

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN THE MANOR FIELDS, ADARE, CO. LIMERICK ON MONDAY,
4TH SEPTEMBER, 2023 AT 9.30 A.M.**

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor A. Teskey, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Rural, Community and Culture Development (Mr. S. Duclot), Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Curran), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic & Cleansing (Mr. G. O'Connor), Executive Planner, Forward Planning, Public Realm & Heritage (Ms. N. O'Connell), Senior Planner, Forward Planning, Public Realm & Heritage (Ms. M. Woods), Senior Executive Architect, Forward Planning, Public Realm & Heritage (Ms. C. Reidy), A/Senior Executive Planner, Forward Planning, Public Realm & Heritage (Ms. C. Brislane), Executive Architect, Forward Planning, Public Realm & Heritage (Ms. G. Daly), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

1. Draft Adare Local Area Plan

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the Special Meeting to discuss the Draft Adare Local Area Plan.

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Teskey expressed his disappointment at the lack of engagement with Councillors from the Council Executives prior to the joining of the Adare Local Area Plan with the Adare Public Realm Plan. He stated that he had originally requested both plans be linked, not married together. Councillor Sheahan further added that as the two plans were now joined into one statutory plan that as Councillors their authority to adopt the Adare Local Area Plan has now been relinquished.

The Senior Planner, Forward Planning, Public Realm & Heritage advised that the adoption of the Local Area Plan remains a function of the elected members. She further stated the Plan is currently on public display and anyone can make submissions in relation to the draft plan. A Chief Executive Report will then be prepared based on the submissions received on the draft plan and will be brought before the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District Elected Members to consider or amend it.

Executive Planner, Ms. O'Connell then proceeded to go through the content of the Draft Plan which was prepared in consultation with the local community of Adare.

Discussion ensued in relation to the contents of the Plan. Members expressed concern in relation to the proposed expansion of pedestrian areas and cycle lanes as well as the replacement of on-street parking with off-street parking. The Senior Executive

Architect, Forward Planning, Public Realm & Heritage assured Members the new proposals for cycle lanes will not affect the width of the road through the village and also added car parking spaces cannot be removed without identifying another alternative parking site.

Councillor O'Brien queried if provisions have been made for car parking spaces in the area where the new rail network will reopen. The Senior Planner, advised that there are no plans for a passenger train in the lifetime of this Local Area Plan.

Councillor Keary stated the issue of local people from Adare building one off houses also needs to be addressed. Ms. O'Connell advised there are currently 139 units with planning permission and also land zoned for the provision of another 156 units to accommodate this issue.

Councillor Collins stated that contrary to early statements by members, the Forward Planning Team had been instructed by the Members to include the Adare Public Realm Plan within the Adare Local Area Plan.

Councillor Collins further stated that the Village Hall is the centre of Adare village and plans to upgrade this community facility should be included in the Plan. She also encouraged people to attend the public information evening due to be held on the 7th September in the Village Hall and to forward any submission they may have before then.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____