

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON WEDNESDAY, 23RD 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), Senior Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy (Mr. R. Gallagher), Senior Executive Planner, Strategy and Forward Planning (Ms. K. Burke), Senior Planner, Strategy and Forward Planning (Ms. M. Woods), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

1. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

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

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

The Senior Engineer outlined to the Members the current situation with regard to Distributor Roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale. He stated that a 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. He also stated that the proposed distributor roads need to be taken in the context of the Development Plan for Newcastle West and to be consistent with the Plan. In response to a query from the Members, the Senior Planner stated that a review of the Local Area Plans for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale must commence within one year of adoption of the Limerick Development Plan.

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 in the towns. The Members also referred to the planning sterilisation along the routes, zoning of lands and progression of the Adare by pass. The Cathaoirleach also asked that the Senior Planner consult with the Members when composing the draft Local Area Plans. The funding costs to date for this project and the money allocated in identifying the docking points of the

Distributor Roads was raised. The Members requested that a report on the funding costs to date on both these roads be sought and it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek a further update on this matter.

In replying, the Director also acknowledged the need for a Distributor Road for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale and the need to have the indicated route revisited due to the review of the Local Area Plans for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale which is to take place this year.

The Members also requested an update on the proposed bypasses for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale. In replying, the Senior Engineer stated that an update had been sought from the Mid-West National Road Design Office who are currently progressing this project. He stated that the preferred route for both towns is chosen and the next phase is to develop the selected route within a 400mm wide corridor north of the town of Newcastle West. He referred to funding for the project and stated that approval from An Bórd Pleanála is also required in progressing this project.

The Cathaoirleach and Members acknowledged the excellent work carried out by Ms. Norma Prendiville, County Reporter, Limerick Leader, over the last eighteen years and wished her well in the future. The Director on behalf of Management and Staff also wished her well.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____