

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2017, AT 10AM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor M. Collins, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Browne, Foley, Scanlan, Sheahan and Galvin.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Service Operations (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. B. Noonan), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Valley), A/Senior Engineer, Operations and Maintenance Services, (Gerard O'Connor), Senior Executive Engineer, Operations and Maintenance Services (Trevor McKechnie), Executive Engineer, Operations and Maintenance Services (John O'Keeffe), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

Proposed by: Councillor Foley

Seconded by: Councillor Scanlan

And Resolved:

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

The Cathaoirleach and Members extended their condolences to B. Kennedy, Senior Executive Officer, on his recent bereavement.

## 2. Economic Development Directorate

### Update on Policing in the District

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Superintendent O'Neill and Inspector Cullen to the meeting. The Superintendent thanked the Members for their invitation and noted that he had been appointed to the district on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2017. He outlined the work of his predecessor Superintendent O'Connor and stated that would build upon the policing model which had been put in place. He stated that he had met with Residents Associations and Councillors since his arrival and noted that antisocial behaviour within the towns of Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale was of major concern. He outlined the community policing model he wished to progress to combat this issue. The Members raised items such as illegal parking in disabled bays and on footpaths, locations of Go Safe Van, community policing and a new Garda Station for Newcastle West. Discussion also took place on issues that arose at Halloween and the possibility of having a planned Halloween family friendly event in 2018.

## 3. Deputation

The Cathaoirleach welcomed representatives from Abbeyfeale Community Council. The Deputation consisted of Messrs. Maurice O'Connell, Chairperson, James Harnett and Vincent Joint Treasurers, Olive Sheahan, Committee Member.

Mr. O'Connell addressed the meeting and welcomed the opportunity to outline to the Members the works which had taken place to date within Abbeyfeale since the Community Council was founded in May 2016. He gave a presentation on works completed to date such as:

- New footpaths and street lighting
- New welcome signage on main routes
- New heritage plaques erected & Heritage Day 2017 was a great success
- New tourist information board and map
- Health & Safety Works at Abbeyfeale Town Park
- Defibrillators purchased for community
- Smart CCTV System included in County Wide Plan – to be implemented shortly
- Multiple Awards at Going for Gold competition
- Christmas lights and new Christmas tree.

He also outlined some of the challenges which face Abbeyfeale and noted the contents of both the Teagasc & Pobal reports which highlighted the disadvantages within the town and its environs.

In order to address some of these challenges, Abbeyfeale Community Council sourced funding and completed a Technical and Feasibility Study on the possibility of converting the old convent into a Technology Hub to improve employment prospects within the area. It is possible to convert this building but some financial support would be required.

The Members acknowledged the work of Abbeyfeale Community Council and the challenges facing the group.

The Director of Services stated that a new Urban and Village Renewal Department had been established within Limerick City & County Council to assist community groups to progress projects.

#### 4. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Newcastle West Scouts.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to public lighting at Cloverfield Glin.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Tournafulla Development Association for works at Tournafulla Community Centre.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 for footpath upgrade works in Tournafulla.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €2,500 to Abbeyfeale Rugby Club for boundary upgrade works.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 for footpath upgrade works at Daar River View.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €500 towards drainage works in Athea.

#### 5. Service Operations Directorate

##### Draft Speed Limit Bye-Laws for National and Non-National Roads

Circulated, Report of the A/Senior Engineer, Operations and Maintenance Services, dated 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2017 setting out the background to the Speed Limit Review and the preparation of related Draft Bye-Laws for National and Non-National Roads.

The A/Senior Engineer noted the process for the review and advised that submissions were received proposing changes and that these were assessed in line the guidelines set out in the "Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland" (March 2015). It was also noted that Workshops had been held with the Members in each Municipal District and issues raised were reviewed either by the Council Executive or Transport Infrastructure Ireland, as appropriate. The Members approval was now being sought to proceed with the publication of Draft Bye Laws for public consultation, in accordance with the guidelines.

Also Circulated:

- Limerick City and County Council, County Limerick Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye Laws 2018 for Regional and Local Roads (Draft);
- TII National Road Speed Limit Review 2015-2017 – County Limerick (29<sup>th</sup> September, 2017);
- RPS National Road Speed Limit Review 2015-2017, Limerick National Road Draft Bye Laws (Document Control Sheet);
- Speed Limit Review Submissions received for the Municipal District of Newcastle West for Non National Roads.

The Executive Engineer, Mr. J. O’Keeffe, gave a presentation outlining the proposed amendments on National Roads. The Members noted the details and queried the proposed Distributor Road for Newcastle West and its docking points. The proposed speed limit on the N21 Limerick road approach to Newcastle West also gave rise to concerns as the proposal to move the 60km in towards the town would result in zoned land being outside of this speed limit. Discussion also took place on the proposal for the moving of the 60km zone on the N21 at the Killarney Road Abbeyfeale and the proposed amendments to the N69 at Glin. It was also noted that it was proposed to extend the 30km speed limit to the remaining housing estates within the Municipal District which had not been included in the recent pilot project.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;  
 Seconded by Councillor Collins;  
 And Resolved:

“That , the approval of the District be and is hereby given to Draft Speed Limit Bye Laws for National and Non National Roads to proceed to public consultation stage”.

## 6. Regional Support Services

To receive update on the N21 junctions following Special Meeting of Full Council, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Operations and Maintenance, gave an update on the N21 Junctions following the Special Meeting of Full Council on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. He stated that preliminary studies along with investigation into accident histories took place on 15 junctions along the N21. Following these studies, it was noted that 5 of the junctions, namely, the R576, L7091, L7056, L7055 and L7058 warrant further investigation.

The Members welcomed the update and discussion took place on accident figures for the junctions. Discussion also took place on the inclusion of the N21 junction with the L7093 and it was agreed that a traffic count would be carried out for this road. It was also noted that an update on this item would be provided at the February 2018 Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

7. Support Services Directorate – Corporate Services

To consider the establishment of a JPC Sub Committee for the Municipal District of Newcastle West in accordance with the JPC Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021.

The Meetings Administrator noted the proposal to establish District JPC Sub Committees as set out in the JPC Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021. It was now proposed that the Municipal District of Newcastle West should set up such a subcommittee that would meet quarterly with the local Garda Superintendent.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor Foley that a JPC Sub Committee should be established for Municipal District of Newcastle West. Meetings should be held at 9.00 a.m. on the day of a Monthly District Meeting with the Monthly District Meeting to commence at the conclusion of the JPC Sub Committee Meeting.

8. Review of Newcastle West Pool Feasibility Study

To consider report on Pool Feasibility Impact Study

The Director of Services summarised the findings of the recent Pool Feasibility Impact Study and that it had concluded that there would be an impact on existing public and private facilities and that the impact would be significant. He advised that he had met with the local committee who wished to progress the development of a public pool within Newcastle West and he acknowledged that they did not agree with all of the findings of the BDO report. However he was of the view that the concerns raised did not materially alter the conclusion that a new pool would have a significant impact on existing facilities. Having considered the BDO report and conscious of local authority requirements for the appraisal of capital projects, the Director stated that the advice of management to elected members on this matter is therefore not to proceed with a local authority funded pool at this time.

Some of the members expressed their disappointment with the outcome of the recent report and discussion took place on the need for a public pool for Newcastle West. The possibility of holding a further meeting on the matter with local TDs was also raised.

9. Operations and Maintenance Services

(a) Provision of new Graveyard in Abbeyfeale

To receive update on the provision of new graveyard in Abbeyfeale

The Senior Executive Engineer, stated that a further trial hole tests had been carried out at the Clash Road site along with trial hole testing at three other sites. The GPR survey on St.

Mary's Graveyard and the Church of Ireland Graveyard was carried out and results will be available shortly. The Members requested they be informed of the results when available.

(b) Taking in charge of Estates

To receive update on taking in charge of estates in the Municipal District

The Senior Executive Engineer, gave a brief update on the taking in charge of estates within Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale.

QUESTIONS

10. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

***I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the installation of a street light at Maple Grove, Templeglantine (from the N21 to the entrance to the estate).***

**REPLY:**

There are 3 lights required with 100m of ducting through macadam/footpath at this location and installation costs would be approximately €15,000.

The Public Lighting Department will look at installing lights along this section of road subject to funding becoming available.

11. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

***I will ask at the next meeting for an update on the following:***

- (a) the bridge at Coole, Athea,**
- (b) the repair to the boundary fence at the sewerage plant in Tournafulla (Sean Scanlons land).**

**REPLY:**

- (a)** Minor repair works have recently been completed on this bridge. The widening of the bridge could be considered for inclusion in the Bridge Rehabilitation Programme 2018.
- (b)** Irish Water has approved new fencing for Tournafulla Waste Water Treatment Plant No. 1 (West). Limerick City & County Council Water Services staff are liaising with Irish Water Site Security team in order to complete the procurement process on this project. The elected Members will be updated when contractor has been appointed.

12. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

***I will ask at the next Meeting that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) be contacted regarding water flowing in off the road to the school play ground in Templeglantine since the road layout was completed.***

**REPLY:**

A site inspection was carried out at this location and it appears that water was flowing from private lands onto the roadway and then into the school playground. Drainage works have been carried out at this location to prevent this from re occurring. The location will also be monitored to ensure that these works have resolved this matter.

NOTICES OF MOTION

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

***I will move at the next Meeting that the public footpath be extended from the town side of Cois Teampeall towards the Churchtown junction of the R522 in the interest of public safety.***

In proposing the motion, Councillor Scanlan stated that a footpath was required from the housing estate towards the Churchtown junction in interest of public safety. Councillor Collins stated that he had raised this matter previously. The Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District stated that he would arrange a meeting with the relevant landowners to discuss the provision of a new footpath in this area.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

***I will move at the next Meeting that Standing Orders be complied with in advance of and for the duration of outside delegations presenting at the Municipal District Meetings.***

In proposing the motion, Councillor Scanlan stated that Standing Orders should be adhered to with regard to delegations attending Municipal District Meetings.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

The Members also queried if there was any update from Corporate Services with regard to the conflict of interest item which was raised at a previous meeting. The Director advised that he would follow up this matter with Corporate Services.

## **REPLY:**

The following is an extract from the Limerick City and County Council Standing Orders for the Municipal District of Newcastle West with regard to Deputations:

101. A request to receive a Deputation at a meeting of the Municipal District shall be made in writing to the Meetings Administrator and shall include :
    - (a) the name of the group or organisation and its role or purpose
    - (b) the name, address and telephone number of a contact person
    - (c) the issue or topic on which the deputation wishes to address the District.
  102. A request to receive a Deputation shall be considered by the Municipal District Members at their next Ordinary Meeting provided that such requests have been received in time to appear on the summons for the said Ordinary Meeting.
  103. If the Members of the Municipal District agree to receive a Deputation it shall be received at the next following Meeting of the Municipal District unless the purpose of the Deputation concerns an issue/issues of county-wide or broader implications.
  104. No more than one Member of the Deputation may address the Members except in reply to questions from Members.
  105. No Deputation shall exceed five persons in number and the maximum duration of the address (inclusive of the reading of any supporting documentation) shall be fifteen minutes.
  106. When the Members of a Deputation have addressed the Meeting, they shall withdraw from the Meeting. No discussion shall take place until the Members of the Deputation have withdrawn from the Meeting
15. Notices of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

***I will move at the next Meeting that a staff member from the Planning and Environmental Services Department attend the January meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West to discuss fly tipping in the area.***

Councillor Galvin in proposing the Motion stated that large scale illegal dumping is occurring within the District and he requested a staff member from the Planning and Environmental Services to attend the January meeting to discuss same.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

***I will move at the next Meeting that a full detailed report on the provision of a graveyard in Tournafulla as 2 separate lands are now available for purchase and space is limited in the existing ground.***

In proposing the Motion Councillor Galvin stated a voluntary group are willing to develop a community graveyard in this area. Councillor Browne stated that he had raised this matter



previously. The Director of Services advised that he would discuss this matter with the Planning and Environmental Services Department.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Browne.

**REPLY:**

The existing burial ground in Tournafulla has according to our previous caretaker 40 unpurchased burial plots left which is ample capacity at present demands to cater for the next five or more years. In 2013 lands were tested adjacent to the existing burial ground to assess its suitability as a proposed new burial ground. The site suitability assessment failed due to extreme groundwater vulnerability and shallow bedrock. The two parcels of ground available at present are both adjacent to the previous lands tested. In conclusion and considering the above Limerick City & County Council have no plans at present to pursue the provision of a new graveyard in Tournafulla.

The Director of Services referred to the free Christmas parking initiative in Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale. Following discussion it was agreed that two hours free parking in Newcastle West would be available any time between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. from the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 to the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017.

The Cathaoirleach wished the Members, Management and Staff a Happy Christmas and acknowledged their assistance and help during 2017.

It was agreed to hold the January Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2018, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

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**Cathaoirleach**

Dated:

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