

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON FRIDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 2022, AT 3 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor M. Collins, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Foley, Galvin, Ruddle, Scanlan and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Community, Tourism and Culture (Mr. G. Daly), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Mr. M. Curran), Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District (Mr. J. Sheehan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Senior Executive Engineer, Community, Tourism and Culture (Mr. B. Noonan), Executive Engineer, Community Tourism and Culture (Mr. M. Daly), Senior Executive Engineer, Planning, Place-Making and Public Realm (Mr. K. O’Gorman), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Collins welcomed everyone in attendance to the December Meeting of the District.

APOLOGIES:

Executive Engineer, Housing (Mr. D. Toomey).

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 2nd November, 2022.

Proposed by: Councillor Foley

Seconded by: Councillor Galvin

And Resolved:

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 16th November, 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. Community, Tourism and Culture Development Directorate

To consider the Chief Executive’s Reports pursuant to Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) in relation to the following:

The construction of the Limerick Greenway Hub @ Newcastle West.

The proposed development will include provision of a public plaza, space for temporary bike hire facilities, car parking spaces, universal access parking, electric vehicle charging points, coach and mini bus parking facilities, additional public realm elements including benches, bins, bike stands, bike repair station, and finally the provision of a new signalised pedestrian and cycle crossing point on Station Road which will provide a safe connection from the existing Bishops Court to the Newcastle West Town Centre to the Greenway Hub.

Circulated, report of Chief Executive, dated 25th November, 2022, in relation to the proposed construction of the Limerick Greenway Hub at Newcastle West. The report has been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) 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 6 of the report.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Senior Executive Engineer and the Executive Engineer, Community, Tourism and Culture to the Meeting. The Members acknowledged the work carried out on the project to date and referred to a number of matters including the unsightly condition of the Abbeyfeale Railway building, commencement of work on the new Limerick Greenway car park, liaising with the Gaelscoil in Newcastle West and traffic calming in the area.

In replying, the Director confirmed that a design team has been appointed to advance the Limerick Greenway car park in Newcastle West and the upgrade of the Abbeyfeale Railway Goods Shed. He also stated that works are to go to tender shortly and it is anticipated that a contractor will be on site in Quarter 1 2023.

The Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that discussions have taken place with representatives from the Gaelscoil and he will also be liaising with the Newcastle West Municipal District Roads Staff with regard to traffic calming in the area.

The report was proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Foley and agreed.

3. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

To receive Update on Maintenance of River Feale, Abbeyfeale.

The Meetings Administrator referred to the Notice of Motion at the Special Meeting of the District held in November requesting that the Minister with responsibility for Office of Public Works take ownership of and responsibility of the River Feale from the rear of Abbeyfeale Town Park down to the bridge at Golden Vale Marts, Abbeyfeale where the Allaughaun river joins the River Feale and that emergency repairs be carried out at the rear of the Town Park immediately.

The Meetings Administrator stated that following a request made at the Special Meeting that this Notice of Motion be forwarded to the Minister of State for the Office of Public Works for reply and that the Minister be invited to attend the December Meeting of the Municipal District, a response has been received from the Minister on this matter.

He stated that the Minister has advised that the Office of Public Works have been reviewing a riverbank slippage which has impacted the stability of the Abbeyfeale Town Park walkway at a location where there are significant environmental and safety constraints on implementing a remedial solution. He also stated that the Minister has confirmed that a Draft Final Preliminary Assessment Report has been prepared which is near completion and this report will be circulated to Limerick City and County Council shortly. He stated that the Minister would also be agreeable to arranging a Meeting with the Office of Public Work and Limerick City and County Council following circulation of this report.

Disappointment was expressed that the Minister was not present at the December Meeting of the District and it was agreed by all the Members that the Minister of State for the Office of Public Works would be invited to attend the January Meeting of the District and that this item would remain on the Agenda for the January Meeting of the District.

At this stage, Councillor Sheahan joined the Meeting.

4. Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate

To receive Update on the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Senior Executive Engineer, Planning, Environment and Place-Making to the Meeting.

The Senior Executive Engineer gave an update to the Members on the progress to date with regard to the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan and stated that funding is still being sought for the project. He stated that an application for funding has been made by the Department of Transport to the National Transport Authority and a response is awaited. He referred to the revised Square layout configuration for festivals following discussion with the Working Group.

The Senior Executive Engineer stated that a revised layout for Grove Crescent car park has been designed which incorporates a new layout for traffic safety and agreement has been reached with local businesses on this matter. He also gave an update to the Members on the Phasing Layout of the Plan and the timelines involved in this process. He made reference to the demolition of O’Riordan’s pub and stated that further information has been requested from the tenderers on this matter. He stated that a contractor is to be appointed in December 2022 for the carrying out of these works. He also stated that discussions will take place with the Housing Directorate on the housing development at Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale.

The Senior Executive Engineer gave an update to the Members on the Main Works Tender Timelines for the Plan which involves Tender to be issued in Quarter 1 2023, Contractor Quarter 2 2023 and Works complete December 2025.

5. Community Development Directorate

To consider Community Initiative Scheme for 2022.

Circulated, report of Senior Staff Officer, Municipal District of Newcastle West, dated 28th October, 2022.

Following a Workshop held prior to the Meeting, the Members agreed to the terms and conditions of the Community Initiatives Scheme 2022, that funding be allocated to the relevant organisations as occurred with the 2021 Scheme and that a review of the scheme in Q1 2023 would take place to explore other initiatives and projects that may need assistance in the Municipal District. This was proposed by Councillor Ruddle and seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

6. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan , seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €4,175 to public lighting.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,500 to St. Kieran’s GAA.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Dromcollogher Graveyard.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Newcastle West Snooker Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Templeglantine Defibrillator.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Templeglantine Defibrillator.

The Director referred to the Strategic GMA Fund and recommended the allocation of €10,000 to Abbeyfeale Town Park, which was proposed by Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley.

QUESTIONS

7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting that this Council calls on the ESB to upgrade the electricity supply at Clash, Athea.

REPLY: A letter was issued to the E.S.B. by Limerick City and County Council on this matter on the 17th January, 2022. Limerick City and County Council will reissue the letter and request a formal response.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update and that this Council works with the Department of the Office of Public Works to secure the river banks to the rear of the town park, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: Following on from Special Meeting of the Municipal District on the 16th November, a letter was sent to the Minister of State requesting that the Office of Public Works take ownership of the river banks in the Town Park.

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the provision of a bus shelter and sign for Templeglantine village.

REPLY: The RS-60 sockets will be installed in the coming days. Bus Éireann will have the artwork and infrastructure ready for installation in December or the beginning of January.

10. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting that the slabs in The Square, Newcastle West be re-laid where they are uneven.

REPLY: All broken and loose slabs in The Square will be re-laid in the coming weeks.

11. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting if the cobble stones be sprayed for grass growing in between the cobbles. It looks very unsightly and makes the town look neglected.

REPLY: This area will be treated by hand in the coming weeks.

12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting for the up to date position regarding the provision of a Dog Park in Newcastle West.

REPLY: The Council is proposing to locate a Dog Park in the Demesne, Newcastle West and are in the process of identifying funding for the Dog Park. Once funding is in place, the Council will progress the project as soon as possible.

13. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when and where allotments are likely to be made available in Newcastle West.

REPLY: There are a number of issues to be considered before a decision can be made on allocating lands for allotments, for example, development, management and maintenance, administration and the cost of water and waste collection. Consideration will be given to the development of a policy on allotments to guide the process.

14. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting as to what progress has been made in terms of the provision of a footpath between Kerry Co-Op and the speed limit along the Bruff Line at Clooneyskehane.

REPLY: An application has been sent to the NTA for the provision of funding, works to include a full design and appointment of a consultant. Works planned for 2023/2024 subject to the provision of funding from the NTA.

15. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting what plans if any are in pipeline for footpath connectivity between Churchtown and Cois Teampaill on the Ardagh road. I have raised this issue on behalf of residents previously and this needs to be made a priority in the interest of residents safety.

REPLY: An application has been made to the NTA for the provision of funding for footpath connectivity between Churchtown and Cois Teampaill and pedestrian crossing subject to the landowners permission and NTA funding.

NOTICES OF MOTION

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council cut the trees at the Water Treatment Plant in Abbeyfeale.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY:

This Question was referred to Irish Water (Reference No: 56878).

Irish Water has reviewed this request and we do not see a requirement at this time to remove these trees. Trees are regularly planted around our sites to encourage biodiversity and to provide screening from the local community. We consider these trees are at a sufficient distance from neighbouring properties as to not be causing any unreasonable impacts.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin requested that in the interests of residents living in the locality that the trees at the Water Treatment Plant be topped or removed.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council calls on the ESB to remove and relocate the two poles in the middle of the footpath in Mountcollins village (Poles located on Abbeyfeale side of Naughton's bar across the road).

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley .

REPLY: An application has been sent to the ESB to remove the poles. This will form part of the footpath widening works which are ongoing at present in Mountcollins.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin stated that the footpaths in Mountcollins village are not wide enough to accommodate wheelchair users and requested that the poles in the middle of the footpath be removed to accommodate wheelchair users. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that the new footpaths will be wider than currently in place.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council improve the main road surface through Newcastle West. There is bumps and hollows all along the road that damages the vehicles of road users.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: If the Notice of Motion is agreed at the District Meeting, Limerick City and County Council will contact TII and the Midwest RDO and request that they look to progress a pavement scheme in Newcastle West.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle referred to the condition of the road surface on the N21 towards Dee's Filling Station and requested that works be carried out to the road surface. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a Meeting is to take place with the Mid West National Road Design office shortly to discuss this matter.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that that a footpath extension is provided on the Eastern side of Castletown Village.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: Works will be considered under the 2023 NTA footpath scheme.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan requested that a footpath extension be provided on the eastern side of Castletown Village. In replying, the Executive Engineer agreed to meet on site to discuss this matter further.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that appropriate safety measures be put in place at Gortroe Cross, Castletown.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ruddle.

REPLY: Road markings have been put in place in the last couple of weeks and further road improvements to include road signage will be installed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to the Yield sign at this junction and requested that a Stop sign be placed on both sides of the junction. In replying, the Executive Engineer referred to the condition of the roadway at this location and that stated that a design will be drawn up for this junction.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Municipal District Meeting that Transport Infrastructure Ireland carry out a comprehensive safety audit at Cregan's Cross, the junction on the N21 for Knockaderry with a view to improving safety here. This is a dangerous junction that has claimed lives and continues to have serious accidents there on a regular basis.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: If the Notice of Motion is agreed at the District Meeting, Limerick City and County Council will contact TII and request that they undertake a Safety review of this junction.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins referred to the dangerous condition of the junction, to numerous accidents which have taken place and requested a safety audit be carried out at Cregan's Cross.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on D.C Manor, Woodfield, Newcastle West and the allocation of finances to developers and subcontractors who are awaiting payment.

An update was sought on the Distributor Road for Newcastle West and in replying the Meetings Administrator agreed to seek a further update on this matter.

Reference was made to a number of street lights not working in the town of Newcastle West and to the Service Level Agreement in place with Airtricity which states that street lights which are reported to be out of order are fixed within ten working days.

In replying, the Meetings Administrator stated that he has spoken with the relevant section who has confirmed that there is a Service Level Agreement in place with Airtricity. However, unfortunately bulbs are not simply being replaced anymore. He stated that previously a bulb could be replaced in fifteen minutes but now the full light is being replaced to a more energy efficient solution which is more time consuming. He stated that the relevant section is also experiencing supply issues.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would write to the relevant Director with regard to the Service Level Agreement not being adhered to in some areas of the District.

The footpath works carried out in Ballyagran was acknowledged.

An update was sought on the installation of public lighting at Garryduff Cross, Newcastle West. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer agreed to follow up on this matter with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Reference was made to traffic calming and the reduction of the speed limit in Kilmeedy village from 60 kph to 50 kph. In replying, the Executive Engineer stated that the Draft Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws have been placed on the Council website and submissions or representations may be made in writing no later than 4.00 p.m., on Tuesday, 3rd January, 2023. The Senior Executive Engineer referred to an application made to the National Transport Authority for funding for pedestrian crossing and footpath upgrade in Kilmeedy.

The unsafe condition and upkeep of the slipways and the condition of the railing at Glin Pier was referred to and in replying, the Senior Executive Engineer agreed that the slipways would be cleaned regularly and the railing is to be replaced shortly.

Following discussion at the November Meeting of the District, the Senior Executive Engineer gave an update to the Members on the installation of double yellow lines at Bishop Court, Newcastle West. He stated that confirmation has been sought that this is an executive function of the Council. He also stated that a report has been submitted to the Senior Engineer, Roads recommending installation of double yellow lines and this work is expected to take place before Christmas. It was agreed by all the Members to proceed with these works.

The Senior Executive Engineer also gave an update to the Members on the removal of two loading bays and single parking bay, to be replaced with double yellow lines in Bishop Street, Newcastle West. He stated that confirmation had been sought that this is an executive function of the Council and a report recommending these works to be carried out is to be submitted to the Senior Engineer, Roads with works expected to be complete before Christmas. The Senior Executive Engineer also stated that there are no plans to replace the loading bays at present. Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed by all the Members to proceed with these works.

Best of luck was expressed to Newcastle West in the Munster Club Senior Football Final against Kerins O'Rahilly's, Kerry which is to take place on the 10th December, 2022.

It was agreed to hold the January Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 11th January, 2023, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

The Cathaoirleach wished the Members, Management and Staff a Happy Christmas and acknowledged their assistance and support during 2022. He asked that this be conveyed to all staff working with the District. Thanks was also expressed to the previous Meetings Administrator, Ms. M. Corbett, for her helpfulness and efficiency during 2022. The Members also thanked the indoor and outdoor staff for their assistance during the year.

The Director on behalf of Management and staff wished the Councillors a Happy Christmas and, acknowledged the work carried out by the Members and thanked them for their assistance during the year.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:

