



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 11 December 2023  
in the Council Chamber**

**Members Present:** Councillor V Behan (Cathaoirleach), Councillors M Leigh and I Keatley.

**Online:** Councillor B Dooley

**Apologies:** Councillor A Breslin

**Officials Present:** Mr A Dunney (District Manager), Mr M Kavanagh (A/District Engineer), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Mr M McLoughlin (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms K Lane (Administrative Officer), Ms E Price (A/Administrative Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

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Councillor Behan wished to express condolences on behalf of the members to the Chief Executive Sonya Kavanagh on the passing of her mother Carol Kavanagh RIP.

Councillor Behan also mentioned the following:

- Noted that the Tidy Towns awards were very successful.
- Application forms were available for the Shop local scheme from participating shops.
- The members looked forward to the turning of sod on Shakleton Museum on 18 December.

**AY01/1223**

**Declaration of Conflicts or Pecuniary Interests**



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Declarations of (a) conflicts of interest or (b) pecuniary or beneficial interests under section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

There were no declarations made.

### **AY02/1223**

#### **Minutes and Progress Report**

To adopt the minutes the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 20 November 2023 and to note the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Leigh seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members that the minutes of the Athy Municipal District meeting held on 20 November 2023 be adopted and the progress report be noted.

### **AY03/1223**

#### **Municipal District road works update**

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

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

No update since the last Athy Municipal District meeting. Project Team dealing with this.

#### **Department of Transport – Climate Adaption Projects**

No projects completed in Athy Municipal District in 2023.

#### **Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RI Program 2023**

All surveying works on all RI for 2023 completed.

R-415 at Crookstown school.

R-418 at Bray to Gallowshill i.e., tie-in to the ADR.

R-418 at Kilmead on the Athy/Kilcullen Road.

L-8074 link road at Gallowshill completed.

L-8022 Kilmead to Monatore completed.

L-8011 Castlefarm to Rock completed.

L-8096 Corballis to Knockpatrick completed.



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L-7067 Cherrymills to Mylerstown completed.  
L-8039 Commonstown to Moone completed.  
L-8072 Ballycullane to Nicholastown completed.  
L-4008 Foxhill to Gallowshill completed.  
L-8042 Bolgers Cross to Belan completed.  
L-8069 Geraldine to Clogorow Cross completed.  
L-8044 Moone to Killellan completed.  
L-8084 Kilkea to Levitstown.  
L-8085 Shed Road Levitstown.  
L-89933 Greenhills to K-Leisure completed.  
L-8083 Kilkea completed.  
L-8102 Timolin village completed.

### **Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)**

All LIS projects for 2023 completed.

### **Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)**

Two CIS projects for 2023 - completed.

### **Signage Works**

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District.  
Upgrading signage and delineation on completed resurfaced roads.  
Signage works are completed on Shed Road and surrounding areas.  
Chevrons and signs Maganey.  
Nicholastown signs have been erected.  
Upgraded signage to Walterstown Cross.

### **Road Markings**

Upgrading road junction markings at the present time.  
Barrack Lane junction markings completed.



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### **Drainage Works**

A number of villages have had drainage systems cleaned.

Jetting drainage lines on various roads – ongoing.

Cleaning gullies on a number of roads – ongoing.

Carrying out water cuts along roads – ongoing. Also, as part of RI and RM Works.

Completed drainage work at Prusselstown Green/Geraldine Road.

Drainage works at Shamrock lodge completed.

Jetting of drainage at Ard a Laoi Castledermot.

Jetting of drainage in Castleroe West.

### **Road Patching**

Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing.

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping to areas – ongoing.

Bin collection – ongoing.

Install twelve new bins in Leinster Street completed.

Another twelve. bins have been delivered. Installation hope week begins 20 November.

### **Community Works**

Arranged preparatory works to facilitate both Tri-Athy and Gordon Bennett Events.

Assisted in the “Big switch” event in Athy.

### **General Maintenance**

New wheelchair friendly seat installation on Monasterevin Road, Athy.

General cleaning of depot.

New depot at Gallowshill completed, now decorating and outfitting. Footpaths and surfacing around the building completed. Lining and Traffic Management completed.

The opening will be completed with the holding of the September 2023

Athy Municipal District meeting.

Hedge Cutting at Junctions.



