



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 17 July 2023
in the Municipal Building, Rathstewart, Athy**

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

Officials Present: Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr D O’Flaherty (District Engineer), Ms R Kidney (Executive Architectural Conservation Officer), Ms E Langton (Creative Places Officer) Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

AY01/0723

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.

AY02/0723

Minutes and Progress Report

To adopt the minutes the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 19 June 2023 and to note the progress report.

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



AY03/0723

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 the last Athy Municipal District meeting. Project Team dealing with this.

Department of Transport – Climate Adaption Projects

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

Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RI Program 2023

All surveying and preparatory works on all RI for 2023 completed.

Three Restoration Improvements on regional roads have been completed.

R-415 at Crookstown school.

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

R-418 at Kilmead on the Athy/Kilcullen Road.

L-8074 Link road at Gallowshill completed.

L-8022 Kilmead to Monatore completed.

L-8074 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.

Local Improvement Schemes

Quotations have been sent out for a number of Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) projects.

Community Involvement Schemes

Quotations have been sent out for a number of Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) projects



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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.

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 and Restoration Maintenance works.

Completed drainage work at Prusselstown Green/Geraldine Road.

Drainage works at Shamrock Lodge completed.

Carrying out drainage work at Prusselstown Lane and Thomastown Lane.

Road Patching

Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing.

Restoration Maintenance and Restoration Improvement patching repairs also.

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping to areas – ongoing.

Bin collection – ongoing.

Install three new bins in Edmund Rice car park.

Twelve bins have been ordered.

Community Works



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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 being carried out.

Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RM Program

All surveying and preparatory works on all Restoration Maintenance for 2023 completed.

Drainage and edging being completed.

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.

The members raised the following points:

- Thanked the District Office for the works completed at Kilkea village, when would the pencil bollards be installed outside the school.
- Was there an update on the bus set down area at the roundabout at Ardscoil Na Trionoide, could a meeting between members, the District Engineer and the school be arranged for September.
- Thanked the District Office for the quick response during floods.
- In the roadworks update it stated works at the L8039 Commonstown to Moone had been completed, the area at Harringtons Hill was not done, would that be included.

The District Engineer advised the Members:



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- The new depot at Gallowshill was ready for occupation, It would be an idea to hold the September Municipal District meeting there.
- There was currently no design for pencil bollards at Kilkea school, and this area would need to be looked at as it might not be suitable for that particular area.
- Enforcement of bus set down area at Ardscoil na Trionoide could be an issue, agreed to meet with school/members to finalise a plan.
- Harringtons Hill would be completed, survey had been done and works would be finished this year.

The report was noted.

AY04/0723

LPT Expenditure 2023

The members received an update on 2023 LPT expenditure year to date.

Councillor Breslin asked had sports grants for 2023 been advertised yet?

Councillor Dooley suggested re-opening and advertising the sports grant for three weeks in September.

The report was noted.

AY05/0723

Corporate Policy Group Representative

The members voted to approve the appointment of a representative from the Athy Municipal District to the Corporate Policy Group as the representative from this Municipal District.

Councillor Keatley nominated Councillor Behan. This was seconded by Councillor Leigh.



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There were no other nominations.

Councillor Dooley thanked Councillor Breslin for taking on that position last year.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by the members that Councillor Behan be approved as the representative from the Athy Municipal District to the Corporate Policy Group.

AY06/0723

Hedges at Bert Lane

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

That the council cut back the hedges along the approach to Bert Lane, Athy.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that The Athy Municipal District office have completed a grass cutting exercise on all the junctions on the R-417 (Athy/Monasterevin Road) including the Bert Lane junction onto the R-417. Because of the ban on cutting hedges between March and August the Athy Municipal District office only cut the grass at the junctions. It has made a huge difference to the sight distance at the entrance to the lanes.

Councillor Behan asked could a list of areas most affected be prioritised every year.

The District Engineer advised hedgerows at junctions causing visibility and safety issues would be a priority every year.

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



AY07/0723

Update on works at Castledermot and Coltstown Cemetery

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

That the council provide an update on the footpath and junction design process between Castledermot and Coltstown Cemetery?

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the Municipal District Office has referred to Roads Design - As discussed with the Municipal District Office on many occasions, if a project is referred to the Roads Planning and Projects Team it becomes a project of scale generally requiring consultants, options reporting, CPO/land acquisition, and significant resourcing and investment and must be specifically list on the three-year capital programme. Specifically in this case, there is a footpath to Castle Villa, however it's a further 800m to the Cemetery. The road in question is narrow, of a winding nature, with mature hedgerows. Widening of the road would be very costly, with associated CPO and land acquisition requirements – and would likely not be feasible. A 2m footpath will not fit on this road without significant cost / disruption / land acquisition. On a positive note Roads Design will review its position in the event the Old Kilcullen and Ballyshannon quiet road schemes succeed and operate effectively for 12 months.

The members raised the following:

- This was a similar report to one they had previously received.
- LPT of €35,000 had been put aside for the feasibility study.
- Was it still the intention to carry out a feasibility study in house or would they be getting a contractor.
- Agreed that a 2m footpath would not be suitable for rural areas but that some sort of effective solution was needed to make the roads safer.
- Was there any available funding from the Department of Transport.



