



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 15 June 2026
in the Council Chamber.**

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

Members Online: Councillor B Dooley

Apologies: Councillor V Behan

Officials Present: Mr A Dunney (District Manager), Mr K Dunne (District Engineer), Mr T Shanahan (Senior Executive Officer), Mr D Conlan (A/Senior Engineer) Ms P Comerford (Administrative Officer) Ms M McCarthy (Administrative Officer), Mr L McNeela (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Administrator) Mr A Foran (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Keatley welcomed everyone to the June meeting of the Athy Municipal District.

AY01/0626

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.



AY02/0626

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 18 May 2026 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday 18 May 2026 be adopted and the progress report be noted.

AY03/0626

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 currently added in Athy Municipal District (MD).

Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RI Program

- R417 Bert Cross to Kilberry, Complete
- R415 Fontstown to Oldgrange, Complete
- L8097 Ballyraggan Knockfield, Complete
- L80461 Bolton Area, Complete
- L8051 Marshalstown, Complete
- L8014 Coolavash, Complete
- Tankardstown L8095 Complete
- L8065 Fort Barrington, Tendered, pending funding



Municipal District Restoration Maintenance Works – RM Program

- L4016 Castledermot to Carrigeen crossroads repairs, ongoing
- R417 Grangemellon to Ardree
- L4016 Castledermot to Carigeen

Local Improvement Schemes

No update for 2026.

Community Involvement Schemes

No update for 2026.

Footpath Upgrades / Surveys

- Forrest Park to be tendered

Signage Works

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District

Cleaning of signs around the Municipal District commenced.

Road Markings

Road studs to be fitted to Regional Rds – under construction

Restoration Improvement programme under construction.

Drainage Works

Jetting drainage lines on various roads – ongoing.

Cleaning gullies – ongoing.

Carrying out water cuts along roads – ongoing.

Road Patching

Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing.



Street Sweeping

Street sweeping to areas – ongoing.

Bin collection – ongoing.

Community Works

General Maintenance

Hedge cutting commenced along the regional road junctions

Hedge cutting on junction sightlines.

Preparation works for RI and RM works

Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance hedge cutting completed

Road edges being repaired. ongoing

The report was noted.

AY04/0626

Capital Programme 2026

Councillor Keatley noted that the Capital Programme was sent to members and invited members to discuss the Capital Programme 2026-2028.

The members noted the items that were progressed and asked for clarification on some aspects of the following in relation to the Capital Programme 2026-2028:

- N78 works - timeline of works
- Ardrew - are the team appointed
- Circular Economy Hub
- Active Travel, disconnect with Climate Change budgets.

Mr D. Conlan, A/Senior Engineer informed the members that in relation to the N78 works this is the preferred option and will be progressed as soon as possible and should be before



the end of the year. The District Manager informed the members that in relation to Adrew design the team are appointed and it will be a phased delivery, the flood relief scheme is at preliminary design stage and should have progressed by quarter one in 2027. In relation to the Circular Economy Hub a funding application for Just Transition is in progress.

The discussion concluded.

AY05/0626
Annual Meeting 2026

The members agreed that the Athy Municipal District, Annual Meeting will take place in the Council Chamber on Monday, 20 July at 10.00 am followed by the monthly meeting, commencing at 10.30am.

AY06/0626
One Way System, L40071

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

That the council considers making the L40071, Court Road, Gallow Hill a one-way system past the Clanard Court Hotel.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Kildare County Council will consider the introduction of a one way system in the context of other changes to the road network in and around Athy to restrict HGV access.

Councillor Leigh thanked the department for the report and noted the road in question is approximately 600 meters in length and is being used by HGVs and that the speed limit signs on the road are inadequate.



Councillor Breslin noted that the road is narrow, that people walk and children cycle on this road and asked that this be looked at as a priority.

Councillor Dooley noted that local residents are supportive of a one way system.

The A/Senior Engineer informed the members that he was happy to meet Councillor Leigh on site.

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all members that the report be noted.

AY07/0626

Proposed Roundabout Works, Athy

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

That the council carries out works to the layout of the roundabout at the junction of the Kilkenny Road and the Athy Distributor Road to improve road safety.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that a design for the proposed works has been completed and is currently going through an approvals process with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) as the works are on a section of national road. The intention is to complete these works as soon as this approval is in place.

Councillor Breslin noted that it may be easier to break this issue into sections and work on them individually, four years after the road was opened HGVs are still going through Athy.

Councillor Keatley noted that this was spoken about previously and should have been fixed when the road was being completed. It is extremely frustrating to see a €40 million project



that has lines on a road incorrectly placed and a roundabout designed wrongly on one of the busiest junctions in Athy. He advised that consultants and engineers have got this design wrong, as a 40-foot trailer cannot get around the roundabout and looks forward to this issue being progressed.

Mr D Conlan, A/Senior Engineer advised that the design is done and the process is being followed, and will push to get this done as quickly as possible.

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

AY08/0626

Boundary Wall Survey, Ballitore

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

That the council carries out a survey of the old stone boundary wall adjacent to the Abbeyfield Estate, Ballitore, with a view to carrying out restoration and remedial works to the wall.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that the land in question, of which the stone wall is a constituent, is not yet in the ownership of Kildare County Council. The conveyancing process is ongoing. Consideration of the wall will form part of the overall plan for the said land.

Councillor Breslin thanked the department for the reply and welcomed the fact that the land is undergoing conveyancing but asked that a survey be carried out as it is the main wall into the town. Councillor Breslin asked that any works would include works to make it safer.

Councillor Keatley noted that it was very disappointing to see the site still in a derelict state and requested that the Meetings Administrator refer the matter to the Housing department to progress.



It was agreed that the Housing representative seek an answer to questions raised and revert to members.

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

AY09/0626

Kilkea Bridge, Traffic Counter Feedback

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

Can the council explore the addition of parking costs and location information to the tourist information boards throughout Athy Town.

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the traffic counter information has been reviewed, and several options are currently under consideration for deployment at this location. A further update will be provided once this option selection process is complete.

The report was noted.

AY10/0626

Addition to the Road Maintenance Programme

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

Can the council add the road L8021, Ardellis to the road maintenance programme?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the traffic counter information has been reviewed, and several options are currently under



consideration for deployment at this location. A further update will be provided once this option selection process is complete.

Councillor Leigh asked if this can be added to the appropriate road maintenance schedule.

The Municipal District Engineer noted that he will have a look at this.

The report was noted.

AY11/0626

Footpath, Old Dublin Road, Athy

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

Can the council provide an update on the development of a footpath from Conlan's Garage to the Clanard Court Hotel, Old Dublin Road, Athy

A report was received informing the members that the Transportation Department informing the members that the Athy Municipal District office is currently investigating an alternative solution that requires a design and a section 38.

The report was noted.

AY12/0626

As Councillor Behan was not in attendance this motion fell.

AY13/0626

Establishment of Food Market, Athy

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

Can the council provide an update on the establishment of a food market at Emily Square, Athy?



A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that Funding has recently been secured from the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine for the establishment of a food market in Athy. This funding is specifically allocated for the purchase of 12 pop-up gazebos and associated branding to support the market's development. Procurement for the market infrastructure is currently underway. However, the detailed operational arrangements for the Athy Market have not yet been finalised and remain subject to further cross-departmental consultation to agree key operational elements, the staffing and resourcing arrangements for the market. To further note that this funding is time bound and all expenditure must be completed, and a full report submitted to the Department, by mid-September. This places a clear requirement on the Council to progress both procurement and implementation within this timeframe.

Councillor Breslin noted that there are a number of people who are interested and asked who they can contact in relation to this and noted the positive report and how it will be a bonus to the town of Athy.

The District Manager informed the members that Ruadhri McLoughlin was the best person to contact in relation to this.

The report was noted.

AY14/0626

Zoned industrial lands in Athy Municipal District

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

That the council provides information on the extent in acres of zoned industrial lands in the town of Athy.

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



A report was received from the Forward Planning, Policy and Heritage and Nature Department informing the members that Section 6.3 of the Athy Local Area Plan outlines the Economic Development Strategy for the town over the LAP plan period and beyond. The Plan states that “it is the policy of the Council to support the development of Athy as the enterprise and employment hub for south County Kildare, increase employment located within the town, reduce rates of commuting and ensure new employment development contributes towards reducing carbon output”. The Plan makes provision for 54.9 hectares of undeveloped land zoned for employment purposes which relates to lands zoned for employment such as industrial warehousing. Table 6.3 of the Plan provides further information in relation to the location of the main employment areas in Athy and the quantity of zoned undeveloped land available for employment uses and it is of significance to note that in addition to the main employment zoning categories such as Enterprise, Industry and Warehousing, there are other zoning categories which allow for employment creation in relation to leisure activities and various commercial uses.

Councillor Dooley thanked the department for the report and noted that there is 54.9 hectares of undeveloped land zoned for employment purposes and requested the IDA be asked how many business or employers that have brought or been in touch with, in relation to the Athy Municipal District. People have been ringing all members about lands in the area, the development of industrial lands is a key area to be explored.

Councillor Keatley supported the motion and enquired as to why 54.9 hectares of undeveloped land is not being utilised for existing business as well as new Industries and asked if something can be brought to the SPC.

Councillor Breslin noted that there is confidence in Athy and pride in the work done in Athy noting that members all have been contacted by businesses who cannot get land to expand. Unless something can be done, these businesses are going to go elsewhere.

The District Manager advised that he would contact the IDA.



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

AY15/0626

Land Zoned for residential housing in Athy Town and Castledermot

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

That the council provides an update on the extent in acres, of land, currently zoned for residential housing in Athy Town and Castledermot but with no planning application made and lands not being used.

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

A report was received from the Forward Planning, Policy and Heritage and Nature Department informing the members that there are three sites in Athy, totalling 8.01ha and five in Castledermot, totalling 6.04ha zoned for residential development with no extant permissions.

Councillor Dooley noted that his worry is that people are sitting on lands and not using them and noted that houses need to be built as quickly as possible. Builders are finding issues as well in relation to securing planning permission. Councillor Dooley noted that he will also propose another motion to check if enough land is zoned in Athy at the moment, with continued growth, noting that he does not believe there is, with close to 13,000 in population, 15% growth in Athy and probably the same in Castledermot. Builders should come to members or the council if they have issues and seek help to solve them and get houses built.

Councillor Breslin noted that a discussion with members in the short term to progress this was needed and noted that there may be some cases of some landowners waiting for prices to increase and are holding land.



Councillor Keatley noted that he supported the motion when it came up for discussion in relation to the county development plan, several objectives and policies put in place to ensure land is released and not stockpiled. It is vitally important that during the course of this term to ensure there is room to develop. Every tool at our disposal should be used to ensure land is being utilised.

The District Manager informed the members that the tool that can be used is the resurrection of zoned land tax but exemptions can be put in place with that, noting that he will ask planning to have a look at both sites and give a report.

Councillor Keatley noted that he intends to bring this to the SPC, as current chair, to discuss new policies and how they can be implemented, that landowners know what's expected of them and how to ensure enough development land is available.

Councillor Dooley noted that it is important that people do not sit on land that has been zoned for residential purposes.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all members that the report be noted

AY16/0626

Taking in Charge Gallowshill Estate, Athy

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

Can the council provide an update regarding the taking in charge of Gallowshill Estate, Athy?

A report was received from Building and Development Control Department informing the members that A Taking in Charge (TIC) request for Gallowshill was received in August 2025. Since then, Development Control have engaged with the developer of Gallowshill to progress the TIC process and await the submission of the required surveys and documentation.

Development Control will continue to engage with the developer regarding the completion of any outstanding works including the finished road surface.

Councillor Breslin thanked the Senior Executive Engineer for the report in relation to estates and noted the Team are very helpful and paid tribute to their good work. It seems like the issue is there quite a long time and needs to be progressed at this stage.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Building and Development Control informed the members that there was recent engagement with the developer, things were moving in the right direction with CCTV surveys carried out last week and road resurfacing programming.

The report was noted.

AY17/0626

To note the funding allocation under the LPT-funded Athy Sports Grants 2026.

