

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ÁRAS SEÁN FINN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023 AT 9.30 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:**

Councillor S. Keary, An Cathaoirleach.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Collins (Online), O'Brien (Online), O'Donoghue, Sheahan and Teskey.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Rural, Culture and Community Development (Mr. S. Duclot), Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Curran), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. G. O'Connor), Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. O'Keeffe), Senior Executive Architect, Property & Community Facilities (Ms. G. McMahon), Executive Architect, Urban & Rural Community Development (Mr. T. Joyce), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting the Meetings Administrator invited those present to notify any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Stephane Duclot to his new role as Director of Services for the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District Meetings and The Director, Rural, Culture and Community Development thanked Members adding he was looking forward to working together.

He advised Members of the appointment of Mr. Shane O'Doherty as the Rathkeale Development Officer. Members welcomed the announcement of this role for the town of Rathkeale.

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

Proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue;

Seconded by Councillor Teskey;

And Resolved:

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

Following the adoption of the Minutes, Councillor Teskey requested an update on funding for Kiltewy Pier following a Deputation from the group at the April District Meeting. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised a number of funding

streams are being pursued and a meeting with a Kiltteery Group representative has already been held.

## **2. Disposal of Land**

Circulated, report of the Senior Staff Officer dated 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, setting out proposal to dispose of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 11 Desmond Drive, Adare, Co. Limerick and the intention to bring the Section 183 Notice to Full Council for approval.

The report, as circulated, was proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue, and agreed.

## **3. Road Traffic and Cleansing**

### **District Engineers Report**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

Following discussion the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Teskey queries if works to resurface the road outside Coláiste na Trócaire, Rathkeale could be prioritised and that the Askeaton Road into Rathkeale should also receive the highest level of attention. He added more monies need to be allocated to both sections of road. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised a contractor has been appointed to carry out works outside the school and will be on site in the coming weeks. He further advised the Askeaton Road would be looked at if funding becomes available. Discussion ensued in relation to funding and the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised the cost of tar has increased by 24%, however, funding allocations has not increased.
- Councillor Teskey also queried the funding available for the upkeep of footpaths in Housing Estates. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised footpath maintenance in Housing Estates is not covered under Active Travel Funding and the only funding available for Estates is from the District Development Fund allocations. Councillor Teskey requested Sean Coughlan, Deputy Chief Executive, Finance Department would attend the June District Meeting to discuss the provision of additional funding for road improvements and to request funding for the upkeep of footpaths in Housing Estates in the District.
- Councillor Sheahan added vehicles parking on footpaths are also causing damage and requested this be included as an item on the Agenda for the next JPC Sub-

Committee Meeting. He further requested the District write to the Superintendent to note that warnings be issued to people who park on footpaths.

#### **4. Community, Tourism and Culture**

##### **Part VIII – Parklet at West Square, Askeaton, Co. Limerick**

Circulated, report of the Director of Service, Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate dated 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 and the Chief Executive's Report dated 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 setting out details in relation to the demolition of end of terrace two-storey derelict house (V94 DHH9) and adjacent vacant site and the construction of Parklet at West Square, Askeaton, Co. Limerick. The Report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179(3) (a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and noted that it is proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 8 of the report.

Members welcomed the proposed scheme and Councillor Teskey requested additional carpark spaces be provided also. The Director, Rural, Culture and Community Development advised additional carpark spaces are not part of this scheme and committed to progress same in due course.

The report, as circulated, was proposed by Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Sheahan and agreed.

#### **5. Place-Making & Public Realm**

##### **Adare Public Realm Plan**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Architect, Place-Making & Public Realm, dated 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 giving an update in relation to the Adare Public Realm Plan.

The members were advised that the Adare Public Realm Plan had triggered the requirement for an Appropriate Assessment. Once carried out and the Adare Public Realm Plan reviewed accordingly, the plan will be presented to the Adare Rathkeale members. Councillor Teskey stated that the Public Realm Plan should be linked with the Local Area Plan.

#### **6. Request to receive Deputation from Community First Responders Group**

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue, it was agreed to receive a Deputation from the Adare Community First Responders group at the June Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

## **7. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)**

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

- €3,000 to Dromore United FC.
- €2,000 to Kilcornan National School (€1,000 from 2021 Allocation).
- €3,000 to Ballyhahill National School Parents Association.
- €1,000 to St. Senans GAA Club.
- €3,000 to Shanagolden National School.

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

- €5,675 to Bus Shelter in Adare.
- €2,000 to The Abha Bhán Players.
- €3,000 to Crecora Manister GAA Club.
- €1,000 to Pallaskenry Senior Citizens.
- €1,000 to Pallaskenry Tidy Towns.
- €825 to Adare 2020 Club.

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

- €3,000 to St. Anne's National School, Rathkeale.
- €3,000 to Ballyhahill National School Parents Association.
- €2,500 to Rathkeale Community Council.
- €750 to Pallaskenry Tidy Towns.
- €750 to Pallaskenry Senior Citizens.
- €1,000 to Seán Finn Centenary.

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

- €3,000 to Crecora/Manister GAA Club.
- €3,000 to Banogue GAA Club.

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

- €3,000 to Crecora/Manister GAA Club.
- €2,000 to Croagh/Kilfinny Community Games.
- €1,500 to Limerick Garden Plants Group.

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

- €3,000 to Askeaton Contemporary Arts.
- €2,000 to Pallaskenry Tidy Towns.
- €1,000 to Kilcornan Burial Ground Maintenance Committee.

### **QUESTIONS**

#### **8. Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan**

**I will ask at the next Meeting when it can be ascertained works will be complete at the sewerage pumping station in Askeaton and what condition the area will be left in when these works are complete.**

**Reply:** The following response was issued to Cllr Sheahan on the 28th of April.

“Thank you for your email regarding the May Meeting of the Adare Rathkeale Municipal District of Limerick City and County Council. I can confirm that upgrade works to the Wastewater Pumping Station at Askeaton are due to be completed at the end of May. Uisce Éireann will ensure that the area will be left in good condition after the works have been carried out.”

I trust you found the above information satisfactory, Thank you for contacting Uisce Éireann.

#### **9. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will ask at the next meeting how much has Limerick City and County Council spent on accruing compulsory purchased property across city and county and how much revenue has the local authority raised from sales of these properties for the period of 2022.**

**Reply:** In 2022, Limerick City and County Council has spent, in total, €821,378 and has earned revenue of €1,394,467 in the Derelict Site Programme, excluding staff payroll costs.

*As the acquisition and subsequent disposal of Derelict sites often spans more than one financial year, they are accounted for in the Capital Account, the complete analysis cannot be seen in one specific financial year, as has been requested by Councillor Teskey.*

The Derelict site programme, as operated by Limerick City and County Council, is one of the most successful programmes nationally. Since 2019 to the end of Feb 2023, the following Stats apply:

4,721 Site Inspections carried out  
 1,856 Notices served under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990

While some properties do end up being vested in the council, many properties are refurbished by their original owners once contact has been made.

All income achieved from the disposal of these properties is used to fund costs of acquisition and compensation payments, with any surplus funds ring-fenced to continue the work against dereliction.

**10. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will ask at the next meeting how much money has been or is been allocated in total to fund the preparation of the 2027 Ryder Cup and where are these monies being distributed from.**

**Reply:** Up to 2023, €85,000 had been allocated from Limerick City & County Council (LCCC) budgets specifically to various Ryder Cup related initiatives including drafting a public realm plan for Adare and development of the Adare brand. In the 2023 budget for LCCC, €500,000 has been allocated towards tourism with a focus on preparation for the Ryder Cup. The funding, which is managed by the Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Directorate, will be allocated to the preparation of a Ryder Cup Strategy, staffing resources (including Ryder Cup Coordinator) and other initiatives including match funding to leverage support for national funding.

**11. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teksey**

**I will ask at the next meeting how much is the Local Authority spending or allocating to its internal Media Department.**

**Reply:** The 2023 non-payroll budget for communication costs at Limerick City and County Council, supporting all eight directorates, the Mayor's office and the subsidiary companies linked to the Council is €53,500.

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor B. Collins**

**I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council provides funding to support the twinning arrangements of towns in the County to allow for the provision of hospitality for visiting delegations and also to provide wayfinding signage at the various towns involved in twinning.**

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue and agreed.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Collins referred to the importance of twinning and looked for support to forward the Motion to Full Council to providing adequate funding for visiting delegations. She also noted signage for twinning in Adare needs to reflect both twinning towns of Buckow, Germany and Villecresnes, France. The Director, Housing advised the Community & Tourism Department are in the process of updating signage throughout County Limerick.

**13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. O'Donoghue**

**I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council provide a B.E.R certificate for all houses in their control and that all tenants in homes with a low energy rating be compensated by whatever means possible.**

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

In proposing the Motion Councillor O'Donoghue felt the Local Authority tenants in low B.E.R rated houses should be entitled to compensation and have it reflected in their rent also. The Director, Housing advised tenants pay rent based on their income and their ability to pay calculated by the Differential Rent System.

Councillor O'Donoghue advised he would reword his motion for Full Council Meeting agenda.

**Reply:** A BER cert is included in the house information pack for all new tenancies. Limerick City and County Council run an energy efficiency retrofit project annually and it is envisaged that all houses will be brought to an improved energy rating in line with national targets, which should reduce the energy bills for the tenants.

**14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will move at the next Meeting that this District request the attendance of those involved in the Adare public realm plan to present the plan to our district at the next meeting.**

Councillor Teskey advised he wished to withdraw his Notice of Motion.

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will move at the next Meeting that this District invite a member of Transport Infrastructure Ireland to our District to view and inspect the absolute appalling state of our national roads.**

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue and agreed.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Teskey stated the roads in the District are a disgrace and requested the District write to Traffic Infrastructure Ireland asking them to drive the 76.5kms of National Roads within the District.

**Reply:** Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Limerick City and County Council meet on a regular basis to discuss specific areas of concern.

Limerick City and County Council met with TII on 28th April 2023 to highlight a significant number of pavement repairs required on National Routes (both minor and major) in the Adare Rathkeale District. A number of sections have been prioritised that are in need of Emergency repair.

Numerous funding applications have been submitted to TII to address the deteriorating condition of certain sections of the network.

At this recent meeting TII undertook to review these applications and to inspect the network as necessary.

## **16. Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

## **17. A.O.B**

- Councillor O'Donoghue requested an update on the swimming pool in Askeaton for the June Meeting.
- Councillor Sheahan requested an update as to when the Boil Water Notice will be lifted for the Foynes and surround areas.
- Councillor Teskey requested clarity on whether water in the River Deel in Askeaton is currently being tested. Councillor Sheahan noted there is a "No Swim" notice currently in place in the River Deel.
- It was agreed the June Monthly Meeting would be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.
- Members paid tribute to the outgoing Director, Housing and thanked her for all her help during her term as Director of the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District.



They wished her well in the future. The Cathaoirleach then made a presentation to her to mark her departure from the District.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_