



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 19 January 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 McLoughlin (A/Director of Service), Mr D Conlan (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms P Pender (Senior Executive Officer), Mr L McNeela (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.
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The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the January meeting of the Athy Municipal District.

AY01/0126

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.

AY02/0126

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 08 December 2025, and the progress report was noted.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 08 December 2025, be adopted and the progress report be noted.

AY03/0126

Municipal District Roadworks Update

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

National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measure Updates

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

Department of Transport – Climate Adaption Projects

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

Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RI Program

RI Schedule of works to be determined pending funding allocation

Municipal District Restoration Maintenance Works – RM Program

RM Schedule of works to be determined pending funding allocation.

Local Improvement Schemes

No update for 2026.

Community Involvement Schemes

No update for 2026.

Footpath Upgrades / Surveys

Footpath repair locations to be determined pending funding allocation.

Signage Works

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District

Cleaning of signs around the Municipal District commenced

Road Markings

Road studs to be fitted to Regional Roads – under construction

Drainage Works

Jetting drainage lines on various roads – ongoing.

Cleaning gullies – ongoing.

Carrying out water cuts along roads – ongoing.



Road Patching

Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing.

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping to areas – ongoing.

Bin collection – ongoing.

General Maintenance

Hedge cutting commenced along the regional road junctions

Hedge cutting on junction sightlines.

Preparation works in place for winter maintenance

The members raised the following:

- Enquired when the works in Kilberry would start?
- There were certain areas where hedges were protruding boundaries, could they be cut back?

Mr K Dunne advised the following:

- Hedge cutting on private land was the landowners responsibility but requested the councillor send in locations and the Municipal District Office would investigate further.
- The contractor was expected to start works in Kilberry in the next ten days.

The report was noted.

AY04/0126

Athy Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2026

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

As discussions were still ongoing it was proposed by Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members to defer the Athy LPT Schedule of Works for 2026 to Februarys Municipal District meeting.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley and seconded by Councillor Behan that the Athy Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2026 be deferred to the February Municipal District Meeting.

AY05/0126

Section 38 for Proposed Bus Stops

The members considered the Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 – Proposed Bus Stop Shelter Works at the following locations:

- Main Street, Castledermot,
- Lipstown Upper, Narraghmore
- Wood Road, Narraghmore
- Timolin Terrace, Crookstown – Northbound
- Timolin Terrace, Crookstown – Southbound

Councillor Keatley advised that the members had not received maps and requested that maps be circulated to members.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that he would ensure that maps were circulated as soon as possible and that the members could raise any queries and there would be a statutory consultation process after that. This Section 38 was just for noting and once that consultation process was completed the members would see the report.

The report was noted.

AY06/0126

Bus Stop Upgrades in the Athy Municipal District

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan.
That the council outlines planned bus stop upgrades in the Athy Municipal District.

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



A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Bus stop enhancement works are currently being implemented on Local Link Routes 821 and 880 and this includes seven bus stops in the Athy Municipal District. A further two stops in Nurney are included in a further work package that has been tendered in Quarter 4 2025.

There are two bus shelters to be installed in Calverstown following the recent consultation process and this work will be undertaken when the bus shelters are provided by the National Transport Authority (NTA).

In Quarter 1 2026, it is intended to commence a subsequent public consultation process for new bus shelters at Narraghmore, Castledermot and Crookstown.

Other stop locations on the Local Link Route 888 are being examined (11 in total) and proposed design work for these will be progressed subject to sufficient resources being available.

Councillor Behan thanked the transport department for the report and looked forward to the public consultation process being carried out for Narraghmore, Castledermot and Crookstown.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that there was a delay on installation of bus shelters in Calverstown as they were procured through the NTA.

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

The members took item 7 and item 13 together.

AY07/0126

Traffic Calming Measures at Kilkea Bridge

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



That the council implements traffic calming measures at Kilkea Bridge due to its narrow, historic structure and repeated collisions/bridge strikes.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the Bridge Remediation Team are happy to meet onsite with the Elected Member to review this case and determine the most appropriate next steps in this case.

AY13/0126

Report on Bridge Maintenance and Repair

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

Can the council provide a report on its bridge maintenance and repair to date in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Bridge Remediation Team carries out an annual inspection programme of bridges in the county with 94 formal inspections completed last year across the entire county.

These inspections give each bridge a ranking which is used when determining which bridges are considered for inclusion in the remediation programme the following year.

There are several bridges in the Municipal District on the current work programme including bridges in Spratstown, Walterstown and Levitstown. Works have also been completed in 2025 to Nine Eyes Bridge and several other bridges over the last number of years.

Councillor Leigh advised that a petition had been signed by over 200 residents. This effected a wide range of road users. Historic aspect also needed to be considered. Careful and constructive consideration, was it suited to its current use?



Councillor Behan suggested that An Garda Síochána be contacted to request a speed van be placed along that road.

Councillor Keatley added that there were speeding issues and also many bridge strikes. There were a number of bridges across the Municipal District that needed upgrade works including Spratstown which had been damaged for a number of years. Could the members get an idea of when works would be carried out?

Mr D Conlan advised that the annual bridge remediation process took about two years to go through design work, surveying, tender etc to then completing the work. Spratstown was due to go to tender for repair work in 2026. There were works completed on the Nine Eye Bridge in 2025 and there was a bridge in Levitstown which was currently being assessed for emergency works.

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

AY08/0126

Remedial Works to the Roadway at the Top of William Pearse Terrace

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

That the council carries out remedial works to the roadway at the top of William Pearse Terrace Estate in Castledermot.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office will complete required remedial works.

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



AY09/0126

Upgrades to the back of Emily Square and Barrow Quay, Athy

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

That the council upgrades the back of Emily Square and Barrow Quay, Athy to allow efficient parking, lighting and pedestrian crossing area for the Museum.

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

A report was received informing the members that the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team have now completed two capital projects in Athy, Emily Square and Shackleton Museum. We are working with the Municipal District Office to progress upgrades to Meeting Lane junction. There are two other projects that SPPR have on their work programme for Athy – Edmund Rice Square, which we plan to tender a feasibility study in Q1/Q2 2026 and the Dominican Lands Masterplan which is on hold pending progress of the Athy Flood Relief Scheme.

Councillor Dooley advised that he was looking for upgrade works in the area. There was a raised ramp that could be used as a pedestrian crossing, two wheelchair spaces were needed closer to the ramp, there were issues with trees raising footpaths, from the bridge down to the courthouse needed upgrading, these works could fall under the Municipal District Office budget.

Councillor Behan added that there were issues with buses pulling in and out and that the area needed to be more functional space.

Councillor Breslin paid tribute to the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team for the great work carried out in the Municipal District. She agreed that changes were needed and advised that there was an issue with parking and people were receiving fines. There could be a short term solution to fixing some of these issues before a bigger job is done.



Councillor Leigh advised that there was also a safety issue where someone had tripped over loose cobble. He advised that there were other areas that needed to be looked at, the back square needed to be tidied up as wooden hoarding had been left up all year after a festival had been held.

The District Engineer advised that there was no funding to carry out all of the works requested but he was happy to meet with the members onsite and prioritise what works needed to be done.

The District Manager advised that the Shackleton Museum was exceeding expectations and was an unbelievable success. He suggested that some of these issues could be dealt with under the byelaw review and HGV restrictions. Works needed to be listed and prioritised over the next twelve months.

Councillor Keatley questioned if there were any indications as to when the flood relief scheme would progress.

The District Manager would follow up with Ms E O'Brien.

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

The members took items 10, 11 and 12 together.

AY10/0126

Moone to Timolin National Cycle Network Pilot Project

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

Can the council provide a progress report on the Moone to Timolin Cycleway Pilot Project with specific regard to lighting and reflecting all kerbs and islands.



A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Construction works on the scheme are substantially complete at the present time.

The road safety audit site visit took place on the 05 December, and the report is awaited from the independent consultant.

This report will be reviewed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the scheme designers and any remedial measures identified will be implemented. Any requirement for lighting or improved visibility measures for kerbs and islands will be determined by this process, however as previously advised, the provision of lighting is outside the scope of the project.

The road safety audit report will be circulated to the Elected Members once it is available.

Item 11:

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

Can the council outline what actions it intends to take to improve safety on the Moone-Timolin Cycleway given the high volume of incident reports from the Moone Positive Action Group?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the road safety audit site visit took place on the 05 December, and the report is awaited from the independent consultant.

This report will be reviewed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the scheme designers and any remedial measures identified will be implemented.

The road safety audit report will be circulated to the Elected Members once it is available.

Item 12:

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

Can the council provide an update in relation to the Moone to Timolin National Cycle Network Pilot Project on the R448?



A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Construction works on the scheme are substantially complete at the present time.

The road safety audit site visit took place on the 05 December, and the report is awaited from the independent consultant.

This report will be reviewed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the scheme designers and any remedial measures identified will be implemented.

The road safety audit report will be circulated to the Elected Members once it is available.

The members raised the following:

- Was there a timeframe for the safety audit to be circulated to members?
- Did Mr D Conlan have any input to the report?
- Noted that there was an accident along that stretch of road the night previous.
- Was there any mechanism to bring lighting under the scope of the project.
- If the road safety audit recommends lighting, would it then become part of the scope of the project?
- Would the Council meet with the Moone/Timolin Positive Action Group when the report has been issued.
- The surface was currently not in a great state, could this be raised with the contractor as it needed to be cleaned?

Mr D Conlan advised the following:

- The report was expected by the end of January and he would follow up and get a definitive timeline.
- TII and the designers would look at the road safety audit. He would also be looking over it and have some input.
- As previously advised, lighting could be looked at through the KLIPs process and was not within the scope of the pilot project.



- The road safety audit would make recommendations and decisions would then be made on what work would be carried out.
- He would meet with the Moone/Timolin Positive Action Group.
- There was still snagging being carried out, he would get a timeline on getting works done.

The report was noted.

AY14/0126

Pay Parking Fund

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

Can the council confirm how much is in the pay parking fund in County Kildare and how much is to be allocated to Athy Municipal District?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the pay-parking budget for 2026 was included in the Municipal District estimates circulated to the members and adopted in November 2025.

	2026 – Athy MD	Full Council
	€	€
Pay-parking - Income	340,709	3,250,483
Pay-parking - Expenditure	292,3534	2,143,731
Surplus	48,357	1,106,752

The adopted surplus for 2026 is to be used within the roads programme for Municipal District works including local roads, regional roads, footpath, public lighting, traffic signalling and road safety measures. There is also a pay parking reserve of €147,000 which is used for parking related additional costs such as line marking and costs associated with the implementation of bye-laws.

Councillor Leigh was happy with the report and advised that he had asked the question to see if there were any additional funds that could be allocated to the Municipal District.



Mr M McLoughlin advised that there was also historic pay parking monies in the amount of approx. €170,000.00 that's also available to the Municipal District which could be used for improving car parking spaces and relining and other works.

Councillor Keatley mentioned that in light of pay parking being ongoing throughout the Christmas Period it was important the people were aware that the money was going back into the Municipal District and looked forward to the Pay Parking Review.

The report was noted.

AY15/0126

Lease on Lands at the back of Barrow Quay

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

Can the council confirm if it would consider a lease on lands at the back of Barrow Quay to support vehicular activities?

A report was received from Corporate Services Department informing the members that a report would be given at the meeting.

Mr B McGrath advised that Public Realm works at Shackleton Museum and Emily Square were deemed completed with the exception of what was discussed in item 9 above. Over €10 million euro had been spent on the project.

Regarding casual trading, this was raised when the byelaws were reviewed and a submission was made. There is no provision that the Council would acquire land for casual trading and byelaws were adapted on the basis that Municipal owned lands would be used.



Traders were happy to use Emily Square and had signalled their unwillingness to relocate to a less prominent location.

Significant capital expenditure would be needed to create additional parking and transportation department currently did not see a need for that.

Councillor Dooley advised that he raised this question due the need for bus parking and vehicular parking for visitors to the museum.

The report was noted.

AY16/0126

Letter to Threshold

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

That the council writes to Threshold to encourage them to hold an information session to advise those renting in the private sector in the Athy Municipal District of their rights.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that this is a matter for the members to agree on.

Councillor Breslin advised that this motion had come to light due to the amount of landlords selling up, most of her clinic was now taken up by people looking for their rights for when a landlord sells their property. Families had been evicted in a manner which was highly questionable and there was a huge gap in information provided to these vulnerable families.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Leigh that a letter be sent to Threshold and the report be noted.



AY17/0126

Master Plan for Development of the Dominican Lands

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

That the council commences the master plan for development of the Dominican Lands and Car Park, Athy.

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

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team informing the members that the Masterplan for the Dominican lands is currently on hold subject to the selection of a preferred option for the proposed Athy Flood Relief Scheme. The area is currently within a flood zone where development is prohibited as per the Local Area Plan and OPW guidelines. Any future development constructed within this flood zone, other than flood resilient structures, will be contingent on the level of protection offered by the proposed flood defences. The decision on the location, scope and protection offered by the flood relief scheme is dependent upon ongoing design being carried out by RPS Consultants on behalf of KCC. The project proposal is to develop a Masterplan for the Dominican Lands site, there is no additional car park assessment/provision included in the project.

Councillor Dooley thanked the team for the detailed response and advised that the parking around the library needed attention. It was an extremely busy area and needed lines, speed restrictions and better pedestrian accessibility. Could a phased design around the Dominican Lands and library could be looked at

Ms P Pender advised that the Dominican Lands master plan was their remit but in terms of car parking, this could be looked at under the review of the parking byelaws.

The District Manager advised that the five members and transport department needed to sit down to discuss the review of byelaws.



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

AY18/0126

Upgrades to Athy Town from the Kilkenny Road

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

Can the council progress a report on necessary upgrades to Athy Town from the Kilkenny Road, in particular where there is a derelict fuel station and broken pedestrian bollards?

A report was received informing the members that the Town Regeneration Team have opened a file on the derelict fuel station. We will begin derelict sites procedures, and make contact with the owners to address the current condition of the site.

Mr B McGrath advised that the District Engineer agreed to fix the bollards once on council owned lands.

Councillor Dooley accepted the report.

The report was noted.

AY19/0126

Sporting Achievements in South Kildare in 2025

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

That Athy Municipal District acknowledges the teams and individuals whose achievements made it an outstanding year for sport in South Kildare.

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

A report was received from the Meetings Administrator informing the members that the Protocol for Ceremonial Functions and Civic Honours sets out the procedure for affording



recognition to an individual or group. There is no provision therein to commemorate several groups and individuals simultaneously, as envisaged in the motion.

Informally, the Cathaoirleach and Members offer such congratulations at the commencement of Municipal District Meetings. These are recorded in the minutes.

Councillor Leigh accepted the report and advised that he did not want to go against protocol but asked that an appropriate way to commemorate the unbelievable sporting achievements within the Municipal District in 2025 be considered. He named a number of groups and questioned if the members could come together to plan a commemoration.

The members raised the following:

- Reformed basketball group in their first final, only back up and running since September.
- Athy Hurling Club was due to be reestablished.
- The members were looking ahead to provide new sporting facilities to support teams within the Municipal District.
- Spirit of Brigid awards could be an option to nominate teams.
- Could funds be set aside for this.
- LPT funding could be used to hold an evening to celebrate these teams.
- Agreed to discuss this offline.

The District Manager advised that he would get an update on the Ardrew Amenity lands for the next meeting.

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

AY20/0126

Taking in Charge of the Friary Estate, Castledermot

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



Can the council provide an update on the taking in charge of the Friary Estate, Castledermot?

A report was received from Building and Development Control informing the members that the Friary forms part of the legacy portfolio of estates which are being dealt with under the Legacy Estate Remediation Project. Site investigations have been undertaken and a comprehensive surface defects list developed as part of the site resolution plan. The next stage involves tender preparation and tendering of works including surface defect repairs, drainage repairs and road surfacing throughout. Further progress is subject to the availability of staff resources within the Legacy Estates team. Once the required works are complete, the statutory process for Taking in Charge can be advanced.

Councillor Breslin thanked Mr L McNeela for the report and for the huge body of work that the Building and Development Control team had carried out. She added that the TIC of the Friary Estate had been going on for a long time. The condition was poor. Email had been sent to residents association a while ago, funding and staff resources were an issue. Could this please be pushed forward.

Mr L McNeela advised that funding was available, but staff resources had been an issue. He was hopeful that it would be rectified soon.

The report was noted.

AY21/0126

Kilmead Sewage Treatment Plant

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

That the council addresses the wastewater issues in Kilmead sewage treatment plant.

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

A report was received from Corporate Services informing the members that this matter has been referred to the dedicated UE email address localrepsupport@water.ie.



The members were informed that this is in accordance with the Uisce Éireann protocol relating to motions at Municipal District level.

Councillor Behan advised that overflow was running onto the footpath and affecting the residents. This issue was also impeding people wanting to apply for planning permission in that area.

Councillor Breslin supported the motion and advised that a number of water treatment plants were not up to scratch and was concerned that worse issues would be created. She suggested that a special meeting be arranged to discuss these issues directly with Uisce Éireann.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan and seconded by Councillor Keatley that a letter be sent to Uisce Éireann and the report be noted.

The meeting concluded.