

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ÁRAS SEÁN FINN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 25TH JULY, 2017 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor R. O'Donoghue, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Regional Services (Ms. C. Curley), Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development (Mr. B. Kennedy), Meetings Administrator (Mr. T. O'Callaghan).

1. Policing Issues

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Superintendent Tom O'Connor to the Meeting. The Superintendent reviewed the crime figures for the first six months of 2017 compared to the same period in 2016 under a range of headings.

Members thanked the Superintendent for his presentation and raised the following points in relation to crime prevention and detection in the District:-

- The apparent dealing of drugs by travelling gangs to disaffected young men in the Kildimo/Pallaskenry area and the need for a guiding hand to be given to these young men and the drug dealing eliminated.
- The large number of quad bikes that were being stolen.
- The extent of unreported crime and fear prevalent in Askeaton, along with the extent of break-ins and the apparent dealing of drugs in up to eight locations in Askeaton. The fact that the Garda Station in Askeaton was no longer in operation 24 hours per day was noted.
- The importance of an increased Garda presence during the Christmas period in Rathkeale and the need for more Gardaí on the beat throughout the District.
- The potential for criminals to become aware of the extent of Gardaí on duty in the District at any particular time and the need for the Gardaí to take steps to prevent same.
- The backlog in recruitment and loss of experience since the suspension of Garda recruitment and the age of the equipment being provided to the Gardaí in the District.
- The positive contribution the Gardaí had made to the Foynes Air Show.

The Superintendent clarified the following in response to queries that had been raised by Members:

- Planning for Christmas in Rathkeale had commenced in April and the Gardaí had engaged with the Facilitator.

- Response time was an ongoing issue as any accident involving injury could take a number of hours to deal with.
- The Garda district was continuously looking for additional resources and it could take a number of years before Gardaí numbers were restored.
- In relation to licence plate recognition technology, new palm top technology would assist in this regard.
- A new public order vehicle was awaited and in rural areas it was almost inevitable that locals would establish the working patterns of the local Gardaí.
- The Gardaí were involved in discussions regarding the appropriate citing of CCTV cameras under the County Wide CCTV programme and while it was understood that there would be a limit on the number of CCTV cameras initially installed, it was hoped that these numbers would increase in time. The Gardaí would have 24 hour access to the CCTV cameras.

Members noted the impending retirement of Superintendent O'Connor and commended him on his knowledge of the area and its people. Members noted the extent of the area the Superintendent was responsible for, commended him for his accessibility, helpfulness and diligence and wished him well for the future.

The Superintendent thanked the Members for their good wishes and assured them that there would be a comprehensive hand over process with his replacement.

2. Review of Part 8

The Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development reviewed the detail of the Part VIII and summarised the submissions that had been made in relation to same. Members discussed the overall plans for the greenway, its marketing, ongoing maintenance and the financing of the project.

3. Economic Development Directorate

Part 8 – Extension of the Great Southern Greenway walking and cycling route from Rathkeale to Ballingarrane, Co. Limerick along the former Limerick to Kerry railway line

Circulated, report of the Director, Economic Development dated 4th July, 2017 and the Chief Executive's Report dated 5th July, 2017 on the proposed extension to the Great Southern Greenway walking and cycling route from Rathkeale to Ballingarrane, Co. Limerick along the former Limerick to Kerry railway line which had been prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and proposed to proceed with the development as outlined in the report.

Following discussion it was agreed that this item would be discussed further at a Special Meeting of the District at a date and time to be confirmed.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____