



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 16 January 2023  
in the Council Chamber**

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

**Officials Present:** Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (Area Engineer), Mr S  
Deegan (Senior Engineer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Mr S  
Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms E Price (Acting  
Administrator Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator) and Ms  
C Gallagher (Meetings Secretary) and others.

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**AY01/0123**

**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.

**AY02/0123**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

To adopt the minutes the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 12  
December 2022 and to note the progress report.

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



**AY03/0123**

**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

**Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RI Program**

All surveying and preparatory works on all RI and RM for 2022 completed.

Two no. extra RI projects are surfaced Cherrymills and Moone

R417 Maganey to County Boundary (Completed and lined with cats-eyes installed)

L7071 – Blackditch (Completed)

L7063 – Ricardstown (Completed)

L7065 – Eskerhill (Completed)

L8037 – Timolin (Completed)

L8089 – Bo Choill Road (Completed)

L8012 – Kilrush (Completed)

L8017 - Oldgrange (Completed)

L7063 – Cherrymills to Cloney (Completed)

L-8012 – Moone Village (Road Markings and Pedestrian Crossing to be installed)

Margins and hedgerows along 2 remaining jobs need certain preparatory works.

Kilrush – requires some lining

Carried out junction realignments at L8089 – Bo Choill Rd.

Drainage requirements also completed on 2 new roads.

**Local Improvement Schemes**

Portersize Lane

Lowtown Lane



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Castlereban North Lane  
Crookstown Lane  
Ballymount, Blackrath

### **Community Involvement Schemes**

L80571 Castlereban  
L80351 Crookstown Lane  
L60951 Blackrath Lane  
L70653 Rickardstown Lane  
L80161 Rathsillagh Lane  
L60901 Calverstown Lodge Lane  
L80531 Ballinacarrick Lane

### **Signage Works**

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy MD  
Upgrading signage on completed resurfaced roads.  
Signage works started on R-417 for Shed road.

### **Road Markings**

Upgrading road junction markings at the present time.  
Renew all road markings including cats eyes along the newly surfaced section of the R417. – 3.1km  
Renew all road markings on R-448 from Castledermot to Moone – 6.8km.  
Upgraded road markings along L4009 Levistown

### **Drainage Works**

A number of villages (including Narraghmore) 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.  
Carrying out drainage work at Prusselstown Green/Geraldine.  
Carrying out drainage works at Shamrock lodge.



**Road Patching**

Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing

**Street Sweeping**

Street sweeping to areas – ongoing

Bin collection – ongoing

Install 10no. new bins along the R417 Monasterevin Rd, Athy

**Community Works**

Carried out preparatory work to facilitate both Tri-Athy and Gordon Bennett Events.

This involved road closures etc.

**General Maintenance**

New wheelchair friendly seat installation on Monasterevin road, Athy

General cleaning of depot.

New depot at Gallowshill completed, now decorating and outfitting.

Hedge cutting along Regional Roads

Assisted with traffic management in the pruning of trees along the R-417,

Monasterevin Rd, Athy

**Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RM Program**

R-448 Skenagun to Moone.

L-4009 Maganey to Levitstown.

R-747 Brookmount to Wicklow bounds.

L-8068 Bert to Milltown.

L-8031 Milltown to Cardenton.

L-6094 Wood road, Narraghmore.



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The members raised the following points:

- When do the council intend to finish the footpath at Russelstown.
- The junction at Pike, Castledermot at Big Stone needs to be included on the hedge cutting maintenance plan.
- The village centre of Narraghmore needs to be completed in time for the Pride of Place competition in Spring.
- The Athy Municipal District Office was thanked for their signage works, the signage is very beneficial.

The District Engineer advised that it is the intention of the municipal district office to leave an area in better condition than when works started. Due to a limited window of time, hedge cutting works are deemed additional works and are based on availability of resources.

The report was noted.

### **AY04/0123**

#### **Update on Sustainable Transport and Active Travel Team Projects**

The members received an update on the Sustainable Transport and Active Travel Team projects. (Appendix 1)

The members raised the following points:

- When will construction start on the Athy Campus.
- The top down approach from the NTA to KCC does not allow for municipal districts to inform of works needed locally.
- Due to the lower population in this municipal district, works here will be overlooked in favour of more populated areas
- The majority of this municipal district is rural and this is not prioritised by NTA

Mr. D Hodgins agreed that the discrepancy between urban and rural areas is a challenge but that rural works are under the remit of TII rather than NTA. It was also noted that there is effective communication between the Roads Department, the National Roads Office, Municipal District offices, Public Realm Team and the Sustainable Transport and Active



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Travel Team so that if one section is not sanctioned to do certain works, the works will be identified under the work programme of another team where possible.

The update was noted.

Cathaoirleach Dooley left the meeting, Leas Cathaoirleach Behan assumed the chair.

### **AY05/0123**

#### **Road Markings on the L8007/L8008 Racefield Road**

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

That the council install the requisite road markings on the L8007/L8008 Racefield Road in Ballyshannon.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the installation of road markings on public roads is covered by chapter 7 traffic signs manual issued by the Department of Transport. Road Markings is defined as markers on the road for control, warning, guidance, or information to road users. On roads less than 5.3m it is not recommended to install a centreline. At Racefield the road is circa 5m wide along most of the road. If a centreline is not recommended, then the alternative is yellow edge lines. This road was surface dressed in 2020 and the quality of the edges do not lend themselves to the installation of yellow lines. This road can be considered for Restoration Improvement Works in the coming years which should create a surface that lends itself to installing yellow lines.

The members raised the following points:

- The Ballyshannon Action Group are very concerned about the HGV traffic on this road.
- The community are not looking for a white line in the middle of the road they are requesting yellow lines on either edge so the exact width of the road is know.
- LPT funding has been set aside for this work.



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- The Ballyshannon Action Group need a response regarding this motion so they know where the work stands.

The District Engineer noted that if the road lends itself to the work and is of good quality the work could be done. However, if the edge is uneven and does not abut the grass verge this work will be delayed until the Roads Maintenance work on the road is done which will take place approximately four years after the Road Improvement works have been completed and depends on how the road surface functions during that time.

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

### **AY06/0123**

#### **Safety Audit at Stanhope Street and Place Junction**

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

That the council carry out a safety audit at the junction of Stanhope Street and Stanhope Place, Athy.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the junction of Stanhope street and Stanhope Place is located on the R-417 adjacent to St. Michael's Church. The junction was improved by Athy Town Council about 30 years ago. Generally, the junction works reasonably well during the day the problem with this junction and the general area is that at school opening times and closing times create a problem for the whole infrastructure in this area. Ardscoil na Tríonóide and Scoil Mhichíl Naofa are located in close proximity to this junction. At opening times and closing times there is quite a lot of vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic interacting at this junction. In my opinion the junction requires a safety audit to indicate if there are any engineering counter measures that can be put in place to improve the situation.



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Councillor Breslin thanked Stephen Deegan for the detailed report and asked if a safety audit would be carried out.

The Senior Engineer agreed to carry out a safety review of the junction and noted that a safety audit is part of a planning process.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Behan that the report be noted. A safety review of the junction will be carried out.

### AY07/0123

#### Pinch Points on Ballyroe Road

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

That the council widen and straighten the pinch points on the Ballyroe Road between the R417 and the R418.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the local roads L-8076 and L-8077 which link the R-417 with the R-418 have a few areas that have pinch points on them and there are narrow areas at a number of locations along the road. The road in question will need to be surveyed to see the extent of the problem and to ascertain if there is a simple solution. At present time the Department of Transport only provide finance for the improvement of existing road surface under the restoration improvement and restoration maintenance grants. Road widening and alignment are only financed where they are part of strategic improvement. This will obviously be a long-term project as the Restoration Improvement's and Restoration Maintenance's and all improvement have been submitted in 2022 for this year (2023).

