



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 16 October 2023
in the Boardroom.**

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

Officials Present: Mr A Dunney (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr S Deegan (Senior Engineer), Mr A Gaynor (Economic Development Officer), Ms S McCullough (Senior Executive Parks and Landscape Officer), Ms A Keaveney (A/Senior Executive Engineer), Ms E Price (Administrative Officer), Mr C O'Toole (A/Senior Staff Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

Councillor Breslin proposed a suspension of Standing Orders for twenty minutes to allow the meeting to commence at 10.20 a.m. This was seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members.

AY01/1023

Declaration of Conflicts or Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of (a) conflicts of interest or (b) pecuniary or beneficial interests under section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

AY02/1023

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 18 September 2023 and the progress report.



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Councillor Breslin asked for St Marys Cemetery to remain on the progress report and would like an update by next months meeting.

Councillor Behan mentioned that following on from her motion on photovoltaic speed signs, this would be now part of the new speed limit review.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members that the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 18 September 2023 be adopted and the progress report be noted.

Councillor Behan expressed congratulations to the Athy Senior Ladies Team who had won the Senior B Championship final.

Councillor Breslin paid tribute to the Planning Department who recently won an award for the Athy Local Area Plan and asked the District Manager to pass on her congratulations.

AY03/1023

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. Project Team dealing with this.

Department of Transport – Climate Adaption Projects

No projects completed in Athy Municipal District in 2023.

Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RI Program 2023

All surveying works on all RI for 2023 completed.

R-415 at Crookstown school.

R-418 at Bray to Gallowshill i.e., tie-in to the Athy Distributor Road.



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R-418 at Kilmead on the Athy/Kilcullen Road.
L-8074 Link Road at Gallowshill completed.
L-8022 Kilmead to Monatore completed.
L-8011 Castlefarm to Rock completed.
L-8096 Corballis to Knockpatrick completed.
L-7067 Cherrymills to Mylerstown completed.
L-8039 Commonstown to Moone completed.
L-8072 Ballycullane to Nicholastown completed.
L-4008 Foxhill to Gallowshill nearing completion.
L-8042 Bolgers Cross to Belan completed.
L-8069 Geraldine to Clogorow Cross completed.
L-8044 Moone to Killellan completed.
L-8084 Kilkea to Levitstown.
L-8085 Shed Road, Levitstown.
L-89933 Greenhills to K-Leisure imminent.
L-8083 Kilkea, completed.
L-8102 Timolin Village imminent.

Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)

Five LIS projects for 2023. Four substantially completed. Other one will be surfaced in the next week.

Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)

Two CIS projects for 2023 - Completed.

Signage Works

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District.
Upgrading signage and delineation on completed resurfaced roads.
Signage works completed on Shed Road and surrounding areas.
Chevrons and signs Maganey.
Nicholastown signs have been erected.



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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. Also, as part of Restoration Improvement (RI) and Restoration Maintenance (RM) Works.

Completed drainage work at Prusselstown Green/Geraldine Road.

Drainage works at Shamrock lodge completed.

Road Patching

Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing.

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping to areas – ongoing.

Bin collection – ongoing.

Install twelve new bins in Leinster Street completed.

Another twelve bins have been ordered.

Community Works

Arranged preparatory works to facilitate both Tri-Athy and Gordon Bennett Events.

General Maintenance

New wheelchair friendly seat installation on Monasterevin Road, Athy.

General cleaning of depot.

New depot at Gallowshill completed, now decorating and outfitting. Footpaths and surfacing around the building completed. Lining and Traffic Management completed.



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Municipal District Restoration Maintenance Works – RM Program

All surveying works on all RM for 2023 completed.

Drainage and edging nearing completion.

Municipal District LPT program of works

Footpaths in William Pearse Terrace have been completed.

Footpaths in Ashville have been completed.

Work completed in Kilkea village.

Back entrance to Bleach completed, awaiting contractor to surface.

Back entrance to Dominic's Park completed, awaiting contractor to surface.

Footpath at Sweep Lane, Nurney nearing completion.

Footpath at Abbeylands (triangle) is out to tender and will commence shortly.

Footpath at St. Patrick's Avenue is out to tender and should commence shortly.

Tactile paving at junctions in Rheban Manor put out to tender and should commence shortly.

Hedge cutting program has commenced in the Athy Municipal District

The District Engineer advised the members that trees would need to be removed from St Patricks Avenue to facilitate the footpath works. New trees would not be planted in that area due to the size of the footpath, but he would be open to other suggestions.

The members raised the following points:

- Thanked the District Manager for the lengthy report.
- Due to climate change and in keeping to the climate action plan, new planting must be undertaken to compensate for the loss of trees along St Patricks Avenue.
- Could planters be installed on St Patricks Avenue for the residents to maintain. All members agreed that it would be a good idea.
- Suggested a meeting with the residents to come to some sort of agreement on a plan for St Patricks Avenue.



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- What was the expected completion date for Clonmullion Road and would the drainage issue be dealt with.

The District Engineer advised the Members:

- There had been a comprehensive body of work carried out this year especially noting the RI and RM programmes.
- Greenhills to K-Leisure was done and waiting on signage to be installed in the next week.
- Would be open to planting a tree in residents gardens in St Patricks Avenue, which would be up to the resident to maintain.
- There was a meeting with the contactors/architects of Scoil Mhichil Naofa last week regarding the issues on the road at Clonmullion who advised they would come up with a plan for the drainage issues and that the road is left in an appropriate state. Once works were completed the Municipal District office would install ramps.

The District Engineer noted that this would be his last meeting and was due to retire this month. He acknowledged the work the great team in Athy Municipal District carried out and prided themselves as doing things right.

Councillor Behan thanked the District Engineer on behalf of all the members for all the reports/work over the years especially on making the roads safer in the Athy Municipal District.

The report was noted.

AY04/1023

Athy Draft Budget Plan 2024

The members discussed the Athy Draft Budget Plan for 2024.

Ms Millane informed the members that in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the total draft General Municipal Allocation (GMA) for Kildare



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County Council was €18,136,919, for 2024 of which €5,680,122 is based on the retained LPT as voted for by Members in September. She advised the members that this year's budget meeting was scheduled for 20 November. She also explained that it was a reserved function of the members of a municipal district to adopt the draft budgetary plan either with or without amendment and that the Chief Executive may take account of the draft budgetary plan, as presented to the members of that municipal district, without amendment if they do not adopt a draft budgetary plan.

Ms F Millane confirmed the following points to the members:

- The total provisional General Municipal Allocation for the Athy Municipal District is €2,856,280.
- There had been no new rates valuation for 2024 but was expecting some buoyancy pertaining to valuations from new premises. Hopeful to receive an update on this from the rates valuation office.
- There would be an increase in gross LPT from last year.
- Recalibration of LPT to bring the LPT residents grants up to the same level as the Naas Municipal District.
- There was extra funding for Public Realm to support a maintenance team who would report to the District Engineer. This would be aimed at maintaining entrances to towns/villages, roundabouts etc. This position would also include maintenance of council owned lands.
- There was a small deficit in pay parking in 2023.

The following points were raised by the members:

- Thanked Ms F Millane for the report.
- Would there be LPT required to fund public realm maintenance team.
- Would they be likely to receive extra monies from the rates.

Ms Millane responded as follows:

- The members would have to speak to the Public Realm team regarding funding for projects/maintenance.



- The delay on the rates due to the valuation office system had been updated but was confident that there would be an update soon.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all members that the Athy Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan without amendment for 2024 be adopted.

AY05/1023

Christmas Parking Arrangements

The members considered and agreed the Christmas parking arrangements in the Athy Municipal District for 2023.

The members raised the following:

- Some of the members had met with traders in the town who had advised they did not see much benefit from the all day free parking for customers as a lot of the free parking would be taken up by people who would work in the centre of the town and the free parking would also cause traffic congestion.
- Councillor Keatley advised that he was against free parking at all at Christmas for a number of reasons but mainly due to the climate challenges and the lack of benefit to the traders. It would be as well to keep it as is.
- There were already a number of free car parks within Athy Municipal District.
- Could a period of three hours be brought in for the month of December.
- With the Athy Distributor Road and the Barrow Blueway coming to a completion the traffic and parking on Athy main street would have to be looked at.
- An upcoming motion at the October Full Council meeting would further inform the situation.



