



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 11 March 2024  
in the Council Chamber**

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

**Online:** Councillors B Dooley and I Keatley.

**Officials Present:** Mr A Dunney (District Manager), Mr M Kavanagh (A/District Engineer), Mr M McLoughlin (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscape Officer), Ms M O'Dwyer (Administrative Officer), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Ms P O'Rourke (Climate Action Coordinator), Ms A Cassidy (LPT Coordinator) Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

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The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting and mentioned the upcoming St Patricks Day celebrations with many events across the Municipal District including the parade in Athy and Castledermot.

She also congratulated Square Coffee Bar who won the shopfront award and Gillen Jewellers who were runners up in the Pride of Premises Awards 2024. This had been a great benefit from the Shop Front Scheme in 2023.



She offered support on behalf of the members to the Irish Farmers Association. Athy Municipal District were a rural Municipal District who supported the agricultural industry and food production.

**AY01/0324**

**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.

**AY02/0324**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 19 February 2024 and the progress report was noted.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that the minutes of the Athy Municipal District meeting held on 19 February 2024 be adopted and the progress report be noted.

**AY03/0324**

**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 last Athy Municipal District meeting. Project Team dealing with this.

**Department of Transport – Climate Adaption Projects**

No projects completed in Athy Municipal District.

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

R418 – Fontstown to Rathsillagh

R418 – Kilkea Village



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L8079 – R418 to Bolgers Cross  
L8079 – Bolgers Cross to Burtown Cross  
L8080 – Grangenolvin  
L8076 – Rosetown Snugburrow  
L8040 – Back Moone  
L8045 – Commonstown Killelan  
L8045 – Killelan Newtown  
L8031 – Milltown  
L8094 – Coltstown Knockfield

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

R448 – Timolin towards Crookstown  
R417 – Farmhill to Grangemellon  
R415 – Nurney to Clarey  
L8008 – Calverstown to Narraghmore  
L8069 – Geraldine Clogorow  
L4007 – Geraldine Road towards Skerries North  
L4008 – Gallowshill  
L8044 – Moone to Killelan  
L8042 – Bolgers Cross to Belan  
L8062 – Goulyduff  
L4006 – Woodstock North Kilcrow  
L4006 – Goulyduff to County Boundary  
L8031 – Milltown Cardington

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

No update for 2024.

### **Community Involvement Schemes**

No update for 2024.



## Kildare County Council

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### **Footpath Upgrades / Surveys**

Convent Lane – out to tender.

Ballyroe – ready to go to tender.

Kilmead Newline Road – ready to go to tender.

Kilmead Newline Grove – ready to go to tender.

Ballitore Main Road and junction – surveying and design works.

Barnhill – preliminary discussions.

### **Signage Works**

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District.

Upgrading signage on completed resurfaced roads.

Signage works R-417 for Tankardstown – completed.

Signage Works R415 Cuckles Corner – completed.

Walterstown Junction all signs renewed.

Kilkea signage on approach to bridge – completed.

Installed signs at junction in Burrows, Calverstown.

Commenced renewing of signage to Corballis Crossroad.

Installed new stop sign in Towns Park, Athy.

### **Road Markings**

Upgrading road junction markings.

Upgraded road marking in Calverstown village.

### **Drainage Works**

Several villages have had drainage systems cleaned.

Jetting drainage lines on various roads – ongoing

Cleaning gullies – ongoing

Carrying out water cuts along roads – ongoing.

Carrying out drainage works at Mullaghreelan.

Completed drainage works at Kilgowan / Usk

Drainage works completed at Mullamast.



## Kildare County Council

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Completed jetting drainage lines on all streets in Athy before Christmas

Completed drainage works along L4009 Castleroe.

Installed non-return valve at Abbeylands.

Commence drainage works to Sweep Lane, Nurney.

### Road Patching

Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing.

Nurney R415 centre line repairs.

### Street Sweeping

Street sweeping to areas – ongoing.

Bin collection – ongoing.

Completed installation of ten new bins along Leinster and Duke Street, Athy.

### Community Works

Carried out preparatory work to facilitate the “Big Switch.”

Meeting with Nollen Keatley re “Welcome to Castledermot” signs.

### General Maintenance

Hedge cutting along Regional Roads.

Hedge cutting for the Restoration Improvement works.

Hedge cutting for the Restoration Maintenance works.

Hedge cutting at junctions.

The members raised the following:

- Thanked the Municipal District Office for ongoing works around the Municipal District.
- Were there any update on bins on Athy Distributor Road, there were ongoing littering and dog fouling issues.
- There were over 80 bins in the town, could be agreed to redistribute some of those.



## Kildare County Council

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- A lot of smaller towns and villages in the Municipal District had no bins. This was also an issue.
- When would there be a decision on funding for LIS and CIS schemes, was there a deadline.
- Dog poo bins were needed on Athy Distributor Road.
- Was there an update on the road markings in Levittstown, there were problems there with speed.
- There was an agreement for signage to be put in place at Levittstown but really needed to liaise with An Garda Síochána to put speed van on this road to tackle speeding. Could be put as a joint motion from the members to JPC.
- Could surface dressing be put on Levittstown and Shed roads.
- Could the R417 road be looked at, very muddy.

Mr M Kavanagh advised the members of the following:

- Speed was the issue at Levittstown, following a review, 16,000 out of 19,000 cars were found to be speeding.
- He wasn't aware of a closing date for LIS or CIS but advised applicants to get their forms in asap.

Mr M McLoughlin advised the members that

- Lack of bins in smaller towns and villages was due to limited resources.
- Dog poo bins would not be installed on Athy Distributor Road.
- Needed to go back to Senior Engineer and Municipal District Engineer to try to come to a resolution for bins on Athy Distributor Road.

The report was noted.

### **AY04/0324** **LPT Allocations**



## Kildare County Council

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The District Manager advised that on the LPT Schedule of Works for 2024 there was an error where MD Promotions should state Athy Town Promoters and Kilkea Tutors should be Kilkea Trees and requested that the items be amended.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all members that the LPT Schedule of Works for 2024 be amended to correct the listed name changes.

### **AY05/0324**

#### **Street lamp at Dun Brinn and SDR**

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

That the council erect a street lamp at the new entrance to Dun Brinn Housing Estate, Athy at the Pedestrian Crossing on the Southern Distributor Road.

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 the request will be placed on the Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS) Register and will be ranked according to the set criteria.

Cost estimate will be sought from the maintenance contractor and this proposal will be considered within KLIPS together with other competing demands for new public lighting infrastructure when allowance is made for maintenance/repairs and increased energy costs of existing network. There are currently no funds available for additional lighting under annual public lighting budget.

Councillor Leigh stated that the absence of a street lamp here was a complete oversight. He had emailed the engineer prior to Athy Distributor Road opening. Antisocial behaviour had exacerbated since opening of the road. These issues needed to be addressed.

Councillor Dooley agreed with Councillor Leigh. He had received letters from residents associations. Could the council utilise BAM while still on site? There were dark areas at



## Kildare County Council

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Dun Brinn and Tegral, what type of funding was required? Could be something the members could look at.

Councillor Behan mentioned that there was also no signage on the roundabout on the way into Athy. Could a snag list go to BAM while still on site.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that further lighting was not part of this scheme and this would go back to the public lighting team. Funding was an issue. He advised he would get a cost and come back to the members.

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

### **AY06/0324**

#### **Remedial works at Barnhill**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley.  
That the council carry out remedial works to prevent further erosion of the roadside embankment at Barnhill Castledermot.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that Athy Municipal District office have engaged the services of a consultant to give a preliminary design and to ascertain what option may be available and at what costs.

Councillor Keatley said that this had been brought as a motion a number of times previously but the matter hadn't improved. The council had previously installed netting but further works would be needed to prevent slippage. Landowners were willing to cooperate with the council/consultants and local knowledge could be helpful to bring this to a resolution.





Councillor Behan said that soil here was sandy, with a lot of rain things would not get better.

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

**AY07/0324**

**Install bus stops and bus shelters in rural towns and villages**

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

That the council implement a programme of works to install bus stops and bus shelters in the rural towns and villages in the Athy Municipal District.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that Kildare County Council agrees an annual programme of works to install or improve bus stop infrastructure with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and in consultation with Local Link. This process is ongoing and when the agreed proposed locations are identified, the elected members will be informed.

Councillor Keatley thanked Mr D Hodgins for the report and noted that this was well overdue. €45,000 had been previously allocated. Bureaucracy at the NTA had hampered progress. There was an extensive 880 bus service coming into South Kildare. A number of rural villages needed a bus stop. A park and ride service would help, providing infrastructure. Could either Alan Kerry or Paul Kinsella be invited to a Municipal District meeting. The National Transport Authority had handed over responsibility of the bus stops to Kildare County Council. There was a fantastic sustainable transport team in place. The installation of bus stops needed to be rolled out.



## Kildare County Council

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

### **AY08/0324**

#### **Pedestrian crossing at Colaiste Lorcaín**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breslin.  
That the council install a pedestrian crossing on the roadway at the front entrance to Colaiste Lorcaín, Castledermot.

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 a similar request from the school has been received by the Traffic Management section and subject to staff availability, the location will be examined to determine what measures could be considered and whether a funding source can be identified.

The members raised the following:

- There were over 400 teens attending the school.
- There was an issue with speed on one side in particular.
- School was concerned with speeding.
- A lot of cars parked in school car park.
- Could this be considered, had been going on a long time.

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

### **AY09/0324**

#### **Remedial works to eliminate flooding in Foxhill**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breslin.  
That the council carry out remedial works to eliminate the issue of flooding in Foxhill, Athy.



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 Athy Municipal District office have agreed to meet with Councillor Breslin on site to examine the location in question.

Councillor Breslin thanked the engineer for agreeing to meet onsite and stated that the previous engineer had given a commitment to deal with this. A solution was needed. Councillor Dooley agreed, new homes had been built there in last number of years. Could development levies be utilised.

Councillor Keatley stated that the members had previously been advised that there was a relatively easy solution to this.

Mr M Kavanagh agreed to meet with the members on site.

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

### **AY10/0324**

#### **Bert Junction**

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

That the council proceed with plans to publicise their plans to make Bert Junction safer.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Roads Project team have recently completed a preliminary analysis and design of Berts Cross. The purpose being to improve safety at this location.



## Kildare County Council

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The project team met with some Athy Municipal District members on site at Bert Cross on 07 February 2024 to discuss the preliminary design.

The plan going forward is to progress to detailed design stage and find a funding source for the construction works. If/when the project progresses to planning permission stage, there will be public and other stakeholder consultation. Prior to this, Kildare County Council will liaise with landowners and the Athy Municipal District members as required.

The members raised the following:

- Thanked Mr S Deegan for the report.
- They had viewed the plans, they were excellent, showed that the council was progressing towards a solution.
- Could this matter be accelerated in the coming months.
- Could they progress to detail design stage and start liaising with landowners and residents.
- This had been discussed many times over the past five years. Needed to be made a priority.
- Many households had seen a number of accidents here.

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

The members took item 12 and item 17 together.

### AY11/0324

#### Item 12

##### **Footpath from Conlan's Garage to Clanard Court Hotel**

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

Can the council confirm when works on the footpath from Conlan's Garage to Clanard Court Hotel will commence?



**Item 17**

**Timeline for the footpath from the N78 to L40071**

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

Can the council provide an update on a timeline for the installation of a footpath from the N78 to L40071, Athy?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that Athy Municipal District are in favour of the proposal. However, Kildare County Council still need to complete preparatory works in order to progress to the next stage.

The members raised the following:

- The previous municipal district engineer had plans last year, what had happened since.
- What preparatory works were needed.
- LPT had been set aside for these works.
- One of the largest employers in Athy on this road, with no access to a footpath to the town.
- This road was frequently used by pedestrians.
- Could the work be commenced asap.

Mr M Kavanagh advised that he would have to look through the history of this, what stage it had been brought to. He had a drawing of a footpath. He would be happy to meet with members onsite.

Councillor Breslin noted that the members understood that Mr M Kavanagh had inherited a number of jobs from the previous district engineer, but this was a priority and welcomed the fact that they would meet onsite.

The report was noted.



**AY12/0324**

**Ballyroe Crossroads**

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

Can the council confirm if there are any plans to erect signage and a pedestrian crossing at Ballyroe Crossroads?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that Athy Municipal District office is planning on having a design drawn up for the village of Ballyroe this year with a view to having improvement works on the 2025 roads programme.

The report was noted.

**AY13/0324**

**Traffic survey on approach roads to Castledermot**

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

Can the council carry out a traffic survey to monitor traffic volume and speed on approach roads to Castledermot via Skenagun and Barn Hill.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that a traffic counter can be installed on the mentioned approach roads.

Councillor Behan welcomed the report and advised that there had a been a community meeting with An Garda Síochána a few weeks previous relating to speeding. Councillor Behan enquired was there a timeline on when it would happen.

Mr M Kavanagh advised that the traffic count had started the beginning of the previous week.

The report was noted.



**AY14/0324**

**Corballis Cross safety measures**

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

Can the council give an update on any plans to make Corballis Cross safer in light of recent traffic incidents and previous requests by motion to the Athy Municipal Roads section.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that existing signage in place highlights the existence of a crossroad. Drivers are required to follow the rules of the roads. Extra signage will be installed to warn drivers with all signage and road markings associated with this crossroad renewed.

Councillor Keatley thanked the Municipal District office for upgrading the signage and asked could a four way stop be put at this cross, similar to the cross at Milemill, which was a resounding success. There had been two serious accidents at Corballis cross since Christmas. A four way cross would be an effective solution. Hopeful that the road markings would be improved over the coming months.

Mr M Kavanagh advised that a contractor had been assigned and road markings would be completed as soon as there was dry weather in the next few weeks.

The report was noted.

**AY15/0324**

**Footpath in New Line Grove and New Line Road**

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

Can the council confirm when upgrading works to the footpath in New Line Grove and New Line Road, Kilmead will commence?



## Kildare County Council

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A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that these works are ready to go to tender. Kildare County Council are awaiting more favourable weather conditions before commencement of this type of work.

Councillor A Breslin was happy with the report and asked could it be completed in the next 1-6 weeks.

Mr M Kavanagh confirmed that it would be completed in that timeframe, weather permitting.

The report was noted.

### **AY16/0324**

#### **Parks Works Programme 2024**

The members received a presentation from Mr S Wallace on the Parks Works Programme 2024 for their consideration.

Mr S Wallace advised the members of the following:

- Signage had started in the Peoples Park, Athy including information on trees.
- The boundary wall in the Peoples Park needed to be repaired.
- Trees works programme was to be developed.
- Woodstock Castle conservation plan.
- Andrew Amenity lands masterplan.
- Extra staff had been assigned to the Parks team, and was hopeful they would fill the executive parks and landscape officer role soon.
- One member of staff involved in planning to cover a wide range of applications and also involvement in forward planning issues. Increasing workload and demand.
- He advised that he had two new members on his team, Ms S McCullough and Ms C O'Grady who would be available for any questions or queries especially in relation to trees.

The members raised the following:





## Kildare County Council

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- Thanked Mr S Wallace and his team for their work, Parks department had been understaffed for years, great to see new staff on the team.
- There had been more engagement due to new staff.
- Very appreciative of the works done.
- Moat of Ardscurr, LPT to finish it off. Awaiting signage.
- Was a masterplan for Greenhills and Townspark on the Agenda.
- Fencing in Greenhills needed due to antisocial behaviour.
- Challenge of ivy in the peoples park, doing damage to the wall. What was a long term solution.
- Vandalism at Castledermot playground, when would it be ready to go.
- A lot of new trees were due in the Municipal District thanks to the new road. Was there a per centage to be planted in certain areas.
- Will the signage in the peoples park have a historic aspect to it.
- There had been complaints about weeds on streets in Athy, could something be done.
- Could hedging on Fortbarrington road be cut back.

Mr S Wallace replied as follows:

- Would speak to Heritage officer re Moat of Ardscurr.
- A masterplan for Greenhills and Townspark could be looked at in conjunction with Andrew.
- Fencing in Greenhills could be looked at.
- Tackling the ivy was difficult, it would be looked at in the Autumn after bird nesting season.
- Regarding the Castledermot playground, the contractor price was excessive, they were trying to get it sorted.
- Other locations needed to be identified for planting of trees.
- Signage in the Peoples Park would include history and information on trees.
- Would speak to area engineer re weeds on streets.
- Hedging on Fortbarrington road would be cut back the following week.



## Kildare County Council

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The members received a presentation from Ms. P O'Rourke, Climate Action Co-ordinator in relation to Open Space Management – Alternative Maintenance and Biogas Dashboard.

Ms P O'Rourke advised the members of the following:

- Went through a timeline of projects since 2019.
- Noted that the council had collaborated with Maynooth University.
- Ms. Sophia Couchman, PHD Student, Maynooth University and was part of a collaborative project with Maynooth University, Trinity College, Teagasc, National Biodiversity Data Centre and Kildare County Council.
- All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2024 - Council Conference would be held on 13 June 2024 and Tickets were €20.
- National Biogas would like to use research data to update the public.
- GIS Data was renewed this year.
- €50,000 funding approved for Grass to Gas.
- A pipeline was put in place last year at the Newhall Depot now investigating the installation of a pumping station for medium/large vehicles.
- Climate Action Plan supports delivery of up to 5.7 TWh (Terrowatt Hours) of indigenously produced biomethane by 2030.
- National Biomethane Strategy, Public Consultaion, closed 27 February 2024.
- National Climate Action Plan 2024, Public Consultation would close on 5 April 2024.
- Kildare was the lead county in the country.
- Test sites were at Wonderful Barn, Monread and Parc na nOg.
- Data had been collected through drone, satellite and gound based managment data.
- Awareness Awards – Ms. Leah Berry and Ms. Sophia Couchman – Athlone Institute of Technology.

The members raised the following:

- Thanked Ms P O'Rourke and her team for the presentation and commended their work.
- Would like to have a better understanding, could the presentation be circulated.



## Kildare County Council

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- Fantastic to see collaborations with the private sector.
- Where could people make submissions on climate action plan.

Ms P O'Rourke advised that she would forward the members a copy of the presentation. Submissions to the climate action plan could be made online through the government website, she would forward a copy of the link to the members.

### **AY17/0324**

#### **Redeveloping vacant and derelict buildings in rural towns and villages**

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

That the council identify vacant and derelict buildings in rural towns and villages across the municipal district with a view to these buildings being developed for a range of community purposes and housing.

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

A report was received informing the members that the Regeneration and Vacant Homes Team are active in the Athy Municipal District and across the County identifying and engaging with property owners, providing information, encouraging use of the various schemes and grants available and acquiring properties compulsorily where required to address Vacancy and Dereliction.

The members raised the following:

- How could people submit forms re vacant buildings.
- Getting the information out there was important, how it progressed was not always evident to people.
- Stage payments of grants was a huge problem, from a logistical point of view it was difficult. People were anxious to avail of these grants but did not have the finances to go ahead.
- The establishment of this section had made a huge difference.



## Kildare County Council

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- The council had issued CPO's on a number of properties on the main street in Athy. Compliments to the team.

Ms M O'Dwyer advised that she would raise the members queries with the regeneration and vacant homes team.

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

### **AY18/0324**

#### **Resurface roads in Flinters Place**

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

That the council resurface roads in Flinters Place, Athy due to the large number of HGVs damaging the surface during the development in Flinters field.

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

A report was received informing the members that the Transportation Department and Housing Department are aware of the issue and contact was made with the developer with a view to resolving the issue.

The members raised the following:

- This issue had arisen time and time again.
- The road was in a dreadful state and this had been affecting older residents in the estate.
- Could the speed ramp that had been removed be reinstated.

Mr M McLoughin advised that contact had been made with the developer and the matter was in hand, works would be completed.



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

**AY19/0324**

**Emily Square**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
Can the council provide an update on Emily Square redevelopment and if funding has been acquired?

A report was received from Strategic Projects and Public Realm informing the members that a funding application has been submitted to Failte Ireland under the EU Just Transition Fund and we await the outcome. The tender process has been finalised and the contract will be awarded subject to funding being approved.

Councillor B Dooley stated that this was good news but could retrospective funding be looked at to get things moving along.

Mr A Dunney advised that an element of patience was required on the matter to see what the outcome was before discussing retrospective funding.

The report was noted.

**AY20/0324**

**Pump out facilities at canal side in Athy**

The members considered the following Motion in the name of Councillor Behan.  
That the council contact Waterways Ireland to identify what support they can offer to the upgrading the pump out facilities at canal side in Athy.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that this is a matter for the members to agree on.



## Kildare County Council

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The members raised the following:

- They were blessed in Athy with the network of waterways.
- Athy was the halfway point from Dublin to Leighlinbridge, if better facilities were in place then it would encourage boat users to stop in Athy for longer.
- Would like to see movement on this.
- It was a very important bit of infrastructure for boat users.
- Could a letter issue to Waterways Ireland to invite them to the April or May meeting.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Behan and seconded by Councillor Dooley that a letter issue to Waterways Ireland to invite them to an upcoming Municipal District Meeting and that the report be noted.

The members took item 23 and item 24 together.

### **AY21/0324**

#### **Model School, Athy**

##### **Item 23**

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

Can the council provide an update on the tender process for works on the Model School, Athy?

##### **Item 24**

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

Can the council provide an update on the commencement of works to the food and drinks hub in Athy?



A report was received from Local Enterprise Office informing the members that the client representative has completed its evaluation of the tenders received with respect to the development of the Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub at the Model School, Athy. The tender report and proposed contractor have been submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) for its approval to proceed checks. Aside from queries or observations raised by DRCD, it is anticipated the contractor will be appointed mid to late March 2024.

The members raised the following:

- Welcomed the report, this project had been in the works for a long time.
- Thanked Ms J McNabb and her team for all their work.
- This would be a crucial piece of infrastructure for the town.
- It was great to see a historic building being conserved.
- This project would provide education and job opportunities in Athy.

Mr A Dunney advised that they would hope to be onsite before the summer months and it would be a 12 month project. There were a lot of positive projects happening in the Municipal District including Shackleton Museum, Emily Square, Flood relief scheme, the new distributor road and other municipal district works. It was very positive time for Athy Municipal District.

The report was noted.

### **AY22/0324**

#### **Clean up the canal bank adjacent to the housing estate at Canal Walk/Flinters**

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

That the council work with Waterways Ireland to clean up the canal bank adjacent to the housing estate at Canal Walk/Flinters and to secure the fence there following anti-social behaviour.



## Kildare County Council

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

A report was received from the Environment Department and Housing Department informing the members that the Environment Section are willing to work with Waterways Ireland to clean up the area. The Housing Department will contact Respond in relation to securing the fence.

The members raised the following:

- A number of residents had dumped household rubbish there.
- Thanked the environment department for their assistance.
- Urged the environment department to have discussions with Waterways Ireland as soon as possible.
- Why was Respond involved?
- The fence had been there for a number of years and really needed to be replaced by a secure wall.
- There was an issue with antisocial behaviour here that needed to be addressed by the council.
- There was also a problem with horses in that area.
- Cameras needed to be installed in dumping black spots.
- How could cameras be funded/monitored to help with illegal dumping issues.
- The members could look at funding to tackle this.

Mr Kavanagh advised that the Environment Department had staff on the ground in the Athy Municipal District, calling to households to find out how they dispose of their waste. There were some obstacles to overcome regarding the installation of cameras including GDPR issues. He welcomed the invitation to Waterways Ireland to speak to the members.

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

The meeting concluded.





## Kildare County Council

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