



Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, 20 July 2026
in the Council Chamber

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

Officials Present: Mr S Deegan (A/District Manager), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Mr K Dunne (District Engineer), Mr D Carey (Executive Engineer), Ms E Price (Administrative Officer), Mr L McNeela (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr T Shanahan (Senior Executive Officer), Ms M Richardson (Meetings Administrator) Ms K Leslie (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

AY01/0726

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.

AY02/0726

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 15 June 2026 and the progress report.

Councillor Breslin noted that a previous agenda item regarding roundabouts on the Athy Distributor Road was to be left on the Progress Report and queried why it was not there.



Councillor Keatley advised that the bollarding and extra works on the Moone Pilot Scheme seemed to have been completed and queried what was to happen next.

Mr M McLoughlin advised that he would provide an update to the members on both of these items in advance of the September monthly meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 15 June 2026 be adopted and the progress report be noted.

AY03/0726

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, Complete
- R415 Fontstown to Oldgrange, Complete
- L8097 Ballyraggan Knockfield, Complete
- L80461 Bolton Area, Complete
- L8051 Marshalstown, Complete
- L8014 Coolavash, Complete
- Tankardstown L8095 Complete
- L8065 Fort Barrington, due for completion before end of August



Municipal District Restoration Maintenance Works – RM Program

- L4016 Castledermot to Carrigeen crossroads – complete

Due to extreme hot weather the list below is on hold until conditions permit.

- L4016 Carrigeen Crossroads to County Boundary
- R417 Grangemellon to Ardree
- R418 Kilkea to Bray Upper
- R418 Coolane
- L8097 Bigstone
- L8095 Crophill

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

RI programme under construction

L4016 – Castledermot to Tankardstown



Drainage Works

Jetting drainage lines on various roads – ongoing.

Cleaning gullies – ongoing.

Carrying out water cuts along roads – ongoing.

Installed drainage pipe to back land at William Pearse Terrace.

Installed road crossing on Crophill.

Road Crossing R448 Crookstown to alleviate flooding.

Road Patching

Carrying out patching along various sections – ongoing.

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping to areas – ongoing.

Bin collection – ongoing.

Community Works

Removal of obsolete planters

Castle Park access to amenities

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.

Resurfacing and road markings to the carpark, Back Square, Athy.

Councillor Dooley thanked the District Engineer and his team for the great job done on the redesign of the Back Square, Athy. Councillor Breslin queried whether the loading bay would be put back in.



Mr K Dunne advised that he would look into this.

The report was noted.

AY04/0726

Section 38 – Bolton Hill, Castlemitchell and Grangemellon Junctions

The members noted Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 - Proposed Revised Junction Layout at the following locations: Bolton Hill Junction, Castlemitchell Junction and Grangemellon Junction.

Councillor Keatley advised that the proposed revisions seemed safer and more natural than what was there currently, but that it was impossible to foresee the concerns of the public. He suggested they go ahead for a trial period and then be put back on the agenda after a few months for review.

The members agreed to take items 5 and 14 together.

AY05/14/0726

Remedial Footpath Works in Athy

Item 5

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley.
That the council carries out civil works replacing and upgrading footpaths in Forrest Park and Pairc Brid in Athy.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that footpath works to Forrest Park are programmed for end of Quarter 3. All other footpath works will be subject to availability of funding.



Item 14

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

Can the council confirm when remedial works will commence on footpaths in Athy?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that footpath works to Forrest Park are programmed for end of Quarter 3. All other footpath works will be subject to availability of funding.

Councillor Dooley welcomed the news that works in Forrest Park were starting, as they had been due to commence in October of last year. He queried whether works in Pairc Bhríod would be a complete refurbishment or replacement and, if not, whether a safety audit could be carried out.

Councillor Breslin complimented the Forrest Park Residents' Association for their upkeep of the estate and informed the members that no remedial works had been done to the footpaths since its construction. She requested that the members be furnished with a list of paths to be upgraded.

Mr K Dunne advised that a full relay of the footpaths was planned for Forrest Park. Pairc Bhríod was on the list, and these works would involve replacement of the footpaths.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members that the reports be noted.

AY06/0726

Parking Spaces in Clonmullion Estate, Athy

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

That the council looks at unused green areas in Clonmullion Estate, Athy to provide extra parking spaces.

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



A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District Engineer will investigate this matter. However, a funding stream and design would be required.

