

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH 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), A/Senior Executive Officer, Design and Delivery (Mr. S.McGlynn) Senior Executive Engineer, Community Development (Mr. B. Noonan), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett)

P. Ryan, Shannon International Development Consultants (SIDC)

1. Community Development Directorate

To consider the Chief Executive's Reports pursuant to Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) in relation to the following:

- (a) Construction of a new car park at Station Road, Newcastle West comprising of 50 car parking spaces, associated surface lining, drainage, lighting and green area.
- (b) Construction of six cattle underpasses and one cattle overpass at five locations on the newly developed Great Southern Greenway at Garranekeevan, Dromin (MacTurlough), Doonakeen, Knocknasna and Port.
- (c) Refurbishment of Ardagh Station house (which is a protected structure) and goods shed and change of use to commercial, community and tourism use along with ancillary site works.

Refurbishment of Barnagh Station house (which is a protected structure) and change of use to a community and tourism use along with ancillary site works.

At the outset of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

The Director commenced by referring to the Chief Executive's Reports on the Part 8 applications. He stated that no major objections to the proposals had been received during the public consultation process and that the proposed works were broadly welcomed.

The Members acknowledged the work to date on developing the Great Southern Greenway and the great amenity it is to both locals and tourists alike.

They also queried the new surface currently being laid on the Greenway and its effect on the natural flora and fauna along the route which could be brought to the Environmental Strategic Policy Committee, disability access to the Greenway, the farm crossing at Coolybrown Ardagh, and it was also queried when would the Greenway be re-opened following the current re-surfacing works.

In reply, the Director, stated that the pathway along the Greenway is over 3 meters wide and the natural hedgerows along the route are not impeded. He also noted that the Council has an Environmental Awareness Officer who could work with interested parties on plans to enhance biodiversity along the Greenway. Also a maintenance programme is being developed for the Greenway. He also noted that a solution had been agreed for the farm crossing at Coolybrown, Ardagh.

The Senior Executive Engineer also noted that the material being used to re-surface the Greenway was the same as is used on public road re-surfacing. He also noted that there are National Strategy Guidelines for the development of Greenways which outlined best practice and this is also being followed. It was also noted that the Rathkeale to Ardagh section of the Greenway will shortly be re-opened following re-surfacing works.

Discussion also took place on the need for an additional underpass at Ballybehy and the access points at the railway house Abbeyfeale and the Devon road onto the Greenway. The need for reinforced road surfaces along the route where heavy machinery could be crossing from one portion of farmland to another was also discussed. It was noted that these matters are being addressed and the Council have been engaging with the individuals concerned.

The Part 8s for the (a) the construction of a new car park at Station Road, Newcastle West comprising of 50 car parking spaces, associated surface lining, drainage, lighting and green area

(b) the construction of six cattle underpasses and one cattle overpass at five locations on the newly developed Great Southern Greenway at Garranekeevan, Dromin (MacTurlough), Doonakeen, Knocknasna and Port.

(c) the refurbishment of Ardagh Station house (which is a protected structure) and goods shed and change of use to commercial, community and tourism use along with ancillary site works. The refurbishment of Barnagh Station house (which is a protected structure) and change of use to a community and tourism use along with ancillary site work,

were proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Cllr Scanlan and resolved.

2. General Municipal Allocation

Discussion took place on the re-opening of the tennis club in Newcastle West and the work which took place over the past few months to get the club up and running again. It was noted that the club now has over 500 members and although some minor maintenance work was carried out to improve the facility additional infrastructural works are required. These include security fencing and lighting. It was noted that the Council is the owner of the site of the club but there is a lease in place to the tennis club. Funding in the amount of €30,000 is being sought under the GMA Strategic Projects allocation for security fencing and lighting.

Discussion took place on the project and the work put in by Councillor Ruddle on getting the club re-started again. Other funding streams for the development of projects such as Sport Capital Grants, Community Enhancement Schemes and the funding of projects and announcement of same from the LCDC were also discussed.

It was proposed by Councillor Ruddle and seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed, to allocate €30,000 from the GMA Strategic Projects allocation to the project on infrastructural works for Newcastle West Tennis Club.

The following projects were also allocated funding under the GMA Special Projects allocation.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Abbeyfeale Townpark.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Scoil Mháthair Dé Abbeyfeale.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
