

# **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2019, AT 10AM.**

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

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Browne, Collins, Foley, Galvin and Scanlan.

## **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Social Development Directorate (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. B. Noonan), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Executive Engineer, Housing (Mr. J. Rigney), Senior Engineer, Operations and Maintenance (Mr. H. McGrath), Administrative Officer, Property Services (Ms. T. Knox), Administrative Officer, Urban and Rural Community Development (Ms. A. Rizzo), 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 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

Proposed by: Councillor Collins

Seconded by: Councillor Foley

And Resolved:

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

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Senior Engineer, Operations and Maintenance (Mr. H. McGrath), Executive Engineer, Housing (Mr. J. Rigney) and Transition Year Student, Hazelwood College (Ms. Juliet Nolan) to the Meeting.

## **2. Deputation**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed representatives from the Sikh Community. The Deputation consisted of Ms. Patricia Rainsford, Mr. Tadhg Mulcahy and Ms. Anne Rizzo, Administrative Officer, Urban & Rural Community Development who gave the presentation.

Ms. Rizzo addressed the Meeting and welcomed the opportunity to outline to the Members the life and contribution of Max Arthur MacAuliffe to the Sikh Culture and Religion.

She stated that an approach was made from Dublin Interfaith Forum in April 2018 with regard to Max Arthur Macauliffe and as a result a working group was formed.

Ms. Rizzo outlined to the Members the life of Max Arthur Macauliffe who was born on 11 September 1838 in Monagea, Templeglantine, Co. Limerick. She noted that he won a scholarship to attend Springfield College, Ennis and subsequently progressed to Queen's College, Galway, where he was awarded a degree with first class honours in Modern Languages in 1860 together with a number of other scholarships. In 1862 he joined the Indian Civil Service and in 1882 he was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Punjab progressing to Divisional Judge in 1884 and retiring in 1893.

She stated that he had completed the classic translation into English of major parts of the Granth, the holy book of the Sikhs. In 1909 Oxford University Press published the first edition of The Sikh Religion: Its Gurus, Sacred Writings and Authors, in six volumes and running to almost 2,500 pages.

She stated that the working group wished to honour the life and works of Max Arthur Macauliffe and outlined to the Members the following proposals for consideration:

- Installation of a commemorative plaque in the grounds of Templeglantine National School
- A one day seminary on the Life and Works of Max Arthur Macauliffe
- An exhibition on Sikhism
- Launch of book on the life of Max Arthur Macauliffe written by Professor Tadhg Foley, NUIG.
- Donation of books on Sikhism to the Library Service.

The Members thanked the delegation on the very informative presentation and fully supported the proposals recommended by the working group. The Members requested that the celebration of Max Arthur Macauliffe's life be held within the district of Newcastle West.

### **3. Disposal of Land**

Circulated, report of Administrative Officer, Property Services, dated 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2019, concerning proposal to dispose of land by way of lease at Coolaboy, Dromcollogher, Co. Limerick, to Dromcollogher Community Council.

Members noted the proposal.

### **4. Service Operations Directorate**

#### **Taking in Charge of Estates – Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

**To consider the Taking in Charge of Estate The Bracken, Newcastle West, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2017, and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.**

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Planner, Planning and Environmental Services, dated 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Collins and resolved:

“That, Estate The Bracken, Newcastle West, be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2017, and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993”.

## **5. Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Newcastle West**

### **To consider Draft Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Newcastle West.**

Circulated, report of Director of Services, dated 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2019, setting out the details of the Draft Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Newcastle West 2019.

Members, in welcoming the report, thanked staff for the work, which had gone into compiling the Schedule. They noted the works proposed in the Schedule and referred to the funding which was made available for Relief Roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale. A discussion took place on this matter and it was agreed that a detailed plan on the proposed relief roads be advised to the Members once available.

The Members also referred to the funding allocation for bridges and the locations of same. A discussion took place and the Senior Engineer stated that the funding allocated is solely for the renovating of existing bridges.

The Senior Executive Engineer referred to the allocation for footpaths and the proposed footpath renewal works within the District.

The Members also referred to the realignment of the operational areas with the Municipal Districts and noted that Glin and Castletown/Ballyagran areas are now within the operational functions of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

## **6. Housing Development Directorate**

### **To note progress report from the Housing Development Directorate.**

Circulated, Housing Progress Report of the Senior Architect, Housing Development, dated 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.

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

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €990 for public lighting at Ardagh.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 to Ardagh District Recreational and Sporting Company.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €900 to Dromcollogher/Broadford Ladies Football.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 to Ardagh District Recreational and Sporting Company.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Abbeyfeale Town Park.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 to Abbeyfeale Community Council.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €400 to Broadford Ladies Football.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Con Leahy Memorial.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €5,000 to Ardagh District Recreational and Sporting Company for defibrillator.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €170 to Environment Department for Clean Up in Ardagh.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 to Abbeyfeale Mens' Shed.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocated €10,000 to Athea Tidy Towns.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Collins, the following projects were approved under the GMA Roads Allocation for 2019.

<b>No.</b>	<b>GMA 2019 – Allocation Roads €95,000</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1	Killoughteen National School – Pedestrian Crossing	€35,000
2	St. Fergus National School, Glin – Safety Measures	€25,000
3	Broadford National School – Pedestrian Crossing	€35,000

## **QUESTIONS**

### **8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the programme of works including road resurfacing and drainage works from Keeffe's Cross to the 4 Cross roads at the Hill, Abbeyfeale.*

**REPLY:** This roadway is included within the 2019 Roadworks Programme for the Newcastle West Municipal District.

Councillor Galvin referred to the resurfacing and drainage works from Keeffe's Cross to the 4 Cross roads at the Hill, Abbeyfeale. The Senior Engineer stated that all aspects of the road conditions including drainage will be taken into consideration as part of the upgrade works.

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

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

*(a) Barrier from Springmount towards Kelliher's house, Abbeyfeale*

*(b) Pruning of the trees at the entrance to Cryle View housing estate, Abbeyfeale*

*(c) Update on the public toilet for Abbeyfeale.*

**REPLY:** (a) Funding has been allocated to do a section of these works under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme 2019. A tender process for the supply and erection of crash barriers for the above location is currently in progress. Once the tender process is finalised the crash barriers will be erected.

(b) Hedging has been cut back at the entrance to Cryle View and arrangements have been made to have the trees pruned within the next two weeks.

(c) A suitable location for a public toilet in Abbeyfeale is currently being examined and a further update on the matter will be provided to the Elected Members of the District in the near future.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed report on the programme of works along with the start dates for the works at:*

*(a) Ward's Cross on N21 (b) Devon Road Cross on N21*

**REPLY:** The schemes at Wards Cross and Devon Cross are being progressed and consultants are currently being sought to progress initial design of the N21 Devon Cross and detailed design of N21 Wards Cross. This commission is subject to TII approval.

It is also intended to carry out improvements at the cul-de-sac junction west of Wards Cross (N21 and L21005) and improvements to this junction will be considered as part of the TII's Road Safety Inspection Process.

Councillor Galvin referred to the above and the timeframe for same. The Senior Executive Engineer stated that this matter is ongoing and is being progressed by Central Services and the Mid-West Roads Design Office.

**11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for a schedule of all the Limerick City and County Council owned property that is presently vacant including both property purchased and property acquired in 2017 and 2018 within the Newcastle West town.*

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council provides a monthly report to the members of the Newcastle West Municipal District outlining the number of vacant properties and the nature of the vacancy i.e. if they are a casual vacancy or a major refurbishment.

It is not the policy of Limerick City and County Council to release details of addresses of vacant properties.

Councillor Scanlan referred to the above and a discussion took place on vacant Council properties within the District along with the funding requirements needed to make these properties available for letting. Discussion also took place on Voids funding from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the criteria used to decide if a house was eligible for funding under this programme.

**12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for a progress report on the purchase of derelict/unoccupied properties in Newcastle West with particular emphasis on (a) 15 Assumpta Park (b) 20 Sharwood Estate (c) 47 Hawthorn Drive.*

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council are advancing with the acquisition of eleven properties in Newcastle West. Six of these properties are in a derelict condition/long term vacant.

As these acquisitions are not closed at this point releasing specific address details is not appropriate.

**13. Question submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting the following with regard to the provision of a new graveyard for Abbeyfeale:*

*(a) From June 2004 to date how many sites have been excavated in the environs of*

***Abbeyfeale town in order to acquire a new burial ground***

- (b) How many have passed the criteria of HSE suitability***
- (c) To date what has been spent on this process***
- (d) How many more sites have been identified to explore suitability and where are they located***
- (e) How many definitive burial spaces are left in Relig Ide Naofa***
- (f) How many definitive burial spaces have been identified in St. Mary's Graveyard and the Church of Ireland graveyard***
- (g) What timescale have Limerick City and County Council Executive estimated before a new burial ground will be required in Abbeyfeale.***

- REPLY:**
- (a)** 16
  - (b)** As a site selection process is currently not finalised this information cannot be made available at this time.
  - (c)** €34,000
  - (d)** As a site selection process is currently not finalised this information cannot be made available at this time.
  - (e)** 30 burial spaces have been identified in Relig Íde Naofa as not being allocated.
  - (f)** 25 burial spaces in St. Mary's and 68 in the Church of Ireland's Burial Ground have been identified as being available.
  - (g)** Based on current trends in the sale of new burial spaces in Abbeyfeale over the last four years and taking into consideration the number of burial spaces remaining as above, it would take approximately 5 years before this remaining capacity would be used up.

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

***I will move at the next Meeting that a safety review of the traffic flow in the Daar Bridge area be undertaken.***

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan stated that a safety review of the traffic flow in the Daar Bridge area be undertaken.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

In replying, Senior Executive Engineer stated that this matter will be reviewed.

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

***I will move at the next Meeting that our Authority reinstate the arrangement that was in place under our Old County Authority, whereby paint was provided to tenants and local authority communities who undertook the task of applying the paint themselves.***

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan stated that the arrangements that were in place previously, whereby paint was provided to tenants and local authority communities who undertook to apply the paint themselves.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

**REPLY:** The proposed motion to provide tenants and community groups with materials, including paint cannot be reintroduced due to changes in the insurance environment. The Council's Health and Safety Section consulted with Irish Public Bodies previously who advise this practice cannot be facilitated on liability grounds.

However, the Council is currently in the initial stages of examining the feasibility of introducing of a "Self Help Scheme" similar to the scheme operated by Kildare County Council, which if adopted, will enable tenants to carry out minor maintenance works on Council properties, in conjunction with an appropriate inspection regime by Council staff.

## **16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins**

*I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council provide Public Wi-Fi access for the towns of Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale.*

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins asked that Limerick City and County Council could provide Public Wi-Fi access for the towns of Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale. He stated that providing Wi-Fi in the towns would provide a tourist opportunity and would enhance the safety of our young people.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

**REPLY:** We have included in our plans for 2019 the deployment of high-quality Public WiFi in town centre locations in Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale as part of the roll-out of WiFi4EU scheme funded by the European Commission and with the match-funding financial support of the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The European Commission launched in 2017 the **WiFi4EU** initiative which promotes free access to Wi-Fi connectivity for citizens in public spaces including parks, squares, public buildings, libraries, health centres and museums in municipalities throughout Europe. The WiFi4EU initiative provides municipalities with the opportunity to apply for vouchers to the value €15,000. The vouchers are to be used to install Wi-Fi equipment in public spaces within the municipality that are not already equipped with a free Wi-Fi hotspot.

As of 4<sup>th</sup> of March, 2019 we have secured through our ICT Department four vouchers under this scheme, one for each Metro and Municipal Council in Limerick City and County. In addition, the Department of Rural and Community



Development has committed to providing up to €15,000 in funding to each Local Authority for every WiFi4EU voucher that they receive.

We suggest that the installation of Public WiFi will be prioritised based on two criteria:

- The town population
- The technical feasibility of the installation. In some locations it could be easier and faster to access existing communications infrastructure (e.g. the Council WAN Network or the Smart CCTV infrastructure).

We are currently in the process of conducting a technical feasibility study in relation to the exact towns and locations where high-quality WiFi can be deployed including Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale and we will provide updates to the Council in due course.

The Members welcomed the reply to this Notice of Motion.

### **17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will move at the next Meeting that immediate steps be taken to solve the traffic problem in Collins Park, Abbeyfeale.*

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin stated that it is difficult for emergency vehicles to gain access to Collins' Park, Abbeyfeale and requested that additional car parking spaces be provided in Collins' Park and to liaise with the residents of the estate on this matter.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer agreed to investigate this matter.

### **18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan**

*I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council immediately put in place a footpath to Kilfergus estate in Glin in order to provide safe access on foot to the estate.*

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan stated that Limerick City and County Council place a footpath to Kilfergus estate in Glin in order to provide safe access on foot to the estate. He also stated that Kilfergus Housing Estate is a family oriented housing estate which has recently been taken in charge by Limerick City and County Council.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

**REPLY:** A survey has been carried out at the above location and in order to have the minimum required road and footpath width, land take is required.

It is proposed to discuss the land take matter with the relevant landowners.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on the Newcastle West Integrated Movement Plan. The Senior Executive Engineer stated that Consultants, Messrs. Malachy Walsh and Partners have been appointed and meetings are taking place to progress the plan. Reference was also made to school traffic using the Meadow Court Housing Estate, Newcastle West as a drop off point and could this matter be examined.

An update on taking in charge of Knights Court, Newcastle West, was raised and the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a meeting has taken place with the Planning and Water Services Departments with a view to completing the required works at the estate.

An update was also requested on the taking in charge of Ellis Wood Housing Estate, Abbeyfeale and the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a costing for the works has been carried out. The Planning Department are also liaising with the bond holder. The Members acknowledged the work and commitment of the Council to date. The taking in charge of The Glebe, Monagea was also raised.

The Members also complimented the Roads Section on the footpath renewal works carried out on Scanlan's Lane, Newcastle West.

The resurfacing of the roadway in front of the funeral parlour in Abbeyfeale was noted and it was agreed that potholes would be filled as an interim measure until the roadway was re-surfaced.

An update on the taking in charge of the private roadway leading to the GAA field in Knockaderry was requested and the Senior Executive Engineer stated that this matter is ongoing.

The arranging of a meeting with the Council's solicitors regarding river bank erosion was also requested and the Meetings Administrator agreed to follow up on this matter.

Councillor Foley referred to littering on the bank of the river at the back of the old school in Abbeyfeale and asked if CCTV could be installed to prevent littering at this location. This will be referred to the Environment Department.

It was agreed to hold the April Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2019, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

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

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