



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 20 March 2023  
in the Council Chamber**

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

**Remote Attendees:** Councillor I Keatley.

**Officials Present:** Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscape Officer), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Mr D Conlan (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr G Hooban (Executive Engineer), Ms S Bookle (LCDC Co-Ordinator), Ms S Martin (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

**Remote Attendees:** Ms P O'Rourke (Climate Action Co-ordinator)

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**AY01/0323**

**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.

**AY02/0323**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

To adopt the minutes the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 20 February 2023 and to note 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.

### **AY03/0323**

#### **Municipal District road works update**

The members received an update on the municipal district road works.

#### **National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measure Updates**

No update since last Athy Municipal District meeting. The Project Team are 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 Restoration Improvement works for 2023 completed. Margins and hedgerows along proposed jobs are in the process of being completed. Athy Municipal District are aware that the deadline for hedge cutting is the end of February.

Drainage and edging be commenced as soon as hedge cutting is completed.

Restoration Maintenance Surveys commenced; hedgerows finished. Drainage and edging underway.

#### **Local Improvement Schemes**

Allocation for 2023 not published yet.

#### **Community Involvement Schemes**

Allocation for 2023 not published yet.

#### **Signage Works**

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District.



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Upgrading signage 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 Awaiting Signs, Poles 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 all 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.

### **Community Works**

Arranging for preparatory work to facilitate both Tri-Athy and Gordon Bennett Events. This will involve road closures etc.



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### **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, lighting, and kerbing.

Hedge cutting along Regional Roads.

Assisted with traffic management in the pruning of trees along the R-417, Monasterevin road, Athy.

### **Municipal District Restoration Maintenance Works – RM Program**

All surveying and preparatory works on all Restoration Maintenance works for 2023 completed. Margins and hedgerows along proposed jobs are in the process of being completed. Athy Municipal District are aware that the deadline for hedge cutting is the end of February.

Drainage and edging be commenced as soon as hedge cutting completed.

### **Municipal District LPT program of works**

Footpaths in William Pearse Terrace have gone out to tender and are expected in the coming weeks. - Complete.

Footpaths in Ashville have gone out to tender and are expected in the coming weeks.

Footpaths in Kilkea village have gone out to tender and are expected in the coming weeks.

Construction of earth berm on green areas at Woodstock, pedestrian barriers erected at playground, Woodstock also bollards repaired and replacements.

### **February 2023**

Drainage works for resurfacing in Kilkea. - Complete.

Welcome to Athy signs erected.

Winter Maintenance demands on work schedule.



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The members raised the following points:

- The members thanked the Municipal District office for their ongoing work especially over the Bank Holiday weekend and complimented the team on keeping the streets clean.
- When would the roll out of the bin replacement in the town be carried out.
- Could works on Duke and Woodstock Street be funded through the Streetscape project.

The District Engineer advised some works had been delayed due to the difficult weather conditions in the last number of weeks and deadlines for hedge cutting had to be prioritised but an extra effort to install new bins would be made in the near future. A targeted approach could be looked at i.e. rolling out half a dozen to a dozen bins to start off with.

The report was noted.

### **AY04/0323**

#### **Taking in charge of St. John's Estate, Castledermot**

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

That the council begin the taking in charge process for St. John's Estate, Castledermot by providing costings and identifying funding for same.

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

A report was received from the Development Control team that they have commenced the Taking in Charge process for St. John's Estate, Castledermot. The Development Control team submitted the necessary taking in charge documentation and surveys to Uisce Éireann (UÉ) on 07 November 2022. The Council have sought an update from UÉ on 02 March 2023, however, Kildare County Council still await confirmation on the UÉ schedule of works. This schedule of works will need to be executed prior to UÉ agreeing to take the potable water and wastewater infrastructure in charge. The cost of the UÉ related works will be met by UÉ, as per the memorandum of understanding between UÉ and Kildare County



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Council. Development Control have also noted that some of the boundaries in the public open space require repair and are currently generating a schedule of works to address same. The Council estimate that the boundary repairs may cost in the region of €10,000. Development Control will seek funding from the current or residual LPT budget to execute the repairs, as there is no bond available. The bond was utilised to complete the aforementioned surveys and to keep the wastewater pumping station operational.

The members asked:

- Was €10,000 an exact or approximate figure for cost of works?

Mr G Hooban advised the members that the fencing repair work would be extensive and costly and exact figure would be provided when available.

On the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that €10,000 from residual LPT funding be allocated to St Johns Estate.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that €10,000 from residual LPT funding be allocated to St Johns Estate.

Item 15 was taken at this point.

### **AY05/0323**

#### **Sewage system in Moone**

The members considered the following motion in the names of Councillor Leigh and Councillor Keatley.

That the members of the Athy Municipal District allocate a portion of residual LPT budget to help with the repair of the sewage system in (details provided), Moone.

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



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A report was received from Development Control team have written to the homeowners in The Village, Moone, requesting that they establish an owner's management company to cover the long term maintenance of the private waste water treatment facility servicing this estate, as required under the planning conditions for the estate. Should the homeowners agree to establish said management company, the Development Control section can utilise LPT funding to remediate the existing facility, subject to the agreement of Councillors.

The members raised the following:

- Thanked the Development Control Team for the report.
- There was a lot of anger from residents affected by this and it was recently brought up at a public meeting.
- This was a serious health and safety issue and it needs to be resolved as soon as possible.
- The residents had been contacted and are in the discussion stages of setting up a Owners Management Company (OMC).
- When the residents bought these properties, they were not aware they would need to set up a OMC.
- Where exactly in the Planning Permission did it say an OMC should be set up.
- The Environment Department had agreed to fund some of this work.
- Would €15,000 be sufficient to cover this work.
- The residents required further information.
- This issue needed to be pushed and progressed urgently.

Mr G Hooban advised:

- A letter had been sent to residents advising that a Owners Management Company be set up and Development Control would require a solicitors letter to confirm this would be set up before any works could proceed.
- On receipt of the letter and allocation of funds, Development Control would immediately instruct a contractor.
- The Planning Permission was clear and stated in multiple references that a OMC should be set up.



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- Once works were completed the system would be at a serviceable standard for residents to maintain.

The chair proposed a five minute recess to discuss some LPT allocations.

Proposed by Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members that standing orders be suspended for five minutes.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that €15,000 residual LPT be allocated to The Village, Moone and €10,000 residual LPT be allocated to St. Johns Estate.

The District Manager will update the LPT Co-Ordinator of these allocations.

### AY06/0323

#### Upgrades in St Dominic's Park

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

That the council upgrade footpaths, road surfaces and back lanes in St Dominic's Park in Athy.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the back lanes at St Dominic's Park are being upgraded as part of LPT funding which was agreed a number of years ago. Works could not proceed as Respond had to upgrade a section of three phase electricity supply on the lane itself. The ESB work is coming to an end with the boundary wall being replaced. The work on the lane will be completed when ESB works are completed.

The members raised the following points:

- Would the footpaths and road surface be included in works?



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- The roads were heavily dusted from construction work and there were a number of issues with the roadway.
- There was a meeting with residents a number of years ago who raised concern about this issue.
- No works had been carried out in this estate since the eighties or nineties.
- Was there funding in the 2023 LPT budget to cover the works on the footpaths and road surfaces?

The District Engineer advised the following:

- Could funding be provided through LPT to repair footpaths and resurface roads as currently there was no funding in place.
- There was a commitment to carry out works on the back lanes and this would commence as soon as Respond were off site.
- The costing for the works could not be provided as clarification needed to be provided regarding the extent of works required.

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

### **AY07/0323**

#### **Feasibility studies at Coltstown, Ballyshannon and Athy**

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

That the council give a timeframe for the completion of the feasibility studies for walkways at Coltstown, Ballyshannon and Athy that were allocated 2023 LPT budget funding by the members.

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

The following report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department.



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**Ballyshannon Walkway:** - A survey has been completed for the section of road between Ballyshannon and Calverstown to ascertain whether there is any scope to construct a connecting footpath. The assistance of the Members would be very useful in ascertaining whether adjacent landowners would be amenable to such works going ahead. There is circa 600 metres distance between speed limit signs at Ballyshannon and Calverstown.

**Coltstown:** The remaining L4015 is too narrow to put a footpath along the road. Therefore land acquisition is required, hedges would need to be removed etc. This would be a substantial project requiring significant funding and resources. This scheme is not included for the capital programme.

