



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 15 July 2024  
in the Council Chamber**

**Members Present:** Councillor A Breslin (Cathaoirleach) and Councillor M Leigh.

**Online:** Councillors V Behan, B Dooley and I Keatley.

**Officials Present:** Ms J McNabb (A/District Manager), Mr M Kavanagh (A/District Engineer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr J Hennessy (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms A Keaveney (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr D Reynolds (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms M O'Dwyer (Administrative Officer), Mr L McNeela (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms S Walsh (Executive Engineer), Mr G Hooban (Executive Engineer), Mr M Yallop (Executive Parks and Landscape Officer), Ms A Cassidy (LPT Coordinator), Mr C O'Toole (A/Administrative Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

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The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the July meeting and welcomed Ms J McNabb as A/District Manager. She wished to express condolences on behalf of the members to the family of Dorothy Mullan RIP and asked the members to observe a moments silence. A moments silence was observed.



**AY01/0724**

**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.

**AY02/0724**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes the Annual Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 27 June 2024 and the progress report was noted.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Leigh seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members that the minutes of the Annual Athy Municipal District meeting held on 27 June 2024 be adopted and the progress report be noted.

**AY03/0724**

**Municipal District Roadworks 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 (MD).

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

R418 – Fontstown to Rathsillagh - tar finished, cats eyes almost complete.

R418 – Kilkea Village - out to tender.

L8079 – R418 to Bolgers Cross - completed.



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L8079 – Bolgers Cross to Burtown Cross - completed.

L8080 – Grangenolvin - completed.

L8076 – Rosetown Snugburrow - to be surface dressed.

L8040 – Back Moone - completed.

L8045 – Commonstown Killelan - complete.

L8031 – Milltown – completed.

L8094 – Coltstown Knockfield - completed.

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

R448 – Timolin towards Crookstown. Starting week of the 08 July.

R417 – Farmhill to Grangemellon. Starting week of the 08 July.

L8008 – Calverstown to Narraghmore - complete.

L8069 – Geraldine Clogorow – complete.

L4007 – Geraldine Road towards Skerries North - complete.

L4008 – Gallowshill - complete.

L8044 – Moone to Killelan - complete.

L8042 – Bolgers Cross to Belan - complete.

L8062 – Goulyduff - complete.

L4006 – Woodstock North Kilcrow - complete.

L4006 – Goulyduff to county boundary - complete.

L8031 – Milltown Cardington - complete.

Currently grading edges of all RM roads listed.

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

Submissions under assessment

### **Community Involvement Schemes**

No update for 2024.



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### **Footpath Upgrades / Surveys**

Convent Lane - completed.

Ballyroe - complete.

Kilmead Newline Road - complete.

Kilmead Newline Grove - complete.

Ballitore Main Road and junction - surveying and design works.

Barnhill – preliminary discussions, awaiting report from consultants.

Surveys are underway in a number of estates.

Prussellstown - complete.

Janeville - complete.

Installing pedestrian crossing points in Mansfield Grove - complete.

### **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.

Completed renewing of signage to Corballis Crossroad.

Installed new stop sign in Towns Park, Athy.

Commence signage renewal to Barrowhouse Road bend - completed.

Repairs carried out to signage on the Tullow Road - complete.

Geraldine Cross, poles erected and awaiting digital sign installation.

### **Road Markings**

Upgrading road junction markings.

Upgraded road marking in Calverstown village.

Rheban Manor - complete.

Kildangan Cross - completed.



## **Kildare County Council**

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Corballis Cross - completed.

Barrow House Road - completed.

Convent View - completed.

### **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.

Completed drainage works at Mullaghreelan.

Completed drainage works at Kilgowan / Usk.

Drainage works completed at Mullamast.

Completed drainage works along L4009 Castleroe.

Installed non-return valve at Abbeylands.

Completed drainage works to Sweep Lane, Nurney.

Completed drainage works to all RI roads.

### **Road Patching**

Carrying out patching along various sections - ongoing.

Nurney R415 centre line repairs.

N78 - Athy.

### **Street Sweeping**

Street sweeping to areas - ongoing.

Bin collection - ongoing.

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

### **Community Works**

Meeting with Nollen Keatley re "Welcome to Castledermot" signs.



## Kildare County Council

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### General Maintenance

Hedge cutting along Regional Roads.

Hedge Cutting for the Restoration Improvement works - completed.

Hedge cutting for the Restoration Maintenance works - completed.

Hedge cutting at junctions.

The members raised the following:

- Thanked the Municipal District Office for recent and ongoing works.
- Noted that a significant amount of resurfacing works had been carried out.
- When would digital signs be erected at Geraldine Cross.

Mr M Kavanagh advised that digital signs at Geraldine Cross were still with the supplier and would be erected in the next two weeks.

The report was noted.

### AY04/0724

#### Reassignment of LPT

The members considered the considered the reassignment of LPT 2024.

The LPT Coordinator went through reassignment of the following LPT:

- Reallocation of grant of €3,000 from Athy Rugby Club to LPT Sports Grants 2024

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by members that the reassignment of grant of €3,000 from Athy Rugby Club to LPT Sports Grants 2024 be approved.



**AY05/0724**

**Capital Programme 2024-2026**

The members considered the Capital Programme 2024-2026.

The members raised the following:

- Athy hadn't been a focus for many years, members needed to work as a team with the executive to support new capital projects.
- Community Lands at Ardrew needed to be a main focus.
- Important to focus on infrastructure and industrial development over the next five years.
- Members agreed to meet offline to discuss capital projects in the Athy Municipal District.

The report was noted.

**AY06/0724**

**Speed Limit Review 2024**

The members received a presentation on the 2024 speed limit review from Mr J Hennessy, Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management.

Mr J Hennessy raised the following points:

Road Traffic Act 2024 - Passed by Oireachtas in April 2024

- The Act addresses key matters in road safety
- It legislates for lower default speed limits in line with the Department's speed limit review published in September 2023.
- Default speed limits would be lowered –
  - On national secondary roads, from 100km/h to 80km/h
  - On local roads, from 80km/h to 60 km/h
  - On roads in built-up areas from 50km/h to 30km/h
- No change to Default Speed Limits on National Primary (100km/h) or Regional (80km/h) Roads included in the Act.



## Kildare County Council

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- The Department of Transport had indicated that the Act will be “commenced” in phases.
- The first phase was the implementation of the local roads default from the current 80 km/h to 60 km/h.
- The aim of the speed limit review was to have safer roads
- The 80km/h on National Secondary Roads and 60km/h on Local Roads were introduced to prevent Fatal and Serious Injury Collisions from Head on Collisions
- Special Speed Limits are only for exceptions
  - Current Byelaws:  
Subject to legal confirmation, where a special speed limit was currently applied to a local road, this won't change with the change in the default e.g. if a local road currently has a 50km/h Special Speed Limit, the change in default from 80km/h to 60km/h won't change that.

The members raised the following:

- Thanked Mr J Hennessy and the team for the comprehensive report.
- Would electronic speed signage be used or regular speed signage.
- Did the team expect an increase in pedestrian, cyclist routes and zebra crossings. Would that infrastructure be included in upgrade works.
- Welcomed the introduction of Jake's Law in housing estates, had been a long time coming. Could it be brought forward.
- Glad to hear councillors would have an input on the speed limit review.
- Who would make decisions on speed limits on rural roads, was it An Garda Síochána or the engineers.
- How would enforcement be managed.
- Was the approval of speed limits for particular roads to be agreed at Municipal District or Full Council level.
- Requested that the slides from the presentation be circulated to members.





## Kildare County Council

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Mr J Hennessy, Senior Executive Engineer, Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Section informed the members of the following:

- Each Municipal District Office would quantify resources and the quantity of signage.
- Procurement process would be undertaken centrally by Department of Transport and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
- No decision had been made to date in relation to the physical installation of signage, whether this would be by individual Municipal Districts or if this would be centralised.
- Jakes Law would be implemented in housing estates by 2025.
- Additional measures of pedestrian, cycling routes and zebra crossings were not something that was being looked at but could be reviewed at a later stage.
- Junction types were not being examined as a part of the current process but could be looked at in the future.
- First step would be reduction of speed limits on Rural/Local Roads from 80km/h to 60km/h.
- Would revert to Councillors in relation to Urban Speed Limits at a later date, emphasising that Local Rural Roads would be addressed first.
- Stringent set of criteria was involved in the Speed Limit Review process and advised that these would be shared with the members.
- Intention would be that if a speed limit was reduced, it would not go up again without very good reason.

Mr D Hodgins, Senior Engineer, Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management Section informed the members of the following:

- Time constraint to implement the programme by the anticipated commencement date expected in November 2024.
- First task was to seek approval of members in relation to bye-laws, to enable the commencement of the process.
- All local rural roads would go to 60 km/h unless it already had a special speed limit, the guidelines advise that only in special or specific cases that the speed would go back up.



## Kildare County Council

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- At consultation the public/members could also suggest routes.
- Countywide Speed Limit Reviews ordinarily occur every 5 years and this process will continue as will the review process that is open to the public to seek a review of a particular speed limit.
- The focus was on changes to the default speed limits and initially only on rural local roads. Roads with L that had an 80km/h default would reduce to a default of 60km/h, unless otherwise voted on at Full Council.
- The Council had selected a number of routes which were being examined against the criteria set out in the Department of Transport documentation.
- Information on assessments of speed limits would be provided to the members.
- There was an unacceptable number of road deaths in the Country and it was Kildare County Council's mandate to reduce speed limits in their county.
- It would be very important that in early 2025 and straight after the conclusion of the Local Rural Roads process, that Jakes Law would be brought forward.
- An Urban Roads Speed Limit Review was planned for 2025.
- It was further noted that for areas along local rural roads which had a current special speed limit of 50km/h that this special speed limit would still apply.
- Emphasised that all decisions would be those of the members. That his department would deem a location suitable and inform members, but the decision would ultimately be with the Elected Members as it was a reserved function.
- Ensured the circulation to members of the slides from the presentation.

### **AY07/0724**

#### **Install Roundabout at Barnhill, Castledermot**

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

That the council installs a roundabout at the junctions of R448, L4015 and R418 at Barnhill in Castledermot to enhance safety and improve traffic flow.

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



## Kildare County Council

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A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that Kildare County Council are currently progressing a county wide junction improvement project at ten junctions across the county. This project includes Bert Cross in the Athy Municipal District. The junction in Castledermot can be considered for a future phase of the Junction Improvement Project subject to funding and resource constraints.

Councillor Leigh advised that prior to the M9 opening, that route was heavily congested. Could this be looked at under any Road Safety Projects? Castle Villa FC had a lot of traffic just off that junction, the main road from Castledermot up to Barnhill was now a faster road due to the traffic volume reducing, a roundabout at this location would be very beneficial for any safety projects there. There was an overspill council owned car park beside this area that was rarely used and was in bad need of refurbishment. A roundabout here would be far more aesthetically pleasing enhancing this area of the town.

Mr D Conlon advised that the report still stood. The current focus was on locations of interest, they could check if this was an area of interest and that would guide any decisions going forward. Agreed to meet with Councillor Leigh onsite if needed.

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

### **AY08/0724**

#### **Traffic Calming Measures in Rheban Manor**

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

That Kildare County Council installs traffic calming measures on the main road in Rheban Manor, Athy.

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



## Kildare County Council

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A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Municipal District office will review and based on results of the review will decide how best to progress.