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The Senior Engineer advised that he would not be keen on the three hour free parking and would speak to the pay parking team to enquire if it would be feasible. But would suggest that it would be best to leave the parking arrangements as is.

The members agreed to revisit this item in the November meeting.

AY06/1023

Additional bus on 880 route

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

That the council write to South East Technological University (SETU) and Transport For Ireland (TFI) requesting that an additional bus be added to the 880 route from Naas to Carlow to facilitate students attending third level education in Carlow.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that with the members agreement, The Transport Department will write to South East Technological University (SETU) and Transport For Ireland (TFI) regarding your request.

The members raised the following:

- They had been contacted by a number of constituents on this issue.
- The 880 bus in the morning did not arrive in Carlow until 9.40 a.m. which did not suit students attending 9.00 a.m. classes. One additional early run in the morning would accommodate this.
- Could a letter be issued to the Local Link regarding the matter.
- They noted that the 880 route had been a huge success thus far but a more comprehensive service was needed.
- Could link in with the local link to come up with a plan for an extra bus run.



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

AY07/1023

Upgrade junction at R418/R448

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

That the council investigate the options that would allow the junction at the R418/R448 Castledermot to be upgraded.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that this junction should be assessed by the Municipal District office to see if a low-cost safety improvement scheme can be developed for this location. Kildare County Council is currently progressing the first two phases of a junction improvement project across the county and if the scope of works required at this location are beyond the remit of the low-cost safety improvement scheme the junction can be considered for a future phase of the Junction Improvement Project

Councillor Breslin noted that traffic was increasing on this roadway and asked that this be added to the Junction Improvement Scheme.

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

Councillor Keatley had to step out of the meeting and asked that item 8 be taken later in the meeting on his return.

AY08/1023

Handrail at Greenhills

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

Can the council confirm if it plans to install a handrail on the pathway at Greenhills, Athy?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that there are no plans to install a handrail on the pathway at Greenhills, Athy.

The report was noted.

AY09/1023

Pencil bollards in Municipal District

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

Can the council confirm if there are plans to place pencil bollards in other school zones in the municipal district similar to those in place at Moone NS?

A report was received from the Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management team informing the members that there are no schools in the Athy Municipal District included in Rounds one and two of the An Taisce/National Transport Authority funded Safe Routes to Schools Programme. The council does not have an input into the schools selected.

Councillor Leigh stated that requests had been made from An Garda Síochana to install pencil bollards at Athy College and it would make sense to do this at other schools for safety. That children were some of the most vulnerable road users.

The District Engineer advised that no parking set down areas should be put in place at all schools within the Municipal District and that it had worked well at Moone National School.

The report was noted.

AY10/1023

Back lanes in St Dominics Park

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

Can the council confirm when the final works required will be carried out to the back lanes of St. Dominic's Park Athy?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that surfacing works are programmed to be completed in October 2023. The final surface dressing of the two back lanes to St Dominic's Park will then be scheduled into the work programme.

The report was noted.

AY11/1023

Road and culvert works at Boherbawn

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

Can the council confirm when the road and culvert works will be completed at Boherbawn, Kildangan?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that temporary works have been completed on the culvert at Boherbawn. The issue has been referred to our bridge section as the culvert appears to be damaged and this will have to be investigated.

Councillor Breslin said there was an elderly man living beside this area and there was a loud bang each time traffic went over it. Could there be an indication of a timeframe?

The District Engineer advised that this needed to be checked out further and there was currently no funding for the installation of a new culvert.

The District Manager advised he would speak to the bridge team on this.

The report was noted.



