

CORRESPONDENCE

**MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
ADARE-RATHKEALE**

6TH JULY, 2021

- Email received on 29th June, 2021 from Hugh McGrath, Senior Engineer, Operations and Maintenance, Limerick City and County Council, in reply to Councillor O'Brien's request for an update on the Local Improvement Scheme system, namely the determination details for the scheme.
- Report received on 5th July, 2021 from Gordon Daly, Director of Service, Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate, Limerick City and County Council, in reply to Councillor Teskey's request for a report on the finance to date on the refurbishment of the Fountain on Main Street Adare.

From: McGrath, Hugh <hugh.mcgrath@limerick.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 29 June 2021 17:26
To: Butler, Karen <karen.butler@limerick.ie>
Cc: Harnett, Letitia <letitia.harnett@limerick.ie>; Kennedy, Brian <brian.kennedy@limerick.ie>; Keogh, Caroline <caroline.keogh@limerick.ie>; Nora Clery <nora.clery@limerick.ie>; Murray, Maura <maura.murray@limerick.ie>
Subject: RE: Lis Schemes

Karen
Update is as follows...

Councillors will be aware that the Department of Rural & Community Development (DCRD) issued a revised Scheme Outline for 2021 Local Improvement Schemes on 14th May 2021. This updated document reflects a number of minor changes to be considered in assessment of scheme applications. (The main change being the removal of the requirement that roads accessing agricultural holdings must be open to the public)

Limerick City & County Council's assessment prioritisation approach will not change for 2021 schemes other than to have regard for the revised outline. and the existing priority list will be retained having regard to any schemes that qualify under the revised Scheme Outline.

Regards

Hugh McGrath C.Eng | Senior Engineer
Head of Roads & Traffic
Operation & Maintenance
Limerick City and County Council
061-556000

Report for July Meeting of Adare/Rathkeale Municipal District

Restoration of Countess Dunraven Fountain, Adare

Dear Councillors,

I wish to provide an update on the Adare Fountain restoration and in particular, as requested, the costs and finances associated with the project.

As you are aware, the Countess Dunraven Fountain is located between the Holy Trinity Church and the Adare Heritage Centre. As its inscription indicates, this monument was 'erected by Caroline Countess of Dunraven in grateful memory of the zeal shown by the people of this village in quenching fire at the offices Adare Manor on 1st April 1844'.

The fountain therefore adds much historical and artistic interest to the village. Its site, next to the Holy Trinity Church, is a prominent one and it contributes significantly to the streetscape of the village. It was designed by Charles Hardwick who also restored the church. Fine stonemasonry and artistic skill are evident throughout the monument, with the lettering and carving to the base of the cross being particularly fine examples.

However, the structure had fallen into serious disrepair and needed investment to preserve it for the future.

The works currently underway include the complete restoration and repair of the fountain and an extended newly paved fully accessible seating space around the fountain.

The initial scope of this project primarily included repairs to the fountain and a small amount of work to the area around it to provide additional seating. The initial anticipated cost of €80,000 was based on a preliminary report and was an estimate only for the purpose of a Town & Village Renewal Application.

In the course of the detailed design of the project, it became apparent that a more comprehensive programme of work was necessary as follows:

- A full survey of the fountain demonstrated more comprehensive works were required to secure the full restoration and repair of the fountain including mechanical and electrical works.
- It was desirable to remove all existing overgrown soft landscaping within the site to extend the potential area for seating.
- New paving around the entire (extended) area surrounding the fountain would be necessary.
- The provision of a ramp beside the existing steps in order to provide universal access to this enhanced space was desirable.

The most cost effective time to do these works was at the same time as the repairs to the fountain ensuring this project would not need to be revisited for a very considerable period of time.

The tender for the project was awarded to the contractor Mid West Lime for the sum of €177,585.50 (incl VAT.)

The funding for this project is as follows. €40,000 from Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020, €20,000 from Adare/Rathkeale GMA and the balance from Limerick City and County Council own resources.

The project, which is on target to be completed by the end of the summer, will transform this public space and be an important amenity for residents of and visitors to the village.

Having regard to the need to enhance the public realm of Adare ahead of the Ryder Cup in 2027 and given its importance as a tourism village, the Council is pleased to be in a position to deliver this important conservation and enhancement project in the near future.

Gordon Daly
Director of Service
Community, Tourism & Culture Directorate
Limerick City and County Council

6th July 2021