out. In the interim, the council would arrange for the site to be cleaned up on this occasion.

Councillor Breslin stated that the ownership of this site needed to be investigated and CCTV was required to identify those who were dumping on the site as this site was close to the town centre. The ownership of this site may be linked to the recent sale of a pub. She asked that it be kept on the progress report and the ownership be further investigated

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and the council to further investigate the ownership of this plot of land



**AY07/0422**

**Dominican Lands Athy**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin.  
Can the council provide an update on the proposed housing units on the Dominican Lands, Athy? This site was selected for the provision of age friendly housing by Cluid Housing Association.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that following the submission of a Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) application by Cluid to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Cluid were requested to increase the density on the site. Following consultation with the Housing and Planning Sections of the council, Cluid submitted a revised CAS application to the Department in March 2022, the number of units has increased from 31 to 34. This application was currently being reviewed by the Department. An update on this scheme would be provided to members via the Monthly Chief Executive Report.

The report was noted.

**AY08/0422**

**Water Hub Athy**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin.  
Can the council provide an update on the proposed Water Hub, Athy?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department informing the members that the Dominican Lands masterplan was progressing well and the consultants were due to commence the Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment (SSFRA) which would establish the extent of land that could be developed relative to the flooding risk and extents of the site. The SSFRA should be completed in May, following which an update on the masterplan design and the water hub proposal could be provided.  
The report was noted.



**AY09/0422**

**Resurfacing L8015**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
That the council resurface the L8015 as the road is deteriorating and there are safety issue for road users.

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

A report was received form the Roads, Tranportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this section of road between Pike Bridge, Narraghmore and Crookstown was on the three year plan for 2022-2024. It was hoped to carry out this work in 2023. There were additional issues that also need to be resolved.

Councillor Dooley advised that some of the issue were caused by the movement of animals and perhaps underpasses could be considered as a possible solution as these had been used elsewhere with considerable success.

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

**AY10/0422**

**Barrow Blueway**

The members considered ther following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
That the council prepare a plan for the refurbishment of the pathway along the river Barrow with surfacing works from the courthouse in Athy to the area where the Blueway development starts/finishes.

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

A report was received form the Roads, Tranportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that subject to the members agreement, a letter could issue to Waterways Ireland as the towpath in question was in their ownership.



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Councillor Dooley informed the members that €8 million was being invested in the Blueway. It was important to link the Blueway to the town centre. It was important to understand who was responsible for each part, a meeting between Waterways Ireland, Public Realm and the elected members to discuss issues would be helpful. There may also be a Special Area of Conservation along this route.

Ms Hunt confirmed that the Public Realm team would send a letter to Irish Water seeking a meeting.

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

### **AY11/0422**

#### **Pontoon at River Barrow Athy**

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

That the council put in a pontoon on the Bank side of the River Barrow in Athy and consider introducing a mooring fee on the Barrow in the town for private boats.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this matter came under the remit of Waterways Ireland (WI). With the members agreement, a letter could issue to WI outlining the request.

Councillor Leigh informed the meeting that there were mooring facilities on the right bank and this needed to be replicated on the left bank. The bank had become an eyesore as boats had been abandoned there and left to rot.

Councillor Dooley agreed and said having a pontoon on both sides would help in getting people involved. The provision of a pontoon would address issues like these. The members were advised that there were plans to build a wall on that side of the river as part of flood relief measures and perhaps they should seek an update from Ms O'Brien on the plans



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**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Dooley the report be noted and an update be sought from Ms O'Brien on planned flood relief measures for this side of the river

### AY12/0422

#### Public Lighting Peel Hall to Mullaghmast Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Leigh.  
That the council provide street lighting on the L8025 Peel Hall to Mullaghmast Road.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there was no funding within the current (2022) revenue budget for the installation of any additional public lighting. The request for lighting at this location would be recorded on the Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS) system and would be assessed when the funds became available.

Councillor Leigh stated that members of the public were asking what they were paying Local Property Tax for, if they could not get public lighting. He asked if the members could be given the detail of where this request sat within the scoring system on KLIPS as he wanted to consider how this lighting could be provided

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

### AY13/0422

#### Maintenance of Street Lights

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.  
Can the council confirm what is the current waiting time for a streetlight to be fixed in the Athy Municipal District area?





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A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that maintenance and repair of all lighting in Kildare County Council control was the responsibility of Enerveo Ireland Ltd (formerly SSE Airtricity) following a public tendering process in 2018. Kildare County Council requires that lights were repaired within 28 days however some obstacles can prevent the repairs from occurring within this timeframe. Some of the obstacles which would delay repairs would be, but not limited to:

- ESB attendance at site
- Underground cable damage
- Column replacement
- Access issues

The 4 week turnaround time applied to faults where there are no complications or cable faults. While the maintenance contractor had responsibility for ensuring that repairs to lights were carried out within the agreed timeframe, this was constantly monitored by Kildare County Council. When fault numbers throughout the county rose, Kildare County Council would request the maintenance contractor to assign additional resources to deal with the issue.

The report was noted.

### **AY14/0422**

#### **Footpaths in Ashville Athy**

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

Can the council confirm when it will have the trip hazards and indents on the footpaths in Ashville, Athy fixed?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this work would be carried out as part of Routine Footpath Maintenance.

The report was noted.



**AY15/0422**

**Public Realm**

To receive an update on Public Realm projects.

Ms Hunt advised the members that she had forwarded a copy of her report to them in advance of the meetings and if they had any queries she would be happy to deal with them.

Councillor Keatley enquired if the planning permission for the next stage of the Tan Yard in Ballytore would run out. Ms Hunt advised that a plan was needed for the yard, funding for the Conservation Plan was in place but it required a meeting with the Architect now who would be preparing the plan.

The members welcomed the report.

**AY16/0422**

**Fitzgerald Family Trail App**

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

Can the council confirm if any further consideration has been given to developing a Fitzgerald Family Trail App in Kildare?

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department informing the members that this matter was initially raised at the Athy Municipal District meeting in November 2019, at which time the Heritage Officer welcomed this idea and advised Cllr. Dooley that assistance would be given to any community group in the Athy MD to develop such a project. To date, no approaches have been made to KCC by community groups in this regard. While there was currently no scope or funding this year to progress this project, it could be considered in the next years work programme, subject to funding and community group interest.

The report was noted

**AY17/0422**

**Derelict Site Register**

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



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Can the council confirm how many derelict premises are on the derelict site register in Athy Town?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that there were currently 6 properties listed on the Derelict Sites Register for Athy town.

The report was noted.

### **AY18/0422**

#### **Grant Awards**

To consider Community, Festival and Resident Association grant awards assessed by the Economic, Community & Cultural Development Department for 2022.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members present the Community and Festival Grants were approved as presented (see Appendix 1).

### **AY19/0422**

#### **Arts Awards and Bursaries**

The members considered the Arts Awards and Bursaries for 2022 for the Athy Municipal District.

Ms Russell informed the members that €71,550 was allocated the previous year as part of the Arts Awards and Bursaries and that €99,910 was being allocated this year.

The members thanked Ms Russell and commended her and the Arts Section on the variety of grants being proposed.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley and seconded by Councillor Leigh that the payment of the Arts Awards and Bursaries for the Athy Municipal District be approved as presented (see Appendix 2)

Councillor Dooley thanked the Community Department for the excellent reports that they had presented and these reports showed how LPT contributions were being distributed in the Municipal District for the coming 12 months.

The meeting concluded.