



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

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

Online: Councillor B Dooley.

Officials Present: Mr A Dunney (District Manager), Mr K Dunne (District Engineer), Mr M Byrne (Staff Officer), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Mr J Hennessy (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr N O'Riordan(A/Chief Fire Officer), Ms P Hyland (Senior Executive Planner), Ms P O'Rourke (Climate Action Coordinator), Mr R McLoughlin (Administrative Officer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

The Cathaoirleach proposed the suspension of Standing Orders for ten minutes to allow the meeting to commence at 10.10 a.m. This was seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members present.

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

AY01/0326

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.



AY02/0326

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 16 February 2026, and the progress report was noted.

Regarding the update on the Progress Report on the Pilot scheme in Moone/Timolin, Councillor Breslin advised that she was very unhappy with the response from TII refusing to meet with elected members. She requested that another letter be sent raising the councillors disappointment and ask that it be reconsidered.

Councillor Keatley added that drawings from TII were yet to be received and requested an update on that.

The District Manager advised that no drawings had been received to date, but would revert back to the Transport Department to follow up with another letter to TII.

Councillor Leigh requested an update on the traffic monitoring system at the bridge in Kilkea and asked that it be reverted to Mr D Conlan for an update.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 16 February 2026, be adopted and the progress report be noted.

AY03/0326

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

Funding allocation received RI Schedule of works to be determined.

Municipal District Restoration Maintenance Works – RM Program

Funding allocation received RM Schedule of works to be determined.

Local Improvement Schemes

No update for 2026.

Community Involvement Schemes

No update for 2026.

Footpath Upgrades / Surveys

Funding allocation received footpath repair locations to be determined.

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.

Flooding prevention measures being implemented.

RI and RM hedge cutting complete.

Road edges being repaired. Ongoing.

The members thanked the Municipal District Office for their ongoing works especially mentioning hedge cutting over the last number of months.

The report was noted.

AY04/0326

Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 - Proposed installation of five New Bus Shelters

The members considered the Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 - Proposed installation of five New Bus Shelters at the following locations:

- Bus Stop 11735, Wood Road, Narraghmore, Co. Kildare (Southbound)
- Bus Stop 11728, Wood Road, Narraghmore, Co. Kildare (Northbound)
- Bus Stop 11726, Timolin Terrace, Crookstown, Co.Kildare (Northbound)
- Bus Stop 11737, Timolin Terrace Crookstown, Co.Kildare (Southbound)
- Bus Stop 11740, Main Street, Castledermot, Co.Kildare (Southbound).

Mr J Hennessy advised that the bus shelters would be due to go to tender and then be installed in quarter 3 2026.



Councillor Keatley sought an update on a previous Section 38 at Calverstown in 2025 and questioned if there would be further delays? He advised that a bus stop had been installed in Ballyshannon without any consultation and that more consultation was needed and the members needed to be informed.

Councillor Behan questioned if the southbound bus stop at Castledermot would remain in the same location.

Mr J Hennessy advised that previous delays related to a change in provider and that the location of the bus stop had not changed. He added that road safety audits were completed on all projects. He had no information to hand on the bus stop at Ballyshannon but would revert to Councillor Keatley.

The report was noted.

AY05/0326

Park And Ride Concepts Along the Athy Section of the M9 Motorway

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

That the council facilitates a full public consultation and works closely with TII with regards designing formal park and ride concepts along the Athy section of the M9 Motorway.

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

A report was received from the National Roads Office informing the members that preliminary discussions have commenced with landowners within the vicinity of the junctions to establish suitable sites for the provision of the M9 Park and Share facilities at junctions 3 and 4 in Kildare.

Once suitable sites have been identified, the Feasibility and Options Reports will be completed and submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for their consideration. Subject to approval of the Feasibility and Options Reports, the detailed design of the proposed facilities will commence.



The Park and Share proposals will be required to go through the planning process and public consultation will be facilitated.

Kildare National Roads Offices can be contacted at any time for updates/meetings as required.

Councillor Behan was happy with the report and advised that a design appropriate approach was needed to meet the demands of the public. There were over 30/40 cars left at these junctions.

Councillor Keatley queried the timeline on this and on consultation with landowners? He added that any design needed to incorporate a design suitable for bus operators collections and drop offs. He requested the National Roads Office speak to the councillors regarding the project.

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

AY06/0326

Increase the frequency of the 880 Bus Service

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

That the council works with Local Link to increase the frequency of the 880 Bus Service to an hourly service?

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that decisions regarding the scheduling and frequency of Local Link services are a matter for the Service Planning Section of the National Transport Authority (NTA), to whom this authority is delegated. With the members agreement, a letter can be issued to the NTA to increase frequency to an hourly service.



Councillor Behan advised that there was a need for the service to increase frequency as there was an extra demand for buses.

Councillor Keatley supported the motion and advised that there was a need for the service to be increased. He mentioned that the people of Kilgowan and Kildangan should not be forgotten and that the people of South Kildare should not be forgotten. He requested that a letter be sent to the NTA raising these queries

Mr M McLoughlin agreed to issue a letter to the NTA.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan and seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all members that a letter be sent to the NTA and that the report be noted.

AY07/0326

Footpath in Kilberry to the Graveyard in Kilberry

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

That the council investigates the feasibility of installing a footpath from the existing footpath in Kilberry to the Graveyard in Kilberry.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that this would require a design and public consultation. A funding allocation would have to be identified to complete these works.

Councillor Breslin requested that this be looked at and that the members could then look at funding options.

The District Engineer would take a look and try to identify a funding stream.

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



AY08/0326

Road Safety Audit and Additional Public Lighting outside Athy Train Station

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

That the council carries out a road safety audit and installs additional public lighting on the roadway outside Athy Train Station in the interest of safety.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that there is no funding source for the provision of new public lighting at this location. In order to understand the reference to “safety” as included in the motion, staff from the Public Lighting Section can meet with the elected member on site to discuss the issue further.

Any safety issues outside of Public Lighting can be discussed in detail with the Municipal Engineer.

Councillor Breslin advised that there was an increase in commuters using the train station and she said there was no lighting and no adequate crossing outside for people to safely cross the road. She added that she would be happy to meet onsite to discuss the matter further.

The members raised the following:

- Progress was needed.
- There had been two accidents in the last number of months.
- Better accessibility was needed.
- Lighting was an integral part of pedestrian safety. The work needed was obvious.

Mr J Hennessy advised that he took the members queries on board but added that there was a significant amount of lighting at the train station car park .He would look at the lighting and a formalised pedestrian crossing. He would arrange a meeting with councillors on site. He also advised that there was no funding source for public lighting.



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

AY09/0326

Incorporate St Michael's Terrace in its Pay Parking Review

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan.
Can the council consider plans to incorporate St Michael's Terrace in its pay parking review?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that this will be considered under the review of Athy Parking Bye-Laws.

The report was noted.

AY10/0326

Pilot Project for Carlow Road to Stanhope Street

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.
Can the council provide an update on a previous motion request (AY05/1025) to allow a pilot project for traffic to run from the Carlow Road side, Athy to Stanhope Street side?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the previously provided report committed to meeting with the Elected Members to discuss the feasibility of a pilot project. This meeting can be arranged to progress this issue.

Councillor Dooley advised that he would arrange an onsite meeting.

The report was noted.



AY11/0326

EV charging points in Meeting Lane Car Park

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

Can the council provide a date as to when the EV charging points in Meeting Lane Car Park, Athy will be back in operation?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Kildare County Council are part of a Regional Group working on a collaborative approach to develop a comprehensive Electric Vehicle (EV) charging Infrastructure Strategy. The strategy is in development and will focus on assessing existing networks and planning for future needs with an assessment of both destination and neighbourhood charging. While the Strategy is not finalised, it is likely that the preferred model for the delivery of EV charging points is for third party providers to develop on a commercial basis with the local authority assisting in the delivery at other locations where there are gaps in the network. It is too early at this point to determine which scenario fits into the Athy situation bearing in mind other commercial providers in the town.

Councillor Breslin sought clarification on whether there was a date on this or who would be installing them. She asked to be kept updated on this matter.

The report was noted.

AY12/0326

Funding from TII for the Upgrade of the Streets, Footpaths and Junctions

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

Can the council advise members of the timeframe for receipt of funding from TII for the upgrade of the streets, footpaths and junctions in Athy?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Kildare County Council has had positive engagement with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) about the provision of funding to upgrade the old N78 in Athy following the opening of the



Athy Distributor Road, however there is no timeline at present for the progression of these works or agreement on the funding to be provided by TII.

Additional funding would be required to complete all the upgrades envisaged in this question.

Councillor Leigh requested that the council revert back to TII and ask for a timeframe on the funding.

The report was noted.

AY13/0326

Surfacing Works on the Marshalstown Road

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

Can the council confirm when surfacing works on the Marshalstown Road will be completed as a number of complaints have been noted?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that this work was being tendered in the coming weeks.

The report was noted

AY14/0326

Parks Works Programme 2026

The members received a presentation on the Parks Works Programme 2026 and Alternative Grass Management.

Mr S Wallace presented the members with a review of the 2025 Works Programme, providing updates on the following:

- Signage completed in The Peoples Park. Information boards and history of the park included.



- Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the County – consultation completed. Hope to publish mid-year. Grants would inform future works.
- Tree planting for 2025 was completed in the last number of weeks.
- Attendance of Play Day was 3,300.
- Playground and grass maintenance were the biggest expenditures.

The Parks Works Programme for 2026 was presented under the following headings:

- Projects
 - Peoples Park – tender out to repair the boundary walls. Hopeful to have works done over the Summer.
 - Ardrew amenity lands – Masterplan being led by SPPR.
 - Castle Park Playground upgrade – surface replaced, plans to add and upgrade equipment, including agility trail, sensory pads and some seating.
 - Tree Works Programme – in process of putting together a tender on that.
 - Woodstock Castle conservation plan – hopeful to carry work out in conjunction with conservational architect. Make it more visible to the public.
- Operations
 - Grass Maintenance and Tree Planting to be carried out.
 - Trying to roll out more communication boards.
- Planning
 - LRD Applications / Planning Applications / Compliance / Part 8s
 - Taking in Charge
 - Local Area Plans
 - County Development Plan
- Administration
 - CRMs – dealt with 1400 last year.
 - Legal Works re leases and licences.
 - Staff structure – three teams. Couple of vacancies on the team. An extra craft foreperson had been taken on, meaning they now had one to look after the north of the county, and one to look after the south. The biggest change this year was the addition of Public Realm teams.



- There were currently two vacancies for craft gardeners, hopeful to fill them this year.

He also advised that the Public Realm teams would be maintaining some parks and playground maintenance, maintenance and upgrade of parklets, look at improvements to approaches to towns and villages and work with tidy towns. Look at maintenance and upgrading of roundabouts. Basic maintenance like tree pruning, landscaping of estates and fixing boundary walls etc.

The members also received a presentation from Ms P O'Rourke in relation to Alternative Grass Management.

Ms P O'Rourke informed the members of the following:

- There were now 11 local authorities involved in this research.
- The PHD VIVA on assessing measures for the improvement of biodiversity in public open spaces had concluded.
- They had found that the agricultural land assessed had more of an abundance of plant life and insects than town parks.
- Wildflower roundabouts were shown to have more bumblebees and hoverflies than ornamental roundabouts.
- They concluded that town parks needed less management, more floral resources and habitat diversity.
- Research carried out showed that herbicide alternatives were effective but took a lot longer to work and were labour intensive and not cost effective.
- Research into their effects was hypervariable.
- A combination of hot foam and sweeping would be effective in maintaining grass verges.
- People would need to grow to understand there would be areas where native flora was left to grow.
- Grass 2 Gas was beginning to receive national recognition.



- People needed to change their way of thinking when it came to how playgrounds and parks should look and get back in touch with nature.
- The method of maintaining cycle lanes and footpaths with hot foam and sweeping would be expensive at the outset, but the ongoing maintenance would be cheaper.
- Sometimes overgrowth was necessary, but if removal was required for safety, this would be looked after by the Transport Department.

The members raised the following:

- Thanked both Mr S Wallace and P O'Rourke for their reports.
- Issues after hours at Castle Park playground, was there any plan to address those issues?
- Leylandii trees, were they fully removed or just cut back?
- Regarding legal works, did the department experience many claims?
- How did other government agency lands, i.e. playgrounds work with the Parks Department.
- Regarding the Craft Gardiner positions, were they looking for horticulturists?
- Requested an update on playgrounds in progress or planned?
- What was the timeframe for a new playground in the Municipal District?
- Who was responsible for roundabout sponsorship?
- Research into Grass to Gas was invaluable, mechanical removal, put investment into that area,

Mr S Wallace advised the following:

- He had spoke to the local community regarding Castle Park playground but had no solution to the after hours issues.
- There was a preference to cut out leylandii trees and replace them with native trees.
- They were not experiencing claims as licences were given on the provision that the clubs put their own insurance in place.
- They would be willing to work with other government agencies if an opportunity arose.
- Craft foreman had to have a Level 5 in horticulture and gardener required a level 6.



- Planned playgrounds for the county had been identified in the Play Strategy.
- Roundabout sponsorship was going to tender before mid year and would be advertised then.

Ms P O'Rourke advised the following:

- Preference was no use of herbicides.
- There were 11 other LA's in the pilot scheme.
- Transportation depots were trying to implement this regime.
- Hoped for more funding for alternative maintenance to roll it out to every county.

AY15/0326

Update on the Southern Distributor Road Green Space Maintenance

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

Can the council provide an update on the Southern Distributor Road (SDR) green space maintenance?

A report was received from Parks Department informing the members that arrangements are being made to have the grass areas along the road maintained for the growing season. This will involve the margins and roundabouts being failed approximately five times a year and the grass verge areas being cut on a monthly basis.

The report was noted.

The members took item 16 and 17 together.

AY16/0326

Road Open on Tuesday during Markets

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

That the council keeps the road open on Tuesday during markets due to the level of traffic congestion in the town, affecting retailers, businesses and school traffic, with traders



allowed to put stalls on Emily Square but not to block the road with vehicles, and to provide an area for vans be kept in the back square once stalls in place.

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

A report was received informing the members that Casual Trading Bye-Laws for the Athy Municipal District were approved and made in October 2025 following a full statutory public consultation process. From the outset the Council notes in its report that no submissions or objections were received from businesses and or/retailers in the region of Emily Square, Athy, in respect of either the proposed and subsequently approved Casual Trading Bye-Laws and/or the temporary road closure at Emily Square.

The Council have held additional engagement with Elected Members regarding early road closures and the resulting restrictions. The temporary road closure at Emily Square applies only on Tuesdays from 16 September 2025 to 15 September 2026, as it was not possible to approve a longer-term closure without making it permanent. The closure will lapse unless re-advertised through the statutory process.

All licensed traders operating on Emily Square trade directly from their vehicles and do not remove all stock from vehicles during trading hours. As a result, there is a strong reluctance among traders to park or trade outside the road closure area.

Trading is additionally permitted to take place on Barrow Quay on Tuesdays, but traders, through communication via their own union representative body, IOMST, have consistently expressed a strong preference to trade on Emily Square.

The Council also wishes to draw Members' attention to Minute AY15/0126 (attached separately to this report), which relates to a question raised at a meeting of the Athy Municipal District in January 2026 concerning the potential acquisition of lands to support casual trading.

While there may be theoretical capacity to accommodate trading on the opposite side of the square, this would:

- require explicit Council agreement, and
- necessitate a formal amendment to the Casual Trading Bye-Laws.

At present, this option is considered a non-runner due to:



- the nature of the surface materials on Emily Square, and
- the risk of damage from oil leaks, tyre markings or similar impacts

Legal advice obtained by the Council confirms that the private operational interests of a commercial operator cannot override the local authority's statutory right to operate a lawful market. Where a road is lawfully closed, it is a matter for the operator to adjust its own logistical arrangements accordingly. However, the advice also highlights the need for the Council to ensure that any road closure is proportionate, limited to what is necessary to facilitate the market, and not in place for longer than required.

The Council will endeavour to ensure that road closures are erected and remain in effect only during trading hours, commencing at 7.00 a.m., and continue to monitor the operation of the market and road closure arrangements to ensure compliance.

The Council reiterates its stated intention to preserve established market rights, while at the same time seeking to improve and enhance the market through the identification and development of future opportunities that support its continued vitality and contribution to Athy town.

In this context, the Council is engaging with the Local Enterprise Office and liaising with other local authorities to learn from good practice in the management, promotion and enhancement of markets. This engagement is intended to inform the consideration of potential initiatives, including event-based activities and complementary measures, which may be adapted for local application and are considered capable of delivering benefits for Athy town, its traders and the wider community, while remaining consistent with the Council's legal obligations in respect of market rights.

The Council will continue to explore such opportunities, having regard to operational, legal and resource considerations, and will keep Elected Members informed of progress as this work advances.

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



AY17/0326

Road Closure on Emily Square

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

That the council reevaluates the road closure in place on Emily Square every Tuesday.

