



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 20 May 2024  
in the Council Chamber**

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

**Officials Present:** Mr A Dunney (District Manager), Ms C Barrett (Director of Services), Ms M Higgins (Director of Services), Mr K Dunne (District Engineer), Mr M McLoughlin (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms P Pender (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms E Price (Administrative Officer), 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 May meeting of the Athy Municipal District and thanked each of the members for their collaboration since 2019 and noted that they had each represented the community to the best of their ability.

Each of the members thanked their fellow councillors, District Manager and staff for their help over the past five years and noted that they had set an example for other Municipal Districts. They noted that a lot had been achieved in the last five years.

Covid was a difficult period, added supports to voluntary sector.

Although they represented different parties they all worked together for the benefit of the community.

Exciting projects and time in Athy and hoped to represent the community in the future.

Wished each other the best of luck in the upcoming elections.



**AY01/0524**

**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.

**AY02/0524**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 15 April 2024 and the progress report was noted.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that the minutes of the Athy Municipal District meeting held on 15 April 2024 be adopted and the progress report be noted.

**AY03/0524**

**Municipal District road works update**

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

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

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

**Department of Transport – Climate Adaption Projects**

No projects completed in Athy Municipal District (MD).

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

R418 – Fontstown to Rathskillagh – awarded to contractor.

R418 – Kilkea Village – going out to tender.

L8079 – R418 to Bolgers Cross – under construction.

L8079 – Bolgers Cross to Burtown Cross – under construction.

L8080 – Grangenolvin – under construction.



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L8076 – Rosetown Snugburrow – to commence week starting 20 May.

L8040 – Back Moone – under construction.

L8045 – Commonstown Killelan – under construction.

L8031 – Milltown – to commence week starting 20 May.

L8094 – Coltstown Knockfield – under construction.

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

R448 – Timolin towards Crookstown.

R417 – Farmhill to Grangemellon.

R415 – Nurney to Clarey.

L8008 – Calverstown to Narraghmore.

L8069 – Gerldine 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.

Currently grading edges of all RM roads listed.

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

Closing date 24 May 2024.

### **Community Involvement Schemes**

No update for 2024.

### **Footpath Upgrades / Surveys**

Convent Lane – completed.



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Ballyroe – awarded to contractor.

Kilmead Newline Road – under construction.

Kilmead Newline Grove – under construction.

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.

### **Signage Works**

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District

Upgrading signage on completed resurfaced roads.

Signage works R417 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.

Repairs carried out to signage on the Tullow Road.

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Completed renewing of signage to Corballis Crossroad.  
Installed new stop sign in Towns Park, Athy.  
Commence signage renewal to Barrowhouse Road bend.  
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### **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 Noeleen Keatley re “Welcome to Castledermot” signs.



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### 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:

- Welcomed the new District Engineer, Mr K Dunne. Hoped to work with him in the future.
- Thanked the office for the report.
- Thanked the A/District Engineer, Mr M Kavanagh and his team for huge body of work over last number of months.

The report was noted.

### **AY04/0524**

#### **Waterways Ireland**

The members received a briefing from Waterways Ireland.

Mr G Bayley, Engineer, Waterways Ireland gave a brief update on the Blueway Project which had just last week received further funding to complete. Looked forward to rolling out the next stage of that project.

Waterways Ireland had sought the consent of the planning authority, Kildare County Council, for a five-year programme of maintenance works along the Barrow Navigation at townlands throughout County Kildare. This was the first of its kind in Ireland. But that also had some issues.

The members raised the following:

- Was there a timeline for when the Blueway would be finished.



