

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 5th April, 2023, AT 10AM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor M. Collins, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Foley, Galvin, Ruddle, Scanlan and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Officer, 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 Executive Engineer, Planning, Place-Making and Public Realm (Mr. K. O'Gorman), Executive Engineer, Place-Making and Public Realm (Mr. F. Timlin), Administrative Officer, Property and Community Facilities (Ms. T. Knox), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Collins welcomed everyone in attendance to the April 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 and that Elected Members are aware of the need to show respect and courtesy to colleagues.

The Meetings Administrator also invited those present to notify the Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item for discussion at the Meeting.

APOLOGIES:

Director, Community, Tourism and Culture (Mr. G. Daly)

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 1st March, 2023.

Proposed by: Councillor Foley

Seconded by: Councillor Scanlan

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 respect of the proposed Part 8 Housing Scheme at No. 6 and No. 7 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale West, Co. Limerick.

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate dated 8th March, 2023 and Report of Chief Executive, dated 1st March, 2023, in relation to the proposed Part 8 Housing Scheme at No. 6 and No. 7 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale West, Co. 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 report was proposed by Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley and agreed.

3. Transport and Mobility Directorate

To consider Draft Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Circulated, report of Director of Services, Transportation and Mobility Directorate, dated April, 2023, setting out the details of the Draft Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Newcastle West 2023.

The Senior Executive Engineer referred to the allocation received and stated that part of this allocation refers to works including the Limerick Greenway, N21 Abbeyfeale to Mountmahon Pavement Strengthening works and the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan which are not within the remit of the Newcastle West District.

He stated that the allocation received remained similar to last year and referred to the challenges faced in the delivery of the Schedule of Works due to considerable increasing costs. The Senior Executive Engineer also referred to the significant reduction in NTA funding received this year.

Members, in welcoming the report, thanked staff for the work, which had gone into compiling the Schedule. They noted the works proposed for 2023 and referred to the funding which was made available for the various projects, which was also welcomed. They also noted that the works proposed in the Schedule was well distributed throughout the District.

The Members referred to the funding made available for the N21 Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale Relief Roads in the Schedule and sought clarity on whether this was funding for the proposed Distributor Roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that this funding was being made available for the design of bypass proposals for Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West. The Members expressed disappointment on this matter, referred to traffic congestion in the town of Newcastle West and reiterated the importance of the proposed distributor roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale being prioritised.

A brief discussion took place on the significant funding allocation for Active Travel which was received, the funding allocation for bridges and the locations of same. The Members also referred to other items including Standard Unit Costs for housing grants, staff resources and the carrying out of works by contractors. The total number of voids mentioned in the Schedule was also referred to and it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek clarification on the number of these voids which are relevant to the Newcastle West District.

The Members unanimously adopted the Schedule of Works 2023 for the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

4. Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate

To receive Update on the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan

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

The Senior Executive Engineer gave an update to the Members on the progress to date on the project. He referred to the design for The Square in Abbeyfeale which was previously circulated to the Members and to revised drawings prepared to achieve best use of The Square. He stated that Meetings have been held with the Stakeholders and that a Meeting with the Working Group is to take place in April 2023.

He stated that a contractor is scheduled to be on site for the demolition of O’Riordan’s pub in April 2023. He referred to the Colbert Street demolition and to a structural demolition inspection which is to be carried out by the Consultants and that this demolition is included in the Part VIII application.

The Senior Executive Engineer gave an update to the Members on the Main Works Tender Timelines which included a Feasibility Report approved by the TII in March, 2023, a Road Safety Audit Stage 2 submitted to TII in March 2023 and a Design Report being prepared for the TII. He also referred to the CCTV survey review and sewer replacement with Uisce Éireann.

He made reference to signage decluttering in the town and to the parking allocation drawing which is to be brought to the Working Group. He stated that the culvert in Grove Crescent is to be reviewed as part of the scheme. He made reference to landowner agreements which are currently in progress and to a Tender which is to be issued in Quarter 2 2023. He outlined

to the Members the funding made available for the project and to potential funding which is currently in discussion with the National Transport Authority.