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### **Municipal District Restoration Maintenance Works – RM Program**

All surveying works on all RM for 2023 completed.

Drainage and edging nearing completed.

### **Municipal District LPT program of works**

Footpaths in William Pearse Terrace have been completed.

Footpaths in Ashville have been completed.

Work completed in Kilkea village.

Back entrance to Bleach completed, awaiting contractor to surface.

Back entrance to Dominic's Park complete.

Footpath at Sweep Lane, Nurney complete.

Footpath at Abbeylands (triangle) complete.

Footpath at St. Patrick's Avenue complete.

Tactile paving at junctions in Rheban Manor complete.

The members thanked the Municipal District Office for their work all year and thanked the A/Municipal District Engineer for the works carried out at Fontstown cemetery recently.

The report was noted.

### **AY04/1223**

#### **Safety measures on the Athy to Carlow Road**

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

That the council carry out safety measures on the Athy to Carlow Road from Jerusalem to Levitstown Mill as a matter of urgency.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Athy Municipal District office will carry out a survey of the signage along this stretch of road.



The members raised the following:

- Driver behaviour had a big part to play here.
- There had been a number of accidents in the last few weeks.
- This road had a lot of twists and turns.
- Today was the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a fatal collision on this road which took the lives of three young men.
- The junction at Shed Road had a number serious accidents in the last number of weeks.
- This matter had also been raised at a recent JPC meeting.

The A/District Engineer advised that the office would carry out a survey of signage on this road. A traffic count had shown that most drivers were exceeding the speed limit.

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

### **AY05/1223**

#### **Safety measures for Fontstown Cross**

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

That the council implement safety measures, as soon as possible, for Fontstown Cross on the R418 and R415, to include lighting at the junction, road surfacing and road markings.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that this is being examined for inclusion in Athy Municipal District programme of works for 2024.

The members raised the following:



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- Previously promised that the left hand side of the wall at the junction of R415 and R418 turn off for Nurney and Kildare Town would be widened as lorries turning down it had been catching the wall and knocked down signposts.
- A group from the area met with Councillor Leigh following a serious incident in October.
- No lighting, uneven road surface and road markings had faded.
- Resurfacing and road lines and lighting was needed.

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

### AY06/1223

#### Signage at R418 and Cuckel's Cross

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

That the council erect signage to warn of a severe bend at R418 and Cuckel's Cross in Narraghmore.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that it is planned to carry out these works as part of Athy Municipal District general maintenance.

Councillor Leigh advised that he was happy with the report. Residents had brought this to the attention of the members. There was a lot of traffic using this road and cars were ending up in the ditch outside of residences.

The A/District Engineer advised the members that signs had been ordered.

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



**AY07/1223**

**Traffic calming measures in Calverstown Village**

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

That the council develop traffic calming measures on the approach roads in the centre of Calverstown Village.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Municipal District office is currently looking to upgrade the approach road markings.

Councillor Dooley advised that he had received emails from residents of Calverstown. There had been a couple of accidents here. Driver behaviour was worsening. More footfall since pub reopened. Pedestrians were vulnerable. Happy with the report that road markings would be upgraded.

The A/District Engineer advised he had been in contact with road marking contractor to carry out these works.

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

**AY08/1223**

**Parking bye laws on the Athy Southern Distributor Road**

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

Can the council confirm if parking bye laws are sufficiently adequate to stop illegal parking on the Athy Southern Distributor Road (SDR)?





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A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that as the Athy Southern Distributor Road is not included in the Athy Parking Bye-Laws as adopted by the members of the former Athy Town Council in 2013 the road cannot be regulated under the Parking Bye-Laws. However, the road is regulated under the Road Traffic Act 1994 and Parking Regulations of 1997 which is the legislation governing illegal parking. Illegally parked vehicles can be regulated by Kildare County Council's Community/Traffic Warden during the hours of 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public/bank holidays). An Garda Síochána have the power, at any time, to address breaches of the Road Traffic Act 1994.

Councillor Dooley was happy with the report but noted that he was not sure if the current bye-laws in Athy were strong enough. He understood that the SDR was still to be handed over. Cars and mobile homes had parked here. Children were also playing on this road. Could the traffic warden attend these illegal vehicles.

Mr B McGrath advised that the Housing Department were currently dealing with the unauthorised encampment.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that he did not think the current byelaws would extend to the SDR.

The report was noted.

### **AY09/1223**

#### **Rollover of LPT for feasibility study from Castledermot to Coltstown Cemetery**

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

Can the council confirm if LPT monies set aside in the 2023 budget for a feasibility study on the delivery of a footpath from Castledermot to Coltstown Cemetery have been used and if not, can they be rolled over to 2024?



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A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the LPT funding set aside can be rolled over to 2024 as the feasibility study has not yet been completed.

The report was noted.

### **AY10/1223**

#### **Timeline on the Castledermot Masterplan**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.  
Can the council provide a timeline on the Castledermot Masterplan?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that the Castledermot Village Renewal Masterplan now has final edits completed. The document is part of a bundle of six Renewal Plans which will be shared with Management Team for their feedback. Once Management Team approval has been confirmed the document will proceed to publication. Publication is expected in early 2024.

Councillor Leigh stated that he was happy with the report. The masterplan would be a steer in the right direction for infrastructure improvements, community facilities, environmental conservation and economic growth requirements.

The report was noted.

### **AY11/1223**

#### **Timeline for Food, Drinks and Skills Innovation Hub at the Model School**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
That the council give an update on the timeline for the delivery of the Food, Drinks and Skills Innovation Hub at the Model School, Athy.

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



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A report was received from the Director of Services for Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services informing the members that the Department of Rural and Community Development responded positively to its review of Kildare County Council's procurement package for the Athy Food, Drinks and Skills Innovation Hub's development.

The Design Team, as procured by Kildare County Council, has published the tender documents with a return date of 15 January 2024; they anticipate the successful contractor to be appointed in late February/ early March and for the work to commence mid-March. The construction is anticipated to take 13 months and for the site to ready for fit-out in May 2025.

Councillor Dooley advised that he was happy with the report. There had been significant investment in Athy in recent years. He was hopeful that would continue. It was great to see that building being brought back to education and an old building being restored. He asked would inflation be an issue as he was concerned about further funding.

The District Manager advised that the tender had issued with a revised estimate on foot of rising costs.

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

The members took item 16 at this point.

### **AY12/1223**

#### **Parking at St Marys Cemetery**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan. That the council explore the option of acquiring lands in close proximity to St Mary's Cemetery to create parking for people wishing to visit the cemetery.

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



A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department and Environment Department informing the members that the cemetery is not in the ownership of the council. Parking is available in the vicinity.

The members raised the following:

- There was parking at St Vincents Hospital and a path but it stopped at the canal bridge and there was no space for people to safely go over the bridge.
- The members would be happy to assist on this.
- If ownership of the cemetery was taken over by the council, could a few parking spaces be put on the site.
- There were families living in the area that had loved ones buried there, could something be done for them.

Mr K Kavanagh advised the members that there was a meeting scheduled for that afternoon to discuss the cemetery, budget/finance was an issue and that he would be sceptical of putting a carpark on these grounds as they are unsure of what's there. Any parking would have to be located on the other side of the bridge.

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

### **AY13/1223**

#### **Update on Brigid 1500**

The members received an update on the programme for Brigid 1500 Festival 2024.

Ms K Lane advised that Brigid 1500 was launched on 07 December in Barberstown Castle which gained significant media coverage across the country and abroad. The festival was due to kick off on 27 January 2024. Schools programme was going to print this week and would be rolled out in schools across the county. Grant applications had now closed.



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The members raised the following:

- Thanked Ms K Lane for the presentation.
- It was great to see the schools programme.
- The allocation of LPT funding showed how each Municipal District got on board with the programme.
- Had the excellent media activity brought more interest.
- What was the email address for Brigid 1500 for any queries.
- Had Kildare County Council liaised with other local authorities who were running programmes or could work together on any future projects.
- Were there any plans for the future to make the festival international.
- The members looked forward to the upcoming festival.

Ms K Lane advised the following:

- Following the media coverage, there was correspondence from Tourism Ireland to advertise information on Brigid 1500 and Kildare.
- The email address was [Brigid1500@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:Brigid1500@kildarecoco.ie)
- There had been communication with Louth and Laois County Council's on different projects.

The report was noted.

### **AY14/1223**

#### **Wastewater treatment system in Nurney Village**

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

Can the council, in conjunction with Uisce Eireann, give a timeline on plans to upgrade the wastewater treatment system in Nurney Village?

A report was received from the Water Services Department informing the members that Councillor Behan should contact Uisce Eireann directly with regard to this question. The matter can be raised via their dedicated email support address at [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie) or by phoning 0818178178, or it can be raised at the next dedicated Councillors Clinic which is due to be held in Q1/2024.



Councillor Behan advised that she had contacted Uisce Eireann and was waiting on a reply. There was only so much the council could do. This problem was a nuisance for residents and also people looking to build houses. Uisce Eireann were working off Census 2016 figures, need to see Census 2022 figures instead. She would continue to try and connect with Uisce Eireann on this issue.

The report was noted.

**AY15/1223**

**Upgrade the swimming pool at K-Leisure**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan.  
Can the council provide a timeline on plans to upgrade the swimming pool at K-Leisure, Athy?

A report was received from the Community Department informing the members that Upgrade/Improvement works were carried out in the Athy site with the opening of the gym extension in May 2023, costing €675,987. The work completed included:

- Gym extension
- Equipment for new gym area
- Replacement of gym equipment in the existing gym area
- Improvement works to chemical storage areas
- Improvement to site drainage works
- A sports capital application has been submitted in 2023 by K Leisure for funding for Disability Modifications, Energy Efficiency Improvements, Sports Equipment, Maintenance Equipment, Safety Equipment/first aid for a total cost €98,212. The outcome of grant application will determine the timelines and these works will be partially funded by K Leisure also.
- As the building is almost 15 years old, the wet side village changing area needs to be replaced – replacement of the cubicles and lockers is scheduled to take place in April/May 2024 – estimated cost is €120,000.



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- There has been a significant investment in repairs continues to take place on an ongoing basis– cost of repairs and minor capital works in 2023 up to October for the Athy site is €231,337, 2022 investment for repairs in Athy was €292,231.
- K Leisure is part of a pilot program with the mid east energy authority (Kildare, Meath and Wicklow local authorities). The primary objectives of the program are to support local authorities in meeting 2030 and 2050 climate action targets, identify and validate optimal retrofit pathways for leisure centers, disseminate learnings, understand potential efficiencies in multi-local authority projects, and develop capacity for achieving energy efficiency and decarbonization targets. It will involve large scale capital works to upgrade/replace existing systems in the swimming pool sites. The timeline for these works is unknown and is subject to funding.

The members raised the following:

- Delighted to see this report.
- K-leisure was hugely important for residents and also tourists.
- Great to see it coming in line with climate action targets.
- Sports capital funding would be very beneficial.
- Councillor Dooley was a rep for K-Leisure and wanted to pay tribute to the board for the fantastic amenity to the town and investment that had been made in the last number of years.

The report was noted.

### **AY16/1223**

#### **Plans for The Freedom of the Water Barge**

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

Can the council confirm what the future plans are for The Freedom of the Water Barge in Athy?

A report was received from the Community Department informing the members that a number of alternatives are being explored by Kildare County Council regarding the future of



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The Freedom of the Water Barge in Athy. Briefing sessions will be held with the members in Athy once further information is available. The immediate priority is to safeguard the barge to ensure seaworthiness.

The members raised the following:

- Thanked the individuals who were currently looking after and servicing the Barge.
- There would be a new engine required.
- It was unfortunate that the whole of 2023 was missed with the barged moored up all year.
- The work could potentially be carried out at the Dry Dock in Athy.
- Who would crew the Barge?
- Briefings would be needed.

The District Manager advised the members the following:

- In the process of trying to get someone to inspect the Barge and get costings for the work needed.
- There was a remainder of €10,000 LPT from the Shopfront scheme and proposed that these funds be allocated to the Freedom of the Water Barge, Athy.
- Further funding would be needed.
- Open to ideas for the Barge.
- A briefing would be held in the new year.

The members agreed to allocate remaining €10,000 LPT from the Shopfront Scheme to the Freedom of the Water Barge, Athy.

Proposed by Councillor Behan and seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that €10,000 remainder LPT be allocated from the Shopfront scheme to the Freedom of the Water Barge, Athy.

The report was noted.





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The meeting concluded.