



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 17 February 2025  
in the Committee Room**

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

**Online:** Councillors V Behan and I Keatley.

**Officials Present:** Ms J McNabb (A/District Manager), Mr K Dunne (District Engineer), Mr D Conlan (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Ms E Price (Administrative Officer), Ms R Jackson (Administrative Officer), Ms M O'Brien (LPT Co-Ordinator), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

---

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

**AY01/0225**

**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.



## **AY02/0225**

### **Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the Special Athy Municipal District meeting held on 10 December 2024, the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 16 December 2024 and the progress report was noted.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Leigh seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members that the minutes of the Athy Municipal District meeting held on 20 January 2025, the special meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on 28 January 2025 be adopted and the progress report be noted.

## **AY03/0225**

### **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 program to be confirmed once budgets are assigned

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

RM program to be confirmed once budgets are assigned

#### **Local Improvement Schemes**

No schemes currently on our schedule

#### **Community Involvement Schemes**

No update for 2025.



### **Footpath Upgrades / Surveys**

Schemes to be confirmed once budgets are agreed.

Meeting held with members to go through priority estates.

### **Signage Works**

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District

Local road speed limit signs complete.

### **Road Markings**

To be confirmed with the 2025 budget/ program.

### **Drainage Works**

Several villages have had drainage systems cleaned.

Jetting drainage lines on various roads – ongoing.

Cleaning gullies – ongoing.

Carrying out water cuts along roads – ongoing.

### **Road Patching**

Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing.

### **Street Sweeping**

Street sweeping to areas – ongoing.

Bin collection – ongoing.

### **Community Works**

Civils works complete for interactive well-being facility in Edmund Rice Square.

### **General Maintenance**

Hedge cutting along Regional Roads at junctions and signs.

Winter maintenance ongoing, salting additional areas due to severe weather.



The members raised the following:

- Thanked the Municipal District Office for the new road markings on Church Road.
- There was a clean up on the new road and three or four bags of rubbish had been left for collection, could this be dealt with.

The report was noted.

**AY04/0225**

**Athy LPT Schedule of Works 2025**

The members considered the Athy Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works for 2025.

Department/Councillor	Details	Amount Agreed
<b>Athy MD</b>		
<b>Sports Partnership</b>	KSP Initiatives in Athy MD.	€20,000
<b>Athy MD Office</b>	Projects, Ballyroe, Nurney, Narraghmore, Ballitore, Levittstown, Kilberry, St. Dominics Park	€150,000
	Storm Damage Athy MD Area	€10,000
<b>Environment</b>	Crookstown Graveyard. Tree/hedge cutting works.	€3,500.00
	Athy Cemetery, Boundary wall maintenance works.	€2,500.00
<b>Transportation</b>	Public Lighting	€25,000
	Local Active Travel	€25,000
<b>Planning/Heritage</b>	Heritage Projects	€20,000
<b>Planning/Biodiversity</b>	Green Schools	€2,000
<b>Libraries</b>	Creative Places	€15,000
<b>Libraries</b>	Music Generation	€10,000
<b>Community</b>	1. Inclusive Community Engagement. 2. Children and Youth Participation 3. Parent and Carer Support 4. Age Friendly	€10,000
<b>Community</b>	Brigid – Spirit of Kildare municipal district grants scheme.	€20,000
<b>Parks</b>	Programme of tree works based on requests through the year	€15,000
<b>Parks</b>	Masterplan for both areas of amenity land. Ardrew/Woodstock	€25,000
<b>Parks</b>	Clean up of open space Clonmullion	€5,000