The members raised the following points:

- This road sees a lot of agricultural traffic and vehicular traffic.
- There is no signage to warn traffic.
- What is the next step – how do we progress this work, is land acquisition required?
- If this is going to be a long process can signage be erected?



The District Engineer noted that land is required to widen the road, a survey must be carried out and a full design is needed. He agreed that the interim solution would be to erect signage.

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

**AY08/0123**

**Footpaths in Rheban Manor**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin.  
Can a timeframe be provided for the dishing of the footpaths in Rheban Manor, Athy as previously agreed?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the Athy Municipal District Office have put a number of footpath improvement contracts out to tender to be carried out in 2023. As soon as these have been completed, we will be putting out the dishing of the footpaths in Rheban Manor.

The report was noted.

**AY09/0123**

**Horses kept in Contravention of Horse Bye-Laws**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.  
Can the council explain why horses that are kept in contravention of our horse bye-laws in the municipal district are no longer being removed to the pound?

A report was received from the Environment Department that under the Control of Horses Act, and the Athy Control of Horses bye-laws, any authorised person or a member of the Garda Síochána may seize/detain any horse where there is reason to suspect it is being kept contrary to the legislation, e.g. a stray horse, causing a nuisance, not under adequate control, posing a danger to persons or property, being kept or ridden in an area contrary to any relevant bye-laws, etc.



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Any breach of the Control of Horses bye-laws may be reported to the Council or an Garda Síochána and appropriate action will be taken which may include impounding horses in accordance with the relevant legislation and protocol (serving of notices etc.).

Where a horse is detained under the Act, the Council is entitled to seek the full cost of collecting and transporting the animal and the cost of providing care and sustenance during its detention.

The Control of Horses Act also provides for powers of arrest, i.e., where a member of An Garda Síochána reasonably suspects that that a person is committing an offence under particular sections of the Act, An Garda Síochána may arrest the person without warrant. With regard to criminal liability for injury or damage caused by horses, the owner or person in charge or control of a horse who wilfully permits a horse to pose a danger to a person or property shall be guilty of an offence.

For the members' information, the future of Local Authority Veterinary Services is the subject of ongoing national discussions with the likelihood of the service being transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

Councillor Breslin implored that the work be done as soon as possible as LPT funds have been set aside for the last three years to do this small job.

Councillor Leigh noted that the report stated the law regarding horse bye-laws and did not answer his question. Councillor Leigh advised he would follow up on this matter.

The report was noted.

### **AY10/0123**

#### **Trees leading up to St. Michael's Cemetery**

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

Can the council confirm when it will cut back the trees on the avenue leading up to St. Michael's New Cemetery?

A report was received from the Environment Department that as you enter St Michael's cemetery from the N78, there are three large mature lime trees immediately on the right-hand side of the avenue. The trees are bare at present and it would perhaps be more beneficial to review later in the year to afford a better picture of how much, if any trimming

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needs to be done. The council propose to re-inspect during June/July and if necessary, then schedule trimming works for when the bird nesting season concludes. It should be noted that, given the sheer size of the trees, the costs involved could be significant. Care will also need to be taken not to damage the trees (photos below).



The report was noted.

### **AY11/0123**

#### **Playground in Ballyroe**

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

That the council prioritise the provision of a playground in Ballyroe.

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

A report was received from the Parks Department that in the Kildare Play Strategy 2018-2028 the towns of Kildangan, Calverstown Ballitore, Kilkea, Kilberry and Maganey were identified as locations for additional playgrounds. These are the locations the council would like to prioritise before any other locations are considered.

The members raised the following points:

- There is a strong, well-established residents association in Ballyroe and they have fenced off an area for play at their own expense.
- The playground could utilise natural environment playground elements to reduce costs.
- Ballyroe should be next in line to get a playground, they need one as soon as possible.



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Mr S Wallace reiterated that towns had already been identified and they will be prioritised. However, Mr S Wallace is willing to meet the Ballyroe Resident's Association to discuss their needs and view the site.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Breslin that the report be noted. Mr S Wallace will meet the Ballyroe Resident's Association to discuss their needs and view the site.

### AY12/0123

#### **Athy Representatives of Kildare Older Persons Council**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan.  
Can the council confirm if Athy is currently represented on the Kildare Older Persons Council?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department that Currently there are two representatives from Athy on this council, both of whom are part of the Young at Hearts Group Athy, which in turn represents almost 90 people. The Kildare Older Persons Council is the representative voice for older persons in Kildare, this structure operates in partnership with the Kildare Age Friendly Programme and is represented on the Kildare age friendly Alliance and also on National forums.  
The report was noted.

### AY13/0123

#### **Ownership of St. Mary's Cemetery, Athy**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin.  
Can the council provide an update in relation to the ownership of St. Mary's Cemetery, Athy in order that we can progress the installation of a memorial to the Women and Children interned in the Cemetery?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department that Kildare County Council has contacted the HSE regarding ownership of St. Mary's Cemetery. The HSE is aware of the proposed project and have indicated that they



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may issue a letter of comfort so that works can commence. The community department will provide an update when available.

Councillor Breslin expressed her frustration and disappointment that this letter has not yet been furnished after two years noting that the HSE were responsible for the delay.

Councillor Breslin strongly expressed how it was essential to have this memorial installed and that funding was ready and available for this project. Councillor Breslin requested that this item remain on the progress report.

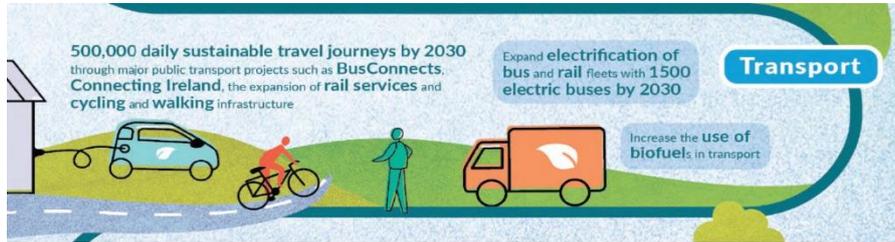
The District Manager advised Councillor Breslin that she would contact the HSE in relation to this matter.

The report was noted.



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## Appendix 1



### Update from Sustainable Transport Section to Athy MD Members



December 2022

1

### National Strategies



2

### Transport Strategy



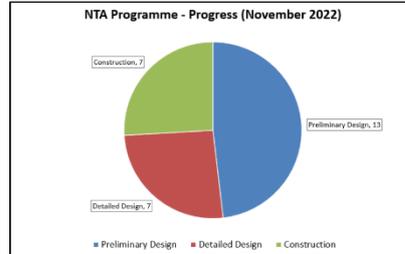
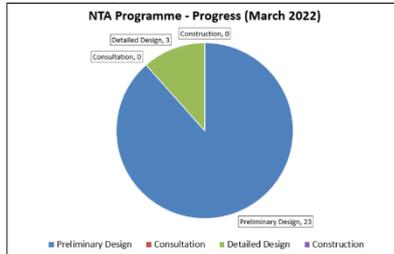
Figure 8.4: Road User Hierarchy



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### Athy MD Area



### Athy MD Area 2023 Work Programme



1. Athy College Campus to Southern Distributor Road Active Travel Scheme (Preliminary Design)
2. VRU Improvements at crossings & junctions (Continuing)
3. Safe Routes To School (Continuing)
4. Cycle Safety Improvements at existing junctions (Continues)
5. Cycle Parking at Town Centres, Schools & Sports Clubs (Continuing)

