



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 20 February 2023
in the Council Chamber**

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

Remote Attendees: Councillor I Keatley.

Officials Present: Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (Area Engineer), Mr J McGauley (Executive Parks and Landscape Officer), Ms E Price (Acting Administrator Officer), Ms C Gannon (LPT Coordinator), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Ms M Morrissey (Executive Architect), Mr D Creighton (Senior Architect), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

AY01/0223

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.

AY02/0223

Minutes and Progress Report

To adopt the minutes the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 16 January 2023 and to note the progress report.

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



Matters Arising

None.

AY03/0223

Municipal District road works update

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

National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measure Updates

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

Department of Transport – Climate Adaption Projects

No projects completed in Athy Municipal District in 2022, and no details available yet on 2023 projects.

Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RI Program 2023

All surveying and preparatory works on all Restoration Improvement works for 2023 completed. Margins and hedgerows along proposed jobs are in the process of being completed. Athy Municipal District Office are aware that the deadline for hedge cutting is the end of February.

Drainage and edging to be commenced as soon as hedge cutting completed.

Local Improvement Schemes

Allocation for 2023 not published yet.

Community Involvement Schemes

Allocation for 2023 not published yet.



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Signage Works

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District.

Upgrading signage on completed resurfaced roads.

Signage works nearing completion on Shed Road and surrounding areas.

Road Markings

Upgrading road junction markings at the present time.

Drainage Works

A number of villages have had drainage systems cleaned.

Jetting drainage lines on various roads – ongoing.

Cleaning gullies on a number of roads – ongoing.

Carrying out water cuts along roads – ongoing.

Completed drainage work at Prusselstown Green/Geraldine Road.

Carrying out drainage works at Shamrock lodge.

Road Patching

Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping to areas – ongoing.

Bin collection – ongoing.

Install ten new bins along the R417 Monasterevin Road, Athy.

Community Works

Arranging for preparatory work to facilitate both Tri-Athy and Gordon Bennett Events. This will involve road closures etc.

General Maintenance

New wheelchair friendly seat installation on Monasterevin road, Athy

General cleaning of depot.

New depot at Gallowshill completed, now decorating and outfitting.



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Hedge cutting along Regional Roads.

Assisted with traffic management in the pruning of trees along the R-417, Monasterevin road, Athy.

Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RM Program

All surveying and preparatory works on all Restoration Improvement works for 2023 completed. Margins and hedgerows along proposed jobs are in the process of being completed. Athy Municipal District Office are aware that the deadline for hedge cutting is the of February.

Drainage and edging be commenced as soon as hedge cutting completed.

Municipal District LPT program of works

Footpaths in William Pearse Terrace have gone out to tender and are expected in the coming weeks.

Footpaths in Ashville have gone out to tender and are expected in the coming weeks.

Footpaths in Kilkea village have gone out to tender and are expected in the coming weeks.

Cathaoirleach Dooley thanked the team for the detailed report and their ongoing work in the area. The members echoed Cathaoirleach Dooley's thanks and noted the quality and amount of work carried out in the district.

The members enquired if there would be an opening ceremony for the Depot at Gallowshill to acknowledge the tremendous work involved.

The District Engineer would be happy to have an opening and suggested inviting retired staff who contributed to the works to recognise the effort of all staff.

The report was noted.



AY04/0223

LPT Schedule of Works for 2023

To agree and approve the Athy Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2023.

The Cathaoirleach and members thanked the District Manager and LPT coordinator for compiling the LPT schedule of works for 2023.

The District Manager noted that a minor amendment to the document needed to be made as the column Kildare County Council Central Funding (the Budget figures) was omitted originally. She advised that a new document would be re-circulated to the members but proposed that consideration of the works still took place.

The Councillors raised the following points:

- Councillor Breslin raised concern for a particular community group that hadn't drawn down funding and asked the Cathaoirleach to liase with the Director of Services for Economic Community and Cultural Development to resolve this issue.
- Councillor Leigh raised on behalf of Councillor Keatley the issue of a potential health and safety/environmental leak in The Village, Moone. Councillor Keatley upon arrival reiterated his concerns. Councillor Keatley met with Jonathan Hennessy, Senior Executive Engineer and although the estate is not taken in charge he believed it should be the responsibility of Kildare County Council to resolve this issue. Councillor Keatley suggested that the additional unspent monies be allocated to carry out necessary works.
- Cathaoirleach Dooley noted that the reallocation of LPT funding be submitted as a motion at a future meeting.

The District Manager put forward, for approval, to the members that €5,000 for works at Moone Church and €5,000 for works needed at St. John's Church, Castledermot be reallocated from 2022 unspent LPT funding.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members that the LPT Schedule of Works are agreed and approved for 2023. €5,000



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for works at Moone Church and €5,000 for works needed at St. John's Church, Castledermot will be reallocated from 2022 unspent LPT funding.

AY05/0223

Certificate of Recognition

The members considered a proposal that a Certificate of Recognition be conferred under Section 74 of the Local Government Act 2001.

Proposed by Cathaoirleach Dooley and seconded by Councillor Breslin.

AY06/0223

'No heavy goods vehicle zone' on Shrewleen Lane, Athy

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Leigh. That the council put in place a 'no heavy goods vehicle zone' on Shrewleen Lane, Athy.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that any weight restriction on vehicles (HGVs) would require Bye Laws which would have significant signage requirements. Any such restriction would have to apply to all HGVs using the laneway.

The members raised the following points:

- There is a risk to pedestrians in Athy including pollution, safety and noise.
- That this issue has been raised a number of times before.
- The need for a Bye Law was not necessary in other counties and is it essential that the only way to resolve this issue is through amendment of a Bye Law.
- Could a letter be sent to TII from the Cathaoirleath.
- Could a restriction on HGVs be considered between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in certain areas.
- Cathaoirleath Dooley suggested that members review all Bye Laws in the area.



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The District Engineer advised the members that dynamics will change with the opening of the Athy Distributor Road and it might help alleviate traffic congestion and HGV's using this road and a complete ban on HGV's would be difficult to enforce.

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

AY07/0223

Drainage issues in Abbeylands, Castledermot

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

That the council alleviate the drainage issues in Abbeylands, Castledermot, across from the entrance to the GAA grounds.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that there are some drainage issues in Abbeylands, and William Pearse Terrace. In the near future all footpaths in the area of William Pearse Terrace will be resurfaced. It is hoped to include drainage works in conjunction with these works.

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

AY08/0223

Upgrade signage on approach roads into Castledermot

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

That the council upgrade signage on approach roads into Castledermot.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that there are no plans to upgrade signage on the approach roads to Castledermot at the present time. All approaches have a name plate for the village, the only improvement would be the



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same as Athy where Tidy Towns have provided signposting and Kildare County Council have constructed plinths which are subsequently maintained by the Tidy Towns.

The members raised the following points:

- That Castledermot Tidy Towns sit down with the Council and to come up with a plan to put money aside for these signs.
- All villages should have similar signage so there is consistency across the district.

The District Engineer informed the members that this need to be looked at with a countywide approach and the matter should be discussed with local Tidy Towns.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan and seconded by Cathaoirleach Dooley that the report be noted and that Councillor Behan liaise with Castledermot Tidy Towns in relation to this matter.

AY09/0223

Remedial works to Inchaquire Lane, Ballitore

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

That the council carry out remedial works to Inchaquire Lane, Ballitore outside (details provided).

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that Inchaquire Lane (Posey Park) is a public road and in the charge of Kildare County Council (L-80321). It is approximately 260m long and 2.75m wide. The Municipal District Office will carry out remedial work to improve the lane in the short term. In the long term the lane requires upgrading, the lane would be ideal for consideration under the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS). This scheme is funded by the Department of Transportation. The approval of funding for this scheme and its funding will be known in the coming weeks. An application can then be sent out to the residents for consideration.



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

AY10/0223

Update on the Active Travel plan

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.
Can the council provide an update on the Active Travel plan for the Southern Distributor Road to the Schools Campus on the Monasterevin Road to include the new Footbridge at Rathstewart?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that this project received an allocation of €60,000 for 2023 from the National Transport Authority. It is expected that the scheme design will complete its Option Development Stage in 2023

Cathaoirleach Dooley noted that this might require a Motion at a further stage.

The report was noted.

AY11/0223

Estates where civil works were carried out on back lanes and alleys in 2022

The members considered the following question in the name of Cathaoirleach Dooley
Can the council provide the names of estates in the Athy Municipal District where civil works were carried out on back lanes and alleys in 2022?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that no civil works were carried out on back lanes and alleys in 2022. There is one estate where Athy Municipal District Office attempted to improve, and this had to be delayed until the ESB had underground a three phase cable along this lane. The Athy Municipal District Office will commence work on this lane as soon as we get the green light from the ESB.

The report was noted.



AY12/0223

Social Housing Development at Glandour House

The members considered the Chief Executive's Part 8 Report P82022 -19 for the proposed Social Housing Development, Glandour House, Woodstock Street, Athy, Co. Kildare (see attached appendix).

The Executive Architect outlined the proposal and recommended to the Cathaoirleach and members that the Part 8 Report P82022 -19 for the proposed Social Housing Development, Glandour House, Woodstock Street, Athy be adopted.

The members raised the following points:

- It is great that age friendly, accessible and diverse housing is planned for Athy.
- It is impressive what can be achieved on such a small piece of land.
- When would works commence.
- Would Glandour House be refurbished or demolished.

The Senior Architect advised the following:

- Hopeful to be on site by the end of 2023.
- The Council can confirm that Glandour House is in their ownership.
- There are no proposals at present for Glandour House but there is always a need for this type of housing and it would be likely the building would be retained.

The members thanked the team for the presentation on the project on a badly needed development for the area.

The District Manager thanked the members for their support and thanked the Senior Architect and the team for the comprehensive report and bringing the project to this stage.

Resolved on the proposal of Cathaoirleach Dooley and seconded by Councillor Behan that the Chief Executive's Part 8 Report P82022 -19 for the proposed Social Housing Development, Glandour House, Woodstock Street, Athy be adopted.



AY13/0223

CPO of derelict residential units and vacant residential units in the Athy

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

That this council writes to the Housing Agency and Minister for Housing to ask for support in accelerating the CPO of derelict residential units and vacant residential units in the Athy Municipal District, with particular emphasis on the town of Athy.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department that until recently funding to purchase vacant properties (either by agreement or through CPO) was not available. Under the buy and renew scheme the Council can now access funding to purchase and refurbish vacant properties. Our Vacant Homes Team actively monitors reports of vacant homes in the county, carrying out site visits as necessary. Additional staffing resources have been assigned to the Vacant Homes Team and a programme of compulsory purchase orders has commenced in order to return suitable vacant properties back into use as efficiently as possible. The compulsory purchase process has commenced for two properties in Athy and attempts to contact owners/financial institutions in relation to a further five properties have been made. It is likely the CPO process will commence for these properties in the coming weeks.

The members raised the following points:

- There are issues with derelict and vacant houses that could be utilised for both residential and commercial use.
- They thanked the Vacant Homes team for their continued work.

The District Manager advised that of the following:

- That currently Athy does not qualify for Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) due to the population in the last Census and would be hopeful that the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage reassess their parameters for population size for future funding schemes.
- There has been a lot of activity in support of putting vacant housing back into the community and more CPO's were coming this year. Councillor Breslin's comments



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were noted that having mixed use developments are beneficial and help create communities and makes our towns and villages better places to live and work.

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

AY14/0223

Respond Homes in Flinters Field, Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Cathaoirleach Dooley. Can the council provide a date for when the Respond Homes in Flinters Field, Athy will be finished?

A report was received from the Housing Department that they are in regular contact with Respond Housing in relation to the delivery of these units. The timeframe for delivery of these units is as follows:

- First 23 units are expected to be delivered mid to late February 2023.
- Remaining 12 units are expected to be delivered by the end of Quarter 2 2023.

These delivery dates are approximate, and are dependent on there being no delays caused by adverse weather conditions, utility connection, resources etc.

The report was noted.

AY15/0223

Units owned by AHB's in Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin. Can the council confirm the number and location of units owned by approved housing bodies in the Athy Municipal District and if the council are aware of any plans by these bodies to provide additional units?

A report was received from the Housing Department that for data protection reasons the council is not in a position to provide the exact location of the properties; Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) have delivered units under the following schemes:



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- Capital Advance and Leasing Facility Scheme (CALF) and the Leasing Scheme: 186
- Mortgage to Rent: 15
- Capital Assistance Scheme: 52
- Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme: 76

The monthly Chief Executive report provides information on Approved Housing Bodies delivery on council owned land which includes details of upcoming delivery in Flinter's Field; the first 23 units are expected to be delivered mid to late February 2023, with the remaining 12 units expected to be delivered by the end of Quarter 2 2023.

In addition to this, a further 20 units are scheduled for delivery in 2023 under the CALF scheme.

Councillor Breslin thanked the Housing Department for the report noting that there is a lack of housing in Ballitore and Castledermot and they both need to be looked at by Approved Housing Bodies and asked could the members ascertain the names of the AHB's in the area.

The report was noted.

AY16/0223

Residential zoned lands in the Athy Municipal District

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

That the council write to the owners of residential zoned lands in the Athy Municipal District, asking them to outline their plans and timelines for the development of these lands and that a report of correspondence be given at the March municipal district meeting.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department that Kildare County Council do not maintain a composite list of landowners for lands within any plan boundary area, this information is available from the Land Registry Ireland who are the agency responsible for



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maintaining a fully computerised record of all registered land parcels. The Finance Act 2021 - Residential Zoned Land Tax [which will be administered by Revenue] is the Governments priority for Land Activation which will require landowners (where land is adequately serviced) to activate lands in order to deliver housing.

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

AY17/0223

Kilberry Cemetery

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

That the council undertake to cut back overgrowth and provide a water source in Kilberry Cemetery.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department that the council carried out tree maintenance works in Kilberry cemetery last autumn which included the removal of a number of trees to the left hand side of the entrance, removal of all underlying brash, clipping of leylandii tree hedge and removal of waste.

With regard to the second part of the notice of motion, there is no public watermain adjacent to the cemetery to provide a water source.

Councillor Leigh thanked the Environment Department for the work carried out.

Councillor Breslin said there are individuals including John O'Neill and others who look after Kilberry Cemetery and wanted to thank them for all their hard work.

The report was noted

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Breslin.



AY18/0223

Grass in Malone Place, Athy

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

That the council remove the grass in Malone Place, Athy and replace same with a hard surface that can be easily maintained and suitable for children to play on.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department that the grass areas in Malone Place are a very suitable surface to play on and safer than a hard surface. Malone Place is also a cul de sac with large areas of tarmac which could be used for play. Consequently, there are no plans to replace the grass in Malone Place with hard surfacing.

The members raised the following points:

- That this isn't a small matter as the area backs onto Woodstock Street and there is a huge issue with stray cats in area.
- Could the Parks team come to the area and investigate the matter further.
- Could the motion be reconsidered in order for a solution to be found.

The Executive Parks and Landscape Officer agreed to view the site with Councillor Breslin.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Leigh. The Executive Parks and Landscape Officer will meet Councillor Breslin on site.

AY19/0223

Play equipment in Millview Playground, Crookstown

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to upgrade the play equipment in Millview Playground, Crookstown?



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A report was received from the Parks Department that there are plans to upgrade the safety surfacing and to replace the seesaw and springer in the playground. This will be done in the next couple of months.

Councillor Leigh thanked the Parks Department for the report and welcomed the news that it will be upgraded.

The report was noted.

AY20/0223

Food and Drink Hub, Model School Athy

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

Can the council confirm the up to date position on the proposed Food and Drink Hub, Model School Athy?

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office that funding of €4.2 million was awarded for this project under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund. On request of the Department of Rural and Community Development, Local Enterprise Office Kildare has since submitted an estimation of costs reflecting inflation and is awaiting official confirmation of the overall award.

Upon receipt of this official letter of offer, the Local Enterprise Office will be in a position to go to tender for contracting works.

Councillor Breslin thanked the Local Enterprise Office for the report and asked to be kept up to date on progress made.

The report was noted.



AY21/0223

Shop front grant scheme

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan
Can the council confirm if the shop front grant scheme applies to first and second floors of commercial buildings?

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office that the existing Shopfront Improvement Scheme is eligible only for applications made by business owners and operators of independently owned shops fronting onto public streets (criteria precludes private dwellings). It is worth noting that currently Athy has been awarded €100,000 under the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme and this will cover applications from residents on the following streets: Duke Street, Leinster Street and William Street.

Councillor Behan suggested that the scheme be amended to include work on second floors as staff/labourers would be on site to carry out additional works at minimal extra cost. This would make a huge difference aesthetically not only in Athy but across the Municipal District.

Cathaoirleath Dooley noted that the Street Scape Enhancement Scheme could possibly be an alternative source of funding for this and thanked Councillor Leigh for his great work on the scheme.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.