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

A report was received informing the members that Casual Trading Bye-Laws for the Athy Municipal District were approved and made in October 2025 following a full statutory public consultation process. From the outset the Council notes in its report that no submissions or objections were received from businesses and or/retailers in the region of Emily Square, Athy, in respect of either the proposed and subsequently approved Casual Trading Bye-Laws and/or the temporary road closure at Emily Square.

The Council have held additional engagement with Elected Members regarding early road closures and the resulting restrictions. The temporary road closure at Emily Square applies only on Tuesdays from 16 September 2025 to 15 September 2026, as it was not possible to approve a longer-term closure without making it permanent. The closure will lapse unless re-advertised through the statutory process.

All licensed traders operating on Emily Square trade directly from their vehicles and do not remove all stock from vehicles during trading hours. As a result, there is a strong reluctance among traders to park or trade outside the road closure area.

Trading is additionally permitted to take place on Barrow Quay on Tuesdays, but traders, through communication via their own union representative body, IOMST, have consistently expressed a strong preference to trade on Emily Square.

The Council also wishes to draw Members' attention to Minute AY15/0126 (attached separately to this report), which relates to a question raised at a meeting of the Athy Municipal District in January 2026 concerning the potential acquisition of lands to support casual trading.

While there may be theoretical capacity to accommodate trading on the opposite side of the square, this would:

- require explicit Council agreement, and



- necessitate a formal amendment to the Casual Trading Bye-Laws.

At present, this option is considered a non-runner due to:

- the nature of the surface materials on Emily Square, and
- the risk of damage from oil leaks, tyre markings or similar impacts

Legal advice obtained by the Council confirms that the private operational interests of a commercial operator cannot override the local authority's statutory right to operate a lawful market. Where a road is lawfully closed, it is a matter for the operator to adjust its own logistical arrangements accordingly. However, the advice also highlights the need for the Council to ensure that any road closure is proportionate, limited to what is necessary to facilitate the market, and not in place for longer than required.

The Council will endeavour to ensure that road closures are erected and remain in effect only during trading hours, commencing at 7.00 a.m., and continue to monitor the operation of the market and road closure arrangements to ensure compliance.

The Council reiterates its stated intention to preserve established market rights, while at the same time seeking to improve and enhance the market through the identification and development of future opportunities that support its continued vitality and contribution to Athy town.

In this context, the Council is engaging with the Local Enterprise Office and liaising with other local authorities to learn from good practice in the management, promotion and enhancement of markets. This engagement is intended to inform the consideration of potential initiatives, including event-based activities and complementary measures, which may be adapted for local application and are considered capable of delivering benefits for Athy town, its traders and the wider community, while remaining consistent with the Council's legal obligations in respect of market rights.

The Council will continue to explore such opportunities, having regard to operational, legal and resource considerations, and will keep Elected Members informed of progress as this work advances.

Councillor Dooley advised that he was supportive of the market, it looked fantastic, there were good quality products being sold. He added that the issue was with the road being



blocked, the traffic flow was bad and traffic was badly backed up in the town. He further advised that some stalls were not adhering to the set times. Deliveries to businesses in the area were being hampered by the road closure.

Councillor Leigh echoed the above sentiments and advised that all stakeholders needed to be considered.

The members raised the following:

- The market was providing excellent trade, there were some teething problems but overall it was a success.
- Byelaws were approved and in place, the road closure could be reviewed in September.
- Market was growing.
- Trade within the town had significantly improved since the opening of Shackleton Museum.
- Would be best to wait and see what the Summer period would look like before making any change.

Mr. R. McLoughlin advised that, following notification of logistical difficulties regarding deliveries to businesses on Emily Square, arising from early trading by trading permit holders, he had issued a letter to traders reiterating the designated trading times to ensure continued compliance. He further noted that traders remained reluctant to park vehicles out of sight and away from market stalls, as some stock is stored in reserve within their vehicles.

The District Manager advised that it would be best to leave the road closure in place until September and review it then. The protection of Emily Square needed to be prioritised. He reminded the members that the road had previously been shut for two years while work on the Shackleton Museum was carried out. The town had seen a significant increase in visitors over the last number of months and it was very positive for Athy.



The members thanked Mr R McLoughlin for the comprehensive report.

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

AY18/0326

Update on the Construction of 77 Social Housing Units at Ardrew, Athy

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

Can the council provide an update on the construction of 77 social housing units by Kildare County Council at Ardrew, Athy?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Kildare County Council can confirm that the delivery of the 77 social housing units at Ardrew, Athy is progressing as part of the multi-site social housing bundle known as Project Barrow.

The bundle comprises four sites in total: Ardrew, Athy (the sole Kildare site) and three additional sites located within the Dublin City Council area. The bundle is being advanced through a Design and Build (D&B) delivery model.

The first stage of the tender process for the appointment of a D&B contractor, was advertised in December 2025, and tenders have been received. The assessment of these submissions is currently underway.

It is expected that the project will move to Stage 2 of the tender process later this month, with detailed tender evaluation to follow.

Subject to completion of procurement procedures, a contract award is targeted for Q3 2026. Kildare County Council will continue to progress Project Barrow and will provide further updates through the monthly Chief Executive Report as procurement advances.

The report was noted.



AY19/0326

WiFi in Community Halls and Other Indoor Spaces

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

That the council provides free WiFi in all its community halls and other indoor spaces in this municipal district used by the public in council ownership.

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

A report was received informing the members that Facilities wee currently looking into the associated costs with installing WiFi in Community buildings that currently do not have it already.

Councillor Leigh welcomed the positive response and advised that indoor public spaces should be properly equipped and would be more attractive for use by community groups. He encouraged the council to progress the matter.

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

AY20/0326

Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2026

The members considered the the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2026 allocation for the Athy Municipal District.

Ms P Hyland went through the four applications for Athy Municipal District totalling €5495. She added that there was a great variety in the proposed projects, covering a range of interests and the presence of activities across the county was very welcome. Any remaining balance from the grant would be offered as a late grant application in due course.

The four Athy projects proposed for approval were:



Athy	Kildare Steiner School	Forest Workshop - 3 workshops for ages (9-12) -crafts using native materials & outdoor exhibition during heritage week.	€1,495
Athy	Athy Historical Society	Digitize the records of Athy Model School including Roll Books, Teach Roll Books and photographs.	€1,500
Athy	Griese Youth Theatre	Engage 2 artists to carry out research and exploratory drawings of the old cinema The Picture House.	€1,500
Athy	South Kildare Villages History Group	To enlighten people who are interested in local History and history in general. Costs to include public liability insurance and rent of room.	€1,000
Total			€5,495

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members that the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2026 allocation for the Athy Municipal District be approved.

AY21/0326

CCTV Cameras in the Municipal District

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

That the council rolls out the installation of CCTV cameras in the municipal district, similar to those in Edmund Rice Square, in areas with high levels of illegal dumping.

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



A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the council will look positively at the rollout of CCTV at selective locations within the municipal district in consultation with the members.

The members are reminded that any such deployment is subject to the national guidelines / code of practice pertaining to the prevention, detection and prosecution of waste and litter offences using CCTV, as well as the availability of funding.

Councillor Dooley thanked the team for the positive response and advised that Edmund Rice Square had seen a significant reduction in dumping since the installation of CCTV. He added that the Stradbally Road and Carlow Road had seen a huge amount of dumping and queried if a mobile CCTV unit could be used to tackle the issue.

Councillor Behan advised that there was a huge amount of dumping on the Carlow Road, 20-litre bin bags full of rubbish had been dumped.

Councillor Leigh advised that there were still ongoing issues at Blackwood Bog and CCTV was badly needed.

Mr M Byrne advised the following:

- Was there any spot in particular on the Carlow Road as cameras needed to be placed in the right location for it to be beneficial in catching litterers.
- He would be happy to meet with the members onsite.
- Regarding the query on Blackwood Bog, any future CCTV projects would be subject to a public consultation phase, oversight board and the Chief Executive approval.
- The use of mobile CCTV was not suitable.

Councillor Keatley questioned the use of fake cameras/cohort type cameras?

Mr M Byrne advised that the use of CCTV cameras was to raise awareness and that Edmund Rice Square was proof that it did work as repeat offenders had stopped and over 80% of fines had been paid. He did not think that the use of fake cameras was suitable.



The members thanked Mr M Byrne and the Environment team for their work on this.

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

AY22/0326

Dumping Issues on Meeting Lane

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to address the dumping issues on Meeting Lane, Athy?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the Council is aware of the dumping issue on a private site at Meeting Lane in Athy. The dumping will be cleaned up as a once off measure and a more long-term solution will be investigated.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.