

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH OCTOBER, 2020, AT 10AM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor F. Foley, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Galvin, Ruddle, Scanlan and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Foley welcomed everyone in attendance to the October Meeting of the District. The Cathaoirleach reiterated the Covid19 recommended guidelines with regard to the duration of Meetings and to be mindful of keeping the length of meetings to a minimum with the maximum time allowed being one hour and fifty five minutes.

Due to the recently introduced Covid19 Level 3 Guidelines, it was noted that the Joint Policing Sub Committee of the District was being deferred. In light of this, the Members sought a point of contact from the Gardai to deal with issues of concern.

The 40th anniversary of the death of Detective Garda Quaid from Ballinakill, Castlemahon and Wexford was noted and the Members wished to acknowledge the efforts of Detective Garda Quaid who was killed in his line of duty.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 2nd September, 2020.

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

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Adjourned Meeting of the

Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 9th September, 2020.

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

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

2. Disposal of Property

Circulated, report of Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services, dated 25th September, 2020, concerning proposal to dispose of property at Pallas, Kilmeeady, Co. Limerick, to Michael Butler and Obdulia Dinglasan.

Members noted the proposal.

3. Physical Development Directorate

To consider Draft Municipal District of Newcastle West (Parking Places)(Amendment) Bye-Laws, 2020.

Circulated, report of Director of Service, dated 22nd September, 2020, setting out details of the Public Consultation Report in relation to the Draft Municipal District of Newcastle West (Parking Places)(Amendment) Bye-Laws, 2020.

The Meetings Administrator referred to the report from the Director of Service, Physical Development and noted that the report is being presented to the Members for their consideration on adopting the draft Municipal District of Newcastle West (Parking Places)(Amendment) Bye-Laws 2020.

It was proposed by Councillor Scanlan and seconded by Councillor Ruddle, that the Draft Municipal District of Newcastle West (Parking Places)(Amendment) Bye-Laws, 2020, be adopted.

4. Community Development Directorate

To consider Community Initiative Scheme for 2020.

Circulated, report of Administrative Officer, Urban & Rural Community Development, dated 23rd September, 2020.

The Members agreed to allocate funding to the organisations as outlined in the report. This was proposed by Councillor Galvin and seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

5. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €600 to public lighting at Belville.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Monagea Community Graveyard.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €2,500 to Roads in Athea.

The Director referred to the Strategic projects for the District which were agreed by the Members at the June Meeting of the District.

It was noted that an allocation of €18,000 from the GMA Strategic Fund Allocation for works at Abbeyfeale Playground/Park was being proposed. It was also noted that these works were costing more than originally allocated and the Members agreed to allocate a further €2,800 to this project. It was proposed that the total sum of €20,800 be allocated from the GMA Strategic Projects Fund for the upgrade of the walkway at Abbeyfeale Playground/Town Park.

The additional funding was agreed by all the Members.

The Director referred to Barnagh Stationhouse, which was purchased by Limerick City and County Council in early 2020. He stated that initial stabilisation works were required and that a tender had been sought for the project. It was noted that the cost of the project was €100,000 and that €50,000 had also been secured from the Government's July Stimulus Package. However, it was recommended that funding of €50,000 be allocated from the GMA Strategic Project allocation to match fund the money allocated by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The additional funding was agreed by all the Members.

A brief discussion followed protected structures and the development of Barnagh and Ardagh Stationhouses. Access to the Local Road L21021 from the Great Southern Trail was also raised.

QUESTION FROM SEPTEMBER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

6. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will ask at the next Meeting for a copy of the planning permission and a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement from Irish Water with regard to the works which they carried out on the River Feale, Abbeyfeale at McCarthy's bend with regard to diverting water to the Abbeyfeale Water Treatment Plant.

REPLY:

- In early 2016, following extreme floods, a breach formed on the River Feale. The breach occurred when flood waters bypassed the existing meander, the natural course of the river and instead flowed through an existing drainage channel. If left unchecked this would have caused the meander to become cut off from the river. This could have resulted in a significant threat to the water supply for approximately 3,000 people supplied by the Abbeyfeale Public Water Supply.
- The River Feale is the raw water source for the Abbeyfeale Public Water Supply and the raw water intake (abstraction point) was in place long before the 2016 event.
- Due to concerns by Irish Water and Limerick County Council that the breach may impact adversely on the abstraction, emergency works were planned and undertaken. The works involved closing of the breach channel during low flows and undertaking some instream works on the main river channel at the request of Inland Fisheries Ireland.
- Prior to and during the works, Irish Water and Limerick County Council consulted with the OPW, Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and complied fully with all associated requirements. It was confirmed that there was no requirement to complete a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report was prepared and submitted to NPWS. This report is attached.
- The works were completed later in 2016.
- Irish Water contends that the works undertaken did not change the course of the River Feale but rather restored and protected its natural channel flow to that of the river, pre 2016. While it is accepted that there has been erosion at the Public Park, Irish Water's position is that this did not occur as a result of the emergency works undertaken.
- Irish Water does not have jurisdiction to undertake any further works on the River Feale and so it is respectfully suggested that contact be made with the OPW to further discuss the matter.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your query as we worked to compile the information above. Should you or your colleagues have any additional queries, you may direct them to the Local Representative Support Desk and we will make every effort to respond as quickly as possible. The LRSD can be contacted by email at localrepsupport@water.ie or by phone at 1890 178 178.

Councillor Foley acknowledged the response received from Irish Water but also referred to the ongoing issue with regard to river erosion at the town park.

NOTICE OF MOTION FROM SEPTEMBER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council call on Irish Water to rectify the serious problem it caused when the River Feale was interfered with at the Town Park, Abbeyfeale to divert water to the treatment plant.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

- In early 2016, following extreme floods, a breach formed on the River Feale. The breach occurred when flood waters bypassed the existing meander, the natural course of the river and instead flowed through an existing drainage channel. If left unchecked this would have caused the meander to become cut off from the river. This could have resulted in a significant threat to the water supply for approximately 3,000 people supplied by the Abbeyfeale Public Water Supply.
- The River Feale is the raw water source for the Abbeyfeale Public Water Supply and the raw water intake (abstraction point) was in place long before the 2016 event.
- Due to concerns by Irish Water and Limerick County Council that the breach may impact adversely on the abstraction, emergency works were planned and undertaken. The works involved closing of the breach channel during low flows and undertaking some instream works on the main river channel at the request of Inland Fisheries Ireland.
- Prior to and during the works, Irish Water and Limerick County Council consulted with the OPW, Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and complied fully with all associated requirements. It was confirmed that there was no requirement to complete a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report was prepared and submitted to NPWS. This report is attached.
- The works were completed later in 2016.
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- Irish Water does not have jurisdiction to undertake any further works on the River Feale and so it is respectfully suggested that contact be made with the OPW to further discuss the matter.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your query as we worked to compile the information above.

I note also your request to attend an upcoming meeting of the Newcastle West Municipal District. Unfortunately, we are not available to attend Council or Municipal District meetings at this time. However, I trust the information provided above will address your query. Should you or your colleagues have any additional queries, you may direct them to the Local Representative Support Desk and we will make every effort to respond as quickly as possible. The LRSD can be contacted by email at localrepsupport@water.ie or by phone at 1890 178 178.

Councillor Galvin referred to the works carried out by Irish Water at the Town Park, Abbeyfeale. A brief discussion followed and it was proposed by Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor Collins that Minister O'Donovan be written to again with regard to the OPW taking in charge all rivers within the District.

QUESTIONS

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting I will ask at the next Meeting for (a) an update on the works for the Cryleview entrance and an update on the sewerage issues in this estate in Abbeyfeale (b) an update on the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan including drawings for the full project and a report on the housing development for Colbert Terrace (c) an update on the proposed housing development for Mountcollins (d) an update on the new graveyard for Abbeyfeale.

REPLY:

(a)

Central Services submitted a feasibility report previously for junction improvements at Cryle View to TII. TII have reviewed this report and have indicated that funding may be made available in 2021.

Limerick City and County Council Water Services monitor the sewer network and one particular sewer manhole at Cryle View regularly given the tendency for blockages at that manhole location. The manhole is checked twice weekly and cleaned/sucked out as required with the sewer connection to the Killarney Road mainline also jetted as required. The frequency of this operation varies and would be more frequent in wet weather (hence the resident observing our jetting contractor being there more frequently in the past while).

LCCC's investigation of this issue concluded that remedial works were required to manhole to mitigate the blockages and need for repeated jetting/cleaning out. A proposal was sent to

Irish Water for approval and recently a purchase order has been issued to a Contractor to undertake the work. A start date is awaited for this work and LCCC will continue to closely monitor the manhole in the interim. LCCC will seek to progress the remedial works as a matter of priority with the Contractor.

(b)

Design and Delivery will attend the November Meeting of Newcastle West Municipal District with the relevant drawing for both schemes.

(c)

Designs for a proposed development of 4 social housing units at Radharc Na Ghleanna, Mountcollins have been developed in consultation with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. An updated application for project funding approval based on that development proposal will be submitted to the Department in the coming weeks. A design team has been appointed.

(d)

A preferred site for a new burial ground has been identified following a site selection process and the matter is being progressed by the Council's Property Department.

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for the road side dyke running from Tony Murphy's Mountmahon towards the spring to be cleaned out properly.

REPLY: The road side dyke has been cleaned out.

10. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) how many applicants are on the housing list in Newcastle West (b) how many are on HAP (c) how many vacant houses have we in Newcastle West.

REPLY:

There are 2641 Households on the LCCC Social Housing Waiting list. 251 households reside in NCW.

Number of Households on LCCC Social Housing Waiting List	2641
Households Residing in NCW	251

127 households out of 251 are receiving Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and 12 are receiving Rental Accommodation Scheme Support (RAS).

6 households are approved.

Of the 358 households who have expressed an interest in being house in NCW they are categorised as follows: 173 - First preference, 53 – second and 132 – third.

At present there are 27 vacant LCCC owned houses in NCW:

Cat 1	1
Cat 2	8
Cat 3	4
Cat 4	14
	27

7 houses will ready for allocation in October, 1 in November and 19 will be ready in 2021 subject to funding approval.

October	7
November	1
2021	19
	27

11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when (a) the paving along Nash’s Lane, Newcastle West will be secured and (b) what action is proposed to remedy the problems with the tiling on the Mall at the Square, Newcastle West.

REPLY: (a) Works on the paving are due to start in October, subject to the availability of a contractor to complete the works.

(b) The tiling slabs have been repaired over the past week at the Square.

12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting for a complete listing of all private residential properties purchased by our Authority in the Newcastle West Municipal District in each of the years from 2016 to 2020 along with the numbers acquired in the same period through Section 5 obligations.

REPLY:

Please find the table below showing the acquisitions in the Newcastle West Municipal District for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 (as of 29/9/2020) under the different DHPLG delivery streams.

		Part V	SHIP*	Buy & Renew	CAS**	CALF***	Total
2016		2	4	1	0	0	6
2017		1	9	0	0	0	10
2018		3	2	3	3	6	17
2019		0	7	7	1	0	15
2020 (to date)		0	0	3	0	0	3

*Social Housing Investment Programme

**Capital Assistance Scheme

*** Capital Advance Leasing Facility

13. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when footpath renewal/replacement works are likely to be carried out from the River Arra Roundabout towards Lacey's Cross.

REPLY: Footpath renewal works will be carried out as part of the N21 overlay works from the Arra Roundabout to 60 kph speed limit on the Limerick road. It is expected that these works will be carried out within the next two to three weeks subject to weather conditions.

14. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the Limerick City and County Council's Camera system in Abbeyfeale as there was a problem with them and has it been fixed.

REPLY:

We have reviewed footage for Abbeyfeale and have found the following:

Cctv is functioning in Abbeyfeale and disc playback showed no issues. Quality of pictures is acceptable on the discs both day and night.

The playback issue is not apparent in any of our discs assessed and may be a user issue. VLC player is recommended.

These cameras include panoramic cameras, which are a collection of cameras reviewing a 360 degree aspect.

We are aware of some issues with ANPR cameras and are working with the supplier to resolve these however these cameras are not going to capture everything as they are specifically designed for a narrow window and perfect lighting. They will function within certain parameters and tolerances but not 100%. We are at present working to achieve maximum results possible within the environment where ANPR are deployed.

Councillor Foley referred to camera system in Abbeyfeale where the Gardai are having difficulty with the quality of the footage. Following a brief discussion by the Members it was agreed that this matter would be raised again with the relevant Directorate.

15. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will ask at the next Meeting that a drainage scheme be costed and put in place on the road known as Bushy Road, Dromtrasna, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: These works will be considered under the 2021 Drainage Works Programme. The estimated cost of these works is €20,000.

NOTICES OF MOTION

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that restricted vehicular access be put in place along Nash's Lane from the Square entrance towards Aldi in the interest of pedestrian safety.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

REPLY: To restrict vehicular access from the Square, Newcastle West requires a Public Consultation process by means of a Section 38 Notice in accordance with the Roads Act 1994.

In the interim, Nash's Lane is due to be resurfaced in the coming weeks and improved lining and signing will be carried out at the entrance to the Square.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to the traffic flow along Nash's Lane and following discussion, it was agreed that a Section 38 process would commence with regard to vehicular access on the laneway. The Senior Executive Engineer also stated that a leaflet drop to households could be arranged prior to commencement of Section 38 process.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that the Newcastle West Municipal District be given a commitment that all essential upgrade works on residential properties purchased by our

Authority be undertaken immediately once property purchased, in order that those homes are tenanted within a 6 month timeframe from the date of purchase.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: The majority of our houses are purchased under the Buy & Renew programme and as a result they have been assigned a refurbishment budget. The refurb tendered works are so that the houses are completed and allocated as a priority.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan requested that upgrade works on residential properties be undertaken immediately to ensure a quick response time in getting vacant houses into occupancy. The Members also acknowledged the good work carried out on the purchasing of derelict properties in the District.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council clearly mark out and define the trading area at the Square, Newcastle West to identify how many pitches are available there.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ruddle.

REPLY:

As per the Council Casual Trading Bye Laws 1996, casual trading is permitted to take place at the Square, Newcastle West on Thursdays and Saturdays.

All traders who wish to trade at the Square, Newcastle West, which is the designated trading area as per the Bye-Laws, will require a licence. Licences are issued by the Council on receipt of completed application form along with evidence of the necessary public liability insurance and licence fee.

Once licenced, the trader is designated a space if there is one available. There are currently seven licenced traders at the Square and these take up of most of the casual trading area . The trading areas have not been marked/painted out on the ground as this would take from the appearance of the cobbled area at the Square on non-trading days. However each trader is advised of their space on receipt of a licence.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins requested that Limerick City and County Council clearly mark out and define the trading area at the Square, Newcastle West. A brief discussion followed and it was agreed that a list of traders and map would be circulated.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council engage with the Newcastle West Community Centre to see if their new car park could be used for public car parking.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ruddle.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will engage with Newcastle West Community Council to see if their new car park could be utilised for public parking.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins referred to the close proximity of the Community Centre car park to the Square and it was agreed that a meeting would be held with representatives of the Community Centre. A brief discussion followed on the cordoned off car park spaces in the Aldi car park and it was noted that this is private property.

20. Correspondence

Correspondence as circulated was noted by Members.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on the Holy Mass Rock, Templeglantine. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that an investigation was carried out with the Land Registry and no right of way exists on the Land Registry.

An update on the derelict Convent of Mercy building, Abbeyfeale, was also raised. In replying, the Director stated that an inspection of the building was carried out and discussions are ongoing with the Limerick and Clare Education Training Board.

The Members sought an update on a full review of the qualifying parameters for Local Improvement Schemes and requested that the Senior Engineer, Operations and Maintenance be invited to attend the November Meeting of the District.

An update on the request for two bus shelters at South Quay, Newcastle West was raised. In replying, the Senior Executive referred to the update given at the September Meeting and stated that Limerick City and County Council will include the request for bus shelters both north and south bound on South quay with the National Transport Authority for consideration in 2021.

A request was received from the Templeglantine Community Council to attend a Meeting of the District. However, due to Level 3 Covid 19 Guidelines, the Members agreed that an onsite Meeting would be held with three representatives from Templeglantine Community Council along with two Elected Members and three Council officials.

The Senior Executive Engineer referred to the workshop, which was to take place with the Consultants regarding the Newcastle West Public Realm and Traffic Movement Plan. It was agreed that an online workshop would take place on Wednesday, 14th October, 2020, at 2.30 pm.

It was agreed to hold the November Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 4th November, 2020, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
