



30/1/18

**To: The Cathaoirleach and Each Member of the Municipal District of Newcastle West**

**Proposed New Burial Ground in Abbeyfeale**

**A Chomhairleoir, a chara,**

We will be returning to site on Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2018 to conduct a further site suitability assessment in a parcel of the Leahy lands located to the rear of the secondary school adjacent to the playing fields.

The site suitability reports from Richard Langford Hydro-geologist for the three sites tested before Christmas 2017 along with the HSE reports on same including there assessment of Mr John W Collins land on the Clash Road adjacent to Fitall have come back please see a brief outline of the findings below.

- Leahy Lands
  - Site Assessor
    - Given the depth to water table in all boreholes beneath the site, lands are unlikely to be suitable for use as a cemetery.
  - HSE
    - The lands located to the rear of Convent Road are unsuitable.
    - The lands located to the rear of the secondary school sports adjacent to the river are also unsuitable.
    - Following site inspection with Andrew Curtin on the 15/12/17 it was suggested to LCCC that a trial hole further up the field towards the entrance be excavated as it is an more elevated and would give an more accurate indication of water table level.
- Moloney's Lands
  - Site Assessor
    - Given the flood risk associated with Moloney's field, the depth to water in the trial holes, and the high permeability of the underling subsoil, this site is unsuitable to develop as a cemetery.
  - HSE
    - Unsuitable due to high watertable & proximity to river.

- Murphy's Lands
  - Site Assessor
    - Given the depth to water and the low permeability of the subsoil in the trial holes beneath the site, Murphy's site is unsuitable to develop as a cemetery.
  - HSE
    - Unsuitable due to high water table & poorly draining subsoils.
- Collins Lands
  - HSE

The site assessment report submit by Collins Environmental indicates that this is the most favourable site in terms of suitable subsoil's, percolation and clearance to the water table. The site assessment was completed on the most elevated sections of the Clash road site. Following an onsite visit on the 2/11/17 with Andrew Curtin PEHO, it was requested that Limerick County Council re-excavate the trial holes in order that the winter water table level onsite could be determined. One trial hole was excavated onsite on the top of the hill as you enter the field; this was excavated on the 11/12/17. There was >2.6/2.7 metres clearance to the water table on the three days that the site was visited by this Department.

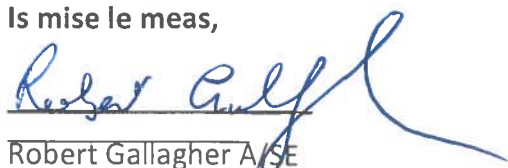
Taking into account the submitted Collins Environmental site suitability assessment report and the Trial Hole inspections by this Department it is determined that this site is suitable for use as a burial ground on Public Health grounds.

It should be noted though that should this location be selected and agreed as the location of the new burial ground by Limerick City and County Council then proper surface water drainage shall be installed onsite to maintain the water table level at >2.6/2.7metres below ground level at all times. The site should also be surveyed/marked in order that the burial plots commence on the most elevated section of the field were the site assessments were completed.

We have also conducted a preliminary site survey in both St Mary's and the Church of Ireland burial grounds in Abbeyfeale based on the GPR survey conducted by Scantech last year, it has been determined that there is a potential of providing additional burial plots in both burial grounds.

- 32 number plots in St Mary's burial ground.
- 60 number plots in the Church of Ireland burial ground.

Is mise le meas,



Robert Gallagher A/SE