

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN CROOM CIVIC CENTRE, CROOM, CO. LIMERICK ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, 2015, AT 9.00 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor R. O'Donoghue, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Keary, McMahon, Neville, O'Brien and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Regional Services (Ms. C. Curley), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, West Division Operations (Mr. B. Noonan), Meetings Administrator (Mr. T. O'Callaghan), Executive Planner (Ms. B. Quinn), Staff Officer (Ms. Karen Butler), Assistant Staff Officer (Ms. E. Buckley).

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 8th September, 2015.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;
Seconded by Councillor Neville;
And Resolved:

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

With regard to the issuing of a licence for Bleach Lough Anglers Ltd., Members queries if the impasse previously discussed had been resolved. The Director, Regional Services indicated that the resolution of any dispute in this case was a matter for Bleach Lough Anglers Ltd. and the issuing of a licence was a decision for the full Council.

Members requested that the format for the receipt of deputations, as set out in Standing Orders, be adhered to in that deputations should leave the meeting once they had made their presentation and clarified any Members queries.

With the Cathaoirleach's permission, it was agreed that Item 3 would be taken at this stage of the Meeting.

3. Home and Community

Circulated,

- Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan Socio-Economic Statement and High Level Goals, Draft Report on Submissions and Observations received, dated August 2015.
- Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for Limerick City and County,

Background Information and Socio-Economic Statement, dated September 2015.

- Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report of the Limerick City and County Council Local Economic and Community Plan Draft Socio-Economic Statement 2015-2021 – Proposed Amendments, dated September 2015.
- Habitats Directive Assessment Screening Report of the Limerick City and County Council Local Economic and Community Plan Draft Socio-Economic Statement 2015-2021 – Proposed Amendments, dated September 2015.

The Executive Planner stated that the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) Socio Economic Statement and High Level Goals were on the agenda for noting. She indicated that some amendments had been made to the draft LECP Socio-Economic Statement document following the period of consultation and that these changes had been agreed by the Advisory Steering Group, LCDC and SPC for Economic Development & Planning. She outlined the timetable for the remainder of the process of preparations of the LECP including the approval of the plan by the full Council in early 2016.

While noting the contents of the documents circulated Members sought clarification with regard to the impact the high level goals might have on a proposal for a gasification plant at Gortadroma, in light of the reference to indigenous energy sources in the Socio Economic Statement Document. Members also stressed that they were opposed to any part of the documents circulated that supported a gasification plant at Gortadroma.

The Executive Planner indicated that any proposal for development would be considered in accordance with the County Development Plan and the Regional Waste Management Plan and that the LECP would not exclude or include certain types of development.

QUESTIONS

4. Question submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting when the Executive will provide the urgently required briefing for local Councillors in relation to legal opinion and all other relevant information regarding the Gortadroma Landfill/Cadence proposal.

REPLY: This matter will be considered at the Party Leaders Meeting to be held on the afternoon of the 14th October 2015 and the Members of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale will be contacted after that meeting with a proposed date for the briefing.

Members indicated that they should have been briefed first on the legal opinion, given that the landfill was in their District, and requested that they be briefed by suitably qualified independent consultants on gasification.

5. Question submitted by Councillor T. Neville

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the re-examination of the one way traffic system in Rathkeale.

REPLY: Limerick City & County Council roads personnel will meet with the Community Council to discuss the existing one way traffic system in Rathkeale.

6. Question submitted by Councillor Kevin Sheahan

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the situation pertaining to the draft plans to have a facility for waste disposal at Gortadroma.

REPLY: The next step regarding the proposals for a gasification plant will be for Cadence Enviropower Ltd to commence the statutory planning process with An Bord Pleanála and, in particular, to submit sufficient details to them to determine whether this proposal qualifies as Strategic Infrastructure Development. In parallel they will also have to submit an application for a waste licence to the Environmental Protection Agency. Cadence Enviropower Ltd have indicated that they intend to commence these processes in the coming months.

