

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE
MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY,
12TH JANUARY, 2016

Question submitted by Councillor Kevin Sheahan

I will ask at the next Meeting for a progress update on the proposal requesting something to be done on Askeaton and the lack of employment opportunities for people without adequate training.

REPLY:

Very serious and violent incidents took place in Askeaton, primarily in Church View estate, on the weekend of the 30/10/15-1/11/15, arising from a family feud among the travelling community in the town. Some of the parties alleged to have been involved are resident in Council-owned properties and some in private accommodation.

Immediately on being notified of the events, staff from the Estate Management Unit of the Council visited a number of houses within Church View, and other locations, to (i) offer reassurance and support to those residents who were left traumatised and frightened and (ii) speak to representatives of the families involved.

Continuous liaison is taking place between the Council and An Garda Síochána. The latter has devoted considerable resources to investigating the incidents and mounting regular patrols to prevent any further escalations. Two individuals have been before the District Court charged with serious offences and are currently on bail to addresses outside the town. As the investigation progresses, it is possible charges may be laid against others involved. Obviously, the Council has to await the outcome of the various court cases before being in a position to take any definitive action against any of its tenants that may be convicted. However, in the meantime, it is intended in the immediate future to call a number of tenants in for formal interview and caution.

To provide reassurance to the peaceful and law-abiding members of both estates, and to improve security, provision has been made to install CCTV cameras in both Church View and Lismakeera estates. It is hoped that this work can be completed in the very near future.

The Estates Liaison Officer will continue his work with those residents that are interested in effecting improvements to the living environment. Discussions will also be held with West Limerick Resources to see if that body can assist in any way.

The matter was discussed at a meeting of the Traveller Accommodation Consultative Meeting held on the 18th December last.

**Seamus Hayes,
Housing Services Officer,
Estate Management Unit.**