



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, 21 September 2026
in the Council Chamber**

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

Apologies: Councillor B Dooley (Leas-Chathaoirleach)

Officials Present: Mr A Dunney (District Manager), Mr M McLoughlin (Senior Executive Officer), Mr K Dunne (District Engineer), Mr J Delaney (Architect), Ms A Louw (Administrative Officer), Ms K Lane (Administrative Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator) Mr A Foran (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

AY01/0926

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.

AY02/0926

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the annual and monthly Athy Municipal District meetings held on Monday, 20 July 2026 and noted the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the annual and monthly Athy Municipal District meetings held on Monday, 20 July 2026 be adopted and the progress report be noted.



AY03/0926

Municipal District Roadworks Update

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

1. National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measure Updates

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

2. Department of Transport – Climate Adaption Projects

- Project tendered and awarded for Maganey Junction

3. 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, complete
- Woodstock Street tendered

4. Municipal District Restoration Maintenance Works – RM Program

- L4016 Castledermot to Carrigeen, complete
- R417 Grangemellon to Ardree complete
- R418 Kilkea to Bray Upper complete
- R418 Coolane complete
- L8097 Bigstone complete
- L8049 Ballynamony complete



- L8067 Russellstown to Tullygorey complete
- L4016 Coltstown to Castledermot complete
- Pin Hill complete
- Belan Avenue complete

5. Local Improvement Schemes

- 1 scheme complete Davidstown.

6. Community Involvement Schemes

- No update for 2026.

7. Footpath Upgrades / Surveys

- Forrest Park ongoing

8. Signage Works

- Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District
- Cleaning of signs around the Municipal District commenced

9. Road Markings

- Road studs to be fitted to Regional Roads – under construction
- RI programme under construction

10. Drainage Works

- Jetting drainage lines on various roads – ongoing.
- Cleaning gullies – ongoing.
- Carrying out water cuts along roads – ongoing.

11. Road Patching

- Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing.



12. Street Sweeping

- Street sweeping to areas – ongoing.
- Bin collection – ongoing.

13. Community Works

14. General Maintenance

- Hedge cutting ongoing
- Hedge cutting on junction sightlines.
- RI & RM hedge cutting complete
- Road edges being repaired. Ongoing

The report was noted.

AY04/0926

Section 38 – Proposed Pedestrian Crossing and Improvement works at Coláiste Lorcaín, Abbey Street, Castledermot, Co. Kildare

The members noted Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 - Proposed Pedestrian Crossing and Improvement works at Coláiste Lorcaín, Abbey Street, Castledermot, Co. Kildare.

AY05/14/0926

Ongoing speeding concerns in Walterstown and Nurney

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Leigh.
That the council addresses ongoing speeding concerns in Walterstown and Nurney, through appropriate traffic-calming and speed-monitoring measures.

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



A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that significant traffic calming measures have been completed at Walterstown and Nurney over the past two years and the Municipal District office are continuing to monitor and review this.

Councillor Leigh informed the members that there were ongoing speeding concerns in Walterstown and Nurney, particularly from Monasterevin to Nurney. He noted that a lot of work was completed by the area office in recent years however residents in the area are concerned and issues still remain.

Councillor Breslin noted works undertaken by the Municipal District office to date.

Councillor Behan noted works undertaken by the Municipal District office to date also.

Mr K. Dunne, Municipal District Engineer informed the members that the Municipal District office will continue to monitor and review issues in this area.

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

AY06/0926

Upgrade footpaths, Oak Lawn, Athy

That the council looks to replace and upgrade the footpaths in Oak Lawn, Athy.

As Councillor Dooley was absent this item fell.

AY07/0926

Traffic calming at Kilgowan on the R448

That the council prepares a design for traffic calming to improve safety for all road users at Kilgowan on the R448.

As Councillor Keatley was absent when this item was taken at the meeting, this item fell.



AY08/0926

Pedestrian Crossing, Nurney

That the council installs a pedestrian crossing on the village side of Nurney National School and completes traffic calming measures.

As Councillor Keatley was absent when this item was taken at the meeting, this item fell.

AY09/0926

Survey of Utility providers, Athy

That the council requests a survey to be carried out by the utility providers in Athy regarding the removal of all overhead cables, so that they be placed underground in ducting to enhance the streetscape.

