



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 18 May 2026
in the Council Chamber.**

Members Present: Councillors V Behan, A Breslin, and M Leigh.

Members Online: Councillor B Dooley.

Apologies: Councillor I Keatley (Cathaoirleach).

Officials Present: Mr A Dunney (District Manager), Mr K Dunne (District Engineer), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Mr T Shanahan (Senior Executive Officer), Mr C O'Toole (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr L McNeela (Senior Executive Engineer) MS E Price (Administrative Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator) Mr A Foran (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor M Leigh welcomed everyone to the May meeting of the Athy Municipal District.

AY01/0526

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.



AY02/0526

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 20 April 2026 and to consider the minutes of the Special Athy Municipal District meeting held on Tuesday 05 May and to note the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday 20 April 2026 and the minutes of the Special Athy Municipal District meeting held on Tuesday 05 May be adopted and the progress report be noted.

AY03/0526

Municipal District Roadworks Update

The members received an update on the municipal district road works.

National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measure Updates

- No update since the last Athy Municipal District meeting.
- Project Team dealing with this.

Department of Transport – Climate Adaption Projects

- No projects currently added in Athy Municipal District (MD).

Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RI Program

- R417 Bert Cross to Kilberry, under construction
- R415 Fontstown to Oldgrange, under construction
- L8097 Ballyraggan Knockfield, under construction
- L80461 Bolton Area, under construction
- L8051 Marshalstown, under construction
- L8014 Coolavash, under construction



Municipal District Restoration Maintenance Works – RM Program

- L4016 Castledermot to Carrigeen crossroads repairs, tender assessment
- R417 Grangemellon to Ardree
- L4016 Castledermot to Carrigeen

Local Improvement Schemes

- No update for 2026.

Community Involvement Schemes

- No update for 2026.

Footpath Upgrades / Surveys

Forrest Park to be tendered

Signage Works

- Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District
- Cleaning of signs around the Municipal District commenced

Road Markings

- Road studs to be fitted to Regional Roads – under construction
- RI programme under construction
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Drainage Works

- Jetting drainage lines on various roads – ongoing.
- Cleaning gullies – ongoing.
- Carrying out water cuts along roads – ongoing.

Road Patching

- Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing.



Street Sweeping

- Street sweeping to areas – ongoing.
- Bin collection – ongoing.

Community Works

General Maintenance

- Hedge cutting commenced along the regional road junctions
- Hedge cutting on junction sightlines.
- Preparation works for RI and RM works
- RI & RM hedge cutting complete
- Road edges being repaired - Ongoing

Members noted the following:

- Thanked the Team for works carried out.
- Good to see progress on these items in the area.
- Important that these works are carried out in the Municipal District.

The report was noted.

AY04/0526

Section 38: Bolton Hill Junction, Castlemitchell Junction and Grangemellon

The members noted the commencement of the Proposed Revised Junction Layout at the following locations: Bolton Hill Junction, Castlemitchell Junction and Grangemellon Junction under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994.

AY05/0526

Bridge Survey

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

That the council carries out a bridge survey throughout the Athy Municipal District as there are quite a few stone bridges in need of repairs.



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

A report was received from the Projects Team in the Transport Department informing the members that Kildare County Council has received an allocation of €26,100 from the Department of Transport to carry out bridge inspections across the county. The team is carrying out inspections on bridges each week, with 36 inspections completed thus far in 2026 out of 100 scheduled inspections. There are at least 2,000 locations on our PMS system that need to be surveyed, and the team are working through this list to identify locations for inspection. They also engage with each municipal district to identify structures for inclusion in future inspections. The team is also developing a “bridge strike” app for members of the public and elected members to report issues going forward. The team carries out inspections across the county and does not have the resources to focus on one municipal district at a time.

Councillor Behan thanked the Department for the report.

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

AY06/0526

Proposed Footpath between Nurney Village and Nurney GFC

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

That the council installs a footpath between Nurney Village and Nurney GFC, Athy.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that this would involve a substantial land take and design, and a source of funding would have to be identified first.



Councillor Behan informed the members that as far back as 2019, and possibly before that, this issue was raised. A footpath is needed here as this is a high use area between Nurney Village and Nurney GFC, which is a busy GAA club. Active Travel should be prioritised, and this would make it safer for children and adults to access the GAA. Councillor Behan noted that she hoped that funding could be found for this as it is badly needed.

Councillor Breslin informed the members that this is a conversation that should be had, costs would be high but funding, maybe outside funding, could be found for this, as it would take people out of cars and encourage walking and active travel.

Councillor Leigh informed the members that when this was looked at in 2020 the costs were approximately 1 million euro and would be substantially higher now.

Councillor Behan noted that this would be worthwhile and useful.

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

AY07/0526

Resurfacing Works, Flinter's Place, Athy

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

That the council carries out resurfacing works to the entrance road at Flinter's Place Athy.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that repair works for Woodstock are on the works programme for 2026.

Councillor Breslin thanked the area office for the works and the department for the report.

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



AY08/0526

Footpath replacement works, Ballitore

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

Can the council advise when footpath replacement works will commence in Ballitore?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Uisce Éireann are currently completing works in this area, these need to be completed first and we hope to then start works in 2026.

Councillor Leigh thanked the Department for the report.

The report was noted.

AY09/0526

Parking and Location Information on Tourist Notice Boards, Athy

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

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that parking signs are statutory and must be in compliance with Traffic Signs Manual issued by the Department of Transport. All parking signs will be revised under the review of Athy parking byelaws. Replacing or purchasing signs at this stage would be considered premature and not the best use of public finances, as any amendment of the parking byelaws will have an impact on signage.

Councillor Behan noted that it had been brought to her attention that tourists coming to the town had been issued parking fines as they were not entirely sure or aware of the parking locations or costs in the town and so this would help alleviate this issue



Mr A Dunney (District Manager) noted that there is an element of personal responsibility in relation to this matter.

Councillor Behan agreed but noted that it would be better if tourists spent their money in Athy's businesses rather than on parking fines and that parking information can be found on some tourist websites but not all.

Mr A Dunney (District Manager) said he would investigate this.

The report was noted.

The members agreed to take Items 10,11,13 and 16 after item 9.

AY10/0526

Pedestrian access to Athy Rail station

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

Can the council provide an update on the plan for safe pedestrian access to Athy Rail station?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that there is currently an uncontrolled crossing between the carpark and the train station, and we are currently reviewing the site and potential alternatives.

Councillor Dooley thanked the Transport team for the report and noted he will follow up on this.

The report was noted.



The members agreed to take Items 11,13,16 and 10 after item 9.

AY11/0526

Timeline sought for Review of Parking Byelaws

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

Can the council confirm if a date can be set for review of Parking Bye Laws?

A report was received informing the members that the Transportation Department is currently working on Kildare Town Parking Bye-Laws and a number of other projects. Due to limited resources, the Transportation Department cannot provide a date for the review of Athy parking bye-Laws, however, the Department is committed to commencing the review of Athy parking bye-laws as soon as resources become available.

Councillor Dooley thanked the Transport team for the report.

The report was noted.

AY12/0526

Replant Trees at Aughraboura

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

That the Council replants all the trees that were designed as a sound barrier for the new Distributor Road destroyed by horses at Aughraboura.

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

A report was received informing the members that the Parks Department informing the members that there are no financial resources available within the Parks Section budget to undertake any replanting. This would have to be discussed with the Roads Design Section.



Councillor Leigh informed the members that he was disappointed by the response given and noted that the trees were designed as a sound barrier for the new Distributor Road and noted that this was foreseeable as horses were allowed to graze illegally on the site without sufficient enforcement and this should not be happening. Issues in relation to illegal encampments and horses were ongoing in this area and noted that bye laws in relation to these issues could be enforced here. Residents should not be left without a sound barrier because of illegal activity, and the council has responsibility to protect investments purchased by public money.

Councillor Breslin noted that there are trees broken or which have died in many areas and people are suffering as caravans with horses arrive. Within the road contract is there an ownness on Transport Infrastructure Ireland to replace what is broken. A solution was needed in relation to people illegally encamping in the town of Athy.

Councillor Behan noted that there it may be worthwhile looking into the implementation of a native tree planting scheme for the region and noted that trees need to be taken care of after they are planted also.

Mr M McLoughlin, Senior Executive Officer Transport Department informed the members that whilst the contractor cannot be held responsible for the damage to the trees, he would bring concerns relating to the dead trees back to the Capital Team.

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



The members agreed to take Items 13,16,10 and 11 after item 9.

AY13/0526

Proposed Upkeep of Athy Roads by Local Businesses

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

That the council with the support of Kildare Local Enterprise Office and Kildare Chamber of Commerce, advertise for local business or industry to maintain the upkeep of several roads as you enter the town of Athy, with permission to allow them to advertise their company demonstrating their Corporate Social Responsibility.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that there are a number of aspects to this proposal that need further information and discussion.

1. What roads are being considered?
2. What maintenance works are being proposed?
3. Health and safety requirements for any works.
4. The addition of signage detracts from the entrance to towns, and which may impact on tidy markings and the appearance of the town. Alternative ways to acknowledge the companies would have to be considered?
5. Any proposals would have to be considered by the Roads Area Engineer and TII depending on the roads involved.
6. Staff resources would also have to be identified to administer any scheme proposed.

Councillor Dooley noted that a Master Plan was developed in the past, and that the main arteries including roundabouts into the town could be maintained and looked after by local business or industry who would like to align themselves with the town to make it look aesthetically more pleasing either along with or through tidy towns. Some local contractors mow the grass verges and often make it look worse than it was before or look like it hasn't



been cared for. A pilot with one company could be useful. This could make the town look aesthetically more pleasing and could increase footfall.

Councillor Behan noted that both individuals and businesses have an appetite to enhance the visual impact of Athy as a whole. Standard signage that communicates what Athy is about is important as well. Councillors should support people who want to make the town better and discuss the six points in the report.

Councillor Breslin noted that in 2025 she had a meeting with Kildare County Council officials and another meeting with business owners on what needed to be done to keep the town looking well. It may be good to do this again with community involvement as the Tidy Towns are working hard but lacking in personnel. Boats have been removed but huge work needs to be done. We need to work continuously to ensure tourists continue to visit Athy. A meeting of all stakeholders should take place.

Councillor Dooley noted that everyone is invested in Athy and would be happy to work towards suggestions made.

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

AY14/0526

Structural Noise Transfer in Council Owned Residential Buildings

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

Can the council confirm if it carries out audits on structural noise transfer in council owned residential buildings in this municipal district?

A report was received informing the members that Kildare County Council's Housing Maintenance Department does not carry out audits on noise transfer in its housing stock. The applicable standards, as set out in the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses)



Regulations 2019 (S.I. No. 137 of 2019) and associated Guidelines, do not include specific requirements relating to noise transfer or acoustic performance.

Councillor Behan noted that since 2014 this has improved and noise is not as big an issue as it was previously. In older buildings and apartments overhead noise is a huge issue. This is a very serious issue that needs attention and thanked the Department for the report.

The report was noted.

AY15/0526

Proposed Apartment Units at Convent Lane, Athy

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

Can the council provide an update on the proposed apartment units at Convent Lane, Athy?

A report was received from the Housing Capital Team informing the members that Clúid, the Approved Housing Body (AHB) responsible for this project has advised they expect contractors to commence this project on site in June 2026.

Councillor Breslin thanked the Department for the report and noted that this start date is imminent which is positive. There is a huge need for housing and urge that this commences for the people that these houses are being built for.

The report was noted.



The members agreed to take Items 16,10,11 and 13 after item 9.

AY16/0526

Masterplan to Market the Athy MD both Nationally and Internationally

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

That the council and members of the Athy Municipal District create a tourist forum, led by our Cathaoirleach supported by our Director with representatives from local organisations, hoteliers, restaurant owners, museum managers along with businesses who have an interest in developing tourist footfall, to create a masterplan to market the Athy MD both Nationally and Internationally.

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

A report was received from Ms A Mangan, Chief Executive Officer, Into Kildare / Ms Jacqui McNabb, Head of Enterprise, Economic Development and Tourism, informing the members that as you know, Into Kildare, as the tourism body for County Kildare, has worked closely over many years with local organisations and tourism and hospitality stakeholders across Athy and South Kildare. Into Kildare has played a significant role in supporting the promotion and development of key tourism initiatives and assets within the area, including the Shackleton Experience, and remains committed to continuing this support in partnership with local stakeholders. It is however most important that the promotion of tourism across the county is done at a strategic level and not piecemeal across our various settlements, with the intention being that visitors are attracted to our wonderful county across the entire suite of offerings, be that cultural, heritage, sporting, golf, thoroughbred, religious or walking and outdoor activity tourism.

With respect to Athy specifically, Kildare County Council has worked with the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland and others to develop visitor attractors and secure funding for projects such as Emily Square, the Shackleton Experience, Athy Boat Tours, Burtown House and the Barrow



Blueway. These activities are being promoted both on an individual basis, by the attractor themselves, and also on county wide basis by Into Kildare.

Furthermore, Kildare County Council's Economic Development Team and Into Kildare both continue to work closely the tourism offerings in Athy, including the aforementioned and others such as the Clanard Court Hotel, O'Brien's and Clancy's to arrange familiarisation trips (FAM) to the town for tour operators, tourism promoters and journalists and indeed a very successful FAM trip was held earlier in 2026 where up to 16 tour operators visited Athy for a 24 hour period. Indeed, Irish Independent journalist, Pól O'Conghaile also visited the town recently for a similar period with a full report appearing in national and social media.

We are also pleased to report that Kildare County Council and Into Kildare, in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, are currently preparing a promotional video for Athy and environs with this programmed for completion and launch during the summer with a view to promoting the areas both locally and internationally through the various channels.

Into Kildare and the council's Economic Development team are delighted to continually support and assist the Cathaoirleach, elected members and the Municipal District in working with a collaborative tourism cluster for Athy to support co-ordinated tourism development. However, it would not be appropriate to establish new structures in different areas of the county in order to ensure that the afore mentioned strategic approach to Kildare tourism, including destination development, marketing and promotion both nationally and internationally, is maintained.

We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to support the sustainable development of tourism across the Athy Municipal District.

Councillor Dooley thanked the department for the report and noted that there is so much happening in Athy, that his idea was working in a macro level to set up an information hub and this in no way takes away or looks to replace the work of Into Kildare or other stakeholders but would be in addition to them. The Shackelton museum, boat tours and other stakeholders are generating additional footfall with buses from Cork, Limerick and other



parts of the country coming to Athy and information and events that are happening locally need to be communicated to a wider audience. A think tank forum could be created to continuously collaborate and try to support the work of already established stakeholders to reach a wider audience.

Councillor Behan noted that the Future Ancestor festival, a car club from France visiting Athy tied into the Gordon Bennet Car run and Athy Library and its events are examples of events that take place a community meeting to highlight events like these would be good. Athy town promoters put a lot of information online and local people as well would like to know what is happening in the local area.

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

AY17/0526

Resurface Cluain Ard in Kilmead

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

Can the council confirm if it has plans to resurface Cluain Ard in Kilmead?

A report was received from Building Control informing the members that Kildare County Council is working to progress the Taking in Charge of Cluain Ard, Kilmead following the receipt of a Taking in Charge request. There is recent engagement with Uisce Éireann to resolve an issue relating to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) serving the development, which is considered Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI). Once this issue is resolved, it is intended that a Site Resolution Plan will be undertaken including resurfacing works throughout the estate.

Mr L McNeela, Senior Executive Engineer, Building Control informed the members that in addition to the report, work is ongoing with Uisce Eireann in relation to the status of the



treatment plant which impacts the completion of the Taking in Charge Process. A large pothole at this location will be investigated also.

The report was noted.

AY18/0526

Twinning of Athy and South Georgia in recognition of Ernest Shackelton

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

That, in recognition of their shared connection with Ernest Shackelton - Born in South Kildare and laid to rest in South Georgia, that the Council formerly twins Athy and South Georgia as a tribute to his legacy, and also as an opportunity to generate Tourism.

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

A report was received from the Community Department informing the members that the decision to enter a twinning arrangement is a reserved function of the elected members. To explore the proposed twinning of Athy and South Georgia, an independent, community led committee would need to be established to develop and manage the proposal and any associated activities, noting that the previous Athy Twinning Committee disbanded in June 2024.

Consideration should be given to factors such as geographical location, population size, and economic and tourism activity, including the undertaking of exploratory engagement to determine compatibility. Once this process has been completed, a written submission or presentation should be made to the Twinning Liaison Committee for consideration. If approved, the proposal would then be referred to the Athy Municipal District for final approval.

Councillor Leigh informed the members that he was not aware that the Twinning Committee had disbanded a year and a half ago and there is a strong case for reactivating it.

Shackelton remains one of the most well know explorers and continued national and international interest in him and his expeditions remains. More than 16,000 visitors travel to



South Georgia to visit his grave and is a significant opportunity for South Kildare to promote its links to him and strengthen ties to South Georgia. Long term cultural and heritage benefits from this twinning would benefit the area.

Councillor Behan informed the members that she supported the motion and any work that could be done to strengthen the ties and increase culture, tourism and heritage for the area would be welcome. Heritage is a huge part of Athy Municipal District and should be encouraged.

Councillor Breslin noted that this would be a missed opportunity not to promote ties. Athy has something unique and needed to protect Shackleton and come together as a group in relation to moving this forward.

Councillor Dooley noted that this is a great motion, we are trying to market ourselves internationally and bring what happens in Athy to the forefront. Thinking outside the box like this is positive and there is no reason why work to progress this cannot be done in conjunction with the museum.

Mr T Shanahan, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department informed the members that Twinning requires an on the ground group both sides. Social media and the PPN network were used to prompt interest in reestablishing the Twinning Committee and get it up and running again. There is an annual twinning meeting once per year which could be used also gain information and this is a good starting point. Mr T Shanahan also noted that there is another difficulty as there is no permanent population in South Georgia, the people there being scientists and chartered tourist expeditions and so Twinning is not the mechanism for this. There is potential through the Shackleton experience to look at other European locations with strong Shackleton links. Mr T Shanahan also enquired if members were interested re-engaging with Granville, as this could be investigated.

Councillor Leigh noted that getting the Twinning committee up and running may be the best option and this can be explored.

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