



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 16 February 2026
in the Council Chamber**

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

Online: Councillor V Behan.

Officials Present: Mr A Dunney (District Manager), Mr K Dunne (District Engineer), Mr M McLoughlin (A/Director of Service), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Mr T Shanahan (Senior Executive Officer), Mr N O’Riordan(A/Chief Fire Officer), Ms M O’Brien (LPT Coordinator), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

The Cathaoirleach proposed the suspension of Standing Orders for five minutes to allow the meeting to commence at 10.05 a.m. This was seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all members present.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the February meeting of the Athy Municipal District.

AY01/0226

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.



AY02/0226

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 19 January 2026, and the progress report was noted.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 19 January 2026, be adopted and the progress report be noted.

AY02A/0226

Emergency Motion re Pilot Scheme on R448 Timolin to Moone

The Cathaoirleach read out a proposed emergency motion from Councillor Breslin. It was proposed by Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Dooley, and agreed by all members.

That this Council requests an urgent meeting with TII to discuss the recently published findings of the Road Safety Audit on the NCN Pilot Scheme - R448 Timolin to Moone.

Councillor Breslin advised that there had been 22 issues highlighted in the safety audit. The members and Kildare County Council staff were receiving backlash from the scheme that they had no part in. There had been over 90 accidents reported. The members had been left in the dark. There was no timescale given. The members and community did not want this scheme. TII need to come before the Chamber within the next two weeks. Who would be responsible for carrying out the safety works, who would be responsible for maintaining the road, these questions needed to be addressed.

The members raised the following:

- Reiterated Councillor Breslin sentiments.
- This pilot project had failed.
- It was alarming to see the comment “vulnerable road users exposed to increased risk” within the safety report.



- €2 million had been spent on the scheme, this was unwanted by the public and elected members.
- Asked that the pilot project and any infrastructure that TII installed to be removed in its entirety.
- Safety, proportionality and common sense must come first to allow this pilot to come to a dignified conclusion.
- A redesigned space that allowed for a high quality walking, jogging and recreational route would restore safety and allow for better connectivity and accessibility.
- Emergency actions needed to be taken.
- Welcomed members of the Moone/Timolin positive action group to the public gallery and thanked them for their ongoing work since last November.
- Needed to ensure safety of all road users.
- The voice of the community and members had not been listened to, these obvious problems had been previously highlighted, but it has taken a safety audit for TII to address these issues.
- Insufficient lighting needed to be addressed.

Mr M McLoughlin advised the following:

- A road safety audit was a standard process. Every road scheme had a safety audit carried out.
- The Transport Department met with TII last week, they had accepted the safety audits findings.
- The designer was drawing up plans to carry out amendments which would include installing more bollards. This would take time to implement. For the interim they would install cones.
- Main works to the project would be carried out in March.
- TII would meet with the members and public.
- The Transport Department would look to install a special speed limit on the road. The current spend was 60kmph but that was not being adhered to in many instances.
- The timescale and cost for this was a matter for TII to answer.



The members further added that:

- Speed surveys should be carried out, when would TII carry out these speed surveys.
- There were construction related issues as well as road issues. There had been cars written off with the condition that the road had been left in.
- Could TII meet with the Members before any further works were carried out.
- Worried the effect of snow could have on that road.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that:

- Kildare County Council would commit to get an assessment on the lighting issue through the KLIPs.
- He would raise the speed survey request with TII.

The District Manager advised that a letter would be drafted and sent to TII in the next few days setting out the matters raised.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members present that a letter be sent to TII.

AY03/0226

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

RI Schedule of works to be determined pending funding allocation

Municipal District Restoration Maintenance Works – RM Program

RM Schedule of works to be determined pending funding allocation.

Local Improvement Schemes

No update for 2026.



Community Involvement Schemes

No update for 2026.

Footpath Upgrades / Surveys

Footpath repair locations to be determined pending funding allocation.

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 Roads – 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.

General Maintenance

Hedge cutting commenced along the regional road junctions

Hedge cutting on junction sightlines.

Preparation works in place for winter maintenance.

Flood prevention measures being implemented.

The members raised the following:

- Regarding the upcoming works on RI schemes, there were three roads in needs of works - the L8104, Bolton Hill and Castledermot town centre to St Johns Estate.
- The bad weather had caused many large potholes around the Municipal District which needed to be looked at.

Mr K Dunne advised that he would arrange to carry out temporary patching works as requested.



The report was noted.

AY04/0226

Athy Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2026

The members considered the Athy Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2026.

Department	Project Details	KCC Central Funding €	Pay Parking Funding €	Retained LPT Funding €
		€2,741,084.00	€48,357.00	€918,013.00
	Pay Parking 2025 Carry Over		€87,081.00	
	1% Rate Increase			€92,282.00
Roads	Roads/Footpath Projects	-	-	
	Local Road Maint (excl pay parking)*	€1,469,882.00		
	Footpaths	€68,335.00		
	Traffic Calming	€21,625.00		
	Signage	€21,625.00		
	Street Cleaning	€613,750.00		
	Public Lighting			€40,000.00
	Local Active Travel			€40,000.00
	Quiet Roads			€30,000.00
	MD Office Projects			
	Meeting Lane Junction with R417 @ Shackleton			€50,000.00
	Road and Footpath Improvements Kildangan			€50,000.00
	Road and Footpath Improvements Ballitore			€50,000.00
	Road and Footpath Improvements Kildare Road Athy			€50,000.00
	Road and Footpath Improvements Woodstock Street			€50,000.00
	Complete Works with Overlays to road surface Narraghmore			€20,000.00
	7 Parking Bays at Castledermot Playground Parking			€35,000.00
	New fence along river at footpath Castledermot			€35,000.00
	Roads Sub Total	€2,195,217.00	€135,438.00	€450,000.00
Parks	Parks			



	Parks & Landscaping	€161,605.00		
	Public Realm Maintenance	€164,000.00		
	Playgrounds	€76,000.00		
	Andrew Amenity Lands 2025-2029 incl			€100,000.00
	Tree Pruning			€20,000.00
	Woodstock Castle Management Plan & method statement			€20,000.00
	Ballyroe Res Assoc solid perm powder steel rail and 2 solid benches			€16,500.00
	Athy Peoples Park			€1,500.00
	Lockable barrier to Woodstock St Open Parks Space for community use			€2,000.00
	Parks Sub Total	€401,605.00		€160,000.00
	Kildare Library Service			
	Water Bottle Filling Station Athy Library			€3,000.00
Libraries	Conservation Report for Ballitore Library			€5,000.00
	Creative Places Athy			€15,000.00
	Music Generation			€10,000.00
	Water Bottle Filling Station Athy Library			€3,000.00
	Methodist Church Athy			€20,000.00
	Libraries Subtotal	€0.00		€53,000.00
	Planning/Heritage			
	Built Heritage Interpretation & Protection			€10,000.00
	Planning/Heritage Subtotal	€0.00		€10,000.00
	Planning/ Biodiversity			
	Renew & Update Ballytore Biodiversity Plan & Upkeep of Athy & Narraghmore CBAP's exp 2028			€2,000.00
	Community Biodiversity Action Plans			€5,000.00
	Planning/Biodiversity Subtotal			€7,000.00
Community	Community			
	Festival Grants	€12,500.00		
	Community Grants - General Projects	€40,000.00		
	Contribution to Athy Kildare Heritage	€50,000.00		
	Residents Association Grants Public Estates	€12,342.00		



	Brigid Festival			€20,000.00
	Community Text Alert			€4,000.00
	Community Development Work 2026			€25,000.00
	Local Community Safety Partnership			€5,000.00
	Age Friendly			€2,000.00
	Educational Bursary Fund			€2,000.00
	Sports Club Grants			€70,000.00
	Athy Town Promoters			€73,050.00
	Active Retirement Association			€1,500.00
	Athy Barrow Blueway Maintenance G Kelly			€3,000.00
	Levistown Community Care Group			€5,000.00
	Levittstown Parents Assoc			€1,000.00
	Young at Heart			€2,000.00
	Castledermot Historical Society - Duckett Family Burial Grounds			€2,000.00
	Athy Alternative Project			€2,000.00
	Marketing Shackleton			€10,000.00
	Athy Community Recreation Hall			€5,000.00
	Womens Integrated Network			€2,000.00
	Aontus Ogra			€6,000.00
	Comharltas Ceoltorai			€5,000.00
	Willow Counselling Services			€10,000.00
	Sing & Sign			€5,304.00
	Kilmead Community Development			€1,058.00
	Ballyshannon Hall			€5,000.00
	Removal of Horses			€10,000.00
	Community Subtotal	€114,842.00		€276,912.00
Climate	Climate Action			
	Climate Action Innovation Fund			€14,000.00
	Corporate Services			
	Coiste Gaeilge			€5,000.00
	Corporate Services Subtotal			€5,000.00
KSP	Sports Partnership			
	KSP Initiatives in Athy MD			€20,000.00
	Sports Partnership Subtotal			€20,000.00
Econ Dev	Economic Development			
	Shopfront & Streetscape Enhancement			€10,000.00



	Economic Development Subtotal			€10,000.00
Accessibility	Accessibility - Health & Safety			
	Kildare Inclusivity Festival			€5,000.00
	Accessibility - Health & Safety Subtotal			€5,000.00
Environment	Environment			
	Tidy Towns Competitions	€20,770.00		
	Sponsored Litter Bins	€8,650.00		
	CCTV Deployment at litter blackspots			€20,000.00
	Christmas Tree Recycling			€4,000.00
	Bring Bank Improvement Works			€20,000.00
	Anti Litter/Dog Fouling awareness			€10,000.00
	Tidy Towns Support			€2,500.00
	Leaf Composting Workshop			€1,500.00
	Cemetery Plots Mapping			€7,500.00
	Environment Subtotal	€29,420.00		€65,500.00
	Housing Regeneration			
	Castledermot Town Centre First			€50,000.00
	Housing Subtotal			€50,000.00
SPPR	SPPR Public Realm			
	Blueway Boundary & Sulky Issues			€10,000.00
	SPPR Small Works			€15,000.00
	Public Realm Subtotal			€25,000.00
	TOTAL	€2,741,084.00	€135,438.00	€1,151,412.00

The members thanked the LPT Coordinator and District Manager for their work on the LPT Schedule of Works for 2026.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that the LPT Schedule of Works for 2026 be adopted.

AY05/0226

Footpath from the Pike Cross, Upper Main Street, Castledermot Down to the Friary Estate

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



That the council completes the footpath from the Pike Cross, Upper Main Street, Castledermot down to the Friary Estate.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District are already looking into these works with the Public Realm team as part of the Castledermot Master Plan.

Councillor Dooley was happy with the report and advised that the members that several committee members had contacted him about Castledermot Town Centre First project.

Councillor Breslin advised that this infrastructure was badly needed in Castledermot.

Councillor Keatley added that €50,000 LPT monies had been allocated to the Town First team to progress the Castledermot project.

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

AY06/0226

Remove Broken Fence at the River Lerr, Castledermot

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

That the council removes the broken fence at the River Lerr, Castledermot which requires repair and replaces with a low willow hedge which would be cheaper than a fence, help with biodiversity and easier to maintain.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office can remove the fence but would request a meeting on site with the councillor and a member of the Parks Department to discuss further works.



Councillor Dooley was happy with the report and advised that the members had previously allocated LPT to the playground which was a huge success and was now looking to enhance the space. Taking on board committee members views.

The members raised the following:

- Any planting would have to take account of biodiversity and compatible root structures.
- Storm damage had caused the fencing at this location to collapse.
- Suggested that the practicality/costs of installing a fence or hedge be looked at.

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

AY07/0226

School Zone at Scoil Náistiúnta Cill Bhearaigh

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Leigh.
That the council places a school zone at Scoil Náistiúnta Cill Bhearaigh, Kilberry.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Dooley.
A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office will investigate the matter, however if the school did not apply for this through the safe routes to schools, a funding source will have to be identified for this work.

Councillor Leigh advised that speed along the R417 was a huge issue, there was a lack of traffic calming measures. Issues were especially bad around school drop off and collection times. The school would be happy to meet with the District Engineer to discuss options. Speed restrictions also needed to be considered. Scoil Náistiúnta Cill Bhearaigh had not applied for the safe routes to schools funding but that should not prevent the council addressing these issues.



Councillor Dooley questioned if there was something further that the members could do to let schools know when that funding was available.

The District Engineer advised that he would be happy to meet with the school.

Councillor Leigh agreed to set up a meeting with the school and District Engineer.

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

AY08/0226

Upkeep of the River Barrow, north of the Horse Bridge

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

That the council relinquishes responsibility for the upkeep of the River Barrow, north of the Horse Bridge, to Waterways Ireland.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the maintenance of the Barrow is the responsibility of Kildare County Council (within our boundaries), with the exception of a section south of the Horse Bridge, where the Grand Canal merges with the Barrow, becoming the Barrow Navigation channel.

Responsibility for maintenance of the River Barrow by the Barrow Drainage Board was established by the Barrow Drainage Act 1927, while responsibility for the management, maintenance, development, and restoration of inland navigable waterways was given to Waterways Ireland in 1999.

The Barrow Drainage Board was abolished in 2014 and responsibility for maintenance reverted to the relevant Local Authorities.

As the River Barrow is identified as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), all maintenance operations must be assessed as appropriate and not detrimental to the Qualifying Interests of the SAC.



The Council has been trialling a weed-cutting boat on the River Barrow from Pass Bridge to Dunrally Bridge in Monasterevin, with some success. It is planned to extend this environmentally appropriate method to the Barrow in Athy, where suitable

Councillor Leigh advised that he had recently requested that the council cut back vegetation at Rathstewart due to concerns, he was advised that the matter was referred to Waterways Ireland, who also advised that it was not within their remit. There were concerns about derelict boats being left on the riverbank which could lead to environmental risks and need to be removed.

Councillor Breslin advised that she had previously asked the Public Realm team to contact Waterways Ireland to set up a meeting with councillors about the number of boats being left there due to no mooring fees in Athy, There had been issues raised regarding the pontoon a number of times. The enhancement of the Blueway needed to be looked at. The ownership of that area needed to be looked at.

Councillor Keatley suggested that through the District Manager correspondence needed to be issued to Waterways Ireland.

The District Manager advised that he would liaise with the Public Realm team and asked Councillor Leigh to send him the matters he wished to raise.

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

AY09/0226

Councillor Breslin withdrew this motion.

AY10/0226

Increases Road Surface Water Management Practices

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

That the council increases its road surface water management practices in this municipal district, to include and not limited to, the clearing of culverts, watercuts and drains.



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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Kildare County Council managed watercuts, culverts and drains are already part of our routine maintenance, however we are happy to meet with the Councillors to put a priority list together of badly affected areas.

Councillor Behan advised that recently she had been inundated with reports of floods and she was aware that signage had been put up. She added that the main areas of concern local to her was in Maganey and the R417. There had been a number of accidents there.

Councillor Dooley thanked the Athy Municipal District team for their ongoing work throughout the flooding and bad weather.

The District Engineer advised the members to contact him if any additional areas of flooding arose.

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

AY11/0226

Repairs and Resurface Roads in Marshalstown and Bolton Hill

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

That the council repairs and resurfaces the secondary roads in Marshalstown and Bolton Hill.

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



A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office will carry out temporary repairs and can confirm that this area is on our surfacing works programme for 2026.

Councillor Keatley advised that the Bolton Abbey Road had subsidence and a number of potholes and asked that works be carried out.

The District Engineer advised that he would install temporary patching in the areas requested.

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

AY12/0226

Letter of Comfort for Moone Celtic Soccer Club

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley.
That the council issues a letter of comfort for Moone Celtic Soccer Club to allow for preparatory works to the entrance and a planning application.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that from a Roads perspective, Kildare County Council can issue a standard letter of comfort confirming that the Club may proceed to prepare a planning application and undertake any necessary design or survey work at their own risk. The letter will note that any proposed entrance works remain subject to the normal planning process, and that the issuing of a letter of comfort does not constitute approval for any works and does not prejudice the statutory assessment by the Planning Department.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that the organisation needed to submit a site layout plan and specific work plan of what would be carried out then the Council would issue a letter of comfort.



Councillor Keatley thanked the team for their support and would speak to Mr M McLoughlin offline regarding the matter.

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

AY13/0226

Remedial Works at the Fair Green in Castledermot

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.
Can the council confirm if it plans to carry out remedial works at the Fair Green in Castledermot for disability parking and parking in general?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that this can be considered under the making of parking bye-laws for Castledermot. Alternatively, it can proceed through the Section 38 process in agreement with the Municipal District Engineer.

The report was noted.

AY14/0226

Replace Footpaths in Forest Park, Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.
Can the council confirm when it plans to replace footpaths in Forest Park, Athy where works were due to begin but were stopped in October?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office are awaiting funding allocations before we can commit to timelines for 2026. We can confirm it is at the top of the list for repair works to be completed.

The report was noted.

AY15/0226



Footpaths in Cois Bhearu, Athy

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

Can the council consider plans to add footpaths in Cois Bhearu, Athy to the footpath restoration list?

A report was received from Transport Department informing the members that this can be added to the list of footpaths to be upgraded; however, we do have a limited funding source for these works.

The report was noted.

AY16/0226

Remedial Works at the Junction of Malone Place and St. Dominic's Park, Athy

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 the roadway at the junction of Malone Place and St. Dominic's Park, Athy?

A report was received from Transport Department informing the members that there are remedial works planned for Woodstock Street.

The report was noted.

AY17/0226

Update on Parking at Motorway Junctions at Prumplestown, Castledermot and Mullamast, Athy

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

Can the council confirm if there has been any progress/update on finding a solution to the parking situation at the municipal district's motorway junctions at Prumplestown, Castledermot and Mullamast, Athy?

A report was received informing the members that Kildare National Roads Office are currently working with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to progress the identification of possible 'Park and Share' sites at three locations along the M9, Junction 3 (Moone, Co



Kildare), Junction 4 (Prumpeelstown, Co Kildare) and Junction 5 (Rathcrogue, Co Carlow). Park and Share sites are a facility where drivers can go to park their vehicle and then share a lift with other private drivers for their onward journey.

Preparation of the Feasibility and Options Reports for the provision of Park and Share facilities has commenced for Junctions 3 and 4 in Co. Kildare. Suitable sites need to be determined in order to complete the Feasibility and Options Reports. This will require discussions with the landowners within the vicinity of the Junctions as these lands are in private ownership. It is proposed that these discussions will commence in Quarter 1 of 2026.

The Feasibility and Options Report for a Park and Share facility at Junction 5: Rathcrogue, Co. Carlow is complete and will be submitted to TII shortly. This facility was progressed ahead of Junctions 3 and 4 as the land identified for the Park and Share site at Junction 5 is already in public ownership.

Councillor Behan advised that the Junction 5, Rathcrogue was a 24 hour petrol and service station and asked the report be looked at.

The report was noted.

AY18/0226

Update on the Relocation of Historical Plaques

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan.
Can the council confirm any update on the relocation of the historical plaques that were once located on the former Athy Town Hall, Shackleton Experience?

A report was received informing the members that Strategic Projects and Public Realm are investigating alternative locations for the plaques removed in preparation for the refurbishment of the Shackleton building.

The report was noted.



AY19/0226

Invitation to the Athy Fire Service

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

That this council sends an invitation to the Athy Fire Service, to give an overview of their work to the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Meetings Administrator informing the members that this is a matter for the members to agree.

Mr N O’Riordan advised that with the Members agreement, he would arrange a meeting to discuss the Fire Service duties throughout the whole county.

Councillor Behan advised that she was happy to meet offline.

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

AY20/0226

Re-establishing the Woodstock Forum

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

That the council re-establishes the Woodstock Forum and invites all residents and all agencies working in the Woodstock area of Athy to participate in the Forum.

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

A report was received from the Community Department informing the members that It is understood that the Woodstock Forum emerged in 2013 in response to a range of issues at the time and operated to approximately 2019, and that it primarily involved An Garda Síochána, Elected Members and community representatives from the Woodstock area.



Now, 13 years after the creation of that Forum, there are several formal processes and an increased range of agencies in place, actively supporting the community from a needs-based approach.

The Community Safety Partnership for Kildare has been formed, with 27 members including representation from elected members, An Garda Síochána, residents and a host of state agencies and voluntary sector representatives.

The Partnership will have its induction on 13 February, with its first formal meeting 12 March. Its remit includes developing coordinated interagency approaches to community safety. This is the appropriate statutory forum to identify and quantify issues, and to agree best-practice, sustainable inter-agency approaches to address anti-social activity, promote pro-social activity and promote safety.

In addition to this, on the ground in Athy, including the Woodstock area, particularly in the last five years, an extremely active Athy inter-agency operational group has developed, with almost 50 staff representing statutory, non-statutory and community based agencies, interacting weekly and meeting quarterly, to share information, pool resources and develop pro-social activities and jointly funded programmes. This group also comprises Garda representation.

Furthermore, the Sláintecare Healthy Communities (SHC) Local Implementation Group is currently active within Athy, meeting bi-monthly, engaging cross-sectoral agencies and organisations to focus on needs spanning the social determinants of health of the Athy community. This network is an approved structure of the SHC Programme, Local Authority and Kildare LCDC.

