

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 12th JULY, 2017, 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:

A/Director, Service Operations (Mr. R. Gallagher), Senior Executive Engineer, Operations West (Mr. B. Noonan), Meetings Administrator, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox), Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development (Mr. B. Kennedy), A/Senior Executive Officer, Service Operations (Mr. D. Hennessy), Administrative Officer, Finance Services (Ms. L. Magner), Housing Engineer, West Division (Mr. J. Rigney), Housing Technician, West Division (Mr. P. Flynn), Environmental Awareness Officer, Community Support Services (Ms. Sinead McDonnell), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Senior Staff Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Clerical Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. D. O’Kelly).

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach welcomed Members, Management and Staff to the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 7th June, 2017.

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

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

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Annual Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 28th June, 2017.

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

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

Members again raised the condition of road surface on certain stretches of the N21. The Acting Director in response stated that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) had agreed to do remedial works at Mountmahon, Abbeyfeale this year with a full overlay in 2018. The Members highlighted that this issue has been ongoing for a number of years and asked if priority could be given to completing the job as soon as possible.

2. Service Operations Directorate

(a) TLC (Team Limerick Clean-Up) Review

The Environmental Awareness Officer gave a presentation on Team Limerick Clean-Up 3 under the following headings:

- Steering Group – Limerick City and County Council, McManus Benevolent Fund, Mr. Binman and DMC Communications.
- Good Friday TLC 3 – 16,779 volunteers.
- Schools – 71 schools participated.
- Additional Clean Up – 75 community clean-ups logged and additional 80 plus from 2 groups in city centre alone.
- Waste Characterisation Study – e.g. 46,526 glass bottles collected.
- Range of Solutions and range of stakeholders.
- Limerick Going for Gold Competition.
- Love your Limerick Photographic Competition.

In conclusion, it was stated that Limerick City and County Council would consider forming a policy in relation to the use of one use items (disposable items). The Council would make a proposal to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment for more producer responsibility in relation to disposable packaging/one use items developing a levy on one use items along the lines of the successful plastic bag tax.

Members thanked her for the comprehensive presentation and commended Team Limerick Clean-Up. Members raised concern at the amount of illegal dumping on rural roads of packaging from food and drinks. Members raised a query in relation to the number of prosecutions for illegal dumping and the Environmental Awareness Officer stated that she would source these figures and revert to Members in due course.

She also highlighted that the Public should contact Customer Services for the purpose of reporting Illegal dumping.

(b) Community Support Services

The Administrative Officer, Finances Services, gave a presentation on the Housing Loan Application process under the following headings:

- Types of Loans.
- Legislation.
- Eligibility Criteria (Annuity Loans).
- Maximum Loan and Lending Limits.
- Application Fee and Interest Rates.

- Home Improvement Loan.
- Shared Ownership Restructuring.
- Mortgage Allowance Scheme.
- Management of Loan.
- Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process.
- Local Authority Mortgage to Rent.

Members thanked her for her very informative presentation and acknowledged that there were many options available to the Public. Members raised the issue of the Works in Lieu Scheme and asked if this was still available. The Administrative Officer stated that she would follow up on the query and revert to Members.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, it was agreed to take Item No. 11 Notice of Motion Councillor J. Scanlan at this point in the Meeting.

NOTICE OF MOTION

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that an acceptable time frame be agreed to enable prospective tenants take up residence upon local authority houses being allocated to them within this Area.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan stated that he was concerned at the delay from the time a tenant vacates the property and a new tenant takes possession. It was also stated that tenants did not get to see the property prior to allocation and in some instances work had not been done to meet their needs.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

In replying the A/Senior Executive Officer, Community Support Services stated that in some cases the tenants did get to see the property prior to works commencing. It was stated that since 1st July, 2017 new minimum standards apply and that properties need to be brought up to those standards prior to allocation.

He also stated that if any Members had individual concerns he would discuss these with them.

REPLY: I refer to Limerick City and County Councils recent audit by NOAC where the Councils average re-let period of vacant social housing units was confirmed as 17 weeks. Community Support Services works in tandem with our colleagues in Operations and Maintenance to ensure that units are turned around and allocated to applicants on the housing list as soon as possible. This allocation period is based on the works required to the property further to national minimum rental standards and also based on the condition the property has been returned by the previous tenants.

There are a number of specific cases where allocations are made to prospective tenants in advance of significant works being undertaken on the relevant property. In all such cases the tenants are advised, at the outset, of the timeline when the unit will be ready for occupation. Examples of such allocations would

include situations where specific alterations are required to the dwelling to accommodate medical needs of the applicant or a member of their family. It should be noted however that in the vast majority of cases allocations of Council properties are made to applicants on the housing list only where the unit is available for immediate occupation.

(c) Provision of a new Graveyard in Abbeyfeale

The Senior Executive Engineer, gave an update on progress in relation to the provision of a new graveyard in Abbeyfeale. He stated that of the 3 sites previously identified only one was now a possibility. Members raised concern at the location of the site identified and the lack of parking at this location. It was agreed to revert to Members once further testing and valuation of the site was carried out.

(d) Taking in charge of Estates

The Senior Executive Engineer, circulated an updated report on the status of taking in charge of estates in the District. Members raised queries in relation to some estates and it was agreed that they would liaise directly with the Senior Executive Engineer in relation to specific queries.

3. Economic Development Directorate

Great Southern Greenway Limerick

The Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development gave a presentation on Great Southern Greenway Limerick and the proposed incorporation of the Barnagh Tunnel under the following headings:

- Proposed Works Location.
- Scope of Works.
- Underpass.
- Underpass Location.

He stated that as the period for doing a Part VIII process had been reduced he would hope that approval would be received by December, 2017 and works would commence early in 2018.

Members suggested that the old station house at Barnagh should be considered to lease or buy and that this would be a valuable historical site on the Greenway.

The proposal was noted by the Members as outlined.

4. Social Development Directorate

Communities Facilities Scheme

The report of the Chief Executive Officer, Limerick LCDC dated 7th July, 2017 regarding the recommendation to the Municipal District of Newcastle West on the Communities Facilities Grants Scheme 2017 stated that 28 applications had been received of which 27 were eligible and 10 were recommended for funding as follows:

Group/Organisation Name	Purpose of Grant	Amount applied for:	Total Project Cost
ARA Na Féile Abbeyfeale Active Retirement	To purchase outdoor exercise equipment for the public park	€1,000	€1,150
Glin Men's Shed	To help set up a Men's Shed in Glin. To equip premises with suitable furniture and fittings and to meet the cost of insurance, and cost of heating, electricity and relevant equipment	€1,000	€2,000
Abbeyfeale Viking Boxing Club	Boxing and sports equipment, upkeep of premises and day to day running of club	€1,000	€1,000
Newcastle West Bowls Club	Purchase of equipment, especially new light bowls for the special needs, wheelchair users, the elderly & children	€1,000	€1,200
Kilmeedy Community Development Group	Develop a duck and wildlife sanctuary in an area known as the Well Lane	€1,000	€2,500
Newcastle West & District Community Centre	Carry out renovation works to the outside of the Community Centre	€1,000	€1,600
Carrigkerry Community Centre	Repair the damaged floor in the main hall	€1,000	€4,000
Mountcollins Development Association	Clean up and renovate a derelict site in the village	€1,000	€3,500
Feohanagh Castlemahon Community Hall	Clean and paint the exterior of the premises, premises is currently unpainted and on approach road to the village	€1,000	€2,500
11th Limerick Newcastle West Scouts	Build a fire pit with seating at the back of the den	€1,000	€2,200

The report went on to outline that the Communities Facilities Scheme guidelines specified that the funding related to capital projects only and was intended to help grass roots community projects get underway or take the next step towards completion. It stated that it was targeted at disadvantaged urban and rural areas and that the scheme offered grants of a maximum €1,000. The closing date for receipt of applications was 26th May 2017.

A subgroup of LCDC had evaluated 152 applications in total based on need, additionality, government policy, impact and sustainability. In the interest of equity/fairness and the desirability to achieve a geographical balance and to fund a variety of projects, a maximum limit of two projects per organisation per electoral area had been applied.

The report stated that the Community Facilities Scheme guidelines specified that “the LCDC makes a recommendation of ‘LCDC approved’ or ‘LCDC denied’ on each project and the project with the LCDC recommendation will then be submitted to the Municipal District Committee who will make the final decision on project approval taking into consideration the LCDC

recommendation. A clear reasoning must be noted in the case where a project is approved or denied at Municipal level which is contrary to the LCDC recommendation”.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan it was agreed to approve the 10 applications above which were recommended for funding.

5. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Foley it was agreed to allocate the following:

€3,000 to Abbeyfeale Christmas Lights.

€3,000 to Abbeyfeale Town Park.

€765 to Abbeyfeale Community Council – Registration.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Collins it was agreed to allocate the following:

€2,000 to Abbeyfeale Community Council for defibrillator.

€1,000 to Mountcollins Community Response for defibrillator.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Foley it was agreed to allocate €4,000 to Strand Community Development for footpaths.

QUESTIONS

6. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting if the trees dividing the Orchard and Willow Brook, Abbeyfeale can be cut down in the interest of public safety.

REPLY: These trees are within the private properties of Nos 1 – 5 Willow Brook, as per their property portfolios. On-going maintenance work to these trees is the responsibility of the property owners.

7. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update regarding the footbridge in Athea and if suitable surface has been sourced to replace the old one.

REPLY: There are several solutions being investigated at present for the surface of the footbridge. A decision will be made within the next month regarding the best solution and works will be carried out in August.

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting if safety bollards can be put in place at (a) Church Street, Newcastle West, (b) Bridge Street Junction with the Square, Newcastle West and (c) Church Street, Dromcollogher.

REPLY: (a) Church Street, Newcastle West - Safety measures will be considered at this

location later in the year as part of footpath improvement works.

(b) Bridge Street Junction with The Square, Newcastle West - This location will be monitored over the next month to determine the feasibility of installing safety bollards.

(c) Church Street, Dromcollogher – This location will be monitored over the next month to determine the feasibility of installing safety bollards.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when footpath renewal will be carried out between the Village Store and the Old Hall at Castlemahon Village.

REPLY: These works will be considered under the next phase of footpath upgrade works.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting for a progress report on completion and the taking in charge of the waste water installation at The Glebe, Monagea.

REPLY: The site at the Glebe, Monagea is currently being reviewed with the Planning Office in relation to the taking in charge process. There is a Memorandum of Understanding with Irish Water in relation to Taking in Charge of residential development. This requires the preparation of a site resolution plan and agreement of same with Irish Water. The Council is reviewing ownership of lands on the site of the pumping station. An update will be provided as the process develops.

It was agreed to hold the September Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 6th September, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
