

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021 AT 9:30 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor K. Sheahan, An Cathaoirleach.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Housing (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), Senior Executive Engineer, Tourism Department (Mr. B. Noonan), Director, Community, Tourism and Culture (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Planner, Planning, Environment & Place Making (Ms. N. O'Connell), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Harnett).

It was agreed Item 2 on the Agenda would be taken first.

**2. Community, Tourism & Cultural Directorate**

**Limerick Greenway – Refurbishment and Upgrade of Rathkeale Goods Shed and Car Park For Greenway Services**

Members addressed the Director, Community, Tourism and Culture in relation to the extension of the existing Greenway from Rathkeale to Limerick and Rathkeale to Askeaton and Foynes. The Director, Community, Tourism and Culture advised funding has been allocated to extend the Rathkeale to Limerick Greenway project which he hoped would progress in the near future. He also advised the route from Rathkeale to Ballingrane and on to Askeaton would be done in stages, however, an issue had arisen with the Limerick to Foynes road and this section of the Greenway would not be included in the project at this stage. Members welcomed these plans.

Declan Feeney, Architect with Feeney McMahon Architects addressed the Meeting and gave a presentation to Members on the proposed plans to upgrade the Greenway at Rathkeale. These upgrades would include providing a number of services such as bike/electric bike hire and repair, electric car charging points, toilets, picnic area and an information point for the public. Plans are included to enhance the existing goods shed and platform, install benches with bike racks in the renovated car park and also include a set down area for coaches together with upgrade of the existing car park to include new paving, public lighting and a pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Rathkeale House Hotel.

Members welcomed the proposed plans for the Greenway and queried if funding was available for the proposed upgrade and refurbishment. The Director, Community, Tourism and Culture advised funding of €200,000 has been secured under the Town And Village Renewal Scheme which will go towards the upgrade of the goods shed while funding for the upgrade of the car park is currently being sought with the project as a whole being prioritised. Concerns were raised in relation to stray horses and illegal grazing of horses on lands adjacent to the Greenway. The Director, Community, Tourism and Culture agreed to look into this matter and revert with an update in due course.

As the time had reached 11.00 a.m the Elected Members agreed to adjourn the Meeting for 30 minutes having regard for Covid 19 guidelines on the duration of Meetings.

On resumption of the Meeting Councillor Sheahan raised the issue of the legalities around a Councillor from outside the Adare-Rathkeale District being actively involved in the District and called on the Elected Members to use whatever influence they could with their political parties to address the matter. Councillor Keary asked that the Executive check the legalities of the situation to ascertain if Elected Members can operate in another electoral area. The Director, Housing agreed to look into the matter and revert.

The Cathaoirleach and Elected Members conveyed their good wishes to Letitia Harnett, Clerical Officer on her forthcoming nuptials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Nuala O'Connell, Senior Planner, Planning, Environment & Place Making to the Meeting. The Senior Planner introduced herself to Members and advised she was looking forward to working in Limerick City and County Council. All Members wished the Senior Planner well in her new role.

## **1. Adoption of Minutes**

Prior to the adoption of the Minutes Councillor Teskey raised the issue of a proposal that was not recorded in the Minutes for the Special Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2021. He previously proposed Limerick City and County Council would take legal action against Irish Water and was re-proposing it would go to Full Council. This was seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed. Councillor Collins also advised she had suggested bringing the Maigne River Trust to a Meeting to explain what they do in the hope a Deel River Trust would also be set up to look after the river.

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;  
 Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;  
 And Resolved:

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;  
 Seconded by Councillor O’Donoghue;  
 And Resolved:

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

It was agreed Item 4 on the Agenda would be taken next.

#### **4. Housing Directorate**

The Director, Housing advised Members that Conor Culloo, Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance is preparing a submission to send to the Department to have the Pyrite Redress Scheme extended to Limerick and would keep Members updated. Councillor Collins requested a brief synopsis of the report be forwarded to the Councillors when available.

#### **3. Adare Fountain**

Following discussion on the Adare Fountain Members expressed frustration that a costing breakdown for the refurbishment works was still not available to Members and while they agreed the fountain refurbishment was looking well some Members felt the monies would have been better spent on upgrading the footpaths in the village. The Meetings Administrator advised Members that works would be complete in two to four weeks and it was hoped to have full costings at that stage for the project.

Councillor Keary proposed Members would be allowed to rename the fountain. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Sheahan, however, the Meetings Administrator informed Members the matter would have to be agreed with the Civic Symbols Committee before any re-naming could take place. Councillor Collins felt any name change should seek the agreement of the Adare Community Trust firstly.

It was agreed Item 9 on the Agenda would be taken next.

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

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

- €2,000 for Pallaskenry Scouts Troup.

- €10,000 for Kilcornan Church car park.
- €2,000 for Pallaskenry Community Council.
- €3,700 for a ladder at Ringmoylan Pier.
- €2,000 for St. Francis Boxing Club.

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

- €10,000 for Dr. Pat Wallace.
- €1,000 for Askeaton Swimming Club.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Teskey it was agreed to allocate €2,000 for Granagh Development Association.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue it was agreed to allocate €1,000 for Rathkeale Steering Committee.

On the proposal of Councillor Keary, seconded by Councillor Teskey it was agreed to allocate €3,000 for Croagh National School, Parents Association.

On the proposal of Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Keary it was agreed to allocate €2,346.56 for Defibrillator, Cappagh Village.

## **5. Property & Community Facilities**

### **Disposal of Land**

- (a) Circulated, report of the Head of Property & Community Facilities dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2021 setting out proposals to dispose of property at Ballyhahill, Co. Limerick (V94 A8DT) and the intention to bring to Full Council for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (b) Circulated, report of the Head of Property & Community Facilities dated 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021 setting out proposals to dispose of property at Ballyhahill, Co. Limerick (V94 WK4W) and the intention to bring to Full Council for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (c) Circulated, report of the Head of Property & Community Facilities dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2021 setting out proposals to dispose of land at Croagh Commons, Croagh, Co. Limerick and the intention to bring to Full Council for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

## **6. Roads, Traffic & Cleansing**

### **Junction Improvement Works – West Square, Askeaton**

The Senior Executive Engineer, Road, Traffic & Cleansing briefed Members on the proposed Junction Improvement Works in West Square, Askeaton. Councillor Keary queried what the estimated cost of the proposed works would be. The Senior Executive Engineer, Road, Traffic & Cleansing advised €400,000 funding has been allocated under the Town And Village Renewal Scheme. Councillor Keary also requested drawings showing lines for the public sewer be provided. Councillor Sheahan welcomed the proposed works and asked ample parking spaces be provided together with a viewing point for the castle. The Senior Executive Engineer, Road, Traffic & Cleansing agreed to raise both issues with the Community Section who are involved in these proposed works.

## **7. Signage – Ballysteen**

Councillor Sheahan referred to a request for signage in Ballysteen a number of years back expressing dismay that this signage had still not been erected and asked the Executive to attend to this request as a matter of urgency. Councillor Keary also referred to signage paid for using General Municipal Allocation monies for Croagh and Kilcolman still not erected and Councillor Collins requested if signage for horse safety at Clonshire could be examined. The Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division agreed to look into these matters and would revert in due course.

## **8. District Engineers Report**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

Following discussion the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Keary queried if works were complete on ramps at Kilcolman. The Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division advised a mini roundabout is due to be installed at this location shortly.
- Councillor Teskey requested contact be made with Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to funding delay for the traffic calming scheme at Coolanoran.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Road, Traffic & Cleansing agreed to follow up on this matter with the Mid West Road Design Office.

- Councillor Keary asked if funding could be made available to improve an extremely dangerous junction at Mullins Cross on the Ballygarry to Rathkeale road. The Senior Executive Engineer, Road, Traffic & Cleansing advised this would fall under the Low Cost Safety Scheme and agreed to ascertain if this could be included in 2022 projects.
- Councillor Sheahan requested an update on junction improvement works at Ballyengland on the N69. The Senior Executive Engineer, Road, Traffic & Cleansing advised works are ongoing at this junction and would have an update for the October Municipal District Meeting.

### QUESTION

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

**I will ask at the next Meeting that the Council install CCTV on the new walkways in Askeaton provided under the Public Realm Plan to ensure the safety of users.**

**Reply:** As part of the public realm plan there are a number of potential walkways identified in and around Askeaton. Prior to the installation of any walkways, further consultation will be required with the local community as the detailed design and exact locations are established. At this stage the feasibility of installing CCTV at strategic locations along the walkways will be examined in further detail.

### NOTICES OF MOTION

#### **11. Notices of Motion submitted by Councillor J. O'Donoghue**

**I will move at the next Meeting to discuss the issues around the supply of water in Croom, Banogue, Fedamore and all other areas of the Adare-Rathkeale District that have problems with both supply and quality.**

The motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Sheahan and agreed.

In proposing the motion Councillor O'Donoghue raised the issue of water being turned off at night in Croom having huge implications on families and business owners in the area. Fedamore also has a boil water notice for a number of years now and Banogue

has an issue with chlorine levels in the water. He requested Irish Water attend a Meeting to discuss.

**Reply:** Please note that Irish Water have advised that they will be organising a clinic in the coming weeks and can meet Councillors to discuss this matter at the clinic. Anne Peters, Senior Engineer and Neal Boyle, Acting Senior Executive Engineer will attend the meeting on behalf of Water Services.

Councillor Collins requested if this clinic could be in a Meeting format to meet Councillors as a group. The Meetings Administrator agreed to discuss with Water Services and revert.

## **12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan**

**I will move at the next Meeting that the Development Plan would have a policy of encouragement to help people provide homes for themselves by they being permitted to construct wooden structures as dwellings.**

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan and Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Sheahan requested to amend the Motion to include Councillor Teskey. Councillor Sheahan stated people are unable to afford to build houses due to the rising cost of building materials as well as the issue of rising costs for mortgages. He felt this would be a clear and simple way to alleviate the housing crisis if people were allowed to construction wood structures as dwellings.

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council are in the process of the preparation of the proposed Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028, this strategic document will guide the future growth of Limerick for the plan period, in a sustainable manner. A submission as outlined above has been received as part of the consultation and this submission will be considered as part of the Chief Executive's Report, along with all other submissions. It is intended that the proposed Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 will be adopted by Q2 2022.

## **13. A.O.B.**

- Councillor Teskey proposed that a formal requirement for anyone building housing estates would include speed ramps as part of the planning process. This was seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed.

- Councillor Teskey also requested speed ramps be installed in all Council housing estates in the District and asked a report on same be provided by the relevant Department for the October Municipal District Meeting.
- Councillor Adam Teskey requested an update on his previous request that the Council acquire the Bank of Ireland properties in Rathkeale and Askeaton which are due to close in October and also requested the Meetings Administrator correspond with Kieran Considine Munster Regional Manager of Allied Irish Banks regarding the proposed closure of the Rathkeale Branch..
- Councillor Teskey requested dog fouling bins be installed on the Greenway.
- Councillor O'Donoghue raised the issue of landowners on the N20 who cannot apply for planning permission until a preferred route option has been agreed for the N20 and requested an update in relation to this project.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

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**Cathaoirleach**

Dated:

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