



Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 20 April 2026
in the Council Chamber

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

Officials Present: Mr A Dunney (District Manager), Mr K Dunne (District Engineer), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Ms P Pender (Senior Executive Officer), Ms É Lavelle (Arts Officer), Ms M O'Dwyer (Administrative Officer), Mr C O'Toole (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

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

AY01/0426

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.

AY02/0426

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 16 March 2026, and the progress report was noted.

Councillor Breslin questioned when a meeting would be set up with the Transport Department regarding the road outside the Train Station in Athy.



Mr M McLoughlin advised that a meeting would be arranged this week.

Councillor Keatley raised a query on the Transport Departments engagement with TII/NTA on the Moone/Timolin pilot scheme. He requested a meeting with TII, the contractor and the transport department.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that TII had outlined their position and he would express the views of the members. The executive would be happy to meet with the members to discuss the matter.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 16 March 2026, be adopted and the progress report be noted.

AY03/0426

Municipal District Roadworks Update

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

National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measure Updates

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

Department of Transport – Climate Adaption Projects

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

Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RI Program

R417 Bert Cross to Kilberry, tender assessment

R415 Fontstown to Oldgrange, tender assessment

L8097 Ballyraggan Knockfield, tender awarded

L80461 Bolton Area, tender awarded

L8051 Marshalstown, tender awarded

L8014 Coolavash, tender awarded



Municipal District Restoration Maintenance Works – RM Program

L4016 Castledermot to Carrigeen crossroads repairs, tender assessment

R417 Grangemellon to Ardree

L4016 Castledermot to Carrigeen

Local Improvement Schemes

No update for 2026.

Community Involvement Schemes

No update for 2026.

Footpath Upgrades / Surveys

Forrest Park to be tendered

Signage Works

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District

Cleaning of signs around the Municipal District commenced

Road Markings

Road studs to be fitted to Regional Roads – under construction

Drainage Works

Jetting drainage lines on various roads – ongoing.

Cleaning gullies – ongoing.

Carrying out water cuts along roads – ongoing.

Road Patching

Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing.

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping to areas – ongoing.



Bin collection – ongoing.

General Maintenance

Hedge cutting commenced along the regional road junctions

Hedge cutting on junction sightlines.

Preparation works for RI and RM works

RI and RM hedge cutting complete

Road edges being repaired. ongoing

The members raised the following:

- Complimented the Municipal District Office on the ongoing great work especially on street cleaning.
- Would signage be included in the works on the L4016 Castledermot to Carrigeen?
- Could patching on Grangemellon to Ardree road be checked.

Mr K Dunne advised that he would review signage on the L4016 Castledermot to Carrigeen and that patching on Grangemellon to Ardree road would be looked at.

The report was noted.

AY04/0426

Timeframe for the Allocation of Funding from TII

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

That the council requests a defined timeframe be established for the allocation of funding from Transport Infrastructure Ireland to facilitate the upgrade and improvement of footpaths, streets, junctions and public realm along the R428 and other streets in Athy.

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

A report was received informing the members that Kildare County Council have had initial discussions with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the Department of Transport



about the provision of funding to deliver the upgrade and improvement of footpaths, streets, junctions and public realm along the R428 and other streets in Athy. These discussions have been positive, however further design works are required to develop the design and provide a cost estimate for the scheme that will allow for further detailed discussions and a commitment on funding.

The Roads Project Team are currently finalising drawings for the improvements to the Carlow Road junction and the Kilkenny Road roundabout to facilitate the introduction of a HGV restriction in the town.

The Roads Projects Team are currently progressing several key infrastructure projects in the county including the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road, the Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor and the Newbridge Southern Ring Road and cannot prioritise or commit resources to this project at the present time.

Councillor Leigh advised that he appreciated the scale and complexity of the projects teams work but was frustrated at the lack of movement and loss of momentum. Athy has moved forward but the infrastructure hadn't kept pace. Extensive works on streets, footpaths, junctions and public realm works and a full upgrade of the broader network was needed. HGV restrictions were also needed. Funding needed to be secured to complete the upgrade works.

The members raised the following:

- Footpaths were in dreadful condition.
- TII and the Department of Transport had not given the resources to finish the job.
- Received negative feedback on footpaths/junctions from constituents and tourists.
- It had been a number of months since the meeting with hauliers, no further progress had been made.
- The Kilkenny Road roundabout and Carlow Road Junction were two vital pieces of work that needed to be carried out.



Mr M McLoughlin acknowledged the members frustrations and advised that it was a complicated job and needed to find funding/middle ground. He would feedback to TII. He agreed to arrange a meeting with the Senior Engineer throughout the year.

Councillor Leigh looked forward to a positive answer in the next few months.

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

AY05/0426

Footpath in Emily Square, Athy

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

That the council installs safety barriers/bollards on the footpath in Emily Square, 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 he Municipal District Engineer will investigate the matter; and would request an on-site meeting to discuss the issues.

Councillor Leigh advised that this motion came from a number of issues with parking, bins and doorways of businesses blocked, he was happy to meet onsite to discuss the matter.

The members raised the following:

- Deliveries to businesses needed to be taken into consideration.
- Could this be looked at through the review of parking byelaws.
- Signage should be installed for clarification to drivers on where they can and cannot park.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that it could be looked at through the review of parking byelaws or installing double yellow lines/loading bays.



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

AY06/0426

Flooding on the Ballintubbert Road, Athy

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

That the council carries out works to eliminate the issue of flooding on the Ballintubbert Road, Athy.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that this has been added to the maintenance schedule.

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

AY07/0426

Road Improvement Works on Bolton Hill

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

Can the council confirm when the road improvement works on Bolton Hill will commence?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that This work has been tendered, and we are currently completing tender assessments, once contracts are awarded, we would anticipate this work to commence by the end of May subject to programme agreement with the successful contractor.

Mr K Dunne advised the members that the contractor had been awarded and works should start within the next week.

The report was noted.



AY08/0426

Parking Fees in the Council Car Park Opposite the Train Station

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

Can the council confirm if it would consider reducing parking fees in the council car park opposite the train station to support commuters?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the current rate for parking at this location is €2.50 per day. It is anticipated that any review of charges as part of a parking bye-laws will increase the charges. As this car park is in close proximity to the centre of Athy, it is not reserved for commuters only and can be used by all visitors to the town.

The report was noted.

AY09/0426

Live Streaming of Athy Municipal District Meetings

The members considered the live streaming of Athy Municipal District Meetings (referral from Full Council meeting).

It was agreed that the matter would be referred to each Municipal District Committee (5) for consideration. The Council further agreed that webcasting should be extended to either all municipal districts or none. Members agreed that a majority decision would be required to extend live streaming for Municipal District meetings; accordingly, the agreement of three (or more) municipal districts will be required. Following consideration by each Municipal District, a report will be presented to Full Council for further consideration.

Following discussion, the Cathaoirleach asked members if they were in favour or against the proposal.

All five members voted against live streaming of Athy Municipal District Meetings.



Resolved that the proposal to livestream the Athy Municipal District Meetings was not agreed.

AY10/0426

Arts Awards and Bursaries for 2026 for Athy Municipal District

The members considered the Arts Awards and Bursaries for 2026 for the Athy Municipal District.

Ms É Lavelle advised that they were looking for approval for grants in total of €6,400. She added that many artists had applied for grants through other funding streams.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members that the Arts Awards and Bursaries for 2026 for the Athy Municipal District be approved and the report was noted.

AY11/0426

Audit of Vacant or Closed Premises in Athy and Castledermot

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

That the council carries out an audit of vacant or closed premises in Athy and Castledermot to identify the owners, to gain an understanding of their awareness of the supports in place and if they are willing to use these grants to support the reinvigoration of the premises, as well as above unit living

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

A report was received informing the members that the Town Regeneration Team carry out surveys of both towns on a regular basis, and make contact with owners providing details of the various schemes and grants available.

There has been a number of applications for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant for properties in Athy and Castledermot, and we will be contacting owners with details of the new and expanded grant schemes targeting 'above shop' vacancy.



Where owners do not take action to address vacancy and dereliction properties are added to the Derelict Sites Register and/or Compulsory Acquisition is commenced.

Six vacant properties in Athy town centre have been acquired under the URDF Call 3 programme, two were acquired by agreement and four were acquired by CPO, they are being prepared for forward sale (pending Section 183 approval from the elected members). Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) has commenced on one further property in Athy Town Centre.

Eight properties in Athy have been entered on the Derelict Sites Register in the last two years.

CPO of properties on the Main Street in Castledermot has commenced.

Repair and Leasing scheme applications have been approved for seven properties in Castledermot.

Three properties in Castledermot Town Centre have been added to the Derelict Sites Register in the last two years.

The Local Enterprise Office Kildare and the Economic Development team promote the development and sustainment of retail activity in County Kildare's towns and villages.

The suite of schemes, including financial aid to assist with the physical enhancement of premises, continues to be promoted through direct engagement with businesses, Municipal District roadshows, print and social online, and the Kildare County Council Rates Department.

Councillor Dooley was happy with the report and advised that it was important to remind the public and owners know the supports available to them from the council. A lot of money had been put into the Municipal District, but dilapidation was still an issue.

The members raised the following:

- There had been an information evening previously held in Athy and leaflets were then distributed, could distribution of leaflets be considered again to Athy and Castledermot.



Ms P Pender thanked the members and advised that she would take their comments back to the team.

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

AY12/0426

Derelict Boats Removed from the River Barrow

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

Can the council engage with the relevant stakeholders to have the derelict boats removed from the River Barrow on the left bank.

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

A report was received informing the members that the Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) has engaged with Waterways Ireland regarding the boats referred to by Councillor Breslin. They reported an awareness of two sunken boats at Crom a Boo Bridge in an area not under their remit. The Barrow IWAI Branch requested assistance from Waterway Ireland to remove one of the vessels, with the owner's permission, and this has been agreed by Waterways Ireland.

The Barrow Navigation in Athy, Ireland, is subject to specific bye-laws enforced by Waterways Ireland. These include regulations on mooring, speed limits, and the use of the waterways for various activities. However, they do not extend to the area in which the two vessels mentioned were located, therefore it is not within their remit to remove any vessels without the permission of the owner.

Councillor Breslin thanked the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team for the report and added that there were three derelict boats at that particular location, two of which were sunken and owners had not been identified despite efforts being made. There were no



mooring fees and this was allowing people to dump derelict boats. She questioned who would address this issue, someone needed to take ownership.

The members raised the following:

- Waterways Ireland had previously instructed that they would be willing to take in charge. that stretch of land. What progress had been made on that?
- The council had previously invested in a car park close by and suggested a walkway or boardwalk would open up the town centre.

Ms P Pender advised that the Taking In Charge of that stretch of land had been discussed with Mr G Bailey of Waterways Ireland and they were currently investigating ownership with a view to transferring it to Waterways Ireland.

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

AY13/0426

Housing List Numbers in Athy Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.
Can the council inform members of the social housing list numbers in Athy Municipal District with a breakdown per area?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that there are currently 900 applicants on the social housing list for the Athy Municipal District

The report was noted.

AY14/0426

Upgrading of Benches and Provision of an Accessible Pathway at Barrow Quay

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



Can the council confirm when the upgrading of benches and provision of an accessible pathway at Barrow Quay, Athy will commence?

A report was received informing the members that Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) are working with the municipal district office to progress the ground preparation for the replacement benches. Seating will be procured by SPPR and there is a lead in time of up to fourteen weeks with some suppliers.

The report was noted.

AY15/0426

Naming Estates in the Irish language

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

That the council re-emphasises the importance of naming estates in the Irish language in this municipal district, which is a policy of this council.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the Council acknowledges the intent of this motion and confirms that the promotion and use of the Irish language in the naming of new residential developments remains an established and supported policy position of the authority.

Section 15.4.15 of the County Development Plan 2023–2029 provides a clear statutory policy basis for the use and promotion of the Irish language in development naming. This section supports the use of Irish or bilingual names for new residential developments and associated signage, particularly where such names reflect local townlands, historical placenames or cultural heritage, and where they contribute positively to place-making and legibility.



Members will be aware that the Naming of New Residential Developments Policy Document sets out clear guidance for developers and applicants in relation to the naming of housing developments. The policy places a strong emphasis on the use of Irish-language names, reflecting local heritage, placenames, landscape features and historical associations, and seeks to ensure consistency, clarity and cultural appropriateness in estate naming throughout the county.

This policy approach is further reinforced through the Taking in Charge Policy 2023, which requires that the naming of developments be agreed with the Planning Authority prior to the taking in charge process. Developments that do not comply with the Council's adopted naming conventions, including the preference for Irish-language names where appropriate, may be required to regularise naming as part of the taking-in-charge process in order to ensure alignment with Council policy and signage standards.

The Planning Department continues to engage proactively with applicants at pre-planning and application stage to ensure awareness of these requirements. Conditions relating to the naming of developments are routinely attached to permissions where necessary to secure compliance with adopted Council policy. The importance of early agreement on estate naming is also reiterated to avoid delays or complications at later stages, including connection to services, addressing, emergency access, and the taking in charge of estates.

In this context, the Council agrees with the sentiment of the motion and will continue to re-emphasise the importance of Irish-language naming in all relevant planning, development management and estate management processes, in line with adopted policies and the County Development Plan.

Councillor Dooley thanked the Planning Department for the extensive report and advised that he was on the Coiste Gaeilge committee and it had been raised that very few developers were naming estates as gaeilge. He asked that names of historic or heritage significance be considered in naming of estates in the Municipal District and that the naming of estates as gaeilge be re-emphasised.



Councillor Keatley advised that translation of names of estates into Irish should be requested at the Planning stage and signage should also have names in both English and Irish.

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

AY16/0426

Update on the Centre for Circular Economy and Regenerative Business Activity

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

Can the council provide an update on the progress of the Centre for Circular Economy and Regenerative Business Activity in the former Scoil Padraig premises at St. John's Lane, Athy?

A report was received from the Head of Economic Development and Enterprise, Retail and Tourism informing the members that an Expression of Interest has been submitted for Phase 2 and 3 of the Circular Economy Hub under the Smart Pobal Fund.

Internal Demolition and Removals Contract completed. Structural Construction Tender awarded and works have commenced. Fit out and finishes suite of tender documents reviewed and published. Closing date for tender submissions is the end of April. The site is fully secure with 24-hour security surveillance with all prohibited access points removed

The report was noted.

AY17/0426

Community, Festival and Resident Association grant awards 2026

The members considered the Community, Festival and Resident Association grant awards for 2026 for Athy Municipal District.



Athy Municipal District Community Grants 2026				
No	Group Name	Project	Grant Requested	Grant Proposed
1	Kingdom Life House	Youth Leadership Programme	€ 2,000.00	€ 1,000.00
2	Athy Community Family Resource Centre	Family Wellbeing and Safety Programme	€ 2,325.00	€ 1,575.00
3	Athy Women's Shed	Equipment & Transport Costs	€ 2,707.94	€ 2,000.00
4	Athy Scooch Group	Transport Cost	€ 1,100.00	€ 550.00
5	Calverstown Action Network (incorporating Tidy Towns)	Storage Shed	€ 2,000.00	€ 1,000.00
6	Athy Young At Heart	Transport Costs	€ 2,875.00	€ 1,000.00
7	Ballyroe residents association	Equipment & Transport Costs	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,000.00
8	Castledermot Community Lights	Equipment	€ 2,397.00	€ 1,000.00
9	Athy Film Club	Film Festival	€ 3,000.00	€ 750.00
10	Athy Youth Project- In Sync	Musical Equipment	€ 3,000.00	€ 1,900.00
11	Larries on the Move	Equipment	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,000.00
12	Narraghmore Development Company Limited by Guarantee	Equipment	€ 3,000.00	€ 1,000.00
13	Women's Integrated Network (WIN), Athy	Musical Equipment	€ 2,235.00	€ 1,000.00
14	St Michael's branch of O.N.E	Works to Memorial	€ 3,000.00	€ 1,000.00
15	Athy Sing and Sign	ISL Booklet	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,000.00
16	Athy Mens Shed.	Equipment	€ 2,697.00	€ 1,800.00
17	Narraghmore Foróige Club	Youth Leadership Programme	€ 1,000.00	€ 1,000.00
18	Nurney-Kildangan Care of the Elderly	Transport Costs	€ 1,600.00	€ 800.00
19	Athy Town Promoters	Christmas Lights Allocation	€ 10,000.00	€ 10,000.00
20	Active Retirement Athy	Transport Costs	€ 3,000.00	€ 1,500.00
21	Castledermot Vintage Club	Vintage Day	€ 3,000.00	€ 1,000.00
22	Teach Dhiarmada Ltd	Storage	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,000.00
23	Aontas Ogra Youth Club	Works to Youth Club	€ 1,894.27	€ 1,000.00
25	Ballyshannon Community Hall	Equipment	€ 2,300.00	€ 1,125.00
26	Willow Community Counselling Services ((CLG)	Furniture and Works	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,000.00
			Budget	€ 40,000.00
			Total for Approval	€ 42,000.00

Athy Municipal District Festival Grants 2026				
No	Group Name	Project		
1	Kingdom Life House	Intercultural Community Festival	€ 2,000.00	€ 1,500.00
2	Athy Community Family Resource Centre	Children Summer Festival	€ 2,000.00	€ 2,000.00
3	Ballyroe Residents Association/ Community Group	Annual Events	€ 1,000.00	€ 1,000.00
4	Athy Film Club	Film Festival	€ 2,000.00	€ 750.00
5	Women's Integrated Network (WIN), Athy	Diversity Event	€ 2,000.00	€ 1,400.00
6	SURF (Substance Use Regional Forum)	Recovery Month	€ 2,000.00	€ 980.00
7	Athy Sing and Sign	ISLA Festival	€ 2,000.00	€ 2,000.00
8	Narraghmore Foróige Club	Community Day	€ 750.00	€ 750.00
9	Teach Dhiarmada Ltd	Christmas Event	€ 1,231.31	€ 1,230.00
10	Castledermot Vintage Club	Vintage Event	€ 2,000.00	€ 1,100.00
			Budget	€ 12,500.00
			Total for Approval	€ 12,710.00

The members raised the following:

- Did defibrillators come under their remit for funding?
- Regarding the new funding stream under LCSP, would community groups be eligible to apply for both?

Mr C O'Toole advised that:

- He had previously issued correspondence to community groups to advise that there was funding available through HSE grants for defibrillators.
- He would need to check the terms and conditions on the new LSCP grants and could not currently advise of any changes.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley and seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all members that the Community, Festival and Resident Association grant awards for 2026 be approved and the report be noted.

Councillor Dooley congratulated Athy Rugby Team on winning the Towns Cup.

Councillor Keatley also extended congratulations to the team on behalf of all the members.

The meeting concluded.