Councillor Leigh informed the members that this estate had been built in the early 80s and had not been designed for households with more than one car. Residents were experiencing issues with congestion and access, and the council should examine underutilised areas while keeping green spaces.

The members raised the following:

- Changes in planning legislation meant that estates would have even less parking and this would become a bigger issue going forward.
- Adult children were living at home and some families now had four or five cars.
- People were forced to park up on the grass.

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

AY07/0726

Sunday Service on Bus Route 883

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

That the council requests the National Transport Authority (NTA) to provide a Sunday service on bus route 883, which services Athy, Kilberry, Kildangan, Nurney and Kildare Town.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that if this motion is passed, a letter will be sent to the National Transport Authority (NTA) requesting a Sunday service on bus route 883.



Councillor Breslin informed the members that this was a highly successful bus service which was always full. It needed enhancement to include a Sunday service as people moved about 7 days a week nowadays.

Councillor Keatley proposed, with Councillor Breslin's permission, an amendment to include provision of a weekly service in Kildoon as it was only a small way off the current route and a service was needed there. Councillor Breslin agreed to the amendment. Councillor Dooley commented that this service opened up more parts of the municipal district and afforded people the opportunity to socialise and circulate in larger urban areas.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members that a letter be issued to the NTA and that the report be noted.

AY08/0726

Remedial and Resurfacing Works on the N78

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

That the council writes to the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) requesting that remedial and resurfacing works be carried out as a matter of urgency on the N78 from the N78 roundabout in Athy to the roundabout at the N9 junction.

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 is a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Breslin advised that this road was in a dreadful condition, with potholes and splits which had only worsened with the recent hot weather. This was a main artery which saw high speeds and volumes of traffic, yet no work seemed to have been done since it was initially built.



The members raised the following:

- A motion had been raised a number of years ago relating to the removal of direction signs on this road and there were now potholes where the signs had been.
- There were more fatalities here than other roads in the municipal district.
- TII had forgotten about it.
- Funding had been sought in 2021 and the road had been patched up but it needed a full resurfacing.

Mr K Dunne informed the members that the council was in talks with TII. Mr M McLoughlin noted that he was in support of the motion and would continue to put pressure on TII to address this matter.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members that a letter be issued to TII and that the report be noted.

AY09/0726

Rural Tourism Strategy

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

That the council, in conjunction with Into Kildare, outlines its rural tourism strategy along with any funding available to the Athy Municipal District.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that the Kildare Tourism Strategy 2022-2026 is due to be revised over the coming months with a view to guiding the work of Kildare County Council and Into Kildare, in the tourism area, over the coming years.

With respect to funding of tourism initiatives, it should be noted that Kildare County Council invests significant funds across the county in the promotion of Kildare and in the development of product. In relation to the Athy Municipal District specifically, recent



investments in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and other strategic partners, in The Brigid Spirit of Kildare Festival, Shackleton Experience, Emily Square, The Barrow Blueway, Athy Boat Tours, Burtown House, the forthcoming Shackleton Autumn School Festival, 48-hours in Athy and other projects have both helped to develop and promote the urban and rural areas with the ultimate goal increasing the number of both on-island and off-island visitors across the four seasons.

Furthermore, Into Kildare recently hosted travel writer Isobel Conway for a two-day media visit to Athy, highlighting the Shackleton Experience and the wider benefit it is bringing to local tourism businesses. Further media and press visits are planned over the summer and for the remainder of the year to showcase Athy, recent investment in the area and its broader tourism offering.

Councillor Behan raised the following:

- Athy had seen huge touristic success.
- What was the timeline for review of the strategy?
- The council needed to look at promoting the new arts centre in Maganey and expanding the Brigid – Spirit of Kildare celebrations to Athy.
- The council should pursue EU Just Transition funding.

The members raised the following:

- Could a meeting be arranged between the members and Into Kildare?
- The strategy should tie in the Made of Athy initiative.
- Athy had seen a huge boost in tourism with the opening of the Shackleton Experience and the Barrow Blueway.
- LPT had been set aside to invest in tourism and pull Athy out of the trenches, but cuts to LPT meant that Athy would be losing out on €1 million over a period of five years.

The A/District Manager advised that the review was imminent and that he would update the members with dates. A meeting could be set up between the members and Into Kildare.



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

AY10/0726

Parking, Pathways and Lifebuoys at Maganey Bridge

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

That the council in conjunction with Waterways Ireland, outlines any plans it has for upgrading parking and pathways to access the River Barrow at Maganey Bridge and ensures that adequate numbers of lifebuoys are available to facilitate the large numbers of people using these amenities.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that with the agreement of the Members, Kildare County Council will contact Waterways Ireland. However, the parking area and pathway are in the ownership of Waterways Ireland.

An additional report was received from Kildare Sports Partnership, informing the members that ring buoy equipment is in place at this location. It should be noted that this is not an official designated bathing area.

Councillor Behan informed the members of the following:

- This was a popular bathing spot.
- The Athy Municipal District Office had done great work in this area.
- Car parking capacity needed to be increased to meet demand.

The members raised the following:

- The preference would be for Waterways Ireland to take more control.
- They had done a fantastic job widening the canal at Vicarstown.
- A meeting with them would be welcomed.
- Lifebuoys were often vandalised and this should be reported to An Garda Síochána.



- Could the council investigate the use of pin codes to access lifebuoys similar to the pilot scheme on the River Liffey?

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members that a letter be issued to Waterways Ireland and that the reports be noted.

AY11/0726

Hedgecutting Policy

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

Can the council outline its policy with cutting back briars and other thorny bushes in hedges that are over growing onto public footpaths making it difficult for all pedestrian accessibility, example Carlow Road, Athy?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that hedge cutting is the responsibility of the landowner. The Municipal District, on a case-by-case basis, can carry out remedial works if deemed a safety hazard.

The report was noted.

AY12/0726

Bus Transport Offering in Castledermot Area

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

Can the council, in conjunction with Local Link, outline its plans to further develop its bus transport offering in the Castledermot area?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that there are currently no specific TFI Local Link Kildare South Dublin plans to further develop its bus transport offering in the Castledermot area.

Bus routes are agreed between the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the bus operators.



Councillor Behan advised that she would raise this as a motion, noting that there was also huge demand in Ballitore for a bus to Dublin.

The report was noted.

AY13/0726

Temporary Bollards at the Moate of Ardscull and the Three Counties

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

Can the council provide members with an update, following a two-year trial period, on the effectiveness of the temporary bollards at the Moate of Ardscull and the Three Counties and if they plan to retain the temporary bollards?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District have had no reports of accidents at the junctions since the bollards were installed. The Municipal District are looking at a permanent design option.

Councillor Leigh informed the members that he had received a number of complaints that these bollards were unsightly and that some had been smashed.

The report was noted.

AY14/0726

Remedial Works on Footpaths in Athy

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

Can the council confirm when remedial works will commence on footpaths in Athy?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that footpath works to Forrest Park are programmed for end of Quarter 3. All other footpath works will be subject to availability of funding.

This item was taken with item 5.



AY15/0726

Part 8 – Barrow Blueway Trailhead

The members considered the Chief Executive's Part 8 Report for the Barrow Blueway Trailhead P82026.01.

Councillor Keatley queried when works would start. Councillor Breslin advised that she had every faith in the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team following the delivery of Emily Square and the Shackleton Experience. Councillor Leigh remarked that the design looked really well.

Mr D Carey advised that they had to tender for a design team and hoped for works to commence early next year.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members that the Chief Executive's Part 8 Report for the Barrow Blueway Trailhead P82026.01 be noted.

AY16/0726

Development of Woodstock Street, Athy

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley.
That the council, under the guidance of the Public Realm Department, creates, designs and develops Woodstock Street, Athy in line with our Local Area Plan, where our aim is "to protect, conserve and manage Athy's unique built and archaeological heritage, by promoting the understanding, enhancement and appropriate development of these assets in order to instigate a heritage-led regeneration of the town". Woodstock Street, Athy is an area with both heritage and history reverting to the market town, and as such requires redevelopment that supports business and residential interests whilst conserving streetscape.

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



A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team informing the members that the Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) work programme is at capacity, with construction projects commencing, projects progressing through Part 8 etc. The team is currently providing technical assistance to the Athy Municipal District to develop a design for Woodstock Street that will include a pedestrian crossing location and improvements to parking layouts. The area under review spans from Leinster Street to Shrewleen Lane with topographical surveys due to take place before the end of July.

Councillor Dooley advised the following:

- There had not been enough investment into paths, pedestrian crossings or accessibility on this street.
- This was one of the first streets seen when entering Athy.
- Businesses were operating there.
- Government funding awarded to Athy through the Síol Programme could be utilised for the development of this area.
- Vacancy was a major issue.

The members raised the following:

- This street needed to be given a lift to help keep businesses active.
- The Parks Department had met with businesses to help support improvements such as cobblelocking, outdoor seating, etc.
- There was a Kare centre and health centre on this street and yet there was no proper crossing.
- Users of the Kare centre were not permitted to go down to the town independently as the street was not deemed safe enough.

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



AY17/0726

Public Seating in Emily Square, Athy

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

Can the council confirm if there are plans for extra public seating in Emily Square, Athy?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members of the following: The Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) Department has no plans to provide additional seating at Emily Square from what has been provided as part of the project.

Should the members wish to progress the installation of additional seating the SPPR Department can assist subject to the members identifying a suitable funding source for all costs incurred.

Councillor Dooley noted that the need for extra seating had cropped up with the recent good weather and demand may die down once temperatures dropped.

The report was noted.

AY18/0726

Proposed Housing Development on the Kildare Road, Athy

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

Can the council provide an update on the proposed housing development on the Kildare Road, Athy formerly known as Shamrock Store?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members of the following: The Housing Department is currently working on developing a design for 6 no. units on this site. It is intended that a Part 8 will be launched for this scheme in Q3 2026.

Councillor Breslin requested that the site be considered for the development of Age Friendly housing.



Ms E Price advised that the council was currently evaluating a number of different ideas.

The report was noted.

AY19/0726

Taking in Charge of The Friary Estate, Castledermot

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

Can the council confirm when Friary Estate, Castledermot will be taken in charge?

A report was received from the Building and Development Control Team informing the members that The Friary Estate has recently been snagged by Kildare County Council (KCC) Development Control with a view to formally taking the estate in charge. A contractor has recently been appointed to carry out investigative CCTV surveys of the foul and storm networks. There are known issues with both. Works are actively progressing to prepare cost estimates and move forward to tender for construction works. There are extensive works required to bring this estate up to standard, including the construction of a storm water outfall, the remediation of the foul line on third party lands and the laying of finished road surface throughout the estate. It is hoped to progress works on this estate as quickly as possible subject to available funding and resources.

Mr L McNeela noted that he understood there would be a small bit of frustration with the lack of progress. This was the priority estate in the municipal district now that the Engineer vacancy in the Building and Development Control Team had been filled and things would move along following the completion of surveys.

Councillor Behan noted that this would make a huge difference to the quality of life of residents.

The report was noted.



AY20/0726

Community Impact Audit on Abbeylands/William Pearse Terrace Area

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.
Can the council confirm if they will carry out a Community Impact Audit on the Abbeylands/William Pearse Terrace area of Castledermot as part of any planning permission application on the rezoned land KE4318F (Castledermot GAA)?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that it is a requirement of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied), as provided for by Core Strategy objective CS O34, that where planning applications are received for housing developments on appropriately zoned lands, the Planning Authority will require in all instances that a Social Infrastructure Audit is prepared to accompany the planning application and that commensurate and pro-rata social infrastructure is proposed and delivered in tandem with the provision of new housing.

The report was noted.

AY21/0726

Suitable Building for Piers Café, Moone

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Leigh.
That the council assists the community run Piers Café in Moone in identifying a suitable building to ensure the continuation of this valued community service.

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

A report was received from the Community Department informing the members that the council understands that the Piers Café is a social enterprise and, on that basis, has contacted the LEADER programme to engage with the enterprise concerned regarding potential funding opportunities. In that regard LEADER is currently operating a targeted call for social enterprises with the deadline for submission of expressions of interest being Friday, 31 July 2026. Maximum grant funding for works, including fit out of new locations or



building upgrades is €87,000 with up to 75% total eligible project costs funded. It is understood that already an initial meeting has taken place regarding this opportunity.

Councillor Leigh informed the members that the fundamental challenge was in securing a new building as their current lease was due to expire in 2028. This was a vital community space that prevented social isolation in a very rural area.

Councillor Keatley noted the following:

- The café had been opened in 2018 following the closure of the local Post Office.
- The whole community had come together and the council had supported them in providing outdoor seating and grants to carry out upgrades.
- The owners of the current building had been very generous.

Mr T Shanahan advised the following:

- The group had contacted LEADER straight away and had a successful track record in securing LEADER funding.
- There was no fund available to assist in the actual acquisition of a property.
- He had contacted the Property Management and Derelict Sites Teams within the council to assist in trying to identify potential buildings.
- If the group managed to secure a location, there were great funds they could avail of to carry out works.

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

The meeting concluded.