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- Boats on the far side of the Barrow at AIB were rotting away, was it within the remit of Waterways Ireland to have them removed.
- Could the Blueway be extended to Maganey or were there any plans to extend it.
- Were Waterways Ireland finding issues with sulky racing elsewhere.
- Plans for pump out station.
- Would the Blueway be fully wheelchair accessible.
- Prior to the opening would there be an opportunity to meet with businesses in Athy.
- Issues with horses being tethered along the Blueway, what could be done to prevent this.
- Would be an idea to meet with members after the elections to discuss future plans.
- Did Waterways Ireland have any plans for the dry dock in Athy.
- Could cameras be used at dry dock.
- Issue with fencing and dumping adjacent to housing estate, was that under their remit.

Mr G Bayley advised that currently there was no official date but would be hopeful that the Blueway would open by the middle of 2025.

They did receive notice of issues with sulkies, this was prior to installation of gates, no reports in last number of weeks. This would be monitored.

Gates that had been installed were accessible for bikes, wheelchairs and pedestrians. An alternative would be looked at if issues with sulky racing continued.

Waterways Ireland did have jurisdiction to remove animals from their land but it took time. Resources were tight.

Waterways Ireland jurisdiction ended north of the Horsebridge, they had no jurisdiction on that side of the river but Waterways Ireland would be eager to take on that area but unsure whose remit it was under.

Once the Blueway was completed, it would need to be accredited first. There was a Blueway Board responsible for that. Once that was completed, Failte Ireland would run a marketing campaign. Would also work with Kildare County Council on that.

Regarding plans for the dry dock, Waterways would be interested in discussing this with councillors. Cameras would not be an option for this area.



Pump out station works would be carried out.

The members and District Manager agreed that the new elected council coming in would need to meet with Waterways Ireland to discuss plans/projects and work together to achieve goals.

**AY05/0524**

**Reassignment of LPT**

The members considered the considered the reassignment of LPT 2024.

The District Manager went through reassignment of the following LPT:

- Reallocation of grant of €2,5000 from Kildangan Community Association from 2023 to go to Kildangan Community Hall Committee.
- Reallocation of €42,610 from pay parking, previously agreed that it be readjusted from Andrew Amenity Site code to Roads Code.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley and seconded by Councillor Keatley that the reassignment of LPT 2024 be agreed.

**AY06/0524**

**Footpath from Kilberry School to Cloney Bridge**

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

That the council installs a footpath from Kilberry School to Cloney Bridge, Athy and provide a timeframe for the footpath repairs/installation in Kilberry Estate.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that there are no plans to carry out footpath construction to Cloney Bridge. A survey will be undertaken and hazards identified and repaired





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Councillor Leigh advised that there was a need for a footpath, road was extremely busy. Had been promised works to two footpaths in Kilberry Estate back in April, when would works be carried out.

Councillor Breslin supported the motion and said a lot of work had been done in Kilberry but a link from Cloney Bridge to the school was needed. Money needed to be put aside for this.

Mr K Dunne advised that he would get back to Councillor Leigh with a timeline for footpath upgrades in Kilberry Estate.

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

The members took item 8 and 12 together.

### **AY07/0524**

#### **Item 8**

##### **Footpaths in Kingsgrove/Graysland Estate**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
That the council replaces footpaths in Kingsgrove, Athy and the estate be put on the schedule of works.

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 a survey will be undertaken and hazards identified and repaired.

#### **Item 12**

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



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Can the council provide a timeframe for installation of new footpaths in Kingsgrove/Graysland Estate, Athy?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that this estate is not currently on the list for 2024. A survey will be done and can be added to the list of works for 2025, subject to funding.

The members raised the following:

- Kingsgrove was an older estate with older residents.
- Tar over footpaths had worn away.
- Funding would need to be identified for this.
- Hopeful to see it in 2025 schedule of works.

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

### **AY08/0524**

#### **Footpaths in Avondale Drive, Athy**

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

That the council replaces footpaths in Avondale Drive, Athy and the estate be put on the schedule of works.

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 a survey will be undertaken and hazards identified and repaired.

The members raised the following:

- This was an older estate.
- A lot more residents out walking since the opening of the Athy Distributor Road.
- Could this be looked at.



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

**AY09/0524**

**Footpaths in Dun Brinn, Athy**

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

That the council carries out an inspection of the footpaths in Dun Brinn, Athy and any remedial works be identified.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that a survey will be undertaken and hazards identified and repaired.

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

**AY10/0524**

**Relining Road at Cross Keys, Kildangan**

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

That the council carries out relining to the road at Cross Keys, Kildangan

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that works have been forwarded to the contractor for re-lining of the junction.

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



**AY11/0524**

**Timeline for the Roadworks to commence in Kilkea**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.  
Can the council provide a timeline for the roadworks to commence in Kilkea?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members works will be carried out during the summer when school holidays are in place.

The report was noted.

**AY12/0524**

**Lights from the Footpath across from Dunbrinn down past Etex towards the Blueway**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
Can the council provide an update on the request submitted to KLIPS for lights from the footpath across from Dunbrinn down past Etex towards the Blueway?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the public lighting section have requested the maintenance contractor to submit a quotation for the works. However, no funding source has been identified.

Councillor Dooley advised that funding would need to be set aside by new elected councillors prior to the wintertime. Could a quotation on works be provided so there would be some idea how much would be needed.

The report was noted.

**AY13/0524**

**Improvement and Enhancement Works to the Pedestrian Crossing in Nurney**

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



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Can the council give a timeframe for when improvement and enhancement works will take place to the pedestrian crossing in Nurney?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that this is in the Municipal District offices schedule of works. We will update the Members once we have a definite timeframe in place.

Councillor Breslin mentioned that each of the members had received correspondence on this matter especially from children in the area. Could this be put on the schedule of works and a funding source could be looked at.

The report was noted.

### **AY14/0524**

#### **Tourist Office in the Heritage Centre**

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

Can the council confirm if provision has been made for the Tourist Office within the Heritage Centre and if so, could drawings be made available to the members?

A report was received from Strategic Projects and Public Realm informing the members that a dedicated Tourist Office is not included in the Plans for the Shackleton Museum, this was agreed very early in the project proposals. There is a dedicated reception area and this could double up to provide Tourism information to visitors attending the Museum.

Councillor Behan stated that it was a pity there was no dedicated tourist space but the office would be useful. Tourism was such a vital part of Athy and it was important that information was made available.

The report was noted.

### **AY15/0524**



### **Invitation to Clondalkin Equine Club**

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

That this council issues an invitation to Clondalkin Equine Club to address members at the July municipal district meeting.

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

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

The members raised the following:

- There was a lot of activity in the town with horses.
- Ponies were being used for sulky racing.
- A lot of people were working in the equine industry in County Kildare.
- The equine problem in Athy needed to be looked at. Could be due to lack of proper equine knowledge.
- Issues keep reoccurring.
- Council backed initiative in Clondalkin, could learn something from visit.
- Could the community guard Sean O'Mahoney also be invited to attend.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Behan and seconded by Councillor Breslin that a letter would issue to Clondalkin Equine Club and community guard Sean O'Mahoney inviting them to an upcoming Municipal District meeting.

### **AY16/0524**

#### **Taking in Charge of Abbeylands, Castledermot**

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

Can the council confirm when Abbeylands in Castledermot will be taken in charge?

A report was received from Building and Development Control informing the members that a formal Taking in Charge Request has never been received for the Abbeylands Estate, Castledermot and therefore the Taking in Charge process remains outstanding. The original developer is now dissolved, and no bond funding remains for this development.



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Notwithstanding this the Development Control Section intervened on an emergency basis to clear a recent foul sewer blockage that appears to have been caused by tree root ingress. Further investigations will be required to ascertain to full condition of the foul network in the development and a Site Resolution Plan (SRP) and funding agreement will be required with Uisce Eireann prior to Taking in Charge proceeding. Based on the availability of funding the survey of the foul network will be examined in 2024.

Councillor B Dooley advised that issues had been raised over the last number of weeks, that area would have to be looked at. No Section 180, Councillor Leigh gave the residents appropriate documentation, and they were in the process of completing the forms.

The report was noted.

### **AY17/0524**

#### **Taking in Charge of Corran Ard Estate, Athy**

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

Can the council confirm when the taking in charge process of Corran Ard Estate, Athy will commence?

A report was received from Building and Development Control informing the members that the Taking Charge Process for Corran Ard has commenced. A site resolution plan (SRP) was agreed with Uisce Eireann in 2023. Works have been undertaken in the estate to bring public utilities up to an appropriate Taking in Charge standard including:

- Works to Estate entrance
- Works to alleviate surface water ponding.

Further works are required to footpaths that have been damaged by tree roots. These works will proceed in 2024 and it is envisaged the estate will be Taken in Charge by year end (2024). The Taking Charge Process for Corran Ard has commenced. A site resolution plan (SRP) was agreed with Uisce Eireann in 2023. Works have been undertaken in the estate to bring public utilities up to an appropriate Taking in Charge standard including:

- Works to Estate entrance



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- Works to alleviate surface water ponding.

Further works are required to footpaths that have been damaged by tree roots. These works will proceed in 2024 and it is envisaged the estate will be Taken in Charge by year end (2024).

Councillor Breslin thanked the development control team and paid tribute to the work the section had carried out. They had brought lots of issues with estates to a resolution over the last number of years. Estates had been left in dreadful conditions by developers, building and development control had fixed many issues in South Kildare. Asked that Prusselstown Green be looked at next.

The report was noted.

### AY18/0524

#### Tidy Towns and Cemetery Maintenance Grant 2024

The members considered the proposed grant allocations for Tidy Towns groups and Cemetery Maintenance for 2024.

#### Tidy Town Grants

Athy MD	Tidy Towns Group	2024 Grant
	Athy	€11,000
	Castledermot	€1,818
	Kilmead	€1,136
	Calverstown	€1,136
	Ballitore	€1,136
	Narraghmore	€1,136
	Nurney	€1,136
	Kilkea	€1,136
	Moone	€1,136
	Total	€20,770

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Behan that the tidy town grants 2024 be approved.





### Cemetery/Graveyard Maintenance Grants

Athy MD	Cemetery/Graveyard	Total Grant 2024
	Aldreigh Cemetery	€370
	St. Mary's Burial Ground (Paupers Burial Ground)	€370
	Athy Cemeteries (Old St. Michael's Graveyard)	€2,970
	Ballaghmoon Cemetery	€370
	Ballybracken	€1,070
	Burtown Cemetery	€370
	Levitstown	€265
	Churchtown, Athy (OLD)	€1,335
	Coltstown	€1,485
	Dunmanogue	€370
	Fontstown	€475
	Geraldine Cemetery	€370
	Glasseally	€370
	Moone Graveyard	€430
	Nurney Old Graveyard	€370
	St. James Church Graveyard	€265
	Moone Abbey	€430
	St. Ita's Kilmead	€890
	Gormanstown	€595
	Narraghmore Church Cemetery	€295
	Churchtown, Athy (NEW)	€1,070
	Crookstown	€1,260
	Nicolastown Cemetery	€335
	Timolin Cemetery	€295
	Harristown Cemetery (Nurney)	€595
	Duneany Graveyard	€200
	Total	€17,220

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Behan that the Cemetery/Graveyard maintenance grants 2024 be approved.

#### AY19/0524

#### Sewerage System in Ballitore

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



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That the council inspects the sewerage system in Ballitore to ascertain why there are constant issues with blockages in Mill View Housing Estate and on Mill Lane.

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

The Meetings Administrator advised that he had been in communication with the Housing Department who were issuing an updated report, and would liaise with the relevant staff and come back to Councillor Leigh with an update.

Councillor Leigh looked forward to an update on the matter.

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

The District Manager wished each of the members the best of luck in the upcoming elections and thanked them for their collaboration over the past number of months.

The meeting concluded.