

**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, 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2017 AT 9.00 A.M.**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Keary, McMahon, O'Brien and Teskey.

**APOLIGIES:**

Apology for his inability to attend had been received from Councillor Sheahan.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Regional Services (Ms. C. Curley), Senior Architect (Ms. R. Webb), A/Senior Executive Planner, Economic Development (Ms. K. Burke), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division (Mr. T. Kelly), Administrative Officer, Planning and Environmental Services (Ms. M. O'Donovan), Housing Welfare Officer, Community Support Services (Ms. P. Phillips), Meetings Administrator (Mr. T. O'Callaghan), Administrative Officer (Ms. K. Butler), Assistant Staff Officer (Ms. E. Buckley).

It was agreed at the outset, on the proposal of Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor O'Brien that item 4 on the Agenda should be taken first.

**4. Christmas in Rathkeale**

The Director, Regional Services briefed the Members on the establishment and membership of an in-house working group to consider and recommend solutions to the issues raised by the Facilitator's Report that were within the remit of the Council and highlighted a range of actions that had been agreed under the following headings:-

- The increased focus of resources on Rathkeale during the Christmas period.
- The initiation of legal proceeding for any offences during the Christmas period.
- The review of current Parking Bye-Laws.
- The review of the extent of illegally parked caravans, waste generated and litter issues.
- The use of tagged bags in specific parts of Rathkeale.
- The review of national planning legislation with regard to contact information for planning applications. It was noted that the Council would contact the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in this regard and suggested that the District Members pass a related resolution.
- The introduction of CCTV cameras.

- The introduction of traffic calming measures at an estimated cost of €178,000 plus VAT.
- The consideration of a one way system along main street (R523) to be put on hold pending the installation and review of the effectiveness of traffic calming measures.

Members thanked the Director, Regional Services for her update and in response to queries raised by Members, the Director noted that the Gardaí would be in contact with the Courts Service with regard to the provision of special sittings of the District Court over Christmas and that she would be in a position to meet representatives of the Community Council to discuss proposals she had outlined.

The A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division noted that, in relation to traffic calming measures and to enable the Council comply with the statutory process, a related Part VIII was advertised on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. He pointed out that the latest date for submissions in relation to the Part VIII would be 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017 and that a Special Meeting of the District may be required to expedite the process.

The A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division circulated and reviewed seven draft discussion drawings numbered L/RK/17/RM/(0001 to 0007) detailing the proposed traffic calming measures for Rathkeale Town. Also circulated was map showing a revised traffic layout for Rathkeale incorporating a one-way system on Main Street.

Members discussed the proposed traffic calming measures and the following points were made in relation to same:

- The proposed traffic calming measures would need garda support as many of the vehicles being driven in Rathkeale would not be slowed by speed ramps.
- New Line Road was extensively used by goods vehicles and the width of this road should not be compromised.
- The location of ramps proposed at TT5 and TT6 was a congested area and this should be taken into consideration in planning any ramps at these locations.
- A long stretch of Well Lane, over which many vehicles speed, had no proposed calming measures. A similar situation arose in relation to Thomas Street and leading to Mick Neville Park.
- Consideration should be given to including additional traffic calming measures in the Part VIII, pending the availability of additional funding.
- A pedestrian crossing should be considered for Thomas Street.
- The issue of the safety of children on Church Street should be taken into consideration.
- In relation to any one way traffic system on Main Street, consideration should be given to any fire or emergency response and also the effect on businesses.

The A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division acknowledged the issues raised by Members, he clarified that any table top ramps would be full road width and noted that rumble strips gave rise to noise considerations.

The Director, Regional Services noted that the Council would be seeking a Garda commitment in relation to the enforcement of traffic laws and that consideration was being given to the recruitment of additional traffic warden resources. She also noted that contacts had been made with the Department of Social Protection, the Health Service Executive, Túsla and An Garda Síochána towards a Multi Agency approach.

## **1. Adoption of Minutes**

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor O'Brien;  
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 Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.

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

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

- (c) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2017.

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

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

- (d) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting ‘in committee’ of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.

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

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

The Director, Regional Services informed Members that she would revert to them in relation to the sewer in Adare and that a Special Meeting may be necessary in this regard.

The issue of residents living opposite the GAA pitch in Kildimo not being afforded connections to an Irish Water main being laid at this location was raised and the Director, Regional Services undertook to raise the issue with Irish Water.

Members noted the impending departure of Mr. Thomas Kelly, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division and thanked him for his work in the District and wished him well for the future.

Members congratulated the Members of the Limerick Under 21 hurling team on their All Ireland Victory and commended the work of all those involved with the team.

Members noted that the proposal to hold the County Ladies Junior Football Championship final at 9.00 am in Knockainey displayed a lack of respect for Ladies Gaelic Games and on the proposal of Councillor McMahon seconded by Councillor O’Brien, it was agreed that the District should write to the County Board of Ladies Gaelic Football to express its dissatisfaction at this proposal.

## **2. Economic Development Directorate**

### **(a) Deferral of Notices to make a new Local Area Plan for Rathkeale and Extend the Existing Plan**

Circulated, Report of the Director of Service, Economic Development dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2017 enclosing a copy of the Chief Executive’s Report dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2017 submitted to the Elected Members of the District in accordance with Sections 19(1)(d) and 19(1)(e) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to the deferral of making a new Rathkeale Local Area Plan and setting out the Chief Executive’s views in relation to same.

The A/Senior Executive Planner, Economic Development noted the decrease in population recorded for Rathkeale since the last census and the extent of undeveloped zoned land. She clarified that the Office of Public Works (OPW’s) flood risk assessments were expected to be finalised by late 2017 or early 2018 and that the Local Area Plan could be amended in the future, should specific requirements arise.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;  
Seconded by Councillor O’Brien;  
And Resolved:

"That, having considered the Chief Executive's Report dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2017, the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale resolves to defer the sending of a notice under Section 20(3)(a)(i) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and defer the publishing of a notice under Section 20(3)(a)(ii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and to extend the life of the Rathkeale Local Area Plan by a further 5 years from 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in accordance with the provisions of Section 19 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

**(b) Limerick Heritage Plan 2017-2030**

Circulated, Limerick Heritage Plan 2017-2030.

The A/Senior Executive Planner, Economic Development gave an overview of the Limerick Heritage Plan and noted the benefit of having the plan in place to support the drawdown of any related funding that might become available.

Members welcomed the plan and the following points were made by Members in relation to this item.

- The need to support the activity of reed cutting on the Shannon Estuary which employed in excess of forty people. The A/Senior Executive Planner, Economic Development undertook to engage with the Heritage Council and the reed cutters in this regard.
- An Audit of all listed and protected structures should be carried out to assess their viability as it should be acknowledged that some of these building would never be restored as sufficient financial aid was not available.
- The Old Abbey in Adare should be re-roofed and brought into community use.
- Curraghchase House had significant potential and should be restored.
- Many old churches and graveyards in the District were in a state of disrepair with insufficient funding allocated to their upkeep.
- Many protected buildings had commercial potential but the extent of administration associated with their development was preventing the realisation of this potential.

The A/Senior Executive Planner, Economic Development noted the limited amount of funding available from the Heritage Council and undertook to take the issues raised by Members into consideration when reviewing the Development Plan.

**(c) Town Engage Adare**

The Senior Architect circulated details of the Town Engage Project, an initiative of the Council's Public Interest Development Office, and how this would be applied in Adare with a view to encouraging the public to articulate their views on the public realm and in particular in relation to a proposed ramp at the entrance to the village.

Members noted the many positives associated with Adare but stressed the extent of traffic flowing through the village and the traffic delays created by uncontrolled street crossing by pedestrians. Members also noted the availability of statistics with regard to traffic movements, the potential to build a further car park adjacent to the town park and the need to learn from other towns that had been bypassed.

The Senior Architect noted the importance of working with people who live in Adare to develop solutions to the issues raised and outlined details of the interdisciplinary approach that would be adopted by the Council under this initiative.

### **3. Social Development Directorate**

#### **Community Initiative Scheme Allocations 2017**

On the proposal of Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Teskey the following allocations under the Community Initiative Scheme 2017 were agreed.

Askeaton Civic Trust	€5,000
Foynes Aviation Museum	€4,000
Adare Heritage Trust	€3,000
Knockfierna Heritage Society	€1,000
Pallatine Association	€2,000
Crisis Response Team	€1,000
Limerick Community Games	€1,000
Kildimo Community Council	€1,000
Croom Family Resource Centre	€1,000
Ballyneety Tidy Towns	€1,000

### **4. Christmas in Rathkeale**

It was noted that item 4 had already been dealt with.

### **5. General Municipal Allocation (GMA) 2017**

On the proposal of Councillor McMahon, seconded by Councillor Teskey the following allocations under the GMA 2017 for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale were agreed.

Shanagolden Community Council	€1,500
Granagh United F.C.	€2,700
Rathkeale Community Arts Group	€1,000
Meanus Community Hall	€2,000

## **6. 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 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 setting out the position in relation to the taking in charge of the estate at An Curran, Pallaskenry.

Members noted that further issues had been raised by the Council with the developer giving rise to ongoing frustration on behalf of the residents and the developer and requested that the Council meet with the Developer in this regard. The A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division noted that Planning and Environmental Services had a new executive engineer working in this area and undertook to establish the list of outstanding issues in this case.

## **7. Flooding Issues**

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division dated 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 setting out the position in relation to flooding issues at Foynes, Askeaton and Ballysteen.

In relation to Foynes, it was noted that a working flood protection system was now in place and the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division undertook to establish when the contract would be formally closed off.

With regard to Ballysteen, Members noted that the landowner at this location may have carried out works to the flood defences and the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division undertook to confirm same.

## **8. Footpath from Kildimo to the Beer Garden Public House**

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division dated 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 setting out the position in relation to proposals to complete the footpath from Kildimo to the Beer Garden Public House. The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

## **9. Request to Receive Deputation from Foynes & District Community Council**

It was agreed that a Deputation from Foynes and District Community Council should attend at a future Meeting of the District.

**10. Request to Receive Deputation from Adare Recreation and Community Complex T/A Manor Fields Adare**

It was agreed that a Deputation from Adare Recreation and Community Complex T/A Manor Fields Adare should attend at a future Meeting of the District.

**QUESTION**

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

**I will ask at the next Meeting what extra measures will be in place by this local authority for the Christmas period in Rathkeale in 2017.**

**REPLY:** This item has been included for update and discussion on the Agenda for the September Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

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

**I will move at the next Meeting for a deputation from Ballysteen Tidy Towns Group to be received at our October District Meeting.**

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Teskey and seconded by Councillor O'Brien. Members noted that three requests for deputations had been accepted and agreed that Ballysteen Tidy Towns Group and one other should attend at the October Meeting of the District with the remaining deputation to attend the November Meeting.

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

**We will move at the next Meeting that this District call for additional garda resources to address the recent surge of crime in Askeaton.**

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Teskey and seconded by Councillor McMahon. In proposing the Motion Councillor Teskey highlighted the recent damage to religious property in Askeaton and it was agreed that the Motion should be sent to the Minister for Justice.

**14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Keary**

**I will move at the next Meeting that a set of manually operated traffic lights be installed on the pedestrian crossing at Main Street, Adare in the interest of better vehicular movement.**

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Keary highlighted the lack of control over pedestrians crossing the street at Adare, the traffic delays this caused and the need to erect bollards to control where pedestrians cross the road. He highlighted the need to carry out a study to establish the effect pedestrians were having on traffic flow through Adare.

Members supported the Motion and stressed the need for a solution to be found to this issue.

**REPLY:** The installation of a set of manually operated traffic lights on the pedestrian crossing at Main Street, Adare was considered in the past. After investigation, it was found that such a measure would actually reduce the traffic flow-rate through the town.

The Council will contact Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and request them to consider this request again should the District Members so wish.

The A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division acknowledged the issues raised by Members and the need to re-measure footfall and traffic at this location. He noted that, as this location was on a national road, this was a matter for TII and undertook to contact TII in this regard.

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Brien**

**I will move at the next Meeting that this District supports the introduction of the Life Saving Equipment Bill 2017.**

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Brien highlighted the importance of life saving equipment and welcomed the penalties proposed under the Bill for those convicted of damaging such equipment. Members supported the Motion and discussed the merits of including the importance of life saving equipment in the school curriculum. It was agreed that the Motion should go forward to the full Council in the name of the District with Councillor O'Brien as proposer.

**16. Correspondence**

Correspondence, as circulated, was noted by Members.

At the conclusion of the Meeting the following issues were raised with the consent of the Cathaoirleach:

It was agreed that Irish Water should be written to with regard to ongoing sewage odours in Askeaton.

It was agreed that the November Meeting of the District would be held on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

This concluded the Meeting.

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

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