

**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, 1ST NOVEMBER, 2023, AT
10AM.**

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor T. Ruddle, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Foley, Galvin, Scanlan and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Deputy Chief Executive (Mr. S. Coughlan), A/Director, Economic Development (Ms. E. Coleman), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. H. Supple), Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District (Mr. J. Sheehan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Senior Executive Officer, Strategy and Non LA Housing Construction (Ms. S. Newell), Management Accountant, Finance (Ms. I. Griffin), Town Centre First Officer (Ms. K. Burke), Staff Officer, Property Services (Ms. D. Ruth), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At this stage of the Meeting with the permission of the Cathaoirleach, on the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was unanimously agreed that Standing Orders would be suspended to allow for completion of discussion on the Workshop for the Draft Budgetary Plan 2024.

1. Support Services Directorate

Draft Budgetary Plan 2024 – General Municipal Allocation.

Circulated, Report of the Deputy Chief Executive dated 17th October, 2023, setting out the background and legal provisions relating to the Draft Budgetary Plan, along with details of the Draft Budgetary Plan 2024 for the Municipal District of Newcastle West in the total sum of €270,000.

The Deputy Chief Executive outlined the figures as set out in the report and informed Members that the Draft Budgetary Plan 2024 for the Municipal District, which had been discussed at a Workshop prior to the Meeting, if approved by the Members, would be included in the main budget for the Council.

He also informed the Members that a total of €1,403,000 had been allocated to the General Municipal Allocation with €270,000 of this assigned to the Municipal District of Newcastle West as follows:

Svc	General Municipal Allocation – 2024	Newcastle West Municipal District
B04	Local Roads	95,000
D05	Tourism Development Recreation & Amenity	10,000
F04	Community Initiatives	20,000
	Special Projects – LA Infrastructure	100,000
	Special Projects – LPT	45,000
Total	General Municipal Allocation	270,000

The Deputy Chief Executive, noted that the Special Projects – LA Infrastructure, in the sum of €100,000, and the Special Projects – LPT, in the sum of €45,000 was not assigned to any service category. The Members agreed to assign these to group D05 Tourism Development, Recreation and Amenity in order to allow for flexibility when allocating these funds as had been done in previous years.

Proposed by: Councillor M. Collins

Seconded by: Councillor J. Scanlan

And Resolved:

“That the Budgetary Plan for Municipal District of Newcastle West for the financial year ended 31st December, 2024, in the total sum of €270,000 and including the amendment to move the amount of €100,000 from Special Projects – LA Infrastructure and the amount of €45,000 – Special Projects – LPT to D05 Tourism Development, Recreation and Amenity, be adopted in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

2. Adoption of Minutes

(a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 4th October, 2023.

Proposed by: Councillor J. Scanlan

Seconded by: Councillor L. Galvin

And Resolved:

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

3. 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, she was inviting those present to notify the Cathoairleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

4. Deputation

Following previous discussion with representatives from the West Limerick Sports Complex, it was agreed that the deputation would attend a future Meeting of the District. The A/Director also stated that the Director, Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism is planning to hold a Workshop with the Members shortly.

5. Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate.

To note the finalisation of the Abbeyfeale Town Centre First Plan.

Circulated, report of Town Regeneration Officer, dated November 2023.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Town Regeneration Officer to the Meeting. She stated that the Government launched the Town Centre First Policy in February 2022. She also stated that this is a new initiative which seeks to revive town centres and aims to create centres which are viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit. She mentioned that Abbeyfeale has been selected as one of first towns in Ireland to be awarded funding to prepare a Town Centre First Plan along with 25 other towns across the country.

The Town Regeneration Officer stated that a Town Team comprising of Elected Members, representatives of local residents, business people, community/voluntary groups and other stakeholders has been established who have been informing the preparation of the Plan and will follow through on the delivery of the important priority actions identified in the Plan.

She made reference to ten Priority Actions which are provided in the Plan which will start the action necessary to deliver progress on the revitalisation of Abbeyfeale. She stated that the next step in the process is to identify projects for funding in the Plan.

The Members welcomed the Plan and acknowledged the work carried out in preparation of the Plan. The Members referred to a number of matters including the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan which is ongoing at present, the need to utilise and maximise space around Jack Riordan's pub, lack of stand alone funding for the Plan, the commitment and work of the stakeholders in preparation of the Plan, dereliction in Main Street, Abbeyfeale and off Main Street in Abbeyfeale.

6. Housing Development Directorate

To receive Update from the Housing Directorate for the Newcastle West Municipal District.

Circulated, report of Senior Executive Officer, Strategy and Non LA Housing Construction dated 13th October, 2023.

The Senior Executive Officer, Strategy and Non LA Housing Construction provided a summary update on the Housing Delivery for the District. She referred to the Housing for All Plan and

gave a summary to the Members on the targets outlined in the Housing Delivery Action Plan. She referred to the target of 198 homes being provided in the Newcastle West District between 2022 and 2026. She stated that there are 143 approved new homes underway as at October 2023 which represents 72% of the five year build target of 198 new homes required.

She referred to the building pipeline of 143 across 21 sites including 6 No. LA sites: 66 units total, 8 No. AHB sites: 37 units total, 3 No. Turnkey sites: 29 units total and 4 No. Part V sites: 11 units total. She referred to the Tenant in Situ Scheme and to the escalation of evictions which is evident since early March 2023. She stated that as of October 2023 there are 493 cases on review, 46 of these are in the Newcastle West District.

The Senior Executive Officer referred to the Land Purchase of sites for delivery post 2026. She referred to four Local Authority owned sites with approximately 25 no. unit potential at Athea, Carrickerry, Templeglantine and Tournafulla. She stated that the Housing for All Affordable Housing Target for 2022 to 2026 is 264 and also gave an update to the Members on the affordable housing units at Cryle View in Abbeyfeale and Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West.

The Members referred to a number of matters including the need for serviced sites in the District, timeframe for occupancy of houses and right size housing.

7. Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate.

To consider Community Initiative Scheme for 2023.

Circulated, report of Senior Staff Officer, Municipal District of Newcastle West, dated 9th October, 2023.

The Members agreed to allocate funding to the organisations as outlined in the report. This was proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Foley.

8. Disposal of Land

(a) Circulated, report of Head of Property Management, dated 20th October, 2023, concerning proposal to dispose of 0.133 Hectares (0.33 Acres) at Barna, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

(b) Circulated, report of Head of Property Management, dated 20th October, 2023, concerning proposal to dispose of Parochial House, Feohanagh, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

(c) Circulated, report of Head of Property Management, dated 20th October, 2023, concerning proposal to dispose of land at Market Place, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

The Members welcomed the proposed installation of new charging points in the District but a request was made that public representatives be informed of any plans for the future electric vehicle charging points in the District.

9. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €4,000 to Glin Development Association.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,300 to Athea playground.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Dromtrasna Challenge.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to West Limerick Singing Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to West Limerick Radio.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,300 to Athea playground.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Dromtrasna Challenge.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Abbeyfeale Community Alert.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €1,300 to Athea playground.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to St. Kieran's GAA.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €500 to St. Kieran's GAA.

QUESTIONS

10. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed report as to when the long overdue repairs are to be carried out in the Graveyard (Abbey) wall in The Square, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY:

The Council held a procurement process to seek contractors to carry out the repair works required on the graveyard wall in Abbeyfeale. This tender also included the repairs required to two burial tombs adjacent to the wall. The tenders were assessed and a contractor was identified for these restoration works. However, the contractor has since withdrawn his tender and has advised that he is not in a position to undertake the works. The next tender price for the works is of the order of €93,000, which appears excessive and not considered value for money for the tendered works.

In addition, the Council have recently been advised by the National Monuments Service, that the Council will require the use of a Conservation Engineer approved by the National Monuments Service for these works. The National Monuments Service require that a conservation method statement be prepared by an accredited Conservation Engineer for approval by NMS and that all the works be designed, managed and overseen on site by a suitably qualified conservation professional.

The requirements as outlined by the NMS will require the Council to retender the works and in advance of same to engage a Conservation Engineer to act as designer and oversee the entire project.

The Meetings Administrator gave a further update which issued from the relevant Directorate stating that it is anticipated that these works will be retendered in Q2 2024.

11. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting that the Council lay double white lines at the Forge Cross heading from Templeglantine towards Abbeyfeale.

REPLY:

This location was recently brought to our attention and we contacted the TII Design Project Manager with responsibility for road markings on this road. Below is the response received:

The delineation markings on the N21 were designed and installed in accordance with the DoT Traffic Signs Manual. A full N21 route review and design was carried out to ensure consistency along the entirety of the route. It is my understanding that the current delineation layout involves a warning line, which is the appropriate line-type in these circumstances.

Please note that design standards can change from time to time and all routes are subject to review every 3 to 5 years (budget depending). TII will take note of this location and ensure it is reviewed and included in the next review. Should this identify any amendments or changes we will of course implement these.

12. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting that the Council carry out all the necessary steps to implement safety measures at Meenkilly School.

REPLY: Limerick City & County Council will engage with the Board of Management of Meenkilly School to ascertain if removing this grassed area will improve the safety at this location. On initial investigation removing this grassed area may cause a hazard for pedestrians so further consultation will take place.

13. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting for a survey of the speed of traffic to be conducted at Strand village as the speed repeater signs has not slowed down the traffic.

REPLY: Limerick City & County Council are currently undertaking a speed survey at Strand Village.

14. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) Could the speed indicator on the western R515 approach to Broadford village be repositioned so that it may be observed more clearly (b) That an additional indicator sign be placed at speed limit sign on the Monagea approach to Knockane Road.

REPLY:

A – This speed indicator can be repositioned pending installation of a new pole subject to the agreement to the location.

B – Limerick City and County Council will carry out a survey at this location in advance of considering this.

15. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that the footpath be extended towards Graigue on leaving Castletown for the R521.

REPLY: Limerick City & County Council will carry out investigative works at this location as to the merit of extending the footpath.

16. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that a clean-up be organised for Sharwood Estate, Newcastle West, locally.

REPLY: Limerick City & County Council will carry out a clean-up as part of routine town maintenance.

17. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will move at the next Meeting can repairs be carried out to the footbridge in Athea.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will carry out repair works at the footbridge.

NOTICES OF MOTION

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that a total revamp and remedial works be carried out in following Social Housing Estates: (a) Clash Road, Abbeyfeale, (b) Páirc Luachra, Abbeyfeale, (c) Radharc Na Féile, Abbeyfeale, (d) Hill View Drive, Abbeyfeale.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will undertake a review of the estates listed in Abbeyfeale.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin expressed disappointment at the response received and following discussion it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would follow up on this matter with the relevant Directorate. It was also agreed that the Meetings Administrator would correspond with the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board with regard to the possibility of re-introducing a Youth Reach Programme in Abbeyfeale.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council calls on Uisce Éireann to implement a notification system similar to the ESB when disruptions are taking place and that the Government do likewise.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to the disruption to water supply when maintenance work is being carried out to reservoirs and pumping stations by Uisce Éireann and requested that a notification system similar to the ESB be put in place for planned disruptions in the District.

