

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN THE RATHKEALE HOUSE HOTEL, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor A. Teskey, An Cathaoirleach.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Collins, Keary, O'Brien, O'Donoghue and Sheahan.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, National and Regional Shared Services (Ms. C. Curley), Meetings Administrator (Ms. K. Butler), Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division (Mr. G.O'Connor), Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division (Mr. J. O'Keeffe), Head of Innovative Limerick (Mr. M. Cantwell), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office (Mr. F. Kelliher), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Harnett).

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Online Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor O'Brien;  
Seconded by Councillor Collins;  
And Resolved:

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

Following the adoption of the Minutes, Councillor O'Brien raised the issue of elected Member interference in the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District regarding representations and requested the Executives guidance on the matter. The Director, National and Regional Shared Services advised Members all Elected Members are entitled to make representation for the City and County, however, if they wished the matter could be raised with the Council Protocol Committee and with Party Leaders.

**2. Economic Development Directorate**

**Part VIII Planning Report for Rathkeale, Co. Limerick**

Circulated, report of the A/Director of Services, Economic Development and Planning dated 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 and enclosed Chief Executive's Report dated 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 setting out details in relation to Rathkeale Enterprise Centre, Rathkeale Industrial Estate, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179(3)

of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and noted it is proposed to proceed as indicated in Section 6 of the report.

The report, as circulated, was proposed by Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Sheahan and agreed.

### **3. Mid West National Road Design Office**

#### **Proposed Footpath from Murphy's Cross to the Traffic Lights in Adare Village & Proposed N20 Banogue Traffic Calming Scheme**

The Meetings Administrator advised Members, as per email from the Senior Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office, their request for an update on the funding for the proposed footpath from Murphy's Cross to the Traffic Lights in Adare Village should go directly to TII. Councillor Teskey proposed a Special Meeting be convened to facilitate TII. This was seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue and agreed.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office to the Meeting who had joined remotely. The A/Senior Executive Engineer provided Members an update on the progress of the N20 Banogue Traffic Calming Scheme which was almost completed pending ESB lighting connection and was hopeful that this will be completed by the end of the current week.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were raised:

- Councillor O'Donoghue queried if the current location of the pedestrian crossing, which is directly in front of the entrance to the service station, which is causing difficulty for motorists entering the business. The A/Senior Executive Engineer advised this was deemed to be the best location for the pedestrian crossing to allow motorists to enter the service station.
- Councillor O'Donoghue raise the issue of the layout of the footpath and junction on the Cork side of the service station impeding large vehicles from turning right. The A/Senior Executive Engineer advised there should be no issues at this junction as it is large enough for agricultural vehicles and the layout meets current standards.
- Councillor O'Donoghue also queried why flashing speed limit signs were not put in prior to traffic calming measures. The A/Senior Executive Engineer advised these signs would only be erected in an area where there is no traffic calming measures in place. A number of studies were carried out on the N20 at Banogue prior to the installation of traffic calming measures and due to a number of

incidents in the area throughout the years it was agreed, due to the high risk for pedestrians, that traffic calming measures would be more beneficial.

- Councillor O'Donoghue queried the total cost of the project. The A/Senior Executive Engineer advised the Contract was for €540,000, although the final costings have not yet been completed they are still on target for this amount.
- Councillor Keary queried if cameras at the beginning and end of the location would be more effective than flashing speed limit signs. Councillor Teskey asked that cameras be considered for all future schemes. The A/Senior Executive Engineer advised he would relay the information back to the TII's Safety Section.

#### 4. Operations and Maintenance Services

##### Special Speed Limits Housing Estates (Jake's Law)

The Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division briefed Members on the proposed introduction of special speed limit bylaws for Meadowlea, Ballyhahill, Ashgard Cove, Loughill and Orchard Avenue, Rathkeale housing estates in the District. It is proposed the current speed limit of 50 kilometres per hour be reduced to 30 kilometres per hour under Jake's Law, following the death of Jake Brennan who was fatally injured in a traffic collision outside his home in a housing estate in Kilkenny in 2014. The Senior Executive Enginner proposed, following Members approval, the plans would go to public consultation with all other Districts and then to Full Council for adoption. The proposals were noted by Members.

#### 5. Operations and Maintenance Services

##### District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division dated 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

Following discussion the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Sheahan queried if footpaths could be provided from the N69 into Curraghchase Forest Park. The Senior Executive Engineer advised an update would be provided for this at the July District Meeting.
- Councillor Teskey requested an update on the cost of works carried out on the fountain in Adare Village. The Senior Executive Engineer advised these works were carried out by the Community Development Directorate. Councillor Teskey

then requested a Member of staff from the Community Development Directorate would attend the July District Meeting to give an update.

- Councillor Sheahan proposed the proposed walkway in Askeaton would be developed to allow wheelchair users, people with buggies and the visually impaired a safe place to walk. He also requested a review of all footpaths in Askeaton would be carried out to facilitate these people mounting and dismounting footpaths safely. This was seconded by Councillor Teskey and agreed.
- Councillor O'Brien proposed Hugh McGrath, Senior Engineer would update Members on the qualifying criteria for the Local Improvement Grant Scheme for the July District Meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Sheahan and agreed.
- Councillor O'Donoghue requested a timeline for completion of works in Ballingarry. The Executive Engineer advised he is hopeful works would be completed before schools return in September.
- Councillor Teskey raised the issue of grass cutting in Orchard Avenue, Rathkeale. The Senior Executive Engineer advised Orchard Avenue grass cutting comes under the remit of the Parks Department. He also advised there are grants available to local communities who wish to carry out grass cutting in their areas. Councillor Teskey requested Carmel Lynch from the Parks Department attend the July District Meeting to discuss. Councillor Collins added that it is difficult for community groups to avail of the current grant scheme as it is now a requirement to have insurance cover in place before the grant can be availed of.
- Councillor Teskey also advised grass cutting needs to be carried out at all junctions on the N69 and N21. The Senior Executive Engineer advised the tender for this is done by Central Services and it is due to start on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Councillor Teskey requested a Member of staff from Central Services attend the July District Meeting to discuss.
- Councillor Keary proposed the District forward a Motion to Central Government to change the protocols for the grass cutting process in the interest of safety. This was seconded by Councillor Teskey and agreed.
- Councillor Keary also raised the issue of damaged railings at the edge of the river in the Orchard Avenue Estate. He requested funding be made available to upgrade the current fencing in the estate. Councillor Keary also offered to provide GMA monies towards the cost of these works.

- Councillor Teskey requested an inspection of the public lighting in Orchard Avenue be carried out.
- Councillor Teskey also requested an update for the July District Meeting on his previous Motion raised in November, 2020 requesting a new railing be erected in St. Mary's Park, Rathkeale.

## 6. Speed Limit Review

The Senior Executive Engineer gave Members a presentation on the proposed speed limit review on the L1478 Croom distributor road. Members queried how a speed limit could be changed at this stage when the next speed limit review is not due until 2025 when they had previously requested a reduction in the speed limit on the Woodland Road, Adare and Loughill Village. The Senior Executive Engineer advised this was an exceptional case as the review was needed to facilitate the new school and distributor road in Croom.

## 7. Directional Signage, Ballysteen

Councillor Sheahan understood there were new directional signs ordered for Ballysteen and queried why these have not yet been erected. He requested meeting the Senior Executive Engineer on site to discuss same.

It was agreed to take Item 9 on the Agenda next.

## 9. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Keary, seconded by Councillor Teskey, it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €3,000 for Croagh National School.
- €4,000 for Kilcornan National School.
- €3,000 for Pallaskenry National School.
- €3,000 for Loughill Community Development.
- €2,500 for Askeaton Heritage and Tidy Towns.
- €2,000 for Rathkeale Steering Group.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Teskey, it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €2,000 for Ilen Boat School.
- €2,500 for Kilcornan National School.
- €2,500 for Kildimo National School.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Teskey, it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €2,000 for Fedamore Community Hall.
- €3,000 for Croi na Coille, Croom.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Teskey, it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €3,000 for Askeaton Heritage and Tidy Towns.
- €4,000 for Askeaton AFC.

On the proposal of Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue, it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €1,000 for Askeaton/Ballysteen Tennis Club.
- €1,000 for Church of Ireland, Askeaton.
- €908 for Repairs to Ballymartin Boundary Wall.
- €1,000 for Loughill Development Association.

## QUESTIONS

### **10. Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan**

**I will ask at the next Meeting that the Housing Section of the Council would provide us with an up to date account of the number of vacant houses in Askeaton owned by the Council and an indication of what has to be done to prepare these houses for letting.**

**Reply:** The five vacant LCCC properties in Askeaton require works in order to be allocated. Two will fall under the Buy & Renew Scheme. One is an Approved Housing Body Disposal, one is to be funded under the Traveller Accommodation Programme and the remaining one will be funded under the VOIDS 2021 Programme.

### **11. Question submitted by Councillor B. Collins**

**I will ask at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council requests the executives or management of Irish Water attend the June Meeting to discuss the ongoing issues with water and waste water issues in the District.**

**Reply:** Please note below the response received from Irish Water.

“Unfortunately, Irish Water staff are not available to attend the Adare-Rathkeale MD meeting on this date.

However, the next Councillor Clinic is scheduled for Monday, June 28 at 10am and our staff will be available to deal with any queries the Councillors may have. Members are welcome to send questions in advance to [localrepssupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepssupport@water.ie) and we will endeavour to provide responses at the clinic”.

## **15. Correspondence**

Correspondence, as circulated, was noted by Members.

## **Meeting Adjournment**

As the time had reached 10.25 a.m., and the Annual Meeting was due to commence at 10.30 a.m., the Elected Members agreed to adjourn the Meeting having regard for Covid 19 guidelines on the duration of Meetings.

On the conclusion of the Agenda Councillor Sheahan proposed the July Monthly District Meeting would be brought forward and held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2021. This was seconded by Councillor Teskey and agreed.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_