



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 21 October 2024
in the Council Chamber**

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

Online: Councillor V Behan.

Officials Present: Ms J McNabb (A/District Manager), Mr K Dunne (District Engineer), Ms E Hanlon (Head of Finance), Mr B Leonard (Administrative Officer), Mr D Conlan (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Ms A Corbett (Local Community Safety Partnership Coordinator), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Ms E Price (Administrative Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

Councillor Breslin proposed a suspension of Standing Orders for fifteen minutes to allow the meeting to commence at 10.15 a.m. This was seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members.

AY01/1024

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.



AY02/1024

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes the Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 16 September 2024 and the progress report was noted.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all members that the minutes of the Athy Municipal District meeting held on 16 September 2024 be adopted and the progress report be noted.

AY03/1024

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 Rathsallagh – completed.

R418 – Kilkea Village – works in progress.

L8079 – R418 to Bolgers Cross – completed.

L8079 – Bolgers Cross to Burtown Cross – completed.

L8080 – Grangenolvin – completed.

L8076 – Rosetown Snugburrow – completed.

L8040 – Back Moone – completed.

L8045 – Commonstown Killelan – completed.

L8031 – Milltown – completed.

L8094 – Coltstown Knockfield – completed.



Municipal District Restoration Maintenance Works – RM Program

R448 – Moyle Abbey to Inchaquire – completed.

R417 –Levitstown to Maganey – completed.

L8008 – Calverstown to Narraghmore – completed.

L8069 – Geraldine Clogorrow – completed.

L4007 – Geraldine Road towards Skerries North – completed.

L4008 – Gallowshill – completed.

L8044 – Moone to Killelan – completed.

L8042 – Bolgers Cross to Belan – completed.

L8062 – Goulyduff – completed.

L4006 – Woodstock North Kilcrow – completed.

L4006 – Goulyduff to County Boundary – completed.

L8031 – Milltown Cardington – completed.

Ballyhade Area – completed.

Grading edges of all Restoration Maintenance (RM) roads listed – completed.

Local Improvement Schemes

Grangecoor – completed.

Golf Amenity Area – completed.

Community Involvement Schemes

No update for 2024.

Footpath Upgrades / Surveys

Convent Lane – completed.

Ballyroe – completed.

Kilmead Newline Road – completed.

Kilmead Newline Grove – completed.

Ballitore Main Road and junction – surveying and design works.

Barnhill – Report received and under review.



Surveys are underway in a number of estates.

Prussellstown – completed.

Janeville – completed.

Installing pedestrian crossing points in Mansfield Grove – completed.

Castleroe West – Footpaths complete, Surfacing in progress

Abbylands Castledermot – completed.

Crookstown – under Construction

Cardington – under construction

Skenagun – tender awarded

Narraghmore – Tender awarded works to start mid-November.

Signage Works

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District.

Upgrading signage on completed resurfaced roads – ongoing.

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.

Completed renewing of signage to Corballis Crossroad.

Installed new stop sign in Towns Park, Athy – completed.

Commence signage renewal to Barrowhouse Road bend – completed.

Repairs carried out to signage on the Tullow Road – completed.

Geraldine Cross – completed.

Fontstown Crossroads – under construction

Skenagun: Approach signs – under construction

Road Markings

Upgrading road junction markings.

Upgraded road marking in Calverstown Village – completed.

Rheban Manor – completed.



Kildangan Cross – completed.

Corballis Cross – completed.

Barrow house Road – completed.

Convent View – completed.

All RM roads are now completed

School zones have started in Castledermot

School Zone Kilkea – to be completed

Moone – tender awarded

Skenagun – tender awarded

Ardcoil low-cost scheme – under construction

Maganey junction – tender awarded.

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 Mullaghreehan.

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.

Boherbaun Culvert Works – tender awarded

Road Patching

Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing.

Nurney R415 centre line repairs.

N78 – Athy.

Maganey – completed.



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.

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 the huge body of work they had carried out and continued to work on.
- What was the update on works in Crookstown.
- Was there a timeline for the completion of works in Narraghmore.
- There had been a previous commitment to investigate drainage issues in Woodlands, was there an update on that.

The District Engineer advised the members of the following:

- Works in Crookstown would start in the next two weeks.
- The start date for Narraghmore was currently 18 November with an aim to have works completed by Christmas.
- He would look into the issue in Woodlands and get to the members.

The report was noted.



AY04/1024

Nomination to Local Community Safety Partnership

The members considered the appointment of one representative from the Athy Municipal District to the Local Community Safety Partnership.

Councillor Dooley proposed Councillor Breslin as the representative from Athy Municipal District and this was seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all members present.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all members that Councillor Breslin be appointed to the Local Community Safety Partnership.

AY05/1024

Pedestrian Crossing on Woodstock Street, Athy

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

That the council installs a pedestrian crossing on Woodstock Street, 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 the Municipal District Office are looking at a preliminary design for this crossing and have issued this design to the Traffic Control Department and Public Realm for comment. However, there is currently no funding stream identified for this work.

