

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 MONDAY, 11TH MARCH, 2024 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), Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. O'Keeffe), Administrative Officer, Property Management (Ms. T. Knox), Head of Property Management (Ms. J. Leahy), Town Regeneration Officer, Rural Development (Ms. K. Burke), Town Development Officer, Rural Development (Mr. S. O'Doherty), Senior Executive Scientist, Environment Strategy (Mr. C. Brodie), Senior Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office (Mr. T. Fitzgerald), Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office (Mr. G. Carey) 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 13th February, 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;
Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;
And Resolved:

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

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

Circulated, report of the Head of Property Management, Rural, Cultural & Community Directorate dated 29th February, 2024 setting out proposals for the disposal of 8.6994 acres/3.5205 hectares of land at Skagh, Croom, Co. Limerick and the intention to bring the Section 183 Notice to Full Council for approval.

The report, as circulated, was proposed by Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue and agreed.

4. Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate

Town Regeneration

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Town Regeneration Officer, Rural Development to the Meeting. The Town Regeneration Officer advised Members funding had been received for the preparation of a Town Centre First Plan and gave Members a presentation on the works currently progressing in Rathkeale Town which includes the introduction of new traffic calming measures, local targeted clean ups, verge maintenance and litter picking on approach roads and fire safety campaigns. She further advised the Derelict Sites team continue to work with owners of buildings and sites in Rathkeale Town with a view to addressing dereliction and vacancy.

Councillor Collins congratulated the organisers of the International Women's Day event held in Rathkeale on 8th March, 2024.

Councillor Keary welcomed the clean up on the approach roads into the town, however, added a sweeper is required on a weekly basis to keep these roads maintained.

Discussion ensued in relation to the purchase of properties for sale in the town. Councillor Teskey felt the high cost being paid to purchase properties in the town is deterring investment. Councillor Teskey added Limerick City and County Council need to be more proactive to attract businesses into Rathkeale Town and felt there should be more engagement with the Criminal Assets Bureau in relation to same. Councillor Keary also added Limerick City and County Council as a Local Authority need to liaise more with the Criminal Assets Bureau, who need to have a fulltime office operating in Rathkeale. Councillor O'Donoghue queried what the Local Property Tax collection rate was in Rathkeale. The Town Regeneration Officer indicated that, a variety of information sources will be utilised to inform the Plan preparation. The Town Regeneration Officer agreed to work with all relevant stakeholders with a view to attract business and investment in the town of Rathkeale.

5. Planning, Environment and Place-Making

Draft Noise Action Plan

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Senior Executive Scientist, Environment Strategy to the Meeting. The Senior Executive Scientist gave Members a presentation in relation to the impacts of environmental noise from road, rail and industrial sites. He advised the Local Authority are required to prepare Strategic Noise Maps and Noise Action Plans every five years. The aim of the plan is to identify areas for noise mitigation based on noise mapping and the harmful effects assessment to reduce environmental noise where exposure levels affect human health. A public consultation on the Draft Noise Action Plans will be held at

the end of March 2024 with the final Noise Action Plans to be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency by the 18th July, 2024.

Discussion ensued in relation to concerns from residents due to the proposed wind farm being built in Coolcappa in particular to the impact of noise pollution on their health. The Senior Executive Scientist advised Members the company applying for planning permission for the wind farm under EU law would have had to provide noise monitoring data prior to lodging their planning application.

6. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

Mid West National Road Design Office

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Senior Engineer and Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office to the Meeting.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office gave Members a presentation on the progress of the Foynes to Limerick Road (including the Adare Bypass) which is currently at Phase 5 stage. The advance works and enabling works contracts are now underway across the entire extents of the scheme. Phase 6 Construction and Implementation are expected to be tendered in 2026/2027 with the aim of having the project fully completed by the end of 2030.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor O'Donoghue queried why the entry point of the new road is not joining with the existing motorway. The Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office advised this is due to government approval.
- Councillor O'Brien queried if funding commitment has been given by the Minister of Transport for the completion of Phase 6 of the project. The Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office advised no commitment can be given for any part of the scheme until it nears construction phase.
- Councillor O'Donoghue queried if construction works begin on a landowners land prior to funding being allocated, who compensates the landowner. The Senior Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office advised the funding for the main construction and land acquisition of the project is in place for currently affected landowners.
- Councillor Keary queried why a farm had been taken out of agricultural production if the land is not required at the present time. The Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office advised the Archaeologist needs access to the site for archaeological investigations prior to construction and added as this is a lengthy process the site has to be fenced off at this stage of the project.

