

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN THE RATHKEALE HOUSE HOTEL, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 14TH DECEMBER, 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), Director, Community, Tourism and Culture (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Executive Engineer, Tourism (Mr. B. Noonan), Administrative Officer, Dereliction Vacancy and Reuse (Ms. A. Crowe), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Harnett).

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 3rd November, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Collins;
Seconded by Councillor Keary;
And Resolved:

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 9th November, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Collins;
Seconded by Councillor Keary;
And Resolved:

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

2. Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate

The Administrative Officer, Dereliction Vacancy and Reuse gave Members a presentation on the dereliction/vacancy in the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District.

Discussion ensued, Councillor Keary expressed concern that a large portion of properties in Rathkeale are derelict and asked that this be addressed. The Administrative Officer, Dereliction Vacancy and Reuse advised inspections are currently underway on properties in Rathkeale. Further to this, the Director, Community, Tourism and Culture advised Members they are prioritising main streets, houses that are in the worse state of dereliction and unfinished large housing estates such as Ballywilliam Estate in Rathkeale. Members requested an update be provided on the Ballywilliam Estate and the Director, Community, Tourism and Culture agreed a Workshop would be convened by April, 2022 when a full detailed report would be available.

Councillor Teskey raised the issue of Limerick City and County Councils own housing Voids stock which are in a state of dereliction. The Director, Housing advised Members the cost associated with these particular Voids are substantial and lack of funding is preventing works being carried out at the present time. The Director, Housing further advised that expressions of interest seeking suitable Contractors to carry out the necessary work would issue shortly. It is proposed to have achieved the removal of all current Voids by the end of 2022.

3. Limerick Greenway Hub, Rathkeale

Circulated, report of the Chief Executive dated the 9th December, 2021 for the development at the 'Limerick Greenway Hub – Rathkeale' to include car parking and restoration to derelict goods shed (which is a protected structure). The report has been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The Director, Community, Tourism and Culture gave Members a presentation on the next phase of the development of the Limerick Greenway Hub at Rathkeale. Councillor Keary queried the status of the Palatine Museum ownership. The Director, Community, Tourism and Culture assured Members the Palatine Museum own their own building and the carpark at the front of the building and added the Goods Shed and carpark at the rear of the building is now owned by Limerick City and County Council following purchase from the Palatine Museum.

Councillor Keary also proposed the numerous advertising signs at the entrance to the Greenway be removed. This was seconded by Councillor Teskey and agreed.

Councillor Teskey requested monies be provided to allow for the erection of new post and rail fencing at Saint Mary's Park, directly across from the Greenway Goods Shed. The Director, Community, Tourism and Culture advised this was a matter for the Rathkeale Area Office and agreed to work with staff on this issue.

Proposed by Councillor Teskey;
Seconded by Councillor Collins;

And Resolved:

“That the Part 8 report, as circulated, be adopted in accordance with Section 179 (4)(b) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

4. Roads, Traffic & Cleansing

District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division dated 14th December, 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 expressed concern on the Feasibility Study and land ownership issues at Dohile Lake. The Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division advised he would pass his concerns to the Community Department who are leading the Feasibility Study.
- Councillor Sheahan raised the issue of a footpath request from Adare Village to the GAA field. The Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division advised there are a number of land issues that would have to be resolved and advised the Council is actively looking for funding for Active Travel projects in the Village. Councillor Collins was of the opinion the land issues involved could be progressed over time.
- Councillor Teskey also advised the footpath from Doherty’s Garage to Adare Village is in need of repair and further advised that he, along with Councillor Keary, are willing to provide GMA monies towards the cost of this repair. The Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division advised the Mid West Road Design Office are in discussion with the Traffic Infrastructure Ireland in relation to progressing this scheme and will request a report for the next Meeting.
- Councillor O’Brien requested an update on the recent traffic count at Pallaskenry National School. The Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division advised he would provide an update at the January District Meeting.
- Councillor O’Donoghue requested CCTV cameras be incorporated into the plans for the Maigne River Walk project. The Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division advised there are currently unresolved legal issues around the installation of CCTV cameras.

- Councillor O'Donoghue requested an update on the issue of parking in Croom. The Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division advised he had secured funding for a new car park in Croom and would be proceeding with same in the first quarter of 2022 which would include the extending of double yellow lines opposite Spar Supermarket towards the Civic Centre when the new car park has been developed.
- Councillor O'Donoghue also requested a speed survey be carried out from Lees Cross to Chawkes Cross. The Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division advised Consultants have been appointed to examine this location and will address once funding is secured for possible Junction Improvement works. In the interim, enforcement of Speed in this rural Area is a matter for An Garda Siochana.

5. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

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

- €3,500 for Croagh/Kilfinny Camogie Club.
- €2,500 for Ballingarry Development Association.
- €2,000 for Granagh Ballingarry Development Association.

Councillor Sheahan circulated a copy of a book Askeaton Town Ancient, Modern & Social History which was a gift from the Author Paddy Cronin. He proposed the January 2022 Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District Meeting be held in County Hall, Dooradoyle and a Civic Reception be held for the following:

- Paddy Cronin, Author.
- Seanie Barron, Askeaton Wood Artist who recently won the Audience Award for Best Short Film at this year's Cork International Film Festival.
- Paul Anglim, Author.
- Dr. Patrick Wallace, Author.

This was seconded by Councillor Teskey and agreed.

QUESTIONS

6. Question submitted by Councillor J. O'Donoghue

I will ask at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with Irish Water provide all relevant information for a full breakdown on the issue of the boil water notice in Fedamore village: (1) When and what was detected for the boil

notice to be put in place (2) How many houses/people are affected (3) What has been done to date to bring this to a resolution and (4) When will it be resolved.

Councillor O'Donoghue noted that the response from Irish Water did not include a reply to when the boil notice was put in place.

Reply: Please note below the response received from Irish Water after the meeting of the 9th November 2021.

"The boil water notice was issued as a result of an increase in turbidity, or cloudiness, in the raw water coming from the underground source that supplies the area. This means that adequate disinfection of the water cannot be guaranteed, and so the water should be boiled before use. The notice affects approximately 500 people. Irish Water has developed a new borehole in line with best practice, additionally a new filtration treatment system has been installed to bring the water supply up to Drinking Water Regulations. This treatment unit is currently at commissioning stage.

In our recent press release (enclosed below) we gave a timeframe of six months before all works would be completed. During this time, Irish Water will be consulting with the HSE on the water quality results and at what stage it will be possible to lift the boil water notice."

Press Release – Boil Water Notice update for residents in Fedamore Friday, 15 October, 2021

A Boil water Notice remains in place for the Fedamore Public Water Supply due to ongoing issues with the quality of the water source. Irish Water is carrying out ongoing works to resolve this as soon as possible. Irish Water and Limerick City and County Council fully acknowledge the impact and inconvenience caused by this restriction for homes and businesses in the area. Speaking about the Boil Water Notice, Water Lead for Co. Limerick Duane O'Brien said:

"We wish to thank the community for their ongoing patience and assure them that we are working towards resolving the issue as soon as it is safe to do so. We understand and acknowledge the difficulty that living with a boil water notice causes for homes and businesses. However, this is a necessary measure to protect public health."

The Boil Water Notice was issued as a result of an increase in turbidity, or cloudiness, in the raw water coming from the underground source that supplies the area. This means that adequate disinfection of the water cannot be guaranteed, and so the water should be boiled before use.

"Irish Water are continuing to progress with works to allow this Boil Water Notice to be lifted. In recent months, a new water filtration treatment system has been installed and is presently at commissioning stage. Works are also being undertaken to connect the Fedamore Water Supply Scheme to an adjoining group

scheme which will provide future resilience during drought or interruptions. The final element of works, which will allow Irish Water to seek the removal of the Boil Water Notice, requires the construction of several hundred metres of pipeline from the treatment plant. These corrective measures are being prioritised and are all scheduled to be completed in approximately six months.” Duane added.

Updates will be available on our Water Supply Updates section on water.ie, on Twitter [@IWCare](https://twitter.com/IWCare) and via our customer care helpline, open 24/7 on 1800 278 278. Further information is available from <https://www.water.ie/water-supply/water-quality/boil-water-notice/> Irish Water continues to work at this time with our Local Authority partners, contractors and others to safeguard the health and well-being of both staff and the public and to ensure the continuity of critical drinking water and wastewater services. Irish Water is responsible for the delivery of all public water and wastewater services in Ireland. We are committed to continuously upgrading and developing critical infrastructure to support the growth needed in housing and across our economy, while protecting the environment and safeguarding water supplies.

Boil Water Notice advice: Water must be boiled for:

- Drinking
- Drinks made with water
- Preparation of salads and similar foods, which are not cooked prior to eating
- Brushing of teeth
- Making of ice - discard ice cubes in fridges and freezers and filtered water in fridges. Make ice from cooled boiled water. What actions should be taken:
- Use water prepared for drinking when preparing foods that will not be cooked (e.g. washing salads)
- Water can be used for personal hygiene, bathing and flushing of toilets but not for brushing teeth or gargling
- Boil water by bringing to a vigorous, rolling boil (e.g. with an automatic kettle) and allow to cool. Cover and store in a refrigerator or cold place. Water from the hot tap is not safe to drink. Domestic water filters will not render water safe to drink
- Caution should be taken when bathing children to ensure that they do not swallow the bathing water
- Prepare infant feeds with water that has been brought to the boil once and cooled.

Do not use water that has been re-boiled several times. If bottled water is used for the preparation of infant feeds it should be boiled once and cooled.

Bottled water can also be used to make up infant formula. All bottled water, with the exception of natural mineral water, is regulated to the same standard as drinking water. It is best not to use bottled water labelled as ‘Natural Mineral Water’ as it can have high levels of sodium (salt) and other minerals, although it rarely does. ‘Natural Mineral Water’ can be used if no other water is available, for as short a time as possible, as it is important to keep babies hydrated. Great care should be taken with boiled water to avoid burns and scalds as accidents can easily happen, especially with children.

7. Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will ask at the next Meeting regarding the land bank in Askeaton property of the State if the Council are satisfied we are planning a positive role in promoting these lands in a positive light for development purposes.

Reply: The large bank of lands zoned for Industrial Development on the outskirts of Askeaton are owned by Shannon Commercial Properties. Limerick City & County Council, Economic Development Department working with the owners and IDA are actively promoting these lands to interested parties for development and job creation and while there has been no development progressed to date, a number of parties have shown interest. I am satisfied that the Council are playing a positive role engaging with the owners and the IDA in promoting these lands in a positive light for development purposes.

8. Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the plans to improve Askeaton Carnegie Library.

Reply: The upgrade of Askeaton Branch Library was identified as an action in the new Library Development Plan. A tender process for the provision of an Architectural & Design Team for the project has now been completed. The next stage of the process is for the appointed architects to prepare a detailed design and cost plan for the work. A further update will issue in due course.

NOTICES OF MOTION

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will move at the next meeting to request an updated report on the Councils position on the public commitment from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Dara O'Brien to fund the upgrading and modernisation of Askeaton Sewerage and treatment plants and further request the Adare Rathkeale Municipal District be supplied with a monthly report going forward on this motion.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

Reply: The Council has contacted the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and is awaiting a reply.
Position as of 7th December, 2021.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will move at the next meeting that full details of the Councils present stock of unoccupied social housing in Askeaton together with a calendar of dates of when these houses will be ready for allocation be provided and also request that a programme for allocation of social and affordable housing be prepared.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

Reply: **(Part 1) Details of the Councils present stock of unoccupied social housing in Askeaton together with a calendar of dates of when these houses will be ready for allocation**

As at Thursday 23rd November the total number of dwellings shown as 'vacant' in the Asekaton Area was seven.

The following table details this figure.

Number awaiting major refurbishment	7
Total	7

All available units have been allocated.

Of the seven units requiring major refurbishment:

- o Two of the units are being advanced through the Buy and Renew Scheme and will be advertised for tender as part of a larger bundle in December with works targeted to commence in March.
- o The remaining five units are in the process of being scoped and will form part of later tender calls once funding is secured for the works.

The process by which these units are being completed is as follows. Each property is assessed in detail to 'scope' the nature and extent of the works required to be completed.

A cost estimate based upon this scoping is then prepared.

A bundle of units is then included in a specific Lot and a submission is made to the DHLGH for approval and to go to tender for the works.

Subject to approval the Lot is then tendered in an open competition. Final approval to proceed is then sought. A preferred contractor is then identified to undertake the works. It is estimated that the time for works completion will take 6 months from appointment.

Contingent upon no unforeseen delays and funding the dwellings should be ready for reletting by November 2022.

(Part 2) : Request that a programme for allocation of social and affordable housing to be prepared

A programme for allocation of available dwellings cannot be provided at this time as it is dependent on the timing of the provision of the houses for allocation.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Brien

I will move at the next Meeting for Limerick City and County Council to remedy illegal dumping at Forgefield Pallaskenry.

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

Reply: The Council has no current live case relating to illegal dumping in Forgefield, Pallaskenry. On foot of motion, an inspection of the estate was carried out on the 7th of December to determine if there were any dumping issues. No issues related to dumping were found.

The Council will respond, as required, to reports or any new evidence that may warrant further inspection under the Waste Management and Litter Pollution Acts.

12. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

13. A.O.B

- Councillor Collins stated An Bord Pleanála had again pushed out their decision date for the Limerick to Foynes Road, including the Adare Bypass and requested

the Council plead with them to make a decision as it is impossible to hold events in Adare due to the large volume of traffic.

- Councillor O'Brien requested an item regarding Shannongrove be included on the Agenda for the January Meeting and agreed to provide details after the Meeting.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____