

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN
ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST,
CO. LIMERICK, ON FRIDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 2023, AT
10AM.**

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), 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, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance (Mr. B. Kidney), Executive Architect, Housing Construction and Maintenance (Mr. B. Ranahan), Project Manager, Housing Strategy (Mr. A. Doyle), Staff Officer, Property and Community Facilities (Ms. D. Ruth), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

APOLOGIES:

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

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

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

At the outset of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach and Members extended their condolences and sympathy to the family of Mr. Seán Broderick, Former Fine Gael Councillor and Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, on his recent passing. The Members acknowledged his work as a public representative and as a business man, his involvement in the Church and his love of the Irish language.

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 11th January, 2023.

Proposed by: Councillor Foley

Seconded by: Councillor Galvin

And Resolved:

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

2. Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate

To consider the Chief Executive's Report pursuant to Section 179 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 proposed Part 8 Housing Scheme at Sycamore Crescent, Gortboy, Newcastle West, County Limerick.

Circulated, report of Chief Executive, dated 23rd January, 2023, in relation to the proposed Part 8 Housing Scheme at Sycamore Crescent, Gortboy, Newcastle West, County 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 8 of the report.

The Members referred to a number of matters including the need for all rented Council properties having a front and rear access to their properties and the issue of car parking and traffic layout at this location.

At this stage, the Director left the Meeting.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the issue of car parking and traffic layout at this location would be dealt with separately to the Part 8 Housing Scheme and that a further update would be given to the Members by the relevant Directorate.

The report was proposed by Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle and agreed.

3. Disposal of Land

Circulated, report of Head of Property and Community Facilities, dated 26th January, 2023, concerning proposal to dispose of land at rear of 13 Michael Hartnett Close, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

4. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

To receive Update on Maintenance of River Feale, Abbeyfeale.

The Meetings Administrator stated that an invitation was sent to Minister O'Donovan, Minister of State for the Office of Public Works to attend the February Meeting of the District but unfortunately the Minister was not available to attend.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would write to the Office of Public Works and that a Meeting be arranged with the relevant stakeholders to discuss this matter. It was also agreed that this Item would remain on the Agenda for the March Meeting of the District.

5. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to St. Patrick's Day event in Newcastle West.

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On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to St. Patrick's Day event in Newcastle West.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Tounafulla Community Centre.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to assist in the Relocation of Demountable Cabin.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to drainage works in Meenkilly, Abbeyfeale.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €3,000 to Community Hall, Tounafulla.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €600 to Abbeyfeale ACC.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Athea Hall.

ADJOURNED NOTICE OF MOTION

6. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that due to the shockingly bad level of service in fixing blown public lights which are now taking months if at all to get fixed, that Limerick City and County Council meet with Airtricity with a view to improving the service.

No lighting leads to anti-social behaviour and people do not feel safe walking around at night, this should be a priority for this Council.

It was agreed to defer this Notice of Motion to the March Meeting of the District to allow the relevant Directorate to be in attendance to discuss this matter.

QUESTIONS

7. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the footpath at Lower Athea.

REPLY: Our priority list for 2023 has been submitted for the NTA for consideration, the budget for County Limerick has yet to be finalised.

8. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) When can we expect the resurfacing works on the road from Mountmahon to start (b) In the meantime, until works begin can patching be done on the worst parts on this stretch of road.

REPLY: From the 1st January Limerick City and County Council have been actively maintaining this road which has been affected by the haulage of materials. There is a program in place to fully reconstruct the affected roads by the end of March 2023.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when Number 4 and 5 Lower Maiden Street, Newcastle West will be tenanted.

REPLY:

Focus Housing Association received funding approval in October 2022 to refurbish 4 Lower Maiden Street, Newcastle West as part of lot in the Newcastle West District. Legal transfers are underway at present.

Following an update from Focus Housing Association on the 1st February 2023, it is anticipated that the Contractor employed on behalf of Focus Housing Association will mobilise to commence works on the Newcastle District lot in 6 weeks' time.

LA Housing Construction & Maintenance undertook a refurbishment inspection at 5 Lower Maiden Street, Newcastle West in January 2023 and works are currently being procured. The procurement will be completed and works commenced on site by end of Q1. Typically these works will take 6-10 weeks to complete.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that remedial work be undertaken on the section of the road linking the River Arra and the Bridge of Tears Roundabout.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will repair this section of road in the coming weeks.

11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when works to the stone wall linking the rear of Churchtown Grotto to the side entrance to St. David's Cemetery will be restored/repaired.

REPLY: This section of the stone wall has been repaired.

12. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed report on the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan (a) Programme of works (Stage by Stage) (b) Detailed plans (c) Costings (d) Start Dates.

REPLY:

(a) Programme of works (Stage by Stage)

It is planned to award the advance works contract for demolition of O'Riordan's in February 2023. For the main contract, the cctv drainage survey has identified issues with the existing drainage in Abbeyfeale. The extent of drainage requiring remediation/replacement is being reviewed by the design team, in consultation with Irish Water. The demolition of the corner dwelling on Colbert Terrace is now also required to be undertaken as part of this contract to facilitate traffic diversions during the works. These matters are currently being addressed and the design works are progressing with a tender during quarter two of 2023.

(b) Detailed plans

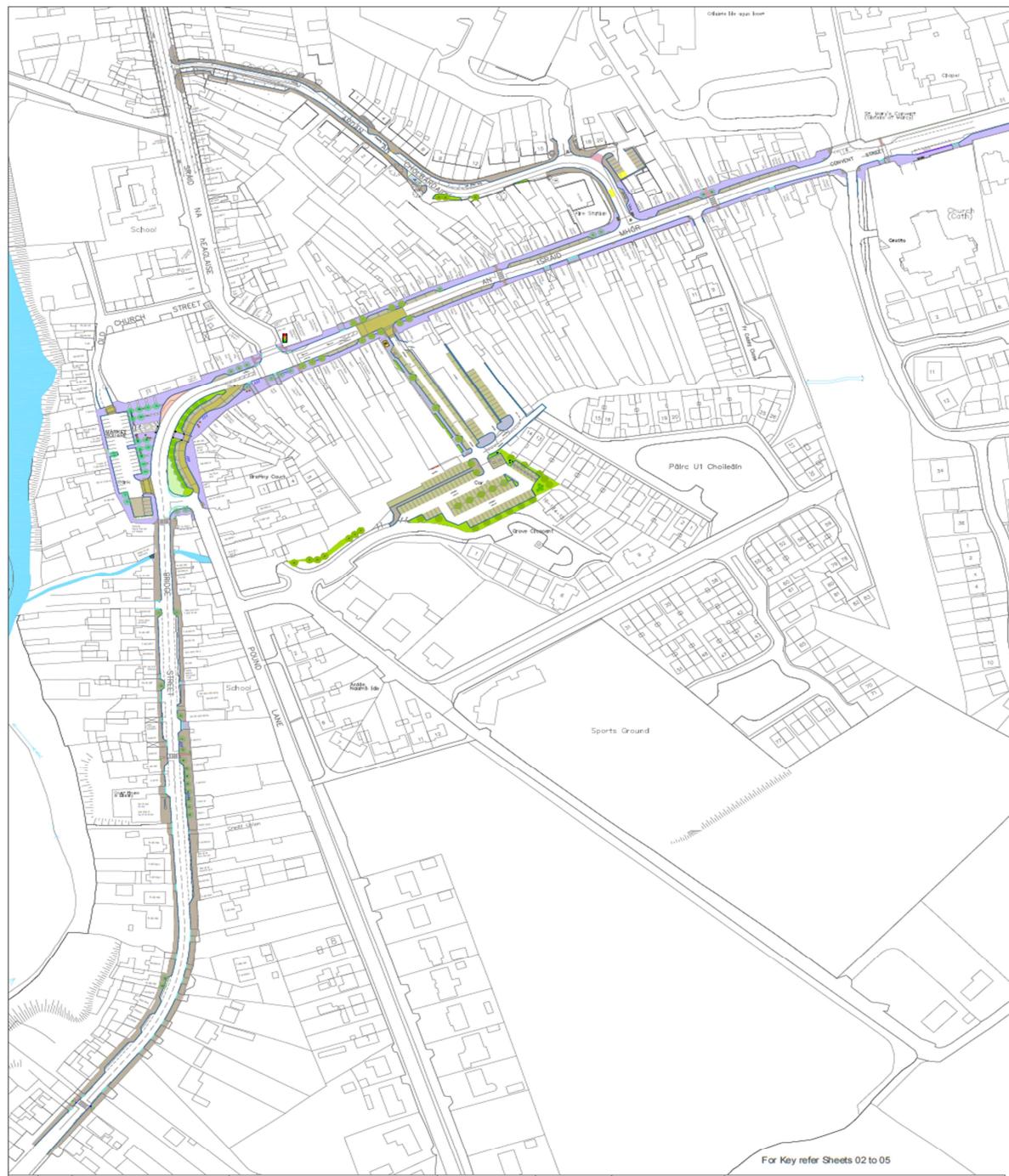
The layout of the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Scheme is attached overleaf.

(c) Costings

The estimated cost of the project is €15.5m. There is a commitment of funding from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Road safety of €5M and €3M from TII Road pavement and €1M from the Council. The National Transport Authority have agreed in principle to co-fund the scheme and Transportation and Mobility Directorate are in discussions with National Transport Authority.

(d) Start dates

It is planned to award the advance works contract for demolition of O'Riordan's in February 2023 and issue the tender for the main contract during quarter two of 2023.



13. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the Graveyard, Abbeyfeale. What stage is it at?.

REPLY: A suitable site has been identified and is in the process of being acquired. A Part 8 planning application will then be prepared for the proposed project.

A further update will be provided in due course.

14. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the progress of a plan to upgrade and provide a proper, modern and purposeful playground in Newcastle West.

REPLY: A Masterplan for the Demesne in Newcastle West is being finalised at present and will be presented to the Members once completed. The Masterplan includes the area of the existing playground and surrounding lands. The Plan will provide for a larger new playground in the vicinity of the existing playground.

15. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the progress of the provision of a theatre/arts centre in Newcastle West Town.

REPLY: The Council has tendered for a suitably qualified consultant to undertake a feasibility/options study. These tenders are being assessed at present and a consultant will be appointed in the near future. A further update will be provided in due course.

NOTICES OF MOTION

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that footpath renewal be prioritised for each of the following sections of pathway in Newcastle West: (a) The Mass Path through to Assumpta Park (b) DB Printing on the Bóthar Bui Road towards the junction with Killeline (c) Along St. Ita's Road to its junction with the Beechwood Estates.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: These footpaths can be considered under the 2023 GMA program of works.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to the poor condition of sections of the footpath at the Mass Path to Assumpta Park, Bóthar Bui Road and along St. Ita's Road to

junction with Beechwood Estate. In replying, the Executive Engineer stated that these footpaths can be considered under the GMA Programme of Works.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that an immediate plan be implemented to restore all vacant/derelict Council properties in the Municipality.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

REPLY: The restoration of all vacant/derelict council properties is a priority for Limerick City and County Council. To date we have allocated significant resources towards this and are in receipt of funding from the DHLGH for the long term vacant units which will be completed in 2023.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan expressed disappointment at the response received and requested that these properties be restored as a matter of urgency. The Members also stated that a number of Council owned properties in the District have been derelict and idle for a lengthy time. Following discussion it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would invite the relevant Senior Engineer to the March Meeting of the District to discuss this matter further. It was also agreed that a list of the Council owned vacant/derelict properties being prioritised in 2023 and the funding allocation provided to renew these properties be sought from the relevant Directorate.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council puts in place a plan for to keep roads clear from frost and snow where vulnerable persons reside. For example, the Brothers of Charity Residential units - Nursing homes and other care facilities for vulnerable people especially on higher ground.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

REPLY: In extreme weather conditions, Limerick City and County Council will endeavour to treat vulnerable areas.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin requested that the Council identify and prioritise the salting of roads where vulnerable people reside and in replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that the Winter Maintenance Plan covers the salting of National and Regional Roads throughout the County but however will endeavour to identify locations for salting where vulnerable people live.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that a disability bay be put in place down Whites Passage, Meenoline South next to the Greenway.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will endeavour to install a disability bay with the agreement from the relevant stakeholders.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin requested that a disability bay be put in place at Whites Passage to accommodate wheelchair users using the Greenway. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer agreed to liaise with the relevant Directorate on this matter.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that Tabletop ramps be put in at the junctions where the R524 and R523 intersect in Athea Village, also on the R523 on the approach from Listowel in proximity to entering the village.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: We will carry out a speed survey at this location and following this, these works can be considered for the 2023 NTA program. The budgets for the 2023 program have not been finalised yet.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan referred to speeding on the approach roads to Athea village and requested that tabletop ramps be put in place in consultation with the various groups in the village.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that Scanlan's Lane, Newcastle West, be made a one way system towards Assumpta Park in the interest of pedestrian and vehicular safety.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council are open to this but will need to look into which direction of travel is required and will need to consult with the relevant stakeholders at this location.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins requested that Scanlan's Lane be made a one way system in the interest of safety and that consultation take place with the residents and businesses in the area.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on Devon Road Cross and Dore's Cross, Templeglantine. In replying, the Executive Engineer agreed to follow up with Transport Infrastructure Ireland on this matter.

An extension of the footpath and public lighting on the Killarney Road towards Dalton's Cross was referred to and in replying the Executive Engineer stated that an application has been forwarded to Transport Infrastructure Ireland and a response is awaited.

An update was sought on the provision of a bus shelter in the village of Templeglantine and in replying, the Executive Engineer stated that an application has been made to the National Transport Authority on this matter.

Reference was made to a number of street lights not working in the District and following discussion, it was agreed that the Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation and Mobility Directorate would be invited to attend the next Meeting to discuss this matter. It was also agreed that the Members would forward a list of the relevant street lights to the Meetings Administrator prior to the next Meeting.

Reference was also made to the closing of the hedge cutting season on the 28th February, 2023.

It was noted that following the Presentation on Fairtrade made by the Environment Awareness Officer at the January Meeting that the Fairtrade initiative is now being supported and Fairtrade products are being provided at the Newcastle West District Meetings.

It was agreed to hold the March Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 1st March, 2023, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith O'Brien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
