

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING 'IN COMMITTEE' OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ROOM 1, FLOOR 2, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK ON MONDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 2017 AT 1.00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Keary, McMahon and Teskey.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for their inability to attend had been received from Councillors O'Brien and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Regional Services (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), Senior Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office (Mr. T. Fitzgerald), Senior Executive Engineer (Mr. D. Leahy), Land Liaison Officer, (Mr. J. Murphy), Assistant Land Liaison Officer, (Mr. K. O'Riordan), Meetings Administrator (Mr. T. O'Callaghan), Assistant Staff Officer (Ms. E. Buckley).

1. Regional Services Directorate – Mid West Road Design Office

Junction on the Adare Bypass

Circulated A3 map showing the current proposed junction layout for exit to Adare from proposed new Limerick Foynes Road as published in June, 2017.

Members noted the concerns of the Fitzgerald family, owners of the Woodlands Hotel, at the proposed layout of the junction at Adare and noted that the Fitzgeralds had engaged engineering consultants Punch and Partners to draw up alternative junction layouts and also engaged Financial Consultants Grant Thornton to assess the economic impact of the options and submitted same to the Mid West Road Design Team.

Members strongly voiced their support for the proposals brought forward by the Fitzgeralds and made the following points in relation to same;

- The Woodlands Hotel employed in excess of 220 people and was held in high regard locally.
- The Woodlands Hotel purchased in excess of €1m worth of goods annually from the Adare locality.

- The Lantern Lodge, which had been renovated to a high standard, was regarded as the historic gateway to Adare and locals would take issue if it did not remain as such.
- It was estimated that up to 60 jobs in the Woodlands Hotel will be lost if the current design proposal proceeded.
- The Fitzgeralds had consulted with other hotel owners in the area in relation to their alternative proposals and these had indicated their support for the Fitzgerald proposals.
- The Members requested that serious consideration be given to the economic impact of the current proposal on the Woodlands Hotel and that the financial impact analysis prepared by Grant Thornton, submitted by the Fitzgeralds, should only be evaluated by those qualified to do so.
- Under current proposals traffic exiting the bypass would have to negotiate either three or four roundabouts to access the Woodlands Hotel and this was excessive.

Members noted the support of local Councillors and TD's for the Fitzgerald proposals, to be examined and considered by the design team, and a number of Members undertook to actively campaign in this regard.

Staff from the Mid West Road Design Team acknowledged the issues raised by Members and made the following points in relation to same;

- Several meetings had already taken place between the Mid West Road Design Team and the Fitzgeralds, along with their consultants, to discuss their proposals and same would be taken into consideration, along with all other submissions along the length of the scheme.
- A significant amount of consideration had gone into the layout of the proposed junction with a number of alternatives considered.
- Under the Fitzgerald proposal, all traffic entering and exiting Adare at the proposed junction would be obliged to travel an additional 1 km each way and the time, cost and benefits of same, along with additional carbon emissions would have to be taken into consideration.
- The roundabout at the Lantern Lodge would have to be replaced and enlarged as part of the proposals put forward by the Fitzgeralds.
- Traffic wishing to go to the Woodlands Hotel would be required to pass through 2 or 3 roundabouts under the Fitzgerald proposals as opposed to passing through 3 or 4 roundabouts under the current proposed layout.
- The impacts of all submissions would be taken into consideration and the Design Team would have to stand over the design proposals with An Bord Pleanala.

The Director, Physical Development noted the strategic importance of the bypass to improving the economic position of Adare and County Limerick generally and the need to have regard to the interests of all of Adare.

It was noted that a further design update for the full scheme would be available early in 2018 and Members requested that the issues they had raised at this meeting be regarded as a submission on the design.

The Director, Regional Services confirmed that this would be the case.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____