

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 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), Director, Housing Development (Ms. A. Duke), Acting Senior Executive Planner, Housing Development (Ms. S. Newell), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Valley), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

APOLOGIES:

Acting Executive Engineer, Housing (Mr. D. Toomey).

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Foley welcomed everyone in attendance to the December Meeting of the District.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 4th November, 2020.

Proposed by: Councillor Scanlan

Seconded by: Councillor Ruddle

And Resolved:

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

2. Housing Development Directorate

To receive update on housing developments within the Newcastle West District.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Director, Housing Development and the A/Senior Executive Planner, Housing Development to the Meeting.

The Director and Acting Senior Executive Planner gave an update to the Members on the current status with regard to the development of pipeline sites in the District. The Acting Senior Executive Planner outlined to the Members the proposed developments in the Build Programme which included Mountcollins, Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Sycamore Crescent, Newcastle West, Broadford, Athea and Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West. She also gave an update on the number of units and stages of each development and stated that a total of ninety one units are in the pipeline for the District.

A discussion followed on Approved Housing Bodies and the Members referred to various projects within the District including Corrán Deel Voluntary Housing and Clúid Voluntary Housing Bodies. The Director stated that the Housing Development Directorate work with these Housing Bodies to support funding applications to the Department to allow various projects to proceed and meetings are held with these groups in this regard. The Members expressed disappointment with regard to the Woodfield Manor Newcastle West project where 30 of the 68 units are to be managed by an Approved Housing Body, given the concerns they raised at a recent meeting with the Housing Development Directorate.

Discussion also took place on the Housing Application form and the need to include smaller towns and villages where the Council had either purchased property or where Approved Housing Bodies were progressing housing projects. It was noted that applicants may prefer to remain in their local communities if there was suitable accommodation available rather than moving into larger towns.

3. Support Services Directorate

Consideration of Amendment to Standing Orders

To consider amending Standing Orders to allow for remote meetings in light of Local Government Circular LG 07-2020 “Guidelines for Supplementary Orders regulating the proceedings in relation to remote meetings of the Council” and “S.I. No. 445/2020 – Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Section 29) (Local Authorities) (Designation) Order 2020.

Circulated, report of Meetings Administrator, Municipal District of Newcastle West, dated 27th November, 2020, and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Circular LG 07 2020 dated 30th October, 2020.

Following discussion on this matter, the Members expressed an overall preference for onsite attendance at District Meetings, however given the current pandemic, arrangements needed to be put in place to hold meetings in instances where it may not be possible to hold physical District meetings. It was agreed that in light of the current pandemic having a Supplementary Item added to the Standing Orders to regulate the holding of remote meetings should be approved. The addition of the Supplementary Item to Standing Order was proposed by Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor Scanlan with the recommendation that the

need for this Supplementary item be reviewed in June, 2021. Councillor Galvin also noted his objection to the amending of Standing Orders to allow for remote meetings.

4. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 for roadworks at Clash Road, Abbeyfeale.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,900 to Killeedy Hall Committee.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €2,500 to drainage works at Kilrodane, Ardagh.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Newcastle West Boys Scouts.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 for roadworks at Ballyagran.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 for roadworks at Castletown.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 to the Book on the History of Mountcollins.

QUESTIONS

5. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) do the Council operate a paint your house scheme in any of the Municipal for Metropolitan Districts (b) can we implement a paint your house scheme for Local Authority housing.

REPLY: At present Limerick City and County Council do not currently operate a “paint your house” scheme in any municipal district.

A pilot “self-help” scheme, which commenced in August 2020 is currently in operation in Cappamore Kilmallock electoral areas. Works are completed by contractors and inspected by council staff. There is an option included in this scheme for painting the exterior of a house. However, the take up by the tenants of this option has been limited.

Once the pilot project is complete, a full review will be undertaken which will formulate the basis of any future “self-help” scheme.

In addition, for clarity purposes, under insurance advice previously sought by the Council's Health and Safety Section, Housing Maintenance cannot supply painting materials directly to tenants to undertake painting themselves, due to liability issues.

6. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the works for Ward's Cross and Devon Road Cross.

REPLY:

(i) N21 Ward's Cross

The scheme has progressed through the design process since the previous update on the scheme. All departures applications have been submitted in accordance with TII Departures from Standards procedures. All departures have been approved by Transport Infrastructure Ireland, subject to the provisions of a revised feasibility report to TII. This has been prepared by Mid West National Road Design Office and submitted to TII.

In accordance with TII Procedures for Road Safety Improvement Schemes and TII's Project Management Guidelines we have submitted a report for formal TII approval, to proceed to preparation of tender documents and the allocation of funding.

Completion of the tender process is dependent on the TII approval and the completion of discussions with Irish Water and subsequent design of the necessary water main diversion. Barry Transportation will liaise with Irish Water regarding the realignment requirements of the water main to be undertaken as part of the project.

(ii) Devon Cross

A feasibility report has been submitted to TII for approval of the recommendation to create a staggered junction and for allocation of the necessary funding. We are endeavouring to secure this funding to allow Barry Transportation to proceed with the detail design process and preparation of tender documents.

As an interim measure, it is proposed to seek funding to install signage on the R515, approaching the N21, to improve visibility of the N21/R515 junction until such time that funding is available to construct the recommended option. This signage has been designed and a feasibility report submitted to TII requesting funding to install the signs. A road safety audit has been undertaken and the signage design is currently being updated based on the road safety audit recommendations. Installation of signs will be undertaken by the area office once allocation of funding has been approved by TII.

Councillor Galvin noted that funding had recently been made available from Transport Infrastructure Ireland to Kerry County Council for road improvements and noted that funding should also be made available to Limerick City and County Council to progress the necessary works at Wards Cross and Devon Cross.

7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) who owns/ has responsibility for the old railway store house in Abbeyfeale (b) can the building be boarded to stop antisocial behaviour (c) has a derelict site notice been served to the owner.

REPLY:

- (a) The building is owned by Irish Rail. The licence granted by Irish Rail to Limerick City and County Council for use of the old rail line/Greenway includes this building.
- (b) Limerick City and County Council will arrange for the necessary work to be carried out.
- (c) No.

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when the hedgerow at the opposite side between the Churchview Estate and the Parochial House at Castlemahon be tidied up.

REPLY: Contact will be made with the landowner and arrangements will be made to carry out these works.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting for a speed warning lighting system to be installed along the R522 between Tiermeana Bridge and Ardnacrohy Height.

REPLY: This location is on a Regional road where the default general speed limit of 80kph applies. It is not Council policy to provide driver feedback signs at locations such as this. Enforcement of speeding regulations in these areas are a matter for the Gardai.

Councillor Scanlan submitted a petition which had been signed by eighty householders living in this area with regard to introducing speed control measures on the R522 road between Tiermeana and Ardnacrohy, Newcastle West.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that safety measures be implemented on the Pallas side of the Priest's house when approaching Kilmeedy along the R519 from Tireagh Cross.

REPLY: The above can be considered for a Low Cost Safety Scheme. However as an interim measure road markings will be improved in this area.

NOTICES OF MOTION

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that a full report be provided by Water Services and Irish Water with regard to the electricity issues on the 4th and 5th November, which resulted in households having no water for a number of days and that contingency plans be put in place to ensure that water outages of this kind do not occur again if there are issues with electricity supplies.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: Please note below the response received from Irish Water.

“I have forwarded the query to the appropriate department for review and response. Once an update becomes available, a member of our team will be in contact with you.

Your Irish Water reference number is 57801, which you can keep for your own records.

I understand this issue is a source of concern for you and the members of the Newcastle West MD, please bear with us while we await an update”.

Notwithstanding the above reply, Irish Water facilitated a workshop with Councillors on Monday, 23rd November where this matter was discussed and Councillor Galvin was advised that Irish Water would be in contact directly in relation to the outage referred to and actions arising.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin acknowledged the assistance of the Council staff in dealing with this matter and requested that Irish Water notify customers in advance of known interruptions to water supply. He also requested that Irish Water invest in the provision of generators should there be an interruption to water supply.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that a road crossing be provided at Abbeyfeale United Soccer Club Abbeyfeale.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: Provision of a pedestrian crossing from the soccer club to the existing footpath on opposite side of this road can be considered for funding under 2021 GMA Roads allocation.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin requested that a pedestrian crossing be provided in the interest of child safety and that funding of this crossing be considered under the Great

Southern Greenway Project.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that we request a Meeting with representatives of The Board of Management of SMI to discuss their proposed input towards resolving the residential congestion and traffic flow difficulties along Boherbee.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ruddle.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to traffic congestion in the vicinity of the school.

At this point Councillor Foley noted that a written request had been received from the residents of Meadow Court Estate to attend a Meeting of the District to discuss traffic issues at the estate. It was also noted that a number of other housing estates are also affected by the traffic issue at this location.

A discussion followed and it was that the Meetings Administrator would write to the Principal of Scoil Mhuire agus Íde on this matter.

At this point, Councillor Galvin left the Meeting.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that consideration be given to reconfiguring the traffic flow at Ballykennedy Cross (Dore's) in the interest of safety.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: Due to the existing junction layout and lack of available sightlines, particularly, with regard to right turn movements, there is merit in reconfiguring traffic flows here.

A Road Safety Audit will be arranged, An Garda Síochána will need to be consulted and there may be a requirement for minor land acquisition.

Once Traffic Surveys and maps are prepared, a Public Consultation process by means of a Section 38 Notice in accordance with 1994 Roads Act should be carried out.

The following items were also raised.

The issue of overgrown hedges and the cleaning of roadways after hedge cutting was also referred to. In replying, the Executive Engineer gave an update to the Members on this matter. He agreed to follow up on overgrown hedges at forestry owned lands in the Municipal District.

The Senior Executive Engineer gave an update to the Members on the Newcastle West Community Centre car park being utilised for public parking. He stated that representatives from the Community Centre are willing to engage with the Local Authority and that the matter of insurance is being checked.

The Executive Engineer, Roads, gave an update to the Members on the flashing lights in Carrickerry and Athea. The Roads Engineer stated that the lights will be in operation shortly.

An update was sought on the taking in charge of Rays Estate, Mountcollins, Co. Limerick. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that the taking in charge of the estate has commenced and a costing is being prepared.

Following a request from the Director, it was agreed to hold a Special Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 16th December, 2020, at 10 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien, to discuss Part 8 Planning applications for the Great Southern Greenway.

It was agreed to hold the December Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 13th January, 2021, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

The Cathaoirleach wished the Members, Management and Staff a Happy Christmas and acknowledged their assistance and support during a difficult 2020. He also referred to shopping local and the need to support local businesses during the current pandemic

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