**Athy:** There have been a number of Motions or Questions in relation to pathways in Athy. The Council is progressing a number of these to improve permeability links to the Athy Distributor Road in particular.

The members raised the following points:

- Thanked the Roads Design team for the positive response.
- Who would carry out the works?
- Could this be included in the Capital Programme.
- There was a need for rural roads to have safer means of travel for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Could a meeting be set up with Roads Design team to discuss and to get further clarification on the three projects.

The Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that a meeting could be set up with the members to discuss the matter further.

The District Manager advised the members that they would have an opportunity to discuss Capital Projects at the May Municipal District meeting.

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

**AY08/0323**



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### **Improve the sightlines for residents in Nurney Village**

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

That the council improve the sightlines for residents in Nurney Village (details provided) as they exit their homes onto the R415 with traffic approaching from the Kildare Town side.

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

A report was received from the Roads Project and Planning Team recommends that traffic calming through a Low Cost Safety Scheme is considered by the Municipal District Office at the gateway point to the village.

The members raised the following:

- Four to six houses near the bad bend at the top of Nurney were affected by limited visibility.
- There had been several accidents in this location.
- What was a Low Cost Safety Scheme?

The Senior Executive Engineer advised the members that Low Cost Safety Scheme was a scheme managed by Municipal District Offices for works up to the value of €200,000.

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

### **AY09/0323**

#### **St Michaels Cemetery, Athy**

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

That the council resurface the roadway up to St Michaels Cemetery, Athy.

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



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A report was received from the Environment Department that plans are underway to repair all the pot-holes along the access road to St. Michaels Cemetery. Works are due to take place in early Quarter two 2023.

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

### AY10/0323

#### Athy Train Station

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan.  
That this council writes to Iarnróid Éireann to request that the toilets at Athy Train Station be made available to vulnerable passengers at all times.

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 with the Members consent, the Transportation Department will issue the requested letter to Iarnród Éireann.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Behan and seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members that the report be noted and the Transportation Department will write to Iarnród Éireann to request toilets and waiting area be made available to vulnerable passengers.

### AY11/0323

#### Street lighting in Moone Village

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan.  
That the council upgrade and enhance street lighting in Moone Village.

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



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A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that the lighting in the village will be reviewed as part of the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) and the lighting survey and design carried out during the PLEEP will highlight any additional lighting requirements.

Councillor Behan noted that this route was used by pedestrians for exercise purposes and the lighting needed to be improved. There was light diffusion with bright and dark spots and suggested lighting be replaced with two lights on each fitting, one facing the road and one for the footpaths.

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

### AY12/0323

#### Upgrade works for Kilmead Village

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.  
Can the council provide an update on upgrade works for Kilmead Village?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department that a drawing for the proposed works has been issued to the Municipal District Office by the Roads Design Team. The Elected Members were updated on the 17 October 2022 during the six monthly Athy Capital Projects update. The Municipal District Engineer will provide an update on the current status of the project at the Municipal District Meeting.

Councillor Leigh informed the members that there was major traffic congestion outside Kilmead School and hoped the works would be completed before the 2023/2024 school year commenced.

The report was noted.



**AY13/0323**

**Retrofit Scheme, Athy**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.  
Can the council provide the number of social houses that have been retrofitted in Athy Municipal District?

A report was received from the Housing Department that to date, the Council have completed energy efficiency works on thirty-seven houses in the Athy Municipal District.

Councillor Leigh noted the figure was very low and hoped it would be substantially increased in the near future.

The report was noted.

**AY14/0323**

**Single dwelling planning applications for Athy**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
Can the council confirm the total number of single dwelling planning applications for Athy Municipal District in 2022 with a percentage breakdown of approvals, refusals, and invalid applications?

A report was received from the Planning Department that there is no report available in the Planning System which can extract such statistics on an Municipal District basis and this question requires a resource to trawl through applications to answer this question. Due to limitations on available resources at present an answer to this specific question cannot be provided at this time. The Planning Department is in the process of preparing to go to the market for a new Planning Administration System which will be able to provide more meaningful administration statistical analysis such as that raised in this question.

The elected members will be provided with an update on progress of this at a later date.



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Councillor Dooley thanked the Planning Department for the report and stated he looked forward to the new system being put in place and receiving clarification on the question.

The report was noted.

### **AY15/0323**

#### **Redesign of Emily Square**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
Can the council provide an update for the commencement of works to improve and redesign Emily Square, Athy?

A report was received from the Strategic Projects and Public Realm team that detailed design is finalised, pretender budget is currently under review. The Strategic Projects and Public Realm team expect to publish the tender on etenders no later than the end of March, with a four week tender period. Subject to a successful tender and no legal challenge, the council expect to have a contractor appointed and on site by May 2023

The report was noted.

### **AY16/0323**

#### **Dumping in Kilberry**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan.  
Can the council confirm how it plans to deal with the issue of illegal dumping on the L8055 on the Athy side of Kilberry?

A report was received from the Environment Department that the council were unable to locate the area of dumping, if the councillor contacts the Environment Department directly, they will investigate this matter.



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Mr K Kavanagh and Councillor Behan agreed to discuss the matter further outside of the meeting.

The report was noted.

### **AY17/0323**

#### **LECP Briefing**

Ms S Bookle gave a briefing on the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2028.

The members raised the following points:

- Thanked Ms S Bookle for the excellent presentation.
- They looked forward to the progression of future projects.
- Would Community Groups Approach the LCDC directly to access these opportunities?

Ms S Bookle advised the following:

- The Public Participation Network (PPN) would be the main channel for community groups to access funding etc.
- Public Consultation would give other groups an opportunity to benefit from the plan.
- Community groups should sign up to the PPN as there were great benefits to the services provided.

The District Manager noted that this information was especially useful for the Housing Department issuing submissions to the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government for social and affordable housing.

The report was noted.

### **AY18/0323**



**Open Space Management**

Ms P O'Rourke gave a briefing on Open Space Management 2023.

The members raised the following points:

- Thanked Ms. P. O'Rourke for her informative presentation and noted that extensive research was carried out.
- Happy to see the link with Maynooth University and further education.
- Had the use of hot foam been successful.
- Had there been research into robotic tractors for maintenance.

The District Manager complemented the Climate Action Team on this presentation and added that the Parks Team had been working on grass to gas for years and had produced an Evidence Based Project which would bear fruit.

Ms P O'Rourke advised:

- The use of hot foam had potential but the final report on this would be issued in the summer.
- In the research the Climate Action Team had come across robotic tractors but currently the technology was not able to determine the difference between the plants and horticulture but hopefully in the future new technologies could be made available.
- Grass to Gas was being trialled.

The report was noted.

**AY19/0323**

**Parks Works Programme 2023**



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S Wallace gave the members a breakdown on the Parks Works Programme for 2023.

The members raised the following points:

- Could the upgrades to the footpaths in Moat of Ardsnull be included in the Community Enhancement Scheme.
- When would the signage work and naming of trees be finalised in the People's Park?
- Could the signage on the Gordon Bennett route be progressed prior to the Gordon Bennett event taking place this summer.
- On entrance roads to Athy could the landscape/signage be looked at, as it would enhance the beauty of Athy.
- Would the signs in the Peoples Park include communication boards for non-verbal children.
- The members asked that they meet with the Parks Superintendent in the coming weeks to discuss further projects.
- The members thanked the Parks Department for their work to date and noted the wider footpaths and new furniture in the People's Park had made a huge difference.

Mr S Wallace advised the following:

- The Parks team would liaise with the Heritage officer to discuss the works at Moat Ardsnull.
- The signage and landscape at the entrance roads would be looked at.
- Sign off on signage in the People's Park would be finalised in the coming weeks.
- Communication boards were being drafted at the moment.
- The Parks Department had been allocated five extra staff and that would allow the team to focus on a wider scope of projects.
- Thanked the members for their support and agreed to meet with them to discuss Athy Parks Projects for 2023 further.



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The Parks Works Programme for 2023 was agreed by all members.

### LPT Allocations

The District Manager put forward, for approval, to the members that €15,000 to The Village, Moone, €10,000 to taking in charge of St Johns Estate and an additional €10,000 for Brigid 1500 be allocated from LPT Funds.

**Resolved** on the proposal by Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members that the LPT funds be allocated to the above mentioned.

The meeting concluded.