



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 17 April 2023
in the Council Chamber**

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

Officials Present: Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscape Officer), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Ms P Pender (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms B Loughlin (Heritage Officer), Mr S Deegan (Senior Engineer), Ms E Price (A/Administrative Officer), Ms S Martin (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

AY01/0423

Declaration of Conflicts or Pecuniary Interests

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.

AY02/0423

Minutes and Progress Report

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



Kildare County Council

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

Matters Arising LPT Allocation

Councillor Dooley put forward for approval, to the members that surplus LPT monies of €10,000 be allocated to works on the N78 at the Rugby Club/Soccer club entrance which would go towards two footpaths, lighting, pencil bollards, drainage etc. This connection will have a big impact on rugby, soccer, GAA and tennis club providing safe routes from each club.

Resolved on the proposal by Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that the LPT funds be allocated to works on the N78.

AY03/0423

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 2022, and no details available yet on 2023 projects.

Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RI Program 2023

All surveying and preparatory works on all Restoration Improvement for 2023 completed. Margins and hedgerows along proposed jobs have been completed. Drainage and edging are nearing completion.



Kildare County Council

Restoration Maintenance Surveys commenced, hedgerows finished. Drainage and edging nearing completion.

Local Improvement Schemes

Allocation for 2023 has been received and applications are being assessed.

Community Involvement Schemes

Allocation for 2023 has been received and applications are being assessed.

Signage Works

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District.

Upgrading signage on completed resurfaced roads.

Signage works are completed on Shed Road and surrounding areas.

Chevrons and Signs Maganey.

Road Traffic Accident Repairs at Carrigeen Cross.

Nicholastown signs have been erected.

Road Markings

Upgrading road junction markings at the present time.

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 all Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance works.

Completed drainage work at Prusselstown Green/Geraldine road.

Completed drainage works at Shamrock lodge.

Completed drainage works at Kilkea village for LPT works.

Road Patching

Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing.



Kildare County Council

Restoration Maintenance and Restoration Improvement patching repairs also.

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping areas – ongoing.

Bin collection – ongoing.

Install ten new bins along the R417 Monasterevin Road, Athy.

Community Works

Arranging for preparatory work to facilitate both Tri-Athy and Gordon Bennett Events. This will involve road closures

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, lighting and kerbing.

Assisted with traffic management in the pruning of trees along the R-417, Monasterevin road, Athy.

Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RM Program

All surveying and preparatory works on all Restoration Maintenance for 2023 completed. Margins and hedgerows along proposed jobs are nearing completion. Drainage and edging nearing completion.

Municipal District LPT program of works

Footpaths in William Pearse Terrace are in progress.

Footpaths in Ashville are in progress.

Preliminary work on footpaths in Kilkea village has been completed, waiting for contractor to commence.

Preparatory works at back entrances to St. Dominic's Park have commenced.

Construction of earth berm on green areas at Woodstock, pedestrian barriers erected at playground, Woodstock also bollards repaired and replacements.



Kildare County Council

February 2023

Welcome to Athy signs erected.

Winter Maintenance demands on work schedule.

The members raised the following points:

- The members thanked the District Engineer for the report and the excellent work especially noting the works in St Dominic's, Ashville and William Pearce.
- Could a timeframe be provided on the roll out of the bin replacement in the town.
- Could the bins be funded through the Streetscape project.
- Could the Municipal District Office liaise with BAM contractors in relation to the problem of temporary lights at Fortbarrington Road being tampered with.
- There was a problem with the battery on the lights at Gallowshill Road
- Was there more planting to be carried out as part of the Southern Distributor Road works.

The District Engineer advised:

- A traffic management plan would be coming to a conclusion in the coming months and then plans could be put in place for the lights.
- There were ongoing meetings with BAM and there was a good relationship there.
- Regarding Streetscape funding, the Municipal District office was working with the Local Enterprise Office in conjunction with this.

Mr S Deegan advised:

- That the first stage of the landscaping had been done and that it would start again during the planting season.

The report was noted.



AY04/0423

Kildare Sustainable Transport Forum

The members voted to approve a nominee to the Kildare Sustainable Transport Forum (Sub-committee of Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee).

Councillor Dooley nominated Councillor Leigh. This was seconded by Councillor Behan. There were no other nominations.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by the members that Councillor Leigh be approved as the nominee to Kildare Sustainable Transport Forum (Sub-committee of Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee).

AY05/0423

Free lunch time parking in Athy

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

That the council introduce free lunch time parking between 1pm and 2pm in the town of Athy.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that there is already free parking from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Monday to Friday in Catherine McCauley car park and Meeting Lane car park, Athy. The Roads Department would not be in agreement to extend free parking in Athy due to significant reduced revenue as well as this proposal being contrary to the Climate Action Plan 2023.

The members raised the following:

- Some of the signage in the town was incorrect and causing some confusion, could this be updated.
- Some other Municipal Districts had free lunchtime parking.



Kildare County Council

- Between Edmond Rice Square, Emily Square, the canal bridge to the Kilkenny road there were over 600 people employed and providing free lunchtime parking would be attracting them into the town for shopping, banks, cafes
- Pay parking had been a good source of Revenue for the Municipal District and some good works have come from this i.e. car parks had been upgraded in the last few years.
- Could a breakdown of the pay parking revenue between 1:00p.m. to 2:00 p.m. be provided and could it be progressed.

Mr S Deegan advised:

- The new parking policy was being reviewed and this could feed into that.
- The report wasn't just based on revenue, it had an impact on the climate action plan and to encourage people to walk/cycle in a sustainable way and this issue would be addressed in the new parking policies.

The District Manager advised the members that the Revenue from pay parking had been running on a deficit since the Covid-19 pandemic and the funding for the upgrades of car parks was mostly through LPT funding.

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

AY06/0423

Weight limit at Milltown Bridge

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

That the council introduce a weight limit on heavy vehicles using Milltown Bridge, Athy.

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



Kildare County Council

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that Milltown bridge is a bridge over the Grand Canal at Milltown. The bridge structure itself is maintained by Waterways Ireland and the surface of the road is maintained by Kildare County Council. The introduction of a weight limit on this road may have unintended consequences for commerce/farming in the area. The Council have been in touch with Waterways Ireland in relation to this issue and there are no restrictions around the County. In Monasterevin there is a weight restriction on the bridge, but it is a lift bridge and would not have the structural integrity of masonry arch bridges. Also, there may be knock on affects i.e. Vicarstown, Lennon's Bridge opposite the Hospital and the bridge in Athy on the N78 over the Canal. There would also be issues in relation to enforcement. A number of issues in these rural areas is where satellite navigation systems are sending traffic down narrow roads.

The members raised the following:

- This road had been blocked on numerous occasions and the Gardaí had raised this issue with the members.
- Road users were being diverted from the motorway onto rural roads.
- The main issue was with Google Maps directing traffic down certain roads, could a representative from the council liaise with Google Maps to try to resolve this issue.
- In the meantime could signage be erected to make motorists aware of the bridge.

The District Engineer advised that signage could be improved and this might help deter motorists from using the route and there were a number of strategies that could be looked at.

Mr S Deegan said this was a common problem all over the county and he would be happy to use Milltown Bridge as an example when reaching out to Google Maps to try and find a solution for this issue.

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



AY07/0423

Footpath on R417 Kilberry

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

That the council provide a footpath on the R417 Kilberry from the houses on the right to link up with the existing footpath at the Kilberry Housing Estate.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the provision of a footpath in this area would require a design because of the house entrances that would have to be crossed and the drainage details would have to be considered.

The members raised the following points:

- There were issues with speeding in the Kilberry area and this would create safe access for pedestrians from Kilberry to the new housing estates for better connectivity in the town.
- Could plans be put in place and a design be drawn up so these works could be carried out with LPT funding in the next couple of years.

The Senior Engineer advised that firstly a survey would be carried out and then this matter would be discussed further.

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

AY08/0423

Pencil bollard in Moone Village

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

That the council remove the pencil bollard in Moone Village which is causing an obstruction to the gateway of a private residence

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



Kildare County Council

The following report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department. The pencil bollards were erected as a safety measure for children entering and leaving the school in Moone. They ensure that no vehicles mount the kerbs as this could be dangerous to the pupils or other road users. The issue of the post on this footpath near the school will be examined and the relevant post removed where it is blocking access.

The members thanked the District Engineer for the report and noted rural towns and villages needed to be looked at in a different way and for future rural recreation funded projects.

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

AY09/0423

Parking review Castledermot

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley.
That the council begin the process of a parking review for Castledermot.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department. Parking Bye-Laws for Castledermot are listed on the Parking Bye-Law review schedule which was previously circulated to all members. The schedule is as follows; Kildare Town, Newbridge, Monasterevin, Kilcullen, Celbridge, Leixlip, Kilcock, Castledermot, Athy, Maynooth, Clane, Sallins, Johnstown, Naas and Johnstownbridge. The schedule is determined by the oldest Bye-Law, however, some towns have temporary projects which may result in the review of Parking Bye-Laws in those towns being delayed until such a time that the temporary project is finalised. So, while Castledermot is number eight on the schedule it may progress sooner than anticipated.



Kildare County Council

Councillor Keatley noted that there was mayhem outside the playground and hoped that this would be looked at sooner rather than later.

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

AY10/0423

Bus set down at Ardscoil Na Tríonóide

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Leigh.
That the council work with Ardscoil Na Tríonóide to make the roundabout in the school available for bus set down and pick up only.

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 issue of the bus set down should be a matter for the Department of Education and the school authorities. Although in this case there is a winning situation for Kildare County Council if the roundabout area inside the school grounds is reserved specifically for buses. It would mean that no cars would be allowed into the roundabout. This would have a twofold knock-on effect:

1. Less pupils exiting the school at closing and opening.
2. Buses parked in the school grounds and not hindering sightlines at the entrance to the school.

The cost of the markings will be in the region of €3000 and could be paid for out of LPT funds.

The members raised the following points:

- This would be a low-cost easy solution to the problem.
- Sightlines were a major issue.
- This would remove a significant number of students from the street and reduce traffic congestion in the area.



Kildare County Council

- Had the school sent any notice to parents on this issue.
- Could the Board of Management push this first before the Municipal District gets involved.
- Were there any sustainable transport grants available to the school.

The District Engineer advised:

- A number of solutions had been suggested to the school i.e. staggered closing times for students.
- This would be the Department of Education's responsibility, but the Municipal District Office would assist the school with the issue as a gesture of good will.
- The principal of the school was reasonably new and had approached the office to look for guidance on the issue.

Mr S Deegan advised this could be dealt with by the Sustainable Transport team under the Safe Routes to School programme which aimed to improve ongoing issues of safety and congestion at the school gate and on routes to schools.

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

AY11/0423

Yellow junction at Carlow Road, Athy

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

That the council install a yellow junction box outside the medical centre on the Carlow Road, Athy to allow access/exit of emergency vehicles?

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that yellow box road markings are provided to aid traffic flows at a cross junction where static traffic in



Kildare County Council

the junction is affecting efficient cross flow of traffic. The application of a yellow box is also appropriate where traffic that is blocking a junction is causing a traffic hazard. A yellow box may also be warranted at junctions where there is evidence of all day blocking not just at peak times. The side road traffic flows should be significant to warrant the application of the yellow box in this way. A yellow box is not appropriate for an individual entrance and would only be considered at the intersections of two public roads.

The members raised the following points:

- Ambulances found it difficult to get in and out of the medical centre and medical situations should take a priority.
- Could something be done i.e. maybe signage to say keep the area clear.
- Traffic would only increase here due to the new housing development in Coneyboro causing more queues and tailbacks.
- The issue could be highlighted through the Members social media.

The District Engineer advised:

- It was illegal to block an entrance.
- The aftermath of the opening of the Athy Distributor Road would show how traffic congestion changed in the town and then this matter could be assessed further.

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

AY12/0423

Upgrade works at St. Johns Lane

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

Can the council provide an update on the upgrade works required between the roadway at St. Johns Lane and the footpath to Greenhills, Athy



Kildare County Council

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that there has been a draft design carried out on this area, but since the plan involved the acquisition of land there has been no advance on this project.

The members raised the following points:

- This site had been visited before and the issue of land acquisition should not stop the provision of a safe footpath for pedestrians.
- With the new housing development at Woodstock Way there were more road users/pedestrians and the entrance and the pathway needed to be made safe.
- Suggested this matter be brought as a motion in the future.

Mr S Deegan advised the matter would have to be looked at again and revert to the members.

The report was noted.

AY13/0423

Remedial works for Kilmead Cemetery

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

Can the council confirm when remedial works will be carried out on the roadway at Kilmead Cemetery?

A report was received from the Environment Department that the council will look into carrying out remedial works on the roadway in Kilmead cemetery and will keep the members advised of progress.

Mr K Kavanagh confirmed the Environment Department would revert to the members with costings.

The report was noted.



AY14/0423

Public lighting on Southern Distributer Road

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.
Can the council confirm if there are plans to add additional public lighting on the new cycleway coming from the Southern Distributer Road between the train station and the People's Park, Athy?

The following report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department. Kildare County Council can confirm that public lighting is already included in the contract along the shared walking and cycling connection from the Athy Distributer Road to the train station and the People's Park.

Councillor Leigh sought clarification on where the lighting would be situated.

Mr S Deegan confirmed as per the report there would be lighting from the Southern Distributer Road to the People's Park.

The report was noted.

AY15/0423

Electric work vehicles

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.
Can the council confirm if it plans to replace its existing work vehicles in the municipal district with electric vehicles?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that Kildare County Council are committed to a reduction in carbon emissions by 50% by 2030. In that context we are in the process of drafting a decarbonisation strategy for our fleet based on the paradigm of Avoid, Shift, Improve. Avoid will entail looking at our journeys and whether we need to make them, Shift will encompass moving to more sustainable means of transport and this will include the appropriate use of electric vehicles and Improve will



Kildare County Council

include looking at operational efficiencies. We plan to have the strategy complete by the end of 2023, but we will be continuing to look for opportunities to decarbonise as the strategy is developing.

Councillor Leigh thanked the Roads Department for the report and asked had future provisions been made for the use of Electric Vehicles.

The District Engineer advised that the new depot in Gallowshill had provisions for eight to ten Electric Vehicle charging points but currently there were two; one for regular parking and one for disabled parking. The members would be kept updated on any progress.

The report was noted.

AY16/0423

Sweep Lane

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

That the council's Housing Department in conjunction with the municipal district's Roads Section work on a plan to complete the Sweep Lane area of Nurney as previously committed to in 2020.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department that the council has previously reported that the site at Sweep Lane, Nurney, is suitable for residential development, however, there is a constraint on the wastewater system in the area and the site cannot be developed until additional wastewater capacity is provided. The council has communicated with Uisce Éireann regarding the need for this upgrade. It is hoped that upgrade works to the wastewater treatment plant will be included in Uisce Éireann's 2024-2029 Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme of works. The council will continue to engage with Uisce Éireann on this matter. The proposal to develop housing at the site will include the provision of a public footpath of the northern boundary of the site along the public road.



Kildare County Council

The members raised the following points:

- This issue was previously raised in 2020.
- Could the site potentially be used as a serviced sites location to help deliver badly needed housing.
- An answer from Uisce Éireann on the sewage issues on the site was needed as soon as possible.
- A footpath would be very beneficial to this area.
- Was the Housing Department or Planning Department responsible for serviced sites.

The District Manager advised:

- This issue had been continuously raised and Uisce Éireann have said Nurney is third on the list but given no indication of a timeframe on this.
- This site had been identified as a potential site for social housing under the Social Housing Delivery Action Plan but there were other opportunities for service sites in the locality and would discuss the matter with Councillor Keatley offline.

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

AY17/0423

Extensions on council properties

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

Can the council confirm if extensions are carried out on council owned properties where a family outgrows the property?

A report was received from the Housing Department that Kildare County Council's Allocations Scheme provides for social housing tenants to apply for consideration for a transfer to other dwellings if they can demonstrate a change in their housing need from when they received the allocation of the property. Where a family outgrows a property,



Kildare County Council

transfer requests can be considered on the basis of overcrowding, eventual transfers are subject to the availability of suitably sized dwellings.

Councillor Behan noted would it not be more cost effective to build on to council properties and queried if there was scope to explore that.

The District Manager said under Housing for All and the council's housing delivery plan all resources were going into multiple unit as targets needed to be met. Under medical assessment, renovation of council properties was sometimes considered to meet the tenants needs but this would be assessed on a case by case basis.

The report was noted.

AY18/0423

Clúid Housing Development

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.
Can the council provide an update on the Clúid Housing Development on the former Dominicans lands, Athy?

A report was received from the Housing Department that Cluid Housing Association has sought planning permission on this site for thirty age friendly units. The application is currently at the further information stage, the final date for receipt of information is the 11 July 2023. The members are updated on the progress of this scheme via the monthly Chief Executive's Report.

The report was noted.

AY19/0423

Broadband in Tanyard Building

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



Kildare County Council

That the council extend the free broadband in Ballitore Library into the Tanyard building adjacent.

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

A report was received from the Information Systems department that once the plans for the Tanyard building have been finalised by Public Realm, this will be considered.

The members raised the following points:

- There were discussions on putting a coffee shop in there and possibly doing barista training.
- Public Realm and Information Systems would have to work together on this.
- Could the Public Realm team possibly sit down with the Tanyard committee.
- Councillor Keatley mentioned to the members that a valued member of the Tanyard committee John Joe Walsh RIP had recently passed away and wished to send his condolences to John Joes family.
- This building could potentially be used for a community centre.
- Was the feasibility study carried out by the Department.

Ms P Pender advised:

- There were two buildings in the Tanyard and to confirm building one is already renovated. Regarding building two Ms Pender confirmed it was a conservation plan that was carried out not a feasibility study and this was to look at the overall site and potential uses. A copy of the plan would be circulated to members after the meeting.
- She spoke to Mr R Hopkins prior to the meeting who mentioned the building would first need an Eircode before the Wi-fi could be extended and Ms Pender would liaise with the Community Department on this.

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



AY20/0423

Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2023

The members considered the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2023 allocation for the Athy Municipal District.

No	MD	Name of Group	Project Details	Allocated
1	Athy	The Tanyard Ballitore	Permanent signage at the Griese River at the bridge in Ballitore highlighting local species of Wildlife and its habitat. Interpretation panel. Artwork displaying biodiversity and local wildlife	€1,500.00
2	Athy	Marie Hopkins	to select 5 architecturally significant heritage buildings in Athy and design, produce and install laser engraved acrylic elevations of the buildings to sit into a free standing timber frame. The frame will have LED lighting fitted into a channel at the base. The scaled acrylic elevations will sit over the LED lighting emphasising / highlighting the building details. Athy's Built Heritage.	€1,500.00
3	Athy	Narraghmore Development CLG	Plant native trees in village community open space	€1,420.00

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by the members present that the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2023 allocation for the Athy Municipal District be approved.

AY21/0423

Public Realm Projects 2023

A report had previously been circulated to the members on Public Realm projects.

The members raised the following points:

- Thanked the Public Realm team for the vast array of work they are doing.
- What was the progress on the Barrow Blueway.
- Were the plans for Emily Square still on target.
- Was Castledermot health check still on target for Quarter two 2023.



Kildare County Council

- Great to see the Tanyard conservation plan had been carried out and what were the next steps.
- The traders in Emily Square had raised concerns to the members, could the team have a consultation with them on the future plans.

Ms P Pender advised:

- They had contacted Waterways Ireland to clarify what potential plans were for the Dry Dock and asked members to come to them with any potential uses for this location.
- Emily Square was still on target and the delivery of the Shackleton Museum would not be too far after that.
- The health check for Castledermot was on target for quarter two.
- The Tanyard conservation plan was carried out with Town and Village funding and any further works to progress the works would require further applications for funding.
- Emily Square traders would be consulted.

The report was noted.

AY22/0423

Entrance to St Michael's New Cemetery, Athy

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

Can the council confirm if there are plans to design a larger entrance to St Michael's New Cemetery, Athy, that currently only allows one way traffic and which can be difficult for vehicles turning from the Dublin Road side.

A report was received from the Environment Department that There are no plans to change the entrance to the cemetery at present. Regarding vehicle access from the N78, there is an existing turning lane along with a set of traffic lights at the cemetery entrance. The current arrangements appear to be working successfully. In any event, scope for delivery of



Kildare County Council

a new entrance, which would require a Part VIII and detailed design is likely to be limited by the presence of houses/private property and utility services at both sides of the entrance.

Councillor Dooley and Mr K Kavanagh agreed to discuss this matter further offline.

The report was noted.

AY23/0423

Community, festival and resident association grant awards 2023

The members voted to approve the community, festival and resident association grant awards assessed by the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department for 2023.

The payment of the grants was proposed by Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members.