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The District Engineer advised the following:

- A path was installed a number of years ago from the town to Castle Villa which left the area quite tight.
- Due to the road being narrow with a lot of bends that it was a complex job and could require land acquisition.
- This would require a comprehensive design due to the number of bends.
- Funding from the Department of Transport was mainly Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance schemes and footpaths were usually funded through LPT.

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

Item 8 and 16 were taken together.

AY08/0723

Footpaths on Shrewleen Lane

Item - 8

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley
That the council replace the footpaths on Shrewleen Lane, Athy.

Item – 16

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin.
Can the council add the footpaths in Shrewleen Lane, Athy to the footpath restoration programme?

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the Athy Municipal District office will carry out a survey of the footpaths.



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The members raised the following:

- Having spoken with several residents the space they were looking at was about 60 metres in front of the houses.
- There were a number of age friendly houses in that area whose residents use that pathway for access to the town.
- The trees need to be looked at, they were not suitable, the surface needed to be replaced.
- This estate had older residents and suggested speaking with them regarding design.

The District Engineer agreed the trees were not of a suitable nature and a simple design needed to be drawn up. A survey would be carried out and the residents would be consulted.

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

AY09/0723

Pedestrian crossing on Leinster Street

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

That the council install a pedestrian crossing from Leinster Street near Lidl to the entrance of the People's Park, Athy in order to allow safe access to the park.

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

The following report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department. There is currently no funding for the provision of new pedestrian crossings within the county. It should be noted that as part of the N78 Athy Road Safety Improvement Scheme local road improvements including the provision of pedestrian crossings is proposed at this location. This is a Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) scheme and is anticipated to be delivered following the construction of the Athy Southern Distributor Road.



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The members raised the following:

- As the park was getting a lot of use there was an issue with crossing the road.
- A lot of school children were using the park together with trains users at that spot.

The District Engineer advised the following:

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland had carried out a draft survey in Athy and on completion of the Distributor Road other works to ease access within the town would be looked at.
- Wheelchair access needed to be taken into consideration.

The members asked was the TII survey to hand.

The District Engineer advised it was a draft document and currently did not have a copy.

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

AY10/0723

Public lighting in the Terrace, Timolin

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

That the council upgrade the public lighting in the Terrace, Timolin.

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

The following report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department. The lighting at this location will be completed under PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project), which is an LED retrofitting project in which Kildare County Council is participating with eight other local authorities. Under the project all the remaining non -LED lights will be replaced with LEDs. The surveying of lights will commence in County Kildare in Quarter one, 2024.



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The members advised they were happy with the report but the PLEEP was started in 2017/2018 and it was disappointing that the works hadn't been fully completed yet.

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

AY11/0723

Repair to roads in Narraghmore/Ballymount

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

That the council repair and resurface the roads in the Narraghmore, Ballymount areas that have fallen into disrepair due to subsidence.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department. The road between Narraghmore and Ballymount is to be surfaced in this year's Restoration Improvement Programme. It is hoped that this road will be surfaced by the end of August.

Councillor Keatley asked would the Ballybarney Road be included in these works.

The District Engineer confirmed the Ballybarney Road was included in the works as it was a bog road which was distorted and deformed and required attention.

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

AY12/0723

Wall at the GAA in Castledermot

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

That the council repair the wall at the GAA in Castledermot.



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The motion was proposed by Councillor Keatley and seconded by Councillor Dooley. A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the wall at the GAA grounds in Castledermot is the boundary wall and is the property of the GAA. It is up to the GAA to carry out any necessary repairs to this wall.

Councillor Keatley accepted the report and suggested the District Engineer meet with committee members to advise the best solution.

The District Engineer agreed to discuss this further with the Committee of Castledermot GAA.

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

AY13/0723

Parking at Castleroe West

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley. That the council consider a request made by the residents of Castleroe West, Maganey that part of the green area of their estate be removed to provide parking and to assist access of emergency service vehicles.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that it is not intended to replace any green area in the county with space for car parking. This would be contrary to the Climate Action Plan, Decarbonisation Plans, the Biodiversity Action Plan.

The members raised the following:

- Full support from each member.
- This estate was aging, and some families had more than one car.



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- Could they facilitate this issue by planting more trees in a different area.
- Could they meet onsite to discuss this.
- Trees had previously been removed in this estate; more trees could be planted to facilitate the removal of the green area.

The District Engineer advised:

- The main issue was it didn't tie in with the Climate Action Plan.
- They would try to come to a compromise that all parties would be agreeable to.
- Agreed to meet with members to discuss this.

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

AY14/0723

Junction works in Greenhills and K-Leisure, Athy

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

Can the council give a timeline for junction works due to be carried out in Greenhills and K-Leisure, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that when the Athy Municipal District office looked at this signing and lining in the vicinity of K-Leisure, it was noticed that the road surface itself at this location is not in good condition. This has now been put on our Restoration Improvement Work Programme. Work should occur late this year.

