

**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, 12<sup>TH</sup> 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 (Ms. K. Butler), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. G. O'Connor), Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. O'Keeffe), Limerick City and County Librarian (Mr. D. Brady), Staff Officer, Property Services (Ms. D. Ruth), Senior Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy (Mr. H. McGrath), Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism (Ms. E. Coleman), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

**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> July, 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;  
And Resolved:

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

Following the adoption of the Minutes, Councillor Teskey proposed a Motion be forward to the next Full Council Meeting that Limerick City and County Council to request the separation of the Adare Public Realm Plan from the Adare Local Area Plan subject to legality, this was seconded by Councillors Keary, O'Brien, O'Donoghue and Sheahan. Councillor Collins stated she was not in favour of the Motion as there is huge support for the proposed plan in its present format from the people of Adare and questioned what would happen to the Public Realm Plan if it was not supported with the Local Area Plan.

**2. Declaration of Interest**

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and the Code of Conduct she was inviting those present to notify the Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

### **3. Disposal of Land**

- (a) Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services dated 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2023 setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at Knockboheen, Kilcolman, Ardagh, Co. Limerick and the intention to bring the Section 183 Notice to Full Council for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (b) Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism dated 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2023 setting out proposals for disposal of Adare Heritage Centre to Discover Limerick DAC and the intention to bring the Section 183 Notice to Full Council for approval.

Councillor Teskey expressed his opposition to this disposal and questioned if current contractual arrangements with existing tenants would be forfeited with the proposed upgrade of the centre and was adamant the Library and carpark not form part of the disposal. Councillor Teskey requested the present Management Company be invited to attend a future Meeting to discuss the matter further.

The Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism advised Members the current Management Company will no longer be running the Adare Heritage Centre from 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2023 and the proposal is only to dispose of the original leasehold to Discover Limerick DAC, who are a wholly owned subsidiary company of Limerick City and County Council. Discover Limerick DAC will apply for funding to modernise the Heritage Centre and the Library and carpark spaces will remain owned and operated by Limerick City and County Council.

Discussion ensued and Members were in agreement the disposal of the Adare Heritage Centre should be adjourned for 12 months to enable a feasibility study to take place and for Discover Limerick DAC to provide audited accounts.

- (c) Circulated, report of the Head of Property Management dated 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 setting out proposals for disposal of land at Ballyvareen, Kildimo, Co. Limerick and the intention to bring the Section 183 Notice to Full Council for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

It was agreed Item 7 on the Agenda would be taken next.

## **7. Footpath from Kildimo to the Beer Garden Public House**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Travel & Transport Strategy dated the 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 giving an update in relation to the footpath from Kildimo Village to the Beer Garden Public House.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

## **4. Deputation from Adare First Responders Group**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Kevin Cribbin, Chairperson of Adare Community First Responders Group and Professor Cathal O'Donnell, Clinical Director National Ambulance Service to the Meeting.

Mr. Cribbin gave Members a brief background to the Adare First Responders Group who were established in 2019. The group currently have 12 members with 6 trained and active responders. He outlined the types of emergency calls the volunteers attend as well as the issues they face due to lack of funding.

Professor O'Donnell outlined how the First Responder Programme operates and spoke about the importance of Community First Responders groups in supporting the National Ambulance Service.

Discussion ensued and all Members agreed the Community First Responders groups are a valuable asset to the Community and the issue of funding should be presented to each Municipal District as well as to Full Council.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Deputation for their presentation and they then withdrew from the Meeting.

## **5. Road Traffic and Cleansing**

### **District Engineers Report**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

Following discussion the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Sheahan requested the section between the tarmac and the grass margin on the N69 at Askeaton to Ballyengland be filled in. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised he would convey this to Traffic Infrastructure Ireland.

- Councillor Collins stated diversion routes around Adare village from the N21 are not adequate to accommodate traffic in the event of a road traffic collision occurring. Councillor Keary fully supported this observation and requested An Garda Síochána provide suitable traffic management plans to avoid traffic from each side of the N21 at Adare being diverted on to the same route when an incident occurs.

## **6. Library Services**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Limerick City and County Librarian to the Meeting. Councillor Sheahan requested Item 10 would be taken in connection with this Item.

### **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan**

**I will move at the next Meeting that the County Librarian be invited to prepare a detailed plan of action for the future of Askeaton Library.**

The motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

Councillor Collins added the Library is valuable service in the community and requested a presentation be provided to Members on services and events within the libraries. Councillor O'Donoghue further requested a presentation on the operation of the mobile library and the cost of running libraries within the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District.

Limerick City and County Librarian stated he would be happy to provide a presentation at a future Meeting.

**Reply:** We have three requests in relation to the Carnegie Library building in Askeaton:

1. A request to provide an enhanced library offer in Askeaton
2. A request from "Deel Art Group" to acquire the top floor of the building for use as an arts space.
3. A request from Askeaton Contemporary Arts that they be included in any proposals.

Feeney McMahon Architects were appointed to produce a design proposal for the building and they submitted the following key recommendations in September 2022:

1. The building is not suitable for dual-function use.
2. The use of the building as a Public Library only will not yield any increase or improvement in usable space as universal public access is not possible to the upper floor.

3. The most optimal solution is to configure the building to accommodate an arts facility only.

In parallel, in May 2022 we had a new request to give consideration to use the recently purchased Bank of Ireland building in the square for library purposes and possibly arts purposes. In response, library staff visited the building and found that in terms of location, size and accessibility the bank site has greater potential to offer an enhanced library and arts service.

However, in recent months a call to provide accommodation for Ukrainian refugees led to the designation for the moment of this building for this use.

It is also noted that Askeaton Library is currently up and running and will continue to be for the future.

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

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

- €3,000 to Askeaton Tennis Club.
- €500 to Laurens Memorial Celebration.

On the proposal of Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Coolcappa Community Development.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Teskey, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to St. Senans GAA Bord na nÓg.

#### **9. Question received from Councillor K. Sheahan**

**I will ask at the next Meeting for a copy of the EPA notice which was erected adjacent to the defunct sewerage treatment plant in Askeaton prior to Irish Water being established.**

**Reply:** I located the attached notices which would have been displayed at Lismakeera in Askeaton in 2014.



**Licensing Notice - Reg 25(c)(i) Acknowledgement - 1 for Askeaton Housing Estate (Lismakeera)  
Licence (A0503-01)**

**Licence:** Askeaton Housing Estate (Lismakeera) (A0503-01)

**Status Reason:** Open

**Issued On:** 23/05/2014

**Action Type:** Licensing Notice

**Status History Action:** Reg 25(c)(i) Acknowledgement

Dear Mr. Conroy,

I refer to your application for a Waste Water Discharge Certificate of Authorisation for the **Askeaton Housing Estate (Lismakeera)** agglomeration, Co. Limerick, Reg. No. A0503-01, which was received by the Agency on 22/07/2011 and to any other information in respect of this application received by the Agency. As the documentation now complies with the requirements of Regulation 24 of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, as amended, I am directed to acknowledge the application in accordance with Regulation 25(c)(i).

Please direct any queries that you may have in relation to the above to Aoife Loughnane at 01-2680100 or to OCLR Admin Team B.

Yours sincerely,

Aoife Loughnane

Inspector, Environmental Licensing Programme

Office of Climate, Licensing & Resource Use

Tel: 01-2680100



Company Secretary  
Irish Water  
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24-26 Talbot Street  
Dublin 1

Headquarters, PO Box 3000  
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LoCall 1890 33 55 99

25/09/2014

Reg No A0503-01

Re: Notice of a Decision on a Waste Water Discharge Certificate of Authorisation Application in accordance with Regulation 30(1) of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, as amended.

Dear Sir/Madam

In accordance with Regulation 30(1) of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, as amended, the Agency notifies you of its decision to grant a Waste Water Discharge Certificate of Authorisation, subject to conditions, to Irish Water, in respect of the agglomeration named Askeaton. Please find accompanying a copy of the Agency's Decision.

A copy of the Inspector's Report including all application documentation is available for inspection on the Agency's website: [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie).

Yours sincerely

Ann Kehoe  
Programme Officer  
Environmental Licensing Programme

Encl



**11. Notice of Motion received from Councillor K. Sheahan**

**I will move at the next Meeting that this Council make a submission to Central Government to have funding provided to address the tidal flooding that takes place in Askeaton town every year.**

The motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Sheahan raised the issue of the sewerage holding tank in Askeaton overflowing recently and sludge being blown up the river through the town. Councillor Sheahan asked if this holding tank can be emptied more frequently and if an alarm could be put on the tank that would alert the contractor charged with emptying the tank to attend and prevent further occurrences of this nature being inflicted on the population of Askeaton town.

**12. Notice of Motion received from Councillor B. Collins**

**I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council requests that Bus Éireann Limerick School Bus Department attend the next Adare-Rathkeale District Meeting to discuss the ongoing problems with school bus operations.**

This motion was proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Collins expressed her frustration at the lack of communication regarding the shortage of school bus service in the District and requested a representative from the School Bus Department attend the October District Meeting to discuss this issue. Councillor O'Donoghue advised he had spoken with Bus Éireann who confirmed the lack of a bus service is due to the shortage of professional bus drivers.

**13. Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

**14. A.O.B**

- Councillor Sheahan proposed the October Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District Meeting be changed to Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2023. This was seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed.
- The Meetings Administrator advised Sergeant Ber Leetch, Crime Prevention Officer had requested a date for a private workshop be convened regarding personal security of Elected Members. Members agreed to discuss and revert.



- Councillor Keary requested the costings for the original macadam surfacing of the carpark adjacent to the Primary School on the N21 Rathkeale Road, Adare.

This concluded the Meeting.

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

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