

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 2nd February, 2022, AT 10AM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor L. Galvin, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Foley, Ruddle, Scanlan and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Community, Tourism and Culture (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. J. Sheehan), Senior Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy (Mr. R. Gallagher), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Executive Engineer, Housing (Mr. D. Toomey), Staff Officer, Human Resources (Mr. M. Curran), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. M. Curran to the Meeting as he will be taking on the role of Meetings Administrator for the District. The Members wished to thank the outgoing Meetings Administrator (Ms. M. Corbett) for her support and her excellent work while in the District. They also wished to congratulate her on her recent promotion. The Director and her colleagues also wished Ms. M. Corbett well in her new role. Ms. M. Corbett thanked the Members and colleagues for their kind words.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 12th January, 2022.

Proposed by: Councillor Collins

Seconded by: Councillor Sheahan

And Resolved:

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

2. Disposal of Land

Circulated, report of Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office, dated 18th January, 2022, concerning proposal to dispose of land comprising 0.161 Ha. at Killarney Pole, Barnagh, Co. Limerick, to John Geary, The Garage, Kilmeedy, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

3. Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate

To receive Update on the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Senior Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy, to the Meeting.

The Senior Engineer gave an update to the Members on the progress to date with regard to the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan and wished to thank the Senior Executive Engineer, Place Making and Public Realm (Mr. Kieran O’Gorman) for his work to-date on the project.

The Senior Engineer stated that Part 8 Planning was approved for the scheme in May 2018 and costings had been prepared at that time. However changes have since been made and a new up to date costing has been prepared. It is estimated that the scheme in its current form will cost approximately €12m to complete.

He referred to discussions which have taken place with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) with regard to securing funding and stated that the TII have agreed in principle to part fund the project. The Senior Engineer stated that discussions have also have taken place with the National Transport Authority (NTA) with regard to obtaining funding for the project and it is hoped that the NTA would enter into a co-funding arrangement with the Council subject to certain measures being met. The Senior Engineer stated that in order to secure funding from both Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the National Transport Authority it is necessary that the Council ensure that proper planning is in place, which would take into account the additional works proposed. He also referred to the expression of interest by the National Transport Authority in improving the link between the town centre in Abbeyfeale and the Limerick Greenway.

The Senior Engineer also stated that it is proposed to put a short list of contractors in place and to have contract documents prepared to deliver the scheme as soon as possible. It is envisaged that the scheme would commence at the end of 2022 and it will take twelve to fifteen months to complete.

The Members thanked the Senior Executive Engineer for the comprehensive presentation and welcomed the proposed funding but expressed concern on the proposed increase in costs for the project. A number of other matters were also raised by the Members including the

- the compliance report which is currently being prepared and which is to be submitted to the Planning Department for consideration,
- connectivity between Abbeyfeale town and the Limerick Greenway,
- the appointment of contractors to carry out CCTV survey of all services within the town,
- the timeframe for commencement of works,
- provision of a public toilet as part of the programme of works and
- the demolition of Jack Riordan’s pub.

The resurfacing of a section of the road at Mountmahon, Abbeyfeale was also raised and it was noted that these works are being progressed by the Mid-West National Road Design Office and will be completed in conjunction with the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan.

In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer referred to the increase in the cost of materials and that high quality materials have been chosen for the project. With regard to the link between Abbeyfeale town and the Limerick Greenway, this would require a separate planning application.

The Director referred to the timeframe involved in progressing the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan and stated that the length of time taken to commence the project is not uncommon considering the scale of the project involved.

Following discussion on the above, the Members requested regular updates on the Scheme and that this Item remain on the Agenda of the Monthly Meeting of the Newcastle West Municipal District going forward.

4. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

To receive Update on Distributor Roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale

The Senior Engineer outlined to the Members the current situation with regard to distributor roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale. He also referred to the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028, which will set out an overall strategy for proper planning in all towns in the functional area of Limerick.

He stated that review of the Local Area Plans for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale will take place in the coming months and noted that the Distributor Roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale are in the existing plans. The Senior Engineer stated that the primary function of the distributor roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale is to aid and help development in both towns. He also stated that it is unlikely that external funding will be available for these projects given the current economic situation.

He also noted the proposed By passes of Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale which are currently being progressed by the National Mid West Road Design Office and these once built should reduce traffic going through both towns by 50% - 55% approximately.

Following discussion, the Members referred to a number of matters including the urgency and necessity of having a distributor road for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale to enable the efficient flow of traffic through the towns, to relieve traffic congestion and to improve growth and economic development opportunities in the towns. The funding costs to date for this project and the money allocated in identifying the docking points of the Distributor Roads was raised.

It was proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan and agreed by all, that the provision of distributor roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale should be a Council led project rather than a Developer led project. The Members also requested that a report on the costs and works to date on both roads and that this be provided for the March Meeting.

The Director also agreed to arrange a Meeting with the Planning, Environment, Place-Making and Transportation and Mobility Directorates with regard to how the routes will be finalised, timeframe for same and funding options for the projects.

5. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €4,590 for fencing works at Belfry Heights, Abbeyfeale.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €4,500 to Dromcollogher Town Park.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate to €2,000 to Dromcollogher Festival.

DEFERRED QUESTION

6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when (a) the 2 Council owned properties at Coolaboy, The Square, Dromcollogher will be cleaned up and (b) what plans are in place to have them tenanted and in what timeframe.

REPLY:

The two dwellings referred to in the query both have an address of North Road, Dromcollogher (just off the square on the R522).

The dwellings are adjacent to each other on the North Road.

The first dwelling was acquired through the Buy and Renew scheme and is a 3 bedroomed unit.

Arrangements are presently being made to have it scoped and investigated for required works. This will be completed by the end of February. Once the scoping is complete, a detailed list of the necessary work will be known and all specific constraints will have been identified. An internal layout will then be designed taking account of the constraints.

Following the completion of the scoping and design then the tender competition to procure a contractor will be undertaken. It is estimated that the work phase from the date of

appointment of a contractor to completion will take six months. It is not possible to give a precise date at this time. However, subject to their being no delays it is targeted to have the unit completed by the end of 2022.

The second dwelling is adjacent to the above and is in the process of a stock transfer to an Approved Housing Body. This property will be brought to the March Municipal Meeting for noting. The AHB will undertake the necessary works to the dwelling once the property is approved for transfer at the March Full Council meeting.

The units are side by side and have specific constraints that makes their redevelopment more complex than usual. The option of developing both units together was examined but was discounted. There will be close co-operation between both the LCCC and AHB design team to ensure that all works are carried out as efficiently as possible.

QUESTIONS

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that the stoned feature along the right hand side approach to the back entrance of St. David's Cemetery be repaired.

REPLY: The Western boundary wall of St. David's Graveyard in Newcastle West up to its rear entrance is visually structurally sound and currently requires no repair.

The external face of the boundary wall that abutting onto The Demesne Park, there is evidence of both Tree and Vegetation growth extending over the wall from the Park that requires Tree Surgery along with Ivy removal off the wall. This work will be included on the work programme.

These works are scheduled to commence in Q1 2022.

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting for a progress report on the acquisition of Gleann Dara Walk at Broadford.

REPLY: The Property and Community Facilities Department has a derelict sites case open on land at Cluain Dara at Broadford. A further update will issue in due course.

It was noted that the correct title of the estate is Cluain Dara, Broadford.

9. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting what progress has been made on the taking over of the

laneway from the Courtenay School to the Desmond Complex Newcastle West.

REPLY Searches have been carried out to ascertain the current ownership of the laneway and although not confirmed, it is likely to be the Department of Education.

In the meantime, an enquiry regarding achieving a funding source to improve the laneway from the Age Friendly fund or similar is taking place.

10. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting what progress has been made in taking in charge Cluain Arra estate, Newcastle West and do works need to be completed.

REPLY: The bond for this development has been drawn down by Limerick City and County Council. The remaining works required to bring Cluain Arra estate to a taking in charge standard will be overseen by the Newcastle West Area Office, and have now been progressed to the procurement stage. When the estate is brought to standard, the taking in charge process will begin.

The Executive Engineer confirmed that the works referred to above would commence in the next three weeks.

11. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

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

REPLY:

Derelict sites are continually 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 inspection 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

Limerick City and County Council currently has **25 no.** derelict sites cases open in Abbeyfeale. Of these, there are **19 no.** cases where the particulars of the land are entered in the Derelict Sites Register maintained by the Council.

In summary, the status of cases is as follows:

REF. NO.	LOCATION OF LAND	STATUS
DS-045-18	3 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-044-18	4 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-040-18	11 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-043-18	6 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-118-19	Convent Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-119-19	Convent Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-081-20	Cois Na Feile, Clash, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-111-17	Kerry Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-155-20	9 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-041-18	8 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-129-20	Main Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-156-20	10 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register

REF. NO.	LOCATION OF LAND	STATUS
DS-150-18	Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-164-20	Church Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-165-20	Church Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-187-20	New Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-137-20	The Hill Abbeyfeale Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-042-18	7 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-046-18	2 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-130-20	The Convent Building, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	Notice of intention to add to DSR
DS-137-18	Old Church St, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	Notice of intention to add to DSR. Owner working onsite
DS-128-20	Kerry Rd, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	Owner working onsite
DS-131-21	Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	Open derelict sites case
DS-132-21	Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	Open derelict sites case
DS-134-21	Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick	Open derelict sites case

The following list provides more detail on the status of cases in the area:

Land that has been compulsorily acquired by LCCC

- DS-046-18 2 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick
- DS-040-18 11 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
- DS-081-20 Cois Na Feile, Clash, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick
- DS-042-18 7 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale
- DS-043-18 6 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
- DS-118-19 Convent Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick

An Bord Pleanála have previously refused consent to acquire compulsorily

- DS-119-19 Convent Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick
- DS-045-18 3 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick
- DS-044-18 4 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick

For Sale or Sold on open market

- DS-046-18 2 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick
- DS-040-18 11 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
- DS-155-20 9 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale

In development by LCCC

- DS-042-18 7 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale
- DS-043-18 6 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.
- DS-118-19 Convent Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick

The remaining cases are either in the process of development by the owner or are under consideration for acquisition by Limerick City and County Council by agreement or compulsorily.

It should also be noted that for the following three cases, the particulars of the land have been removed from the Derelict Sites Register due to owner engagement with the Council

- DS-186-20 Clash Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick
- DS-188-20 New Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick
- DS-199-20 3 Hillview Drive Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick

It was noted that that there was a huge improvement in derelict sites within the District and the Members acknowledged the work carried out to date in this area.

12. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for (a) a report on the repair of the boundary fence at Reilig Íde Naofa, The Hill, Abbeyfeale (b) an update on the new burial ground for Abbeyfeale.

REPLY:

- (a)** Repair works to both the boundary fence and drainage at Reilig Ide Naofa, Abbeyfeale did not commence in 2021, due to other committed works in the Municipal District of Newcastle West. It is intended under the programmes for 2022/2023 in the Municipal District of Newcastle West to complete these works.
- (b)** The acquisition of a suitable site by the Property Department of Limerick City and County Council is advancing and will be completed as soon as possible.

Councillor Foley also wished to acknowledge the work carried out on the boundary fence at St. Mary's Graveyard, Abbeyfeale.

NOTICES OF MOTION

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that a wheelchair space/loading bay be installed outside the NCBI shop across from Office 1 Stationary shop at the Square Newcastle West. Some workers have sight issues and need to be dropped off for work.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle noted that he had discussed this matter with the Senior Executive Engineer who confirmed that it was not feasible to carry out these works. It was also noted that there is disability parking space outside the Bank of Ireland in Newcastle West which is very close to the NCBI shop.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council would install a pedestrian crossing between The Square, Newcastle West and Bishop Street, Newcastle West. This street is one of the busiest in the town having the post office and Supervalu in close proximity and pedestrian safety is an issue at that location.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins requested that a pedestrian crossing be installed from The Square to Bishop Street in Newcastle West in the interests of safety.

In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer agreed to prepare a design and costing for this project.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that the loading bay and one parking space be removed in front of the Old Carnegie Library, Bishop Street, Newcastle West as traffic parking here is impeding traffic flow and causes vehicular traffic to back up in both directions.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ruddle.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins requested that the loading bay and parking space in front of the Old Carnegie Library be removed or moved to another location on Bishop St.

In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer noted that natural traffic calming measures are in place due to the current traffic layout in this area of town and if a pedestrian crossing is installed further down Bishop Street, the current traffic layout would assist in slowing traffic down.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that an audit be conducted to establish grave space availability in each of the operating cemeteries within the Newcastle West Municipal area.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY:

In 2019 Limerick City and County Council conducted an audit of burial grounds when compiling the Burial Ground Strategy. Below are figures updated to latest available data for Council owned operational cemeteries in Newcastle West Municipal District:

Burial Ground	No of Burial Plots Available
Abbeyfeale (former Col)	60
Abbeyfeale Reilig Ide Naofa	132
Abbeyfeale, St Mary's	28
Ardagh (Exten)	136
Athea Holy Trinity (Exten)	538
Auglish (Exten)	136
Dromcollogher	181
Feenagh	475
Killeedy St Ita's (Exten)	257
Kinard Glin (New)	717
Newcastle West Calvary	298
Springfield Broadford (Ext)	98

Templeglantine (New)	148
Tournafulla	60
Total	3,264

Councillor Scanlan welcomed the response and also referred to the buying in advance of burial ground spaces where ample grave spaces are available. This advance purchase of grave spaces would also assist in providing additional funding for improvement works in the Council burial grounds.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council will not raise the price of grave spaces for this Council.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY:

Limerick City and County Council's income from the sale of grave spaces has reduced from €652,645.69 in 2016 to €581,056.57 in 2021. In the same period, there has been increased demand for maintenance works in cemeteries throughout the county, i.e. footpath repairs, wall repairs, signage, drainage and tree surgery works. Also, construction costs have increased significantly in this period and the number of contractors tendering for these works has decreased, particularly since early 2021.

In addition, new burial grounds have to be developed in line with recommendations of the Burial Ground Strategy adopted by the Council in May 2021.

Charges for Burial Grounds have not been reviewed for six years.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin noted the rise in prices for burial ground spaces and a discussion followed on the high cost of burial ground spaces in comparison to the charges in place in other Local Authorities. It was also noted grave spaces cost a lot less in community cemeteries. The work of the voluntary groups in maintaining cemeteries was also acknowledged.

In replying, the Director agreed to convey the sentiments expressed by the Members back to the Chief Executive.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the green be removed in Collins Park, Abbeyfeale to aid parking and skip waste removals (small section), this was raised previously.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin requested that the Council remove a section of the green area in Collins Park to cater for parking and refuse truck entering the estate.

In replying, the Executive Engineer agreed to arrange an onsite meeting with representatives from the Estate Management and Planning Sections at this location.

The following item were also raised.

The proposal to cease the issuing of Permits for the burning of Agricultural Waste as notified to the Members by the Planning, Environment and Place-Making Director was raised.

The Members noted that this was a Green Party proposal and advised that the burning of agricultural waste when required should still take place under controlled and permitted circumstances, which is currently the case. The Members also stated that an alternative solution should be provided on how to dispose of agricultural waste should this practice cease.

It was agreed to hold the March Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 1st March, 2022, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated: