

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2017, AT 10.00 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor J. Sheahan, An Cathaoirleach.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Browne, Collins, Foley, Galvin and Scanlan.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Service Operations (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Executive Engineer (Mr. B. Noonan), Meetings Administrator, (Ms. T. Knox), Director, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Customer Services, Culture and Arts (Ms. J. Cotter Coughlan), Senior Engineer, Physical Development (Mr. V. Murray), Arts and Culture Officer (Ms. S. Deegan), A/Senior Executive Planner, Economic Development and Planning (Ms. K. Burke), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Clerical Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. D. O’Kelly).

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;  
Seconded by Councillor Collins;  
And Resolved:

“That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed.”

The Cathaoirleach deferred discussion in relation to the Minutes and it was agreed to take Item No 2 on the Agenda first as Superintendent O’Connor was in attendance at the Meeting.

**2. Update on Policing in the District**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Superintendent O’Connor to the Meeting. The Superintendent gave a briefing on policing issues in the Division and also provided details in relation to crime statistics for the area. He stated that he was pleased that crime figures in relation to drug related offences were down from the previous year. He also stated that CAB was actively involved in the area and some significant cases were being dealt with. He further stated that a new DNA database had resulted in historical cases in the District being solved.

Members raised the issue of sulky racing and road bowling and expressed their concerns at the danger of both of these issues. In replying the Superintendent stated that as no formal complaints had been made in relation to road bowling it was not possible to pursue.

In reply to Members questions in relation to new Garda Station for Newcastle West, the Superintendent stated that he had been advised that a new station was to be built on the

existing site. It was envisaged that this would take at least another 12 months. The issue of opening hours for Abbeyfeale Garda Station was also raised and the Superintendent stated that he would reconsider the issue.

Members thanked him for his presentation and expressed their gratitude to himself and the Gardai in the District. Superintendent O'Connor then withdrew from the Meeting.

### **Matters Arising from Minutes**

The Senior Executive Engineer replied to queries raised by the Members as follows:

- Works on the footpath at Clash Road were underway and it was estimated that work would be completed in 4 to 5 weeks.
- Discussion had taken place with the OPW in relation to erosion of riverbank at New Street, Abbeyfeale and an application had been submitted. Further information had been sought by the OPW in relation to the application.
- Costings had been done for footpath in Ballyagran and Members were advised that the best source of funding would be through the General Municipal Allocation.

Councillor Scanlon raised a query in relation to the vote taken at the previous Meeting regarding the nomination of a Member of the District to the Proposed Consultative Group for the Great Southern Greenway. In particular, he asked if the names of the 4 Members who had voted in favour of the proposal, to nominate the District Cathaoirleach of the Day to the Group, could be included in the Minutes.

### **3. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)**

#### **(a) Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation**

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin it was agreed to allocate €4,000 for footpaths in Broadford Village.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Browne it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to drainage in Carrigkerry.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Mountcollins Community Centre.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Athea Phone Booth Defibrillator.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Collins it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Athea Phone Booth Defibrillator.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Galvin it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Athea Phone Booth Defibrillator.

**(b) Allocations under General Municipal Allocation to the Local Roads Programme**

The Senior Executive Engineer circulated list of projects for consideration under the Local Roads Programme of General Municipal Allocation 2017.

It was proposed to allocate funds to the following projects:

- Footpaths at Beechwood, Newcastle West €5,000.
- Footpath from St. Michael's House to Ballyagran Village €75,000.
- Drainage at Knockdown, Glin €15,000.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Sheahan it was agreed to allocate funding as set out above.

**4. Service Operations Directorate**

**Disposal of Land**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, dated 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, concerning proposal to dispose of land at Knockulceare, Mountcollins, Co.Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

**Operations and Maintenance Services**

**(a) Provision of new Graveyard in Abbeyfeale**

The Senior Executive Engineer stated that progress had been made and that 4 parcels of land had been identified in the Abbeyfeale area. Landowners had been written to, requesting permission, to access the land for site testing. Members stressed the urgency of progressing the issue and asked for an update at the next Meeting of the District.

**(b) Taking in charge of Estates**

The Senior Executive Engineer circulated an updated report on the current status of taking in charge of estates in the District. Members raised queries in relation to the following estates:

- Glebe Monagea.
- Cluain Arra.
- Riverside Drive, Athea.
- Ellis Wood.
- Rathronan (Athea).
- Cois na Feile.

The Senior Executive Engineer stated that he would revert back with further information at a future Meeting of the District.

## **5. Customer Services, Culture and Arts Directorate**

### **Culture and Creativity Plan for Creative Ireland Programme in Limerick**

The Director for Customer Services, Culture and Arts updated the Members on the Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022. She stated that Limerick City and County Council was currently preparing a Culture and Creativity Plan. She confirmed that a Culture Team had been established to progress the plan, she also outlined other initiatives to be completed at national level in 2017 including:

- A national plan to enable every child in Ireland to access tuition in music, drama, art and coding.
- Mechanism to assist self-employed artists who have applied for Jobseekers Allowance.
- A plan for the development of each National Cultural Institution to 2022.
- A five year capital investment programme for the culture and heritage sector.
- An industry-wide, long-term plan, for Ireland as a global hub for the production of Film, TV Drama, and Animation.
- A unified international identity and communications programme for Ireland.
- A new *Creative Ireland Forum* conference to showcase the best national and international thinking.

A presentation was made by the Arts and Culture Officer under the following headings:

- Youth Arts/Dance Programme.
- Music/ Visual Arts /Architecture.
- Park Kiosk Residency.
- Literature.
- Volunteer Programme.
- Grants.
- Venues and Key Arts Organisations.
- Festivals/ Culture Night.

The Arts and Culture Officer stated that Limerick City and County Council, at the November Meeting, had agreed to establish a Cross Party Arts and Culture Working Group which would be chaired by the Mayor of Limerick City and County Council.

The purpose of the Working Group would be as follows :

- To review the current position of Limerick City and County Council in relation to arts and culture provision.
- To raise awareness of Limerick City and County Council's commitment to arts and culture in Limerick.
- Prepare recommendations for full Council to consider proposed structure for the delivery of arts and culture.

It was noted that funding of €600,000 had been agreed by the Council for Arts in 2017 and the Director for Customer Services, Culture and Arts stated that the mapping out indicating where the funding would go was very important.

Members thanked them for the presentation and commended the good work done in relation to Eipse Michael Hartnett Festival. It was stated that other festivals would need more funding, for example the Fleadh in Abbeyfeale and the Gary McMahon Singing Festival. Members also stated that there was a need to revive a festival in West Limerick. In conclusion the Members highlighted the importance of having a more co-ordinated approach in relation to St. Patrick's Day festivals in the County Towns.

## **Economic Development Directorate**

### **Heritage Plan 2017-2030**

The Acting Senior Executive Planner stated that the Economic Development Directorate was preparing a Heritage Plan 2017-2030. The purpose of the proposed Heritage Plan was to increase engagement with, and access to, all aspects of heritage in Limerick City and County and promote conservation, best practice, appreciation and enjoyment of the shared heritage. It was noted that the proposed Heritage Plan was on public display from the 18th February to 10th April, 2017. The Acting Senior Executive Planner stated that it was a non-statutory plan and that the plan would be brought to the elected Members later in the year for noting.

Members noted the draft plan, as circulated.

## **6. Physical Development Directorate**

### **(a) Amendment to County Development Plan**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Messrs. K. Lehane, Director and V. Murray, Senior Engineer, to the Meeting.

Circulated, Limerick Northern Distributor Road Public Information Leaflet, Variation No. 5 to Limerick County Development Plan 2011-2016 (Extended), dated February, 2017.

Mr. Murray gave a PowerPoint presentation which contained details of the proposed Limerick Northern Distributor Road, including the location of, and need for, the proposed road, with related timescales. It was noted that the proposal to amend the 'County Development Plan' would be considered by the Elected Members of Limerick City and County Council at the May Full Council Meeting.

Members raised the issue of farmers and property owners affected by the proposal. In addition, the issue of flooding risk was raised and it was pointed out that studies carried out showed that the project would not increase the risk of flooding.

The Director stated that the benefits of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road would be a reduction in travel times from Coonagh to University of Limerick, significant reduction in traffic through city centre and enhanced competitiveness to Limerick and the Mid West through the availability of efficient transport routes.

