



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 19 June 2023  
in the Council Chamber**

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

**Officials Present:** Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr S Deegan (Senior Engineer), Ms C O'Grady (Executive Parks and Landscape Officer), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Mr M McLoughlin (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms E Price (A/Administrative Officer), Ms P Barrett (Assistant Arts Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

**Apologies:** Mr M Kavanagh (Assistant Engineer)

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**AY01/0623**

**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.

**AY02/0623**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 15 May 2023 together with the progress report.



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

### **AY03/0623**

#### **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. The Project Team is 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 Distributor Road.

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

L-8074 link road at Gallowshill.

L-8022 Kilmead to Monatore.

L-8074 Castlefarm to Rock.

L-8096 Corballis to Knockpatrick.

Surveys commenced, hedgerows finished, Drainage and Edging completed.

#### **Local Improvement Schemes**

Allocation for 2023 not yet finalized with Department of Agriculture.



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### **Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)**

Allocation of CIS jobs for 2023 not agreed yet.

### **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.

Road Traffic Accident Repairs at Carrigeen Cross.

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.

Carrying out drainage works at Shamrock lodge.

### **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 ten new bins along the R417 Monasterevin Road, Athy.



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### **Community Works**

Arranging for preparatory work to facilitate both Tri-Athy and Gordon Bennett Events. This will involve 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. Footpaths and surfacing around the building being completed.

### **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**

The footpaths in William Pearse Terrace have been completed.

The footpaths in Ashville have been completed.

Work commenced 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:

- There had only been two bins installed to date, could this be progressed sooner as there was a huge push with tourism at the moment and the issue with dirty bins was not enhancing the look of the town.
- The hedgerows on Shed Road and Bert cross needed to be cut back, there was a near car crash at Bert Cross a few days previous.
- Councillor Keatley asked was there any update on his motion from May's Municipal District meeting regarding street works in Narraghmore and asked for it to be noted on the progress report and an update given at next month's meeting.



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Mr M McLoughlin advised the members:

- He would speak to the Municipal District office in relation to the bins.
- The Director of Services and the Municipal District Engineer were looking at the Narraghmore street works and would come back to the members with an update once one was available.

The report was noted.

### **AY04/0623**

#### **Annual Meeting**

The members considered the holding of the Annual Meeting in the Athy Office, Rathstewart, Athy, Co. Kildare at 10:00 a.m. on Monday 17 July 2023 followed by the monthly meeting.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members, that the Annual Meeting be held in the Athy Office, Rathstewart, Athy, Co. Kildare at 10:00 a.m. on Monday 17 July 2023 followed by the monthly Municipal District meeting.

### **AY05/0623**

#### **Roads Capital Projects**

The members received an update from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Directorate on Roads Capital Projects.

Mr. S Deegan gave an overview of the Roads Capital Projects for the County.

The members raised the following:

- Was land acquisition a barrier to creating more footpaths.
- Did the council have any jurisdiction from the grass verge to the hedgerow on roadsides.



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- What funding scheme would be available for escorting children to education.
- There had been bad accidents at Thompsons cross, when could they expect works here to be completed.
- Noted there was great work being done in encouraging walking/cycling to school.
- The residents in Crookstown to Ballyshannon were looking for a safe solution for road users for example could the pilot project planned in old Kilcullen for a 'Quiet Road' system be used within the Athy Municipal District which would be more suitable for the countryside road.
- Would Geraldine Cross be completed once Bert works were finished.
- Was there a budget for the works on the crossroads or would more funding be required.
- Natural linkages between towns and villages needed to be considered.
- Suggested lay-bys for cars on small rural roads.

Mr S Deegan advised:

- The amount of projects had increased massively and planning applications were more complex, yet they hadn't received more staffing and were under resourced.
- Compulsory Purchase Order process was time consuming and costly and would require the council having a scheme in place, taking a scheme from concept to delivery could sometimes take two years.
- Regarding the Crookstown to Ballyshannon feasibility study, the projects team would hope to do that inhouse. A shared surface scheme would be a possibility here. Agreed to meet with the members and have a walkabout.
- The council would only have a certain amount of jurisdiction over that area and if the road was narrow a Compulsory Purchase Order would be required to acquire further land.
- The team were currently dealing with projects that take priority.
- The National Transport Authority Safe Routes to School would be the funding stream used.



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- There would have to be a statutory basis for laybys and or a shared surface on rural roads.
- Thompsons cross was in phase 1B, delayed slightly with the coming on-stream of the new e-tenders platform.
- They would possibly have to look for more funding to complete projects.

Councillor Keatley suggested that local development association groups should also be invited to the walkabout at Calverstown to Ballyshannon.

Mr S Deegan agreed and will liaise with Councillor Keatley on this.

### **AY06/0623**

#### **Footpath in Mansfield Grove**

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

That the council install a footpath in Mansfield Grove, Athy to provide connectivity to the footpaths in Ashville, Athy including dishing the existing footpaths.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that Preliminary design has been done at the junction and crossing points in Mansfield Grove, which will provide connectivity in the area. This will include dishing of footpaths and installation of tactile paving at the junctions. This job will be put out to tender in the near future.

The members raised the following:

- Thanked the area office for the report.
- Noted that a lady with disabilities living there could not access the footpath and had contacted the councillors raising concerns. Could the Municipal District office liaise with that lady to ensure the new footpath would be suitable to meet her needs.



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

**AY07/0623**

**Upgrade works in Greenhills Athy**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
That the council carry out much needed upgrade works in Greenhills Athy, to include line marking, junction signage and footpath upgrading.

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 the Athy Municipal District office has carried out a schedule of works on the footpaths at Greenhills, Athy. What was noticed was that the main traffic layout above the road to K-Leisure needed resurfacing, relining, and resigning at the intersection of the two roads. This work will be carried out in the near future.

The members raised the following:

- The hedges planted at K-leisure were not suitable and affecting sightlines for road users.
- The surface from Duke Street to Greenhills and to St Johns Lane was not smooth and also the old bollards needed to be removed.
- Parking in Greenhills was an issue, could insert green areas be turned into actual parking spaces to resolve this.

Mr S Deegan advised they would see how the acquisition goes and it would probably have to go to the Municipal District Office to complete works.

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



**AY08/0623**

**Works at Andrew Drive**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Leigh.  
That the council install traffic calming measures and cut back the hedges at the entrance to Andrew Drive on the Fortbarrington Road as soon as possible.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that Fortbarrington Road is due for upgrading and resurfacing. Traffic calming could be considered when this work is being carried out. The issue of cutting back hedges is problematic at this time of the year. All our resources are being used to prepare for surface dressing works around the Athy Municipal District.

The members raised the following:

- The speed of cars on this stretch of road was way too fast and traffic calming measures would be necessary.
- Two large planning applications had recently been applied for in that area, which if approved would add in excess of 150 more houses which would impact hugely on increasing traffic.
- There were not enough speed ramps on this stretch of road.

Mr S Deegan advised the members that there were a couple of projects happening that could be tied together and he would take a further look at this.

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



**AY09/0623**

**Stone wall in Abbeyfield Housing Estate**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley.  
That the council repair and make safe the stone wall in Ballitore at the boundary of Abbeyfield housing estate.

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

The following report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department. The boundary wall in question is around Abbeyfield Housing Estate and in front of an area that is designated for housing. The Athy Municipal District office do not have the resources to carry out this work.

The members raised the following:

- A site resolution plan was carried out a number of years ago.
- Residents were extremely anxious for this wall to be fixed.
- It was very dangerous and urgent action was needed.
- Tidy towns would be happy to assist the council.
- Three years ago this issue came up and the wall was in very poor condition at the time and was even worse now.
- Could the Environment section and Housing section work together to resolve this.
- Could LPT be looked at to help fund the repairs.
- Was there any idea of the costs of repairs.

The District Manager had known of this issue and it should have be referred to Housing and Environment. Unfortunately, it was not a straightforward matter as ownership was an issue. A resolution was planned and the members would be kept informed with any updates.

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

The chair asked that Item 23 be taken now as he had to step out of the meeting early.



**AY10/0623**

**St Mary's Cemetery Athy**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
That the council along with all stakeholders, meet regarding St Mary's Cemetery Athy, to plan required works and identify a suitable memorial to honour the memory of the many people who are buried there, which should include a storyboard of the history of this area.

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

A report was received from the Director of Services for Corporate, People and Cultural Services. As previously advised, it is probably safe to assume that no memorial could be installed until ownership of the cemetery is established. The Council wrote to the HSE earlier in 2023 seeking an update and were informed that the HSE have been unable to confirm the graveyard (St. Mary's Famine Graveyard) in Athy, Co. Kildare is in fact HSE owned, in order to be able to provide permissions or a letter of comfort for the memorial. The HSE are undertaking Law Searchers and a townland search (which we understand is a much broader search than the usual registry of deeds index of names search) along with a valuation office search. Any proposal memorial would be required to meet the requirements of the Civic Memorial Policy and be approved by the Civic Memorial Committee. In the meantime the local stakeholders may wish to consider what sort of memorial would be fitting to honour the memory of the people buried there in advance of a formal application

The members raised the following points:

- Could more pressure be put on the HSE to carry out searches as soon as possible.
- Over 50,000 people went through the workhouses in Athy and it was very upsetting for family members to not have a place to commemorate their loved ones who were buried there.
- Some of the members attended a commemoration in May and it was disappointing not to have had a memorial in place.
- Who would take responsibility for the cemetery.



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- They noted that the council had done everything possible and it would now be down to the HSE to resolve this.

The District Manager advised:

- The HSE were happy for the Council to take ownership of the cemetery. The Environment Section had advised that the HSE would be giving an undertaking regarding this.
- Due diligence needed to be carried out prior to the Council taking ownership/responsibility.

The members thanked the District Manager for this welcome news.

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

Councillor Dooley left the meeting and Councillor Behan took over as chair.

### **AY11/0623**

#### **Hedge trimming at dangerous junctions**

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

That the council prioritise the hedge trimming of dangerous junctions in the Athy Municipal District, including Hacklow Cross and Blackhall Lane.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department. At this time of year Athy Municipal District office are engaged in the preparation of roads for surfacing and surface dressing. Due to the small workforce in the Athy Municipal District and the requirements for Health and Safety controls, we do not have any spare capacity in the system. When there is a break in the schedule, we can look at these areas.



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The members raised the following:

- There was local frustration on this matter.
- Each of the councillors had been contacted about sightlines.
- It could be September/October before the hedgerows were cut back which is causing lots of blind spots from May/June onwards.
- Going forward could a plan/list of areas be done that were worst affected.
- This was a health and safety issue.
- Accepted that not all hedges could be cut back but could the major blind spots be looked at.

Mr S Deegan said there was a very fine line on the amount of hedge cutting that could be carried out this time of year.

Mr M McLoughlin would pass on the concerns to the Municipal District office.

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

### **AY12/0623**

#### **Crookstown to Ballyshannon feasibility study**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillors Dooley and Keatley.

Can the council provide an update on the walkways feasibility study being carried out from Crookstown to Ballyshannon?

A report was received from the Roads Projects and Planning Team that the roads Design are having a close look at this. There is nothing in the County for comparison where a road has been turned into a shared surface and therefore the legal, safety and infrastructural implications need to be very well understood.



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- Any widening of the road would possibly require a land acquisition/Compulsory Purchase Order and will bring the cost to such a level that it will not be affordable.
- The road has been surveyed and it is not wide enough for the provision of a safe footpath and two-way traffic.
- This road is extensively used by vehicles (both HGV and cars). Traffic counts will give a better idea of actual numbers.
- Roads Design are examining options regarding classification as a shared surface – loose examples might include Grand Canal Greenway at Ponsonby to Ardclough, Naas Car Free Canal Days or Home Zones Shared Surfaces.
- Speed limits fluctuate for 50kmph at the Calverstown end to 80kmph along the road and back to 60kmph at Ballyshannon – this will require changing. This will require a uniform change to 30kmph or 50kmph.
- Any move to limit HGV movements will require a long diversionary route for delivery drivers.
- If it is possible to do such a project, a complete change in road signage and marking will be required.

The members received an update from Mr S Deegan on this earlier in the meeting during the Roads Capital projects programme for 2023.

The report was noted.

### **AY13/0623**

#### **Back lanes in William Pearse Terrace**

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

Can the council confirm when remedial works will be carried out to the back lanes in William Pearse Terrace, Castledermot?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that work is scheduled to take place on the back lanes in William Pearse Terrace, later in the year.



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There needs to be some drainage work carried out, then the lanes need to be graded and finally surface dressed.

The report was noted.

### **AY14/0623**

#### **Remedial works, Ballitore**

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

Can the council confirm if remedial works will be carried out to the footpath from the Post Office to the Meeting House, Ballitore?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that Remedial works on the footpath between the Post Office and the Meeting House in Ballitore will be carried out later in the year. There are some issues with building works in the vicinity of the Meeting House.

The report was noted.

### **AY15/0623**

#### **Maintenance on Parking Meters**

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

Can the council confirm what the service/maintenance agreement is with regard to the new parking meters in Athy Town?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that The service maintenance agreement for the maintenance of parking machines was procured through public procurement in conjunction with the Office of Government Procurement in 2019 for a period of five years. The Transport Department can confirm that the maintenance of machines is monitored by Kildare County Council to ensure that the contractor is in



compliant with the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) of the contract. The Transport Department can further confirm that when a machine is out of order an alert is sent to the maintenance team. If there are any specific issues or concerns regarding the parking machines, the Members are requested to liaise with the parking section directly.

The report was noted.

**AY16/0623**

**Carpark at playground in Castledermot**

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

Can the council confirm if a date has been agreed for works to begin on the carpark at the playground in Castledermot?

A report was received from the Parks Department that there are no plans to provide a car park at Castledermot Playground. There is sufficient car parking within the town and at the Community Centre to facilitate people using the playground. Directional signs to the Community Centre will be installed in the next three to four weeks to assist with this.

The members raised the following points:

- There was previously a motion on this a few months ago and the members were advised that a parking review of Castledermot would be carried out in the future which would need to be done first.
- Raised concerns that other events held at the community centre would require parking spaces.
- Could inset green areas for a couple of parent/child and disability parking spaces be considered.

Ms C O'Grady advised the members that there was sufficient parking at the community centre and in the town. Signage was put up to direct people to the playground from the community centre. Walking a short distance should not be a deterrent for people attending.



The report was noted.

**AY17/0623**

**Communication Board in the People's Park**

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

Can the council confirm when it will erect the Communication Boards in the People's Park in Athy?

A report was received from the Parks Department that it is planned to have the Communications Board in place in the next four to six weeks.

Councillor Leigh noted that the project had taken longer than expected to complete and hoped the communication board would be in place by next months Municipal District meeting.

The report was noted.

**AY18/0623**

**Footpaths in Abbeylands, Castledermot**

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

That the council upgrade and carry out remedial works to the footpaths in Abbeylands, Castledermot.

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

A report was received from the Roads Department that the first section of the footpath in Abbeylands can be put out to tender as it is replacing an old footpath with a new footpath. The Athy Municipal District office are replacing like with like and not carrying out changes to the existing profile. The section at the turning circle where there are footpaths will require a design. The second section of the footpath in Abbeylands will require a design because the



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footpath is extremely wide, and the road is not that wide. There is also a turning circle which will require to be surveyed and a design carried out.

The members raised the following points:

- Thanked the Municipal District office for meeting residents on site.
- Noted that there was an ageing population in the estate who needed safe footpaths.
- Was there funding there to complete the project, LPT had previously been put aside.

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

Item 20 and 21 were taken together.

### AY19/0623

#### Old Quaker Cemetery in Ballitore

Item 20 –

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Leigh.  
That the council fund the works necessary in the Old Quaker Cemetery in Ballitore

Item 21 –

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan.  
That the council work with the relevant bodies to restore and develop the Quaker Cemetery in Ballitore.

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

A report was received that Kildare County Council Heritage Office are positively disposed to establishing a Graveyard Restoration Committee for the Old Quaker Cemetery in Ballitore in conjunction with the Elected Members of the Athy Municipal District with a view to establishing works required and a management programme for their execution, subject to



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funding. The Elected Members are advised to contact the Heritage Office directly in this regard.

The members raised the following points:

- This cemetery had close links with the Shackleton family and due the museum opening it would be fitting to have the cemetery developed in line with that.
- Tourists visiting the Shackleton museum would also have an interest in visiting the cemetery.
- There was a huge gap in the stone boundary wall that needed to be fixed.
- Before Covid 19 pandemic a clean up was arranged but nothing had been done since then and it should be a yearly event.
- It would be important to have a formal arrangement in place for the upkeep of the cemetery.
- These areas were important and unique and it was important to develop and nurture them to protect the history of what was already there.

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

### **AY20/0623**

#### **Amenities along the River Barrow**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan.  
Can the council provide an update on the development of amenities, in conjunction with Waterways Ireland, along the Barrow at Maganey?

The following report was received from Into Kildare. Into Kildare as the tourism body for County Kildare always welcome new amenities to encourage an increase in visitor footfall to the county. The proposal outlined in the motion will provide ease of access for visitors coming by car, motor home or those cycling to explore this part of the county.

Into Kildare understand Waterways Ireland were in conversation with Councillor Behan.



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Councillor Behan noted that this reply came from a motion back in 2022 that Into Kildare were in communication with Waterways Ireland but this response suggested otherwise. She had sent an email to Into Kildare to follow up on this and Mr B McGrath advised that he would pass on the information to Into Kildare to deal with matter this going forward.

The report was noted.

### AY21/0623

#### Arts Awards and Bursaries 2023

To approve the Arts Awards and Bursaries for 2023 for the Athy Municipal District. Report below.

#### Kildare County Council Arts Grants and Bursary Award Opportunities 2023

Report for Kildare County Council Municipal District June meetings 2023, seeking approval of members

Prepared by Lucina Russell, Arts Officer, Kildare County Council

Arts Act Grant					
First name	Last name	Name / name of organisation	Municipal District	Provide a brief summary of your proposed project	Award
Lisa	Freeman	Lisa Freeman	Athy	Support the development of a new artist film work that explores the tension and connection between architecture and the body. To achieve this ambitious project I will work site-specifically with professionals across the disciplines of acting, music and film.	€2,500
Martina	Foley	Martina Foley & Theresa Aldridge	Athy	We wish to compete in World Irish Dancing Association's World Championships in April 2023, where we will represent our dancing class, our town, county and country at this prestigious event. At age	€300



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				65++ this is a wonderful achievement.	
Valerie	Malone	Murt Malone	Athy	To write a novel about a former IRA commander. Living in a remote area, he reflects on his life, and how he is the known but unnamed suspect involved in the deaths of 5 people during the Troubles. He hears the lowing drum beat of another war.	€1,000

Culture Night Commission Award					
First Name	Last name	Name / name of organisation	Municipal District	Provide a brief summary of your proposed project	Award
Cathy	Callan	Irish Wheelchair Association & Cathy Callan	Athy	Artist Cathy Callan and members from the Irish Wheelchair Association will collaborate through practical workshops to choose an image for Here's looking at you... on Culture Night. Symbolising Brigid of Kildare, members and local community will come together with Cathy to create a 'live' painting event on Culture Night 2023.	€4.000

The members raised the following:

- Thanked the Art officer for the report and welcomed the vast array of grants available.
- Was there much demand/interest in these grants this year?

Ms. P Barrett informed the members of the following:

- There was a very high demand for Grants.



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- Information sessions were held in libraries across the County to give members of the public more information on the different grants available, more sessions would be held next year.
- It was an exciting time for the Athy Municipal District with the likes of the Creative places Athy grant available.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by the members that the Arts Awards and Bursaries for Athy Municipal District for 2023 be approved.

### **AY22/0623**

#### **Memorial for Privates Deere, Murphy, Lawlor and Fitzpatrick**

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

Can the council provide an update on the memorial for Privates Deere, Murphy, Lawlor and Fitzpatrick who tragically passed away on 14 February 2000 in Lebanon?

A report was received from Corporate Services Department that the applicant has been written to with a view to progressing the matter.

The members asked what process is left to go through and could they get a timeline of how long it would take.

Mr B McGrath noted that the council needed to establish ownership of the Marian grotto and agreed to speak with Councillor Leigh and the applicant to try to progress the matter but similarly to St Mary's Cemetery ownership needed to be determined first.

The report was noted.



AY23/0623

Cemetery Maintenance Grants 2023

The members considered the proposed grant allocations for cemetery maintenance for 2023.

Cemetery/Graveyard	Total Grant 2023
Ardreigh Cemetery	€ 370
St. Mary's Burial Ground (Paupers Burial Ground)	€ 370
Athy Cemeteries (Old St. Michael's Graveyard)	€ 2,970
Ballaghmoon Cemetery	€ 370
Ballybracken	€ 1,070
Burtown Cemetery	€ 370
Levitstown	€ 265
Churchtown, Athy (OLD)	€ 1,335
Coltstown	€ 1,485
Dunmanogue	€ 370
Fontstown	€ 475
Geraldine Cemetery	€ 370
Glasseally	€ 370
Moone Graveyard	€ 430
Nurney Old Graveyard	€ 370
St. James Church Graveyard	€ 265
Moone Abbey	€ 430
St. Ita's Kilmead	€ 890
Gormanstown	€ 595
Narraghmore Church Cemetery	€ 295
Churchtown, Athy (NEW)	€ 1,070
Crookstown	€ 1,260
Nicolastown Cemetery	€ 335
Timolin Cemetery	€ 295
Harristown Cemetery (Nurney)	€ 595
Duneany Graveyard	€ 200
	€ 17,235

The members thanked the Cemetery team for the report and asked how were the grants calculated i.e. was there certain one off projects that they are aware of that would be allocated higher amounts.



## Kildare County Council

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Mr K Kavanagh noted that it could be both; if there are projects ongoing they would try to accommodate these works and allocate funds towards the project. He also noted grants had gone up by 48% this year and thanked the members for allocating funds towards this.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by the members that the grant allocations for cemetery maintenance for 2023 be approved.

The meeting concluded.