<b>Parks</b>	Contribution towards playground, Tanyard, Ballitore	€20,000
<b>Corporate Services</b>	Coiste Gaeilge	€3,000
<b>Housing Regeneration</b>	Castlemont Town Centre First	€25,000
<b>Climate Action</b>	Climate Action Fund	€15,000
<b>Public Realm</b>	RRDF Call 4 has been announced for Category 2 projects.	€20,000
<b>Public Realm</b>	Castledermot Project	€20,000
<b>Into Kildare</b>	Lighting up of St. Brigids Day & Taste of Kildare. €5,000 for Brigid, €5,000 for Shackleton & Barrow Blue Way	€10,000
<b>Members Allocations</b>		
	Ardreigh Sports Grounds €100,000 each year for 5 years	€100,000
	Athy Sing & Sign	€5,000
	Athy Alternative - Litter	€3,000
	TUS Leader Programme. Petrol, Service & Repair	€3,000
	Willow Community Councillng Services	€10,000
	Athy Promoters	€89,450
	Tidy Towns Athy MD to include garden in Scoil Diarmada	€25,000
	Sports Grant Fund to include - St. Fiachra's Swimming Club, Mill Celtic, Grangenolvin GAA, Athy Camogie, Athy Swim.	€60,000
	Castlemitchell Hall	€3,000
	Athy Community Hall	€4,000
	Ballyshannon Hall	€8,000
	Anchor Youth Club	€2,000
	Kilberry Defibrillator €1225	€1,225
	Residents Assoc Grants Private Estates	€15,000
	Residents Assoc Grants Public Estates	€5,000
	Larry's on the move Senior Citizens	€2,000
	Castledermot Community Lights	€2,000

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that the LPT Schedule of Works for 2025 be adopted.

### **AY05/0225**

#### **Update on Roads Capital Projects**

The members received an update from Mr D Conlan on Roads Capital Projects.



Mr D Conlan gave a presentation of the Roads Capital Projects in the County to the members.

He advised the members of the following:

- **HGV Ban and one way trial**

- Discussions were ongoing regarding the HGV restrictions in the town.
- The next step would be to engage with local hauliers, businesses and An Garda Síochána.
- This would be followed by a one way trial.
- Engagement needed with school principals and businesses in the affected areas.
- One-way system in the town to be progressed with a view to implementing over the summer months.

- **Moone Timolin National Cycle Network**

- Regarding the Moone Timolin National Cycle Network pilot project there was a tender recommendation report currently being finalised with a view to appointing a contractor and commencing works in due course.
- There were ongoing discussions about potential for solution to issues raised at consultation stage including the parking at the soccer club. Hopeful to see progress on the project soon.

- **Junction Improvement Programme**

- Regarding the Junction Improvement Programme the option reports had been received from the consultants for all junctions and were currently under review.
- Berts Cross improvements to be completed as part of proposed HGV restriction.
- There was no budget for the delivery of scheme in Capital Programme. Funding potentially available for locations of interest from Collision Analysis for Regional Road Network completed by the Department. If a junction was not a location of interest, it would be unlikely to get funding.



- **Bridge Remediation Programme**

- Ongoing rolling programme of maintenance of masonry arch bridges.
- Funding source from Department of Transport and Kildare County Council resources.
- 2025 Department of Transport Grant allocation was €517,000.
- Remedial Works were scheduled to several bridges across the county for completion in 2025 with a contractor appointed.
- Emergency repair works also progressed as required following accidents or inspections. Works to Cock Bridge completed and Nine Eye Bridge was scheduled.
- Works on Nine Eye Bridge had been delayed due to high water levels.
- Bridge remediation works were based off a 1-5 rating system. 5 being the most urgent. They were currently dealing with bridges rated as 3.

The members raised the following:

- If extra space was required, could the council engage with the Church to move the red brick wall?
- It would be good to sit down with stakeholders sooner rather than later to discuss the HGV Ban.
- If the wind farms went ahead at the Bord na Mona site in Kilberry, that would also increase HGV traffic in the town.
- Sought clarification on the delay on Nine Eye Bridge works.
- How long after the one way system trial would footpaths and junctions be updated?
- Could the team liaise with Ard Scoil, Athy who were also looking to introduce a one-way system which would help to alleviate the traffic?

Mr D Conlan advised that:

- Regarding the one way system, widening footpaths would be a priority over widening the street.



- The update of junctions and footpaths would be dependent on allocation of funding. The next stage would be the appointment of consultants, then a Part 8, then proceed with works. It could be 2026 or 2027 before completion.
- Regarding the Nine Eye Bridge works, Inland Fisheries had advised that water levels were currently too high to safely carry out works. The methodology would be to use sand bagging around the area of works, to ensure the area was dry enough to carry out the work.

The report was noted.

#### **AY06/0225**

#### **Parking Solutions for Rathstewart Crescent, Athy**

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

That the council explores parking solutions for Rathstewart Crescent, Athy.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office will investigate the matter.

Councillor Leigh thanked the District Engineer for the site visit. There were issues with parking; people were parking on both sides of the street which did not leave room for emergency services. If a piece of the path was removed, it would give 8 to 10 more parking spaces for residents.

The members raised the following:

- There was a large area of green space there, and only a small portion was needed to create a few additional parking spaces.

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





### **AY07/0225**

#### **Footpath at Toberara Bridge to Toberara Well**

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

That the council considers the installation of a permanent footpath from Toberara Bridge along the Barrow to Toberara Well.

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

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that this request is outside the current scope of the Barrow Blueway project. However, this and any other possible connections may be considered at future dates when resources and funding become available.

Councillor Behan advised that Castlemitchell Community Association had raised this matter. The community group had been keeping the area clean but were now looking for some support from the council. There was touristic potential at that spot while also preserving the culture of that area. This was a popular swimming spot. There was a pilgrimage held every June at the historical well. Consultation with landowners was needed.

Councillor Dooley added that this could be something that could be looked at through LPT. The popularity of the pilgrimage had grown. There was need for a longer term solution with support from the Municipal District.

The A/District Manager advised that she would speak with Ms H Mulhall in the LEO to see if there were any possible funding streams under the tourism remit. They were looking at a walking trail in Athy and this could potentially tie in with that plan.

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



### **AY08/0225**

#### **Bend on the Road as you enter the Village of Nurney**

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

That the council redesigns the bend on the road as you enter the village of Nurney, from the Kildare Town side on the R415, due to the large number of incidents occurring at this location.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that Kildare County Council do not have funding or resources available to carry out a scheme of this nature at the present time.

Councillor Dooley advised that each of the members had received complaints regarding the issues. Driver behaviour had a huge part to play. There were six houses affected. There were a high number of incidents at this location. Could digital signage be used or possibly a speed ramp installed? This could lead drivers to become more cognisant of behaviour.

The members raised the following:

- Solution would be to install speed ramps.
- The cutting back of the hedging had helped visibility coming from Nurney direction.
- There was a lot of touristic traffic on that road due to Kildare Village.
- Could crash bollards be used to protect the properties on the right hand side?

Mr D Conlan advised that he would liaise with the District Engineer to discuss options. A speed ramp could help. He would investigate costs and come back to the members.

Councillor Dooley thanked Mr D Conlan and added that any solution to alleviate concerns would be appreciated.



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

**AY09/0225**

**Streetlights to the Junction at N78 Ballycullane**

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to add streetlights to the junction at N78 Ballycullane, Athy?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the request for additional lighting has been assessed according to the categories below.

**(A)** Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Areas, Sites of special Scientific Interest, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, rural locations which are currently unlit –No new lighting schemes be considered under any circumstances.

**(B)** Areas of low district brightness (rural locations outside of A) –infill lighting will only be considered where infrastructure is readily available. Additional lighting schemes will only be considered if engineering solutions for vulnerable road users are being installed. The Municipal District engineers are best placed to assess and provide any engineering solutions.

**(C)** Areas of medium brightness (urban locations). Areas of high district brightness (urban centres with high night –time usage).

The junction at Ballycullane, Athy falls under Category B above, therefore there is no plan to install streetlights at the junction.

Councillor Behan advised that there was a huge issue along that road with drivers approaching the junction quite quickly. There had been crashes too. Were there any engineering solutions? She also noted that she understood it was mostly driver behaviour.



Councillor Breslin suggested that Councillor Behan discuss the matter further with Mr D Reel offline.

The report was noted.

#### **AY10/0225**

##### **Signage on the Baltinglass-Castledermot Road**

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to replace the signage on the Baltinglass-Castledermot Road?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office is currently reviewing signage around the Municipal District and the Baltinglass-Castledermot road is included in that review.

The report was noted.

#### **AY11/0225**

##### **Survey of Trees in the Athy Municipal District**

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

That the council asks the ESB if they have carried out/will carry out a survey of trees in the Athy Municipal District that need to be removed to avoid power line damage, or loss of life during red storm warnings.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, Darragh O'Brien T.D. has announced an enhanced Winter Grid 2025 Resilience Plan to address some of the issues raised by the Storm Eowyn. This matter falls under the remit of ESB



networks. Kildare County Council have reminded landowners of their responsibilities under the Roads Act, 1993 and further details are available on the Council's website.

Councillor Dooley thanked the team for the report. He advised that he did not expect the council to remove private landowners trees but asked that a letter be written to the Department of Agriculture looking for increased funding/grant aid to address the issues with trees. He questioned if the ESB had carried out a survey and if they had shared any information with the council which could then be sent to the landowners to remove any trees. Had there been a follow up from the Full Council meeting?

Mr M McLoughlin advised that this was a national issue which was being dealt with by the Department and would not be dealt with at Municipal District level. He would let members know if anything was circulated from the Department.

Councillor Breslin thanked Mr M McLoughlin and also expressed her thanks to the Municipal District Office and emergency services during the recent bad weather spells.

Councillor Keatley added that the members acknowledged the hard work of council staff during the dangerous weather conditions but also thanked local communities/farmers for their work to remove fallen trees and debris. He also mentioned that in the past local landowners were willing to work with the council to safely remove trees and asked that the Municipal District Office continue to work with these landowners to assist where they could.

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

### **AY12/0225**

#### **Meeting regarding facilities on the Barrow**

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



That the council facilitates a meeting with all relevant stakeholders to discuss enhancing and improving facilities for boat users on the Barrow at the areas where the existing jetty is located in Athy.

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

A report was received informing the members that with their approval, Strategic Projects and Public Realm team will engage with Waterways Ireland on this query. Waterways Ireland are best placed to advise on the requirements, the stakeholders and what resources, including funding they have available to implement improvements.

Councillor Breslin thanked Ms P Pender for the report. She advised that the abandoned boats were an eyesore. Residents in Athy were very lucky to have both the Barrow and the canal. The tourism potential was huge and they needed to enhance the facilities for boat users. A plan was needed to utilise the facilities.

The members raised the following:

- There were fantastic projects happening in the town but the river remained an eyesore.
- Engagement with businesses in the town was needed, cafes, pubs, banks, shops etc.
- There had previously been discussions around a nominal charge of €15 per year, that hadn't been implemented. If it was brought in and the fee wasn't paid then the boats could be seized. Some of the boat owners were now deceased.

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

### **AY13/0225**

#### **Benches on the Riverbank beside Athy Courthouse**

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



Can the council confirm if there are any plans to fix up the benches on the Riverbank beside Athy Courthouse?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that a report would be provided at the meeting.

The District Engineer advised that he had not seen the benches yet but confirmed that he would inspect the benches and see what works were required/if they could be repaired.

Councillor Leigh advised that these benches were only installed in 2021, they were white which did not tie in with the area very well. If anything could be done to repair them it would be much appreciated.

The report was noted.

#### **AY14/0225**

#### **Pedestrian Lights on the R428 at Canal Lock 27**

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

Can the council confirm when the new pedestrian lights on the R428 at Canal Lock 27 are being switched on?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that all necessary documentation has been provided to the ESB to complete the connection. SPPR will continue to follow up with the ESB for a connection date and will revert to the Councillors in due course.

Councillor Leigh asked that the lights be switched on as the area was very dark and dangerous.

Councillor Behan asked that there was a follow up with ESB to get a deadline for works.



The A/District Manager advised that there were also delays from the ESB with getting a connection to the Model School, she would follow up with Ms P Pender.

The report was noted.

#### **AY15/0225**

##### **Timeline for housing units for older persons on the Dominican Lands**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
Can the council provide a timeline on the Cluid housing units for older persons on the Dominican Lands, Athy?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the design is agreed with Cluid and the internal departments. The planning will progress by way of Part 8 and a briefing will be given to the members in advance of the launch. It is expected to commence on site Q1 2026.

Councillor Dooley was happy with the report, and advised that it was a unique opportunity to provide housing to older people in the centre. However, he had two further queries.

Commencement on site was expected Q1 2026, was this the start time for construction or was it for preparatory works?

Flooding issues had been noted in surrounding areas, were the Dominican lands affected?

Ms E Price advised that she would speak to the Engineer and come back to the members.

The report was noted.

#### **AY16/0225**

##### **Timeline on renovation of units at McAuley Court, St Vincent's Hospital**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
Can the council provide a timeline for the renovation of housing units that have been secured by the council in McAuley Court, St Vincent's Hospital Athy?





A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that discussions are progressing with the HSE regarding the transfer of these units with Draft Heads of Terms currently being reviewed by all parties, subject to HSE Property Review Group approvals.

Councillor Dooley commented that it was ridiculous the length of time these units had been available for renovations, 2016 was when he was first made aware of them, but added that he was delighted to finally see progress. These units allow for independent living for older people and he looked forward to the completion of the project. It gave stability and security to older people living in the town.

The report was noted.

#### **AY17/0225**

#### **Housing Units at Shamrock Stores, Kildare Road, Athy**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin.  
Can the council provide an outline and timeframe for the development of housing units on the site known as the Shamrock Stores, Kildare Road, Athy?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Shamrock Stores is in our current work programme. We expect to be on site Q1 of 2026 with expected delivery by Q2 2027.

Councillor Breslin was happy with the report and added that it was a good news story for the Municipal District. How many units were being developed?

Ms E Price advised that she did not have that information to hand but would follow up and get back to the members.

The report was noted.



**AY18/0225**

**Recycling Bins in Castledermot**

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

That the council secures a suitable location for the recycling bins in Castledermot.

This item fell as Councillor Behan had to leave the meeting.

**AY19/0225**

**Dog Fouling in Athy MD**

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

That the council facilitates a multi-agency meeting to address dog fouling in this municipal district.

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

A report was received informing the members that this is a matter for the members to consider and agree. For its part, the council's Environment Department will offer its support.

Councillor Leigh advised that this was a huge issue and had been raised by members of the public many times. Dog fouling in Athy was a lot more common, the street was full of it. A high profile campaign was needed, and bringing in dog waste bins, similar to other countries in Europe.

Councillor Dooley added that this could be something that the members could work with Tidy Towns on. There was a huge issue with dog fouling on the Distributor Road, this was unfair on wheelchair users and people with prams. The availability of bags and bins was a necessity.



Ms R Jackson advised that the Environment Department would be happy to attend any meeting arranged by the members. She also advised that there were currently no dog bins available.

The A/District Manager advised that an overall strategy should be looked at in conjunction with the opening of Shackleton Museum, the town would be experiencing a lot more tourism in the area. This needed to be tackled. The members could work with Tidy Towns on the issue.

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

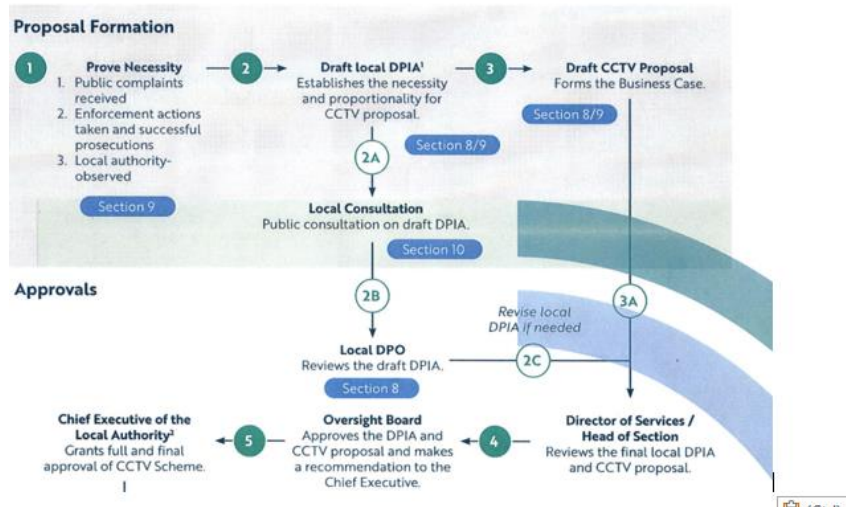
#### **AY20/0225**

#### **Update on CCTV Cameras**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin.  
Can the council provide an update in relation to the use of CCTV cameras in the enforcement and prosecution of illegal dumping in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the Guidelines / code of practice pertaining to the prevention, detection and prosecution of waste and litter offences using CCTV have been established and are in place. If the members have any particular sites in mind, we can consider and commence the necessary steps as outlined in the COP (copied below)

Required steps in the CCTV Scheme Approval process - the following flowchart outlines the steps in terms of the proposal formation, approvals and processes the Business Unit that is seeking to deploy CCTV for the specific purposes outlined in the Code of Practice must follow.



The members raised the following:

- More recent serious dumping at the bottle banks at Edmund Rice Square where a lot of household items had been dumped. This was an ongoing problem.
- Dumping left a bad image of the town.
- Agreed that Edmund Rice Square would be the first place the cameras would be installed.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.