



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 18 September 2023
in the Gallowshill Depot, Athy**

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

Officials Present: Ms P Pender (A/District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr D Conlan (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms A Keaveney (A/Senior Executive Engineer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms J Woodhouse (Meetings Secretary) and others.

AY01/0923

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.

AY02/0923

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 17 July 2023 and the minutes of the Athy Annual Meeting held on Monday, 17 July 2023 and the progress report.

Councillor Breslin asked that an agreement be made regarding item AY170222 on the progress report noting that no reply has still been received. It was asked for a letter to be sent to the HSE as a follow up and for this matter to be brought to the Chief Executive. The members were in agreement.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 17 July



2023 and the minutes of the Athy Annual Meeting held on Monday, 17 July 2023 be adopted and the progress report be noted.

AY03/0923

Municipal District Road Works Update

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 the Athy Municipal District in 2023.

Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RI Program 2023

All surveying works on all Restoration Improvements for 2023 nearing completion.

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 Distributor Road.

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 nearing completion.

L-8069 Geraldine to Clogorrorow Cross nearing completion.

L-8044 Moone to Killellan nearing completion.

L-8084 Kilkea to Levitstown.

L-8085 Shed Road Levitstown.



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L-89933 Greenhills to K-Leisure next few weeks.

L-8083 Kilkea, in front of new footpath, next few weeks.

L-8102 Timolin village, next few weeks.

Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)

Five LIS projects for 2023. One substantially completed. The other four will be surfaced in the next fortnight.

Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)

Two CIS projects for 2023. One substantially completed. The other project will be completed in the next fortnight.

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.



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Sand bags are ready for the winter period, the municipal district have already experienced some weather related issues.

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. There has been additional bins positioned on Leinster Street.

Install twelve new bins in Leinster Street, nearing completion.

Another twelve bins have been ordered.

Community Works

Arranged preparatory works to facilitate both Tri-Athy, the Gordon Bennett Events and the upcoming Halloween Event.

General Maintenance

New wheelchair friendly seat installation on Monasterevin road, Athy.

General cleaning of depot.

New depot at Gallowshill completed, now decorating and outfitting. Footpath and surfacing around the building completed. Lining and traffic management completed. The opening will be completed with the holding of the September 2023 Athy Municipal District meeting.

Municipal District Restoration Maintenance Works – RM Program

All surveying works on all Restoration Maintenance for 2023 nearing completion.

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.



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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 will commence shortly.

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 Rhebhan Manor put out to tender and should commence shortly.

Hedge cutting program has commenced in the Athy Municipal District

The members raised the following points:

- That there had been reports of road damage on the R148 at Thomastown Hill following recent pipe works.
- Issues reported at Moone Hill, asked for chips to be laid.
- Reports of tactile surface tiles lifted at the Arch Centre.
- It was queried if any response had been received to date regarding Flinter's Field.
- Two accidents reported over the weekend on the R418 Castledermot.

The District Engineer advised the members:

- That a crew would be sent to investigate the R148 location and for patch up works to be carried out, it was noted that this road was also on the RI list for 2024.
- It was hoped works at Moone Hill would be done in the next week or so, weather dependent.
- That the tactile surface at the Arch would also be investigated.
- That no response had yet been received to date regarding Flinters Field.

The report was noted.

AY04/0923

Section 38

The members considered the Roads Traffic Act, 1994 - Section 38 - proposed installation of two new bus shelters at Kilberry (R417), Athy.



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A submissions report had been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.
The report was noted.

AY05/0923

Pedestrian Crossing, Nurney

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan.
That the council repaint the pedestrian crossing and add flashing lights to indicate it's presence, beside the Handball alley in Nurney.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that there is no funding at the present time for the upgrade of pedestrian crossings.

The members raised the following:

- It was questioned where funding came from in the past and whether it was through the Department of Transport.
- Does the council have a priority list of locations for pedestrian crossing.

The Municipal District Engineer confirmed that there was no funding available for Kildare for pedestrian crossings unless they formed part of a new junction, in this case this would then be funded through a separate scheme. It was suggested that the members compiled a list and submitted it to the council of possible locations for pedestrian crossings.

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

AY06/0923

Pedestrian Crossings Nurney and Ballyroe

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley.
That the council carry out road resurfacing, signage and pedestrian works to footpaths with pedestrian crossings in the villages of Nurney and Ballyroe.



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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that this work can be considered in light of the Road Improvement (RI) and LPT allocation for 2024.

Councillor Dooley was happy to see that the works would be considered in 2024, noting that Ballyroe had no speed bumps in place to slow vehicles down in one direction and that the road required resurfacing. It was added that additional signage would be beneficial at both locations, pencil bollards were suggested as an option. Both locations were reported to be busy, especially around school time.

The District Engineer referred to a possible option of a dedicated 'school zone'. These are areas around schools which have a 'no stop policy'. This option would keep the area free from cars and would divert cars to designated parking areas.

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

AY07/0923

Moate View Housing Estate

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

That the council take all the necessary measures required in Moate View Housing Estate, Kilmead to prevent illegal campsites and parking of caravans before Quarter one in 2024.

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

A report was received from Housing Section informing the members that the Housing Section will carry out at an assessment of the area for possible preventative measures. The assistance of the Athy Area Engineer's Office has also been requested. The Tenant Liaison Officer will further engage with residents.

The members raised the following:

- They complimented the recently preventative measures at Castle Park and that similar was needed at Moate View.



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- That the An Garda Síochána had been made aware of a recent violent incident at this location and the ongoing anti-social behaviour taking place.
- This situation had been ongoing for a number of years and the residents were living in fear.
- Reports had been received of vehicles blocking entrances to residents houses, fires being lit outside, public drinking and noise disturbances.
- That this estate was Council owned and the council needed to resolve this problem alongside An Garda Síochána. The situation had escalated over the past few months.
- In other areas signage was in place stating no overnight camping. This could be an option but a physical barrier would also be required. The area would then need to be cleaned up and a fence or similar to be erected to ensure this couldn't happen again.
- It was asked for the municipal district office, the housing section and community section to work collaboratively on this issue with the tenant liaison officer to resolve this issue.

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

AY08/0923

Cluain Bhearú Housing Estate

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

That the council examine the possibility of creating additional parking at Cluain Bhearú Housing Estate, Athy.

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

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



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Councillor Leigh felt that the council should be able to assess each case on an individual basis.

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

AY09/0923

Convent View, Athy

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

That the council carry out works to eradicate the serious issue of flooding on the roadway at Convent View, Athy.

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 the issue of flooding had been created by the building of an extension to Scoil Mhicil Naoifa. The Municipal District office will liaise with the contractor with a view to solving the flooding issue.

Councillor Breslin was disappointed with this situation, explaining that the road itself leads to a retirement village and older persons home. There had recently been a gully placed beside the wall and the road was now flooding. If this problem is not addressed it would cause the area to be inaccessible during the winter period.

The local residents already had to deal with parking problems especially at school drop off and pick up times and were now experiencing flooding issues also.

The District Engineer confirmed that talks were ongoing with the contractor and that the works would not be closed off until such a time that the council were happy with the situation. There had been reports of foundations being put in the wrong place and issues regarding the ESB and the power supply not being sufficient.

The contractor had been contacted and was prepared to work with the council on these issues.

The members asked regarding a bond and the District Engineer confirmed there was a bond and that it was held with the NRO.



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

AY10/0923

Backmoone, Mullaghmast Road

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

That the council carry out remedial works and surfacing dressing on the Backmoone, Mullaghmast Road.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that this work can be included in the list of improvement works for 2024.

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

AY11/0923

Bus Shelters

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

Can the council provide an update on the installation of bus shelters in the municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that fifteen new locations for bus shelters have been progressed in 2023 across the county, with the agreement of the National Transport Authority (NTA), including two in Kilberry. The provision of additional bus shelters in this Municipal District can be considered for inclusion in the 2024 programme of works, subject to technical and financial approval with the NTA.

The report was noted.



AY12/0923

Proposed Footbridge/Cycleway at Rathstewart

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh
Can the council provide an update on the proposed footbridge/cycleway at Rathstewart.
A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that an allocation of €60,000 was received from the National Transport Authority (NTA) for 2023. Following discussions with the NTA, advancing the scheme is unlikely in the short term due to limits on funding to be made available to Kildare County Council.

Councillor Leigh expressed his disappointment that this was not progressing.

The report was noted.

AY13/0923

Bins in Castledermot

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

Can the council confirm if there are plans to upgrade the bins in Castledermot.

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that the bins in Castledermot were erected over 15 years ago on the basis that they would be kept clean by the businesses there. There are no plans at this stage to upgrade the bins.

The report was noted.

AY14/0923

Cribb Road and Church Road, Athy

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

Can the council confirm what the weight limit is for trucks on the Cribb Road and Church Road, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that there is no weight limit for any vehicles on the Cribb (Church Road) in Athy.

The report was noted.



AY15/0723

Junction at Greenhills and K-Leisure, Athy

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

Can the council confirm what the timeline is for road works, signage and line markings to be carried out on the junction of K-Leisure and Greenhills, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that this work is scheduled to be finished before the end of September.

The report was noted.

AY16/0923

Pedestrian Crossing in Nurney

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

Can the council confirm what plans it has to upgrade the pedestrian crossing in Nurney.

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Section informing the members that there is no funding at the present time for the upgrade of pedestrian crossings.

The report was noted.

AY17/0723

Solar Powered Speed Warning Signage

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

Can the council provide details of solar powered speed warning signage being used within the Municipal District?

A report was received from Sustainable Transport and Traffic Management informing the members that the driver feedback signs/speed warning signs provided in the county are operated and maintained by the Traffic Management Section in Kildare County Council. Staff in the Traffic Management Section shall contact Councillor Behan and provide necessary details.

Councillor Behan noted that she had previously submitted a similar item in 2019, receiving a report stating that it would be passed to the Transport SPC when it was established. No feedback was received regarding this to date, Councillor Behan to follow this up.



The report was noted.

AY18/0723

Update on Public Realm Projects

The members considered an update on Public Realm Projects (report was previously circulated to the members before the meeting). Ms Pender noted the report circulated and advised that questions would be answered by Ms Keaveney

The members raised the following:

- Was a completion date available for completion of Q1 Blueway.
- They noted significant increases in costings, questioning if this was down to inflation as the cost of materials had increased significantly.
- It was asked if reports regarding waterways continuing without a bridge was correct?

Ms Keaveney advised the members that:

- The Barrow Blueway is expected to be completed end of March 2024
- Along with inflation costs, the original application at start didn't cover enough to cover all costings, that budgeted costs to deliver the bridge were inadequate.

The report was noted.

The members agreed to take item 21 from the agenda next

AY19/0723

Bins for Dog Fouling

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

Can the council confirm if it has considered providing bins for dog fouling on the Blueway and other areas in this municipal district?

A report was received from Strategic Projects and Public Realm informing the members that the Provision of infrastructure on the Blueway will form part of the Infrastructure Plan for the Barrow Blueway. This request can be shared with Waterways Ireland.



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The members raised the following:

- That this item had come up previously. The no trace policy was understood but it was felt that carrying dog waste for any duration was a different situation to general waste.
- It was asked could a trial be run in the town on the Blueway.
- Could the Tidy Towns team in Tramore be contacted regarding the scheme they run, whereby free dog waste bags are provided at locations around the town. This project had been a great success in reducing the amount of dog waste littering the streets.

Ms Keaveney advised the members that;

- The proposal would be taken back to the department. It was understood that they were planning to run a campaign nearer the time of completion of the blueway.
- That problems would arise with issue of who would empty the bins.

The report was noted.

AY20/0723

Masterplan for Edmund Rice Square, Athy

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

That the council develop a masterplan for Edmund Rice Square, Athy in conjunction with surrounding businesses to rejuvenate the area and include the repositioning of the glass recycling area.

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

A report was received from Strategic Projects and Public Realm as previously reported, that Edmund Rice Square will be considered once Emily Square has been delivered. There are several key projects identified for Athy without the benefit of a Masterplan for the Town. It would be prudent to deliver a Town Renewal Masterplan or a Public Realm Strategy, as noted in the Athy Local Area Plan, prior to progressing Edmund Rice Square. Priority for towns should follow in the order of Main Street and then public spaces. Delivering a Masterplan or Strategy for the Town would ensure that projects develop a natural flow and provides further opportunities for funding applications.



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The members raised the following:

- That the removal of the recycling bins and removal of ditch would improve the look of the area which was currently an eye sore. This area was currently needing to be cleaned every Monday. This would also then open up the view of the castle opposite.
- That a local business had offered to work in partnership with the council offering to put the recycling bins on their own land and offered to maintain the bins also.
- Asked could the idea of local businesses and the council working together in partnership be further investigated. This would cost nothing to the council and reduce the councils workload also.

The Municipal District Engineer agreed that this could be investigated and would discuss further with the proprietor.

The members asked if Ms Higgins could be included in the discussions.

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

AY21/0723

Annual Halloween Skip Drive

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

That the council fund the delivery of skips to council estates in the municipal district in support of the annual Halloween skip drive.

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

A report was received from the Community Section that in 2022, the community development team in collaboration with the Environment Section successfully piloted a competition in the Athy municipal district as part of an anti-bonfire initiative, which encouraged communities to respect both the environment and the health of all residents. Successful estates were awarded cinema experiences and other prizes. This will continue in 2023 and expand to include more estates. Kildare County Council, with the support of Local Residents Associations and An Garda Síochána, appeal to local communities not to



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contribute to any bonfires this Halloween, and to respect both the environment and the health of children and neighbours.

The members raised the following;

- That the initiative for annual skip drive was a proactive way to discourage bonfires.
- That over the past 5 years the skip drive had seen a reduction in bonfires. It had also helped to reduce the work for both An Garda Síochána around Halloween and the work for the Council with the clean up operation after Halloween.
- Previously funding was obtained through the Rapid Fund and the Athy Community Fund. This year Athy Promoters had no funding available as allocations were already submitted at the start of the year.
- The date for the free waste mattress recycling day was due to take place on Tuesday 10 October at Gallowshill Civic Amenity Site on the Dublin Road in Athy, opening hours are from 9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m
- Officials were asked to explore the possibility of a LPT funding stream for this project, subject to availability. This would, in the event of available funds, necessitate procedural reassignment of money accordingly.

Resolved: On the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Dooley that the report be noted

The meeting concluded.