As Councillor Dooley was absent this item fell.

AY10/0926

Update Speed Limit Notification Sign, Kildangan

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

That the council upgrades its speed limit notification signage with a view to increasing visibility along the R417, Kildangan.

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

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that signage upgrade process has already started and will be ongoing over the next few months.

Councillor Behan noted that there is an issue from Kildangan to Athy which is a link to the motorway and is busy and visibility is difficult and drivers may not be aware that there are junctions on this road also.



Mr K. Dunne, Municipal District Engineer informed the members that the municipal district office will look at the white lines in the area as vehicles should not be overtaking at a junction as there should be unbroken white lines in place.

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

AY11/0926

Enhanced visibility for Abbeylands, Castledermot

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to install measures to enhance the visibility for vehicles exiting from Abbeylands on to the L4009, Castledermot?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District have reviewed this entrance and are currently working through options to facilitate traffic calming on the exit as it is extremely difficult to improve sightlines.

Councillor Breslin thanked the department for the reported, noting the great work the residents are doing in the area and enquired as to an update on proposed enhancements.

Mr K. Dunne, Municipal District Engineer informed the members that the signage is ordered, and the contractor has been spoken to in relation to line markings.

The report was noted.



AY12/0926

Safety Measure, Kilkea Bridge

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

Can the council provide an update on the safety measures requested at Kilkea Bridge?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Kildare County Council are currently finalising proposals for measures on either side of the bridge. It is hoped to share these in due course once the design work is complete.

Councillor Leigh informed the members that he would be hopeful that proposals for measures on either side of the bridge would be progressed and implemented in the near future.

The report was noted.

AY13/0926

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) funding for Athy

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

Can the council provide a timeframe on when Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) funding to upgrade the streets, footpaths and junctions in Athy will be allocated?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that Kildare County Council continue to engage with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the Department of Transport about funding for these works. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide a timeline for the provision of funding at the present time, however further engagement will take place over the coming months to progress this issue.

Councillor Leigh enquired if a meeting could be set up with TII to progress these issues. Mr M McLoughlin, Senior Executive Office of Transport informed the members that provision will be made in the Capital Programme to progress works in Athy but is contingent



on funding from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and noted that it and allocation from TII in 2027 was not definite.

Members asked that the Transport Department seek a meeting between TII and members of Athy Municipal District.

The report was noted.

AY14/0926

Traffic Flow in Athy

Can the council confirm a date to run a pilot scheme in Athy changing traffic flow to allow Offaly Street traffic transit through Emily Square towards Stanhope Street?

As Councillor Dooley was absent this item fell.

AY15/0926

Completion Time for Bus Stops in the Municipal District

Can the council provide a completion time for the bus stops/ shelters at Moone, Timolin, Crookstown, Narraghmore and Calverstown?

As Councillor Keatley was absent when this item was taken at the meeting, this item fell.

AY16/0926

Future works at Maganey Junction

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

Can the council confirm if there are any further plans for works at Maganey Junction?

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

A report was received from the Transport department informing the members that this junction has been tendered and awarded with works to commence in the coming weeks.



Councillor Behan thanked the department for the report noting that the community gave a lot of feedback in relation to this and that the use of the river by young people especially this summer makes this an important issue for the community. With proposed works in the area and reduction of speed it will be beneficial and safer for pedestrians.

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

AY17/0926

Public Seating in Emily Square, Athy

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

Can the council confirm if there are plans to add a 'Stop Sign' at the exit of Meadow Mill Estate, Athy?

A report was received from the Transport Department informing the members that the Municipal District office will review and install if required.

Councillor Behan noted that driver behaviour is an issue in this area.

Councillor Behan noted that sightlines in the area are poor, with hoarding and railings present and it should be looked at.

The report was noted.



AY18/0926

Part 8 Planning Application (P8 2025.09) for the former Garda Station, Barracks Road, Ballitore

To consider the Part 8 Planning Application (P8 2025.09) for the former Garda Station, Barracks Road, Ballitore (report attached).

The members received a presentation in relation to this item and noted the following:

- Thanked Mr Delaney for the presentation
- Roof of the building is in good condition
- Good to see this building being used
- Good to see the rural location reflected in the design
- Great to see this progressed
- Queried capacity in the local area in relation to water
- Queried capacity in the local area in relation to sewerage

Mr J. Delaney Architect informed the members that in relation to water connection a Pre connection application was made to Uisce Éireann and there have been no issues with this. As a precaution a CCTV inspection of foul sewer line inspection along the pipe as far as the pump was completed also with no blockages present. In terms of connections there are no issues.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all members that the Part 8 Planning Application (P8 2025.09) for the former Garda Station, Barracks Road, Ballitore be approved.



AY19/0926

Construction of housing units by Clúid Housing at Green Alley, Athy

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

Can the council provide an update on when the construction of housing units by Clúid Housing will commence at Green Alley, Athy?

A report was received from the Housing Capital Team informing the members that the Contractor has confirmed that this project will commence on-site mid-September 2026.

Councillor Breslin thanked the department for the report and for the updates and noted that the contractor is on site since last weekend and noted that this development will allow older people to downsize and move to a property with facilities and build up a neighbourhood and help to eliminate loneliness. This will also bring life back to this area in Athy, thanks to the work of the housing department work has finally begun on site and hopefully in 2028 people will be living on site.

The report was noted.

AY20/0926

Mothers and Babies buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Athy

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

That the council, with other relevant agencies, advances acknowledging in an appropriate manner, the mothers and babies buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Athy.

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that Kildare County Council is predisposed to the project of commemoration, as denoted in the motion. A community based voluntary body would be best placed to progress matters. Clarification is being sought on the pertinent funding provision.



Councillor Breslin thanked the department for the report noting that she had previously brought forward this motion at Full Council had highlighted the issue in the media also. St Vincents Workhouse was a mother and baby home and there are the mothers and babies buried in St. Mary's Cemetery with no acknowledgment of them. It is an indictment on society at this time that this was allowed to happen. It is only right that those who lost their lives and are buried there are fully acknowledged. The cemetery is not in the ownership of Kildare County Council. Councillor Breslin suggested a committee could be set up to progress the memorial and asked that officials from both the Environment Department and Arts Service sit on the committee to progress this. Councillor Breslin acknowledged funding set aside from two Municipal Districts and hoped that others would support. She hoped a design could be completed quickly so the hurt and trauma that occurred less than 20 years ago would be acknowledged.

Councillor Behan noted that she supported the motion and thanked Councillor Breslin for her work on this and noted that as a member of the Midland Regional Health Authority this has been brought to the HSE. She believes it is important to move this forward as a countywide acknowledgement of the women and girls who were from all over Kildare, Carlow and Laois and noted it is still an issue for people.

Councillor Leigh thanked Councillor Breslin for her tireless work on this issue over ten years or more and advised a suitable memorial needs to be found for lives lost and the treatment of people on that site over the years.

The report was noted.



AY21/0926

Commercially generated solar energy in Athy Municipal District

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

That the council considers only industrial sites in this municipal district as locations for commercially generated solar energy.

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

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that Kildare County Council's policy position regarding solar energy is contained in the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied), namely Section 7.6 and Section 15.11.2.

Planning applications for solar energy projects are considered on their own merits having regard to County Development Plan policy, the Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027 (where appropriate), Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines (where appropriate), environmental assessments and submissions from the public and prescribed bodies.

Councillor Behan noted that this motion comes on the back of an Industrial Solar park and that it is appreciated that there is a section in the county development plan and it is supported in theory however these developments come at the expense of agricultural lands and tourism in rural areas. The proposed site for this development is not suitable and not Industrial land but is agricultural land and "living land" needs to be protected. Solar Parks are not farms and the Athy Municipal district locations for Solar Energy should not be located on Agricultural lands. Only 5% of the county's industrial area is located in Athy.

Councillor Keatley informed the members that the motion may be too broad and sweeping in terms of restrictions, industrial buildings are located in rural areas as are industrial parks. While supporting the tenant of the motion Councillor Keatley noted that he would not be as restrictive in terms of where renewable energy should be produced and noted that there is a lot of fear and worry in relation to solar farms and their location. It is reasonable that a project which is hundreds of acres needs to be looked at but at the same time we need to



try and bring forward objectives on how climate change targets are to be met. Councillor Keatley noted that he would be in favour of bringing forward the new government guidelines which would be clearer as to where is appropriate for these solar farms.

Councillor Leigh noted that members have a motion at full council on Monday 28 of September in regard to these guidelines.

Mr A Dunney, District Manager noted that it would not be appropriate to discuss specific planning applications and noted that all applications are assessed on their particular criteria, the policy position is clear in relation to the county development plan and additional guidance from government would be of benefit.

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

AY22/0926

Update on Meeting with the IDA

Can the council confirm any update on a meeting with IDA Ireland relating to opportunities in Athy?

As Councillor Dooley was absent this item fell.

AY23/0926

Kildare Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

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

That the members of Athy Municipal District request an in-camera meeting with An Garda Síochána to discuss matters in the municipal district given the establishment of Kildare Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP).

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

A report was received from the Community department informing that the members may wish to note that this matter has previously been raised with An Garda Síochána, following a motion submitted by Councillor Angela Feeney and resolved at the Meeting of Kildare County Council on 25 May 2026. Correspondence subsequently issued to Chief Superintendent Buckley on 26 May 2026 seeking the reinstatement of in-camera Garda briefings for elected members at Municipal District level. It was proposed that such meetings would operate as information-sharing briefings and would be separate from the Kildare Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP).

In a response received on 17 June 2026, Chief Superintendent Buckley advised that he did not wish to undermine the LCSP model or create a parallel structure that could conflict with its objectives and effectiveness. He therefore declined the request at that time, pending clarification from the Garda National Community Safety Partnership Support Unit regarding Garda attendance at Municipal District meetings. Accordingly, the matter has already been pursued at county level and the current position of An Garda Síochána is that such meetings cannot be facilitated at this time.

Members should also note that, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Kildare LCSP, a dedicated meeting for all elected representatives will be scheduled before year end. It is expected that elected members will have an opportunity to submit questions in advance of the meeting for consideration. An invitation to this meeting will issue in due course. In addition, consultation on the first Kildare Community Safety Plan is expected to commence in October. All stakeholders will be invited to participate in the consultation process. The input of elected members will be particularly important in identifying local community safety priorities and issues, and this engagement will help inform the objectives and actions contained within the Plan. The consultation process will provide a significant opportunity for members to contribute to the future direction of community safety policy and initiatives across the county. However, notwithstanding the above, the decision to write to An Garda Síochána seeking a meeting specific to the Athy MD, as set out in the motion, is a matter for the elected members.



Councillor Breslin thanked the department for the reply and noted that as a member of Local Community Safety Partnership along with Councillor Feeney as Chair, a huge amount of work has gone into this and correspondence between members and the department. Councillor Breslin noted that she was extremely disappointed with the response from the Superintendent and noted these meetings are more of a county wide nature and not Athy Municipal District specific. There have been incidents in the area and contact has been made in relation to antisocial activities and previously we met and shared ideas, views and came up with plans in relation to community policing. Elected public representatives as well as An Garda Síochána are answerable to the public and should meet to discuss the issues. Councillor Breslin noted that she will take this further and members should have Municipal District specific conversations, a private meeting with An Garda Síochána so as to find solutions to issues in each respective municipal district to make communities safer. Councillor Breslin noted that elected members have a responsibility to the community and thanked the department for the work they do and ask that the sentiments of this meeting be passed on to the superintendent.

Ms Lane, Administrative Officer, Community Department informed the members that in light of the issues raised at the meeting today a request can be reissued for a Municipal District specific meeting to take place. Ms Lane also noted that consultation will be starting in October for the first Kildare Community Safety Plan, and the support of elected members will be appreciated and it may be a case that specific actions arise from consultation.

Councillor Breslin noted that this would be the best solution for the local area, the communities and Athy is a more rural area and big issues in relation to Garda resources and reduction in hours meant that people would contact elected members with issues. A presentation on the former garda station in Ballitore had been given earlier in the meeting and all had received negative feedback from the public on its closure. Anything that can be done to increase connectivity with the An Garda Síochána should be done.

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



The Cathaoirleach invited Councillor Keatley to propose his agenda items. This was in the context that the roads team had left the meeting after the Transport items were dealt with on the agenda. Councillor Keatley was not in attendance at that point.

Councillor Keatley informed the members that he will follow up on his items offline.

The meeting concluded.