Councillor Breslin advised that this matter had been on her agenda for many years. There were two green areas within the estate with many children playing. Residents were concerned and asked what type of review would be carried out?

Mr M Kavanagh advised that it would be a speed monitor review.

Councillor Breslin asked that the speed count be carried out over a 24 hour period and also over a weekend when the estate had heavier traffic.

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

### **AY09/0724**

#### **Remedial Works to the Footpath outside Dunne's pharmacy**

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

That the council carries out remedial works to the footpath outside Dunne's pharmacy in Castledermot.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Municipal District office will survey and complete works as part of our footpath maintenance works.



## Kildare County Council

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Councillor Behan mentioned that a lot of people parked at Horans Garage and walked down to the pharmacy and the footpath had subsided. She questioned what the timeframe would be.

Mr M Kavanagh advised that the work would be carried out before the end of the year.

Councillor Dooley mentioned that Horans Garage would be the new post office so the area would be very busy.

Councillor Keatley wondered if the Municipal District Office would liaise with the Public Realm Team on their plans for the area and queried if the office was involved with the design consultation.

Mr M Kavanagh agreed that it would make sense to speak to the Public Realm team.

Councillor Breslin suggested that the members discuss the matter further with the District Manager and District Engineer at a later date.

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

### **AY10/0724**

#### **Road Markings on the Approach Road to Nurney Village**

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

That the council reinstates the written road markings on the approach road to Nurney Village, from the Kildare Town side.

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



## Kildare County Council

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A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Municipal District office will complete this as part of our line marking works.

Councillor Behan was happy with the report and mentioned that a car had gone through a resident's wall recently. Road had been resurfaced but lines had not been replaced. Visibility was also an issue here, could foliage be cut back.

Councillor Dooley advised that each of the councillors had been contacted on this issue, driver behaviour had a big part to play. There were also five or six houses where residents struggled to get out of their driveway due to speed on this road, an increase in signage was needed.

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

### AY11/0724

#### **Traffic Calming Measures between Circle-K and Cemetery in Athy**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan. Can the council confirm if it plans to put in place appropriate traffic calming measures between the roundabout past Circle-K through to the Model School and the Cemetery in Athy.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members there are no plans at the moment for traffic calming at this location.

Councillor Behan advised that traffic calming measures and street lighting were needed here, especially for pedestrian safety. It would be great to see more pedestrian crossings. More support for pedestrians/cyclists was needed.



Councillor Leigh suggested that this item be brought forward as a Motion.

The report was noted.

**AY12/0724**

**Remedial works to footpaths in Cardington Court**

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to carry out remedial works to footpaths in Cardington Court, Athy?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that this footpath will be added to the maintenance list.

Councillor Breslin thanked the area office. There had been a number of serious falls in that location. Trees also needed to be cut back, could liaise with Parks department to take away trees and replant something more suitable.

The report was noted.

**AY13/0724**

**Upgrading of the Junction at Bert Cross, Athy**

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

Can the council provide an update on the upgrading of the junction at Bert Cross, Athy?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the detailed design for the upgrade of Bert Cross is ongoing following the briefing onsite with the Elected Members to review the Option Selection Report.



## Kildare County Council

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Councillor Breslin advised that the landowner was open to discussion. Had there been any more progress on this matter.

Mr D Conlan advised that he would follow it up.

The report was noted.

### **AY14/0724**

#### **Grass cuttings in Athy**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
Can the council confirm if landscape contractors who cut grass on council owned lands and green areas in the town of Athy, collect the cuttings?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that it is not part of the grass cutting contract for the grass to be collected. This would not be possible within the budget available and is not sustainable given the extent of grass cutting carried out across the county.

Mr M Yallop further advised that it would not be something that they would have resources for or something that would be done due to sustainability and was not done elsewhere.

Councillor Dooley suggested if cuttings were carried out more often it would not be an issue and this need to be revisited.

The report was noted.





**AY15/0724**

**Proposed Residential Development at Skenagun, Castledermot**

The members considered the Chief Executives Part 8 report P82024-09 for the proposed residential development at Skenagun, Castledermot, Co Kildare.

The Senior Executive Engineer outlined the proposal and recommended to the Cathaoirleach and members that the Chief Executives Part 8 report P82024-09 for the proposed residential development at Skenagun, Castledermot, Co Kildare, be adopted.

The members raised the following points: -.

- The members thanked the team for the presentation and noted it was a long time coming, the plans looked fantastic.
- There had been prior issues in the area with Uisce Éireann with sewage capacity, had they given any indication of issues.
- There was quite a substantial amount of grounds to maintain, could a boundary wall be erected rather than a timber fence.

Mr D Reynolds advised the following:

- Uisce Éireann had confirmed that it was feasible to make the connection. No issues had been flagged.
- Boundary walls were not seen as appropriate and would not adhere to planning regulations for rural housing, timber fencing would be the preferred option.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all members present that the Chief Executives Part 8 report P82024-09 for the proposed residential development at Skenagun, Castledermot, Co Kildare, be adopted.

**AY16/0724**

**Public Realm Project on Woodstock Street in Athy**

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



## Kildare County Council

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That the council creates plans for a public realm project on Woodstock Street in Athy with emphasis on traffic calming, a pedestrian crossing at Shrewleen, new footpaths and resurface of the carpark.

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

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that there is currently no funding in place to date for this project. Priority projects are subject to agreement with the members, resources and availability of funding.

The members raised the following:

- A pedestrian crossing was badly needed at that location.
- Car parking spaces needed to be resurfaced and remarked.
- Speeding issues on that street, speed reduction measures were needed.
- Badly needed signalled pedestrian crossing at Shrewleen mainly to assist the Kare service users.
- This area deserved a makeover.
- Tidy towns did great work alongside the streetscape scheme added enhancements to shop fronts.
- Shops wanted to keep the street updated.
- This area should be a priority project and needed to be made safer.
- Streetscape funding back in 2022 helped but major issues needed to be addressed.

Ms J McNabb acknowledged that the Streetscape scheme had previously received considerable funding. She advised that the District Manager had made a commitment to have a review of the issues raised and try to get costings for works. He had agreed to meet with the members on site to discuss same.

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



**AY17/0724**

**Masterplan for the Dominican Lands**

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

That the council gives an update on the masterplan for the Dominican lands, outlining next steps and dates for development of the space and the construction of older persons living units with connectivity to the town.

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

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that The Masterplan for the Dominican lands is currently on hold subject to the selection of a preferred option for the proposed Athy Flood Relief Scheme. The area is currently within a flood zone where development is prohibited as per the Local Area Plan and OPW guidelines. Any future development constructed within this flood zone, other than flood resilient structures, will be contingent on the level of protection offered by the proposed flood defences. The decision on the location, scope and protection offered by the flood relief scheme is dependent upon ongoing design being carried out by RPS Consultants on behalf of Kildare County Council but will not be finalised this year.

Councillor Dooley understood the response but asked would this hold up the projects that had been planned for the area for example the water sports hub, older housing units etc. Could RPS come back any quicker or could parts of the plans go ahead. It was hugely important to connect the Blueway back into the town through the Dominican lands. Where did these projects currently stand.

Councillor Behan supported the motion and welcomed the Flood Relief Scheme.

Councillor Breslin shared her concerns as the outcome of the findings were out of their control. A lot of effort had been put into the Blueway and it was a shame to see the water sports hub put on the backfoot due to the Flood Relief Scheme but understood it was out of anyone's control.



## Kildare County Council

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Ms A Keaveney admitted it was disappointing, but the projects would still be a priority and they were working with Ms E O'Brien on any outcome of the Athy Flood Relief Scheme. But the case was that they would just have to wait and see how things worked out. She also advised that they would be going ahead with a trail at the back of the Dominican lands.

Councillor Dooley looked forward to the design and hoped that by the new year these projects could be moved along.

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

### **AY18/0724**

#### **Illegal Encampments in Moatview**

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

That Kildare County Council carries out required works to prohibit illegal encampments in Moatview, Kilmead.

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

A report was received informing the members that the Housing Department and the Roads Area Office have commenced plans for works at this area. It is envisaged that these will commence in Quarter 3, subject to funding.

Councillor Breslin was extremely disappointed with the report, this issue had been going on for years. Four more caravans were moved into this estate over the previous weekend. Caravans were parked on the green areas where children used to play. An Garda Síochána were on regular patrol of this estate. Were the residents not entitled to live in some sort of comfort.



## Kildare County Council

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Councillor Leigh was also disappointed with the report. He had previously been advised that the work would be carried out in 2022 and 2023 and that funding there was funding in place. The cemetery had been turned into a toilet and was very upsetting for families visiting the cemetery. He asked that these concerns be raised with the relevant staff members.

Ms M O'Dwyer advised that the Housing Department were currently in discussion with the Transport office and that the Tenant Liaison Officer would get costings and a timeframe. She advised that she would raise the members concerns with the relevant staff. She also reminded the members of Housing Clinic in the library in Athy on the 16 July.

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

### **AY19/0724**

#### **Barrow River and Waterways Ireland**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.  
Can the council outline what is required to relinquish control of the section of the Barrow River managed by the Council in Athy Town into the control of Waterways Ireland?

A report was received from the Flood Risk Management and Strategic Projects and Public Realm departments informing the members that the River Barrow in Athy was a drainage district (established by the Barrow Drainage Act 1927) and since the abolition of drainage districts in 2014, maintenance is managed directly by the Council, through the drainage maintenance team. There has been some confusion about the responsibilities for the Barrow and the lands adjacent to the river. Waterways Ireland have responsibility for the Barrow Navigation channel (i.e. the canal), which merges with the Barrow at the Horse Bridge (which is downstream of the town centre). It splits again just downstream of the new distributor road bridge and then merges at Ardreich Lock. So, there is only a small stretch



## Kildare County Council

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of the Barrow in which both Waterways and the Council are jointly responsible for maintenance.

Maintenance of the river channel through Athy is difficult, as the river is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and requires additional environmental assessment. Its width and the lack of bank space for machines within the town centre have meant that the middle of the channel is unreachable. The drainage maintenance team is trialling a weed cutting boat on the Barrow this summer which will hopefully allow us to carry out maintenance on the centre of the channel.

Any changes to the maintenance regime or responsibility for maintenance of the Barrow in Athy, may impact on the Athy Flood Relief Scheme, which is currently at preliminary design stage.

Following discussions with Waterways Ireland a Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties Kildare County Council and Waterways Ireland could be progressed outlining the responsibilities and roles of the two parties. They advised that their role to date is on an ad hoc basis, carrying out reed cutting etc., when requested and that they currently have no control over unauthorised boats on that section of the River Barrow.

Councillor Leigh thanked the team for the report and asked that the Memorandum of Understanding be drawn up as soon as possible.

The report was noted.

### **AY20/0724**

#### **Pedestrian Crossing on the Canal at Augustus Bridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
Can the council confirm if traffic calming measures will be in place at the pedestrian crossing on the canal at Augustus Bridge along the Blueway?

A report was received from Strategic Projects and Public Realm informing the members that the proposal is to provide a Toucan Crossing in accordance with Kildare County



## Kildare County Council

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Council Specification, a Stage 2 Road Safety Audit has been undertaken on the proposal, the need for traffic calming either side of it is not considered necessary as traffic has already slowed down on approach. A Stage 3 Road Safety Audit will be undertaken on completion of the works.

The report was noted.

### **AY21/0724**

#### **Castledermot Masterplan**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan. Can the council confirm if it plans to re-open the Castledermot Masterplan public consultation given that the initial phase happened during covid and local people didn't get to fully engage and make submissions.

A report was received from Housing Department informing the members that Castledermot has received funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Town Centre First Policy. A key element of the Town Centre First Policy is community involvement and engagement. As part of this process a Town Team will be formed representing the community and a Town Centre First Plan will be produced which will compliment and build on the already published Small Town Renewal Masterplan for Castledermot, throughout this process the community will be invited to become involved through public consultation meetings and surveys.

Councillor Behan thanked the team for the report and noted that it would ensure that the voices of residents in Castledermot were heard. She asked for further clarification on if the Town Centre First Plan fell under the Masterplan.

Ms A Keaveney advised that it was a separate plan but it would complement the Masterplan.



The report was noted.

**AY22/0724**

**Taking in Charge of Burrow Manor, Calverstown**

The members considered the taking in charge of Burrow Manor, Calverstown, Co Kildare.

A report had previously been circulated to the members for their consideration.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that Burrow Manor, Calverstown be taken in charge.

**AY23/0724**

**Taking in Charge of Carrighill, Calverstown**

The members considered the taking in charge of Carrighill, Calverstown, Co Kildare.

A report had previously been circulated to the members for their consideration.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members that Carrighill, Calverstown be taken in charge.

**AY24/0724**

**Taking in Charge of Cluain Laighean, Ballyroe, Athy**

The members considered the taking in charge of Cluain Laighean, Ballyroe, Athy, Co Kildare.

A report had previously been circulated to the members for their consideration.





**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members that Cluain Laighean, Ballyroe, Athy be taken in charge.

**AY25/0724**

**Development of Zoned Industrial Development Lands in Athy**

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

That the council in conjunction with LEO considers the development of zoned industrial development lands in Athy to provide much needed industrial space and warehousing to attract and support new businesses seeking units in the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office informing the members that Kildare County Council does not have the funding required to purchase industrial zoned lands and provide industrial space in Athy. However, the Council have applied to the Just Transition Fund for funding to commission a site search assessment and technical feasibility study for the development of Kildare Low Carbon Enterprise Zone in Athy. The progression of this project, by the Council, will be dependent on a positive outcome from this application or other source of capital funding becoming available.

Councillor Dooley thanked Ms J McNabb for the report and advised that it was essential that the members worked together with the LEO to take the next step to develop new business in the town. Providing employment should be a high priority over the next five years. Finding funding for new projects to assist the LEO in delivering educational, research and developmental units in Athy Municipal District. Businesses were running out of space.

Councillor Breslin supported the motion and the work of Ms J McNabb/LEO. She advised that she had met with groups who wanted to conduct business in Athy. The members needed to consider funding to push projects ahead. Big scale projects needed to be delivered, a number one mission of the councillors.



## Kildare County Council

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Councillor Breslin echoed the members sentiments and noted that business in Athy wanted to expand and grow and noted that the Local Enterprise Office did a lot of work to support that business development.

Ms J McNabb advised that they had identified much needed land for industrial space in Athy MD, and applied for Just Transition Funding. There was no other current funding available. They were waiting to hear back regarding the Just Transition funding. She welcomed the positive interaction and was hopeful to receive funding. The progression of that project was dependent on the outcome from the application for funding or other sources of capital funding becoming available. Failing that they would need to look at alternative funding next year. They were undergoing a large scale study/land audit, to see what industrial zoned space was required. There was no commercial land currently available to buy in Athy, the only obstacle was not just funding, access to lands was also an issue.

Councillor Dooley accepted the response.

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

### **AY26/0724**

#### **Update on the Taking in Charge of Cluain Ard in Kilmead**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.  
Can the council provide an update on the taking in charge of Cluain Ard in Kilmead?

A report was received from Building and Development Control informing the members that Cluain Ard in Kilmead is served by a stand-alone developer provided wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) which is not connected to the Uisce Éireann (UÉ) foul network. However, works are being carried out at this WWTP by UÉ to improve its treatment ability and performance. Development Control have successfully called in the insurance bond.



## Kildare County Council

Development Control have commissioned an as-built survey and a CCTV survey and Development Control have executed repairs to the below ground infrastructure. The balance of the outstanding works in the estate will be progressed by our Legacy Taking in Charge team.

Councillor Leigh thanked the Legacy Taking in Charge team in Building and Development Control for the great work they carried out and queried was there a timeline on the works?

Mr G Hooban advised that they were hopeful that progress would be made this year.

The report was noted.

### AY27/0724

#### LPT Sports Grants Scheme 2024

The members considered the LPT Sports Grants Schemes 2024.

Athy M.D. Local Property Tax for Sports Clubs 2024			
Group	Project	Grant Requested	Proposed Grant
Athy RFC Girls & Ladies Section	New Flood Lights	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,250.00
Athy RFC Minis & Youths Section	Sports Equipment	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,250.00
Crookstown Millview Athletics Club	Sports Equipment and Partial Running Costs	€ 2,704.50	€ 2,100.00



## Kildare County Council

Grangenvolin GFC	Defibillator & Sports Equipment	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,700.00
Castledermot GAA	Underage Goals	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,700.00
St Laurence's GAA Hurling Club	Sports Equipment	€ 9,710.00	€ 2,400.00
St. Laurence's LGFA	Sports Equipment	€ 3,132.80	€ 2,400.00
Clonmullion F.C.	Pitch Maintenance & Footballs	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,700.00
Moone Martial Arts	Protective Equipment	€ 822.76	€ 825.00
Athy GFC	Ball Stops	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,400.00
Athy Hurling Club	Sports Equipment & All Ireland Hurling Plaque	€ 1,400.00	€ 1,400.00
Castlemitchell Bowls Club	Bowling Mat	€ 2,600.00	€ 2,320.00
Mill Celtic	Sports Equipment	€ 2,500.00	€ 2,250.00
Athy Tennis Club	Sports Equipment	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,250.00
Castledermot Pitch and Putt	Equipment	€ 2,000.00	€ 1,800.00
Zocho-Ten Karate-Do Federation/Castlemitchell Club	Protective Equipment	€ 740.00	€ 740.00



## Kildare County Council

Gouleyduff megger club	Maintenance and Running Costs	€ 1,780.00	€ 1,575.00
Moone Celtic Football Club	Jerseys & Footballs	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,700.00
Athy Gymnastics Club	Springboard & Booster Board	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,700.00
Athy Town AFC	Car Parking	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,700.00
St. Michaels Boxing Club	Running Costs	€ 500.00	€ 500.00
Nurney GAA Club	Underage Tops	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,400.00
Nurney Camogie	Sports Equipment	€ 2,300.00	€ 1,840.00
Kildangan Gaa	Maintenance & Pedestrian Access	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,700.00
Athy Camogie Club	Sports Equipment	€ 2,400.00	€ 2,400.00
		<b>Total for Approval</b>	€ 53,000.00
		<b>Budget</b>	€ 50,000.00
		<b>Overspend</b>	€ 3,000.00

The LPT coordinator advised that due to the reallocation of LPT monies earlier in the meeting, no further allocation was needed to cover the overspend of €3,000.

The members raised the following:

- Thanked Mr C O'Toole for his work on the report.



## Kildare County Council

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- Had there been a reduction in the amount of funding some clubs would get due to the overspend.

Mr C O'Toole advised the members that:

- All groups were assessed and given allocation based on the funding stream, applications received totalled in over €60,000.
- Clubs were permitted to apply for grants under their different groups who would have different boards e.g. underage, LGFA, hurling, GAA etc.
- No amount of funding for any club had been reduced. The allocation had been increased to €53,000.

**Resolved:** On the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that the LPT Sports Grants Schemes 2024 be approved.

The meeting concluded.