**(b) Draft Limerick City and County Council (Control of Horses) Bye-Laws 2017**

Circulated report from the Director, Physical Development Directorate, dated 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 on the Proposal to publish the Draft Limerick City and County Council (Control of Horses) Bye-Laws 2017 to replace the Limerick City and County Council (Control of Horses) Bye-Laws 2015 in order to regulate sulky racing on public roads.

The Director stated that it was proposed to put the Report on Public display and required the consent of the Members of the District.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;  
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Municipal District of Newcastle West be and is hereby given to the publication of the Limerick City and County Council (Control of Horses) Bye-Laws, 2017, in accordance with Section 199 and Schedule 14A Part 1 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended).”

**QUESTIONS****8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update/detailed report on the upgrade of the road surface in Mountcollins Village.*

**REPLY:** The upgrade of this roadway forms part of the Road Works Programme for 2017. Contractors are to be appointed to progress these works and it is envisaged that the upgrade works at Mountcollins will commence during the summer months.

**9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting if the Council can repair the road adjacent to the pumping station, at the back of properties on Bridge Street, Abbeyfeale.*

**REPLY:** This road is not a public road. It is in private ownership and Limerick City and County Council have a right of way across this roadway.

**10. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting that the dyke be opened from Willie Donoghue’s junction up towards Craig at the left hand side.*

**REPLY:** This matter is being investigated in order to agree the necessary works.

**11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting when junction lining will take place at a number of intersections between Regional and Local Roads in the Ashford, Broadford, Castlemahon and Dromcollogher areas.*

**REPLY:** Relining of the above mentioned junctions will be carried out within the next month.

**12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting when the footpath between the junction at St. Ita's Terrace and the entrance to Beechwood will be renewed.*

**REPLY:** Footpath upgrade works for the Beechwood area form part of the Newcastle West Municipal District GMA Roads Programme 2017.

**13. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update in relation to the Council acquiring the derelict property at 15 Assumpta Park, Newcastle West.*

**REPLY:** This property has been investigated and is being dealt with under the Derelict Sites Legislation. A Section 29 Notice has been prepared in order to ascertain the name and address of the property owner. When this information is received the Council will address the dereliction with the property owner.

**14. Question submitted by Councillor S. Browne**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update in relation Tournafulla Cemetery.*

**REPLY:** Currently there are 41 burial plot spaces available in Tournafulla Cemetery.

In 2012 the Council conducted a site suitability test on lands located to the West of the existing Cemetery. This land was deemed not suitable for a burial ground. There are no plans at present for a new Cemetery.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will move at the next Meeting that the Council (a) start the process of identifying distributor routes for the town's of Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West; (b) that the Management Team set aside funds for the drawing up of plans; (c) that the public be kept informed at all times.*

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin stated that this matter needed to be addressed. It was felt that any bypass of Adare would push the traffic problem to Abbeyfeale. It was stated that funds would have to be secured and a Feasibility Study carried out. It was suggested that the Development Levy Fund might be a source of funding. Members were of the opinion that a simple bypass in the style of Castleisland was required.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

**16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

***I will move at the next Meeting that the Council take immediate action, in the interest of safety, to provide extra parking at Collins Park, Abbeyfeale the section next to the Rugby Field.***

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin stated that a solution to parking had to be found in this area.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Browne.

The Members asked for a meeting to take place at the site with Engineers. The Senior Executive Engineer stated that a costing could be done, however, there was a danger that if an extra parking area was set aside, it could lead to illegal parking at this location.

**REPLY:** The location of where the additional parking is required needed to be assessed to determine what are the safety hazards in the area, is the existing parking adequate and would the introduction of additional parking have an effect on the play areas.

**17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

***I will move at the next Meeting that CIE be requested to provide a bus stop in the vicinity of Cregan's Cross.***

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan stated that a bus stop at this location was necessary and asked that contact be made with CIE.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

***I will move at the next Meeting that a safety audit be undertaken of the footpath verges within the immediate Town Centre Area of Newcastle West.***

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan stated that railing in the area needed to be closed up. The footpath at Corner of Bridge Street was very narrow and needed to be upgraded. It was agreed that a meeting would take place with the Executive Engineer at this location.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

**REPLY:** A condition survey of the footpaths within the immediate Town Centre of Newcastle West will be carried out in the coming weeks.

**19. Correspondence**

The correspondence circulated with the Agenda was taken as read.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_