In Q4 of 2025, the Community Department invested almost €25,000 in improvements to the location of the Empowering Communities house in Townspark; a collaboration with the Housing Department. A further c€50,000 of investment is planned in 2026 to improve play facilities in a joint project with the Parks and Community Departments. These collaborations and interventions are emerging from the cross-agency engagement with residents, to meaningfully respond to their needs.



The capacity of the community in this area, and wider Athy has improved markedly, with many groups now proactively pursuing funding and engaging with representatives of these agencies on the ground. This includes Council staff such as the Community Worker, Sláintecare Coordinator, Healthy Ireland Coordinator, and partner projects such as Empowering Communities. The focus of all agencies is to empower local communities, and individuals to enable them and their children to engage in positive social activity.

None of the referenced Council employed staff active in community-work in this area and regularly engaging with residents has received a request to re-form the Woodstock Forum and it is not proposed to replace existing structures and new structures.

If the members wish to receive offline briefings from the Council team and key partners involved in this area, on the extent of the ongoing and planned programmes and activities, this can be arranged.

Councillor Breslin thanked Mr T Shanahan for the report and advised that she had recently attended a meeting with several residents from Castle Park in the Woodstock area, An Garda Síochána and a community worker. The playground was not being used and being damaged. Fire services had been called out a number of times. House owners were living in despair. There were a number of tenants on the transfer list. Anti social behaviour was a huge issue. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic there was a forum in place that met regularly to discuss these issues. She acknowledged the good work being done in the area but there was a problem with children intimidating people, littering, burning the playground and there was a soccer club no longer using the area due to the issues. She added that the members needed to be involved in the process to eradicate these problems and asked them to reconsider.

The members raised the following:

- Reiterated Councillor Breslin's views.
- There were a number of resources in that area but anti-social behaviour was still a huge issue.



- There had been a long period of time since the last JPC Meeting and the new LCSP being set up.
- Hopeful that the soccer club would be reinstated in that area.

Mr T Shanahan advised that he took on board Councillor Breslin's views. There would be a meeting with the Community Workers of each Municipal District in March. There was a lot of interagency work happening in Athy. He had contacted the LCSP office regarding community forums but that there were no guidelines and that community safety would be dealt with under new legislation. He was happy to meet with Councillors, but not to undermine the LCSP structure that was being put in place. He was hopeful that Community CCTV could be looked at by Q4 2026.

Councillor Breslin asked that meetings be set up until a structure for LCSP is put in place as a solution was needed.

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

AY21/0226

Update on the Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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

Can the members receive an update on the Athy Flood Relief Scheme?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that approval for Kildare County Council to proceed with the Athy Flood Relief Scheme was granted by the OPW in May 2023. Since then, the Council has appointed RPS Consulting Engineers to carry out the design of the scheme. Progress on the scheme is overseen by the Steering Group, which consists of staff from the Council, the OPW and RPS.

To date, the existing hydrology of the River Barrow, Moneen River and Bennets stream has been reviewed, hydraulic models have been completed and preferred options have been assessed.



Two public participation days have been held in Athy Library and the feedback received has been incorporated into the optioneering process.

The Options Development Report, which identifies the preferred option for a scheme in Athy, is currently being finalised. This includes a Cost – Benefit assessment of all potential options. Once reviewed by the Steering Group, the report will be submitted to OPW and approval sought to progress the scheme to planning.

This is in line with the OPW's governance requirements, which reflect the approval gates in the Infrastructure Guidelines, published by the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation.

Once approved, a third public participation day will be held to share the preferred option for the scheme.

The progress of the Athy Flood Relief Scheme is currently on schedule, with a submission of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Scheme to An Coimisiún Pleanála scheduled for Q4 of 2026.

Subject to approval from An Coimisiún Pleanála, the scheme is scheduled to begin construction in 2028 and be fully completed and operating by end of 2030. Up to date information on the scheme is available at: <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/athy/home/>

Mr K Kavanagh provided the members with a hard copy of the said update.

The report was noted.

AY22/0226

Flooding on the R417 North of Maganey

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

Can the council outline works planned to alleviate the persistent flooding on the R417 North of Maganey?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the site has been added to the Emergency Works Programme for the Bridge Rehabilitation Team



so that it can be addressed as part of the current priority works. A consultant has been appointed to progress the required assessment of this location, and the associated surveys are scheduled to commence in Quarter 1 2026. Due to the recent period of adverse weather, it is neither safe nor feasible to carry out the necessary inspection on site at this time. Once weather conditions permit, the inspection and survey and any remediation work plan will be developed.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.