NOTICES OF MOTION

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting for an update on the proposals to address the flooding issues in Foynes, Askeaton and Ballysteen.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Sheahan indicated that there was a danger of flooding when high spring tides were predicted. He requested that this item remain on the Agenda and that Members be briefed on progress.

Councillor O'Brien, in seconding the Motion, requested that the OPW be written to seeking clarification on the role and responsibility of the OPW in relation to tidal / flood embankments within the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale and requested that the OPW highlight the embankments in their charge. Members agreed to same and asked that a further invitation be extended to a representative of the OPW to attend at a future meeting of the District and expressed disappointment that a representative of the OPW had not attended to-date.

REPLY: MHL Consulting Engineers have recently been appointed to assess and recommend flood alleviation measures for Askeaton. Design works will be on-going over the coming months.

In relation to Foynes, tenders are currently being assessed. It is expected that a contractor will be recommended shortly. Construction should commence soon thereafter subject to funding being made available from the OPW.

In relation to other areas, including Ballysteen, any funding for these areas will have to await national priorities following the CFRAMS studies by the OPW.

Flood alleviation drainage works are currently being undertaken in Moig, Ballysteen this week and should be completed shortly.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting for an update on the provision of a new Sewerage Treatment Plant in Askeaton.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan indicated that Askeaton town needed an adequate sewerage treatment facility and that raw sewerage was being discharged into the river Deel. He further stated that, as the current settlement beds were built in the 1940's, they did not cater for current usage. He added that residents had to vacate their properties due to the foul smell and asked that this issue remain on the Agenda until it was resolved.

REPLY: Consulting Engineers have been appointed by Irish Water to advance the design of Askeaton Sewerage Scheme and initial meetings have already taken place to consider the progress of the project.

On hearing the response, Councillor Sheahan welcomed the commitment of Irish Water to the Project. The Motion was seconded by Councillor O'Brien who indicated that the issues in Askeaton were ongoing for a considerable length of time and every effort should be made to ensure Irish Water complete the works as soon as possible.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting that traffic-calming measures be installed in the vicinity of Shanagolden National School, in the interest of public safety.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue and seconded by Councillor McMahan. In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donoghue indicated that this was a public safety issue and that children were at risk. Members supported the Motion and noted that, when schools had expanded, adequate set-down areas should have been provided for the increased volume of traffic.

REPLY: As outlined at the May Meeting of the District, the Senior Executive Engineer and Area Technician met with members of the Shanagolden NS Parents' Council Safety Committee in February. Since that meeting the Senior Executive Engineer met again with members of the committee and the school principal.

Line markings, as agreed, were completed at this time. The committee proposed to prepare a plan for access to the school in the interests of health and safety. The Senior Executive Engineer agreed that Limerick City and County Council would carry out a survey to determine the feasibility of constructing a footpath from the school to the junction with the L1223. The Area Technician has been liaising with the Parents' Council Safety Committee's Engineer in relation to this.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting that adequate resources and staffing be provided to the Adare-Rathkeale District Office to enable that office to deal efficiently with Councillor representations.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donoghue indicated that representations made by Councillors for minor works were not carried out as speedily as other Area Offices and this was due to a lack of funding and resources for the Rathkeale Area Office.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Neville indicated the importance of maintaining the status of the Area Office in Rathkeale as the Municipal capital of the District, adding that it should not be downgraded. Councillor Keary queried the possibility of minor works being contracted out.

The A/Senior Executive Engineer noted that general operatives would be recruited in the next few months and that works were completed in order of priority.

REPLY: A new Grade II Technician and an Assistant Engineer were recently recruited for the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District and we are currently endeavouring to work through the backlog of Councillors requests for service within current budgets. We are also currently looking at recruiting an Executive Engineer.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Brien

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council immediately take such necessary measures to provide adequate parking in Adare town.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Brien indicated that parking in Adare was a major issue and this problem was compounded by the collection of passengers travelling to Dublin by the 'Green Bus' from the village.

Councillor Keary seconded the Motion and suggested that land at the heart of the village, that had been deemed unsuitable for housing, be considered for parking. Councillor Neville supported the Motion and added that, while parking was required for Adare, he did not want the public to be of the opinion that Adare was not open for business. Councillor Sheahan suggested that businesses be encouraged to use space at the rear of their premises.

REPLY: The Adare Local Area Plan has an objective to facilitate the provision of additional car parking. Such Area and Development Plan objectives are advanced as funding or other resource opportunities become available.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Brien

I will move at the next Meeting that Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District calls on the Minister for Education to commit funding for the construction of a new secondary school in Croom.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Brien who added that Croom was an important town and the secondary school there should be promoted. The Motion was seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Neville

I will move at the next Meeting that the pebbles in front of the houses at Friary Court, Askeaton be replaced by a permanent surface.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Neville who indicated that he had met with a number of residents of the estate. He expressed his concern that loose pebbles could present a hazard when grass was being cut. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

REPLY: The layout of the estate is such that the public footpaths serving the houses are offset by 1.2 metres from the front of the houses. This 1.2 metre strip is surfaced with pebbles and extends all round the rectangle serving houses 1 to 12.

The removal of the pebbles would have a negative impact on the visual amenity of the estate.

However, more importantly it would also permit public access along the front of each house and therefore lead to pedestrian access right along the front of the houses all of which have bedrooms at the front. This will increase noise levels in the bedrooms and may lead to antisocial behaviour, nuisance and disturbance to tenants sleeping in the front rooms.

When surveying the estate I met with two residents, one of whom was in favour of removing the pebbles and the other was opposed to their removal.

For all of the above reasons I recommend that the pebbles be retained.

Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the reply and the Director, Regional Services suggested that all residents in houses 1-12 Friary Court, Askeaton be asked for their opinion on the matter.

14. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted.

With the Cathaoirleach's permission, it was agreed that Item 2 would be taken at this stage of the Meeting.

2. Croom Development Association

Members thanked Croom Development Association for facilitating the Meeting.

Denis Brosnan and Elaine Butler, Croom Development Association, briefed Members on the achievements made by Croom Development Association, in conjunction with local residents, which included the redevelopment of the Town Park and the construction of the state of the art new Civic Centre building. They highlighted their future plans and indicated that Croom Development Association was a non profit making organisation that had charitable status and any profits made were redirected back into the community.

Members commended Croom Development Association and the community for their vision and the work achieved.

The following items were discussed at the conclusion of the Meeting.

The A/Senior Executive Engineer noted that all avenues were being explored in relation to drainage issues at Mrs. Lyons house.

In relation to the damaged dry wall at Church Street, across the road from the grotto, the A/Senior Executive Engineer noted that there were insurance issues in relation to this private wall and he would liaise further with the owner in relation to same. Councillor Keary suggested that derelict sites legislation be considered in an effort to resolve this issue. Councillor Keary also noted the need to clean-up the area from the Five Cross Roads into Rathkeale.

Councillor Sheahan highlighted the need to spray the growth of weeds on the Slí na Sláinte route adjacent to the Askeaton Bypass and noted the illegal parking of caravans at Churchview and the swimming pool Askeaton.

Councillor Keary highlighted the need to carry out an audit of halting sites, both official and unofficial in the District. He noted the potential for overcrowding at halting sites over the Christmas period, the risks associated with same and requested that sites be monitored over the Christmas period. The A/Senior Executive Engineer noted that a review of Council owned sites had already commenced.

Members agreed to request the Gardaí to attend at the next District Meeting to discuss rural crime.

Councillor O'Donoghue highlighted an instance of subsidence adjacent to the roadway at Liskennett, Granagh and the A/Senior Executive Engineer noted that he had surveyed this location and would revert with a timeline to repair same. Councillor O'Donoghue also highlighted the need to reinstate line markings at Anhid Cross, the need to improve lighting at Banogue and the need to paint speed ramps in Croom. Councillor Neville also highlighted the need for an additional speed ramp in Croom.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