AY12/1023

CPO of land at Usk

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley.
That the council carry out a compulsory purchase of land at the bend at Usk on the Dunlavin-Kilgowan Road in order to alleviate the road safety issues at this location.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Athy Municipal District office will carry out an assessment at this location, to see what is required in the short term. In the long term a comprehensive survey will be required to ascertain the full extent of the works required.

The members raised the following:

- This item had been brought up a number of times previously.
- This road was extremely busy and was the main road used for local residents attending the secondary school in Dunlavin.
- Noted that the Municipal District Office had done an excellent job on the rest of that road and it was a small area of a bend that needed to be finished.
- Could the landowner be approached to cut back the hedge for better visibility as a short-term solution.
- There had been a number of accidents on this section of road in previous weeks especially since schools started back.
- Immediate action needed to be taken, could speed warning signage be placed at that location.
- Could the Municipal District Office make an assessment on what long term solution would be.

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



AY13/1023

Works in Narraghmore

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley.
Can the council give a completion date for the works to be carried out in Narraghmore village?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that the footpath sections of the work at Narraghmore are ready for surfacing. The new entrance has been installed in compliance with planning. Permission for the works at Hardware Heaven must wait for work on the area in front of Hardware Heaven.

Councillor Keatley mentioned there was a small piece of public realm area not completed and that it would be great to get that finished. He also wanted to thank the former District Manager on behalf of the Narraghmore Development Association for all huge efforts and work carried out over the last number of years which would serve the community for a long time.

The District Engineer advised that the works were due to be carried out that day.

The report was noted.

AY14/1023

Parking review in Castledermot

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley.
Can the council provide an update on the review of parking in Castledermot?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that the members have received a briefing on the steps and timescale involved in the preparation of parking bye-laws for Castledermot. The adoption of parking bye-laws are a reserved function and the Executive will commence the review of parking bye-laws when the members are in agreement to proceed. There are a number of other bye-laws to be



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reviewed prior to Castledermot as previously circulated to Full Council, and the reviews will be carried out in sequence.

Councillor Keatley stated that this had been ongoing for a period of time and asked that this matter be escalated.

Councillor Dooley mentioned that the members had been advised that they would have an update by March 2024.

The report was noted.

Item 24 was taken at this point.

AY15/1023

Fencing at Scout Den, Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan.
Can the council confirm if it plans to provide fencing at the back of the Scout Den in Athy?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there is no funding available to provide fencing at the back of the Scouts Den at present, however following a meeting with Councillor Breslin, works required to secure the area are being priced and this will be forwarded to the members for consideration for LPT funding.

Councillor Behan thanked Councillor Breslin for her work on this.

Councillor Leigh suggested that they look at this and the handrail at Greenhills for LPT funding. The members agreed to discuss this.

The report was noted.



AY16/1023

Masterplan for the Dominican Lands

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

That the council initiate the design of a masterplan for the Dominican Lands, Athy. With the Blueway soon to open, this area will need to include proper car parking, access and signage to the town and an area for camper van services to access.

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

A report was received from Strategic Projects and Public Realm informing the members that stage one of the Dominican Lands Masterplan is complete. It was identified that a Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment (SSFRA) was required to inform the masterplan before a final draft document could be completed. A tender process was carried out with RPS appointed. Work has commenced on the SSFRA and Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) aim to have the masterplan completed by year end. The masterplan is a conceptual document and will be subject to further funding applications and design considerations.

Councillor Dooley thanked the SPPR team for the report and stated that the Blueway opening would create more footfall and also a new Cluid Housing Development for older people would also attract more people to the area. Could extra funding from LPT push this project along quicker. He hoped that this could be moved forward from a conceptual plan to actually happening.

Councillor Breslin raised that this project needed to be moved forward. A row of council owned properties also needed to be tied into any plans. Economically the town needed to be improved.

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



AY17/1023

Urban and Rural Regeneration in the Municipal District

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Leigh.
That the council outline its plans for future Urban Regeneration in Athy and Rural Regeneration in other villages in the municipal district.

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

A report was received from Strategic Projects and Public Realm informing the members that Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) funding is currently supporting Shackleton Museum, Emily Square and the Dominican Lands Masterplan. The Shackleton Museum and Emily Square projects are flagship projects for the town which were placed on hold pending the delivery of the Athy Distributor Road, to ensure the flow of traffic through the town. With the Athy Distributor Road well advanced, it is envisaged that work will commence on both these projects revitalising the town centre area. The Department of Rural and Community Development have not made us aware of a further call for RRDF funding. While Athy has exceeded the 10,000 population threshold for Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) towns, confirmation is required from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to confirm the revised status. Once Athy moves into the URDF funding stream it can no longer avail of RRDF funding.

The members raised the following:

- The population had grown from 9,500 to 11,500 since the last Census in 2016 but more and more residents were shopping in other big towns like Carlow or Newbridge and a plan to attract more businesses and a bigger footfall was needed.
- Five businesses had shut their doors in the last few months.
- A measure to prevent more businesses closing down needed to be put in place.
- More funding would be needed.
- Small shops with vacant premises or derelict properties could be turned into residential units.
- A focus on helping existing businesses within the Municipal District was needed.



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- With the Athy Distributor Road opening at the end of the month, could be a great opportunity for traders in the town.
- Vacant property owners within the main street in Athy needed to be spoken to, to come up with a plan or else sell the property.
- A discussion with all stakeholders was needed.
- Other areas like Castledermot also needed to be looked at.

The District Manager mentioned that Athy had a lot of exciting projects coming to fruition in the next three years with Athy Distributor Road, Shackleton Museum, Blueway and the Athy Food and Drinks Hub to name a few. Agreed that the dereliction in the main street should be looked at.

Mr A Gaynor suggested a meeting to discuss retail within the Main Street.

Mr S Deegan advised he would sit down with the Councillors on the opening of the Athy Distributor Road to discuss plans for the Main Street.

The District Manager noted that a conversation needed to be started to drive on these projects and to link them and that more positive language on these exciting projects and plans in Athy needed to be used.

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

AY18/1023

Emily Square redevelopment

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

Can the council provide an update on the timeline for the Emily Square redevelopment?

A report was received from Strategic Projects and Public Realm informing the members that tender documents are in progress for the Emily Square project. Additional funding is



required, and a request was submitted to RRDF. An application for funding was also submitted to the Just Transition Fund and a decision is awaited. Until such time as the funding is clarified it would be premature to indicate a timeline for delivery.

The report was noted.

AY19/1023

Residential units in Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.
Can the council outline how many residential units it owns in the Athy Municipal District that are waiting on works to be carried out for over two years?

A report was received from Housing Department informing the members that Kildare County Council has one residential unit in the Athy Municipal District vacant for more than two years. The refurbishment of this property is ongoing.

There are properties in the Municipal District for development as part of the capital programme and these are provided in the monthly Chief Executive report. The members are provided with the vacant house report each month, this report provides information on the number of vacant properties in each municipal district and indicates the net addition in the month. The format of this report has been agreed by the Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

The report was noted.

AY20/1023

Best floral display scheme

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan.
That the council establish an initiative to encourage businesses in the municipal district to participate in an annual awards scheme for best floral display on their premises facade.

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



A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office informing the members that as per the current Shopfront Improvement, Accessibility and Age Friendly Scheme works to improve façade, exterior floral displays are allowable notwithstanding an array of works including (but are not limited to) painting, signage, lighting, windows, doors, woodworks replacement, ramps and canopies (subject to planning permission). Several businesses over the years have availed of the grant to do floral displays outside the shop.

Kildare County Council holds its Pride of Premises Awards in March of each year which celebrates and acknowledges the work put in by businesses to improve the shopfronts throughout the county. Applicants are judged on all aspects of work which include floral displays.

The following could be brought to the Economic SPC for Shopfront Improvement, Age Friendly and Accessibility Scheme for 2024:

Review Kildare County Council's Shopfront Grant Scheme to include a provision specifically for floral display as part of the scheme, similar to the Retail Window Merchandising Grant.

The members raised the following:

- The Pride of Place Awards would take place in April next year and this idea could add extra interest from retailers.
- This would be a cost effective plan that makes businesses more attractive which had an impact on peoples experience in the town.
- Noted that the Tidy Towns carried out so much work in making the town look attractive.
- This could tie in with the Athy Town Promoters and Tidy Towns and could look at extra funding for this.
- Were floral displays included in the shop front grant scheme.
- Going forward needed to look at the town visually and the entrances needed to be looked at.
- Extra advertisement was needed on this.



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The District Manager reminded the Councillors that the 2024 draft budget included Public Realm funding which would include the entrances of towns/villages being tidied up.

Mr A Gaynor advised the members that floral displays would be included in the shop front grant scheme and the LEO was currently looking at what the criteria would be for next year.

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

AY21/1023

Tourism along the Barrow Blueway

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

That the council identify and secure a quantum of money from their budget each year to promote tourism and short breaks along the Barrow Blueway.

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

A report was received from the Director of Services for Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services informing the members that Kildare County Council, in partnership with Failte Ireland, are in the process of recruiting a Just Transition Tourism Activator; applications for the role closed on Thursday, 12 October 2023.

This post, which will be for three-years, will be responsible for activating the Just Transition Fund (JTF) programmes and grant schemes and to support and build the capacity of communities and enterprises within the Athy and Clane/Maynooth Municipal Districts to develop innovative tourism projects, including projects such as the Barrow Blueway. The successful candidate will also work closely with the Municipal Districts to activate potential new tourism projects by developing potential grant proposals, building belief and confidence in the tourism potential of the Municipal Districts and working with businesses who can sustain the investment momentum over the longer term.



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Councillor Dooley thanked the District Manager for the report and requested that as soon as the position was filled, a meeting could be arranged to discuss ideas.

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

AY22/1023

Update on Athy Food and Drinks Hub

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

Can the council provide an up to date report on the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub?

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office informing the members that the Athy Food Drink and Skills Innovation Hub underwent a cost review by Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) due to inflationary pressure on projects nationwide; Kildare County Council received approval from DRCD in July.

Upon receiving this positive news from DRCD, Kildare County Council's design and procurement consultancy team progressed, and has now finalised, the construction tender package for an open call. This package has been submitted to DRCD for review prior to its publication.

As per funding criteria, DRCD manages an internal 'gateway' procedure where it reviews major project milestones including the publication of tender documents.

The report was noted.

AY23/1023

LPT Sports Grants 2023 Round 2

The members considered the LPT Sports Grants Schemes 2023 Round 2.



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The members raised the following:

- Had some clubs received funding in both rounds of this scheme.
- The Anglers club only received €1,500 after applying for €5000. This was mostly an older persons club who did not receive funding elsewhere and who did huge work and attracted a lot of tourism.
- Was the criteria more strict in this round.

Mr C O'Toole advised the members that:

- No club was allocated funding in both rounds.
- Clubs that weren't awarded funding in the first round were advised they could apply in round two.
- This was a proposal and it was down to the members to agree.
- If the members wanted to allocate more funding to a particular club they would have to take it from another clubs allocation.
- They tried to be consistent and fair to give funding across the board.

Resolved: On the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that the LPT Sports Grants Schemes Round 2 be approved.

AY24/1023

Athy Autism Friendly Town

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

That the council work with the relevant stakeholders to make Athy an Autism Friendly Town.

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

A report was received from the Health and Safety Officer informing the members that while the councillors idea is good, it is preferred not to focus on any one particular disability but to work towards realising our goal of making County Kildare inclusive and accessible to all.



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Councillor Leigh accepted the report and noted that AsIAM, Irelands National Autism Charity were looking at towns across the country to promote Autism Friendly Towns and he felt there would be a number of groups in Athy that would benefit from it including the Athy Special Needs Access Group who cater for children with Autism.

Councillor Behan supported the motion and had attended a number of Autism friendly events which were enjoyable experiences.

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

The members each thanked the District Engineer Dave O'Flaherty for his many years of service and friendship. They all echoed that the work carried out by Dave and the crew in Athy was the envy of the rest of the county. They wished him and his family all the best and a happy retirement.

The meeting concluded.