



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 20 January 2025
in the Council Chamber**

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

Officials Present: Mr A Dunney (District Manager), Mr K Dunne (District Engineer), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Ms E Price (Administrative Officer), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Ms E O'Brien (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

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

AY01/0125

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.

AY02/0125

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 Dooley seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members that the minutes of the Special Athy Municipal District meeting held on 10 December 2024 and the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 16 December 2024 be adopted and the progress report be noted.

AY03/0125

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

Road Improvement Program to be confirmed once budgets are assigned.

Municipal District Restoration Maintenance Works – RM Program

Road Maintenance 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.

Signage Works

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District .

Local road speed limit signs currently at construction.

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

Currently nothing to report.

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 their ongoing work especially during the recent cold weather period.
- Could residents collecting salt to cover rural areas/routes be an option as other councils allowed that.

The report was noted.

AY04/0125

Athy LPT Schedule of Works 2025

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

Department/Councillor	Contact	Project Title	Details	Amount Agreed	Retained LPT 2025 Reducing Balance
Athy MD					€826,434
			Carried forward from 2024		€56,136
			Total		€882,570
Sports Partnership	Syl Merrins		KSP Initiatives in Athy MD.	€20,000	€862,570
Athy MD Office	Michael Kavanagh		Ballyroe, Nurney, Narraghmore, Ballitore, Levittstown, Kilberry, St Dominics Park.	€150,000	€712,570
Athy MD Office			Storm Damage Athy MD Area	€10,000	€702,570
Environment	Ken Kavanagh		Crookstown Graveyard. Tree/hedge cutting works.	€3,500.00	€699,070
Environment			Athy Cemetery, Boundary wall maintenance works.	€2,500.00	€696,570
Environment			Athy Town, Development and Landscaping of potential new bottle bank site (GAA?)	€0	€696,570
Environment			Recycling of Christmas Trees	€0	€696,570
Transportation	Mark McLoughlin		Public Lighting	€25,000	€671,570
Transportation			Quiet Roads	€0	€671,570



Transportation			Local Active Travel	€25,000	€646,570
Planning/Heritage	Gabriel Conlon		Heritage Projects	€20,000	€626,570
Planning/Biodiversity	Maedbh Boylan		Biodiversity. Request relates to a pilot project that Biodiversity Officer is currently collaborating on with Green-Schools Ireland's Biodiversity Team, and relates to Hedgehog habitat restoration and educational interventions and awareness raising. We are working with 3no. schools across County Kildare this academic year, but would be hopeful to extend that out to additional schools in 2025. Would be hopeful of running this programme in two primary schools in Athy (cost €2,000 per school) - If further budget was available in the MD, we would be interested to extend the pilot to a Secondary School setting for a further €2,000.	€2,000	€624,570
Libraries	Eláine Donnelly, Acting Arts Officer		The next phase of this programme will support the delivery of socially engaged arts projects centred on capacity building, collaboration & sustainability . The focus for the coming 12 months will be on supporting initiatives that ignite interest and promote access and inclusion, alongside strategic capacity building and upskilling for those on the ground to create a framework to further embed Creative Places in Athy, towards local ownership and legacy. Priority will be placed on exploring ways to sustain the programme and celebrating all that is great about Athy. With confirmed Arts Council funding in place, now is a	€15,000	€609,570



			critical juncture in the programme's development and we request funding towards this next phase in 2025.		
Libraries	Eláine Donnelly, Acting Arts Officer Music Generation		In 2025 Music Generation Kildare will continue to engage with the young citizens of each of the 5 Municipal Districts in County Kildare, to deepen partnerships and further expand the range and variety of engagement opportunities. Music Generation Kildare's ethos is one of equity and inclusion, and their approach is underpinned by a belief that high quality performance music education should be available and accessible to all children and young people across the county. In 2023/2024, there were 7,657 engagements by young musicians with Music Generation Kildare programmes, rolled out in a diverse array of settings, including 40 primary schools, 2 special schools, 5 post-primary schools and 5 after-school hubs, across all 5 MDs. We ask the	€10,000	€599,570



