

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ÁRAS SEÁN FINN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2017 AT 9.00 A.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), Head of Digital Strategy (Dr. M. Bilauca), Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development (Mr. B. Kennedy), A/Senior Executive Officer, Community Support Services (Mr. D. Hennessy), Tenancy Enforcement Officer (Mr. P. McDermott), Environment Awareness Officer (Ms. Sinead McDonnell), Executive Engineer, Rathkeale Area Office (Mr. D. Flanagan), Meetings Administrator (Mr. T. O'Callaghan), Staff Officer (Ms. K. Butler), Assistant Staff Officer (Ms. E. Buckley).

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Teskey;  
Seconded by Councillor McMahon;  
And Resolved:

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Teskey;  
Seconded by Councillor McMahon;  
And Resolved:

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

At the outset Members congratulated Councillor Keary on being elected Mayor of the City and County of Limerick. Congratulation were also extended to Ms. Karen Butler on her recent interview success.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Teskey it was agreed that Superintendent Tom O'Connor be invited to a Special Meeting of the District to discuss policing issues.

The Director, Regional Services informed the Meeting that, in relation to the facilitators report on Christmas in Rathkeale, an in-house working group was being established to develop an action plan to set out the Council's response to the report and engagement with outside agencies would commence in the coming weeks.

## **2. Disposal of Land**

Circulated, report of the Acting Senior Executive Officer, Community Support Services dated 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2017 setting out proposals for the disposal of the Freehold Interest in dwelling set out below and the intention to bring the related Section 183 Notice to the full Council for approval.

- (1) Clashganniff, Shanagolden, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the report, as circulated.

Circulated, report of the Acting Senior Executive Officer, Community Support Services dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017 setting out proposals for the disposal of the Freehold Interest in dwelling set out below and the intention to bring the related Section 183 Notice to the full Council for approval.

- (2) Caherduff, Mainister, Croom, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the report, as circulated.

## **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 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 and the Chief Executive's Report dated 5<sup>th</sup> 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 be adjourned to a Special Meeting to be held, if possible within the following two weeks, and before the end of July, 2017.

## **4. County Wide CCTV Project**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Dr. Mihai Bilauca, the Head of Digital Strategy and Mr. Patrick McDermott, Project Manager to the Meeting. The Head of Digital Strategy presented an overview of the background, scope and funding for the project and reviewed the detail of

where it was proposed to install cameras in the towns of Foynes, Askeaton, Rathkeale, Adare and Croom, within the District and noted that, while there were many risks within the project, every effort would be made to stay on schedule.

In relation to Rathkeale Members stressed the need to monitor the main street and a view was expressed that a camera at Cois Deel may not be warranted. It was noted that the Council already had a number of cameras located in Rathkeale and that these should be taken into consideration.

With regard to Askeaton Members noted the potential to locate a camera on the Square, west of the bridge, and requested that this location be considered for any expansion of the scheme in the future.

Members noted the proposed location of cameras at Adare and discussed the potential of placing a camera on the Rathkeale Road at the junction to the Sports Centre. It was noted that the existing communications infrastructure might limit such an option.

In relation to Croom, Members noted the potential to add cameras at two further locations in the future.

The Head of Digital Strategy pointed out that the Gardaí had been consulted in relation to the location of cameras and that multiple cameras could be positioned at single locations. He noted that privacy issues had to be taken into consideration and that the standard of public lighting, adjacent to camera locations, would be kept under review.

## **5. Deputation from Askeaton Contemporary Arts**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Michelle Horrigan to the Meeting. Ms. Horrigan circulated and reviewed a document giving details of Askeaton Contemporary Arts, its marketing and audience engagement strategy and associated aims.

Ms. Horrigan outlined details of Askeaton Contemporary Arts 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival and highlighted the need for a permanent exhibition or gallery space in Askeaton, the benefits that would be associated with same and the difficulty of attracting funding for such capital projects from sources such as the Arts Council.

Members queried the type of property being considered and the projected cost of same. Ms. Horrigan noted that a property with a downstairs exhibition area and upstairs residential accommodation was sought and that suitable property had been identified in Askeaton with a projected cost of €80,000 to €90,000.

Councillor Sheahan noted his support for Askeaton Contemporary Arts and stressed the importance of necessary funding being sourced while suitable property was still available. He informed the Meeting of a conflict of interests as he was acting as auctioneer for the property under discussion and stressed that he would make a public statement of interest should the sale, as discussed, proceed. Councillor O'Brien and McMahon expressed reservations that

Councillor Sheahan had proposed the purchase of a property in which he had a beneficial interest.

Members discussed the options that might be available to Askeaton Contemporary Arts to acquire a suitable property. The Arts Officer noted that the Council was looking at the spatial needs for the arts throughout the administrative area and highlighted the need for an appropriate business plan to be developed. She pointed out the lack of local or national funding streams for capital investments of this nature and noted the potential of Creative Europe as an option that should be explored.

Ms. Horrigan thanked the Members for their time and interest and invited all present to the Askeaton Contemporary Arts Open Day to be held on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.

## **6. Service Operations Directorate – Community Support Services**

### **TLC (Team Limerick Clean-Up Review)**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Sinead McDonnell, Environment Awareness Officer to the Meeting. The Environment Awareness Officer reviewed a presentation entitled “Results of TLC3 Waste Characterisation Study and Update on Limerick Going for Gold”. The presentation highlighted the extent of the TLC3 activities in which 16,779 volunteers had taken part and 68 tonnes of litter were collected and gave a breakdown of this waste, by type. The presentation noted a range of solutions required from a variety of stakeholders and called for the development of a policy in relation to the use of ‘one use items’. Details of the Limerick Going for Gold Competition were also reviewed, including the new Love Your Limerick Photographic Competition.

Members expressed concern at the extent of littering still taking place and made the following points while discussing this item:-

- A deposit and return scheme should be introduced for glass and aluminium containers.
- The barcode on products found dumped should be used to trace the product back to the purchaser.
- Bins should be provided at supermarkets and similar outlets where excess packaging can be deposited.
- Litter picking by volunteers on national roads is limited by the risk involved and needs to be addressed.
- It should be made clear to consumers that unwanted small electrical appliances can be brought in to electrical distributors without a corresponding purchase.
- Consideration should be given to the development of a smart phone app. to identify litter/dumping locations to the Council.
- Steps should be taken to ensure that food takeaway premises adhere to their licenced opening hours

The Environmental Awareness Officer thanked Members for their suggestions and undertook to take same into consideration.

**7. General Municipal Allocation (GMA) 2017**

It was noted that no new allocations under the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) 2017 were currently proposed.

**8. Service Operations Directorate – Planning & Environmental Services**

**Update on the Taking-In-Charge of An Curran Estate, Pallaskenry**

Circulated, report of the Staff Officer, Planning and Environmental Services dated 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 giving an update on the taking in charge of An Curran, Pallaskenry. The report was noted by Members.

**9. Flooding Issues**

Circulated, report of the Executive Engineer, Rathkeale Area Office dated 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 setting out an update on proposals to address flooding issues at Foynes, Askeaton and Ballysteen. The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

**10. Footpath from Kildimo to the Beer Garden Public House**

Circulated, report of the Executive Engineer, Rathkeale Area Office, giving an update on the incomplete footpath from Kildimo to the Beer Garden Public House. The report, as circulated was noted by Members.

**QUESTIONS**

**11. Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan**

**I will ask at the next Meeting, regarding Adare's good news now that the street cleaning programme has been re-established, from where and from what fund are the monies being provided from.**

**REPLY:** No additional funding has been received; partial restoration of the street cleaning in Adare will be carried out on Saturday and Sunday mornings during the peak summer months of July and August. Funding is provided through Local Roads General Maintenance.

**12. Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan**

**I will ask at the next Meeting for a progress report on the proposal to have a footpath constructed from Adare village to the GAA Pitch.**

**REPLY:** Planning permission for a housing development on the Blackabbey Road is still currently being applied for. The new development if granted will provide a section of footpath towards the GAA pitch.

We are currently procuring a consultant to examine the feasibility of the extension of the footpath to the GAA Field.

**13. Question submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue**

**I will ask at the next Meeting for an explanation for the delay in bringing Part VIII in relation to the ring-road at Croom in front of Local Area Councillors for discussion.**

**REPLY:** The Council has been in discussion with the landowner regarding obtaining consent to lodge the Part 8 application. The landowner has indicated that he is unwilling to provide consent until his design team has resolved matters relating to flood levels in the vicinity. Following a telephone conversation with the design team I understand that they are working on the report and the delay in responding is due to their workload. The design team has confirmed that they will revert to the Council immediately when the report is completed. Any issues arising will be discussed on receipt of the report and will be actively worked on. The Part 8 application will be lodged as soon as the landowner's consent is obtained.

**14. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will ask at the next Meeting how many landowners of roadside holdings have been written to asking them to cut or maintain their hedgerows.**

**REPLY:** 270 land owners have been written to advising them to cut and maintain hedging in 2016.

Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976 and 2000 states "It shall be an offence for a person to cut, grub, burn or otherwise destroy, during the period beginning on the 1st day of March and ending on the 31st day of August in any year ... any vegetation growing in any hedge or ditch".

**15. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will ask at the next Meeting, currently what is the allocated budget for street cleaning in our district and what is the estimated over or under spend within it.**

**REPLY:** The annual street cleaning budget for the Operational Division of Adare-Rathkeale is €119,600. The estimated annual cost of street cleaning is €254,000. The significant balance of €134,400 is subsidised through Local Roads General Maintenance.

**16. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will ask at the next Meeting if the Council proposes to cut hedgerows along local routes with an emphasis on rural cross roads.**

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council has a Contractor in place since the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 cutting junctions off Local & Regional Roads and around permanent road signs.

Outside of these criteria, the maintaining and cutting of hedges is the responsibility of the land owner.

**17. Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan**

**I will ask at the next Meeting for a progress report or lack of on the issues pertaining to the Askeaton Sewerage Scheme.**

**REPLY:** Thank you for your email regarding a sewerage treatment plant in Askeaton.

Your query has been forwarded to the relevant department for investigation. A member of their team will investigate as soon as possible and once we receive any updates we will contact you again straight away. The Irish Water Reference number for this issue is 11843, which you can keep for your own records.

Thank you for contacting Irish Water, a member of our team will be in contact with you again shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Hegarty,  
Local Representative Support Desk,  
Irish Water,  
W: [www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan**

**I will move at the next Meeting that the Council prepare a programme which would lead to the Councillors being involved in 2018 with every tidy town committee with a view to making a special effort to have the towns and villages in the District cleaned up.**

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor O'Brien.

**19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will move at the next Meeting that the same level of street cleaning that was allocated to Adare be extended to all towns within our Municipal District, in the interest of fairness.**

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Teskey and seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Teskey expressed disappointment that, in spite of having made representations at all levels of the Executive and contributing General Municipal Allocation (GMA) funding towards same in 2016, he had learned from a member of the public that weekend street cleaning was to be restored to Adare. He noted that the shortfall in the street cleaning budget was to be funded from the roads budget and pointed out that the Local Property Tax (LPT) had been increased for this purpose.

Members supported the Motion and, while acknowledging constraints on the available budget, called for a structured approach to street cleaning with available resources shared between the towns in the District and suggested that this issue be discussed further by the District when budget 2018 was under review.

**20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors K. Sheahan and A. Teskey**

**We will move at the next Meeting for an up to date briefing to be provided on the progress or otherwise of the plan to introduce traffic calming at Kilcornan.**

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor Teskey.

Members highlighted the ongoing traffic hazards at this location and it was proposed by Councillor Keary, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) be requested to monitor traffic movements during school opening/closing times or that the Council should install cameras for this purpose and send the recordings to TII.

**REPLY:** Operations and Maintenance (Central Services) met with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) on Tuesday, 4th July to discuss Kilcornan Traffic Calming Scheme. TII have queries on the design submitted. Central Services are currently preparing a report addressing these queries which will be submitted to TII next week.

The Director, Regional Services noted the merits of awaiting a reply from TII to the Councils report, which was currently in preparation and undertook to discuss the proposed placement of cameras with the TII.

**21. Correspondence**

Correspondence, as circulated, was noted by Members.

On the proposal of Councillor Keary, seconded by Councillor Teskey it was agreed that standing orders be suspended to allow for the completion of the Agenda.



## 22. Social Development Directorate

### Community Facilities Scheme Applications for Approval

Circulated, report of the Chief Officer, Limerick LCDC dated 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 setting out the recommendations of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) following an evaluation of the 26 applications under the Communities Facilities Grant Scheme 2017 that related to the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

Proposed by Councillor O'Brien;  
 Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;  
 And Resolved:

"That approval is hereby given to the applications as set out below under the Communities Facilities Grants Scheme 2017".

<b>Group/Organisation Name</b>	<b>Purpose of Grant</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Ballyhahill Development Association	Complete the building of a 20 ft wall along the roadside of the village, which was started 15 year ago (under a FÁS Scheme) but never finished.	€895
Rathkeale Community Childcare Ltd.	To purchase slides and outdoor play equipment for outdoor area in the crèche.	€1,000
Askeaton-Ballysteen Community Council	To convert a storage area into a wheelchair accessible toilet, with childcare facilities included. Plumbing, fixtures and fittings included.	€1,000
Croom Community Development Association	To replace the gas boiler to provide hot water for showers and kitchen taps.	€1,000
Banogue Community Hall – Centre	To upgrade the community hall / centre through purchase of blinds for the windows.	€1,000
Pallaskenry Community Council of Muintir na Tire	Convert all lighting sources to the new LED system which would lead to a considerable reduction in energy usage.	€1,000
Rathkeale Community Council	To replace the lighting system in the Community Centre with energy efficient units to reduce the overall running cost of the facility.	€1,000
Askeaton-Ballysteen Tennis Club	To replace the surrounding fence which is in a state of disrepair.	€1,000
Croom Men's Shed Group	Purchase a Polytunnel and other tools for the Community Garden and Allotments.	€1,000
Rathkeale Scout Group	To install 3 phase electrical fuse board and isolators to run the heaters in the large hall.	€1,000

### **23. Community Initiatives Scheme 2017**

Members noted the allocations that had been made under this heading in 2016. Following discussion it was agreed that Members would also give consideration to unsuccessful applicants under the Communities Facilities Scheme and a more formal process would be put in place, going forward.

At the conclusion of the Agenda and with the permission of the Cathaoirleach the following items were raised by Members.

- Councillor Keary extended congratulation to Ms. Kayleigh Maher who had been selected to represent Limerick in the Rose of Tralee and to Ms. Nicola Dore, on her success in para-powerlifting. Councillor Keary noted Ms. Dore's hopes to be the first female para-powerlifter to make it to the Paralympics in Tokyo in 2020 and proposed, seconded by Councillor O'Brien that the Council provide her with any possible financial support in her bid.
- Councillor Teskey noted proposals by Bank of Ireland Rathkeale to reduce services in Rathkeale and proposed, seconded by Councillor Keary that the District write to Bank of Ireland, Rathkeale requesting details of opening times and services that would be provided, going forward.
- On the proposal of Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Keary it was agreed that the District write to Irish Water requesting them to test the quality of the water at Inniscouch, Rathkeale. Councillor Keary requested that the issue of sediment accumulating in the water pipes at Ballyhahill and the need for a scour valve to be installed to resolve same, be brought to the attention of Irish Water.
- Councillor O'Brien raised the issue of footpaths in Pallaskenry and the Director, Regional Services noted that proposals for the expenditure of planning contributions was to go before the July Meeting of the full Council.
- Councillor Sheahan noted the presence of a scum of sewage on the Deel at Askeaton on the previous Friday and that a manhole outside a public house had been oozing sewage, resulting in the closure of the public house. It was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue that this issue and its associated health hazards be brought to the attention of Irish Water.
- Councillor O'Donoghue noted the reply that had been given to item 13 on the Agenda and requested an updated report for the next Meeting and that the design team mentioned attend.

This concluded the Meeting.

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

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