

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ADARE RECREATION & COMMUNITY COMPLEX, THE MANOR FIELDS, ADARE, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 2023 AT 9.30 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor S. Keary, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, Sheahan and Teskey.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, National and Regional SSC (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Ms. K. Butler), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. G. O'Connor), Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. O'Keeffe), A/Senior Executive Officer, Water Services (Ms. C. O'Kane), Executive Architect, Urban and Rural Community Development (Mr. T. Joyce), Administrative Officer, Community (Mr. P. Malone), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

APOLOGIES:

Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley)

At the outset of the Meeting the Cathaoirleach thanked the Manor Fields Adare for facilitating the February District Meeting.

Barry O'Halloran, Manor Fields Board Member, welcomed everyone to the Manor Fields Adare and outlined to Members the amenities the Manor Fields currently has to offer to users and explained future plans for the complex. He also thanked Members for their GMA contributions to date towards the development of the complex and added the future development of the complex would require additional funding to allow the group to achieve its ultimate aims for the centre.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 10th January, 2023.

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

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

2. Water Services

The A/Senior Executive Officer, Water Services gave Members an update on the upcoming transition of Limerick City and County Council Water Services to direct management by Uisce Éireann, formerly Irish Water which includes a new management unit, the unifying of services from mid-March and a legal handover over a four year period. These new arrangements will remove Water Services from Council Meetings and Elected Members will liaise directly with Uisce Éireann. Rural water will remain the responsibility of Limerick City and County Council and will prioritise vulnerable customers, who are encouraged to engage with the Council and register as a vulnerable customer.

Discussion ensued and Members expressed concerns in relation to 145 staff Members from Water Services who currently work on behalf of Irish Water. The A/Senior Executive Officer advised the Elected Members each staff Member will have the option of transferring to Uisce Éireann on a permanent basis or being reassigned to a suitable vacancy within Limerick City and County Council. Staff members will continue to work with Uisce Éireann until they decide on their personal preference and handover arrangements have been completed. The A/Senior Executive Officer concluded that Members can contact Uisce Éireann on the dedicated Councillor phone line and email or they can also contact her.

3. Urban & Rural Community Development

Askeaton Public Realm Plan

Circulated, Askeaton Public Realm Plan dated 11th January, 2023. The Executive Architect, Urban and Rural Community Development presented the Public Realm Plan for publication and updated Members on the changes that had been made to the plan since last April when it was brought to the Municipal District Meeting.

Discussion ensued and some Members advised local businesses in the town sought clarity around some elements of the plan and requested a meeting between the Executive Architect and the local businesses. The Executive Architect, Urban and Rural Community Development noted that the proposals in the plan were indicative and further engagement with the community would be required prior to any works identified within the plan. The Executive Architect, Urban and Rural Community Development agreed to arrange a meeting with these business people in due course.

The Plan was proposed for publication by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor O'Brien, and agreed.

4. Request to Receive Deputation from Kiltteery Pier Group

On the proposal of Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to receive a Deputation from Kiltteery Pier Group at a future Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

5. **Road Traffic and Cleansing**

District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 14th February, 2023 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

Following discussion the following issues were raised by Members:

- The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised a workshop will be convened with Members to discuss Ballyengland and Morenane junctions.
- Councillor O'Brien requested speed ramps be installed on Don Bosco Road, Pallaskenry due to high volume of agriculture students driving at speed in the area. He further requested a price to rebuild a wall which was knocked recently following a car crash at this location. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised a speed survey would be carried out at this location.
- Councillor Teskey requested a survey be carried out on all footpaths in Rathkeale town as well as an audit of footpaths in all towns and villages of the District. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised the only source of funding for footpath repairs are Active Travel Funding or District Development Fund allocations which currently are €50,000 per year.

6. **General Municipal Allocation (GMA)**

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

- €2,000 to Ilen Boat Club.
- €5,000 to Pallaskenry Senior Citizens (€3,000 from 2022 & €2,000 from 2023).
- €5,000 to Pallaskenry GAA Club.
- €1,000 to Adare St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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

- €1,500 to Cappagh GAA Club.
- €1,635 to Loughill/Ballyhahill Community Text Alert.
- €1,000 to Adare St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- €1,000 to Askeaton St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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

- €3,000 to Abha Bhan Parish Park.
- €1,500 to Adare St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- €1,000 to Akseaton St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- €1,000 to Rathkeale St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- €7,000 to Adare Soccer Club.
- €2,000 to Adare Ladies Football Club.
- €2,000 to Ferrybridge Water Sports Club.

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

- €10,000 to Croom Development Association.
- €1,000 to Adare St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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

- €1,000 to Adare St. Patrick's Day Parade (from 2022 Allocation).
- €1,000 to Rathkeale St. Patrick's Day Parade (from 2022 Allocation).
- €5,000 to Abha Bhan Parish Park.

QUESTIONS

7. Question submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will ask at the next Meeting why Limerick City and County Council granted planning permission for two developments in Adare Village without first having procured proper and adequate storm water connectivity for approximately sixty houses. Planning Reference 198010 and Planning Reference 19/684.

REPLY:

1. The basis of the decision by the Planning Authority to grant planning permission under Plg. Ref. 19/684 is a matter of public record. The design proposals for the surface water drainage system were provided by the developer as part of this planning process and were assessed in accordance with technical standards. The Planning Authority also attached site specific conditions in relation to the surface water disposal system and to be met prior to the commencement of development. The onus is on the applicant to ensure all necessary consents are in place prior to the commencement of development.

2. Application number 198010 refers to a Part 8 planning application. Planning for 31 housing units and 8 affordable plots was approved by the members in early 2020. Surface Water and Foul Water Connectivity were included in the proposal. We are finalising surface water connectivity at present. We expect construction to commence on site in late 2023.

8. Question submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will ask at the next Meeting why Limerick City and County Council sold their land bank of circa eleven acres to a private developer without foul sewer or storm water connectivity being available.

REPLY:

Following an Expression of Interest process in 2017, the S183 for disposal, was approved at full council in September 2018, subject to planning permission, which has not yet been achieved and consequently the disposal has not completed.

Surface water connectivity would be dealt with as part of the planning application.

As part of the disposal contract, conditions were included in relation to the treatment of foul sewer connectivity which were to be provided in conjunction with Limerick City and County Council.

9. Question submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will ask at the next Meeting as to what progress has been made on the design/refurbishment and future re-opening of the Bank of Ireland building at Main Street, Rathkeale.

REPLY:

Innovate Limerick has been tasked with responsibility to bring forward a plan for the future use of the old Bank of Ireland Building in Rathkeale. Innovate Limerick has commenced the procurement process to appoint a Design Team to carry out feasibility reports and to develop an agreed scheme that can be brought through the appropriate planning process.

Once approved through planning Limerick City and County Council and Innovate Limerick will also be seeking funding through Rural Regeneration Development Fund and Town and Village Grants to deliver the approved scheme which will be a good example of deliver on Governments Town Centre first Policy.

NOTICE OF MOTION

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will move at the next Meeting, due to the recent public order incident in Rathkeale Town, that Limerick City and County Council construct two additional speed ramps at the southern and northern ends of Roches Road in the interest of health and safety for road users at this location.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Keary, seconded by Councillor Teskey and agreed.

In proposing the motion Councillor Keary advised this is an exceptional case regarding traffic calming in Rathkeale. He had already discussed this matter with the Chief Superintendent and the Chief Executive. He indicated that during the policing review of the town he was endeavouring to have the ramps installed as part of this review.

REPLY:

As a result of numerous requests for Traffic Calming over the years, Limerick City and County Council adapted a Traffic Calming Policy for Urban Areas in 2018.

This Policy requires any requests for Traffic Calming be accompanied by a plebiscite of residents in which two thirds of the residents on the street affected have indicated they are in favour of traffic calming. Any such plebiscite shall be restricted to residents living within 100m of the location of the proposed traffic calming measures.

On foot of any requests with appropriate plebiscite, speed surveys are required to be carried out to justify any interventions and to verify a problem exists and is not just a perception.

If a scheme proceeds to design stage, a formal public consultation shall take place generally as outlined in Section 38 of the 1994 Road Traffic Act.

A source of funding also needs to be identified for any proposed Traffic Calming schemes. A Plebiscite has been submitted for Roches Road.

However, 2 separate Traffic Surveys carried out in 2022 (one just prior to Christmas period over an 8 day period) do not justify any interventions in accordance with Council policy.

Accordingly, there are no plans to carry out Traffic Calming on Roches Road.

11. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

12. A.O.B

- Councillor Sheahan proposed €1,000 be allocated each year by Limerick City and County Council to each town and village for a St. Patrick's Day Parade. This was seconded by Councillor Teskey and agreed.
- Councillor Collins referred to the announcement of the increase in the income limits for Local Authority Home Loans and proposed Limerick City and County Council review all applications that were rejected in recent years due to income limits and now make contact with those applicants to see if they now come within the remit for the Local Authority loan scheme. This was seconded by Councillor Sheahan and agreed.
- Councillor Teskey proposed the District write to Ronald Sparling to congratulate him and wish him well on the occasion of his 100th Birthday. This was seconded by all Members and agreed.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____