

Minutes of Athy Municipal District Meeting held at 10.00 am on 20 June 2016 in Athy Municipal District Office, Rathstewart, Athy, Co. Kildare

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

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer), Mr W Hannigan (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms E Wright (Senior Executive Officer), Mr B O'Gorman (Administrative Officer), Mr D Keogh (Road Safety Officer), Ms P Berry (Athy Enterprise Centre), Ms M Dalton (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Secretary).

AY01/1606 Minute of Silence

The cathaoirleach asked for a minutes silence on the recent murder of Jo Cox, Labour Party MP. She was a dedicated public representative going about her daily business and her death had hit a cord with all public representatives.

AY02/1606

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of 23 May 2016.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Breslin that the minutes be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

Matters Arising

Self Help Scheme (AY08/1605)

Councillor Breslin asked for an update on this matter. The meetings administrator stated that she would contact the Housing Officer and ask her to give the members an update before their next meeting.

Resolved that Housing Officer give an update to the members before their next meeting.

St. Michael's Cemetery (AY23/1509)

Councillor Breslin noted report. She stated that she had received concerns from persons regarding access to the cemetery from the Carlow Road. The District Manager stated that this was an unauthorised access and that the council could not facilitate this request.

Resolved that the members be kept informed of progress.

Concerns of School Buses Using The Cush Inn area as a collection point (AY12/1512)

Councillor Redmond asked for an update on this matter. Mr Keogh gave a comprehensive report to the members following his meeting with the District Engineer, Mr S Griffin and Mr Tom Bradley of Bus Eireann on the 25 May last. He stated that only one student at present was using this collection point and was collected at 7.30 am and returned at 4.30 pm. He stated that the current collection point had been used for the last twenty- seven years. The area in question was checked by all concerned and it was agreed that the current location being used as a collection point was satisfactory. Mr Keogh stated that the safest option was to leave the current collection point in place.

Councillor Redmond asked for a bus stop at this location. Mr Keogh clarified that this location was a collection point for school children not a formal Bus Eireann bus stop.

Councillor Keatley asked for signage on school buses to be more visible and this would help with safety of children using this service. Mr Keogh stated that the standard size of the signage was 1 x 1 in size and any change would have to be agreed with Bus Eireann.

Resolved that report be noted and that Bus Eireann be informed that the members of the Athy Municipal District suggest that the dimensions of the signage be increased.

Bridge at Distillery Court, Monasterevin (AY13/1505)

Councillor Redmond asked for an update on this matter. Mr Hannigan stated that he had received an email from Liberty stating that they had referred the matter to their engineers. He stated that the council would move this process on as quickly as they can. He added that the CCTV survey had been carried out and that all issues raised by the residents associations would be included.

Resolved that this matter remain on the progress report and that the members be kept informed of progress.

Briefing from Respond Housing Association on proposed development at Flinter's Field (AY01/1605)

Councillor Redmond asked for an update on the house sizes as there was a need for three and four bedroom houses in the municipal district. The meetings administrator advised that she would contact the Housing Officer and ask for a report on this matter be issued to the members before their next meeting.

Resolved that the Housing Officer issue an update including house sizes to the members before their next meeting.

Taking in charge of the Priory Village Estate in Calverstown (AY22/1604)

The members were informed that a majority of the owners of the houses in Priory Village in Calverstown requested the council to take the estate in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Priory Village in Calverstown was on public display for taking in charge from the 16 February to 18 March inclusive and the period for submissions ended on the 3 April, 2015. No submissions were received in relation to the taking in charge of Priory Village during the statutory period. Irish Water had approved the taking in charge of Priory Village, Calverstown. Having considered the financial implications and as the road are of general public utility, it was recommended that Priory Village in Calverstown be formally taken in charge by the council.

Councillor Keatley asked for the storm drains on the hill to be cleaned. The District Engineer stated that he would investigate this.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Breslin that Priory Village in Calverstown be taken in charge and that District Engineer would investigate the cleaning of the storm drains on the hill in this estate.

AY03/1606

Update on the Schedule of Municipal District Works

The District Engineer gave a comprehensive report of the works being carried out as part of the restoration maintenance works for Athy Municipal District. He added that some were ongoing, some almost complete and some fully completed.

Councillor Keatley complimented the District Office on their great work to date.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY04/1606

Update on Community and Economic Development Issues

Ms Berry gave the members an overview of progress on a number of projects happening in the municipal district. The following are some of the event/issues:

Darkness into Light - Over €30,000 had been raised and would be presented to Peta House next weekend.

Dragon Boat Festival - Over 16 Teams took part in this event and it was very successful.

Swim Athy - Over 390 people took part in this event this year and was very successful.

Gordon Bennett Rally - 79 cars stopped in Emily Square in front of the Heritage Centre for two and a half hours and used the many services in Athy.

Tri-Athy - Over 1,982 people took part in this event this year and was very successful again this year.

Barrow Fest - New Festival arranged in August.

Kilberry Fun Day - Ms Berry was asked to help organise this event.

ACAR Community, Our Wellbeing Event will take place on 24 July in conjunction with Athy Town Promoters for Athy and surrounding areas.

Biodiversity Day - Did work with Wynne Project this year.

Kildare County Show - Had a stall at this event and did promotion work.

Ongoing Works with Tidy Towns Groups

Working with resident associations in the municipal district and helping new resident associations in Ballyroe and Castledermot.

Helped with Clean-up in conjunction with Crown Packaging in areas near their business.

Painting Scheme starting next week.

Bike Week will be commencing shortly and received some funding for this event.

Meeting with Pat Balfe regarding Bike Activity Week.

French students will be coming the last two weeks in August and they will be accommodated within the municipal district.

Entered the Kildare Enterprise Centre into the Pride of Place Competition.

Holding a meeting in Allenwood next Friday and Men Shed and Athy Care and Repair will be some of the speakers.

Family Fun Day on 1 July in Emily Square - public consultation in regard to the re-development of Emily Square and in conjunction with the launch of the tourism barge for the town at 3.00 p.m.

The members all thanked Ms Berry on her comprehensive report and all the great work she continually carries out for the municipal district.

Councillor Redmond recommended that the members take a trip on board the barge down the Barrow. The District Manager said that this would be arranged.

Councillor Breslin thanked Ms Berry for her presentation. She asked for an update on the economic development issues in the municipal district for the next meeting.

The cathaoirleach stated that there were festivals in Athy nearly every weekend through the Summer and they are promoting tourism for the whole district. He asked that a meeting take place between the members and the Regeneration Committee as the council need to bring matters to the forefront as soon as possible. The District Manager stated that this would be constructive and would arrange a meeting before the next meeting of the municipal district.

The members agreed that an annual awards night be arranged for 2017.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley and seconded by Councillor Keatley that such an awards night be arranged for 2017, that a trip on the tourism barge down the Barrow be arranged for the members, that a report be prepared on the economic development issues for the municipal district for the next meeting and that a meeting be arranged with Regeneration Committee before their next meeting.

AY05/1606

Distribution of Remaining Local Property Tax monies - Athy Municipal District

The cathaoirleach and members agreed that the following be approved;

- (a) Community Event - €5,300
- (b) Tri-Athy - €2,500
- (c) ACAR - €5,000
- (d) Residents Associations - €5,000

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Dalton that the distribution of the remaining local property tax monies be approved as outlined above.

AY06/1606

Date of Annual Meeting

The meetings administrator stated that the annual meeting would take place at 10 am on Monday, 18 July 2016 and the normal meeting would start at 10.15 thereafter.

The members all agreed.

AY07/1606

Athy Distributor Road

Mr Coppinger updated the members and stated that the route selection report would be published shortly. The project was proceeding well and on target at this stage.

Resolved that the members be kept updated.

AY08/1606

Safety Measures - Kildangan Bridge, Kildangan

It was agreed to take items 6 and 13 on the agenda together;

Item 6 - Motion Councillor Wall

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Wall:

That the council immediately seek the funding from the National Transport Authority for safety measures at Kildangan Bridge, Kildangan, that all other avenues of seeking such funding be also investigated, given the serious concerns of all users of the bridge and considering previous motions and current designs for the safety of all users of the bridge.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Wall and seconded by Councillor Redmond.

Item 13 - Question Councillor Miley

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Miley:

Can the council give an update and presentation to the municipal district in relation to the footpath at Kildangan Bridge?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the council was investigating the possibility of funding for provision of a pedestrian footpath over the railway bridge at Kildangan as a draft design has been completed. Once funding had been identified then the project can be developed. There was

no allocation for funding this year but the council would continue to press for funding in the next round of allocations.

The cathaoirleach stated that he had attended a community meeting in Kildangan which discussed the pedestrian danger of crossing over at this bridge and the speed of traffic using this bridge. He stated he had met the District Engineer on site and he asked for some reassurance that this bridge would be made safe before an accident and or fatality occurs.

Councillor Miley stated that children cycle and walk to schools and the facilities are not there for this to happen safely. Businesses are generating more traffic. He suggested that all development be suspended in Kildangan until this matter was resolved.

Councillor Redmond stated that Iarnrod Eireann should be responsible for repairing the bridge.

Councillor Keatley stated that a funding source should be identified as a matter of urgency to make this bridge safe.

Councillor Breslin stated that she did not understand how planning permission had been given to developments in Kildangan knowing that access by the bridge was unsafe. She stated that a short and long-term solution had to be found quickly.

The District Engineer stated that he had taken over this area eighteen months ago. He stated that a source of funding had to be identified. He added that he had prepared a draft plan in relation making this bridge safe. He stated that this bridge would not take two-way traffic with footpaths on both sides and that a shuttle system would have to be put in place. A Part VIII planning process would be required.

Mr Keogh stated that he had attended Kildangan National School recently and he had spoken with children from the ages of 8 to 11 and asked them if there were any hazards in regard to Kildangan Bridge. He advised them to cross over the bridge in single file with traffic behind them not facing them in order for them to see traffic coming towards them. He said he also visited with the scouts and advised them to use high visibility jackets especially when the evenings would be getting darker.

The cathaoirleach welcomed the Road Safety Officer, who was liaising with the school, but he was adamant that this bridge was very dangerous and safety had to be top priority here. He asked whether traffic lights would be placed here as an interim measure.

The District Engineer stated that the draft plan was a discussion document and that there was no quick solution. This matter would have to go through the public consultation process and the proposed cost of this work could be in the region of €400,000.

Mr Coppinger stated that Iarnrod Eireann owned the bridge. Funding would have to come from a number of sources. He stated that it would take three to six months to get funding in place and then look at next year's budget to get the work done.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Redmond that the draft plan be circulated to the members, and that the members be updated with regard to identifying funding and a project plan for these works.

AY09/1606

Flooding between Geraldine Road and Shamrock Lodge, Athy

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

That the problem of flooding between Geraldine Road and Shamrock Lodge, Athy be rectified.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that a meeting would be arranged with the Municipal District Engineer and Councillor Breslin on this issue.

Councillor Breslin noted the report and stated that flooding was occurring on Foster's Corner and the water was lodging on the road and was dangerous.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dalton that report be noted and that a meeting would be arranged with the District Engineer and Councillor Breslin on this issue.

AY10/1606

Provision of Ramps and Traffic Calming in Housing Estates in the Municipal District

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Wall:

That the council confirm the current position in relation to its road safety in estates policy in the Athy Municipal District including the provision of ramps and traffic calming and to also confirm any national guidelines on this very most important issue.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that at present, the council had no formal policy regarding the provision of traffic calming measures in housing estates. The council was currently advancing the 30kph review of speed limits in residential estates (Jake's Law). The Roads Department had analysed all submissions received from residential estates in respect of the proposed introduction of a 30kph speed limit in such estates. Only estates that had been taken in charge were considered. Public advertisements seeking submissions were published in June 2015. In all, 27 valid submissions were received. The next stage of the process is to (1) Consult with the Garda Commissioner and seek a submission (1 month); (2) Then proceed to put the draft bye laws on public display for 30 days; (3) Seek approval of the byelaws from the full council. Following the legislative process, the council would proceed to seek tenders for the supply and erection of the appropriate signage. No submission was received from the Athy Municipal District. In anticipation of additional funding from the Department of Transport in 2017, (no guarantee) further submissions would be invited in Quarter 4 of 2016 through a public advertisement process.

The cathaoirleach noted the report. He stated that it was coming into the Summer now and children would be finishing up in school and would be out playing in estates and estates need to be made safer. He asked what funding would be available to provide ramps and traffic calming in estates.

Councillor Keatley stated that ramps were needed rather than signage.

Ms Wright stated that the report referred to council housing estates not private estates and that there was no formal policy regarding the provision of traffic calming measures in housing estates. She stated that she would look at the impact of signage and see would it lead to

some improvements. She stated that funding was not there to install ramps in housing estates. She added that not every estate would welcome ramps and that an assessment would need to be carried out before installing ramps in housing estates in County Kildare.

The cathaoirleach stated that some time ago he was informed that a policy would be developed and now he was being told that it was not in place. He asked that the matter be referred to the Strategic Policy Committee to arrange a policy for traffic calming measures in housing estates.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Keatley that a letter be written to the Chair of the Strategic Policy Committee and ask him to include a policy for traffic calming measures in housing estates on the list of works.

AY11/1606

Upgrade the road from junction with N78 with the R428 Stradbally Road, Woodstock out to Cardington

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Miley:

That the council upgrade the road from junction with N78 with the R428 Stradbally Road, Woodstock out to Cardington as a matter of urgency to accommodate all local and passing traffic and in particular the local boxing club.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Miley and seconded by Councillor Dalton.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the roads and footpaths on the R428 need to be upgraded along its length from the junction with the N78 to Cardington Bridge. While there are no funds to carry out this work at this time, it can be included on an Improvement List when monies become available.

Councillor Miley noted report and stated that the road and footpaths had deteriorated at this location and the area needs to be regenerated. A source of funding needed to be identified and hopefully it would be included in the 2017 Works Programme.

Councillor Breslin asked that this road be regenerated early next year as it needed to be prioritised.

The cathaoirleach stated that vehicles are even avoiding the ramps on this road as they are in such bad condition. He also noted that there was flooding at the Boxing club and this required investigation.

The District Engineer stated it had been twenty-six years ago since work had been carried out and he agreed that the road needed to be upgraded. The whole area including road surface and carparking and other issues need to be looked at. He added that the stretch of road was about 1 to 1.5 km in length.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Dalton that a plan be drawn up and that funding be identified to carry out works.

AY12/1606

Road Preparations in the Athy Area for the National Cycling Championships taking place from 23 June to 26 June 2016

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

That the council assist in the road preparations in the Athy area for the National Cycling Championships to take place from 23 June to 26 June.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the council would assist in road preparations for the upcoming National Cycling Championships.

Councillor Keatley thanked the District Office for their assistance and that he had travelled the route and the roads were in good condition. He added that there would be some traffic disruption on the Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of the event. He added that the national TV would be present for this event.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that report be noted and that Councillor Keatley circulate to the members the timetable for the event.

AY13/1606

Update on Works at Cowpasture, Monasterevin

It was agreed to take items 11 and 14 on the agenda together.

Item 11 Question Councillor Wall

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall:

Can the council confirm the up to date position with the provision of a footpath at Cowpasture, Monasterevin as previously discussed?

Item 14 - Question Councillor Miley

Can the council give an update on works at Cowpasture, Monasterevin?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that It was anticipated that this work would commence later this year.

The cathaoirleach noted report and stated that local property tax funding had been identified for this work. He asked whether this work would be done locally or contracted out.

The District Engineer stated that some works had already been carried out at this location. He added that further works would be carried out both locally and contracted out and that these works would be carried out later in the year.

AY14/1606

Re-development of Edmund Rice Square, Athy

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

Can the plans for the re-development of Edmund Rice Square, Athy be finalised and moved to the next stage?

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that this was considered a worthwhile suggestion and would be examined in due course. Currently, priority was being given to progressing Emily Square, wherein an informal public consultation process would commence on 1st July next.

Councillor Breslin stated that regeneration of this square would help entice businesses to come back there. She added that the bottle banks had to be moved from the current location. She added it was a vital opportunity for the area to grow.

The District Manager agreed that it was a worthwhile suggestion but asked that the members focus on Emily Square and maybe timing wise, wait till later in the year to focus on Edmund Rice Square.

The District Engineer stated that he had consulted with Pettit's to incorporate pedestrian access to designated areas and that the draft plan was still only a discussion document.

Councillor Breslin requested that the District Engineer meet with the members and discuss the draft plan before the full council meeting on Monday 27 June 2016.

AY15/1606

Increase Staff Numbers in Municipal District Roads Section

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley:

Can the council increase staff numbers in the Athy Municipal District roads section with a view to improving the condition of the tertiary roads in the district?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the council's workforce had been depleted in recent years due to non-recruitment of staff. The Athy Municipal District had also reduced numbers due to retirements of members of the workforce. It had also come at a time when the area had expanded to include Athy Town, Monasterevin, Kildangan and Nurney. We would not be in a position to carry out this work until resources, both monetary and manpower are at a level commensurate with the work load to be carried out.

Councillor Keatley stated that road budgets had been slashed in 2010 and 2011 and methods and health and safety measures had changed. He stated that there was not enough resources or staff to carry out roadworks in general. He asked that the members look at this year's budget in order to improve the condition of the tertiary roads in the district.

Ms Wright stated that the matter of staff was in consideration by the Directors and that the members would be updated at the next meeting.

AY16/1606

Adoption of Draft Kildare County Council (Athy) Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2016

Mr O'Gorman outlined the report on the proposed byelaws which were advertised in accordance with the requirements and the statutory period of public consultation undertaken from 23 February to 30 March 2016. Three submissions were received and he outlined them briefly. He stated that the existing byelaws would stay in place outside the municipal district area.

Councillor Redmond asked whether horses could be ridden through the town or kept overnight by circuses.

The District Manager explained that there were a small number of exceptions in the bye-laws and horses were allowed to be ridden through the town and kept overnight by circuses.

The cathaoirleach stated that he had been in touch with the Gardai and the developer/owner of the field where 20 horses are currently situated and he stated that he would not be adopting these bye-laws unless this field was included in the bye-laws.

Mr O'Gorman stated that if this field was within the town boundary then it would be included in the bye-laws. After further discussion, it was decided that this field was outside the town boundary.

The District Manager advised the members to re-advertise the bye-laws and include this field in question on the Kilkenny Road.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the bye-laws be re-advertised to include this field on the Kilkenny Road and all the members agreed.

AY17/1606

Pay by Weight Bin Charges

The members were circulated with a report outlining frequently asked questions in regard to these charges.

The District Manager stated that there was national controversy at the moment regarding the introduction of these charges. He added that the document circulated was on the website.

Councillor Redmond said he disagreed with bringing in such charges without full consideration for all concerned. He added that the dumping problem would increase and he asked that this charge be suspended.

Councillor Miley stated that it looked like it would be suspended nationally and he advised that people should keep their bins clean after each empty otherwise they could be charged twice.

The District Manager stated that this matter was resolved at full council to be discussed at municipal district level. He said that the council are not responsible for suspending these charges, the Government only have the power to do this. He stated that savings would arise from a better regime of separating waste and recycling materials. The Department carried out an assessment and looked at different options. He stated that he would circulate a copy of the presentation to the members which was already sent to the strategic policy committee.

Councillor Keatley supported the idea of the charges stating that research shows that 80% of the community would pay less if a proper regime was in place with separating waste and recycling materials. He added that there would always be issues with new processes but the intent was correct. The new charge would make people think more about dealing with their waste properly.

The cathaoirleach that the members should fight for decreasing these charges for the municipal district as there are many people who cannot pay more for their waste. He reiterated that waste companies were not playing their part in this process.

The District Manager stated that these charges had been the subject of discussion with the Department in the past.

Resolved that the District Manager would circulate a copy of the presentation to the members.

AY18/1606

Update on the Improvements on the Sewerage Network Planned for Narraghmore

The District Manager acknowledged the members representations on this matter and he reiterated that resolution of this problem was a priority. He stated that consultants had been engaged to draw up a design document and he would be meeting with them and Water

Services and Building Control, after today's meeting, to proceed to tender and make a decision to process. He added that he would give the members a further briefing later in the week. He added that tankering was still in place and would be continuing in the short term.

Councillor Keatley asked about the timeframe for the tendering process.

Mr Hannigan stated that the timeframe and other issues would be discussed at the meeting later today and that a full update would be given to the members later in the week.

Councillor Keatley said that the sewage from the treatment plant was still overflowing into the green and that tankering was required there also.

Mr Hannigan stated that he would have a look at this.

Resolved that the District Manager would give the members a full update on this problem later in the week. Mr Hannigan to check the situation with regard to overflowing of sewage from the treatment plant onto the green area.

AY19/1606

Taking in Charge of Estates in the Athy Municipal District Area

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

That an update be given on the taking in charge of estates in the Athy Municipal Area be given.

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

A report was received from the Building and Development Control Department informing the members that the Building and Development Control staff had already committed to updating the 2012 report later this year and the website would be updated with the finalised report. In the meantime, resources would be directed towards finalising the taking in charge of the fifty-four estates advertised for taking in charge in 2015. As each estate is finalised, a recommendation to take each estate in charge would be put to the relevant Municipal District Committee for consideration of the members. The priority remains dealing with developers, receivers, bond providers and other stakeholders and inspecting the provision of infrastructure in active sites to secure the satisfactory completion of housing developments to taking in charge standard.