			<p>elected members to consider financial support of the work of Music Generation Kildare in 2025 with particular priority given to the development of the Brigid Sings project and request €10,000 from each of the 5 Municipal Districts to meet this ambition (total €50,000).</p>		
Libraries	<p>Gillian Allen Ballitore Library & Castledermot Library Conservation Works</p>		<p>The proposed conservation works are vital to the preservation and survival of the Mary Leadbeater House Library and Museum. Urgent necessary works include repair to the internal render works in back hallways and upstairs and works to address serious damp issues internally throughout the building. There is also urgent damp proofing and roof work required in Castledermot Library which is a also a protected structure.</p>	€0	€599,570
Libraries	<p>Gillian Allen Athy Library Water Bottle Refill Station</p>		<p>In support of the Library Service's efforts to reduce the amount of single use plastics used in our buildings, we propose to install water refill stations in our main library branches that currently don't have them. This is a Climate Action and reflects the Library Services support of creating Zero Waste Libraries.</p>	€0	€599,570



Community	Emma Edgeworth, Community Worker Athy MD via Paula O'Brien		<p>1. Inclusive Community Engagement - The Athy MD is a diverse area and has welcomed many new communities in recent years. Working for the Local Authority I have a responsibility to promote equality and prevent discrimination.</p> <p>2. Children and Youth Participation Working with local communities and children and youth specific services, to promote the importance of youth participation.</p> <p>3. Parent and Carer Support Focusing on initiatives such as parental well-being, capacity building and peers support is an area of focus for 2025.</p> <p>4. Age Friendly During 2025, collaboration with relevant stakeholders to support the continued work being carried out with older people.</p>	€10,000	€589,570
Community	Paula O'Brien		Brigid – Spirit of Kildare municipal district grants scheme.	€20,000	€569,570
Parks	Simon Wallace	Tree Pruning	Programme of tree works based on requests through the year	€15,000	€554,570
Parks		Tree Planting	Programme of tree planting in estates and open spaces	€0	€554,570
Parks		The Peoples Park	Repair of boundary wall	€0	€554,570
Parks		Woodstock Castle	Conservation plan for redevelopment of plan	€0	€554,570
Parks		Ardev / Woodstock Masterplan	Masterplan for both areas of amenity land - yearly allocation to build up budget for design & constructionworks	€25,000	€529,570
Parks		Clonmullion	Clean up of open space rear 60-65 to discourage dumping and allow residents to maintain the area.	€5,000	€524,570



Parks		Tanyard, Ballitore	Contribution towards playground	€20,000	€504,570
Parks		Tree Policy	Develop a tree policy for the county related to tree pruning felling, planting, standards for new developments, combat climate change . Request to each MD for funding .	€0	€504,570
Corporate Services	Muireann Ni Bheaglaioich, Irish Officer	Coiste Gaeilge	Coiste Gaeilge endeavours to provide practical support and resources to all schools throughout the County and any remaining LPT funding would go toward the provision of these resources. Last year, Coiste Gaeilge received 3,000 euro LPT funding from 3 MDs. To successfully administer Scéim na bhFáinní and provide support and resources to schools who apply to Oifigeach Gaeilge and Coiste Gaeilge for much-needed support, I believe 3,000 from each MD would be required.	€3,000	€501,570
Health & Safety	Michael Hurley		Kildare Inclusivity Festival Map 2025.	€0	€501,570
Housing Regeneration	Fiona Byrne	Town Centre First	Request €50,000 towards a town centre first project which will be identified as part of the town centre first process. Having this funding in place for 2025 will mean that a project identified by the Castlemont community can commence as soon as possible once the plan is adopted which will provide an immediate positive and visible impact in the town.	€25,000	€476,570



Climate Action		Climate Innovation Fund	This grant provides support to those with ideas or enhancement of new innovative measures to combat climate change. To support and enable groups and individuals to be proactive in their journey through the climate crisis. The projects listed above demonstrate the broad range of topics that this grant supports in the county - spanning research and feasibility studies to youth work innovation and working with creatives to produce public events. In 2025 we plan to further the reach and accessibility of this fund as we collaborate with Maynooth University, Kildare Local Enterprise Office and County Kildare Leader Partnership, amongst others, to enhance innovative potential.	€15,000	€461,570
Climate Action		Smaller Fund	Throughout 2024, requests were received for funding to assist with small projects and items that were outside the remit of the CIF along with request for miscellaneous items such as room hire, materials, analysis work etc. Additionally, a small amount of funding is required to support the actions of the adopted KCC Climate Action Plan. To encourage and assist with these projects and works a small fund is proposed seeking €5,000 per MD.	€0	€461,570
Public Realm	Pamela Pender		RRDF Call 4 has been announced for Category 2 projects. T&V is due to be announced in Q1 2025. We are researching and costing projects emerging from the Masterplans, of which there are 120, to identify projects that suit the funding model. We respectfully ask that each MD would allocate funding to meet the match funding	€20,000	€441,570



