

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER, 2023, AT 3.00 P.M.

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 (Ms. H. Supple), Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District (Mr. J. Sheehan), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. S. O'Reilly), Senior Executive Architect, Property Management (Ms. G. McMahon), Senior Planner, Strategic and Forward Planning (Ms. M. Woods), A/Senior Executive Planner, Strategic and Forward Planning (Ms. C. Brislane), Executive Planner, Strategic and Forward Planning (Mr. S. Flahive), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

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

APOLOGIES:

Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely).

At the outset of the Meeting, with the permission of the Cathaoirleach, on the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was unanimously agreed that the Meeting would be adjourned for twenty minutes to allow for completion of discussion on the Workshop held with West Limerick Sports Complex.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 1st November, 2023.

Proposed by: Councillor F. Foley

Seconded by: Councillor J. Sheahan

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, 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.

3. Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate

Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029

To consider the proposed Material Alterations of the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and the report of the Chief Executive dated 15th November 2023 on the submissions received on the Material Alterations to the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan, and decide whether the Local Area Plan shall be made or amended in accordance with Section 20(3)(n) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Previously circulated, Report of the Director of Service, Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate dated 15th November, 2023 and Report of the Chief Executive, dated 15th November, 2023, in relation to the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029.

The Members welcomed the progression of the Plan and referred to a number of matters including traffic congestion in the town of Newcastle West, the importance of progressing a distributor road for the town of Newcastle West, having cycle lanes which are fit for purpose and role of the Office of Public Regulator.

Following a discussion and consideration of the proposed Materials Alterations of the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and the report of the Chief Executive dated 15th November 2023 on the submissions received on the Material Alterations to the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan, the Members decided to make the Local Area Plan subject to the following amendments:

Motion 1 Submission No. 1

To not accept Chief Executive's Recommendation 1(6) (as set out in the CE Report to the Elected Members on submissions received on the Material Alterations dated 15th of November) and to make the Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029 with the proposed Material Alteration to include the Newcastle West southern distributor road as included in the current Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2014 – 2020 including text and from all relevant maps.

Proposer: Councillor Collins

Seconder: Councillor Scanlan

Reason: As outlined previously, to alleviate and deal with traffic congestion in the town.

Motion 2 Submission No.1

To not accept Chief Executive's Recommendation 1(7) (as set out in the CE Report to the Elected Members on submissions received on the Material Alterations dated 15th of November) and to make the Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029 with the proposed Material Alteration to amend the Local Area Plan to restrict the indicative link road to active travel measures only including text and from all relevant maps.

Proposer: Councillor Collins

Seconder: Councillor Scanlan

Reason: As outlined previously, to prevent traffic congestion on the Killeline Road and restrict vehicles using Woodfield as a rat run.

Motion 3 Submission No. 1

To not accept Chief Executive's Recommendation 1(5) (as set out in the CE Report to the Elected Members on submissions received on the Material Alterations dated 15th of November) and to make the Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029 with the proposed Material Alteration 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 (lands at Rathnaneane between Arra View and the Paddocks).

Proposer: Councillor Ruddle

Seconder: Councillor Scanlan

Reason: As outlined previously, to facilitate access to the open space and recreational zoning at that location.

Following further discussion on the Motions, it was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle and agreed by all the Members "That the Draft Newcastle West Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029 be made in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) with the 3 amendments as set out above".

Councillor Sheahan asked the Senior Planner what the next stage of the process was and the implications if the OPR had an issue with the Local Area Plan as adopted by the Members.

The Senior Planner advised

- That a report would be prepared and sent to the OPR within 5 working days of the making of the Local Area Plan. This report requires that where the Planning Authority decides not to comply with any recommendations made by the OPR, the Planning Authority must state the reasons for such decisions.
- Should the OPR have issues with the Local Area Plan they may advise the Minister of it, and in such an instance, there is potential for a Draft Ministerial Direction.
- Otherwise the Local Area Plan will be effective by the 26th January 2024.

4. Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate

To consider the Chief Executive's Report pursuant to Section 179(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), in respect of the proposed Part VIII for the demolition and rebuilding of existing dwelling house for the provision of a 3 no. bedroom dwelling unit at No. 8 Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale West, Co. Limerick.

Circulated, Report of the Director of Service, Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate dated 22nd November, 2023 and Report of Chief Executive, dated 22nd November, 2023, in relation to the proposed Part VIII demolition and rebuilding of existing dwelling house for the provision of a 3 no. bedroom dwelling unit at No. 8 Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale West, Co. Limerick. The report has been prepared in accordance with Section 179(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and it is proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 8 of the report.

The report was proposed by Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, and agreed.

5. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

To Receive Presentation from Central Services on Part VIII Lees Cross Junction Improvement Scheme.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing, to the Meeting.

The Senior Executive Engineer addressed the Meeting and gave an update to the Members on Lees Cross Junction Improvement Scheme.

He stated that Limerick City and County Council are developing the existing preliminary design for Lees Cross Junction Improvement Scheme through Part 8 planning. He also stated that Lees Cross is a very open, five-arm junction located approximately 4.5km south of Ballingarry in County Limerick and is on the border between the Newcastle West and Adare-Rathkeale Municipal Districts.

He referred to the main route through the junction which is the R520 – R518 carriageway, connecting Newcastle West town with the N20 and Kilmallock town. He stated that the carriageway intersects with the R518 from the north-west, the L1210 from the north and the L1211 from the south.

He also stated that following a detailed application in 2022 the Department provided €25,000 to progress the scheme through planning in 2023. He made reference to a number of issues

identified with the current junction layout including sightlines onto the R518/R520 main carriageway from the R518 Ballingarry road, the L1210 Granagh Road and the L1211 which are insufficient. He stated that the existing junction layout lacks definition, especially to the north, between the R518 Ballingarry road and the L1210 Granagh road. He stated that it is not clear to road users approaching the junction where the priority lies, particularly for those travelling south on the R518 where the road joins the L1210 immediately prior to the R520-R518.

He referred to the proposed design which seeks to separate the existing five arm junction into two staggered T-junctions. He also referred to both Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening reports which were undertaken as part of the planning process.

The Senior Executive Engineer stated that the plans and particulars of the proposed development were available for inspection from Thursday, 14th September, 2023 up to and including Thursday, 12th October, 2023 and that submissions and observations were to be made on or before Thursday, 26th October, 2023. He outlined to the Members the various submissions which were received and the response of the Chief Executive on this matter. He stated that Limerick City and County Council has spoken to the landowners in the area and that a very positive response has been received from the landowners. The Senior Executive Engineer made reference to the various timelines in progression of the project and stated that it is planned to bring the scheme to the Full Council Meeting in January 2024. He also stated that subject to negotiations and appointments, Limerick City and County Council will be applying for funding for the construction of the scheme in 2025.

The Members welcomed the proposed improvement works at Lees Cross Junction and thanked the Senior Executive Engineer for the presentation. The Members referred to a number of matters including the volume of traffic using the junction, issue of safety at the junction, timeframe for completion of the project and cost of the project. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that the approximate cost of the Lees Cross Junction Improvement Scheme is €1.3M.

6. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, report of Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services, dated 17th November, 2023, concerning proposal to dispose of 0.463 acres at Glendarrough, Templeglantine, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

7. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to West Limerick Radio.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €155 to Knockane Grotto for Christmas lighting.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 to Tournafulla Community Hall.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €5,000 to Carrickerry playground sensory garden.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Noonan's Christmas lights.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to lighting at Broadford Soccer Club.

QUESTIONS

Replies to the following Questions on the Agenda were circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting and the Questions were therefore taken as having been dealt with.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Municipal District Meeting that the L7017 road connecting to the main Dromcollogher/Broadford road that the ditch be removed and replaced with post and rail. This will significantly improve sight lines at this dangerous junction.

REPLY: Improving sight lines at this junction will be considered as part of the 2024 Municipal District works but the fence type will have to be in compliance with the new TII standards.

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Municipal District Meeting for the post and rail fence to be replaced at the bend next to Jimmy Prendiville's house, Knockbrack on the Athea road.

REPLY: This will be considered as part of the 2024 Municipal District works but the fence type will have to be in compliance with the new TII standards.

10. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Municipal District Meeting for someone to attend the Meeting and give a detailed Update/Report on the derelict properties in Abbeyfeale town (a) Colbert's Terrace, (b) Main Street (c) Old Church Street (d) New Street (e) Convent Street (e) the Convent building.

REPLY:

Limerick City and County Council continues to identify vacant homes and derelict sites by regular surveys completed throughout the local authority's administrative area. Public representatives, members of the public and by local community groups, also bring such inactive and unproductive properties to the attention of the Council.

A full copy of the Derelict Sites Register maintained by the Council pursuant to section 8 of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 (as amended), is available for inspection during office hours at the Property Management Department, Merchants Quay, Limerick, or may be downloaded in summary from www.limerick.ie/council

Limerick City and County Council currently has **23 no.** active derelict sites cases in Abbeyfeale. Of these, there are **20 no.** cases where the particulars of the land are entered in the Derelict Sites Register.

In summary, the status of cases is as follows:

REF. NO.	LOCATION OF LAND	STATUS
DS-046-18	2 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-045-18	3 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-044-18	4 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-043-18	6 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-042-18	7 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-155-20	9 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-040-18	11 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-111-17	Kerry Road, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-129-20	Main Street, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-037-22	New Street Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-164-20	Church Street, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-165-20	Church Street, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-137-20	The Hill Abbeyfeale Co. Limerick	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-150-18	Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-131-21	Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-081-20	1-10 Cois Na Feile, Clash, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-082-22	11 Cois Na Feile, Clash, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-083-22	12 Cois Na Feile, Clash, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-073-22	Convent Road, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-008-23	Cinema, Convent Street, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-130-20	The Convent Building, Abbeyfeale	Open Case
DS-128-20	Kerry Road, Abbeyfeale	Open case
DS-058-23	Main Street, Abbeyfeale	Open case

Cases in the area may be further categorised as follows:

1. Cases where the property which has been acquired by LCCC

- DS-046-18 2 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale
- DS-043-18 6 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale
- DS-042-18 7 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale
- DS-040-18 11 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale
- DS-081-20 1-10 Cois Na Feile, Clash, Abbeyfeale
- DS-082-22 11 Cois Na Feile, Clash, Abbeyfeale
- DS-083-22 12 Cois Na Feile, Clash, Abbeyfeale
- DS-118-19 Convent Road, Abbeyfeale
- DS-073-22 Convent Road, Abbeyfeale
- DS-111-17 Kerry Road, Abbeyfeale

2. Cases where An Bord Pleanála has previously refused consent to LCCC to acquire the property compulsorily

- DS-119-19 Convent Road, Abbeyfeale
- DS-045-18 3 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale
- DS-044-18 4 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale

3. Cases where the property is For Sale/Sale Agreed/Sold on open market though LCCC

- DS-046-18 2 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale
- DS-040-18 11 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale
- DS-118-19 Convent Road, Abbeyfeale
- DS-073-22 Convent Road, Abbeyfeale
- DS-081-20 1-10 Cois Na Feile, Clash, Abbeyfeale
- DS-082-22 11 Cois Na Feile, Clash, Abbeyfeale
- DS-083-22 12 Cois Na Feile, Clash, Abbeyfeale

4. Cases where there is development by LCCC through the Rural Limerick Housing Development (RLHD) Programme

- DS-042-18 7 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale
- DS-043-18 6 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale
- DS-165-20 Bridge Inn, Church Street, Abbeyfeale
- DS-150-18 Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale

It may also be noted that in the following cases the particulars of the land have been removed from the Derelict Sites Register as the dereliction has been solved due to owner engagement with the Council:

- DS-186-20 Clash Road, Abbeyfeale
- DS-188-20 New Street, Abbeyfeale
- DS-199-20 3 Hillview Drive Abbeyfeale
- DS-119-19 Convent Road, Abbeyfeale
- DS-074-22 Convent Road, Abbeyfeale
- DS-075-22 Convent Road, Abbeyfeale

- DS-156-20 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale
- DS-041-18 8 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale

The former Convent of Mercy site in Abbeyfeale has recently been acquired by a new private owner. The Council is actively engaged with the new owner and a programme of works will be agreed. It is expected that works will commence on site in early 2024 and the Council will continue to monitor the case.

11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) When we can expect the spot speed indicator to be moved out to the speed limit along the Monagea Road and (b) When a similar sign will be put in place on the southern approach to Feohanagh Village.

REPLY: The Newcastle West Roads District will carry out speed surveys at the locations suggested on the Monagea road and Feohanagh village. Based on the information received, these areas can then be considered for the placement of driver feedback signage.

12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when appropriate safety measures will be put in place along the Wood Road at Ardrine.

REPLY: The Newcastle West District carried out hedgecutting at this junction in late August 2023. It is the intention of the Maintenance Team to carry out further works to improve the sightlines at the junction in 2024.

13. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when work is expected to commence on the following vacant properties, those at Coolaboy, North Road, Dromcollogher, that at Kilmurray, Feenagh and 6 Radharc Na Féile, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council are in the process of appointing a contractor for the works at Coolaboy, North Road, Dromcollogher. Works will commence on this property before Christmas and the expected duration is 8 months.

Works are practically completed to the properties at Kilmurray, Feenagh and 6 Radharc Na Féile, Abbeyfeale, pending re-energising from ESB networks in order to close out the remaining items in 2023.

14. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) How many houses have been purchased or in the process of being purchased for the Tenant In Situ Scheme since it was introduced (b)How

many houses have been offered to the Council and have not been purchased (c) What were the reasons why they were not purchased.

REPLY:

As confirmed with Councillor Ruddle the answers relate to the Newcastle West District only.

Question	No	Status	Note
(a)	29	2 Purchases completed 10 Sale agreed 17 Proposal Stage	The acquisition has completed and the sale has closed. The sale has or is in the process of progressing to conveyance to close. Proposals are at various stages and being considered for purchase for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engaging with landlords • undertaking valuations • undertaking surveys • with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for budget approval etc.
(b)	19	19 Withdrawn	Withdrawn can be due to a number of reasons. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • households overcrowded • owner re-occupying • landlords not engaging despite repeated attempts • no agreement with owner on an independent market valuation • tenant has alternative accommodation • household not eligible under the terms of the scheme.

(c) There are a number of reasons why properties are not purchased such as:

- households overcrowded
- owner re-occupying
- landlords not engaging despite repeated attempts
- no agreement with owner on an independent market valuation

- tenant has alternative accommodation or
- household not eligible under the terms of the scheme.

NOTICES OF MOTION

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Municipal District Meeting that a speed ramp be put in place at the village side of the bridge in Athea.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: A contractor has been procured to carry out these works and we expect the ramp to be in place prior to Christmas 2023.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to the speed of traffic coming over the bridge, to safety concerns at this location and requested that a speed ramp be put in place at the village side of the bridge in Athea. Following discussion, it was agreed that a table top ramp is to be installed on the village side of the footbridge at the junction on the Abbeyfeale road and that a contractor will commence works shortly. The Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that this was best location to provide traffic calming for Athea.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Municipal District Meeting that the ditch be removed and replaced with post and rail on the right hand side to improve this dangerous junction coming from the L7091 connecting to L7092 Dromtrasna road.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: This will be considered as part of the 2024 Municipal District works. The fence type will have to be in compliance with the new TII standards.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to the volume of traffic coming from the minor road onto the main road and requested that the ditch be removed and replaced with post and rail fence in the interest of safety. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer agreed to consider these works and to revert to the Members on this matter at the February Meeting.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that the laneway which connects Bishop Street with the Desmond Complex to be upgraded with proper drainage and resurfacing. This is at the side of the Courtenay primary school and is used by a large number of people going to the Desmond crèche and Desmond complex. It is very slippery and dangerous.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: The intention of Limerick City and County Council is to take this area in charge and works to solve these issues are planned for early 2024.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle requested that drainage and resurfacing works be carried out to the laneway connecting Bishop Street to the Desmond Complex. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that it is intended to take this laneway in charge in 2024 and that drainage and public lighting improvement works will form part of the taking in charge process. The Senior Executive Engineer noted representations from several Members including Councillors Collins, Sheahan and Scanlan.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting what steps are the Council taking to provide parking in Newcastle West. We have recently lost 25 car park spaces in Aldi Car park. Going from 105 spaces which they received in the original planning permission, this is reduced down to about 80. Also we have lost parking in other parts of the town, Dooley's new supermarket extension. It is incumbent on the Council to provide adequate parking within walking of town centre. The new draft public realm plans also show a reduction of car parking in the Square.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: In conjunction with the public realm plan Limerick City and County Council can look at alternative parking arrangements and consider options available to them. The Municipal District office will be working with the local Community Groups and Businesses in co-operation with the Economic Development Department over the coming months on developing a public realm plan for the town.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle referred to the loss of car parking spaces in the town of Newcastle West and in replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that he was working with the Community Development Association to allow the public use the Community carpark. He stated that an update will follow at the next Meeting.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council carry out a Road Safety audit on the R523 from The Pike, Ardagh to the Kerry bounds, specifically speeding through the villages and the following areas (a) The Commons, Ardagh, (b) Glenagore, Athea to Athea village and (c) Athea village to the Kerry County Bounds. This audit should look at speed limit reductions, driver feedback signs and average speed cameras.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

A road safety audit will likely not comment on the speed limit of any section of road as there is a legislative process which must be followed and would be outside the ultimate control of the Road Safety Auditor/ Local Authority to approve.

For speed limit appeals the Speed Limit Appeals Procedure, sets out the mandatory procedure that must be utilised by a Roads Authority or National Panel when a member of the public or other interested party raises an objection to a specific speed limit contained within a Local Authority's current Special Speed Limit Bye-laws. Appeals are processed in line with the procedure and any decision with respect to any appeal will be made in line with the Speed Limit Guidelines. We are aware that the Department are in the process of reviewing the national guidance with respect to speed limits and following recent correspondence from the Department of Transport, Local authorities are due to provide a briefing with respect to the timeline and potential changes in this guidance.

Currently there is no legislation with respect to the introduction of average speed cameras on National, Regional or Local roads. We are aware that TII are currently examining the legislation with the view of the introduction of average speed cameras in national roads. The N21 is being considered by the TII as a potential location for a trial for average speed cameras if introduced, however this has to be decided by the TII.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan requested that a road safety audit which would include speed limit reductions, driver feedback signs and average cameras to be carried out at the above location and if the R523 could be considered as a pilot scheme. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that discussions has taken place with Central Services but agreed to discuss this matter further with Central Services.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on the re-instatement of a Further Education and Training Centre in Abbeyfeale and in replying the Meetings Administrator stated that contact has been made with the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board who has confirmed that a Further Education and Training Centre is currently being sought for Newcastle West and that Abbeyfeale would be incorporated into this Centre.

The maintenance of the paths and slipways at Glin Pier was raised and to discussions which are to take place with the Water Safety Development Officer on this matter.

An update was sought on the carrying out of an urgent clean-up of Sharwood Estate, Newcastle West.

Reference was also made to the deterioration of roads over the last number of years and to the number of tar patchers in the District. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated

that there are two patching units in the District and that the street sweeper is in the District five days per week for November, December, 2023, January 2024. He also stated that Limerick City and County Council has engaged the services of CES Ltd., to carry out a full survey of the storm water sewers in the District.

An update was sought on remedial works to be carried out at Páirc Luachra, Abbeyfeale, Radharc Na Féile, Abbeyfeale and Hill View Drive, Abbeyfeale social housing estates. The importance of having a clean up carried out as a matter of urgency and to having a Plan put in place to rejuvenate the three housing estates was also reiterated. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, acknowledged the work of the Roads Team in the Newcastle West District who recently removed a trailer load of rubbish from the area.

The Members referred to the use of protected structures for emergency accommodation for protected persons and following discussion it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would issue an invite to the relevant Directorate to attend the January Meeting of the District to seek further clarification on the legislation surrounding this matter.

Reference was made to the length of time properties are at sales agreed status in the District and in replying, the Director stated that conveyancy can be a lengthy process but however the vast majority of cases are moving quickly.

Prior to conclusion of the Meeting, the Members expressed good wishes to the Executive Engineer, Roads, Newcastle West.

The Cathaoirleach wished the Members, Management and Staff a Happy Christmas and acknowledged their assistance and support during 2023.

The Director on behalf of Management and staff wished the Councillors a Happy Christmas and, acknowledged the work carried out by the Members and thanked them for their assistance during the year.

It was agreed to hold the January Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 10th January, 2024, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated: