

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH, 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), Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Curran), Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. J. Sheehan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Executive Engineer, Housing (Mr. D. Toomey), Administrative Officer, Property and Community Facilities (Ms. T. Knox), Senior Executive Officer, Strategy and Non LA Housing Construction (Ms. S. Newell), Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance (Mr. C. Culloo), Director of Service, Housing Directorate (Ms. C. Curley), Project Manager, Housing Strategy (Mr. A. Doyle), Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Mid-West Road Design Office (Mr. F. Kelliher), Executive Engineer, Mid-West National Road Design Office (Mr. R. Kennedy), Assistant Engineer, Mid-West Road Design Office (Mr. M. Healy), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Galvin welcomed everyone in attendance to the March Meeting of the District.

The Cathaoirleach and Members expressed deep sympathy to the Director and family on the passing of his father, Peter (Peadar) Daly. The Senior Executive Engineer, West Division, also extended sincere sympathy on his own behalf and on behalf of Management and Staff to the Director.

The Cathaoirleach and Members expressed deep sympathy to the family of Detective Ben O'Sullivan on his recent passing.

Deep sympathy was also expressed by the Cathaoirleach and Members for those affected by the conflict in the Ukraine.

The Senior Executive Engineer, West Division also wished to express sympathy on his own behalf and on behalf of Management and Staff to the family of Detective Ben O'Sullivan and for those affected by the conflict in the Ukraine.

A minute's silence and reflection was observed as a mark of respect.

## **1. Adoption of Minutes**

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022.

Proposed by: Councillor Collins

Seconded by: Councillor Foley

And Resolved:

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

## **2. Disposal of Land**

- (a) Circulated, report of Head of Property and Community Facilities, dated 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, concerning proposal to dispose of land at Gortnagross, Athea, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

- (b) Circulated, report of Administrative Officer, Property and Community Facilities, dated 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, concerning proposal to dispose of land at Clash North, Athea, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

- (c) Circulated, report of Acting Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services, dated 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, concerning proposal to dispose of land at Ballybeh South, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

- (d) Circulated, report of Head of Property and Community Facilities, dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2022, concerning proposal to dispose of 1 – 10 Cois Na Féile, Abbeyfale, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

- (e) Circulated, report of Head of Property and Community Facilities, dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2022, concerning proposal to dispose of property at 69 Castlevue Estate, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

- (f) Circulated, report of Head of Property and Community Facilities, dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2022, concerning proposal to dispose of property at 6 Radharc Na Féile, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

- (g) Circulated, report of Head of Property and Community Facilities, dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2022, concerning proposal to dispose of property at 4 Lower Maiden Street, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

- (h) Circulated, report of Head of Property and Community Facilities, dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2022, concerning proposal to dispose of property at North Road, Coolaboy, Dromcollogher, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

- (i) Circulated, report of Head of Property and Community Facilities, dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2022, concerning proposal to dispose of property at Kilmurry, Feenagh, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

Following discussion, the Members referred to a number of matters including the sale of the above properties, current housing crisis and demand for housing in rural areas. The Members also wished that consideration be given to locals in the allocation of these houses.

In replying, the Senior Executive Officer stated that the purpose of the Expressions of Interest with the AHB sector is to tackle the substantial backlog of derelict properties (Category 3 and 4) within the Council's responsibility and to expedite the dereliction programme in the District. The Senior Executive Officer also referred to the pilot scheme for Cois Na Féile, Abbeyfeale.

### **3. Housing Development Directorate**

**To consider the Chief Executive's Report prepared pursuant to Section 179(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 – 2017, as amended, and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 – 2020, as amended, in relation to Housing Scheme consisting of 18 housing units at Broadford, Co. Limerick.**

Circulated, report of Chief Executive, dated 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, in relation to construction of a Housing Scheme consisting of 18 housing units at Broadford, Co. Limerick. The report has been prepared in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and it is proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 5 of the report.

The Senior Engineer addressed the Meeting and referred to the proposed development consisting of 18 housing units at Broadford. He stated that a public consultation process had taken place and no submissions were received in respect of the proposed development.

The Members welcomed the provision of the houses from the Local Authority for those who are in need of housing. A discussion followed and the Members referred to a number of matters including the demand for four bedroomed housing units in the District and the derelict housing development in Broadford. The Members requested that the derelict housing development be followed up on in conjunction with the proposed housing development at Broadford.

Following discussion, the report was proposed by Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

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

##### **To receive Update from the Housing Directorate for the Newcastle West Municipal District.**

The Senior Executive Officer, Strategy and Non LA Housing Construction addressed the Meeting and outlined the progress to date. She referred to the Five Year Programme and to the target of 198 homes which is currently in the system for the Newcastle West District. She stated that three months into the programme 50% of this target has been achieved. She also referred to the purchasing of land over the next couple of years.

The Senior Engineer addressed the Meeting and referred to the Vacant Housing Project. He stated that Lot 1 has gone to tender and that tenders have been received for 19 housing units, 6 of which are in the Newcastle West District. The Senior Engineer stated that the next stage is to appoint a contractor and will advise of commencement date for works when known. He also gave an update on Lots, 2, 3, 4 and 5 where works are progressing well. He stated that Lot 2 is gone to tender and that Lot 3 is to go tender in the coming weeks.

The Senior Executive Officer also gave an update to the Members on the Advance Purchase Turnkeys for Affordable Housing and Mixed Tenure in the District. She referred to the Expression of Interest campaign which was launched in December 2021 with a closing date end of January 2022. She stated that permission has been received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and that five applications have been received, two of which are in the Newcastle West District. She also outlined to the Members the up to date position with regard to the acquisition of the turnkey properties at Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West, consisting of Phase 1, which contains 19 units and is a form of starter housing at a discount under the New Build Incremental Purchase Scheme and Phase 2, which contains 11 units.

The Members referred to a number of matters including the acquisition of turnkey properties at Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West, criteria required for getting a Council loan and funding for the Voids Programme.

It was agreed that a further update from the Housing Directorate would be given at the June Meeting of the District.

## **5. Transportation and Mobility Directorate**

### **To receive Update on N21 Coolanoran Traffic Calming Scheme**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Executive Engineer, Mid-West National Road Design Office to the Meeting.

The Executive Engineer gave an update to the Members on the proposed works on the N21 Coolanoran Road Improvement Scheme.

The Members welcomed the proposed works and thanked Council officials for their work to date on the project.

## **6. Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate**

### **To receive Update on the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan.**

Circulated, report of Senior Executive Engineer, Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate, dated 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2022.

The Members referred to the above report and requested an update on the Part 8 Planning for Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan and Jack Riordan's pub, Abbeyfeale, which had fallen into disrepair.

The Senior Executive Engineer, West Division confirmed that works on the painting of Jack Riordan's pub is to commence shortly. The Members also requested that a further update be given on the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan at the April Meeting of the District.

## **7. Transportation and Mobility Directorate**

### **To receive Update on Distributor Roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale.**

Circulated, report of Senior Engineer, Transportation and Mobility Directorate, dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2022.

The Members referred to the report received from the Transportation and Mobility Directorate and to the concerns raised at the February Meeting of the District.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Scanlan that a Special Meeting be held on the Distributor Roads for Newcastle West and

Abbeyfeale. It was also requested that representatives from the Transportation and Mobility Directorate and the relevant planners be invited to attend the Special Meeting.

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

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €4,000 to Tournafulla Community Centre.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,800 to Roads Section, Newcastle West.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Glin Development for Knights Walk.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to West Limerick Singing Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €3,500 to Tournafulla Community Centre.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €3,000 to Newcastle West Coursing Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €3,000 to public lighting on the Greenway at Barna and Ballinakill.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €3,000 to Newcastle West Coursing Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Newcastle West Scouts.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €300 to Knight Street Bridge Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €3,000 to Community Shop, Tournafulla.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €3,000 to Tournafulla Community Centre.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Newcastle West Coursing Club.

## **QUESTIONS**

**9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting does the Housing Agency own lands in this Municipal District, if so the locations and the area owned.*

**REPLY:**

The Land Aggregation Scheme (LAGs) was established in 2010 to alleviate the financial burden on local authorities relating to maturing loans, where development of the associated residential land had not proceeded.

In return for LAGS, funding, local authorities were required to transfer the related land to the Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency (now the Housing Agency).

In the Newcastle West District, the following sites are recorded in relation to the LAGs scheme:

1. Glin, Co. Limerick (0.52 ha): One small site at Glin Co. Limerick was not developed by the Housing Agency but was sold to a local AHB in 2017 for the purpose of developing homes for the elderly.
2. Mountcollins (1.48 ha): Transferred to the Housing Agency in 2014.

**10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting what progress has been achieved with the provision of a footpath extension from Upper Churchtown towards the Greenway at Daar Bridge.*

**REPLY:** This footpath will be considered for works in 2022 subject to funding and to landowner's agreement.

**11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting when the next review of speed limits for our Municipal District is due to take place.*

**REPLY:** The current bye-laws in respect of speed limits (general review) in Limerick became effective on 1st November 2019 following a detailed review.

In accordance with the national guidelines a comprehensive review and update should occur at least every 5 years.

The next review should commence no later than November 2022 to allow adequate time for consultation.

**12. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the vacant houses at Cois Na Féile, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.*

**REPLY:**

The Housing Directorate issued an Expression of Interest to AHBs on e-tenders and through Irish Council for Social Housing for the acquisition and activation of an unfinished housing estate at Cois na Feile, Abbeyfeale. Following an assessment process on the submissions received, Cluid Housing Association were notified that they were the identified as having submitted the most advantageous submission for this project.

It is intended that the proposed disposal of the unfinished estate of 1-10 Cois na Feile, Abbeyfeale, will be included on the Agenda for noting at the March meeting of the Newcastle West Municipal District. Once noted at this meeting it will proceed to the March Full Council Meeting for formal approval.

Once this process has concluded, Cluid Housing Association will apply for funding to provide new homes.

The Housing Directorate will work with Cluid Housing Association to define a programme to completion and this will be communicated to the Elected Members of the Newcastle West Municipal District.

**13. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the provision of a school warden for Templeglantine National School.*

**REPLY:** In order to progress this matter, it will be necessary for the School Principal/Parents Association to submit a request for a School Warden, in writing, to the Local Authority. The Roads Engineer will then carry out a survey of the location in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to determine if it is deemed necessary to appoint a School Warden at this location.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Foley would liaise with the school principal with regard to submitting a request for a School Warden.

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will move at the next Meeting that this Council repair the floor of the bridge crossing the Greenway at Bill Kelly's next to Devon Road station.*



The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council will examine the location outlined when the water levels in the watercourse drop.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to erosion of the stonework on the bridge and requested that the Council carry out repairs to the stonework at this location.

The excellent work carried out by staff in the Newcastle West District Office during the recent storms was also acknowledged.

#### **15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will move at the next Meeting that the Council apply to the TII to extend the footpath out to Dalton's Cross on the N21 at Abbeyfeale.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin requested that approval be sought from the TII with regard to getting the footpath extended to Dalton's Cross on the N21 at Abbeyfeale. In replying, the Executive Engineer, Roads, agreed to arrange a site meeting at this location.

#### **16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will move at the next Meeting that either the Housing Agency or our Local Authority accommodate the provision of land for Private Sector Affordable Homes.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

#### **REPLY:**

Limerick City and County Council are actively accommodating the provision of private sector affordable homes.

Under the direction from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Limerick City and County Council launched its first Expression of Interest campaign in December 2021 for Advance Purchase Turnkeys for Affordable Housing and Mixed Tenure. The closing date was the end of January 2022 and 5 no. schemes were received on foot of this initial call. The assessment process is ongoing and will conclude shortly.

The Scheme sought home-builders and housing developers in Limerick city and county to offer unbuilt houses or apartments with planning permission to Limerick City and County Council under an advance purchase turnkey arrangement for the provision of affordable housing primarily. The call was targeted at advance purchase opportunities for a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 150 dwellings in any one scheme.

Limerick City and County Council targeted the following areas in the initial campaign:

- Limerick City (all areas including suburbs)
- Newcastle West
- Abbeyfeale
- Kilmallock
- Castleconnell

This advance purchase opportunity has been put in place to provide for accelerated delivery of affordable homes for eligible applicants nominated by the local authority in areas where a significant need for affordable housing has been identified.

It is anticipated that Limerick City and County Council will enter into an advance purchase agreement for an approved number of homes, with payment on completion.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to the above report and requested that a further update be sought on this matter.

The following items were also raised.

The Executive Engineer, Roads, confirmed that road markings have been carried out in Collins Park, Abbeyfeale and further works are to take place shortly.

It was also agreed to hold a Meeting of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) Sub Committee on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

It was agreed to hold the April Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2022, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

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**Cathaoirleach**

Dated:

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