

# **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2018, AT 10AM.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor J. Sheahan, Cathaoirleach.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Browne, Foley, Scanlan, Collins and Galvin.

## **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Service Operations (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. B. Noonan), Senior Executive Officer, Physical Development (Mr. G. Dillon), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

### **1. Adoption of Minutes**

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

Proposed by: Councillor Foley  
Seconded by: Councillor Collins  
And Resolved:

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

Proposed by: Councillor Foley  
Seconded by: Councillor Collins  
And Resolved:

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

### **2. Physical Development Directorate**

#### **To receive update on Invasive Species**

The Executive Engineer, Roads, gave a presentation to Members on Japanese Knotweed in County Limerick in the absence of the Senior Executive Engineer, Physical Development, who sent her apologies for her inability to attend the Meeting.

The Executive Engineer informed the Members that there are three different types of knotweed, Japanese knotweed, Giant knotweed and Himalayan knotweed. He also referred to the Invasive Species app and noted that over 400 reports of invasive species have been reported. He also outlined the TII Framework for eradication of Japanese knotweed on National Roads and the pilot project for Newcastle West with regard to the treatment of knotweed on road verges within the District. It was stated that September is the most effective time to commence treatment of Japanese Knotweed and that it took 3 years of treatment to eradicate it.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked the Executive Engineer for the presentation and noted that additional funding was required for the eradication programme.

### **3. Physical Development Directorate**

#### **To consider and approve the publication of the Draft City and County of Limerick (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws, 2018**

Circulated, report of Director of Service, Physical Development Directorate, dated 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, setting out details of the Draft City and County of Limerick (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws, 2018.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Senior Executive Officer, Physical Development Directorate, to the Meeting. The Senior Executive Officer stated that the purpose of the Draft Bye-Laws is to ensure that waste is properly disposed of, thereby reducing instances of illegal dumping of household waste and to enable enforcement officers to seek clarification from householders as to how they are disposing of their household waste.

He stated that currently 65% of households in Limerick City and County participate in a contracted private kerbside waste collection service and there are 25,000 households in Limerick City and County that have no kerbside waste collection service. He also mentioned that these households may comply with their obligations by participating in a bin-sharing arrangement or by disposing of their waste at an authorised facility. He stated that the Draft Bye-Laws aim to reduce contamination in recycling waste by ensuring that waste fractions are properly segregated.

The Senior Executive Officer informed the Meeting that the statutory bye-law making process requires that the Council undertake a public consultation process prior to the adoption of the waste presentation bye-laws and that the approval of the draft bye-laws for publication is a reserved function of the Metropolitan and Municipal Districts.

The Members welcomed the Draft City and County of Limerick (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws, 2018, which were proposed by Councillor Foley and seconded by Councillor Collins.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM**

It was agreed to take the following Supplementary Item No. 13 at this point in the Meeting.

### **13. Physical Development Directorate**

#### **Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Municipal District of Newcastle West (Parking Places)(Amendment) Bye-Laws 2018**

Circulated, report of Director of Service, Physical Development Directorate, dated 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, setting out details of the Draft Municipal District of Newcastle West (Parking Places) (Amendment) Bye-Laws, 2018.

The Senior Executive Officer, Physical Development Directorate stated that the purpose of these Draft Bye-Laws is to give effect to the agreed policy of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee and the Full Council in relation to the waiving of parking fees that should apply to electrically powered vehicles parked in electrically powered vehicle recharging bays.

He also stated that if adopted, the Draft Bye-Laws would create an exemption from the requirement to pay parking fees for a maximum of four hours and that this exemption would be reviewed after an initial period of 24 months.

The Members welcomed the Draft Bye-Laws which were proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

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

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €5,100 to extend the public lighting in Ashford.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Broadford Development Association for signage at the Aboretum.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to footpath upgrades in Athea.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 to Abbeyfeale Community Development Association for the Sign Language Unit.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Men's Shed, Glin.

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

## **ADJOURNED NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **5. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will move at the next Meeting that an audit be undertaken on the serious matter of illegal dumping in the Glenagowen, Rooska and Keele areas to West and North West of Newcastle West Town.*

In proposing the Motion Councillor Scanlan stated that illegal dumping in the Glenagowen, Rooska and Keele is a serious matter with a large amount of dumping taking place at these locations.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Browne who also asked that Tournafulla be included in this audit.

Discussion also took place on illegal dumping and the installation of cameras in black spot areas. Members supported the Motion and it was suggested that mobile cctv cameras should be considered for each District and a proposal on same should form part of the Budget process. In response, the Director stated that the matter of illegal dumping is a nationwide problem and he would follow up on the cctv proposal.

**REPLY:** The Environmental Control Officers have visited and reported on nine sites where either historic or recent illegal dumping has occurred. Proposals for removing the waste in each case are being examined at present and this may involve, in some instances, the co-operation of the relevant landowners.

At this point, Councillor Collins indicated that he had to leave the Meeting.

### **6. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will move at the next Meeting that our Local Authority reinstate a painting programme and/or supply paint for its tenanted properties within the Newcastle West Municipal District.*

In proposing the Motion Councillor Scanlan asked that our Local Authority reinstate a painting programme and/or supply paint for its tenanted properties within the Newcastle West Municipal District.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

**REPLY:** Limerick City & County Council are required to provide an adequate painting

standard at the time of letting a property. Tenants sign a Tenancy Agreement where they are then obliged to maintain the property in terms of decoration which includes painting.

The budgetary requirements for such a painting programme and/or supply of paint, would be extensive and should be reviewed in the context of the responsibilities outlined in the Tenancy Agreement.

Following discussion by the Members, it was agreed that Cllr. Scanlan's Notice of Motion be referred to the Home and Community SPC for consideration as there was a need to support tenants in maintaining properties.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting the number of houses (a) acquired through Part V arrangements in our Municipality in 2016, 2017 and to date in 2018 as well as the expected total for 2018*

*(b) the number of homes acquired through long term lease arrangements by Limerick City and County Council and by participating Approved Housing Bodies in our Municipal District.*

**REPLY:** (a) Properties acquired through Part V in the Newcastle West District,  
2016 – 0  
2017 – 1  
2018 – 5  
(5 Completed to end Q2 2018, Expected total 5)

(b) Properties leased in the Newcastle West District (exclusive of RAS)  
2016 -1  
2017 – 1  
2018 – 15  
(15 Completed to end Q2 2018, Expected total 32)

### **8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting when will action be taken with regard to the fire damaged building and roof of the property at Church Street, Newcastle West next to the Aldi car park.*

**REPLY:** The above site was re-inspected by Planning and Environmental Services on the week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

All loose asbestos has been removed and bagged by a specialist contractor.

Planning and Environmental Services are awaiting final documentation from the removal contractor confirming that the material reached authorised facilities and will then close off the case.

Councillor Scanlan noted the response but also stated that there was still asbestos on the roof of the building which needed removal. This issue is to be referred back to Planning and Environmental Services for a response.

**9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting (a) how many housing applicants are currently on a waiting list for Abbeyfeale*

*(b) how many apartments are/were available to let at Mountmahon, Abbeyfeale*

*(c) how many applicants were successful in being allocated these apartments from outside Abbeyfeale and what was the criteria used for these allocations*

*(d) what number of housing applicants are from neighbouring villages outside Abbeyfeale*

*(e) have the Council plans to develop housing in neighbouring villages outside Abbeyfeale.*

**REPLY:** The following are the answers to the questions as outlined above:

- a) There are currently 91 approved applicants on the Housing Waiting List for Abbeyfeale, of which 27 are qualified for 2 Bed accommodation.
- b) There were 10 leased 2 Bed apartments available for letting in Mountmahon, Abbeyfeale.
- c) In accordance with GDPR guidelines, we cannot disclose details of housing applicants, however the Allocations Policy as adopted by the Council Members in 2017 was adhered to in the allocation of these units.
- d) There are 23 approved applicants from neighbouring villages, namely Templeglantine, Athea and Mountcollins on the Housing Waiting List. Of these, there are 4 applicants approved for 2 Bed accommodation.
- e) Construction, acquisition and leasing are the mechanisms to provide social housing with a number of Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government schemes operating under each category. The Buy and Renew scheme is one of the available acquisition mechanisms. This scheme is focused on vacant underutilised property and Limerick City and County Council are actively pursuing this scheme in Limerick including smaller villages. Properties have been acquired in Mountcollins and Athea while further properties are being assessed for acquisition. A Vacant Homes Officer is assigned to the Newcastle West Municipal District and is active in identifying properties in the villages close to Abbeyfeale. Leasing has also been utilised in West Limerick. Funding has been received for new build projects in West Limerick e.g. Ballyhahill. Limerick City and County Council seeks to avail of all appropriate opportunities under each mechanism to meet current housing need.

**10. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting what is the capacity at the following waste water treatment plants:*

- (a) Athea*
- (b) Mountcollins*
- (c) Tournafulla*
- (d) Templeglantine*
- (e) Abbeyfeale*

**REPLY:** The design capacity for each of the plants is listed hereunder: (p.e. population equivalent)

WWTP	Design p.e.
Athea	263
Abbeyfeale	2860
Mountcollins	453
Tournafulla	160
Templeglantine	112

Councillor Galvin's question has been referred to Irish Water on [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie).

**11. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the new graveyard for Tournafulla.*

**REPLY:** At the request of the local committee tests were carried out to determine the suitability of the site identified. The committee was written to mid June outlining the reasons why the site did not pass the relevant tests.

A further meeting is being held with the committee on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July to discuss the matter.

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan**

*I will move at the next Meeting that our CEO use his Executive power to purchase the site which has been tested and proven suitable at Abbeyfeale East (subject to receipt of full planning) for the provision of a new Graveyard for the people of Abbeyfeale and its hinterland.*

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan asked when a suitable site for a new Graveyard in Abbeyfeale would be identified and purchased.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

**REPLY:** At present the site selection process for a new burial ground for Abbeyfeale is continuing and expressions of interest have been sought from local landowners as part of this. As potential sites are still being sought and evaluated and as this is an executive function it would not be appropriate to comment on individual sites.

The Director stated that the Council is continuing to seek expressions of interest from landowners in the Abbeyfeale area who may have a site that could be considered and he also referred to the work to date on seeking a suitable site.

The following items were also raised.

Cllr. Scanlan referred to changing dates for Meetings. He stated these changes can cause problems for Members and stated if Meeting dates are to be changed then all Members should be in agreement with the new date.

The Senior Executive Engineer referred to Brewery Lane Newcastle West and confirmed that he has met with the stakeholders of the lane with a view to having the laneway reopened. He stated that discussion on the upgrade of the lane is also ongoing.

With regard to traffic flow at Boherbui, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that the pedestrian crossings at this location would involve the removal of car parking spaces and therefore the possibility of a drop off location for students on Knockane Road is being investigated. He also mentioned that the brief for the Newcastle West Integrated Movement Plan is being finalised and this will also take traffic flow on the Boherbui area into consideration. It is expected that the brief will be tendered within the coming weeks. It was also noted that a site known as Cullen's field is currently up for sale and maybe relevant to the Integrated Movement Plan. The Director stated that the proposed plan was not a statutory plan but the Members would be consulted on it.

The Executive Engineer stated that the process outlined under the Limerick City and County Council Traffic Calming Policy had commenced with regard to the request for speed ramps/rumble strips on the road at Gortboy outside the Courtenay National School.

The repair and relocating of litterbins in Mouncollins Village was also raised along with the repairs to the road at Gleann Cryle, Abbeyfeale and the Executive Engineer agreed to follow up on these matters.

Prior to the conclusion of the Meeting, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that funding had been allocated by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Clár Programme for the following projects:

- Meenilly National School – Erect digital speed safety signs, upgrade road markings and child safety signs on the L1325 road
- Athea National School – Erect digital speed safety signs, upgrade road markings and child safety signs on the Regional Road, R523
- Mountcollins National School – Upgrade road markings and install child safety signs
- Raheenagh National School – Pedestrian Crossing/Child Safety Signs/Road Safety Measures
- Ashford National School – Erect pedestrian crossing from school to community centre and upgrade road markings
- Killeedy Development Committee – Community Playground

Members welcomed the funding and thanked officials for making submissions under this initiative.

It was agreed to hold the September Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

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

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