

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ÁRAS SEÁN FINN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE ON TUESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2022 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), Director, Community, Tourism and Culture (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction & Maintenance (Mr. C. Culloo), 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), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. F. Kelliher), Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. R. Kennedy), Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. M. Hayes), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 12th July, 2022.

Proposed by Councillor Collins;
Seconded by Councillor O'Brien;
And Resolved:

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

Following the adoption of the Minutes, Councillor O'Brien raised the issue of the directive from An Taoiseach for the National Flag to be flown at half-mast on all Government buildings on the day of Queen Elizabeth's funeral. Councillor O'Brien proposed the Cathaoirleach of the District would communicate with the Mayor of Limerick City and County Council and request him to resist this directive. He also stated that Members should have an input in any directive in relation to the National Flag.

This was seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Director, Community, Tourism and Culture to the Meeting.

The Director, Community, Tourism and Culture gave Members an update on proposals to reopen Dohyle Pool and Lough Complex in Rathkeale and added that €50,000 had been secured from the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) to fund a feasibility study and detailed design plan for the existing complex. The Director further advised Consultants have been appointed to carry out this study and Members will be briefed further on findings when complete. The Director concluded saying there is potential in the future to link the complex with the Greenway if funding is secured to do so.

Members welcomed the update.

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

4. Housing Directorate

Part 8 Procedure – No. 1 & 2 St. Mary’s Terrace, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Circulated, Report of the Chief Executive dated 18th August, 2022 setting out details in relation to the refurbishment of the existing properties, which will combine the two units as one single unit at No. 1 & 2 St. Mary’s Terrace, Askeaton, Co. Limerick. The report had been prepared pursuant to Section 179 3(a) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and noted that it is proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 7 of the report.

The report, as circulated, was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

Discussion ensued in relation to vacant houses in the District, specifically 24 Saint Mary’s Park, Rathkeale and Councillor Keary requested a report be made available for the October District Meeting on the proposals to bring this property back into housing stock. The Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction & Maintenance advised there is a meeting of the Home and Social Development Working Group being convened to discuss all vacant Council properties across Limerick City and County and would be forwarded to the Elected Members when complied.

2. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, report of the Head of Property & Community Facilities, dated 11th August, 2022 setting out proposals to dispose of land adjacent to 12 Ballywilliam, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick 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 25th August, 2022 setting out proposals to dispose of land at Richmond Villas, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick and the intention to bring to Full Council, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

3. Mid West National Road Design Office

Proposed N21 Coolanoran Traffic Calming Scheme

Circulated, report of the Administrative Officer, Mid West National Road Design Office dated 19th August, 2022 setting out details of the proposed N21 Coolanoran Traffic Calming Scheme and report issued on 17th August, 2022 in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

The Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office proceeded to outline the report on proposed works for the Part VIII Coolanoran Scheme and went through the submissions received on the scheme.

Discussion ensued on the Members proposal for a speed limit reduction at the location and Members were of the opinion if there was not to be a speed limit reduction as part of the proposed works they would not be able to support the scheme. Councillor Keary requested an approach be made again to Traffic Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to request a meeting with the District Elected Members. The Director, Housing advised Members the proposal before them is for the scheme as outlined in the report and would not be amended to include the speed limit reduction. She further advised the proposed works would improve safety at this location and if rejected funding would not be forthcoming and the scheme would not go ahead. Councillor Collins suggested the proposal be accepted and the speed limit reduction be reviewed at the next speed limit review.

The report, as circulated, was proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue and agreed.

5. Place-Making & Public Realm

Adare Draft Public Realm Plan

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Architect, Place-Making & Public Realm dated 7th September, 2022 setting out an update in relation to the Adare Public Realm Plan.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

6. Road Traffic & Cleansing

District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division dated 13th September, 2022 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

7. 2022 Development Fund Allocations

The Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division recommended to Members the 2022 Development Fund would be allocated as follows:

Knockfierna Local Improvement Scheme	€ 30,000	amenity matching funding
Fedamore footpaths and drainage	€ 20,000	

Total	€ 50,000	

The recommended allocations were proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue and agreed.

8. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

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

- €2,470 to Croí na Coille, Croom.
- €1,614 to Public Lighting, Ballingarry.

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

- €3,300 to the Roads, Traffic and Cleansing Department.
- €1,000 to Rathkeale Community Council.

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

- €3,000 to Askeaton Tidy Towns.
- €2,000 to Adrian Columb Art c/o Askeaton Civic Trust.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Keary, it was agreed to allocate €3,000 to St. James National School, Cappagh from her 2021 allocation.

NOTICE OF MOTION

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting to call on the National Transport Authority (NTA) to provide bus shelters for the elderly and disabled in Askeaton and to facilitate suitable access to public transport at each end of the town.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan requested if the National Transport Authority would visit Askeaton to establish suitable locations for bus shelters in Askeaton. Councillor Keary also requested they visit Rathkeale to inspect the bus shelters there. Councillor O'Donoghue also requested if a representative from the Local Link Rural Bus would attend a District Meeting to clarify how the service operates.

REPLY: The request for improved bus services in Askeaton is acknowledged, particularly as it relates to the elderly/infirm. While the Council are not directly responsible for bus scheduling, this being a matter for the NTA/Bus Eireann, we will endeavour to liaise with both aforementioned parties to see if requested improvements can be actioned.

We note that the NTA are currently examining their service scheduling in Limerick and we will ask for Askeaton to be included in the review. Note that direct representations from Elected Members to the NTA may be helpful also to gain traction for upgrade in services.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. O'Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council will ensure that all grass verges on roads without an adequate hard shoulder, footpath or cycle lane within 3km of national schools and 5km of secondary schools should be maintained to a depth of 1m from the edge of the tar on a year round basis.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donoghue highlighted the dangers of the restriction of cutting hedges between March and September in areas surrounding rural schools. Councillor Keary also added trimming of grass verges on roads should not be restricted in order to ensure rural roads are safer to travel on.

REPLY: Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993 places responsibility for the maintenance of roadside hedges on the owners/occupiers of the adjoining lands. The responsibility for the maintenance of roadside verges rest with the local authority.

Generally, given the extensive road network and funding issues, it is Council Policy that cutting verges has a low priority compared with other road maintenance elements. Where work is carried out, priority is given to sight-lines at junctions or obstruction to road signs. Drainage works are carried out to verges also as required. As a partner the Council has to take into account the objectives of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

The Council will consider any particular problematic location but schools should engage with the Safe Route to Schools Programme and/or Active Travel teams.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. O'Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council contact the Department of Education, Transport and any other relevant Government Departments with a view to educating people on road safety. The purpose of this campaign would be to remind motorists, cyclist and pedestrians of our duty of care to each other on our roads and also to educate anybody who has recently moved to this country.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donoghue stated there should be a re-education programme available to all road users. Councillor Collins also added people who use an electric scooter on the public roads should have to purchase a licence and insurance as well as wear a helmet and hi-visibility jacket.

REPLY: The Road Safety Authority together with the Road Safety Education Officer of Limerick City and County Council promote road safety awareness in the City and County through a number of educational initiatives.

This involves working with local stakeholders, the Gardaí, emergency services and the Department of Education to raise awareness among all

road users in every way possible to save lives and prevent injuries by helping to reduce the number and severity of collisions on Irish roads.

12. A.O.B.

- Councillor Teskey proposed the District write to Aughinish Alumina in respect of the granting of planning permission for an extension to the present facility in Aughinish by An Bord Pleanala and to the company's previous commitment following meetings with the local Elected Members to contribute funding to the Councillors General Municipal Allocation in the District on an annual basis with a view to having this contribution distributed in turn to local community projects. This was seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed.
- Councillor Sheahan requested a date for the Joint Policing Sub-Committee Meeting be agreed with An Garda Siochana. The Meetings Administrator agreed to discuss with the Superintendent and revert.
- Councillor Sheahan proposed funding be provided at estimates time to appoint a member of staff from the Horticulture Department to each District in the County. This was seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed.
- It was agreed to hold the October District Meeting on the 18th October, 2022 at 2.00 p.m. in Croom Civic Centre and a deputation from the Maigne Rivers Trust be invited to attend.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
