

**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> NOVEMBER, 2019, AT 10AM.**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Collins, Foley, Galvin, Ruddle and Sheahan.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Community Development Directorate (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. G. O'Connor), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Valley), Executive Engineer, Housing (Mr. J. Rigney), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach welcomed the Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. G. O'Connor) to the Meeting and wished him well in his new role as Senior Executive Engineer of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting and with the permission of the Cathaoirleach, an update was given on the closure of the Bridge of Tears, Newcastle West.

The Senior Executive Engineer stated that an incident occurred at the Bridge of Tears on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November when the bridge was struck by a passing lorry which resulted in one of the parapet walls being demolished. As a result, the lane for east bound traffic at the bridge had to be closed and diversions put in place. He also stated that the Gardai are following up on the matter. He confirmed that contractors are presently on site carrying out repairs and the road is to remain closed for approximately two weeks until the works are complete.

The Members referred to a number of concerns relating to the bridge closure including traffic congestion in the town, timeframe for completion of works, signage required to prevent articulated vehicles using the Wood Road as a diversion route, provision of lighting at the pedestrian crossing and the cost of the repair works to the bridge.

The Members also stated that this incident highlighted the importance of progressing Distributor Roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale as a matter of priority. It was noted that funding was made available for preliminary reports and these should be completed as soon as possible. The Members also complimented the Senior Executive Engineer and the Roads Engineer on the efficient manner in dealing with this incident at the Bridge of Tears.

## **1. Adoption of Minutes**

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 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”.

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Draft Budgetary Plan Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 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”.

## **2. Housing Development Directorate**

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

Circulated, Housing Progress Report of the Director of Service, Housing Development, dated 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.

The Members referred to the application for funding to the Department for improvement works and the number of voids within the District.

In replying, the Executive Engineer gave an outline on the current status of these housing matters. He also referred to the housing adaptation and improvement grants. He noted that a new technician was appointed on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019 and he is dealing with the housing grant inspections. The Members also acknowledged the work of the Executive Engineer, Housing given the large area under his responsibility.

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

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to West Limerick Drama Festival Knockaderry.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Athea National School for the purchase of a defibrillator.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Athea National School for the purchase of a defibrillator.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to the Newcastle West Business Association for Christmas Lights in Newcastle West.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €500 to the Newcastle West Business Association for Christmas Lights in Newcastle West.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Old Mill Ladies Football Club for the purchase of equipment.

## **QUESTIONS**

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting (a) how many applicants are on the housing waiting list for Abbeyfeale (b) how many of these have addresses from outside Abbeyfeale and where are these from (c) how many applicants are from Mountcollins (d) how many applicants have preferences for Mountcollins and please list the number that have indicated a preference 1, 2 or 3 for Mountcollins (e) how many applicants are on the HAP Scheme in the Newcastle West Municipal District and how many are from Mountcollins (f) how many vacant houses have the Council in Mountcollins (g) how many Council owned houses are in the following areas: Abbeyfeale, Tournafulla, Mountcollins, Athea and Templeglantine.*

**REPLY:** Limerick City Council Housing Support Services can confirm the following:

- 125 approved housing applicants in Abbeyfeale
- 74 approved housing applicants from Abbeyfeale
- 51 approved housing applicants from outside Abbeyfeale (18 different areas: Top four: 18 NCW, 11 Limerick City, 7 Athea, 4 Mountcollins)
- 13 approved housing applicants for Mountcollins: 5 First preference, 6 second preference, 2 third preference
- 217 HAP Files in the NCW Municipal District (1 HAP) file Mountcollins
- 27 Council Properties in Mountcollins
- 3 recently allocated
- 1 vacancy Mountcollins – Long term Void
- 168 Council Properties in Abbeyfeale
- 9 vacant properties in Abbeyfeale (3 allocated awaiting works) others will be allocated when works complete
- 44 Council Properties in Athea
- 1 recently allocated
- 1 Long Term Void
- 18 Council Properties in Templeglantine
- 1 recently allocated

Please note these figures change on a weekly basis

Councillor Galvin referred to the recent application made by the Council for Social Housing in Mountcollins and noted that the application had been refused by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. He asked that a copy of the application be requested from the Housing Directorate and that another application be made given the level of housing applicants from the Mountcollins area. A discussion followed on the support required for development in smaller towns and villages and it was agreed that the Director, Community Development, would liaise with the Directors, Housing Development and Economic Development in order to facilitate a meeting on these matters.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed set of plans for the following:*

*(a) Parking layout for Collins Park, Abbeyfeale*

*(b) The entrance to Cryle View estate Abbeyfeale.*

### **REPLY:**

**Part (a)** There are two draft proposals for amending the parking layout at Collins Park, Abbeyfeale and these are attached for discussion.

Once a proposal is agreed, a final costing will be prepared. However it is estimated that each proposal could cost approximately €50,000 to €60,000 to implement.

**Part (b)** The preliminary design and feasibility report for proposed improvements to the Cryle View estate entrance are now completed. It is proposed to construct build-outs and improve road markings at the entrance to the estate to increase the available sightlines. Please note that these are draft proposals and are subject to approval from TII. The feasibility report will be submitted to the TII safety section for approval shortly. A copy of the drawing showing proposed changes is attached.

Councillor Galvin referred to the current parking layout at Collins Park, Abbeyfeale and stated that it is difficult for emergency vehicles to gain access to parts of the estate due to parking congestion. He also asked if residents within Collins Park and officials from the Estate Management Unit of the Housing Directorate were aware of the proposed new parking layout proposals. In response, the Executive Engineer Roads, stated that an onsite meeting was to take place.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed report on Devon Road cross and Wards Cross on the N21 to include when the proposed works are to commence and what funding has been allocated.*

**REPLY:** N21 Devon Cross

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) highlighted this junction as having potential safety issues under the TII HD17 Road Safety Inspection (RSI) Process. Two safety issues were identified as part of the RSI Process and the inspection team recommended feasibility stage solutions.

Staff from Mid West National Road Design Office (MWNRDO) carried out a further assessment of this location and the safety issues raised. MWNRDO recommended to TII that initial design stage solutions be advanced and that technical engineering consultancy services be procured to carry this out. TII approved funding for 2019 for engineering consultancy services.

Barry Transportation were appointed by Limerick City & County Council in April 2019 to progress initial stage design solutions for the junction and, subject to TII approval, a detailed design solution and tender stage services.

Barry Transportation are progressing the initial design stage solutions for this location and to progress the design, a topographical survey and traffic survey have been carried out.

They are examining a number of options and assessing the benefits and disbenefits of each and will present their options and recommendations in the coming weeks. The options and recommendations will be reviewed by staff in the Road Design Office and TII.

Subject to TII approval of recommended options and approval of necessary funding, Barry Transportation will proceed with the design process for the preferred option and a construction cost estimate for the design. This is programmed for 2020 and construction of any designed scheme will be further subject to TII funding.

### **N21 Ward's Cross**

A 1 km section of the N21, located east of Abbeyfeale was identified as having a high collision rate under TII's HD15 Network Safety Analysis Process. N21 Wards Cross is centred on this HD15 site. Ward's Cross is the junction of the N21 national road with the L7091 local road. The site was further analysed by staff from Mid West National Road Design Office and a feasibility report was prepared recommending the installation of a right turn lane on the N21 at Ward's Cross. TII granted approval for the construction of a right turn lane at this location.

As part of Barry Transportation's commission for the N21 Devon Cross, they were also appointed to carry out a detailed design of the right turn lane at N21 Ward's Cross. A ground investigation and topographical survey have been carried out and Barry Transportation are progressing the detailed design for submission to TII for approval.

In order to provide a right turn lane at this location, it is required to purchase land from adjacent landowners. Mid West National Road Design Office have commenced discussions with the landowners regarding the land take.

Upon completion of the detailed design and cost estimate for the proposals at this site, Mid West National Road Design Office will request approval from TII for funding to construct the scheme in 2020.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting when will the reduced speed limit signage be put in place in the various housing estates in Newcastle West.*

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County has, in exercise of its powers under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act, 2004 (no. 44 of 2004), as amended by Section 86 of the Road Traffic Act 2010 (No. 25 of 2010), and Section 22 of the Road Traffic Act 2016 (No. 21 of 2016), at its September Meeting, made the Limerick City and County Council Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws, 2019.

These Bye Laws which will come into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 and the reduced speed limits for estates within the Newcastle West Municipal District forms part of these Bye Laws.

Councillor Scanlan stated that some estates were still awaiting the erection of signage and the Executive Engineer, Roads confirmed that signage would be erected in any estate without signage as soon as possible.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting when will the gullies along Knockane Road be cleared.*

**REPLY:** The above mentioned gullies will be cleared out within the next week.

Councillor Scanlan referred to the blocked gullies in other areas and the Executive Engineer, Roads confirmed that work has commenced on the clearing of gullies within the District.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting when footpath renewal works are scheduled to be undertaken at the Churchview Estate, Ballygran.*

**REPLY:** Footpath renewal works will be carried out at the above mentioned estate in 2020 under GMA Local Roads funding.

**10. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins**

*I will ask at the next Meeting can the paving outside “The Carry Out” off licence at the Square, Newcastle West be repaired or reinstated to prevent accidents.*

**REPLY:** Repair works will be carried out in this location within the next two weeks.

**11. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins**

*I will ask at the next Meeting what measures are being taken to keep clean and monitor the bottle bank area outside the Newcastle West Civic Amenity Centre and is cctv installed there.*

**REPLY:** There has been ongoing issues with illegal dumping at the bring banks outside the Newcastle West Civic Amenity Centre. There are CCTV cameras operating at the site which are being reviewed. The Council are notified by the Civic Amenity Centre when illegal dumping occurs at the site.

In order to address the cleanliness of the area, the Municipal District Office will inspect the site 2-3 times per week and clean as required. The Service Provider contracted to empty the bring banks is also obliged to clean the immediate area around the bring banks.

If illegal dumping continues to occur at this site, the Council will have to reconsider relocating the bring banks.

The Executive Engineer, Roads also stated that the contractor who manages the Civic Amenity site does assist in keeping the area around the bring banks clean.

**12. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the cctv and public wifi for Newcastle West town centre.*

**REPLY:**

- The 6 x CCTV cameras deployed in the two locations, NCW007 – N21 Roundabout and NCW008 – Town Square in Newcastle West are recording 24 hours/day. The Smart CCTV project Wave 1 is in transition (test) status. The existing two cameras in Sharwood estate and three cameras in Castlevue estate will be upgraded in Wave 2 of the project. The project will be maintained in this transition status until any recommendations in relation to GDPR that will come from the Data Protection Commissioner audit are fully implemented and until any technical issues including issues that may arise from Wave 2 of the project are ironed out.

- The necessary infrastructure works for Public WiFi in The Square Newcastle West have commenced with the deployment of a fibre internet connection to the CCTV column NCW008 where the Wi-Fi Access Point will be installed in the coming weeks.

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that the Council change its policy within the Tier 5 Settlements for the village of Mountcollins.*

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin stated that

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

**REPLY:** The Local Government Reform Act 2014 made provision for the extension of the lifetime of both the Limerick City and Limerick County Development Plans, pending the making of a National Planning Framework (NPF) and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). In accordance with this provision, both Development Plans were extended, with no defined expiration date. The 2018 Planning and Development amendment Act requires the preparation of a new development plan to commence within 26 weeks of the making of the initial Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

The NPF was published on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and the RSES based on current information will be adopted by the end of 2019. Therefore, the preparation of the Limerick City and County Development Plan legally must commence within 26 weeks of that date. However, given the outdated nature of both plans, it is proposed that the review will commence with the publication of an issues paper in Q2 2020. The review will commence the statutory 99 week process of preparing a new development plan. The preliminary work will commence in advance of this date and briefing meetings with the Elected Members will take place in early 2020.

This review will consider the policy for all settlements within Limerick City and County.

Discussion took place on the current Limerick City and County Development Plan and the guidelines being followed for developments which are seeking permission outside the core areas of towns. Reference was also made to the rural housing in the proposed National Planning Framework.

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that the Council locate refuse bins within all the active Cemeteries in our Municipal District.*

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to the provision of refuse bins within all active cemeteries in the District.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council is currently reviewing its refuse collection policy for all its burial grounds, we are committed to reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill with the view to providing a more sustainable and cost effective service.

To that end, we will not be providing any additional refuse bin service to other active cemeteries.

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that immediate action is taken to secure the loose paving evident along Nash's Lane, off The Square, Newcastle West.*

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to the loose paving along Nash's Lane, off The Square, Newcastle West. A brief discussion followed and the Executive Engineer, Roads confirmed that this is a private laneway but agreed to correspond with the landowner regarding the possibility of taking the laneway in charge.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ruddle.

**REPLY:** The above mentioned area is not taken in charge by the Council. However, contact will be made with the relevant landowner with regard to this matter.

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that the speed ramps promised for Gortboy, Newcastle West be advanced and installed as a matter of urgency.*

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins referred to the straight stretch of road and speeding at this location. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer referred to Limerick City and County Council's Traffic Calming Policy for Urban Areas and the process involved prior to installation of speed ramps.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

**REPLY:** A request for traffic calming at Gortboy has been received and is currently being assessed in accordance with Limerick City and County Council's Traffic Calming Policy for Urban Areas.

This roadway is on the proposed 2020 Roadworks Programme for overlay works. Traffic calming if warranted, may form part of these works.

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that a safety barrier be installed at Mauricetown Upper, Ballagh, just beyond the Mass Rock to prevent a serious accident happening there.*

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins referred to the dangerous location at Mauricetown Upper, Ballagh, beyond the Mass Rock and requested that a safety barrier be installed to prevent a serious accident occurring.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that works are due to commence on the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**REPLY:** The existing embankment at the above location will be reinforced. Also in areas where the embankment is low, a new embankment will be put in place to act as a natural safety barrier.

The following items were also raised.

An update on road hatching along the R522 from the Woodfield estates, Newcastle West towards the Bridge of Tears roundabout was requested. The Executive Engineer, Roads confirmed that a road overlay is being carried out on this roadway and yellow hatching will be put in place as part of the overlay works.

An update on the drainage works for The Hill, Abbeyfeale, was also requested. The Executive Engineer, Roads, stated that works have commenced but are not yet complete.

The installation of the green waste composting bin on a trial basis at St. Mary's Graveyard Abbeyfeale was welcomed but it was also noted that the lights at the graveyard are not working and this had been omitted from the Minutes of the October meeting of the District. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Cemeteries Section for investigation.

Overgrown hedges blocking the footpath along the side of the Palm Grove estate, Newcastle West was noted and the Executive Engineer, Roads, agreed to make contact with the relevant landowner on this matter.

It was noted that works had commenced at Lenihan's Cross, Garryduff, Newcastle West and the cutting back of overgrown hedges at this location was also required.

The recent issuing of hedge cutting notices to landowners within the District was raised and it was noted that some overgrown hedges still remain uncut. The Executive Engineer, Roads, stated that these will be investigated.

The Director, advised the Members of a private briefing on the progress of works on the Great Southern Greenway and the date of this briefing is to be confirmed.

It was agreed to hold the December Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

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

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