			requirements. €25,000 per each MD.		
Public Realm			There are 9 projects listed in the Castledermot TRMP, each needs further assessment and engagement with Active Travel/Parks/MD Engineer to progress. The complexity of each project will vary, however we are keen to progress projects for Castledermot in 2025. Agreed €20,000 over 5 years	€20,000	€421,570
Into Kildare			Lighting up of St. Brigids Day & Taste of Kildare. €5,000 for Brigid, €5,000 for Shackleton & Barrow Blue Way only.	€10,000	€411,570
Cllr Dooley		Athy Community Arts & Crafts Hub	Group of Artists want to open a community gift store. Unit proposed is vacant on street with plenty of vacancies. Funding for start up for first year.	€0	€411,570
Cllr. Breslin		Community	Athy Sing & Sign	€5,000	€406,570
		Community	Athy Alternative - Litter	€3,000	€403,570
		Community	TUS Leader Programme. Petrol, Service & Repair	€3,000	€400,570
		Community Emma Edgeworth, Community Worker Athy.	Willow Community Councillng Services	€10,000	€390,570
		Athy Promoters	Athy Promoters	€89,450	€301,120
		Community Tidy Towns	Tidy Towns Athy MD to include garden in Scoil Diarmada	€25,000	€276,120



		Sports Grant	Sports Grant Fund to include - St. Fiachra's Swimming Club, Mill Celtic, Grangenolvin GAA, Athy Camogie, Athy Swim.	€60,000	€216,120
		Community	Castlemitchell Hall	€3,000	€213,120
		Community	Athy Community Hall	€4,000	€209,120
		Community	Ballyshannon Hall	€8,000	€201,120
		Community	Anchor Youth Club	€2,000	€199,120
		Community	Griese Youth Theatre (Ivan to follow up)	€0	€199,120
		Community	(Castledermot First Responders €3150 - to be considered further) & Kilberry Defibrillator €1225	€1,225	€197,895
		Community	Athy Men's Shed	€0	€197,895
		Community	Levitstown Parents Association - Garden	€0	€197,895
		Community	Ardreigh Sports Grounds €100,000 each year for 5 years	€100,000	€97,895
		Community	Residents Assoc Grants Private Estates	€15,000	€82,895
		Community	Residents Assoc Grants Public Estates	€5,000	€77,895
		Community	Larry's on the move Senior Citizens	€2,000	€75,895
		Community	Castledermot Community Lights	€2,000	€73,895

The members raised the following:

- Thanked the LPT co-ordinator and District Manager for the huge body of work involved in putting the schedule together.
- Happy to move ahead with the agreed schedule with a view to allocate retained monies in Q2 2025.

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



AY05/0125

Speed Restriction Measures in Kingsgrove/Graysland/Glebelands Estates

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

That the council installs speed restriction measures in Kingsgrove/Graysland/Glebelands Estates, Athy.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the speed limits in housing estates is expected to change this year which is intended to reduce speed in housing estates nationally.

Councillor Leigh accepted the report but questioned would implementing Jakes Law include speed reduction measures for example signage or speed ramps or would it be up to An Garda Síochána to monitor speed in the estates.

The members raised the following:

- Cars were travelling at high speeds in housing estates.
- The footpath in Graysland estate was located opposite the houses, which meant residents had to cross the road for safe use of a footpath.
- This was a wide road, this estate needed to be looked at again.
- Would signage be included.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that enforcement would still be a matter for An Garda Síochána but issues could be looked at in conjunction with the Municipal District Engineer. The removal of special speed limits would be coming before Full Council later this month and looking to implement further restrictions would be reviewed subsequent to that.

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



AY06/0125

L8073 Inch to Prusselstown Cross Road Widening

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

That the council widens the L8073 Inch to Prusselstown Cross road.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that Kildare County Council does not have the funding or resources to consider this request at the current time. The Roads Capital Projects Team are currently progressing several large capital projects including the HGV restrictions and improvements to the centre of Athy and it is not possible to consider this project at the present time.