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

AY20/1606

Large Scale Illegal Dumping at Lughill, Monasterevin

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Miley:

That the council investigated large-scale illegal dumping on a daily basis on a site at Lughill, Monasterevin.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that all incidents of illegal dumping are investigated by the Environment Section. This location would be examined and appropriate follow-up considered, if necessary.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Breslin that report be noted and that the area in question would be examined and appropriate action taken.

AY21/1606

Extension at Churchtown Graveyard, Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall:

Can the council confirm the up to date position with the extension at Churchtown Graveyard, Athy?

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that a preliminary design had been prepared and discussed with the local community. However, this now requires to be revisited following discussions with our Planning Department for a number of reasons. A stage one road safety audit needs to be prepared which was likely to involve some of the road/traffic related aspects being revisited, as well as further discussions locally in relation to proposed changes to traffic arrangements. Given proximity to a national monument (old cemetery), an archaeological assessment would be required. Both of the foregoing would be a prerequisite to formally commencing the Part 8 process and consultants had been appointed and work was ongoing. It was aimed to formally commence this process in circa two months. The members would be kept informed.

AY22/1606

Progression of the Kildare Section of the Blueway Project

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

That the council contact Waterways Ireland with a view to progressing the Kildare section of the Blueway project in line with Emily Square and The Dominican site redevelopment in Athy.

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

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that Waterways Ireland are currently finalising a planning application for the Blueway Project. It was expected this would be lodged with the various County Councils before the end of the Summer. The advancement of the project was contingent on the various local authorities approving the plan. Therefore, any discussions with Waterways Ireland in relation to aligning the project with Emily Square and the Dominican site can only take place following planning approval for the project.

Councillor Keatley stated that he had heard there were some concerns arising on the Carlow side of the blueway development and the progression of this project. He made it clear that the municipal district end of the project would not be delayed and he urged that this project go ahead. He asked that this motion be brought to full council for consideration.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that this motion be referred to full council.

AY23/1606

Briefing - Emily Square, Athy

Mr James Hennessy, Urban Designer attended the meeting and he gave an overview of different projects he had been involved with. He thanked the members for appointing him and his team to prepare the plans to regenerate this square and he added that there was huge history and potential in Emily Square. He said he had spoken with many people in the area to consider many areas such as architectural value of the area, proximity to the river, balance in regard to pedestrian, car and cyclists usage and seating space required. He added that on the 1 July next, a public consultation would take place to engage with the public, in conjunction with a family fun day and the launch of the tourism barge for the town

He stated that the task in hand was to carry out public realm improvement works to Emily Square and its immediate surrounding areas including the wider connecting street network and the River Barrow. He added that there would be a robust urban design analysis of the existing subject site, for example, how it was currently used and what improvements can be made to enhance the public life of the existing public spaces. They would bring the project through from Feasibility, Developed Sketch Scheme to Part 8 stage, after which time the project may be phased for construction. They would also be incorporating the citing and installation of the recently commissioned sculpture of Sir Ernest Shackleton. He stated that there were 5 stages to the process and would commence by October 2017.

Councillor Miley thanked Mr Hennessy for his attendance and congratulated him on his appointment to the project. He re-iterated to him that the square was very dangerous in its current condition and would be looking forward to the public consultation on the 1 July and other activities.

Councillor Redmond asked Mr Hennessy about his views on the management of the square and the market currently using the square one day a week. He added that cyclists would need somewhere to park their bikes safely. He asked whether there was consideration for pedestrianising the square and asked about the location of the Ernest Shackleton sculpture.

Councillor Dalton stated that the regeneration of the square would be focal point of the town and would improve the cultural and economic life of the town. He added that the people and businesses in the square area would have to be listened to regarding any concerns they may have.

Councillor Keatley stated that he was delighted with the briefing and agreed that input was vital by those concerned.

Mr Hennessy replied that the management of the square would be very important. He stated that he had seen the market in action and there were positives and negatives but said that flexibility would be necessary here. Full pedestrianisation could be very difficult but the team would look at every option. Somewhere for cyclists to park their bikes would be looked at. In regard to the Ernest Shackleton sculpture, they have to take into consideration the size of the sculpture and find a suitable and safe location to place it. He added that it was proposed to unveil the sculpture in August this year.

The District Manager stated that more information in regard to the 1 July would be forwarded to the members shortly.

The members thanked Mr Hennessey for his attendance and briefing at today's meeting and looked forward to seeing him on the 1 July.

The meeting then concluded.