

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 1st March, 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), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Mr. M. Curran), Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District (Mr. J. Sheehan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Valley), Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation and Mobility Directorate (Mr. S. O'Reilly), Senior Engineer, National and Regional Shared Services Centre (Ms. A. Peters), Acting Senior Executive Officer, National and Regional Shared Services Centre (Ms. C. O'Kane), Senior Engineer, LA Construction and Maintenance (Mr. B. Kidney), Senior Executive Officer, Strategy and Non LA Housing Construction (Ms. S. Newell), Administrative Officer, Housing Strategy (Ms. H. Creed), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

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

The Meetings Administrator outlined to the attendees that in accordance with Standing Orders the recording, taking photographs or screenshots of any part of the Meeting including tweets is not permitted. In addition, he also confirmed that the Councillors Code of Conduct applies, that Elected Members are aware of the need to show respect and courtesy to colleagues and that qualified privilege applies in relation to comments made at Meetings. The Meetings Administrator also invited those present to notify the Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item for discussion at the Meeting.

The Meetings Administrator invited those present in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 and the Code of Conduct, to notify the Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting.

He also thanked everyone for their co-operation on these matters.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a)** Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 10th February, 2023.

Proposed by: Councillor Galvin

Seconded by: Councillor Scanlan
And Resolved:

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

2. National and Regional Shared Services Centre

To discuss Transition of Limerick City and County Council Water Services to Uisce Éireann.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Senior Engineer and the Acting Senior Executive Officer to the Meeting.

The Members thanked the Acting Senior Executive Officer for the invaluable work, commitment and service given and to the exceptional manner in which she communicated with the Members at all times including times of crisis.

The Acting Senior Executive Officer addressed the Meeting and referred to the enormous transformation involved in the transition of water services to Uisce Éireann which is to take place in the coming weeks up to the end of 2026. She referred to the Service Level Agreements which have been in place over the last number of years and to the Master Co-Operation Agreement between Uisce Éireann and the Local Authority which will see the delivery of water services being removed from the Local Authority to Uisce Éireann. She stated that while responsibility for the public water and wastewater network will be removed from the Local Authority, private water is to remain in place with the Local Authority.

She informed the Members that existing Local Authority water services staff can voluntarily transfer to Uisce Éireann or choose to remain with the Local Authority and that a Voluntary Redundancy Scheme is currently being discussed. She stated that the representational role of the Members will change slightly and reiterated the importance of the Members attending the Uisce Éireann clinics.

The Members expressed dissatisfaction on the transfer of water services to Uisce Éireann and referred to a number of matters including loss of local knowledge, further erosion of Council duties, transfer of water schemes to Uisce Éireann, public representative support desk and formulation of Local Area Plan.

In response to queries raised by the Members the Acting Senior Executive Officer stated that priority will be given to the transfer of water schemes to Uisce Éireann, the public representative desk is to remain in place and that the whole area of policy is yet to be determined.

3. 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 February, 2023.

The Administrative Officer referred to the report circulated in advance of the Meeting and outlined the key changes since the last quarterly update.

She referred to the Housing for All Plan and gave a summary to the Members on the targets outlined in the Housing Delivery Action Plan. She referred to the target of 198 homes being provided in the Newcastle West District between 2022 and 2026 and that the approved homes currently stand at 65% of the five year target. She made reference to the Build Delivery of 128 homes, the Acquisition Delivery of 1 home and the Leasing Delivery of 22 homes in the District between 2022 and 2026.

The Senior Engineer addressed the Meeting and referred to the SHIP Construction of 11 housing units in Broadford, 21 housing units in Sycamore Crescent, Newcastle West, 4 housing units in Mountcollins and 10 units in O'Connor Park, Ardagh and that progress is ongoing with regard to Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale. He stated that the Part 8 for the Sycamore Crescent development was agreed recently and the Part 8 for the Mountcollins housing development is to be presented to the Members shortly.

The Members referred to a number of matters including the Colbert Terrace housing development, Housing Districts covered by Housing Engineer, Centralisation of Community Welfare, Update on 42 affordable housing units at Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West, the importance of completing current housing development before moving on to next and update on AHB Repair and Lease buildings for Newcastle West.

In replying to the Members, the Senior Executive Officer gave an update to the Members on the queries raised including the conversion of vacant buildings in Bridget Street for residential use, Update on Cois Na Féile, Abbeyfeale to be given by Cluid Housing in April 2023, and Affordable housing at Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West.

Reference was also made to the Croi Cónaithe Scheme and following discussion on the scheme it was proposed by Councillor Sheahan and agreed by all the Members that the Meetings Administrator would refer the following Notice of Motion to the Corporate Services Section for inclusion on the Agenda for the next Full Council Meeting.

“We will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council calls on the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage to review the Croí Cónaithe scheme to include derelict units that will be refurbished and made ready for the rental market and not just principle places of residence for the owner”.

4. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

To receive Update on Maintenance of River Feale, Abbeyfeale.

The Senior Executive Engineer addressed the Meeting and stated that having discussed the matter with the Head of Asset Management and District Manager, Office of Public Works it is proposed that a Meeting would take place on the 13th March, 2023 with the relevant stakeholders to discuss this matter. He also stated that a Draft Final Preliminary Assessment Report has been prepared and the contents of this report is to be discussed at this Meeting.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Minister O'Donovan, Minister of State for the Office of Public Works be invited to attend a Meeting of the District at a time and venue suitable to Minister O'Donovan.

It was also agreed this Item would be discussed again at the April Meeting of the District.

5. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to reallocate the sum of €650 from the Farmers Market allocation in September 2021 to Newcastle West Cricket Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €5,000 to provision of a Dog Park in Newcastle West.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Abbeyfeale ACC.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to the hall in Athea.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to the hall in Athea.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 to repair of lights.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to the hall in Athea.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,600 to Abbeyfeale Community Council.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was proposed to allocate €500 to drainage issues in Carrickerry.

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.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

Limerick City and County Council will review the issues raised with Enerveo regarding improving their level of service, with a view of expediting repairs in line with the SLA.

Limerick City and County Council acknowledge that there has been a backlog in our public lighting network due to an operational issue which has now been resolved. We are continuing to work with the maintenance contractor to clear out this backlog in an efficient manner while aiming to maintain an appropriate level of service. As part of the upcoming Regional Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) Contract, the Council will be looking to change out the existing aging infrastructure and provide added resilience to the network. It is intended the PLEEP contract will commence Q2/Q3 in 2023 in Limerick.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle referred to the length of time taken to get street lights fixed and to the Service Level Agreement in place.

The Members expressed dissatisfaction at the level of service provided and referred to a number of matters including various street lights not working in the District, the length of time taken to get street lights fixed, Service Level Agreement and if some form of penalty can be implemented to remedy the situation.

In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that significant improvements have been made in the last two months and gave an overview of the current situation. He is also going to review the Service Level Agreement with regards the duration of the agreement.

QUESTIONS

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when reinstatement works are expected to be carried out to the verge of the R521 at Ballynoe.

REPLY: Reinstatement works have been carried out at this location.

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting what plans are in place to provide Aires style facilities for Greenway visitors travelling by Camper Van.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council are currently designing and developing trailheads and hubs on the Limerick Greenway at Rathkeale, Ardagh, Newcastle West & Abbeyfeale. Architect led multidisciplinary teams have been appointed for the design of the hubs. As each site is unique in terms of size and scale there will be varying services and amenities provided at each location.

“Aires style facilities” including camper vans will be considered at the trailheads in accordance with Section 11.9.5 of the Limerick Development Plan. This section of the plan sets out development management standards for caravans, camping and glamping. This is also applicable to facilities being developed by the private sector.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting what progress enforcement has been made in terms of having the Glebe Estate at Monagea completed.

REPLY:

Planning Enforcement has dealt with three historic cases on this site:

1. **Case reference DC-374-06:** Enforcement Notice served 06/12/2006 for non-compliance with conditions No. 6, 9, 12, 17, 18, 19, 21 and 25 of Planning Reference 04/3492. Case went to court for non-compliance. Case closed on 02/01/13.
2. **Case reference DC-406-08:** Enforcement Notice served 27/02/2009 for non-compliance with Condition No. 2 of 06/2232. Case closed on 30/01/2014 as Council completed work with bond funding.
3. **Case reference DC-206-11:** Enforcement Notice served on 05/06/12. Case closed on 20/01/2016 as Council completed work with bond funding.

Planning Enforcement has received no further complaints relating to this development.

Limerick City and County Council has active derelict sites cases on unfinished developments at site no's 14, 15, 21 & 22 at The Glebe, Monagea. In December 2019, LCCC served on the Owner of these sites Notices of Intention to Acquire the Derelict Sites Compulsorily under Section 15 of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 (as amended). The Owner lodged objections to these Notices. Consequently, LCCC made applications to An Bord Pleanála for consent to acquire the sites and the consent was granted by the Board in July 2020. In September 2020, the Owner was granted leave by the High Court for a judicial review of the An Bord Pleanála

decision to grant LCCC consent to acquire the sites. LCCC awaits the outcome of this judicial review to determine the progression of the derelict sites cases. A Derelict Sites Levy is being charged on the sites.

Limerick City and County Council also has an active case at The Glebe comprising six no. detached premises, one no. incomplete development, and approx. 6 no. undeveloped sites on surrounding land of approx. 1.1ha. The particulars of this site are recently entered in the Derelict Sites Register.

10. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

*I will ask at the next Meeting when will the dog park in Newcastle West commence.
It was approved at this Council budget meeting.*

REPLY: The Council will commence work on the procurement of fencing for the Dog Park project in March of this year.

NOTICES OF MOTION

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that a loading bay be put in Bishop Street, Newcastle West to replace the bay that was taken away in front of Rea Dooley Auctioneers.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will work with the public representatives with an aim to identifying a suitable location for the loading bay.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle requested that a loading bay be placed in Bishop Street, Newcastle West and following discussion it was agreed that the Senior Executive Engineer would arrange a site meeting to discuss this matter.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that double yellow lines be put in front of houses across from Oakpark estate, Gortboy, Newcastle West to stop cars and trucks parking and going on footpath here.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will install double yellow lines subject to a change in the bye-laws and agreement from the residents.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle requested that double yellow lines be put in front of the houses across from Oakpark, Estate, Gortboy, Newcastle West, and in replying the

Executive Engineer agreed to check this matter.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that an immediate survey be undertaken to identify appropriate locations for the provision of EV Charging points throughout this Municipality.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

LCCC have appointed Arup Consulting Engineers to prepare the Limerick City and County Council EV Strategy. This strategy is due for completion in Q1 2023. The strategy is currently at draft stage and it has identified the following demand requirements for Newcastle West Municipal District:

Public Charging by 2030: 18 EV Chargers required
Destination Charging by 2030: 32 EV Chargers required

LCCC are currently rolling out a pilot project to install 13 EV chargers across the city and county in Limerick. 3 of the pilot sites are located in the Newcastle West Municipal District. The 3 sites are Abbeyfeale, Newcastle West and Dromcolliher.

LCCC are currently developing the Athletics Hub and the greenway hub in Newcastle West. Destination chargers will be included as part of these developments.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan requested that EV Charging points be put in place throughout the District. Following the reading of the response by the Meetings Administrator Councillor Scanlan expressed satisfaction at the reply given.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that flashing speed indicators be provided (a) the northern approach to Feohanagh Village (b) the speed limit approach at Ballymackessy towards Newcastle West.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will consider the instillation of speed indicators subject to funding being provided.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan requested that flashing speed indicators be provided on the northern approach to Feohanagh village. A discussion followed on a number of matters including the use of flashing speed indicator signs and speed ramps in the District.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council relocate the disability bay from outside Mann's former supermarket to outside St. Mary's Boys' School, Abbeyfeale just above the school car park in order to facilitate a pupil with special needs who is confined to a wheelchair.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will endeavour to move the disability bay to alongside the school subject to a change in the bye-laws.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin requested that the disability bay from outside Mann's former supermarket be moved to outside St. Mary's Boys' School, Abbeyfeale to accommodate wheelchair users.

The following items were also raised.

The excellent work carried out by the Roads team on the N21 at South Quay, Newcastle West, was acknowledged.

The poor condition of the roadway at Cullinagh, Newcastle West, was raised.

The hedgecutting carried out on a section of the N21 at South Quay, Newcastle West, was acknowledged.

An update was sought on the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan and a request was made that representatives from the relevant Directorate be invited to attend the next Meeting of the District.

An update was sought on the placing of a disability bay at Whites Passage, Meenoline South next to the Greenway and in replying the Senior Executive Engineer agreed to follow up on this matter.

The excellent work carried out on the footpaths at Ballymackessy, Newcastle West was acknowledged but however the condition of the roadway at this location was also raised.

It was agreed to hold the April Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 5th April, 2023, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:

