



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 19 May 2025  
in the Council Chamber**

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

**Online:** Councillor I Keatley.

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

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

**AY01/0525**

**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.

**AY02/0525**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 14 April 2025 and the progress report was noted.



Councillor Breslin noted on the progress report the response from JJ Kavanagh & Sons but questioned if a response was received from a previous letter issued and asked that a follow up letter be sent to JJ Kavanagh & Sons.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that the minutes of the Athy Municipal District meeting held on 14 April 2025 be adopted, the progress report be noted and a letter be sent to JJ Kavanagh & Sons.

### **AY03/0525**

#### **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**

Four RI Regional Schemes tendered and awarded

R418 Knocknacree

R417 Srowland

R448 Junctions - Under construction

R418 Ballyshannon / Tippeenán - Complete

Eight RI Local Schemes tendered and awarded

L8077 – R418 to Ballyroe

L8077 – Ballyroe to Grangemellon

L8076 – Heath Ballyroe Grangemellon

L40161 – Colinstown to Knocknacree - Complete

L4014 – Ballycullane Upper - Complete

L8042 – Belan

L6090 – Dalkinstown - Complete



L8095 – Plunketstown

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

RM regional program is outlined below:

R417 Grangemellon to Levittstown

R417 End of 2024 works to Maganey

R448 Moyleabbey to Crookstown

R448 Blackrath – Kilgowan

RM local program is outlined below:

L8008 Calverstown

L8070 Ardsclull to Kildare Road

L8075 Ardreigh

L8092 Davidstown

L4013 Burtownhall

L8094 Deerpark – R418

L8099 Ballyraggen

L8053 Ballinacarrick lower

L8052 Hughstown

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

One Scheme added to the list.

### **Community Involvement Schemes**

No update for 2025.

### **Footpath Upgrades / Surveys**

Three schemes tender and awarded as outlined below:

Dun Brinn - Under Construction

Kingsgrove/ Graysland

Ballyroe - Complete

Nurney



### **Signage Works**

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District

Local road speed limit signs complete

Redundant signs around Athy removed

Cleaning of signs around Municipal District commenced.

### **Road Markings**

To be as per our RI and RM programme.

### **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.

Drainage works to the RI programme – Complete

### **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 complete along the regional road junctions and RI and RM programmed works.

Hedge cutting on junction sightlines.

Winter maintenance is now over.



The report was noted.

**AY04/0525**

**Athy Residual LPT**

The members considered residual LPT allocations.

The District Manager advised that the residual LPT balance needed to be discussed further, and that he would speak to the LPT co-ordinator. A special meeting would need to be held.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members present that the Residual LPT be deferred.

**AY07/0525**

**Speed Restriction Measures in Coneyboro Estate**

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

That the council introduces speed restriction measures in Coneyboro Estate to improve road safety for residents.

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

A report was received informing the members that the Sustainable Transport Section are currently developing mapping for a public consultation exercise related to the implementation of a 30km/h speed limit (Jakes Law) in housing estates taken in charge by Kildare County Council. The roads in the original section of the Coneyboro Estate (taken in charge in 2014) will be included in the proposals for a 30km/h speed limit.

It is anticipated that the mapping and scheduling for the public consultation exercise will be completed in the coming months.

Councillor Leigh advised that there were concerns raised by residents on speed issues in the estate which had increased over the last number of months. He looked forward to the



implementation of Jakes Law although it had taken a long period of time. He questioned if there were any plans for something more tangible than signs? People don't always adhere to signage. Could a strategy be put in place for estates that had a particular problem with speeding, separate to Jakes Law?

Mr M McLoughlin advised that he would update the members as soon as there was a date when Jakes Law would be implemented and when the consultation takes place, any other additional measures would be a matter for the Municipal District Engineer.

The District Engineer added that he did not have anything to add at the moment and that they would wait and see the effect of Jakes Law before discussing any additional measures.

Councillor Leigh asked that a meeting be held later in the year to discuss which estates had speed issues and look at funding to find a solution.

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

#### **AY06/0525**

##### **Junction of the Shanrath Estate Cul De Sac/R428, Athy**

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

That the council outlines its plans for future traffic at the junction of the Shanrath Estate Cul De Sac/R428, Athy.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that there are no plans for any works at this location at the present time.



Councillor Leigh advised that he had raised a question on this item at last months meeting and that he was unimpressed with the report. This area had potential to cause serious traffic congestion. It was a very busy junction with two doctors practices, a health centre, a pharmacy and there was currently a huge estate being built. The junction was already very busy and there was planning permission for another 150 houses. He felt as though this issue was being completely overlooked in the planning stage and would cause problems down the line.

Councillor Behan added that the traffic congestion at that junction also had a knock on effect further into the town and it would be great to see traffic lights there in the future.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that he would speak to the planning team in transport and take a look at that area again, nothing had changed in terms of funding but they would have a look and see if there was any solution.

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

#### **AY07/0525**

##### **Blue 'Car Parking' signs in Athy Town**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan.  
That the council installs blue 'Car Parking' signs throughout Athy Town.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District office is currently reviewing and upgrading signs around Athy, these are included as part of that review.



Councillor Behan advised that blue 'Car Parking' signage was in other areas across the county but not within the Athy Municipal District. It was good to see that signage was being upgraded.

Councillor Dooley advised that some signage needed to be changed or upgraded.

The members raised the following:

- The Municipal District Office were carrying out a review of the town and planting would also be looked at.
- Asked that the signage all be in uniform and keep the signage clear.
- On the approach road there was far too much old/outdated signage.

The District Engineer advised that a number of signs had already been removed, cleaned and new signs ordered.

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

#### **AY08/0525**

##### **Electric Charging Points in Meeting Lane Car Park**

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

That the council immediately has the electric charging points in Meeting Lane Car Park, Athy upgraded and reconnected.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Kildare County Council is in the process of preparing a Regional EV strategy and following this, it will move on to implementation stage. The appropriateness of such a facility will be addressed in this context.



Councillor Breslin was very frustrated with the issue and advised that she had been requesting this work for over a year now. She added that the council/elected members were supposed to promote green efficiency and there were currently no EV charging points in the town of Athy and it did not send out the right message. The town of Athy would expect to see an increase in tourism over the coming months and EV charging points were essential. She asked that this item remain on the progress report.

Councillor Dooley advised that one of the sports clubs would be installing EV charging points but that installing them in the town centre would be very beneficial. Sports clubs in the town were being approached by private companies to install EV charging points but more were needed in the town.

Councillor Leigh queried the report where it stated that “the appropriateness of such a facility will be addressed in this context” and asked for clarification?

Mr M McLoughlin confirmed and reassured the members that the team did promote EV charging points and that once the regional strategy was developed they intended to look at an implementation phase they would ensure that there was enough coverage in Athy town and Municipal District. He added that Kildare County Council putting EV charging points into a car park would not normally be the procedure and that it would usually be commercial entities who were the experts in that field who would install them.

Councillor Breslin advised that the council previously provided EV charging points at that location and then they were removed, and that a precedent had been set.

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

#### **AY09/0525**

#### **Safety and Remedial Works at Blackcastle, Maganey**

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



That the council completes the safety and remedial works at Blackcastle, Maganey.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that this work is scheduled to be completed in the coming weeks.

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

#### **AY10/0525**

##### **Safety Measures on the Baltinglass Road**

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to install safety measures on the Baltinglass Road between Castledermot and Prumplestown Graveyard?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District have no immediate plans for works at this location.

Councillor Behan advised that the area she was referring to was Coltstown Graveyard. She had received requests to raise this issue and residents wanted a footpath installed. She suggested surface dressing or anti skid be installed. There had been a number of accidents there and asked that the Municipal District Office kept it in mind.

The report was noted.

#### **AY11/0525**

##### **Safety Measures at Knocknagee Cross**

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to install safety measures at Knocknagee Cross?



A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that there is an anti-skid surface to be installed on the approach to the junction.

Councillor Behan was happy with the report and thanked the office for installing signage in that area.

The District Engineer advised that works had been carried out the previous week.

The report was noted.

#### **AY12/0525**

##### **Footpath Replacement Programme**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin.  
Can the council confirm when works will commence on the footpath replacement programme in the municipal district?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that these works have commenced week beginning 12 May 2025.

The report was noted.

#### **AY13/0525**

##### **Masterplan for Edmund Rice Square**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
That the council designs a masterplan for Edmund Rice Square with a redesign of the parking, the traffic flow and pedestrian connectivity to Duke Street.

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 are due to complete the Barrow Blueway; the Shackelton Experience and the



redevelopment of Emily Square in 2025. It was previously agreed that the redevelopment of Edmund Rice Square would take place after Emily Square was delivered. The 2025 work programme for the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team is confirmed for the remainder of this year. The development of a masterplan for Edmund Rice Square can be considered as part of the 2026 work programme subject to resources being available to progress the request.

Councillor Dooley advised that there was a large amount of development going into the town centre and that this space needed to be developed. He added that even the removal of bins and hedgerow and increasing parking spaces would be beneficial and make the space look aesthetically nicer. He also suggested that an allocated bus space for the Local Link to pull in. He asked that this item remain on the progress report.

The District Manager advised that he would raise this matter with Ms P Pender and the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team.

Councillor Breslin advised that a drawing had been done a number of years ago and that the members would work together to find funding for the project.

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

**The members took item 14 and 15 together.**

#### **AY14/0525**

#### **Number of New Builds Granted Planning Permission in Athy Town since January 2023**

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

Can the council outline how many new builds have been granted permission in the town of Athy to include both private and AHB approved projects, since January 2023 to date?



A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the table below indicates the total number of housing units granted permission in the town of Athy since January 2023:

<b>Athy (LAP Settlement Boundary)</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Residential Planning Permissions 2023-2025</b>
Total housing units permitted 2025 to date	3
Total housing units permitted 2024	189
Total housing units permitted 2023	37
2023-2025 Total	229

The report was noted.

#### **AY15/0525**

##### **Number of New Builds in Construction in Athy Town**

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

Can the council confirm how many new builds granted permission in the town of Athy since January 2023 to include both private and AHB approved projects are in construction?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that The table below indicates the total number of housing units under construction in the town of Athy that were permitted since January 2023:



<b>Athy (LAP Settlement Boundary)</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Units under Construction</b>
Total housing units permitted 2025 and Under Construction	0
Total housing units permitted 2024 and Under Construction	182
Total housing units permitted 2023 and Under Construction	0 under construction at present (Note 1 commencement notice received for 1 unit)
2023-2025 Total	182

Councillor Dooley welcomed both reports and advised that houses were being very well built and were welcomed in the area.

The report was noted.

#### **AY16/0525**

##### **Caravans on Council Owned Land**

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

Can the council outline what powers it has in relation to the movement of caravans on council owned land in this municipal district?

A report was received informing the members that the Housing Department investigate all such matters and issue statutory warning notices to the occupiers of these structures under



the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1948 (48-hour and follow up 24-hour notices).

The assistance of the Council's Homeless and Social Work Teams is offered to occupants. In most cases, the occupants will engage and relevant supports are provided.

Where the caravan is not removed within the stated period, the case may be referred to the Council's solicitor for legal enforcement. This will include the issue of a warning letter and court injunction action progressed.

The report was noted.

### **AY17/0525**

#### **Town Centre First Plan for Castledermot**

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

Can the council outline a timeframe for the Town Centre First plan for Castledermot?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that work has commenced in preparing a Town Centre First Plan for Castledermot in collaboration with the Town Team.

Tender assessment is complete for an urban designer led design team to work with the Town Regeneration Team in the completion of a Town Centre First Plan, and a design team will be appointed in the coming week.

A preliminary urban design analysis is on-going by the Town Regeneration Team to inform the analysis stage of the Plan.

The Town Regeneration Team have carried out surveys in Castledermot and a public consultation is being planned with the Town Team and the wider community.

The deadline for completion of the Town Centre First Plan is September 2025.

Councillor Leigh was happy with the report and mentioned that with all the work in the town of Athy at the moment, it was great to see this project coming along in Castledermot.

The report was noted.



**AY18/0525**

**Property Known as Creed's Kildare Road**

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

Can the council outline its plans for the property known as Creed's Kildare Road, Athy?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the council has received single stage approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for the demolition of the existing dwelling and construction of five new dwellings. A design team has been appointed and are liaising with the Planning Department regarding the preparation of a Part 8 scheme.

Councillor Breslin advised that she was happy with the reply and thanked Mr P Henderson and his team for all their great work on a number of infill sites in the town of Athy.

The report was noted.

**AY19/0525**

**Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2025**

The members considered the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2025 allocation for the Athy Municipal District.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members present that the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2025 allocation for the Athy Municipal District be approved.

**AY20/0525**

**Lands for Industry, Warehousing and Retail Space**

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

That the council reviews the Athy Local Area Plan to investigate if changes are required to support increasing zoned lands for industry, warehousing and retail space taking into consideration the increasing population.

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 is currently 38.13ha of undeveloped lands zoned for industry and warehousing in the Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027. These lands have the capacity to deliver between 133,000sqm and 190,000sqm of new development. These sites are at five different locations across the town to provide choice and variety. Furthermore, there are a number of sites identified within the town centre which have the capacity to deliver additional retail development at locations that would support the towns retail offer rather than out of centre locations which have the potential to undermine the viability of the retail function of the town centre. Section 6.3.2 of the Local Area Plan for Athy outlines that it was projected that Athy would require 54.9ha of undeveloped land to be zoned for employment purposes for the duration of the LAP. This figure solely relates to lands zoned for employment such as industrial warehousing and commercial and does not consider potential job creation on other lands zoned for town centre, retail or leisure and amenity uses. Table 6.3: Development of Employment Lands zoned under the Athy Local Area Plan 2021 – 2027 outlines the locations of these areas and the associated opportunities and sectoral strengths. Having regard to the foregoing, no further changes are required.

Councillor Dooley advised that he wanted to highlight the amount of available land to be developed for industrial use around the town. He has had a number of queries on availability from people looking for zoned lands in the Athy area. He advised that the members were working closely with Ms J McNabb in the Local Enterprise Office to support warehousing industry in Athy.

The District Manager advised that at the last Planning and Enterprise SPC the Strategic Employment Land Study was discussed. This study was taking a look at employment needs in each town with populations over 10,000 to look at the quantum of land that was required, that project would feed in to any future land use zoning projects through settlement strategies or through the next review of the county development plan. They were conscious of trying to keep and grow employment in Athy and all over the County.



Councillor Dooley thanked the District Manager and advised that everything they were doing was pushing the town forward in a positive manner from developing the cultural centre and also allowing for the development of industry around the town.

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

#### **AY21/0525**

##### **Local Property Tax Sports Grants Scheme 2025**

The members considered the Local Property Tax Sports Grants Scheme 2025.

The members agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

The District Manager advised that they could deal with this item under discussions for residual LPT. The members agreed.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members present that the Local Property Tax Sports Grants Scheme 2025 be deferred.

#### **AY22/0525**

##### **Local Water Safety Campaign**

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

That the council launches a local water safety campaign in this municipal district in conjunction with Waterways Ireland.

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

A report was received from the Community Department informing the members that part of the countywide water safety programme which takes place over the coming weeks, Kildare



County Council will incorporate specific information relating to initiatives and waterways in the Athy Municipal District.

Councillor Behan advised that the good weather brought out more people swimming in the rivers and that it had been very busy in the last number of weeks. There were ring buoys that had been tampered with and it was important to get the word out there about water safety. She added that this was a positive response and looked forward to seeing it rolled out.

Councillor Breslin thanked the tús workers who were constantly replacing missing or tampered with life buoys. It was down to their work and it was important to get the word out there.

The members raised the following:

- Swim Athy and Tri Athy in the next two weeks, the river would be very busy with 2,500 to 3,000 people swimming in those events.
- The triathlon club in Athy ran a programme to teach people to swim and were very safety conscious.
- It was important to discourage young people from swimming in quarries which were particularly deep, unsafe and cold.

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

The meeting concluded.