

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 2015, AT 10:00 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor M. Collins, An Cathaoirleach.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Browne, Foley, Galvin, Scanlan and Sheahan.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director of Services (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Executive Engineer, West and South Division (Mr. B. Noonan), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox), Senior Staff Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Clerical Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. D. O'Kelly).

At the outset and with the permission of the Cathaoirleach, it was agreed to take item No. 2 on the Agenda first as members of the Deputation from Broadford Development Association were in attendance at the Meeting.

**2. Deputation Broadford Development Association**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed representatives from Broadford Development Association and outlined the format for the presentation. He advised that a letter would issue to them, in due course, acknowledging their Deputation. The Deputation consisted of Ms. Mary Lee Geary, Chairperson and Mr. David Browne, Secretary of Broadford Development Association.

Ms. Geary outlined the following which required attention in their community:

- Proposal to develop car park and eco garden at rear of existing car park opposite Church.
- Upgrading of kitchen and toilet facilities in Community Centre.
- Installation of toilet facilities in Resource Centre.
- Upgrading of footpaths east and west of the Village.
- Repair works to instructional boards and walkways in the Arboretum.

It was stated that the cost of car park and eco garden would be in the region of €50,000.

Upgrading of facilities in the Community centre would cost in the region of €10,000.

It was further noted that €3,000 was required to install water and sewerage services for the provision of toilet facilities in the Resource Centre. Cost of repair to Arboretum was estimated at €6,000.

The Cathaoirleach thanked members of the Deputation for their presentation and asked that they correspond with the Newcastle West office outlining the content of the presentation. The members of the Deputation then withdrew from the Meeting.

### 1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District held on 7th October, 2015.
- (b) Draft Budgetary Plan 2016 Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2015.

The Meetings Administrator stated that an amendment to the Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 was required listing Councillor Galvin as the proposer of Notices of Motion numbers 9 and 10.

Proposed by Councillor Scanlan;  
 Seconded by Councillor Foley;  
 And Resolved:

“That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed, subject to the amendment to the Minutes of the Meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 as outlined above.”

### 3. Economic Development and Planning Initiatives for the Municipal District of Newcastle West

The Director of Services made a presentation to the Members giving an update on the existing and proposed Economic Development and Town Renewal Initiative for the Municipal District of Newcastle West under the following headings:

- CEDRA – Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) Pilot Initiative.
- Love Your Street.
- Business and Retail Incentive Scheme.
- Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West Local Area Plans – Implementation.
- Town and Village Renewal Scheme.
- Newcastle West 5 year Plan.
- Derelict Sites.
- Assistance to Tidy Town’s group.

He stated that the application made for the Council, by Innovative Limerick with the assistance of West Limerick Resources, on behalf of Newcastle West, to become part of the Rural Economic Development Zone Pilot Initiative had been successful. It was acknowledged that the application had been made by Innovate Limerick. A grant had been approved in the amount of €42,000. A further sum of €14,000 would have to be matched from Council funds. It was noted that the total project cost was €56,000.

He outlined that as the full amount of funding sought was not secured the focus would be on priority enhancement measures as follows:

- De cluttering of street signage and installation of pedestrian fingerposts.
- Installation of appropriate soft landscaping features.
- General cleaning/repair to footpaths.

- Restoration of the heritage style lamp posts.
- Upgrading (painting) of the footbridge.

Members welcomed the funding and hoped that value for money would be secured. Concern was expressed that the funding, though welcome, would not cover all that was required to be done. It was also stated that as it was very late in the year and as funds had to be spent by year end there was very little time to successfully complete projects.

The Director of Services also advised the Members that a presentation would be made by staff from Economic Development and Planning at the December Meeting. It was also his intention to keep Strategic Development for the District on the Agenda.

4. **Home and Community**  
**Disposal of Land**

To note disposal of land situate at 62 Arra View Newcastle West. In response to a query raised by Members, it was agreed to provide further clarification to Members in relation to the disposal of property prior to Members considering the disposal at the Full Council Meeting in December.

**QUESTIONS**

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting when essential repair work will be carried out along the verge of the R522 between the pedestrian and the main entrances to Ferndale Estate, Newcastle West.*

**REPLY:** Repairs to the verge of the roadway to be carried out within next 2 weeks.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting if pedestrian crossing as St. Ita's Road (back of Kelly's School) can be removed. This crossing is serving no purpose as the school is now closed.*

**REPLY:** The pedestrian crossing will be removed within the coming month.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting if proper illuminous signage can be put at the bend of the road at Knockbrack in both directions (where you turn up to Diarmuid O'Connor's yard).*

**REPLY:** Signage ordered and to be erected as soon as possible.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting if the low wall at Harnetts Funeral Home Abbeyfeale can be*

*repaired (the small car park) and if the bricks can be removed or reused.*

**REPLY:** Repair works will be carried out before the end of 2015.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that the Road Safety Authority be commissioned to immediately conduct a Safety Study on the stretch of the R522 between Pallas Foods and Ambrose's entrance with particular emphasis being placed on the significant safety risks at Daar Bridge.*

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was stated that this bridge should be prioritised as it posed a safety risk.

**REPLY:** A number of years ago, the Council conducted a study on this roadway and a preliminary design for works was prepared. Unfortunately funding was not available to progress this project. However, works at this area are an objective of the Council and funding is still being sought for same.

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that we amend Standing Orders to allow the placer of any question to ask for clarification or place a supplementary question from the floor of the Meeting should the written reply received in advance of the Meeting be considered inadequate.*

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was proposed that Standing Orders be amended to allow the Member to seek further clarification on replies to Questions at the Meeting. The Director of Services agreed to review the content of replies prior to their circulation. It was further agreed that if a Member was not satisfied with a reply the Member could consult with the Cathaoirleach in advance of the Meeting. Councillor Scanlan agreed, therefore, to defer the matter until March 2016.

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that an urgent flood risk assessment is carried out from the end of the new Barnagh road scheme towards the town of Newcastle West following the flood events of September 11<sup>th</sup> and that funding be sought from the National Roads Authority regarding immediate flood relief programme, if required.*

Councillor Galvin in proposing the Motion stated that flood risk assesement needed to be carried out urgently. He presented the Meeting with some photographs taken on the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> of September, 2015 showing the extent of the flooding. He suggested that the National Roads Authority be asked to look at the road. Councillor Scanlan in seconding the Motion stated that he agreed that flood waters needed to be monitored.

**REPLY:** The OPW CFRAM Flood study does not cover the area mentioned. The CFRAM study is predominately concerned about urban areas at risk of flooding and the study area being covered in Newcastle West extends as far as Cullenagh only. However the OPW Regional office had been contacted about the area identified above and they had indicated that they will inspect the river in this area and will carry out maintenance works if required.

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

***I will move at the next Meeting that urgent and immediate action is taken to repair the bridge at Knocknagorna Athea.***

Councillor Galvin in proposing the Motion stated that the bridge was in very bad repair. He also stated that an update was required on the upgrading works to be carried out. He asked if the Council had got a cost for repairs. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

**REPLY:** The bridge will be included for upgrade works in the 2016 Bridge Rehabilitation Programme.

Councillor Sheahan requested that a structural report be carried out on the bridge near Athea adjacent to Mullane's house.

It was agreed that the next Meeting would be held on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2015 at 10.00 a.m. at Áras William Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West.

This concluded the Meeting.

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

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