



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 12 December 2022  
in the Council Chamber**

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

**Remote Attendees:** Councillors V Behan, I Keatley

**Officials Present:** Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (Area Engineer), Mr S Deegan (Senior Engineer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator) and Ms C Gallagher (Meetings Secretary).

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**AY01/1222**

**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.

**AY02/1222**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

To adopt the minutes the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 21 November 2022 and to note the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that the minutes of the meeting be adopted and the progress report be noted.



**Matters Arising**

Councillor Breslin asked if the Public Lighting Scheme had the funds available to carry out the Ard Na Laoi lighting works. Ms A Aspell will contact the Public Lighting Team and revert to Councillor Breslin.

**AY03/1222**

**Municipal District road works update**

The members received an update on the municipal district road works.

**1. National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measure Updates**

No update since last Athy MD meeting. Project Team dealing with this.

**2. Department of Transport – Climate Adaption Projects**

No projects completed in Athy MD

**3. Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RI Program**

All surveying and preparatory works on all RI and RM for 2022 completed.

Two extra RI projects are surfaced Cherrymills and Moone

R417 Maganey to County Boundary (Completed and lined with cats-eyes installed)

L7071 – Blackditch (Completed)

L7063 – Ricardstown (Completed)

L7065 – Eskerhill (Completed)

L8037 – Timolin (Completed)

L8089 – Bo Choill Road (Completed)

L8012 – Kilrush (Completed)

L8017 - Oldgrange (Completed)

L7063 – Cherrymills to Cloney (Completed)

L-8012 – Moone Village (Road Markings and Pedestrian Crossing to be installed)

Margins and hedgerows along 2 remaining jobs need certain preparatory works.

Kilrush – requires some lining.

Carried out junction realignments at L8089 – Bo Choill Rd.



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Drainage requirements also completed on 2 new roads.

### **4. Local Improvement Schemes**

Portersize Lane

Lowtown Lane

Castlereban North Lane

Crookstown Lane

Ballymount, Blackrath

### **5. Community Involvement Schemes**

L80571 Castlereban

L80351 Crookstown Lane

L60951 Blackrath Lane

L70653 Rickardstown Lane

L80161 Rathsillagh Lane

L60901 Calverstown Lodge Lane

L80531 Ballinacarrick Lane

### **6. Signage Works**

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy MD.

Upgrading signage on completed resurfaced roads.

### **7. Road Markings**

Upgrading road junction markings at the present time.

Renew all road marking including cats eyes along the newly surfaced section of the R417. – 3.1km.

Renew all road markings on R-448 from Castledermot to Moone – 6.8km.

Upgraded road markings along L4009 Levistown

### **8. Drainage Works**

A number of villages (including Narraghmore) have had drainage systems cleaned



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Jetting drainage lines on various roads – ongoing

Cleaning gullies on a number of roads – ongoing

Carrying out water cuts along roads – ongoing

### **9. Road Patching**

Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing.

### **10. Street Sweeping**

Street sweeping to areas – ongoing

Bin collection – ongoing

Install 10no. new bins along the R417 Monasterevin Rd, Athy

### **11. Community Works**

Carried out preparatory work to facilitate both Tri-Athy and Gordon Bennett Events. This involved road closures etc.

### **12. General Maintenance**

New wheelchair friendly seat installation on Monasterevin road, Athy.

General cleaning of depot.

New depot at Gallowshill completed, now decorating and outfitting.

Hedge cutting along Regional Roads.

Assisted with traffic management in the pruning of trees along the R417, Monasterevin Rd, Athy

### **13. Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RM Program**

R-448 Skenagun to Moone.

L-4009 Maganey to Levitstown.

R-747 Brookmount to Wicklow bounds.

L-8068 Bert to Milltown.

L-8031 Milltown to Cardenton.

L-6094 Wood road, Narraghmore.



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Councillor Leigh thanked the team for the excellent road conditions during the last spell of winter weather. Councillor Dooley thanked the team for the installation of wheelchair access on the Monasterevin Road. Councillor Breslin asked if the patchwork outside St. Michael's Cemetery, as discussed at the last meeting, had taken place.

The District Engineer advised that the work at the cemetery is under the remit of the Environment Department. Mr B McGrath will contact the Environment Department to advise them of the work which needs to be undertaken.

The report was noted.

### **AY04/1222**

#### **Update on Sustainable Transport and Active Travel Team Projects**

The members received an update on the Sustainable Transport and Active Travel Team projects.

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach and agreed by all members this item was deferred until the next meeting.

### **AY05/1222**

#### **Curbside Parking at Piers Cafe, Moone**

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

That the council install curb side parking in front of the Piers Cafe in Moone.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the Municipal District office, assisted by the Roads Design team have prepared a design showing the location of the pedestrian crossing and layout for parking/footpaths for the area. The team will engage with businesses in the area to discuss the design.



The members raised the following points:

- There is continuous upset about the height of the curb.
- Elderly people, wheelchair users, pram users and those with mobility issues cannot easily access the path due to the height of the curb.
- A petition to have the curb height reduced has been created and has 500 signatures.
- This issue has been brought up a number of times.
- The work of the Municipal District Office during Covid was commended and the District Engineer was thanked for attending the public meetings which were held.
- Support would be given to a combined design for Moone and Timolin

The District Engineer recognised that Piers Café is the focal point of the community but that the whole area needs to be looked at and a structured plan for the village should be created looking at the pedestrian crossing and footpath outside the café.

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

#### **AY06/1222**

#### **Ramps on Abbeylands Road**

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

That the council install ramps on Abbeylands Road, Upper Abbeylands between the Garda station and the new GAA pitch and the town side of the playschool.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that there are no plans to install ramps on the Abbeylands Road. The Athy Municipal District Office could engage with An Garda Síochána to consider additional enforcement measures at this location.



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The members raised the following points:

- Gardaí are under-resourced and not in a position to police speeding at this location.
- The council should lead on this issue.
- This matter should be looked at in the context of the playschool, GAA and school pedestrian traffic.
- This was submitted as a motion previously.
- Speed bumps will slow down traffic.
- Can we have clarity on the situation in relation to speed ramps generally?
- Speed byelaws are under review.

The District Engineer noted that speed ramps are problematic where there is a bus route citing that the enforcement of speed limits is more effective. Ramps are not necessarily the answer to this problem. He recognised that surveys have determined that vehicles are travelling at very high speeds on the roads around Castledermot.

The Senior Engineer noted that the County Speed Limit Review was not adopted by the members.

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

### **AY07/1222**

#### **LED lights in Graysland, Athy**

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

That the council organise the modernisation of the streetlamps in Graysland, Athy to LED.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the lighting at this location will be assessed as part of the PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project), the survey and design of which will commence in Q2 2023 in Co.



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Kildare. The PLEEP Design will identify locations where additional lighting will be required and depending on availability of funds it will be carried out. In the interim the request will be listed on the KLIPS (Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule) register.

The members raised the following points:

- The area is very dark with the current lighting system, the lighting needs modernisation.
- There are several other estates in need of the same

The District Engineer advised that there is a policy in place that all old LPS lights in estates will be replaced with LED lights.

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

### **AY08/1222**

#### **Yellow Box at Nelson Street/Leinster Street**

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

That the council That the council put in place a yellow box at Nelson Street/William Street junction.

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

**(Note:** Confirmed with Councillor Leigh that the junction is Nelson Street/Leinster Street (N78) junction and not as above.)

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the provision of yellow boxes at locations are considered in line with the technical standard document Criteria for the Implementation of Statutory Signing and Lining. A copy of this document was circulated to all members following noting by the SPC. TII have confirmed that this location also rests within the extents of the Athy Main Street Pavement Scheme





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which is currently progressing to pavement design and assessment of existing constraints. Timing of works are influenced by the completion of the Athy Distributor Road.

The members raised the following points:

- That the Criteria for the Implementation of Statutory Signing and Lining document be reissued to members.
- Are the council missing an opportunity to get these works done in conjunction with the ADR.

The District Engineer and Senior Engineer advised that TII will look at 'upgrading' the centre of Athy but there is a sequence to their work plan.

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

### **AY09/1222**

#### **Footbridge Over the Marina**

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

That the council replace or redesign the footbridge over the Marina along the Barrow path in Athy, to allow accessibility for all users.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that Kildare County Council has engaged with Waterways Ireland and we are awaiting their response.

The members raised the following points:

- The footbridge is impassable particularly for prams and wheelchair users.
- The marina needs to be redesigned to be accessible for everyone.
- This is a pertinent matter considering the Blue Way will bring tourists to the area.



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The District Manager advised that the council has engaged with Waterways Ireland and internal departments and is confident that this work will progress and be completed. A update will be given to members in January.

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

### AY10/1222

#### Remedial Road Works, William Pearse Terrace, Castledermot

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

That the council carry out resurfacing and remedial works to all the roads in William Pearse Terrace, Castledermot in tandem with the works being carried out to the footpaths.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the work on the footpaths will be put out for tender in the coming weeks. It is hoped to start works early in the New Year. When the footpath has been replaced we can then estimate the cost of resurfacing the entire road network in the estate. This work can be considered as part of the work programme for 2023 in line with Budget allocations.

The members raised the following points:

- The back alley needs to be incorporated with these works.
- With these works the estate will be complete.

The District Engineer advised that if funding is available the work will be completed.

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

### AY11/1222



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### **Street Lighting in William Pearse Terrace, Castledermot**

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

Can the council confirm if the street lighting in William Pearse Terrace is scheduled for upgrading?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the upgrading of street Lighting in William Pearse Terrace has been given to the contractor to carry out the works.

The report was noted.

### **AY12/1222**

#### **KLIPS Survey for L8025, Peel Hall Cross Road**

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

Can the council confirm if it has undertaken the KLIPS survey promised by the end of 2022 for the L8025 Peel Hall Cross Road?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that there was no undertaking given to the members that the assessment would be completed within 2022 and no funds have been identified for any new projects at this time. This request has been added to the KLIPS register.

Councillor Leigh noted he was unhappy with the report and that this question was previous submitted as a motion when the commitment had been made to provide a survey by the end of 2022.

The report was noted.

### **AY13/1222**

#### **Paths in the Kingsgrove/Graysland Area**

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



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Can the council confirm if there are plans to fix the paths in the Kingsgrove/Graysland area?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the Athy Municipal District Office carried out some remedial works in the past and will continue to carry out remedial works at a future date.

Councillor Leigh noted that after 40 years these works were essential.

The report was noted.

### **AY14/1222**

#### **Works Timeline in Castleroe West Estate, Manganey, Athy**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley  
Can the council provide an update on the timeline for when resurfacing and drainage works will be carried out in Castleroe West Estate, Manganey, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that there are no plans to carry out works on the Castleroe West Estate at the present time.

Councillor Dooley noted that he was unhappy with the report and stated that this item had been submitted as a motion twice within the last twelve months. He also advised that as it was an older estate the drainage and resurfacing works were overdue.

The report was noted.

### **AY15/1222**

#### **Pedestrian Crossing in Duke and Leinster Streets**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
Can the council confirm if it plans to install pedestrian crossings in Duke Street and Leinster Street?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that there are no plans to install pedestrian crossing in Duke Street or Leinster Street at the present time. Kildare County Council are engaging with TII to carry out works on the N-78 when the Athy Distributor Road comes into use.

The report was noted.

### **AY16/1222**

#### **Fencing at New Line Grove, Kilmead**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin.  
Can the council provide a definitive date and commitment be given to when the fencing at New Line Grove, Kilmead will start?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that a contractor has been appointed to carry out works at Kilmead. The Municipal District office will engage with the contractor to progress the works and define timelines.

Councillor Breslin implored that the work be done as soon as possible as LPT funds have been set aside for the last three years to do this small job.

The report was noted.

### **AY17/1222**

#### **Consideration of Deputation**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breslin.  
That the members consider receiving a deputation from Mr D Howard to discuss opportunities presented by linking the Columban Way, Myshall with the Blueway in Athy.

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



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A report was received from the Corporate Services Department that subject to the members agreement a letter of invitation can issue to Mr D Howard.

The members raised the following points:

- Mr D Howard has so much experience with the work done in Carlow on this initiative.
- A letter should be sent to invite the Heritage Officer, Ms B Loughlin and Director of Services for Planning, Mr E Ryan to attend future meetings.
- There is a European community who follow these trails and the Barrow is part of the Camino.

On the proposal of Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Behan that a letter of will be sent to Mr D Howard inviting him to give a presentation to the members in 2023 on the opportunities of linking the Columban Way, Myshall with the Blueway in Athy.

When the dates are confirmed an invitation will issue to invite the Heritage Officer, Ms B Loughlin and Director of Services for Planning, Mr E Ryan to attend this presentation.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Behan that the invitation issue to Mr D Howard.

### AY18/1222

#### Plans for Canal Side, Athy

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

Can the council confirm its plans for the council owned site at Canal Side, Athy?

A report was received from the Housing Department that Kildare County Council has recently finalised purchase of units 3, 5 & 6 Canal Side, Athy meaning that units 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 are now in the Council's ownership. Work has commenced to assess the most advantageous use of these properties for the provision of 1 and 2 bed units, primarily for older persons use. It is noted however that there are particular challenges with this terrace including the fact that it is in an Architectural Conservation Area, as detailed by the most



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recent Athy Local Area Plan. The members will be further updated once the provisional design for this project has been completed.

Councillor Breslin thanked the Housing Department for the report noting how units such as these make a notable difference to the community and offered her support if needed to progress this project.

The report was noted.

### **AY19/1222**

#### **Update on Public Realm Projects**

The members received an update on Public Realm projects.

The members raised the following points:

- It is great to see the level of investment and engagement.
- Additional funding should be sought for works on Edmond Rice Square.
- A meeting needs to be arranged regarding the Tanyard as there is a newly formed committee in place.
- Ask the Public Realm Team to contact Councillor Dooley regarding the Tanyard.
- Only one tender was received for the works at the Tanyard.
- Is more than one tender needed to progress works.
- The works in Kilmeague have not progressed and are not listed on the work plan €60K was ringfenced for these works.
- The Shackleton museum has huge potential and needs to be completed to a highly professional standard.

The District Manager advised that of the following:

- The members comments were noted and will be forwarded to the Public Realm Team.
- When only one tender is received a risk assessment is done to ascertain if the works should be retendered.



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- The Chief Executive has made a commitment to ensure the Public Realm Team is fully staffed in order for projects to be completed
- Good progression has been made on the projects listed.
- Shackleton Museum and Edmond Rice Square works will be retendered in Q1 of 2023.
- Regarding the Tanyard and Kilmeague, specific updates will be requested from the Public Realm Team.

The update was noted.

### **AY20/1222**

#### **Design Plan for Connection between end of Blueway and Athy Town**

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

That the council, with the support of the Public Realm Team, prepare a design plan that creates connectivity for all users where the Blueway finishes from the Horse Bridge in Athy back to the town centre and courthouse.

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

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team that they will look at this in collaboration with the Roads Department.

Councillor Dooley noted that only certain pedestrians can use the walkway under the bridge, it needs to be more accessible.

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

### **AY21/1222**

#### **Sports Facility, Castledermot**

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

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Can the council confirm if it has identified a suitable space in Castledermot to create a dedicated sports facility within the town?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Department that there have been no previous requests made to the Parks Section for a dedicated sports facility. However the matter can be discussed further with the elected members to establish what the requirements are.

Councillor Behan notes that teenagers in particular would benefit from a facility such as this and is happy to discuss further with the Parks Team.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.