Councillor Dooley thanked the District Office for the report and asked when the works might be completed.

Councillor Behan noted the hedging was an issue along that road.



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The District Engineer hoped the works would be finalised before the end of October and that visibility from the hedging would be looked at.

The report was noted.

AY15/0723

Street lighting in Graysland/Kingsgrove

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.
Can the council provide an update on the proposed upgrade of street lighting in Graysland/Kingsgrove, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that The lighting at this location will be completed under PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project), which is an LED retrofitting project in which Kildare County Council is participating with eight other local authorities. Under the project all the remaining non -LED lights will be replaced with LEDs. The surveying of lights will commence in County Kildare in Quarter one, 2024.

Councillor Leigh said this was previously brought as a Motion in 2020 where they were advised the work would be carried out in 2023. The residents will now have to face another winter of darkness.

The report was noted.

AY16/0723

Road resurfacing in Timolin and Commonstown, Moone

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley.
Can the council provide a date for the completion of road resurfacing in Timolin and Commonstown, Moone?



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A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that works on the road at Timolin will take place later this year. There are some drainage works required and then an overlay can commence.

The report was noted.

AY17/0723

Narraghmore works completion date

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

Can the council provide a date for the completion of work in the village of Narraghmore?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that works on the footpath at Hardware Heaven in Narraghmore have commenced. The work around the pump should commence in October this year.

Councillor Keatley thanked the District Engineer for meeting with the development association.

The District Engineer advised that works would be carried out once the footpath at Hardware Heaven was completed.

The report was noted.

AY18/0723

Footpaths on the R145

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

Can the council provide an update on the planned footpath between Conlon's Garage and The Clanard Court Hotel on the R145?



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A report was received from the Roads Department that there have been a number of meetings with the relevant parties in relation to works that will be going on at Gallowshill. The Municipal District Office are in discussion with the hotel, Conlan's and the landowners adjoining the site where work on the footpath is taking place.

Councillor Leigh questioned what the timeframe for the works would be.

The District Engineer advised works would be completed once Conlon's Garage had completed their new entrance and construction works.

AY19/0723

Road works repairs Woodstock Way and Flinters Court

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

That the council liaise with the Approved Housing Body in charge of building Woodstock Way and Flinter's Court to restore the road surface in the estate and replace speed ramps removed during construction of new housing in the estate.

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

A report was received that the Housing department has contacted the Approved Housing Body and requested they liaise with the Transportation section to progress any remedial works required.

The members raised the following:

- This project was very welcome but the road surface was an issue.
- Road users should be able to enter and exit without causing damage to their vehicle.
- This area was full of dust and left in an awful state, it should be cleaned up.

The District Manager advised the members that contact had been made with the Approved Housing Body and members would be kept informed of any updates.



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

AY20/0723

Cluid Housing units on Dominican lands

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.
Can the council give an update on the timeline for delivery of Cluid Housing units on Dominican lands, Athy?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the notification of a decision to grant planning permission was issued on 22 June 2023. Subject to planning appeals the next stage is for Cluid to proceed to tender. The expected delivery is Quarter two 2025.

The report was noted.

AY21/0723

Thatched Cottage at Derryoughter East

To consider the proposal for the addition of 'thatched cottage' at Derryoughter East, Kildangan, Monasterevin to Kildare County Council's 'Record of Protected Structures' (previously circulated).

The members raised the following:

- Was this a private property.
- Each supported the proposal.

Ms. R Kidney informed the members of the following:

- This was a significant building in Kildare and was in a poor state of repair.
- It was one of few remaining thatched cottages in Kildare.



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- Confirmed the property was privately owned.
- This project would support the owner in obtaining grants and a restoration plan.
- There were third parties interested in aiding the owner with the repairs/restoration works.
- There was a number of funding streams available to assist the owner with repairs.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan and seconded by councillor Leigh and agreed by the members that the 'thatched cottage' at Derryoughter East, Kildangan, Monasterevin be added to Kildare County Council's 'Record of Protected Structures'

AY22/0723

Artist Hub in Athy

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Leigh.
That the council work towards the provision of an Artist Hub in the Athy Municipal District.

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

A report was received that the Arts Service is currently supporting Kildare LEO on a feasibility study on the development of a Creative Hub for the county. It is envisaged that such a facility would be located in a central location in the county. There are currently no plans to develop an artist hub in Athy. Notwithstanding that, a significant three year Arts Council programme, Creative Places is being rolled out in Athy, with support from Athy Municipal District. The programme provides significant support for artists. A mid-term review will be presented to the members of Athy Municipal District in September. The local authority is also providing support for Athy Community Arts Centre, which in turn supports artists. In addition, Athy Library facilitates a range of events, supports and facilities for artists across artforms.

The members raised the following:

- Athy was a central location so it would be an obvious choice for Creative Hub.



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- Did not see the need for a feasibility study.
- Great idea for shared space for artists to come together.
- It would encourage Artists to work in Athy.
- Could this be looked at through LPT funding over the next few years.

Ms E Langton advised she was delighted to see this motion and welcomed the support of the members.

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

The meeting concluded.