The Members acknowledged the work to-date on the project and welcomed the demolition of O’Riordan’s pub. A discussion followed on a number of matters including the Grove Crescent culvert, condition of road surfaces following installation of sewers, liaising with businesses and stakeholders and the de-cluttering of public signage in the town.

5. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

To receive Update on Maintenance of River Feale, Abbeyfeale.

The recent Workshop held for the Elected Members to discuss maintenance of the River Feale was referred to and it was agreed by all the Members that the following Notice of Motion be referred to the Office of Public Works.

“We move that this Council calls upon the Office of Public Works to advice who is best placed to carry out a geotechnical assessment including geotechnical investigation and geophysical survey at the Riverbank in Abbeyfeale Town Park”.

6. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to reallocate the sum of €3,000 from the Tournafulla Community Shop allocation in March 2022 to Tournafulla playground.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Tournafulla GAA.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Dromcollogher Walking Trail.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Tournafulla GAA for flooring and stairs.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Tournafulla playground.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,200 to Dromcollogher Development Association.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,250 to defibrillator in Templeglantine.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Tournafulla GAA.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Dromcollogher Development Association.

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

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Broadford Development Association.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Castlemahon Development Association.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to defibrillator in Templeglantine.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Ballyagran GAA.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Tournafulla playground.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Dromcollogher Development Association.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Tournafulla GAA.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to defibrillator in Templeglantine.

All the Members noted that the monies allocated to Tournafulla GAA is given on the basis that it will be used for community facilities and that the money is not over allocated for the works required.

QUESTIONS

7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the derelict sites/houses within the Newcastle West Municipal District, can this be broken in town by town and village by village.

REPLY:

Derelict sites are continually identified through regular vacancy and dereliction surveys in our towns and villages. They are also brought to the attention of the Council by public representatives, members of the public and community groups.

A full copy of the Derelict Sites Register is available for inspection during office hours at the Property and Community Facilities Department, Limerick City and County Council, Merchants Quay, Limerick, or may be downloaded in summary from www.limerick.ie/council

The status of derelict sites cases in the Newcastle West Municipal District is summarised as follows:

TOWN/ VILLAGE/ SETTLEMENT IN NEWCASTLE WEST MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	Number of Open DS Cases	Number of DS Cases on the Register	Number of DS Cases Acquired Compulsorily
Abbeyfeale	26	23	9
Ardagh	8	6	4
Ashford	0	0	0
Athea	5	4	1
Ballyagran	1	0	0
Ballyhahill	0	0	0
Broadford	1	0	0
Carrigkerry	0	0	0
Castlemahon	2	1	2
Castletown (Conyers)	0	0	0
Cloncagh	0	0	0
Dromcolliher	3	3	0

Feenagh	3	1	0
Feohanagh	3	2	2
Glin	5	3	0
Killougheen	0	0	0
Kilmeedy	2	0	0
Knockaderry	0	0	0
Knockdown	0	0	0
Monagea	5	5	0
Mountcollins	0	0	0
Newcastle West	29	18	4
Oldmill	0	0	0
Raheenagh	0	0	0
Strand	0	0	0
Templeglantine	0	0	0
Tournafulla	3	3	1

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the following:

- (a) Devon Road Cross
- (b) Dore's Cross, Templeglantine
- (c) Footpath extension out the Killarney Road to Dalton's Cross.

REPLY:

- (a) In 2021, the Mid West National Road Design Office submitted a feasibility report to TII recommending a staggered junction be constructed at N21 Devon Cross, to replace the existing arrangement. Having considered this request, TII declined to proceed with the detail design process, and they did not allocate the necessary funding to implement the recommended option. As an improvement measure, signage was installed on the R515 in 2021, reinforcing the presence of the junction to traffic approaching the N21 on the R515.
- (b) Limerick City and County Council have recently undertaken a turning count survey on Dore's Cross and are currently developing a feasibility report for submission to TII. This feasibility report will look at a number of potential improvements at the junction and aim

to identify a preferred option. Assuming this report is accepted by TII, we will then proceed with developing a preliminary design report which will also need to go through the TII gateways prior to funding being committed to by TII for any proposed improvements.

Limerick City and County Council will provide an update once the feasibility report has been submitted.

- (c) At present, footpath works that only require maintenance qualify for inclusion for funding under TII GEO Apps.

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting when we can expect the road to be overlaid from the Gateway, Mountmahon down to the school gate. This road is in a bad state of disrepair.

REPLY: The N21 Abbeyfeale to Mountmahon Pavement Improvement Scheme is currently scheduled to commence construction in Q4 of 2023.

Consultations are ongoing with Irish Water regarding replacing a section of existing watermain within the scheme which may delay the start date for the scheme.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when the road line will be undertaken at Arranagh/Gardenfield and in the Coolygorman/Broadford areas locally.

REPLY: These works will be completed over the next few weeks. A contractor has been engaged to carry out the works.

11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the Public Realm Plan for Dromcollogher Town.

REPLY:

A public consultation on the Draft Public Realm Plan was undertaken in December 2022 and the deadline for submissions was 6 January 2023. The Council acknowledges the level of community engagement on the plan from the Elected Members and wider community.

Submissions received have been considered and will be reflected in the Public Realm Plan for Dromcollogher Town. The intention is to have the Plan brought to the Newcastle West Municipal District Meeting for publication in Quarter 2 of this year.

12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when road reinstatement works are likely to be carried out at Glenduff.

REPLY: We will be commencing reinstatement works in the vicinity close to the entrance of the wind farm commencing around the Easter period.

NOTICES OF MOTION

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that the Square in Newcastle West is cleaned up. Grass and weeds are growing around all the cobbles and slabs. The last time this was cleaned correctly a private individual did it free of charge. We are attracting tourists to this area due to the success of the Greenway so this needs to be addressed as a priority.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council have carried out the required works at this site.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle requested that a clean up of the cobbles and slabs in The Square, Newcastle West be carried out.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the river bed be cleaned at the Mart Bridge, Abbeyfeale.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: We have carried out an investigation at the site and Limerick City and County Council don't believe that an intervention is required.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin expressed disappointment at the reply given and it was agreed that the Senior Executive Engineer would revert to Councillor Galvin on this matter.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that this Local Authorities vacancy and dereliction section take immediate action to deal with unfinished estates within this Municipality.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

The Derelict Sites team has identified a number of unfinished estates within the Municipality.

There is currently active derelict site cases in the following estates:

- The Glebe, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Arraview, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Broadford, Co. Limerick.
- Cois Na Féile, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan acknowledged the significant work carried out to remedy dereliction in the District. However, he referred to the current housing crisis and requested that the Council take immediate steps to deal with vacancy and dereliction in a number of housing estates in the District.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at our next meeting that Limerick City and County Council would take over the maintenance of the public lane way linking The Glebe, Monagea to the Gardenfield Road. The lane way needs drainage and surfacing works.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: This can be considered in line with budgetary obligations of Limerick City and County Council and landowners consent.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins referred to the condition of the laneway at the back of the Church which is used extensively by residents and to the local interest and history which exists between the School and the Church with regard to this laneway. He requested that drainage and road surfacing works be carried out at this location.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on the provision of a disability bay at Whites Passage, Meenoline South next to the Greenway. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer referred to Guidelines published by the TII on Greenway crossings and following discussion it was agreed that drawings would be prepared and a submission made to the TII for a Road Safety Audit to be carried out at this location.

An update was sought on a one way system for Scanlan's Lane, Newcastle West towards Assumpta Park and in replying the Senior Executive Engineer stated that drawings are currently being prepared and that this work is subject to a Part VIII process being carried out. A request was also made that consultation take place with the residents and businesses in the area.

An update was requested on a number of street lights not working in the District including Daar River View, Newcastle West, Feohanagh and Broadford. It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek an update from the relevant Directorate on this matter.

The Executive Engineer, Roads, gave an update to the Members on the proposed installation of double yellow lines at Churchtown, Newcastle West. He stated that drawings are currently being prepared and that a Part VIII process is required for these works.

The condition of the road at Caher, Abbeyfeale was raised and the Executive Engineer agreed to follow up on this matter.

It was agreed to hold the May Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 3rd May, 2023, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
