



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 20 November 2023
in the Council Chamber**

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

Officials Present: Mr A Dunney (District Manager), Mr M Kavanagh (A/District Engineer), Mr S Deegan (Senior Engineer), Ms C O'Grady (Executive Parks and Landscape Officer), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Mr M McLoughlin (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr G Hooban (Executive Engineer), Ms E Price (Administrative Officer), Mr C O'Toole (A/Senior Staff Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

Councillor Dooley proposed a suspension of Standing Orders for twenty minutes to allow the meeting to commence at 10.20 a.m. This was seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the opening of the Athy Distributor Road on the 31 October 2023. She thanked everyone involved for the wonderful presentation on the day. She also mentioned the many people who campaigned for this road over the years who had sadly passed away. It was a great success and has made a wonderful difference to the residents of Athy Municipal District.



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The Cathaoirleach offered her condolences on behalf of the members to the family of Margaret Walsh RIP, manager of Athy Heritage Museum who was a dedicated historian, hardworking and wonderful woman.

The Cathaoirleach remarked on the memorial for Privates Declan Deere, Jonathan Murphy, Matthew Lawlor and Brendan Fitzpatrick who were tragically killed in a road accident in the Lebanon in February 2000. This memorial was funded by the council and O.N.E. She noted it was a beautiful ceremony.

Councillor Dooley also wished to express his condolences to Margaret Walshs family on behalf of the Shakleton Musuem board of directors. He mentioned that she was so excited for the museum to open as she had dedicated herself to her work there.

AY01/1123

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.

AY02/1123

Minutes and Progress Report

To adopt the minutes the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 16 October 2023 and to note the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all members that the minutes of the Athy Municipal District meeting held on 16 October 2023 be adopted and the progress report be noted.

AY03/1123

Municipal District road works update



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

National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measure Updates

No update since 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 Athy Distributor Road.

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.

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 to commence week beginning 26 November.

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.

Road Markings

Upgrading road junction markings at the present time.

Barrack Lane junction markings completed.

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 Na Laoi, Castledermot.

Road Patching

Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing.

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping to areas – ongoing.

Bin collection – ongoing.



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Install twelve new bins in Leinster Street completed.

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

Community Works

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

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 are 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.

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 completed, awaiting contractor to surface.

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 raised the following points:



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- Thanked the Municipal District office for their ongoing work.
- Thanked the office for the recent footpath works in St Patricks Avenue and expressed gratitude on behalf of the residents there.
- Could the road along Moneen Lane where they were building the new extension to Scoil Mhicil Naofa be looked at as there were large potholes in this area.
- Could road markings be placed on the junction at Brewel Hill.

The A/District Engineer advised he would speak to Councillor Keatley offline regarding Brewel Hill junction.

The report was noted.

AY04/1123

Christmas Parking Arrangements

The members considered the Christmas Parking Arrangements in the Athy Municipal District for 2023.

Councillor Dooley, proposed to suspend parking fees for on street parking and council owned car parks (unauthorised and illegal parking would continue to be enforced) from 8:30am on Friday 01 December 2023 until 8:30am on Tuesday 02 January 2024. This was seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by members that there would be free on street pay parking (unauthorised and illegal parking would continue to be enforced) in Athy Municipal District from 8.30 am on Friday 01 December 2023 until 8:30am on Tuesday 02 January 2024.

AY05/1123

Roads Capital Projects

The members received an update on Roads Capital Projects.



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Mr S Deegan gave a presentation of the Roads Capital Projects in the County to the members.

He advised the members of the following:

- The total works underway for 2023 across the country would cost €37.65 million.
- Echoed the sentiments of Councillor Behan regarding the Athy Distributor Road. The maintenance of this road would be taken over by the Municipal District Office once snagging was completed.
- Consultants had been appointed on the first ten junctions of the junction programme list for the county. This would complete the design process over time however and funding application to DoT would likely be required for certain junction upgrades and others could fall under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme.
- Berts Cross was included in the first phase of the junction programme.
- Regarding the bridge programme, this had been held up slightly in 2023 due to rainfall.
- The Housing Section was examining the feasibility of land acquisition at St. Johns.
- Regarding Calverstown/Ballyshannon, they would look at the methodology of how to do this project, the Old Kilcullen project that Parks were doing could be used as the model for this.
- The council needed to be cognisant of significant change as a result of changes to road planning standards and climate action.

The members raised the following:

- Thanked Mr S Deegan for the detailed presentation.
- Was there a timeline for the Thompsons Cross. What needed to be done to upgrade this.
- What phase was St Johns Lane at.
- What was the timeframe for Berts Cross.
- Active travel, modal shift and connectivity needed to be taken into consideration, work of other departments needed to be tied in to future plans.



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- Had the €35,000 the members put aside for Calverstown/Ballyshannon been utilised yet, was there a timeline on this.
- Could the report be circulated to members.

Mr S Deegan advised the following:

- Thompsons Cross was in the second phase of the junction programme, currently no timeframe but surveys would be taking place when the process starts. Joined up thinking was important, ongoing parks project would be taken into consideration in future plans.
- St Johns Lane was currently with the Directors .
- Design drawings for Berts Cross should be completed soon. Depending on the level of works, if CPO was required then the process would take longer.
- Any work on Calverstown/Ballyshannon had been done in house, more money would be required to deliver more detailed surveys, but it was not at that stage yet. Laybys could be an option for this and would be assessed.
- The report would be circulated to members once all MD Meetings had been completed.

The report was noted.

Item 14 was taken at this point.

AY06/1123

Low cost safety scheme at Walterstown Cross

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

That the council carry out a low cost safety scheme at Walterstown Cross, Nurney.

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



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A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that there is a 60kph speed limit at Walterstown Cross at the present time. This could be considered under a future low-cost safety scheme.

The members raised the following:

- A number of accidents had occurred in recent weeks, road widening and signage would help reduce this.
- There was a huge amount of traffic on this road.
- Could a survey be carried out.
- How likely would it be to get funding.
- When and how could this matter be put on the list for the Low Cost Safety Scheme.
- There had been a number of accidents at Walterstown and Booterstown Cross, a review of these was needed.

Mr S Deegan advised that a Low Cost Safety Scheme would go through the Municipal District Office. A list went into the Department of Transport on a yearly basis, the Department then assessed where funding was appropriate. This evidence was based on accident data. Research and development feeds into the funding but ultimately the Municipal District Office deal with these.

Councillor Keatley and the A/District Engineer agreed to speak offline on the matter.

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

AY07/1123

Safety measures on the approach road and bridge in Kilkea.

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

That the council install all measures necessary to maximise safety on the approach road and bridge in Kilkea.



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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that this bridge is inside a 60kph zone. A review of the signage will be carried out.

Councillor Breslin advised that the bridge had very little signage and asked that signage be installed sooner rather than later.

Councillor Leigh noted that he had brought a motion on this last year and nothing had been done to date.

The members asked for this item to remain on the progress report.

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

AY08/1123

Blue parking signs in all carparks

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

That the council install the standard blue parking signs in all carparks in and around Athy town.

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 this will be considered under the parking Bye-Law review.



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Councillor Dooley advised that the sign in Meeting Lane Car Park had incorrect information, and requested this be taken down.

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

AY09/1123

Large road side open drains

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

That the council address the issue of large road side open drains, particularly along the Maganey to Castledermot Road and Garys Lane, Athy.

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 Water cuts are in place along the roadside to prevent flooding, thereby providing drainage off the roads.

Councillor Behan asked could the A/District Engineer meet onsite to discuss options for these drains.

Councillor Dooley advised that he understood the need for water cuts but if the council were cutting drains in front of peoples gardens then this would need to be communicated to those affected.

The A/District Engineer advised that he would meet with Councillor Behan on site to discuss this.

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



AY10/1123

Works on L80751

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

That the council address the many concerns of residents on the L80751, in Athy to include resurfacing works, drainage and where necessary, road widening.

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 this is a typical local tertiary road which is three metres wide. This could be considered for a Community Involvement Scheme.

Councillor Dooley advised that rural roads in South Kildare needed to be looked at.

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

On the proposal of the Councillor Dooley and with agreement by all members items 10 and item 12 were taken together.

AY11/1123

Item 10

Traffic, pedestrian accessibility and speed survey on Woodstock Street

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

That the council carry out a traffic, pedestrian accessibility and speed survey on Woodstock Street, Athy.

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



A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that there are no plans at the present time to install any traffic calming measures in Woodstock Street. The enforcement of speed regulation is a matter for An Garda Síochána.

Item 12

Pedestrian crossing on Woodstock Street

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

That the council install a pedestrian crossing on Woodstock Street near Shrewleen Lane, Athy.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that there is currently no funding allocation for the provision of new pedestrian crossings in the county. The location shall be added to a list of similar type of requests for assessment to determine the most appropriate type of pedestrian crossing required/warranted if/when a future funding source is identified.

The members raised the following:

- This was a narrow street where residents parked on either side of the road.
- Could a traffic survey be carried out.
- Ramps would not be suitable for this road.
- A lot of new development in the area would add to traffic congestion.
- A masterplan of this area was needed.
- There was a playschool here and a pedestrian crossing was essential.
- Funding would need to be sourced.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that he would bring the concerns of the members back to the Active Travel Team.

The members asked for this item to remain on the progress report.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley and seconded by Councillor Leigh that the report be noted and the item to remain on the progress report

AY12/1123

Flooding at Mullaghmast Cross

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

That the council carry out works to eradicate the serious issue of flooding at Mullaghmast Cross, Mullaghmast.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that a survey of the area will be carried out to determine the cause of the flooding.

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

On the proposal of Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members Item 13 was moved to later in the meeting.

AY13/1123

Footpath in Levitstown

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

Can the council inform the members of their plans to provide a footpath from Levitstown Church and Hall to Levitstown school, Maganey?



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A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that a full assessment of the location needs be carried out which then could be considered under a future programme of works.

The report was noted.

AY14/1123

Footpath works in Greenhills

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.
Can the council give an update on the timeline for footpath works in Greenhills, Athy

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that this can be examined under the programme of works for 2024.

The report was noted.

AY15/1123

Signage is on the road out of Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.
Can the council confirm what signage is on the road out of Athy, currently the N78, opposite Athy GAA, to warn motorists of a controlled pedestrian crossing?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that approaches to a signal-controlled pedestrian crossing with a 50kph zone do not require a sign providing there is a minimum of 45 metre sight line.

Councillor Dooley asked if the Solar powered speed warning sign could be fixed on approach to the pedestrian crossing.



The report was noted.

AY16/1123

'On kerb' parking and parking in adjacent estates

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

Can the council outline what action it will take to prevent 'on kerb' parking and parking in adjacent estates during events taking place at ARCH community centre?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that this area can be included in the review of Athy Parking Bye-Laws, however, this location is a considerable distance from the town centre. It will not be possible for a warden to be present at this location every day. This location can only be regulated by Kildare County Council during Parking Bye-Laws times (currently 08.30-18.30 Monday to Friday). Outside of these hours is a matter for An Garda Síochána.

Councillor Leigh advised that residents were annoyed at people parking on paths and blocking entrances. He would speak to An Garda Síochána on the matter.

The report was noted.

AY17/1123

Footpaths at Skenagun, Castledermot

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to include the footpaths at Skenagun, Castledermot on the footpath restoration list?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that this can be examined under the programme of works for 2024.



The report was noted.

AY18/1123

Community garden for “In it to bin It”

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

That the council set aside a small piece of ground so a community garden can be set up in the People's Park, Athy for the "In it to bin it" group.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there would be no objection in principle to consider the provision of a community garden but The People's Park would not be considered an appropriate location. Additionally there are a number of different groups seeking land for community gardens and it won't be possible to provide sites for all organisations. Sharing of sites would have to be considered. More detail on the purpose and management of the garden would also be needed to consider it further.

The members raised the following:

- A community garden would use planters to grow vegetables, fruit trees and bee friendly shrubs and flowers.
- Gardening had proven to have positive mental health benefits.
- More activity in the park could reduce anti social behaviour.
- Residents groups had looked to have the Peoples Park as a Green Flag Park like some other parks within the county.

Ms C O'Grady advised the following:

- She took the members points on board.
- Suggested if a number of groups were interested, a shared community garden space could be looked at.
- Happy to meet with members to discuss a suitable location.



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

Item 13 was taken at this point.

AY19/1123

Speed at Narraghmore village

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

That the council carry out remedial works to reduce the speed of vehicles going through Narraghmore village.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that speeding of vehicles is a matter of enforcement by An Garda Síochána. Kildare County Council will carry out a speed survey.

The members raised the following:

- The residents in the Orchard housing estate had put up a fence to protect the children in the estate.
- This was a serious issue that needed to be addressed.
- Ramps had been promised here but alternatives to this could be used.
- Happy for a survey to be carried out.
- Other options could be looked at for example a painted ramp on the road.
- There had been several road accidents here due to speed.

The A/District Engineer advised that there was currently a traffic count happening near this location.



The members asked for this item to remain on the progress report.

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

AY20/1123

Illegal caravan and van parking in Moatview Estate

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.
Can the council give an update on the preventative measures planned for illegal caravan and van parking in Moatview Estate in Kilmeade?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Housing Department has engaged with the Athy Area Office to carry out an assessment of the area for possible preventative measures. The Tenant Liaison Officer is also engaging with residents.

It is expected that possible works can be progressed in Quarter 1 2024 (subject to funding).

The report was noted.

AY21/1123

Waste water treatment plant at the Paddocks, Crookstown

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley.
Can the council provide an update on the work to be carried out on the waste water treatment plant at the Paddocks, Crookstown?

A report was received from the Building and Development Control Department informing the members that a detailed design for gravity sewer laid through lands adjacent to the Paddocks, Ballitore has been completed. This sewer will link into a manhole on the R415 Regional Road, adjacent to the St. Laurence's National School, connecting into the



pumping station associated with the school. The Development Control section are in on-going negotiations with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to secure all funding required to complete this project.

Councillor Keatley advised that he was happy with the huge amount of work on this and hoped to see it coming to resolution in the not-so-distant future.

The report was noted.

AY22/1123

Update from the HSE on St Marys Graveyard

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin. Can the council confirm if it has received any update from the HSE in relation to the searches it is undertaking to establish ownership of St. Mary's Graveyard, Athy in order to further the provision of a memorial to mothers and babies who are interned there?

A report was received from the A/County Librarian informing the members that to date there has been no further communication from the HSE in relation to establishing the ownership of St. Mary's Graveyard, Athy since their last response in March 2023. Eoghan Ryan, Director of Services will follow up again with the HSE.

Councillor Breslin stated that she was unhappy with the lack of progress from the HSE on this matter. She asked for the members support. She was frustrated that money had been allocated in 2021 for a memorial to recognise the injustice that was done and to give the families a place to commemorate them. It was now coming to the end of 2023 and there was still no further progress on it.

The report was noted.



AY23/1123

Athy Christmas Lights LPT

The members considered the Christmas Lights LPT awards for 2023.

€15,500	Athy Town Promotors
€1,500	Castledermot
€1,000	Narraghmore
€1,000	Calverstown
€1,000	Ballitore
€1,000	Kilmead

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by the members that the Christmas Lights LPT for 2023 be awarded.

The report was noted.

AY24/1123

Front of Fontstown Graveyard, Athy

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

Can the council confirm if it owns the land directly in front of Fontstown Graveyard, Athy?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the lands to the front of the cemetery are privately registered according to the Land Registry, but the area itself would be deemed to be in public charge as it is open to public access. Councillor Behan reported that the gravel area in front of the graveyard was in poor condition.

The A/District Engineer advised that he would speak to Councillor Behan offline on the matter.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.



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