

# **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, 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 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. J. Sheehan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Environment and Education Officer, Planning and Environmental Services (Ms. S. McDonnell), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

Chairperson, Limerick Fairtrade Tidy Towns (Ms. Dolores O'Meara).

Deputy Chairperson, Limerick Fairtrade Tidy Towns (Sr. Delia O'Connor).

## **APOLOGIES:**

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

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Foley welcomed everyone in attendance to the April Meeting of the District and proceeded with the Meeting by confirming all the Elected Members present.

The Meetings Administrator 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 welcomed the Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. J. Sheehan) to the Meeting and wished him well in his new role as Senior Executive Engineer of the Municipal District of Newcastle West. The Members also wished to thank the outgoing Senior Executive Engineer (Mr. G. O'Connor) for his excellent work while in the District and wished him well in his new role in the Municipal District of Adare/Rathkeale. The Members also referred to the consequences of the frequent movement of Senior staff from the District and expressed the need for continuity.

## **1. Adoption of Minutes**

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021.

Proposed by: Councillor Sheahan

Seconded by: Councillor Collins

And Resolved:

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

## **2. Planning and Environmental Services Directorate**

### **To receive presentation on Fairtrade Town Process by Dolores O’Meara from Limerick Fairtrade Tidy Towns.**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Environment and Education Officer (Ms. S. McDonnell), Chairperson, Limerick Fairtrade Tidy Towns (Ms. Dolores O’Meara) and Deputy Chairperson, Limerick Fairtrade Tidy Towns (Sr. Delia O’Connor) to the Meeting.

Ms. McDonnell thanked the Members for the opportunity to address the Meeting and in particular to Councillor Collins for his encouragement in progressing the Fairtrade initiative with a view to Newcastle West becoming a Fairtrade town.

Ms. O’Meara made a presentation to the Members on the background to Fairtrade and stated that Limerick City became a Fairtrade town in 2005. She outlined to the Members the meaning of Fairtrade whereby the Fairtrade Company pays the farmer a fair price for products and also gives extra money to the co-operative called a premium. She stated that the Fairtrade premium is vital for Fairtrade farmers as this is the price over and above the minimum price and that the premium is spent on developing the community. She stated that Fairtrade is about helping people trade their way out of poverty. She said that more than 7 million people in Africa, Asia and Latin America have benefit from Fairtrade and stated that there are 4,500 Fairtrade products available worldwide.

She outlined to the Members the process required to become a Fairtrade town which include:

- the setting up of a Fairtrade group to achieve Fairtrade town status,
- a Resolution to be passed by the Council or Municipal District supporting Fairtrade,
- awareness raising in the Community, Schools and the promotion of Fairtrade products in shops and businesses.

She gave an outline to the Members on the various projects and events which have taken place in Limerick to promote Fairtrade and also referred to the various challenges facing farmers in the developing world such as Climate Change, Low Prices for their products and Covid19.

The Members thanked the Ms. O'Meara for the comprehensive presentation and acknowledged the work which the Committee has undertaken.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Sheahan that Newcastle West town become a Fairtrade town and that a Committee be set up to progress this matter.

It was also proposed by Councillor Galvin and seconded by Councillor Scanlan that all towns and villages in the Municipal District be included in the promotion of Fairtrade in the District. Discussion also took place on the need to have Fairtrade towns within other Municipal Districts throughout the County.

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

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 for road drainage at Ballybehy, Abbeyfeale.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €2,500 to Coolyroe GAA Pavillion.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 to the works at Rowan Crescent, Newcastle West.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €2,500 to Coolyroe GAA Pavillion.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to road signage and markings at Castlemahon.

## **QUESTIONS**

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on (a) the junction safety plans/measures for Cryle View, Abbeyfeale (b) the new Graveyard for Abbeyfeale (c) the programme of works for the Hill Road, Abbeyfeale from Dennison's junction up to the Four Cross Road.*

### **REPLY:**

- (a)** An onsite meeting has taken place with TII at the Cryle View Estate with regard to the draft proposals for the junction re-alignment.

TII have now requested a re-design of the junction proposals in line with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets. This is a new requirement from the TII.

This new design is currently being prepared for submission to TII for the consideration.

- (b) A site selection report for a new burial ground for Abbeyfeale was completed in 2020 and the acquisition of a suitable site is now being progressed by the Property Department of Limerick City and County Council.

A further update will issue to the Elected Members as soon as possible.

- (c) Under the Climate Adaptation Section of the July Stimulus Package 2020, funding was received for the preparation of a design for a surface water drainage system for the Hill Road, Abbeyfeale. Consultants have been appointed and they are currently preparing a detailed design and cost estimate for a storm/surface water extension for this area. We are currently awaiting the final report which is expected shortly.

Also as part of the Roads Programme of Works 2021, the sum of €115,000 has been provided to address defects in the existing surface water pipe network in this area.

Councillor Galvin referred to the condition of the Hill Road, Abbeyfeale and asked that works be prioritised at this location. In replying, the Executive Engineer stated that funding had been received for these works and they would be carried out on a phased basis. He also stated that the newly appointed Senior Executive Engineer would visit the site.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed report on all derelict buildings in Abbeyfeale town.***

**REPLY:** Derelict sites are identified through regular vacancy and dereliction surveys in our towns and villages. They are also brought to the attention of the Council by public representatives, members of the public and community groups.

A full copy of the Derelict Sites Register is available for viewing during office hours at the Property and Community Facilities Department, Limerick City and County Council, Merchants Quay, Limerick, or may be downloaded in summary from [www.limerick.ie/council](http://www.limerick.ie/council).

Limerick City and County Council currently has 27 no. derelict sites cases open in Abbeyfeale.

Of these, there are 18 no. cases with particulars of the land entered on the Derelict Sites Register maintained by the Council, in summary as follows:

REF. NO.	LOCATION OF LAND
DS-045-18	3 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-044-18	4 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

DS-040-18	11 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-043-18	6 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick V94 H9P3
DS-119-19	Convent Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-118-19	Convent Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-081-20	Cois Na Féile, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-111-17	Kerry Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick V94 H6R3
DS-155-20	9 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-041-18	8 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-129-20	Main Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-156-20	10 Colbert Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-150-18	Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-164-20	Church Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-165-20	Church Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-187-20	New Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-188-20	New Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-186-20	Clash Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting that illegal dumping of rubbish and dog fouling signs be put in place at Killough Graveyard and Broadford village.*

**REPLY:** This request has been noted by the Domestic Waste & Litter Team and some anti-littering and dog fouling signs were already in place in the village.

Additional Dog Fouling signs for Broadford village and at Killough Cemetery have been erected on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

A No Dumping sign was erected at the Cemetery.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on communications with the Board of SMI with regard to its proposals on the need to manage the traffic flow it is generating within its local area.*

**REPLY:** At the December meeting of the Newcastle West District, a Notice of Motion from Councillor Scanlan was proposed and seconded with regard to the Council requesting a Meeting with the representatives of The Board of Management of SMI to discuss their proposed input towards resolving the residential congestion and traffic flow difficulties along Boherbui.

Due to Level 5 Covid 19 restrictions, the meeting could not be arranged.

In the interim, correspondence has been sent to the SMI Board of Management seeking any proposals they may have on traffic flow in the vicinity of the school.

The Newcastle West Public Realm and Traffic Movement Plan is also to go on public display in the near future and submissions will be sought from all sectors of the community once the public display period commences.

Councillor Scanlan referred to the ongoing issue of traffic congestion and traffic flow along Boherbui. The Senior Executive Engineer agreed to follow up on this matter.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting when footpath replacement works will be carried out on the right hand side approach to Beechwood Avenue and Meadow Court as well as within Beechwood Avenue particularly on the approach to and from the vacant site therein.*

**REPLY:** Footpath repairs will be carried out in 2021, subject to the availability of funding.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting for the removal of spent vegetation off the footpath along the R515 at Rathnaneane on the approach to property number 6.*

**REPLY:** This will be removed as requested.

**10. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle**

*I will ask at the next Meeting how many fines have been issued for (a) dog fouling (b) littering within the Newcastle West Municipal District.*

**REPLY:** No spot fines have been issued to date in 2021 for Dog Fouling in the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

A total of 7 fines have been issued in the District for littering/waste offences in the same period.

The Members expressed dissatisfaction at the response received with regard to the number of dog fouling and litter fines issued in 2021 and requested that a more proactive approach be taken on this matter. In replying, the Director stated that this issue is not unique to Limerick and had unfortunately worsened during the Covid 19 pandemic. He agreed, however, to raise this matter with the relevant Directorate.

**11. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle**

*I will ask at the next Meeting (a) what is the current sewerage capacity in towns and villages in the Newcastle West Municipal District (b) when will the Newcastle West sewerage scheme be upgraded.*

**REPLY:**

Irish Water issued the Newcastle West Municipal District Wastewater Capacity Register dated 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (attached) in response to part (a).

Please note below the response received from Irish Water in response to part (b).

“Newcastle West Wastewater Treatment WWTP upgrade project is included in the 2020-2024 IW Investment Plan and has recently commenced. The project is at a very early stage (concept design) and as such providing completion dates at this stage is difficult. It is anticipated it will be post 2025, and within the lifetime of the 2011-2028 Limerick Development Plan, before the WWTP project is completed. This will be subject to funding and other approvals.

Cllr. Ruddle expressed dissatisfaction with the response.

It was noted that the reply stated that the Newcastle West Waste Water Treatment Plant is at capacity and concern was expressed at the length of time it could take before an upgrade would be carried out. This would hinder developments for the town for possibly 5-7 years. It was also noted that businesses are interested in setting up in the town but cannot get connections to the sewer network due to lack of capacity. Also housing developments cannot progress due to the same issue.

It was also noted that housing developments for smaller towns and villages within the District are also being denied connections to water and waste water treatment facilities due to lack of capacity. The implications of this for any future County Development Plan was also highlighted

Following discussion on the above, it was agreed that an urgent Meeting should be sought with Senior Staff in Irish Water with regard these matters.

**12. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle**

*I will ask at the next Meeting (a) what is the current position with the installation of street furniture (seating and parklets) which were agreed last September for the Square, Newcastle West (b) an update on the request for seats and parklets outside of Lee's and Cronin's bars The Square, Newcastle West (c) also consideration to be given to erecting a fountain in the Square similar to Abbeyfeale and Athea highlighting links with Ballygowan, St. David's Well and the Knight's Templar.*

**REPLY:**

- (a) No funding has been received to progress the installation of parklets. Also the exact locations will have to be agreed with the nearby businesses.

- (b) As previously advised the owners of Lee's and Cronin's Bar may apply for a licence to Council's Planning Department with regard to outdoor seating. No applications have been received to date.

However if the applications are received and are successful, there may be implications for parking bays within the Square as parking spaces may need to be removed if licences are granted.

- (c) This request could be considered under the Draft Newcastle West Public Realm and Movement Plan.

The Director stated that a funding stream was recently announced by Government and the Physical Development Directorate was involved in progressing parklets and outdoor seating areas. He also stated that businesses can also apply for funding for outdoor seating under this new funding stream.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that the overgrowth/scrub be cut back and cleared away at the entrance to the Grove Road from the Hill Road on the right hand side next to St. Ita's Terrace in the interest of the Abbeyfeale Tidy Towns and crime safety.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

**REPLY:** This area will be cut back within the next 3 weeks.

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that this meeting calls on the Minister for Justice to enact legislation or amend current legislation as necessary to put the onus on parents of children under 16 who are gathering/loitering in public areas and engaging in anti-social behaviour to be responsible for their children. I would recommend that sanctions be imposed on parents whose children are engaging in such behaviour by means of fines and that these fines would be recovered by way of attachment to earnings, if applicable.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ruddle.

Discussion followed by the Members on issues with anti social behaviour in towns and villages of the District. It was also noted that some young people are behaving and only a minority are engaging in anti social behaviour. It was also proposed that correspondence should be forwarded be circulated to Ministers N. Collins, P. O'Donovan, Deputy R.

O'Donoghue highlighting the issues with anti-social behaviour in the District and to seek their support in the amending of legislation. The Meetings Administrator agreed to follow up on this matter regarding correspondence with the Deputies.



As this Notice of Motion is requesting a change in National Policy it would be referred to the next Full Council of Limerick City and County Council for consideration.

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle**

*I will move at the next Meeting that this Municipal District calls on the Government to pass legislation to allow cctv camera evidence to be used in Court proceedings to secure convictions for illegal dumping and littering.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

It was also proposed that correspondence should be forwarded be circulated to Ministers N. Collins, P. O'Donovan, Deputy R. O'Donoghue to seek their support. The Meetings Administrator agreed to follow up on this matter regarding correspondence with the Deputies.

As this Notice of Motion is requesting a change in National Policy it would be referred to the next Full Council of Limerick City and County Council for consideration.

**16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will move at the next Meeting that flashing speed signage be put in place between the speed limit at Ballymackessy towards Knockane in the interest of safety.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ruddle.

**REPLY:** Flashing speed signage has already been erected at the above location.

Additional road marking will be put in place within the next few weeks.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan requested that the positioning of the flashing speed signage be reviewed and could it be located closer to the speed limit signage.

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council would look at installing traffic calming measures/signage at the approach to Dromcollogher/Broadford GAA grounds on the Regional Road at Dromcollogher.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor .

**REPLY:** A review will be carried out on the existing signage and road markings in this area and improvements will be carried out as appropriate.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on the proposed works at Wards Cross and Devon Road Cross on the N21. The Meetings Administrator agreed to follow up on this matter with the relevant Directorate.

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

The Members referred to a number of housing issues which were raised previously and at the March Meeting. Following discussion, the Members requested that a Meeting be arranged with the Chief Executive before the next Municipal District Meeting to discuss various housing matters in the District. It was also proposed by Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor Scanlan that the Council revert back to having one Director of Service for the Housing Directorate. In replying, the Director of Service noted the concerns of the Members and agreed to raise the matter with the Chief Executive. The length of time it takes to process and approve private housing grant applications was also raised.

An update was sought on works at Clash Road, Abbeyfeale and the Executive Engineer stated that construction work could not take place due to Level 5 Covid 19 restrictions. However these restrictions were lifted recently and the contractor had recommenced work on construction projects.

The excellent work carried out on the L70601 Ballaghbehy North, Abbeyfeale was also acknowledged.

The Members complimented the upgrade of the Limerick Greenway and the work carried out to date on the project. However, the issue of illegal dumping and dog fouling on the Greenway was a cause of concern.

It was agreed to hold the April Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, at 10.00 a.m.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

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**Cathaoirleach**

Dated: