

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER, 2017, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SPECIAL MEETING ON THE HOUSING ACTION PLAN.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor S. Keary, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Browne, Butler, Collins (J), Collins (M), Costelloe, Crowley, Donegan, Foley, Galvin, Gilligan, Gleeson, Hogan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, Lynch, McCreech, McMahan, Mitchell, O'Brien, Cmhr. Ó Ceallaigh, O'Dea, O'Donnell, O'Donoghue, O'Hanlon, Pond, Prendiville, Ryan, Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Sheehy, Teefy, Teskey.

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Daly.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Mr. C. Murray), Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Economic Development (Mr. P. Daly), A/Director, Support Services – Finance, Corporate, Human Resources and ICT (Mr. S. Coughlan), Director, Regional Services (Ms. C. Curley), A/Director, Social Development (Ms. C. Kirby), Director, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), A/Director, Service Operations and Business Improvement (Mr. J. Delaney), Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. T. Fitzgerald), A/Senior Engineer, Operations and Maintenance Services (Mr. G. O'Connor), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O'Connor).

The Mayor stated that the Special Meeting had been convened to discuss the issue as set out in Requisition received on 30th August, 2017, and signed by a number of Members as follows:

“I, Councillor Galvin, wish to call a Special Meeting of the Council to discuss Ward’s Cross and other junctions on the N21.”

Signed: Councillors L. Galvin, J. Sheahan, M. Collins, S. Browne, G. Mitchell, J. Scanlan, S. Keary, F. Foley.

Councillor Galvin, at the outset, asked why representatives from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) were not in attendance at the Meeting. He stated that there were 7 junctions between Newcastle West and the Kerry border that had stacking lanes which allowed cars to cross safely. He added that there were 17 junctions, including Ward's Cross just outside Abbeyfeale, which were without these stacking lanes. He confirmed that he had received correspondence from Deputy Neville that morning which had attached letter received from TII. He read the following paragraph into the record of the Meeting from the letter that had been received from TII:

“Ward's Cross Junction on the N21 was not identified in the 2014-2016 analysis, nor does there appear to be any history of rear-end collisions at this location. In this regard, it should be noted that the sight distance issue at the junction was addressed a number of years ago.”

Councillor Galvin asked for a programme of works to be drawn up which would include a plan to install stacking lanes at 17 junctions concerned, with Ward's Cross as a priority location.

A number of Members spoke in support of Councillor Galvin and reiterated the necessity to install stacking lanes. Some of the Members also made reference to other junctions on the N21 which needed to be looked at.

In response, the Director, Physical Development, informed the Members that the Council had invited representatives from TII to the Meeting. He added that it was not their policy to attend Council Meetings and that instead they relied on officials of the Council to act as a conduit in referring matters to them as appropriate. He went on to state that Transport Infrastructure Ireland TII monitored safety on the roads network in order to reduce risk and that it was also a priority for the Council, as a Roads Authority. He made reference to a number of minor improvement schemes that had been undertaken by the Council in response to local requests.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to write to TII to ascertain what information they had in relation to Ward's Cross to include statistics on accidents.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Browne, it was agreed to write to An Garda Síochána in order to ascertain what reports they had submitted to TII in relation to Ward's Cross.

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The Director, Physical Development, addressed the Meeting again and stressed that the Council had a very good relationship with TII and that they were responsive to requests submitted to them by the Council. He confirmed that the Council would prepare a report on the 17 junctions referred to earlier in the Meeting by Councillor Galvin and would include in this report technical information, safety data, costings, etc. in relation to including stacking lanes. An update would be given to the relevant Municipal District Meeting in December. Following completion and approval by the Council, this report would be submitted to TII for consideration. The Chief Executive indicated that he was in agreement with this approach to the issue.

The A/Senior Engineer, Operations and Maintenance Services, confirmed that all issues raised by the Members had been discussed with TII. He added that the TII representative had agreed to check the accident history at Ward's Cross.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Mayor

Dated:
