

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN  
ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST,  
CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2023, AT  
10AM.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor T. Ruddle, Cathaoirleach.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Collins, Foley, Galvin, Scanlan and Sheahan.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism (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. Vally), Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Senior Planner, Strategic and Forward Planning (Ms. M. Woods), Executive Planner, Strategic and Forward Planning (Mr. S. Flahive), A/Senior Executive Planner, Strategic and Forward Planning (Ms. C. Brislane), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Ruddle welcomed everyone in attendance to the September Meeting of the District.

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

(a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.

Proposed by: Councillor Galvin

Seconded by: Councillor Collins

And Resolved:

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

**2. Declaration of Interest.**

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Code of Conduct, he was inviting those present to notify the Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. In replying, Councillor Collins disclosed an interest in one of the Disposals outlined below.

### **3. Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate**

#### **Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029**

##### **Consideration of the Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received as part of the public consultation on the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029.**

Previously circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate dated 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 and Report of the Chief Executive, dated 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, in relation to the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Senior Planner to the Meeting. She stated that the proposed Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029 was placed on public display from the 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 to 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 and that submissions were received on the Draft Local Area Plan. She stated that following a Briefing held on the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan that the Members of the Municipal District of Newcastle West at the September Meeting were being asked to consider the Chief Executive's Report and decide whether to make or amend the proposed Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan. The Senior Planner stated that any material alteration made to the Draft Plan would place the Plan on public display for a further four weeks from 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2023 to 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2023.

The Members acknowledged the excellent work carried out in the preparation of the Plan and a discussion took place on a number of items including link roads within housing estates and the use of scrambler bikes in housing estates and on footpaths.

The Members also referred to traffic flow through the towns of Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale and urgency was expressed with regard to progressing distributor roads for these towns. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Director, Transportation and Mobility would be invited to attend the October Meeting of the District to discuss this matter further.

Furthermore, the following amendments are proposed to the Plan.

##### **Motion 1**

##### **Submission No. 10 (Ref LCC-C220-NCW2-63) as per Chief Executive's Report**

**Proposer:** Councillor Collins

**Proposal:** To amend the draft plan to restrict the indicative link road to active travel measures only.

**Reason:** To prevent traffic congestion on the Killeline Road and restrict vehicles using Woodfield as a rat run.

**Seconder:** Councillor Ruddle

##### **Motion 2**

##### **Submission No. 10 (Ref LCC-C220-NCW2-63) as per Chief Executive's Report**

**Proposers:** Councillors Collins, Scanlan

**Proposal:** To include the Newcastle West southern distributor road as included in the current Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2014 – 2020.

**Reason:** To alleviate and deal with traffic congestion in the town

**Seconder:** Councillor Ruddle

### **Motion 3**

**Submission No. 62 (Ref LCC-C220-NCW2-60) as per Chief Executive's Report**

**Proposers:** Councillors Collins, Scanlan, Ruddle

**Proposal:** To change the zoning of the “New Residential” and “Residential Services Sites” zoned lands shown in the attached map to “Agriculture” zoning.

**Reason:** The proposed zoning is not considered appropriate or in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development of Newcastle West.

**Seconder:** Councillor Scanlan

### **Motion 4**

**Submission No. 63 (Ref LCC-C220-NCW2-61) as per Chief Executive's Report**

**Submission No. 64 (Ref LCC-C220-NCW2-62) as per Chief Executive's Report**

**Submission No. 20 (Ref LCC-C220-NCW2-7) as per Chief Executive's Report**

**Proposers:** Councillors Collins, Scanlan, Ruddle

**Proposal:** To provide a “New Residential” zoning on the subject lands, where a residential zoning currently exists in the current Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2014-2020, as shown in the attached map.

**Reason:** To facilitate access to the open space and recreational zoning at that location.

**Seconder:** Councillor Ruddle

### **Motion 5**

**Submission No. 18**

**Proposer:** Councillor Scanlan

**Proposal:** To insert a note in the Draft Local Area Plan in relation to RPS No. 1480 to read as follows: “The former bank building is known locally as the “Red Door Gallery”.

**Reason:** In the interests of clarity and to reflect the current use.

### **Motion 6**

**Submission No. 1**

**Proposer:** Councillor Ruddle

**Proposal:** Change the zoning of the site, outlined in yellow from open space and recreation to existing residential.

**Reason:** In the interest of clarity, so that the zoning for Newcastle West are accurate as per the OPR submission. Map included.

**Seconder:** Councillor Collins

### **Motion 7**

**Submission No. 18**

**Proposer:** Councillor Ruddle

**Proposal:** To change the zoning of the subject site in the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan from Enterprise and Employment to New Residential.

**Reason:** The provision of a residential zoning at this location would facilitate a proposed retirement village. This would be a more appropriate use given its location which is adjacent to the existing Newcastle West Primary Care Centre and as such is in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of Newcastle West. Map: (Map to be included).

**Seconder:** Councillor Collins.

Following discussion and consideration of the Chief Executive Report on the submissions received on the Draft Newcastle Wet Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029 it was proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan and agreed by all the Members “That the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029 be made, in accordance with the Proposed Plan published on 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 and with the proposed amendments outlined in the Chief Executive’s Report dated 28<sup>th</sup> of July, 2023, and the 7 amendments as set out above, as per Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)”.

#### **4. Disposal of Land**

**(a)** Circulated, report of Head of Property Management, dated 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2023, concerning proposal to dispose of property at Knockfinisk, Carrigkerry, Co. Limerick.

Following discussion, it was agreed that this disposal would be deferred to the October Meeting of the District.

At this stage, Councillor Sheahan joined the Meeting.

**(b)** Circulated, report of Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services, dated 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2023, concerning proposal to dispose of Freehold Interest in property at Gardenfield South, Dromcollogher, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

**(c)** Circulated, report of Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2023, concerning proposal to dispose of Freehold Interest in property at 2 Connolly Terrace, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Prior to discussion on the proposal to dispose of Freehold Interest in Property at 2 Connolly Terrace, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, Councillor Collins declared an interest in this property and subsequently withdrew himself from the Meeting for so long as the matter was being discussed. At this stage, Councillor Collins left the Meeting.

Following a brief discussion, the Members noted the proposal.

At this stage, Councillor Collins re-joined the Meeting.

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

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Newcastle West Rugby Club towards the purchase of two defibrillators for the Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Ashford crèche for the purchase of new equipment.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Feenagh Graveyard towards the purchase of a lawn mower and strimmer.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Newcastle West Town Soccer Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €5,000 to Ashford crèche.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to the Mass Rock Committee towards repairs and development works.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 to Mountcollins Community Centre.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 to Tournafulla playground.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **6. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on (a) Devon Road Cross (b) Dore's Cross, Templeglantine (c) Bus Shelters at Templeglantine and Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale.*

### **REPLY:**

- (a)** In July 2023, the Mid West National Road Design Office resubmitted a feasibility report to TII recommending a staggered junction be constructed at N21 Devon Cross, to replace the existing arrangement. To date TII have not responded to the request for funding to proceed with the detail design process and a reminder has been recently issued to them.
- (b)** Limerick City and County Council have submitted a Feasibility Options Report to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and are awaiting comments, observations from TII.
- (c)** We are planning to undertake a road safety audit at Templeglantine in the coming weeks with a view to installing a bus shelter (city bound) before the end of 2023.

We will assess the feasibility of providing bus shelters at Templeglantine village (second location), Devon Road Cross and Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale and discuss with the National Transport Authority. If these locations are approved they will be added to the 2024 Bus Shelter Enabling Works Grant application.

**7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the Ray's Estate, Mountcollins. When is the road going to be done.*

**REPLY:**

Ray's Estate is listed on a current work programme for taking in charge. The Council is awaiting a request from the residents or the developer, as required under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), to have the development taken in charge and this should be submitted.

Survey work will need to be completed in relation to water and wastewater infrastructure on site. Following completion of all necessary surveys, and subject to an application/plebiscite for taking in charge being received, and funding to undertake works being allocated, the Council will seek to commence a taking in charge process.

**8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed update on the Programme of Works for Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan and Dates.*

**REPLY:**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) are undertaking a pavement improvement scheme on N21 from Mountmahon to Church in Abbeyfeale. Tenders were returned in mid-August 2023 and are currently being assessed. This project involves pavement improvement works and a section of watermain replacement. This project may be complete by end of year or extend into February 2024.

The Abbeyfeale Public Realm Scheme has an advance works contract on site for demolition of O'Riordan's pub. Tender documents are being finalised for Phase 1 of the scheme involving 400 metres on Killarney Road from Cellar Bar to doctor's surgery and upgrading of Grove Crescent car park. The timing of the TII pavement improvement scheme and Phase 1 scheme are being coordinated as it is not permitted for two contractors to work on N21 in close proximity to each other at the same time, due to the level of traffic disruption.

Phase 1 will commence upon completion of TII pavement improvement scheme and will take approximately eight months to complete. Phase 2 of Abbeyfeale Public Realm Scheme

comprising Church to Cellar Bar on N21 and upgrading of Colbert Terrace will be tendered to commence upon completion of Phase 1.

## **9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for (a) A listing of the AHB's that either own or manage properties in the Municipality and (b) The location of each property.*

### **REPLY:**

There are 316 units owned, leased or managed by 18 AHBs in the Newcastle West District as of 31.12.2022. The following AHBs are active in the District:

| <b>Approved Housing Body</b>   | <b>Schemes/Addresses owned, leased and managed</b> |
|--|--|
| Ardagh Voluntary Housing Association Limited                                     | Reerasta Court, Ardagh                             |
| Athea Voluntary Housing Association Limited                                      | St Bartholomew's Villas, Athea                     |
|  | Colbert Street Apartments, Athea                   |
| Broadford Voluntary Housing Association and Community Childcare Facility Limited | Curramore, Broadford                               |
|  | Lios Dara, Broadford                               |
| Cheshire Foundation of Ireland   | Rathfredagh, Newcastle West                        |
| Cluid  | Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West                    |
|  | Liosan Court, Newcastle West                       |
|  | Lilac Close, Newcastle West                        |
|  | Chestnut Grove, Gortboy, Newcastle West            |
|  | Cois na Feile, Abbeyfeale                          |
| Co-Operative Housing Ireland   | The Paddocks, Newcastle West                       |
|  | Cois Teampaill, Newcastle West                     |
| Corran-Deel Voluntary Housing Association Limited                                | Fernview, Kilmeedy                                 |
|  | Individual units in Feenagh & Kilmeedy             |
|  | The Forge, Kilmeedy                                |
| Dromcollogher Community Housing Association                                      | Cois na hAbhainn, Dromcollogher                    |
|  | Plunkett Place, Dromcollogher                      |
|  | Dr Ambrose Court, Dromcollogher                    |
|  | Newman Place, Dromcollogher                        |
| Dromcollogher Voluntary Family Housing Association Limited                       | Hazel Avenue, Dromcollogher                        |

|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Focus Housing Association                      | The Paddocks, Newcastle West       |
| Glin Homes for the Elderly                     | Cloverfield, Glin                  |
| Icare Housing (Mortgage to Rent)               | Individual units in Abbeyfeale     |
|  | Individual unit in Glin            |
|  | Individual unit in Newcastle West  |
| Peter McVerry Trust                            | Individual units in Newcastle West |
|  | Individual unit in Glin            |
|  | Individual units in Abbeyfeale     |
| Saint Vincent de Paul                          | Maiden Street, Newcastle West      |
| Sophia   | Individual units in Newcastle West |
|  | Individual units in Abbeyfeale     |
| St Ita's Housing                               | Convent Street, Abbeyfeale         |
| Thomond Housing Association                    | Individual unit in Newcastle West  |
|  | Individual units in Abbeyfeale     |
| Tuath Housing                                  | Carraig Desmond, Newcastle West    |
|  | Individual unit in Newcastle West  |
|  |                                    |
| <b>Total</b>                                   |                                    |
| 316 units owned, leased or managed by 18 AHB's |                                    |

## **10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the provision and location of the proposed Newcastle West Dog Park.*

**REPLY:** A suitable location for the dog park has been identified in the grounds of the Demesne. Limerick City and County Council are currently assessing a framework tender that incorporates a new dog park and it is anticipated that this project will commence in October/November 2023.

## **11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update as to the number of applications for Community Involvement Schemes expected to be completed in our Municipality this year.*

**REPLY:**

There is one Community Involvement Scheme to be completed in 2023 in the NCW district. This will bring the total of Community Involvement Schemes to three for this round of applications (2 completed in 2022).

The 2024/2025 scheme has been advertised where Limerick City and County Council is inviting expressions of interest from communities/groups to improve Public Roads on which the

Council is not in a position to carry out regular maintenance work. Generally the roads in question will be low traffic volume minor roads and cul-de-sac roads.

The emphasis of the scheme will primarily be on local communities/groups contributing to the cost of works. In some exceptional cases, consideration can be given to such groups contribution being by way of carrying out preparatory works or drainage works.

Council staff will contact interested groups to assist in preparing costed applications.

Details of the scheme are available from Roads (Central Services), Limerick City & County Council, Dooradoyle, the Council's Area Offices at Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Kilmallock, and on the council website.

Expressions of interest should be returned to the Administrative Officer, Roads – Central Services, Limerick City and County Council, Dooradoyle, Co. Limerick and the closing date for receipt of expressions of interest is **Friday 8th September 2023**.

## **12. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle**

*I will ask at the next Meeting if the Council will carry out a deep clean around the town especially around South Quay and The Square targeting loose cobbles and moss growing. A number of constituents have been in contact about this.*

**REPLY:** A deep clean and inspection of the loose cobbles at the locations listed in the question will be carried out over the next week.

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will move at the next Meeting that that this Council call on the Government to review GDPR rules regarding housing and giving out information to us as Councillors/Directors of this Council.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

#### **REPLY:**

The Council including the Housing Directorate are committed to meeting all relevant Data Protection, privacy and security requirements, whether originating from legal, regulatory or contractual obligations and is committed to protecting the rights and privacy of individuals in accordance with current Data Protection legislation.

Councillors and other elected public representatives are data controllers in their own rights. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 clearly sets out the responsibility of the Council and Elected Representatives to manage personal data securely. Section 40 of the Data Protection Act 2018 specifically refers to Elected Representatives making representations to organisations seeking personal data.

The Council having regard to the significant requirements under the Data Protection legislation has a dedicated Data Protection Officer and Data Protection unit to ensure data governance protocol is embedded throughout the organisation and specifically within each department of Limerick City and County Council.

The motion submitted would require a change to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, which took effect in May 2018.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin stated that due to GDPR regulations certain information with regard to local authority housing for example who a house is allocated to is not being made available to the Elected Members and requested that this matter be reviewed. Following discussion, it was agreed that as this matter relates to a change in National policy, the Meetings Administrator would refer this Notice of Motion to the Corporate Services Section for inclusion on the Agenda for the next Full Council meeting.

#### **14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will move at the next Meeting that this Council set aside a budget for numbering all roads in the county.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

**REPLY:** If the Notice of Motion is agreed at the District Meeting, Limerick City and County Council will consider the budget, logistic and maintenance implications in conjunction with the Department of Transport. Thereafter I will revert to the Municipal District with an update.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin stated that road numbers are beneficial when reporting roads in need of repair to the Council and requested that funding be provided for the numbering of all roads in the county.

In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that previously local roads had been signed as part of a Capital Scheme funded by the Department of Transport specifically for Regional Roads and that local roads that crossed regional roads were signed in this fashion.

#### **15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Foley**

*I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council seek funding for the provision of a new overlay on the Killarney Road from Dalton's Cross to the Library.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

**REPLY:** Phase 1 of the Abbeyfeale Public Realm Scheme involves 400 metres on Killarney Road from Cellar Bar to doctor's surgery i.e. past library. Phase 1 will commence upon completion of TII pavement improvement scheme on N21 and will take approximately eight months to complete.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Foley referred to the poor condition of certain sections of the roadway on the Killarney Road from Dalton's Cross to the library and requested that a road overlay be carried out at this location.

## **16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will move at the next Meeting that Elected Members locally be advised of proposed sales where property is acquired by our Local Authority under Dereliction and Vacancy.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

**REPLY:** The Property Management Section will email the Members on a monthly basis, a list of properties acquired through the Derelict Sites Act and which are on the market for sale in the Newcastle West District.

For each property listed, information will be included on location, brief description and asking price.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan acknowledged the excellent work being carried out on dereliction and vacancy in the District. However, he requested that the Elected Members be advised of proposed sales where property is acquired by the Local Authority. A discussion took place on issues which arise and in replying, the Director stated that in the event of issues arising contact should be made with the Property Management Section.

## **17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins**

*I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council will take in charge and put the laneway from Gortboy to the Desmond Complex beside the Courtenay School into a safe and usable condition for the people using it.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ruddle.

**REPLY:**

This laneway is likely in the ownership of the Department of Education currently even though it is deemed unregistered on the Land Registry database.

I will check initially the possibility of this laneway being acceptable for funding under an LIS Scheme with the Department of Transport.

In replying, Councillor Collins referred to the taking in charge of the laneway and stated that this laneway is a vital link from Gortboy to the Desmond Complex and that this laneway is being used by parents and children to access creche facilities. The issue of stagnant water on the laneway was also raised. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that he has liaised with Central Services on this matter and that this laneway may not qualify for a Local Improvement Scheme. He also stated that a Local Improvement Scheme will only guarantee

a once off treatment whereas this laneway requires ongoing maintenance. The Senior Executive Engineer agreed to liaise with the Department of Education with a view to taking this laneway in charge.

The following items were also raised.

The Members expressed dissatisfaction on the various street lights currently not operational in the District and it was agreed that as the Director of Transportation and Mobility was being invited to attend the October Meeting of the District this matter could be discussed again at that Meeting.

An update was sought on a costing for the provision of a footpath at the western side of the Cemetery to the rear of the Church in Templeglantine and in replying, the Meetings Administrator agreed to seek a further update from the relevant Directorate on this matter.

An update was sought on traffic calming measures at Knockaderry village and in replying the Senior Executive Engineer stated that the NTA Programme is aiding traffic calming measures in the following villages over the past number of years including Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale, Athea, Glin, Tournafulla, Dromcollogher and this year works are ongoing in Ardagh, Athea, Monagea, Feenagh and Kilmeedy. He also stated that going forward the NTA Programme will be extended to cover other villages including Broadford, Castlemahon, Knockaderry and Carrickerry.

The Senior Executive Engineer also stated that drainage is a number one issue in Knockaderry village at present. He stated that there are a number of gullies in Knockaderry but are placed in poor locations and are not taking surface waters into the drainage system. He also stated that Limerick City and County Council have placed a dozen gullies at locations that will have a positive impact in Knockaderry village.

The works carried out at Sharwood Estate, Newcastle West was acknowledged.

It was agreed to hold the October Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith O'Brien.

It was also agreed to hold a Workshop on the Draft Budgetary Plan 2024 on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, at 9.30 a.m., at Áras William Smith O'Brien. It was also agreed that the Draft Budgetary Plan 2024 would be placed as an Item on the Agenda at the October Meeting of the District.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

**Cathaoirleach**

Dated:

