

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 1ST MAY, 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), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the final monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West prior to the Local Elections which are to be held at the end of May.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 3rd April, 2019.

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

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

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, it was agreed that discussion on the Minutes would be deferred and it was agreed to take Item 2 on the Agenda. This was proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Foley.

2. Deputation

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Mairead Guiry, Treasurer, of the Cryleview Residents Association, Abbeyfeale to the Meeting.

Ms. Guiry addressed the Meeting and conveyed the apologies of the Chairperson and Secretary of the Residents Association for their inability to attend. She welcomed the opportunity to outline to the Members issues at the estate. She stated that Cryleview Residents Association was formed in 2014 and the following items need to be addressed:

- the lack of visibility when exiting the estate onto the N21. She noted that five accidents had occurred at this location.
- the entrance to the estate is not wide enough to accommodate two cars.
- footpath on one side only at the entrance to the estate.
- planning permission granted recently to build further houses
- issues with the foul sewer and flooding at the entrance to the estate.

The Members thanked Ms. Guiry for her attendance at the Meeting and Cathaoirleach stated that further contact would be made with the Cryleview Residents Association on the above matters.

The Members referred to the above items and stated that there is a large volume of traffic on the N21 with a number of housing estates at this location. They highlighted the need for a pedestrian crossing in this area. They also noted cars parking near the entrance to Cryleview which contributes to difficulty in exiting the estate. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated he would liaise with Central Services regarding these matters.

At this point, Councillor Foley indicated he had to leave the Meeting and he submitted his proposals for the allocation of funding under GMA Special Projects.

3. Housing Development Directorate

To note progress report from the Housing Development Directorate.

Circulated, Housing Progress Report of the Senior Architect, Housing Development, dated 26th April, 2019.

Members referred to the ongoing discussions regarding local authority housing in the District and queried the number of purchased houses. Members also queried when funding would become available to upgrade vacant properties. In replying, the Executive Engineer gave an outline on the current status of these housing matters.

4. Service Operations Directorate

To receive presentation on the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

The Director gave a presentation to the Members on the term of the Council. He highlighted the funding the District had received during this period and the projects which had been progressed as follows:

- Roadworks Scheme 2015 – 2019 - €16,307,691 received within the District
- Newcastle West District Projects eg Regional Athletics Hub, Fuller’s Folly, Glin Public Realm, Newcastle West Development Association - Vision 2023
- Clár Programme - €302,460 received within the District.
- Development Fund - €350,000 allocated to the District.

- Housing Grants - €3.2m allocated to the District.
- Newcastle West.ie Website – Launched in December 2018
- Cemeteries - €161,884 allocated to the District.
- GMA Special Projects - €500,000 provided by Councillors to 83 projects
- Derelict Sites – 230 Site inspections carried out in 2018.
- Delegations – 15 Delegations received by the Municipal District
- Municipal District Receptions – 5 Receptions held
- 1916 Remembrance Ceremonies

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked the Director for the presentation and acknowledged the great work carried out in the District over the term of the Council. They also complimented M. Keating on the slideshow presentation of events during this period.

5. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Tournafulla Community Council.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Mountcollins Community Council.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Con Colbert Hall, Athea.

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

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

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €600 to Feohanagh Ladies Group.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Browne, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Daarwood Residents Association for purchase of ride on lawn mower.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Browne, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Newcastle West and District Pipe Band to upgrade uniforms.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €4,540 to public lighting at Broadford.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Abbeyfeale Singing Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Abbeyfeale Men's Shed.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Templeglantine Tidy Towns.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Abbeyfeale Community Council.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Browne, it was agreed to allocate €1,200 to Newcastle West Scouts.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Browne, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Glin Development.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Browne, it was agreed to allocate €3,000 to Road Repairs.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Browne, it was agreed to allocate €5,000 to Housing.

QUESTIONS

6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update with regard to the Newcastle West Traffic Movement Plan with particular reference to:

- (a) connectivity at Boherbui, Newcastle West*
- (b) traffic movement in the vicinity of the schools, O'Connell House and St. Ita's Hospital at Gortboy, Newcastle West.*

REPLY: The appointed consultants are currently undertaking surveys and will be organising a public consultation event within the coming weeks.

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that action be undertaken to ensure that the retaining stonewall between the Grotto and the Churchtown entrance to The Demesne is reinstated as it is seriously vulnerable to collapse.

REPLY: Repair works will be carried out on this wall within the next few weeks.

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that the long awaited Public Realm Study for Dromcollogher be given immediate priority.

REPLY: A working draft of the Public Realm Plan will be presented to Dromcollogher Community Council by the end of May 2019. Following on from this a second public consultation event will take place in Dromcollogher in June 2019 where members of the public will be invited to provide comments on the proposals outlined in the draft plan. Following this consultation the plan will be finalised and published.

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting that a review of the Sugar CRM system be undertaken and that Councillors get a response by email with the subject heading that was originally sent.

REPLY: There were 35,471 cases created on SugarCRM in 2018, with 29,190 cases closed in 2018 from the ones created in 2018. This represents an 82% closure rate on cases created last year. The SugarCRM system has proven to be a very important tool in the management of all requests to the Council from both a tracking and business continuance perspective.

The administration of representations from public representatives along with the SugarCRM system are continually being reviewed.

There is intensive ongoing training across the organisation to ensure that the correct status is used when a case is being closed namely; Resolved, Closed Unresolved, or Closed with Commitment and that the accompanying update to the representative should reflect the status of the case in order to set out clearly the Council's position in relation to the request.

There are a number of approaches to ensure this occurs in conjunction to ongoing training and support in the use of the CRM system. These include, monthly reporting to Management re case statistics, reporting to Operations Senior Team regarding case management and ongoing contact with both councillors and assignees to ensure proper responses are received.

With regard to the subject line, the policy has been to amend if it contains personal information. This has been to ensure that there is no breach in personal data and also to ensure that the most up to date customer contact details are maintained on SugarCRM. This then ensures that the customers contact details are kept in a single place and are readily accessible if required by staff handling the request.

The My Limerick platform has the potential to show the public representative the customer details associated with their case so Councillors have been contacted and met several times regarding the My Limerick platform and advised to contact Customer Services senior staff should they require any particular follow up on named cases. Also, it should be noted that each case submitted via the customerservices@limerick.ie e mail address gets an

automatic case number assigned, which is unique to each case for identification purposes.

With the advancement of a new Council shortly, a further review of representation management will be undertaken and consideration can be given to not amending the subject line on email requests from Councillors going forward.

A brief discussion followed on the Sugar CRM system and the closing of cases, particularly cases which are closed with commitment. The Director agreed that the system needed some adjustments and these can be considered. The Senior Executive Engineer also stated that the system was the best mechanism to support Councillors.

10. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting that scoop the poop bins be located in Abbeyfeale town within the speed limits area.

REPLY: In accordance with the Council's policy, there are no further plans to install any dog bins in the City or County at present. However, dog walkers may place this bagged waste in the public street bins as per the Council's protocol of "any bag, any bin".

Councillor Galvin stated that there are only two scoop the poop bins located from the Mart Bridge in Abbeyfeale to Mountmahon and asked that scoop the poop bins be located in Abbeyfeale town within the speed limits area.

11. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the provision of traffic ramps at Gortboy, Newcastle West.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council currently have consultants appointed to produce a movement and public realm plan for Newcastle West. The brief for the consultants includes for a review of traffic management within the town taking particular cognisance of the safe movement of pedestrians and cyclists. The Gortboy area highlighted by you will be included in the review. I would also like to point out that there will be public consultation in the development of the plan.

Also the location of ramps would have to be agreed with the residents in this area.

12. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting for speed repeater signs at three approach roads entering the village of Carrigkerry.

REPLY: The above signage will be erected within the next two weeks.

NOTICES OF MOTION

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that a safety audit be undertaken at Ballykennedy Cross/junction in Clouncagh.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan stated that a safety audit be undertaken at Ballykennedy Cross/junction in Clouncagh.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: Additional road markings will be installed at the above mentioned junction within the next week.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that responsibility for Housing and Estate Management matters be returned to the control of our Newcastle West Municipal District.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan stated that responsibility for Housing and Estate Management matters including grass cutting be returned to the control of the Newcastle West Municipal District.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: The Council notes the contents of your motion and welcome working with Elected Members on suggestions around Housing and Estate Management. As you will be aware Housing Staff visit the Districts on a daily basis to deal with a variety of Housing related items including, but not limited to, Estate Management, Rent Collection, Grant Support, Maintenance, Tenancy Sustainment and Housing Assessments.

Staff are available to meet with customers on the arrangement of an appointment or via telephone. If customers wish, staff are also available to contact via email.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that (a) a survey be carried out on the roads in Mountcollins, Carrigkerry and Castletown as they are in very poor condition, (b) a costing be prepared on same and (c) special application be made to the department for funding to repair same.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin asked that a survey be carried out on the roads in Mountcollins, Carrigkerry and Castletown/Ballyagran areas as these roads are in urgent need of repair. A brief discussion followed on the repair of roads in the District.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

- REPLY:**
- (a) All roads within the District are surveyed and rated on a regular basis and recorded on our Pavement Management System. The ratings applied to each road determines the annual road works scheme and the multi-annual programme which is approved by the District Councillors.
 - (b) All roads which are on this programme are costed.
 - (c) Funding for these roads is available through block grants and Community Involvement Schemes are also an option.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council call on the Department of Health to reinstate the services at the Health Centre, Abbeyfeale (dispensary) and to purchase the bit of ground to the rear to provide parking.

The above Motion was on the Agenda for the Full Council Meeting dated 29th April, 2019, and was therefore withdrawn by Councillor Galvin.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting for footpath replacement from St. Mary's Terrace, Carrigkerry to Moore's bar, Carrigkerry.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins asked for footpath replacement from St. Mary's Terrace, Carrigkerry to Moore's Bar, Carrigkerry.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

- REPLY:** This request can be considered under the GMA Local Roads allocation for 2020. However, should any other source of funding become available for footpath upgrades in 2019 this area can be considered.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting for three new street lights, one at the back of school in Carrigkerry and two others at Ardagh/Newcastle West junction.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins asked for three new street lights, one at the back of school in Carrigkerry and two others at Ardagh/Newcastle West junction.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

REPLY: An application for works at Carrigkerry National School has been submitted under the Clár Programme 2019 and the installation of additional public lighting at the school forms part of this application.

A costing with regard to the public lighting request at the Ardagh/Newcastle West junction will be prepared.

19. Correspondence

Written correspondence was received from Mr. Jim Galvin, Chairman of Steering Committee for the Regional Athletics Hub to express appreciation to Limerick City and County Council for the help and support given towards this project.

The Members acknowledged the correspondence but expressed their disappointment that the building of the facility had not commenced. They noted the work of the committee and the Council in progressing the project to date but stated that National funding was required to complete the project. They referred to the funding applications which had been made by the Council and noted that funding was not allocated under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.

The Director noted the funding which had been made available to date for the project and stated that the Council have also made a recent submission under the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund. It was proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Foley that Minister P. O'Donovan should be contacted with regard to prioritising central government funding for the project.

The following items were also raised.

The Members raised the amended Notice of Motion on a public swimming pool for Newcastle West as follows and the Meetings Administrator read out the following reply from the Chief Executive.

We the Councillors of the Municipal District of Newcastle West call on the Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council to begin the process to apply for funding for the provision of a 25 metre public swimming facility/pool to be located in Newcastle West Town to serve the people of the Municipal District and its hinterland.

REPLY: The funding mechanism from central government (Department of Transport Tourism and Sport) for the construction of new swimming pools is the *Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF)*. This is a new fund that was introduced under the National Planning Framework: Ireland 2040. The Fund replaces the previous programme that was in place for funding local authority swimming pools. The first call under this Fund was issued early in 2019 and closed for applications on 17th April 2019.

The LSSIF is a complex, onerous and nationally competitive application process. It requires in the first instance that any proposed projects are *“identified as a priority within a local authority’s development plan and strategic vision, demonstrating cross-sector collaboration and clearly identified local priorities”*. The preparation of a sports and recreation strategy for Limerick City and County is a necessary first step in setting out our strategic vision and priorities. The application process to this Fund requires that all planning and consents are in place, design and costs are fully developed, match funding is in place, and an economic appraisal has been conducted to meet with requirements under the Public Spending Code. The application process also requires that a business plan and operational plan are developed. In view of the above requirements set by central government, the preparation of a Sports and Recreation Strategy for Limerick City and County Council is now being commissioned by the Council. This will provide the strategic context for review of potential projects that could be presented as applications to the LSSIF in the future.

A discussion took place on the above and the Members stated that Limerick City and County Council should prioritise the provision of a swimming pool for the town of Newcastle West. They also referred to their request to meet with the Chief Executive on the matter. The Director stated that a request for the Meeting had been noted and a date is to be agreed.

An update was sought on connectivity through the L21021 from the N21 at Barnagh to allow access to property and the Senior Executive Engineer stated that legal advice has been sought on this and the matter is ongoing.

The recent road lining works in the Feohanagh/Castlemahon area were referred to and appreciation was expressed for the works carried out.

An update on the road at Glenduff where the windfarm is being installed was requested. The Executive Engineer confirmed that works to this roadway will commence when installation of the windfarm is complete. In the meantime, the Contractor is to carry out interim repairs on this roadway.

An update was sought on a request for a safety audit to be carried out by the TII on the N21 junction at Coolanoran, Newcastle West, known as Sweeps Cross and at the junction at Cregan’s Cross, Newcastle West. The Senior Executive Engineer stated that he would follow up on this with Central Services.

Prior to the conclusion of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked the Director, Senior Executive Engineer, Meetings Administrator and all staff of the District for their help and assistance over this term of the Council. The Members who held the position of Cathaoirleach of the District over the past 5 years were also noted.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____

