

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ONLINE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 3rd FEBRUARY, 2021, 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. Valley), 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, the Cathaoirleach welcomed all in attendance to the first Online Meeting of the District. He noted that the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien TD., had signed an Order in October 2020 allowing Local Authority meetings to be held remotely and online. Following the signing of this Order, the Municipal District incorporated this change into the Municipal District of Newcastle West Standing Orders at the December 2020 Municipal District Meeting.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that all decisions or votes, therefore, taken by Elected Members at such meetings (whether physically or remotely present) have the same status in law as decisions or votes taken at physical meetings.

The Meetings Administrator also outlined to the attendees that in accordance with Standing Orders and GDPR Regulations, no cameras of any kind or sound recording or communication equipment may be used at these Meetings.

The Cathaoirleach then proceeded with the Meeting by confirming all the Elected Members present.

1. Adoption of Minutes

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 16th December, 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. Planning and Environmental Services Directorate

Taking in Charge of Estates – Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads

To consider the Taking in Charge of Estate Ellis Wood, Abbeyfeale, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Circulated, report of A/Senior Planner, Planning and Environmental Services, dated 3rd December, 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin and resolved:

“That Estate Ellis Wood, Abbeyfeale, be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993”.

3. Operations and Maintenance Services Directorate

To consider report on Roads Act 1994 Section 38(3) process as amended by the Public Transportation Regulation Act, 2009 (Section 46), with regard to the introduction of traffic calming measures on Nash’s Lane at Newcastle West Square between Bank of Ireland and Aldi.

Circulated, report of Senior Executive Engineer, Operations and Maintenance Services, dated 7th January, 2021.

The Senior Executive Engineer referred to the proposed introduction of traffic calming measures and the prohibition of vehicular access to and from The Square, Newcastle West to Nash’s Lane, Newcastle West. He stated that it was proposed to install a bollard at the Town Square end of Nash’s Lane to restrict vehicular access only and that access to all properties would still be available via Churchtown/Demesne area. He referred to the absence of sightlines when entering the Square from Nash’s Lane which pose a serious Health and Safety risk. He also referred to the pedestrian/vehicular conflict at this junction which endangers

public safety. He stated that as this matter is a Reserved Function of the Council, approval of the Members was now being sought to place a bollard at the Town Square end of Nash's Lane, Newcastle West.

A lengthy discussion followed and the Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that a public consultation process had taken place and a total of nine submissions were received expressing objections to the proposed provision of a bollard at the above location.

The Members acknowledged the safety issue at this location and following discussion suggested an alternative option which included the placing of a bollard at the other end of Nash's Lane. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that the placing of a bollard at this end would not be addressing the issue of safety at the junction and would provide limited access to the area.

The option of a retractable bollard with fobs being given to the property owners who have public right of way to Nash's Lane was also discussed. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that this option would prove expensive and public liability may also be an issue. A simpler collapsible barrier was also discussed.

While all Members were in favour of progressing the project, it was proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Sheahan that the decision be deferred to allow for further consultation with those who have a Right of Way on the laneway. It was agreed that the Senior Executive Engineer would follow up on this matter and revert back to the Members.

4. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €650 to Ferndale Residents Association for hedge maintenance.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €750 to Glórach Theatre, Abbeyfeale.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Glórach Theatre, Abbeyfeale.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Glórach Theatre, Abbeyfeale.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 for roads projects in Carrickerry.

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

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

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

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 to Ceol Corbrai Hall, Glin.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Glórach Theatre, Abbeyfeale.

QUESTIONS

5. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that a pedestrian crossing be provided along Sheahan's Road between Reidy's Undertakers and the entrance to Liosan Estate.

REPLY: The National Transport Authority recently announced further funding under Active Travel Measurements.

Pedestrian crossings will be considered for funding under this latest scheme.

An application will be made for a pedestrian crossing at this location under the above mentioned scheme.

6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting for (a) a schedule of and number of Local Authority properties which were vacant in this Municipal District as of November 30th, 2020 and (b) the date from which each one was last occupied.

REPLY:

There were 28 vacant properties in the Newcastle West Municipal District as of November 30th, 2021. The breakdown of which are as follows:

Casual Vacancies

Property	Date of Vacancy
Property 1	13/07/2020
Property 2	22/04/2019
Property 3	29/06/2020
Property 4	23/11/2020
Property 5	07/09/2020
Property 6	14/09/2020
Property 7	02/03/2020
Property 8	05/11/2018

Property 9	09/11/2020
Property 10	22/06/2020
Property 11	14/12/2020
Property 12	02/11/2020

Major Refurbishments

Property	Date of Vacancy	
Property 1	04/11/2016	
Property 2	02/01/2017	
Property 3	29/04/2019	
Property 4	23/07/2018	
Property 5	26/03/2018	
Property 6	17/10/2016	
Property 7	02/11/2020	*Acquired property – not previously tenanted
Property 8	20/12/2017	*Acquired property – not previously tenanted
Property 9	01/10/2018	*Acquired property – not previously tenanted
Property 10	16/12/2019	*Acquired property – not previously tenanted
Property 11	12/07/2019	*Acquired property – not previously tenanted
Property 12	05/06/2019	*Acquired property – not previously tenanted
Property 13	17/04/2020	*Acquired property – not previously tenanted
Property 14	25/03/2019	*Acquired property – not previously tenanted
Property 15	31/05/2019	*Acquired property – not previously tenanted
Property 16	03/06/2020	*Acquired property – not previously tenanted

Councillor Scanlan referred to the above report and expressed disappointment at the length of time taken to get vacant houses into occupancy.

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) as to the number of Approved Housing Bodies managing social housing tenancies in Newcastle West Town and (b) the actual number of tenancies involved and (c) the number who occupy supported tenancies.

REPLY:

(a) Our records show that there are two Approved Housing Bodies managing social housing tenancies in Newcastle West.

(b) Our records show that there are seven tenancies involved.

(c) Our records show that there are 17 individuals accommodated.

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that consideration be given to road safety of walkers and motorists at the Skeagheanagh Bridge entrance to the Great Southern Greenway at Ardagh.

REPLY: The issue of road safety for both walkers and motorists at Skehanagh adjacent to the Limerick Greenway is currently being reviewed by Limerick City and County Council.

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the vacant houses in Abbeyfeale and Mountcollins.

REPLY: There are currently eight vacant houses in Abbeyfeale. The breakdown of these vacancies is as follows:

Vacancy Type	Number
Casual Vacancies	3
Major Refurbishments	5

There are currently four vacant houses in Mountcollins. The breakdown of these vacancies is as follows:

Vacancy Type	Number
Casual Vacancies	2
Major Refurbishments	2

Councillor Galvin expressed his dissatisfaction at the response received and referred to the length of time taken to get vacant houses into occupancy.

10. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting how many people are on the housing waiting list with any kind of preference (1, 2, 3, or 4) for Feenagh.

REPLY:

The current housing waiting list demand for Feenagh totals 13 applications.

The breakdown of these applications are as follows:

1 st Preference	1
2 nd Preference	6
3 rd Preference	6

No. of beds	No. of applications approved	1st Preference	2 nd Preference	3 rd Preference
1 bed	7	0	4	3
2 bed	6	1	2	3
3 bed	0	0	0	0

11. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a full accident report and all relevant information on Dore's Cross, Templeglantine on the N21 next to the Devon Hotel.

REPLY:

1.0 Introduction

This Accident Report is prepared in response to a question raised at a meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West. Information contained in this report was compiled from data received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

2.0 Collision History

Following a review of collision data provided by TII, it is evident that there is a non-serious collision history through this section of the N21. The recorded collisions that have occurred along this section of the N21 are summarised in table 1 below.

Ref	Date Occured	Time	Collision Severity	Primary CollType	Damage To Property	Location	Route No	Speed Limit	WeatherCondition	Light Cond	Rd Surf Cond	Road Character	Junction Type	Vehicles
1	06/01/2020	08:30	NON SERIOUS INJURY	Head-On, Right Turn	none	Inchabawn	N21	100 km/h	Wet	Day-Good Visibility	Wet	Straight	T-Junction	
2	03/12/2017	18:00	NON SERIOUS INJURY	Rear End, Straight	none	Inchabawn	N21	100 km/h	Wet	Dark-Good Lighting	Wet	Straight	T-Junction	Multiple Vehicle Collision
3	24/09/2015	13:35	MATERIAL DAMAGE ONLY	Rear End, Straight	none	Inchabawn	L7055	80 km/h	Dry	Day-Good Visibility	Dry	Straight	T-Junction	

Table 1 TII Collision History

Councillor Galvin queried the number of accidents at this location and asked that the Council liaise with the Gardaí on this matter. He believed that more accidents than the number outlined in the report had occurred at Dore's Cross. He did not agree with the report given.

12. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will ask at the next Meeting for work to begin on the remaining footpaths that need to be replaced on the Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: An application for funding for these works will be prepared under the GeoApp Maintenance Fund and submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for consideration.

NOTICES OF MOTION

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council call on the Minister for Housing to include derelict houses in the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY:

The Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is a Government backed mortgage scheme for first-time buyers available nationwide from local authorities. A Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan scheme provides up to 90% of the market value of the property. The maximum market value of the property that can be purchased or self-built, is €250,000 in Limerick.

One of key criteria of the Local Authority Rebuilding Ireland Loans Credit Policy 2018 made under the Housing (Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 25 of 2018), is that the property must, “be in good condition and have good marketable title”.

Where the property is sourced by the applicant on the open market, “Certificate of compliance with planning and building regulations are required on completion for all properties mortgaged and must be provided by suitably qualified architects, engineers, or building surveyors. The form of compliance shall be those approved by the Royal Irish Architects Ireland (R.I.A.I), Engineers Ireland (E.I.) or the Society of Chartered Surveyors (S.C.S.)”.

The Motion is timely given the presence on Home Loan applications. It raises issues around Policy on Government backed Home Loan Schemes. The Motion warrants further in-depth discussion and, in this regard, and with the Members approval, it is recommended that it be referred to the Housing SPC.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin requested that derelict buildings be included in the qualifying parameters of the Scheme. A discussion followed and it was agreed that this matter be referred to a Meeting of the Home and Community SPC.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council support Corran Deel Voluntary Housing in their quest to buy lands and build 8-10 houses that are so badly needed not alone in Feenagh/Kilmeedy but in most villages.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: The Housing Development Directorate are positively working with Corran Deel Voluntary Housing at present to support a Capital Acquisition Scheme application in Feenagh prior to a formal application to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. An assessment involving demand and house type mix is currently being investigated with Corran Deel Voluntary Housing Association and the proposed scheme may be phased depending on the outcome of the assessment. This will be determined in the coming weeks.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to the need for social housing in our smaller towns and villages in the District.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will move at the next Meeting that funding be sought to narrow the wide footpath on Convent Road, Abbeyfeale, in the interest of safety.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: This request has been forwarded to Design and Delivery for consideration under the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will move at the next Meeting that road works be carried out on the Knocknagorna Road where the bridge was repaired.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: As an interim measure, tar patching will be carried out on this roadway. Also the roadway will be considered for inclusion in the 2021 Roadworks Programme.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that a footpath extension be provided on the left hand side of the road along the R520 from Kerry Co-Op to the speed limit sign.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ruddle.

REPLY: The provision of a footpath, drainage, public lighting and river embankment protection would involve significant expenditure and would also involve land acquisition at the above location.

An updated cost estimate based on the requirement for a detailed design along with a retaining wall with stone facing could incur expenditure in the region of €300,000 to complete the requested works.

Also this request would be subject to land acquisition and a source of funding needs to be identified for provision of this footpath over a distance of 500m serving 7 houses.

Liaison with Inland Fisheries Ireland and the OPW is also necessary due to the close proximity of the River Arra to the Regional Road R520.

Part 8 Planning is also required due to the extent of the works involved.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that pedestrian crossings be provided at the North and Lisscarroll Roads along the R522 at Dromcollogher in the interest of safety locally.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: There has been a number of requests for Pedestrian Crossings throughout the Newcastle West Municipal District recently, namely Abbeyfeale Soccer Club, Sheehan's Road, Newcastle West and now two for Dromcollogher.

With respect to Dromcollogher, a number of Pedestrian Crossings are identified as part of the Dromcollogher Draft Public Realm Plan.

The location of these proposed pedestrian crossings is an integral part of the Draft Plan which is likely to go to Public Consultation during 2021.

Construction of Pedestrian Crossings at this stage is premature pending an agreed Public Realm Plan.

In the interim, a source of funding needs to be identified for any proposed justified pedestrian crossings.

In addition, suitable locations needs to be addressed as expenditure is dependent on the amount of associated civil works required.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on the hedgegrow between Churchview Estate and the Parochial House at Castlemahon. In replying, the Executive Engineer stated that works were carried out at this location before Christmas and the area has now been tidied up.

An update on the provision of safety measures along the R522 between Tiermeana Bridge and Ardnacrohy Height was requested. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a speed survey was undertaken and the results of the survey have been forwarded to An Garda Síochána.

An update was sought on the carrying out of works at Ward's Cross and Devon Cross, Templeglantine. In replying, the Director agreed to raise this matter with the relevant Directorate.

The provision of safety measures on the Pallas side of the Priest's house when approaching Kilmeedy along the R519 from Tireagh Cross was raised. The Executive Engineer stated that this matter will be considered for a Low Cost Safety Scheme and as an interim measure road markings and signage will be improved in the area.

The holding of a Meeting with representatives of the Board of Management of SMI to discuss traffic congestion in the vicinity of the school was raised. In replying, the Meetings Administrator stated that a Meeting would be arranged when the Level 5 Covid19 restrictions were lifted.

An update was sought on the provision of funding for a pedestrian crossing at Abbeyfeale United Soccer Club. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a submission had been made under Active Travel proposals and that funding is expected.

The Members acknowledged the excellent work carried out at the Great Southern Greenway. However, an update was sought on when the section of the Greenway to Newcastle West would be opened. In replying, the Director stated that due to Level 5 Covid 19 restrictions construction work had ceased but works would commence again when the restrictions were lifted. The new title for the Greenway, the Limerick Greenway was also raised.

The condition of the road surface at the Garda Station, Mountmahon, was also raised. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that temporary road surface work had been carried out a number of years--ago and that considerable funding has now been acquired for the complete resurfacing of the road at this location.

The build up of silt in the eye of the bridge in Athea was raised and a request was made that this matter be addressed. In replying, the Executive Engineer stated that he would liaise with the Office of Public Works on this matter.

An update was sought on the taking in charge of Rays Estate, Mountcollins. The Senior Executive Engineer stated that a costing had been submitted to the Planning Directorate and a response is awaited. However, he stated that no bond exists for this estate.

The heating systems currently in place in some Local Authority houses were referred to and a request was made that the name of a dedicated contact person be made available to the tenants of newly allocated houses to address any issues they may have.

It was agreed to hold an Online March Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021, at 10.00 a.m.

It was also agreed to hold an Online Meeting of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) Sub Committee on Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021, at 12 noon.

It was agreed to hold an Online Private Workshop on the Newcastle West Public Realm and Traffic Movement Plan on Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021, at 2.30 p.m.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
