

Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Budget Meeting
Held on Monday, 19 October 2015 at 10.00 a.m.
in Áras Chill Dara, Naas

Members Present: Councillor M Wall (Cathaoirleach), Councillors T Redmond, I Keatley, A Breslin, M Dalton and M Miley

Also Present: Ms E Hanlon (Head of Finance), Ms F Millane (Financial/Management Accountant), Mr Niall Morrissey (Director of Service), Mr L Dunne (Senior Executive Officer), Ms A Cassidy (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Secretary).

AY01/1510

Consideration of Draft Budget

Ms Hanlon outlined to the members that under Circular Fin 08/2015 and the Local Government Reform Act 2014, there is a requirement to each municipal district hold a draft budget strategy meeting within a specified timeframe. Ms Hanlon then went on to outline that the members of the Municipal District had to nominate projects on which the retained portion of the Local Property Tax was to be spent. The total amount available to the members for this was €332,737.

The draft Municipal District Budgetary Plan and Municipal District Pay Parking – 2016 Budget were circulated to the members.

The members asked a number of questions on how the retained LPT money could be spent and Ms Hanlon confirmed that it was entirely at the discretion of the members what projects could be put forward.

Councillor Miley asked about the funding in relation to Athy Community Council. He noted that they had received in previous years nearly double the amount allocated this year, as both Kildare County Council and Athy Town Council would have made a contribution to this

group. However, since the abolition of Athy Town Council, the amount has been halved. Ms Millane stated that she would look into this and would come back to the members.

Councillor Miley stated that €43,000 was not sufficient for Athy Heritage Centre, as currently they are €15,000 in debit and the year is not yet complete. Extra funding would be required as this centre is the nerve centre of Athy.

Councillor Redmond queried €77,000 for Parks and Landscaping and he stated that budgets were already exhausted for this year and asked whether this amount was enough. In regard to €42,000 allocated to playgrounds, Ms Millane also clarified for Councillor Redmond that she had spoken with Mr Wallace, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, and he stated that it would cost €7,000 per playground and that there were six in the Athy Municipal District.

Councillor Redmond queried €10,000 for sponsored litter bins and asked for clarification of these bins. Mr Dunne stated that these were bins provided to residents associations and cemeteries collected by AES. Some money is available to purchase new sponsored litter bins, subject to the resources of the Municipal District area to collect them. Mr Dunne clarified that these bins were not stand alone bins but AES wheelie bins. Councillor Redmond asked to be provided with a list of all those associations who availed of these bins last year.

The cathaoirleach asked how the breakdown of the budget originated from as he noted from the draft plan that some other municipal districts are receiving more funds than others. Ms Hanlon stated that, generally, it is historic from Athy Town Council time, but if resources increase it would be hoped to balance all the municipal districts in time.

Councillor Redmond queried the amount of €2,400 allocated to twinning and asked for this to be increased.

Ms Hanlon stated that there was no extra funding other than local property tax (LPT) monies and it was entirely at the discretion of the members what projects they put forward. Ms Hanlon requested that the members submit their key expenditure headings, through the Cathaoirleach, by 23rd October for inclusion in the Annual Budget for the council.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dalton, that the members agreed their draft budgetary plan and to submit their proposals to the Cathaoirleach and he would forward the nominated projects to Ms Hanlon by the 23 October 2015.

The meeting concluded.