Community Grants 2023 for approval Athy M.D.			
No	Group	Project	Proposed Grant
1	Ardrew Meadows Residents Committee	Family Day fun	€300
2	Athy Community Family Resource Centre	Continuation of life long learning	€2,000
3	Athy Sing and Sign	7th Edition of Athy Sing & Sign ISL Booklet 2023	€1,500
4	Athy Town Promoters	Christmas lights	€10,000
5	Athy Women's Shed	Musical equipment, banner and speaker	€800
6	Athy Youth Project	What Comes Next Program	€1,000
7	Ballyroe residents association	Upgrade playground area, lawnmower flowers pots and flowers	€1,600
8	Calverstown Action Network	To develop a community space	€2,100
9	Castledermot First Responders Group	Additional PPE, CFR univisor's and jackets, AED box and defibrillator	€2,400
10	Darkness into Light Athy	Darkness into Light Athy 2023	€500
11	Irish Wheelchair Association Athy	Social and Therapeutic horticulture course	€2,250
12	La Leche League Athy	Support to breastfeeding mothers and their families	€750
13	Narraghmore Development CLG	Create a bank of tools	€2,500
14	Nurney Tidy Towns	Nurney Pollinators' Garden	€500
15	Old Clonmullion Residents Association	Age Friendly Garden area	€800
16	Radio Castledermot	Equipment for broadcasting	€720
17	St Michael's Branch of O.N.E	Maintain and upgrade Marion Shrine	€750
18	Teach Diarmada Ltd	Mirrors for classes, a laptop, a bike shelter	€2,900
19	Women's Integrated Network (WIN)	New handheld(mobile) phone	€1,000
		Total for Approval	€34,370
		Budget	€34,352
		Balance	-€18



Kildare County Council

Festival Grants 2023 for approval Athy M.D.				
No.	Group Name	Project	Proposed Grant	
1	Athy Community family Resource Centre	A family fun day	€850	
2	Athy Dragon Boat Club	The Big Barrow Splash	€2,000	
3	Athy Patricks Day Parade	Patricks Day Parade	€500	
4	Athy Sing and Sign	Illuminous outdoor Art exhibition of figurines entitled 'Life Lights' as part of our annual ISL Festival in September.	€2,000	
5	Ballyroe residents association	Official opening of community building	€350	
6	Calverstown Action Network	Easter egg Hunt - Summer Community Day - Tree Lighting, Santa	€600	
7	HRCA - The Gordon Bennett Reliability Trials	Gordon Bennett Vintage Car Reliability Trial event	€2,000	
8	Irish Wheelchair Association Athy	Festival Fun day	€300	
9	Teach Diarmada	Santa Thru	€1,400	
10	Women's Integrated Network (WIN), Athy	Celebrating Diversity in Athy	€500	
11	YouthINK	Short play on Ernest Shackleton.	€2,000	
Total for approval			Total for Approval	€12,500
			Budget	€12,500
			Balance	€0

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by the members present that the community, festival and resident association grant awards assessed by the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department for 2023 be approved.

AY24/0423

Drinking water stations in Athy

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

That the council consider installing a number of drinking water stations throughout the towns and villages in the Athy Municipal District

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

The following report was received from the Library Service. The Library Service has plans to introduce a drinking water station later this year in Athy Library. The plan is that eventually all library buildings where a suitable location can be identified we will install drinking water stations.

The members raised the following points:

- It was positive to see this initiative coming along.



Kildare County Council

- There was a huge environmental issue on single use plastic and with events like tri-Athy coming up this would be very beneficial.
- Could Ballitore and Castledermot Library also be looked at.
- Could LPT funding be used to facilitate drinking water stations in sports facilities and possibly tie in with the Library service on this.
- What was the estimated delivery time.

The District Manager advised:

- The “in it to bin it” initiative had set aside funding for this.
- There were complexities in this area on maintenance and water connections.
- Dara Wyer worked on this in Riverbank Library and the members could possibly get feedback from them.

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

AY25/0423

Provision of playing pitches and sports facilities

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan.
Can the council provide an update on any progress made on the provision of playing pitches and sports facilities in the Athy area?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department that The Parks Works Programme outlined to the Municipal District included an objective to develop a masterplan for lands at Woodstock Castle and at Ardrew. Pending the progression of other commitments on the programme it is hoped to commence work on this at the end of this year.

The report was noted.



AY26/0423

Certificate of recognition

The chair of Athy Municipal District Councillor Brian Dooley presented a Certificate of Recognition under Section 74 of the Local Government Act 2001 to Sensei Michael Aldridge of Athy Karate Club for his longstanding commitment and contribution to the club.

The members congratulated Michael on his outstanding achievements and fifty years of service to the club. Sensei Michael Aldridge thanked the members for the award and mentioned the club would not be where it is today without the other Sensei's and each club member turning up. Athy Karate club presented a book of 50 years of history of the club to the District Manager Annette Aspell who advised a copy of same would be made available in Athy Library in the coming weeks.

The meeting concluded.