Councillor Breslin noted the reply. Woodstock Street needed a huge body of work. This issue had been raised many times. There were many vulnerable road users along the street and it was vital that it be made safe. A bigger plan was needed, Public Realm also needed to be involved in plans. This area could potentially be looked at for an Active Travel Project. There had previously been a commitment from the District Manager to meet onsite.



The members raised the following:

- A signalled pedestrian crossing was badly needed at Shrewleen mainly to assist the Kare service users.
- Car parking spaces were also an issue.
- There were speeding issues on that street, speed reduction measures were needed.
- This area needed a master plan.
- Funding needed to be identified.
- If the HGV restrictions were put in place on the Main Street it could have a knock on effect for Woodstock Street.
- This area should be a priority project and needed to be made safer.

Ms J McNabb advised that the District Manager had agreed to meet with the members on site in the coming weeks to discuss the issues raised.

The District Engineer would require €100,000 funding to start works.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that funding sources from Active Travel could be challenging, he would speak to the team.

Mr D Conlan advised that they were currently dealing with the other side of the river, phase two would be Woodstock Street but a funding source was needed.

Councillor Breslin asked the representatives from the Transport Department to come back to the members with an update.

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

The members took item 6 and 11 together.



AY06/1024

Five Axle/HGV Ban in the Town of Athy

Item 6

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

That the council investigates all measures including a HGV ban to remove all HGVs from the N78 Main Street, Athy.

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

Item 11

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

Can the council confirm if it has any plans to introduce a five axle/HGV ban in the town of Athy?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that Kildare County Council are in agreement that this should be investigated as a priority. Works are ongoing to prepare drawings for a HGV ban and will be circulated to the members in due course.

The members raised the following:

- HGV's were regularly using the Main Street. The Town was being blocked up.
- Could Google Maps be an issue and directing traffic that way.
- Athy Town needed to be accessible and safe to walk and cycle and carry out business efficiently.
- Looked forward to the design.
- Could the team sit down in the coming weeks to look at drawings.
- Could all measures be investigated, a ban would be very strong as there were many local businesses who would be getting deliveries etc.
- Restrictions were needed but possibly not a full ban.
- Had there been issues raised regarding the roundabout on the Kilkenny Road.



Mr D Conlan advised that they had investigated the roundabout on the Kilkenny Road through a swept path analysis and had been advised that it was up to satisfactory standards. The HGV restrictions were one item that the Transport Department would like to see brought forward. The first step would be a trial of a one way system in the town alongside a HGV restriction.

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

The members took item 7 and 10 together.

AY07/1024

Road Safety Audit of the Junction on the Main Castledermot/Baltinglass Road

Item 7

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley.
That the council carry out a road safety audit of the junction on the main Castledermot/Baltinglass road (L4015) where the by-road to Colstown/ Ballycollane joins, with recommendations to enhance safety for road users.

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

Item 10

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin.
Can the council confirm any plans to upgrade the junction on the main Castledermot/Baltinglass road (L4015) where the by-road to Colstown/ Ballycollane joins.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Department of Transport Support Office (DoTSO) have just completed the Round 2 - Regional and Local Road Network Safety Analysis under the Location of Interest project. The Municipal District Office will endeavour to implement the



proposed measures as part of the 2025 works programme subject to resources and funding.

Councillor B Dooley advised that the members had received complaints from a resident, this were issues at that junction. He advised that he was happy with the report and glad to see that it would be on the 2025 works programme.

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

AY08/1024

Footpath Works and Resurfacing in St Dominic's Park, Athy

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

That the council proceeds with footpath works and resurfacing in St Dominic's Park, Athy.

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 2024 funding streams are currently fully allocated, however, Kildare County Council will endeavour to incorporate this as part of our 2025 works programme, subject to resources and funding.

Councillor Leigh advised that this was an older estate that had been built in the 1950's. He thought the footpaths had been redone sometime in the 1980's, he was happy with the report.

The members raised the following:

- This estate needed better accessibility as there were many older residents.
- This work would allow better accessibility back into the town.
- There had previously been works carried out to the back lanes.
- They looked forward to the footpaths being redone.



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

AY09/1024

Funding for Feasibility Study at Rathstewart, Athy

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

That the council applies for funding for a feasibility study for a footbridge/cycleway at Rathstewart, Athy through the NTA Active Travel Scheme.

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 current programme of schemes being examined by Kildare County Council that are funded by the National Transport Authority (NTA) has been streamlined in recent years to better fit the annual allocation of around €10 Million per annum. Given that the total estimated cumulative cost for existing projects is in excess of €130 Million, the programme for the next ten years consists of existing schemes being designed and constructed.

It is therefore not reasonable nor practical to add additional schemes to the Active Travel portfolio without a consequential increase in funding and resources from the Department of Transport.

Councillor Leigh noted that he had this motion down many times and had been promised work would be done. It was very frustrating that there had been no movement on it. There were no other active travel projects in South Kildare and felt that this was a reasonable request. A Feasibility study should be carried out.

The members raised the following:

- There had previously been a footbridge in the LAP and it had to be taken out due to technicality.
- The language used in the report was very disappointing.



- This project ticked all the boxes when it came to active travel/sustainable transport.
- This bridge would help to alleviate the school traffic???
- This would provide safe access from the town to school??
- A strong message needed to be sent to the NTA.
- The Main Street in Athy needed to be more accessible.
- There had been no projects in South Kildare from the Active Travel Department, very disappointing.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that the department agreed it was a worthwhile project but had to be realistic on available funding. This project would also be more complicated as it would require going to An Bord Pleanála. He agreed to feedback the members issues to the Senior Engineer. He would also check if a Feasibility Study had already been carried out.

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

AY10/1024

Resurface Lanes at the Back of Greenhills, Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.
Can the council confirm if there are any plans to resurface the lanes at the back of Greenhills, Athy

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that there are currently no plans for resurface works on these lanes as the funding for 2024 is exhausted.

Councillor Leigh thanked the team for the report, there was a fair bit of work to be carried out and it had previously been discussed by the Housing SPC to try alleviate anti social behaviour. Could the Housing Section look into this too.

The report was noted.



AY11/1024

Housing List Report

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

Can the council provide a report of the waiting lists for housing in this Municipal District with a breakdown of each area and the number of applicants?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that The I-House reporting system reports on an applicant's area of choice in this Municipal District area and not where they currently live.

While it is not possible to choose from the I-House system the Municipal District area as all the individual townlands in this area would need to be included, for the purpose of this report the larger towns/townland in this Municipal District area are listed below.

Athy - 797

Ballitore - 75

Ballyroe - 22

Calverstown - 35

Castledermot - 111

Castlemitchell/Castlerheban/Churchtown - 32

Castleroe/Levistown/Maganey - 17

Kilberry - 48

Kilkea - 28

Kilmead - 27

Moone/Timolin - 42

Narraghmore - 27

Nurney - 71

Councillor Leigh expressed disappointment at the lack of progress regarding the delivery of social housing within the Municipal District. He asked what was the percentage of those listed as being in receipt of housing support.

Ms E Price advised that a body of work would have to be undertaken to ascertain the figure.



The report was noted.

AY12/1024

Athy Draft Budget Plan 2025

The members considered the Athy Draft Budget Plan 2025.

Ms. Hanlon informed the members that Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 requires that a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District be prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive and submitted for consideration by the Municipal District members for each Municipal District. This Draft Budgetary Plan contains the discretionary funding which is made available to Municipal District members.

The Act requires that the Chief Executive, in determining the resources to be made available to each Municipal District in the Draft Budgetary Plan shall have regard to:

- The needs and resources available or likely to be available to the Local Authority and
- Resource needs of each Municipal District

The Act provides that the Draft Budgetary Plan shall set out the General Municipal Allocation and shall be considered at a meeting within the prescribed period, but no later than 10 days prior to the Local Authority budget meeting.

The Act also provides that it is a reserved function of the members of a Municipal District to adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan either with or without amendment. If the Members of a Municipal District do not adopt a Draft Budgetary Plan the Chief Executive may take account of the Draft Budgetary Plan, as presented to the members of that Municipal District, without amendment.

The total provision allocation for the General Municipal Allocation for 2025 is €20,788,655, of which €5,085,749 is based on the retained LPT as voted for by Members in September.

The total provisional General Municipal Allocation for the Athy Municipal District was €3,445,738 (€2,856,280 in 2024)

The Budget had been set for 20 November, with a Teams briefing on the 13 November.



There had been no new valuations received in 2023. However, there would be some buoyancy.

Councillor B Dooley asked if the €87,000 pay parking money could be taken back into LPT.

Ms E Hanlon advised that the €87,000 could not be taken back into LPT but it could be used for footpaths, roads etc.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all members that the Athy Draft Budget Plan for 2025 be approved.

AY13/1024

Repair Works to the Perimeter Wall of St Michaels Old Cemetery

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley.
That the council carry out repair works to the perimeter wall of St Michaels Old Cemetery, where over time the wall has collapsed and is now being used as a run through and will only deteriorate further.

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

A report was received informing the members that the Environment Department will follow up and look to have the works carried out prior to year-end.

The members raised the following:

- Aesthetically it did not look well.
- Older people visited that cemetery regularly.
- Dumping and antisocial behaviour could potentially become an issue.

Mr K Kavanagh advised that the council was predisposed to undertake the work. He referenced how challenging it was to secure a building contractor.



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

AY14/1024

Glass Bottles Recycling in Castledermot

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

Can the council confirm if there is a facility for glass bottles recycling in Castledermot for members of the public?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the council is willing to examine any potential sites in Castledermot that the members may wish to suggest. Constraints on alternative sites typically include:

- Access for service vehicles.
- Absence of overhead cables.
- Setback of 50 metres from any residences.

Councillor Dooley advised that he had been trying to identify a location for the bottle banks to no avail but would continue to try and source a suitable location. If possible could any lands already in the ownership of the Council be used.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.