Athy Municipal District Local Property Tax Sports Grant 2026				
No	Project	Grant Requested	Grant Proposed	
1	Athy Rugby Football Club	Equipment	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,850.00
2	Crookstown Millview Athletics Club	Works to New Facility	€ 20,000.00	€ 20,000.00
3	Clonmullion F.C.	Upgrade of Ball Stops	€ 2,020.00	€ 2,020.00
4	Grangenolvin GFC	Equipment	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,850.00
5	Moone Martial Arts	Safety Equipment	€ 1,448.00	€ 1,448.00
6	Stingrays Swim Club	Training Equipment	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,850.00
7	Athy GFC	Underage Goalposts	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,850.00
8	Athy Hurling Club	Equipment	€ 800.00	€ 800.00
9	Athy Archers Basketball Club	Equipment	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,850.00
10	St Laurence's GAA	Works to Walking Track	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,850.00
11	Mill Celtic AFC	Goalposts	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,850.00
12	Athy Tennis Club	Upgrade of Heating System	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,850.00
13	Athy Badminton Club	Equipment	€ 2,256.00	€ 2,256.00
14	Castledermot Pitch & Putt Club	Maintenance Equipment	€ 2,996.00	€ 2,850.00
15	Gouleyduff megger club	Equipment & Ground Maintenance	€ 3,000.00	€ 1,200.00
16	Moone Celtic FC	Equipment	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,850.00
17	Athy Gymnastics Club	Equipment & Mats	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,850.00
18	Athy Camogie Club	Equipment & School Promotional Programme	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,850.00
19	Castle Villa AFC	Goalposts	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,850.00
20	Castledermot GAA & LGFA	Storage	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,376.00
21	Nurney GAA Club	Works to Grounds	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,850.00
			Total for Approval	€ 70,000.00
			Budget	€ 70,000.00
Funding Not Awarded				
1	Athy RFC Ladies & Girls Section			
2	Athy RFC Minis & Youths Section			
3	Kildangan GAA			
4	South Kildare Pickleball Club			
5	Castlemitchell GFC			
6	Athy Golf Club			



Councillor Keatley noted that there have been a number of meetings with the community Section of the last six weeks or so and it was great to see the list before members today.

The funding allocation under the LPT-funded Athy Sports Grants 2026 was proposed by Councillor Keatley and seconded by Councillor Leigh and noted by all present.

The District Manager thanked Mr C O' Toole in the Community Department for all of his work.

Councillor Keatley noted Athy was the only Municipal District that put forward LPT for sports grants and noted that a good spread countywide geographically speaks loudly of the resources clubs and organisations are getting from allocations of €70,000. Councillor Keatley asked the SEO of the Community Department Mr T Shanahan to pass on his thanks to the team in Community.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that the LPT-funded Sports Grants be noted.

AY18/0626

As Councillor Behan was not in attendance this motion fell.

AY19/0626

Annual Youth Forum

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

That Athy Municipal District establish an Annual Youth Forum to allow secondary school students to bring issues directly to Councillors

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



A report was received from the Corporate Services informing the members that this is a matter for members to decide. The elected Councillors would have to resource and manage such a project.

Councillor Leigh informed the members that young people should have a voice in local government on issues that affect them. It also would offer elected members the opportunity to elected members to understand the needs of the next generation.

Councillor Breslin informed the members that she supported the motion.

Mr T. Shanahan SEO of the Community Department informed the members that this report issued while he was on leave, and he had some further clarifications to add. There is an important and statutory role that Comhairle na nÓg plays , funded directly by the Department of children disability and equality and that is the mechanism that exists for children aged 12 to 17 to interact with both Td's and Councillors Kildare Cór na nÓg is strong too, with 25 schools across the county involved in the AGM this year. Athy has an active district, he advised of the need to use the avenues in existence and maybe could contact Comhairle na nÓg to present to members if appropriate, so members have an opportunity to engage with children in that cohort through the channels in place.

Councillor Leigh asked that the updated report be sent to him.

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

AY20/0626

Update on the Ardrew Community Sports Ground development

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



A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm informing the members that a design team has recently been appointed to progress the scheme to Part 8 stage for planning approval. The project is currently at a very early stage, with a formal kick-off meeting scheduled with the design team on Wednesday, 10 June. Following this initial engagement, we will work collaboratively with the design team to establish a clear programme and roadmap for delivery. This will include setting out an indicative timeline, including an estimated timeframe for the statutory public consultation phase. A further update will be provided once this programme has been developed.

The report was noted.

The Cathaoirleach thanked everyone for attending and thanked the staff for their work.

The meeting concluded.