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.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will move at the next Meeting that traffic calming measures be put in place on St Ita's

Road, Abbeyfeale.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: A private residential development is proposed for this location and traffic calming measures makes up part of this application.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Foley indicated the need for a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the graveyard. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that he would check the viability of this request for potential inclusion in the 2024 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that necessary safety works be carried out on the R520 at both sides of Ballydoorty Cross to improve sight lines and make the junction safe for all road users.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: Works have been carried out at this location.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins acknowledged the works carried out at this location. He requested however that the sight lines be improved and if the wall at this location could be lowered in the interest of safety. In replying, the Roads Engineer agreed to follow up on this matter.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that every effort be made by Limerick City and County Council to provide a footpath at Churchtown to connect Cois Teampaill Estate. The residents have no safe pedestrian access and are putting their lives at risk everytime they walk onto the Regional Road on the R521.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ruddle.

REPLY: Limerick City & County Council have included this pedestrian access to a list of NTA schemes and will be considered for action in the coming years.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins requested that a footpath be provided at Churchtown for the residents of Cois Teampaill Estate in the interests of safety and connectivity to the town. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that discussions have taken place on this matter and that pedestrian access will be considered as part of an NTA scheme.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Newcastle West Municipal District that a pedestrian crossing be placed at Glin National School in the interest of child safety.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: A pedestrian crossing will be incorporated between Marian Place and Glin National School within the schedule of Municipal District Works 2024.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan referred to the increased number of children attending Glin National School and requested that a pedestrian crossing be put in place in the interest of child safety.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Newcastle West Municipal District that the Council put a schedule in place for the permanent maintenance of the paths and slipways at Glin Pier in the interest of the safety of all year round swimmers and bathers.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ruddle.

REPLY: Limerick City & County Council already have a schedule in place for the permanent maintenance of the paths and slipways. This is bi-weekly during the summer season and monthly over the rest of the year. This is ongoing and subject to funding being available.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan acknowledged the work carried out by the Council at Glin Pier. He requested however that the paths and slipways be maintained not only during the summer period but all year round due to winter swimmers using the facility. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Senior Executive Engineer would liaise with the Water Safety Development Officer on this matter.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that the footpaths at Castlemahon and Killeedy cemeteries be renewed as a matter of urgency.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: The Council wishes to advise that quotations have been sought for the replacement of damaged footpaths in Castlemahon and Killeedy cemeteries. It is intended that these works will take place lateár this year or early next year.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to the slippery condition of the footpaths at Castlemahon and Killeedy cemeteries and requested that work be carried out to the footpaths at these locations in the interest of safety. The Members also acknowledged

the work being carried out by Community Groups and Fás Schemes in maintenance of cemeteries in the District.

26. Correspondence

Correspondence as circulated was noted by Members.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on having location identifier points placed along the Limerick Greenway in the interest of health and safety. It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek a further update from the relevant Directorate on this matter.

Reference was made to a clean up of The Square in Newcastle West and in replying the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a team has been identified to carry out the works and these works are ongoing at present.

The Members welcomed the electric vehicle charging point in Market Place, Newcastle West. Following a brief discussion on electric vehicle charging points in the District, it was agreed that the Executive Engineer, Roads, would seek clarification on whether a land disposal is required for the electric vehicle charging point in The Square, Dromcollogher.

An update was sought on a survey of the storm water infrastructure in various towns in the District particularly in the town of Newcastle West. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that Limerick City and County Council has engaged the services of a company who has carried out a full survey of the storm water sewers and a plan has now been put in place. He also referred to extensive power cleansing of the surface water network in various towns and villages in the District.

An update was sought on the road overlay at Mountmahon, Abbeyfeale. Reference was made to the poor condition of the road and in replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that an update has been sought from the Mid-West National Road Design Office. He stated that phase one of the road overlay from Mountmahon to the Garda Station in Abbeyfeale is due to commence in February, 2024. He also stated that the second phase of the road overlay is from the Garda Station to the Church in Abbeyfeale and that this roadway will incorporate a new water main.

The need for protective fencing next to the water ditch at Woodfield Green, Newcastle West was raised.

It was agreed to hold the December Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 6th December, 2023, at 15.00 p.m., at Áras William Smith O'Brien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated: