

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 NOVEMBER, 2022, AT 10AM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor M. Collins, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Foley, Galvin, Ruddle, Scanlan and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Officer, Limerick LCDC (Mr. S. O'Connor), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Mr. M. Curran), Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District (Mr. J. Sheehan), Executive Engineer, Housing (Mr. D. Toomey), Senior Executive Officer, Strategy and Non LA Housing Construction (Ms. S. Newell), Administrative Officer, Housing Support Services (Ms. P. Phillips), Administrative Officer, Housing Strategy (Ms. H. Creed), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach and Members extended their condolences and sympathy to the family of Ms. Helen Moynihan who tragically lost her life following a road traffic accident. The Members agreed that the Meetings Administrator would write to the family representatives to express their sympathies on the recent passing of Ms. Helen Moynihan.

With the Cathaoirleach's permission, the Members also extended deep sympathy to Ms. E. Kelly, Newcastle West Municipal District and family on the passing of her father, Mr. Joe Kelly.

APOLOGIES:

Director, Community, Tourism and Culture (Mr. G. Daly)
Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely)

1. Adoption of Minutes

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

Proposed by: Councillor Scanlan
Seconded by: Councillor Foley
And Resolved:

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Draft Budgetary Plan 2023 held on 26th October, 2022.

Proposed by: Councillor Galvin
Seconded by: Councillor Foley
And Resolved:

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

2. Housing Directorate

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

Circulated, report of Senior Executive Officer, Strategy and Non LA Housing Construction dated 17th October, 2022.

The Senior Executive Officer referred to the report circulated in advance of the Meeting and stated that this report referred to the quarterly update up to 17th October, 2022. She outlined the key changes since the last quarterly update.

She stated that under the Capital Assistance Scheme, an application has been made to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and approval has been sought for the construction of four housing units at Galeside, Athea, ten housing units for the elderly at Cloverfield, Glin, seven housing units at Nunan’s Corner, Broadford and 8 housing units at Gortmore, Feenagh on behalf of Feenagh Voluntary Housing which in total comprises of 29 housing units since the last quarterly update.

The Senior Executive Officer also gave an update to the Members on the Woodfield Manor Estate, Newcastle West and stated that twenty eight applications were received, fourteen of which were unsuccessful. In response to the fourteen applications received who did not meet the eligibility criteria, the Administrative Officer outlined the reasons for applicants not meeting the eligibility criteria which included applicants not being eligible for a transfer to social housing from an Approved Housing Body unit.

The Members welcomed the construction of the housing units under the Capital Assistance Scheme and referred to a number of matters including the breakdown of the housing units, one bedroomed housing units requiring additional space, demand for three bedroomed units and expected completion date for construction of these units. In replying, the Senior Executive Officer gave an update to the Members on the breakdown of the housing units and stated that the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government considers 1.5 bedroomed units for additional space and also stated that a completion date of 2024 is expected for these units.

The Members queried if a social housing tenant is accommodated in an Approved Housing Body unit, can the tenant purchase the property. In replying, the Administrative Officer, Housing Support Services stated that the tenant can move from the property but however is not eligible to purchase the property.

3. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Noonan's Christmas Lights in Abbeyfeale.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €7,987 to Works in Glin.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €2,500 to Red Cross in Newcastle West.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €362.85 to Killeedy Bórd Na Nóg for Interactive Board.

QUESTIONS

4. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the footpath from Healy's bend up to Fitzgerald's farm house, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY:

Works commenced on St Ita's Road, Abbeyfeale on the 24th October. Initial drainage works to 900 diameter are required due to the poor condition of the pipeline. Approx. 300m of 900-diameter surface water pipeline will require replacement. Two ESB poles will require diversion and six Eircom poles will require diversion underground.

Once this work has been completed, the 800m length of footpath will commence.

5. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) What year was the footpath replaced at Donoghue's up to the Greyhound and Pet World, Abbeyfeale (b) What was the cost at the time (c) Can this path be repaired again (d) Do the Council consider this value for money.

REPLY:

A. In and around 2016.

- B. The length of the works was 130m long and the width of the works were 2.5m on average, this cost approximately €20,000.
- C. The section of footpath in front of the entrance will be repaired in line with the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan. This footpath was damaged due the volume of HGV's entering and exiting. It was a 150mm depth of footpath, in replacing this footpath, Limerick City and County Council will insert a 200mm depth of concrete footpath with an additional A393 mesh reinforcement.
- D. This job was value for money at the time but the volume of HGV's was unforeseen.

6. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting when will the system of locking and opening of the Mass Path gate be implemented as agreed? The Council were to open in the morning, the neighbours were to close at night. This was due to the automatic opening and closing device being disabled.

REPLY: A Meeting will take place to outline the hazards associated with opening and closing this gate prior to the November Meeting of the Municipal District taking place on the 2nd November.

7. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting when will traffic safety measures in the Glebe estate, Monagea take place? A narrowing of the wide entrance was discussed to reduce the speed into the estate. The residents have previously signed a petition for ramps or alternative safety measures.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council has a traffic calming policy. A survey will be carried out in line with the policy to find out if the estate requires traffic calming.

8. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting can grass and weeds be cut at the back of Aldi facing the tennis courts. I think there is a covered pipe here.

REPLY: This grass will be cut back in advance of the November Meeting taking place on the 2nd November.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when safety measures will be undertaken at the junction of the L7029 with the R515.

REPLY: This junction can be considered for the Low Cost Safety Scheme. We will need to consult and obtain permission from the relevant landowners.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when appropriate measures are likely to be put in place to enable traffic to safely enter and exit from L21018 onto the N21 at Barnagh.

REPLY:

Limerick City and County Council have investigated this junction and have carried out all appropriate measures to make this junction safe. As a further measure, Limerick City and County Council will install a concealed entrance sign in advance of the junction and a cul de sac sign at the junction to further enhance safety.

NOTICES OF MOTION

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that urgent and immediate work be carried out on the bridge dividing Kerry and Limerick on the Kilmorna Road.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: An inspection will be carried out at the bridge, if structural repairs are required then Newcastle West Municipal District will put this project forward for the Bridge Rehabilitation Scheme. If structural works are required they will be carried out within that programme.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to dangerous condition of the bridge and requested that a survey be carried out on the bridge.

In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that Central Services will carry out an inspection of the bridge in the near future.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council demand improved levels of service from the ESB.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

If the Notice of Motion is agreed at the District meeting, we will write to the ESB requesting improved levels of services from them as a service provider.

It should be noted that Limerick City and County Council do try to actively engage with representatives of ESB locally requesting quotations, contracts, attendance to ESB faults and connection dates for projects.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to a number of street lights not working for a considerable period of time in the town of Newcastle West including South Quay, Mass Path, Assumpta Park, Newcastle West areas and requested that Limerick City and County Council follow up with the provider to ensure these lights are in working order.

The Members also referred to the Service Level Agreement in place with Airtricity with regard to the timeframe for having street lights repaired.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that a progress report be provided in respect of the need for a Distributor Road in Newcastle West.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

The Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2014 – 2020 (as extended) identifies a proposed route for a distributor road, which was intended to be developer led. No progress has been made in relation to the delivery of the road since the adoption of the Local Area Plan.

The Local Area Plan review has commenced internally and it is not reasonable to define the need or otherwise of such a road at this stage until the review has developed further. Note, consultants have been engaged to further develop a Local Transport Plan for Newcastle West as required in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

The Forward Planning and Transportation and Mobility Teams will engage with the Elected Members of the Newcastle West Municipal District, stakeholders and the public throughout this process.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to traffic congestion in the town and to the need for a distributor road in Newcastle West.

Following a brief discussion, the importance of a distributor road for Newcastle West was reiterated and reference was also made to lands which have been sterilised for many years.

In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that the distributor road would most likely be a developer led project which would form part of the Local Area Plan.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on the Council owned derelict properties in Assumpta Park and Sharwood Estate, Newcastle West. In replying, the Meetings Administrator stated that confirmation had been sought from the Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance that works are to commence shortly in Sharwood Estate, Newcastle West.

An update on a detailed accident report at Dore's Cross, Templeglantine, was also requested. In replying, the Meetings Administrator stated that an update had been sought from the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads who confirmed that a Meeting is to take place shortly with Transport Infrastructure Ireland with regard to carrying out a safety review of the junction.

The Senior Executive Engineer circulated a map outlining plans to remove two loading bays, removal of single parking bay and the installation of double yellow lines at Bishop Street, Newcastle West. Following discussion, the Members agreed to the carrying out of these works. However, it was pointed out by the Members that the new loading bay indicated on the drawing was at a location that may create a traffic hazard. Therefore, it was agreed that further consultation would take place with the Members on the location of a new loading bay in Bishop Street, Newcastle West.

The Senior Executive Engineer also circulated a map outlining plans to install double yellow lines at Bishop's Court, Newcastle West. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek further clarification on whether the installation of double yellow lines was either a reserved or an executive function. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer indicated that he believed it was an executive function.

The Members referred to the level of violence and destruction which took place by gangs of youths in Newcastle West on Halloween night and to the frightening scenes witnessed in the town. A lengthy discussion followed and reference was made to a number of matters including the lack of Garda resources, more Garda presence required on streets, the need for a new Garda Station for Newcastle West, telephone lines at Newcastle West Garda Station being diverted to Henry Street Garda Station from 9 p.m. daily, GDPR legislation regarding the use of CCTV, requirement for CCTV evidence, parental responsibility and tenancy laws. Reference was also made to an incident which took place in Abbeyfeale on Halloween night.

The Members also referred to the difficulty in getting new recruits to join the An Garda Síochána and to existing members of the force leaving to change career paths.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins that the following Notice of Motion be referred to the Corporate Services Section for inclusion on the Agenda of the next Full Council Meeting as this matter relates to a change in National Policy "I will move at the next Meeting that the Council carry out an immediate review on the provisions of pay and pension entitlements for Members of An Garda Síochána".

It was agreed that a Meeting would take place with Members of An Garda Síochána on Friday, 4th November, 2022, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

It was agreed to hold the December Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 7th December, 2022, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