Councillor Leigh advised that this issue had been raised by residents throughout his election campaign last year, many residents were very unhappy. It was unfortunate that there was no funding. If that area was included in the HGV ban it could help to alleviate traffic.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that it would be considered under the HGV restrictions.

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

AY07/0125

Weight Restriction for Bridge No. 0bw34 Tomard, Athy

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

That the council puts in place a weight restriction for vehicles using the bridge no. 0bw34 Tomard, Athy.

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



A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that it is intended to implement a HGV restriction at this location as part of the larger suite of measures to be introduced in the town centre over the coming months.

Councillor Breslin thanked Mr D Conlan for the report and their previous discussions on the HGV ban. She noted it was a huge body of work. It was a narrow road and narrow bridge where many accidents occurred. HGVs took that route as a shortcut.

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

AY08/0125

Improve Visibility and Safety at Ballyteige Crossroads and Sheriffhill Upper

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

That the council explores options to improve visibility and safety in the area at Ballyteige Crossroads and Sheriffhill Upper.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members the Kildare County Council will investigate the matter and add to our Road Improvement Programme.

Councillor Behan was happy with the report and advised that visibility was impaired at Ballyteige Cross heading south. The hedge had overgrown the concrete wall. Could a corner be taken out? She also noted that the road from Sheriffhill Upper was in bad shape with potholes, a lot of work needed to be carried out. That area was in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains and was often hit hard with harsh weather.

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



AY09/0125

Surface Water Flow on the Tullow Road out of Castledermot

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan.
That the council addresses the constant surface water flow on the Tullow Road out of Castledermot.

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

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that Kildare County Council has addressed this issue and confirm that works have now been completed.

Councillor Behan thanked the Municipal District Office for their work regritting the road during the recent cold spell. She was grateful for the diversion of the water which seemed to have resolved the issue.

Councillor Leigh also thanked the team for a similar job in Narraghmore.

Councillor Dooley complimented the office on their anti-skid resurfacing and advised that it was a busy road with a lot of agricultural use.

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

AY10/0125

Winter Maintenance Routes

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

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



That the council includes the local link 880 and 883 routes in this municipal district on their winter maintenance routes.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that apart from successfully covering the ten Primary Priority 1 Salting Routes (as detailed in the Kildare County Council's Winter Maintenance Plan 2024-2025), Kildare County Council also spread salt at additional critical locations, including footpaths and local roads; based on the resources available.

Councillor Keatley advised that during the recent cold snap, both of these routes were badly affected and caused bus cancellations. He reiterated how these routes needed to be prioritised during extreme weather events to allow transport users to travel to school, college, work and to do their shopping. People were dependent on these services. Could the council work with Local Link on this issue. Salting or using a snow plough once or twice during the bad weather events could ensure these routes were usable.

The members raised the following:

- These two services were crucial to rural residents.
- Could Mr M McLoughlin have further discussions with Local Link on the matter.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that Local Link were included in the Severe Weather Assessment Team meetings. As the members were already aware, there were ten salting routes in the county. During the recent cold weather there were approximately 1300 tonnes of salt used and drivers were out 22 times to cover the county. He acknowledged that something did need to be done.

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



AY11/0125

Footpath from Conlan's Garage to Clanard Court Hotel

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

Can the council update members regarding the installation of the footpath from Conlan's Garage to Clanard Court Hotel on the R418, Athy?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office has arranged a meeting with the relevant landowners in an attempt to progress this work.

Councillor Leigh advised that a design had previously been done and funding had been set aside. This area was the last place in Athy that needed a footpath. People who were travelling from the train station to the Clanard Court Hotel had no safe pedestrian footpath.

Councillor Breslin asked the District Engineer to come back to the members with an update.

The District Engineer agreed to update the members.

The report was noted.

AY12/0125

Electric Vehicles Charging Points in Meeting Lane Car Park, Athy

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

Can the council provide an update as to when the electric vehicles charging points in Meeting Lane Car Park, Athy will be turned back on?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that while it was intended to include the EV charging points in a tender process for the management of similar points elsewhere in the county, this was not possible as these charging points would require significant upgrading to operate effectively. EV



charging points in Athy will be considered in the context of the EV strategy being prepared at present.

Councillor Breslin advised that the charging points had been out of action for a number of months and during the climate crisis it was not ideal to not have these facilities available. Was there a timeline on the EV strategy?

Mr M McLoughlin advised that he did not have a timeline at present.

Councillor Breslin asked that this item remain on the Progress Report.

The report was noted.

AY13/0125

Upgrade the Pedestrian Safety near Scoil Bhríde

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

Can the council confirm if there is a plan to upgrade the pedestrian safety near Scoil Bhríde National School in Nurney, this year.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office has completed a design for this work. We are awaiting confirmation of our budget allocation for 2025 before the Municipal District Office can commit to what works will be completed in 2025.

Councillor Behan queried if there were any grants available that the council could apply to for example Safe Schools?

The District Engineer advised that he was working Mr D Hodgins, Senior Engineer to try and available of any available funding.

Councillor Behan asked if there was a timeline.



The District Engineer advised that if funding was available he would be hopeful that works would be carried out this year.

The report was noted

AY14/0125

Emergency Gritting / Snow Clearing in the Athy Municipal District

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

Can the council consider having discussions relating to submissions regarding emergency gritting / snow clearing in the Athy Municipal District in the areas where there are primary schools.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members the Municipal District Engineer would facilitate a discussion on this matter.

Councillor Behan advised that she had previously raised the issue at Full Council. In many rural areas in the Athy Municipal District, areas outside schools were not being gritted. She asked the members to come together to put something forward to Full Council.

Councillor Behan suggested meeting with the District Engineer to have discussions.

The District Engineer agreed to meet with the members.

The report was noted.

AY15/0125

Tree Mapping in the People's Park, Athy

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

That the council carries out tree mapping in the People's Park, Athy.

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



A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that signage is being developed for the park which will include information on the trees in the park. It is hoped to have this in place for the Spring.

Councillor Dooley was happy with the response and advised that several residents had come to him regarding this. He looked forward to the works being completed.

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

AY16/0125

Serviced Sites Scheme, Athy

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

That the council proceeds with previously identified council owned sites in the Athy Municipal District that could accommodate the Serviced Sites Scheme.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that two sites in the Athy Municipal District have been designated for Service Site provision, they are in Ballyshannon and Ballitore. As the site in Ballyshannon is privately owned it is matter for the owner to proceed with a scheme. The site in Ballitore has transferred to the ownership of the Council and we are awaiting the recruitment of a technical resource to the Affordable Team to progress a feasibility study. Based on the provisions of the Croi Connaithe Ready to Build Scheme, it appears unlikely that the council will receive funding to provide the necessary infrastructure on this site, and this will be considered as part of the feasibility study. As the Members are aware the council launched a serviced sites scheme in Clogherinkoe in 2024 and the response to date has been poor.



Councillor Keatley advised that this scheme had been long awaited. Although there was slow progress. He felt that the local needs element was too restrictive and other conditions needed to be looked at. Rural people weren't qualifying for the scheme. Athy Municipal District members should be pushing for it to progress. This could be looked at under the SPC programme. Local people needed housing. He felt that the scheme being advertised needed to be open ended so that there was not a deadline or restriction. He looked forward to moving forward with the scheme.

The members raised the following:

- The Serviced Sites Scheme needed amendments.
- People were crying out to build their own homes in areas they were from.
- The scheme did not have enough flexibility.
- The scheme needed to be more feasible.
- There was a shortage of housing in Ballyshannon and Ballitore.

The District Manager advised that there were only two expressions of interests in the scheme in Clogherinkoe. Advertisement of the scheme had started. They had attempted to proceed with Ballyshannon but the valuation was causing a problem. He noted that the rural housing policy was proving difficult but that this could be raised though the SPC. Where rural housing policy did not apply, then NPF allocation did apply.

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

AY17/0125

Timeline of Completion of Emily Square, Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.
Can the council provide updated timelines on the delivery and completion of Emily Square, Athy?



A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm department informing the members that the works are progressing well on Emily Square. Works complete include ESB and public lighting ductwork. Connection onto existing surface water on old N78 complete, with surface water installation throughout the square underway.

Excavation of tree pit complete and installation of soil cells underway.

Ordering of long lead items complete. Deliveries of paving commencing 16 January.

Delivery of the town tree is expected week ending 24 January

The Works are programmed to be substantially complete at the end of May 2025.

Councillor Dooley was happy with the report and noted that he had received questions on both and was glad he could now let people know the timeline. He advised that there was great excitement and anticipation from businesses.

The report was noted.

AY18/0125

Housing Units in Canal Side, Athy

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

Can the council outline the up to date position and plans for refurbishing and remedial works to the housing units in Canal Side, Athy?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Kildare County Council Architectural Services Department are currently carrying out a feasibility study on the existing terrace and intend to provide 1 / 2 bedroom housing units either by way of refurbishment or reconstruction. An engineering consultant has been engaged to assess the structural conditions of the houses in council ownership to determine if the current building fabric is suitable for retention and to provide guidance on appropriate remedial works and actions where appropriate.

Also, Kildare County Council Architectural Services Department will be engaging a Conservation Architect in Q1 2025 to prepare architectural heritage impact assessment



reports and conservation method statements for the units in council ownership at Canal Side, Athy as the units are located within an Architectural Conservation Area.

Kildare County Council Architectural Services Department have had discussions with the Planning Department to determine an appropriate approach to the development of the site. These discussions are ongoing, and the most suitable approach will be determined pending conclusion and receipt of the above reports, surveys and discussion.

Councillor Breslin thanked the Housing Department for the report and stated that it was a “good news story” for the town. This area was quiet and would be suitable for an older persons unit. She added that she would prefer to see two bed units rather than one as she felt they did not work. Some older people required carers or had children/grandchildren that cared for them. This area had been derelict for some time and was a great location for the development due to the proximity to the Blueway.

The report was noted.

AY19/0125

Identify and Purchase of Industrial Lands in Athy MD

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

That the council identifies and purchases lands in the Athy Municipal District to support the LEO, and to help the IDA to attract new industry whilst also supporting already established local businesses and industry that wish to expand and grow their businesses.

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

A report was received informing the members that the Economic Development Section are aware of demand for lands zoned Industry and Warehousing not only in Athy but across the county and have been working with a view to unlocking appropriately zoned lands in the town of Athy, among other places. This includes a recent, but unfortunately, unsuccessful application to the Just Transition Fund for the development of the Green Enterprise Zone in Athy. Notwithstanding this unsuccessful application, the council is open to all options for the



purchase of appropriate lands, subject to funding becoming available, and are willing to work with all potential stakeholders, both private and public, in this endeavour.

Councillor Dooley advised that he had received numerous calls from businesses looking to expand or open up business in Athy. Landowners needed to be made aware that the council and IDA were looking for land. Local people were working in businesses and more jobs would be created within the Municipal District. If land was available then funding could be identified.

Councillor Behan supported the motion and advised that Athy was competing against bigger towns and it was important to keep people doing business/shopping in Athy. What could the Council do to make that happen.

Councillor Breslin advised that she had previously met with Councillor Leigh, the District Manager and Ms J McNabb to look at helping a number of businesses who wished to relocate to Athy. She acknowledged that Ms J McNabb had a mountain of work but that Economic Development and job creation was a top priority for Athy. There was land along the Athy Distributor Road that could be looked at.

The District Manager acknowledged the need for industrial lands within the Municipal District but asked the members not to lose sight of the body of work that was currently being done within the town. He advised that the next step would be to identify suitable lands which could be looked at through Compulsory Purchase Order but that funding was an issue. The council would be open to collaborate with private investors.

Councillor Dooley noted that there were a lot of capital projects happening in the town and it was important to continue promoting business development. He asked that a quarterly meeting between the members, District Manager and the Local Enterprise Office be set up.

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



AY20/0125

Shackleton Museum and Food and Drinks Hub Model School, Athy Update

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.
Can the council give updated timelines on the delivery and completion of the Shackleton Museum and Food and Drinks Hub Model School, Athy?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm and Local Enterprise Office informing the members that Shackleton Museum is progressing well. Panels to complete the shard will be delivered 20 January, with a three week install. Limestone flooring almost complete ground floor and junkers flooring install commenced first and second floors.

Main works due for completion end of March.

Triangle have been appointed for the Interpretation and Exhibition Fitout and are working away in the background. They will commence fit out in April with the project due for completion end of May 2025.

The Food, Drink, and Skills Innovation Hub is projected to be completed in Q1 2026. The construction stage is programmed to be completed in Q3/Q4 2025 with the Kitchen Furniture Fittings and Equipment (FFE) and Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) stage programmed to be completed in Q4 2025 – Q1 2026.

Councillor Dooley was happy with the report. Work was coming together well. The amount of large scale development happening in the Municipal District was great. He thanked the project teams in the Local Enterprise Office and Strategic Projects and Public Realm. He looked forward to Q2/Q3 2025 and Q1 2026 in Athy.

The report was noted.

AY21/0125

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

The members received an update from Ms E O'Brien on the Athy Flood Relief Scheme.



She advised that:

- There had been serious flood events in Athy in 2008, 2009 and 2020.
- There were 99 properties at risk.
- In five years time, the aim is to have every property affected by flooding protected.
- The scheme started in October 2023.
- RPS were the contractors for the scheme.
- The progress to date was that the following had been carried out:
 - Topographical Survey
 - Threshold Survey
 - Existing Structures Survey
 - Ecological Baseline Surveys
 - Constraints Report
 - Draft Hydrology and Hydraulics Reports
- A huge amount of detail went into the surveys.
- Currently at the develop design stage.
- The next steps of the project were:
 - Preliminary Ground Investigation
 - Specialist Environmental Surveys
 - Emerging Options Workshop
 - Development of Preferred Option
 - Public Participation and Engagement Day in or around June/July 2025

The members raised the following:

- Were the 99 properties uninsurable.
- Thanked Ms E O'Brien for the informative presentation.
- Was the timeline for completion of the works or was it to completion of findings.
- Was there a map of the area of works.
- Was surface flooding area taken into consideration.
- There seemed to be more silt on the North side of the bridge at Whites Castle, could this be a risk to the foundations of castle and the bridge.
- Could work be tied in with Public Realm projects like Emily Square.



Ms E O'Brien advised the following:

- Letters of comfort will be available to the homeowners once works were completed.
- The map was on the website at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/athy/home/>
- The timeline was to completion which meant that the affected properties at risk of flooding, would no longer be at risk.
- The Municipal District Office gave detailed sketches with information on surface flooded areas but it wasn't a huge issue in Athy.
- There didn't seem to be a huge amount of silt, the river itself was managing it but she would take note and ask RPS to look at it.
- Any plan to tie in with Public Realm work would be discussed at detailed design stage.

The report was noted.

AY22/0125

Recycling Bins in Edmund Rice Square

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

That the council sources a more suitable location for the recycling bins in Edmund Rice Square, Athy.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the current site in Edmund Rice Square is central and easily accessible by residents of the town. The Council is willing to look at any potential sites in Athy that the councillors might suggest. As advised previously, constraints on alternative or additional sites include:

- Access for service vehicles.
- Absence of overhead cables.
- Setback of 50 metres from any residences.
- Safe access for public including adequate sightlines, lighting.



If /when Public Realm improvements are planned for Edmund Rice Square carpark, perhaps this could be an opportunity to reposition the banks elsewhere within the carpark and also to improve the appearance of the site with landscaping, improved signage etc.

The members raised the following:

- This had been an ongoing problem.
- People were dumping plastic bags, cardboard boxes and even a window frame was dumped.
- Thanked the Environment Department for coming out over the Christmas period to remove litter.
- Could a yellow box be put down as a short-term measure.
- There was hedging behind the bins where items were being dumped, where there was now a rat problem developing, could the hedging be removed.
- Window frames had been dumped.
- There was a local business that had been in discussions to take on the bins.
- The issue was mainly the clothes collection.
- Could CCTV be installed

Mr K Kavanagh advised that it was very disappointing to hear about the level of dumping taking place and that it was very difficult to find a suitable alternative location. The centre of the town was a good location and convenient for residents. It was a longer process to install CCTV and not straightforward. He could look at getting the clothes bin removed. He added that he could ask the litter warden to visit the site more regularly.

The District Manager added that if he could be of any assistance in getting the matter resolved he would. Intervention was needed. Dumping of plastic bags and window frames was unacceptable and asked the members to raise awareness of the issue.

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



AY23/0125

Works at Crookstown Cemetery

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

Can the council confirm when requested works at Crookstown Cemetery will be completed?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that quotations have been sought with regards to general pruning and reducing the height of trees on the cemetery boundary. It is hoped that that the successful contractor will be in a position to carry out the work ahead of the bird nesting season which begins on 01 March. The overgrown beech hedge in the cemetery has been topped and cut back in recent days.

Councillor Leigh thanked Mr K Kavanagh for the report and added that there was also a tree at the back of the wall at the new part of the cemetery that needed attention. There was also an issue with dumping.

Mr K Kavanagh advised that works would be carried out in the next six weeks.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.