- Councillor Teskey queried if there are plans for a service plaza on the new section of motorway. The Senior Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office advised the Transport Infrastructure Ireland have a service area policy and there are plans to provide a service area at the end of the Foynes section of the motorway.

It was agreed Item 8 on the Agenda would be taken next

8. Roads, Traffic and Cleansing

District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 11th March, 2024 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

Following discussion the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor O'Donoghue queried the process for members of the public requesting road repairs. The Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised staff liaise with the general public in relation to road maintenance and added there is currently an extremely high volume of calls in relation to potholes due to the unprecedented weather conditions and while the roads staff are trying to keep on top of these the velocity patcher has to rotate every two weeks between the East and the West of the Municipal District.
- Councillor O'Donoghue asked about works to be carried out at the bridge at Banogue GAA field. The Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised a consultant will be appointed shortly and it is hoped to apply for funding to carry out appropriate works when funding is secured.
- Councillor Keary stated there is a lot of concern with HGV's using the Ballyneety to Caherconlish road and asked if a weight restriction could be applied to this roadway. The Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised this roadway would not warrant a weight restriction.

7. Road, Traffic and Cleansing

Schedule of Municipal District Works for the Adare-Rathkeale District

Circulated, report of the Director of Services, Rural, Community and Culture Development outlining the Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW) 2024 for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

Proposed by Councillor Teskey;
Seconded by Councillor O'Brien;
And Resolved:

“That, the Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale be adopted in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001”.

9. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor O’Donoghue, seconded by Councillor O’Brien it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €1,500 to Granagh Development Association.
- €500 to Clever Clogs Childcare.
- €3,000 to Crecora Manister GAA Club.
- €3,500 to Installation of ramp at Kylefea, Croom.

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

- €3,000 to Crecora Manister GAA Club.
- €1,000 to Cappagh Women’s Cave.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor O’Donoghue it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €1,000 to Crecora Manister GAA Club.
- €1,000 to Adare Men’s Shed.
- €320 to Rathkeale Men’s Shed.
- €400 to Adare Women’s 2020 Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Teskey it was agreed to allocate €10,000 to Askeaton Civic Trust.

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

QUESTION

10. Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the boil water notice for the residents of Askeaton and surrounding area.

Reply: Uisce Éireann upgrade works to lift Boil Water Notice for customers supplied by Foynes/Shannon Estuary Public Water Supply are nearing completion.

Our teams have successfully carried out the necessary shutdowns at the plant to facilitate the installation and operation of the suction pipework.

Pre-commissioning is continuing with the Commissioning Engineer this week to establish the required setpoints for the ultraviolet disinfection unit and associated equipment.

We are now working with our contractors on the required shutdown controls on the existing water treatment plant to ensure that non-compliant water does not enter the clear water tank.

Following this there will be commissioning and collection of sampling data for the HSE to review and Uisce Éireann will consult with the HSE to discuss if the Boil Water Notice can be lifted.

We are grateful to the elected representatives and members of the public who continue to share our updates.

NOTICE OF MOTION

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that our District should adopt a policy of seriously promoting the arts in our own District, in consultation with the arts office at HQ.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor O'Brien and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan stated an Arts Officer should be appointed by the Executive to each Municipal District to liaise with the various Arts groups and to keep them informed about possible funding available to them.

Reply: The Arts office aims to grow Limerick's arts and cultural capacity, across all Municipal Districts, including Adare – Rathkeale, through delivery of the adopted Limerick Cultural Strategy Framework 2016-2030. This sets out a clear vision and ambition that allows for the strategic planning and commitment to the continuous development of culture and arts in both Limerick City & County through dialogue with key stakeholders and influencers, at local and national level, artists, creative practitioners, communities and key cultural organisations. The Arts Office also works within the parameters of the Framework Agreement with The Arts Council / An Comhairle Ealaíon and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Creative Ireland Initiative.

Adare-Rathkeale MD is home to a number of practitioners and organisations who are supported through various grants schemes and

funding opportunities provided through Limerick City and County Council Arts Office and through the Tourism Department in relation to festivals and events.

The Arts Office would welcome awareness raising and arts promotion initiatives in Municipal District areas. In January 2024, information sessions on funding opportunities were held in all Municipal District including Adare/Rathkeale M.D. Opportunities under the Grants Under the Arts Act scheme and Creative Ireland Made in Limerick Grants, were recently advertised and are open to all. In addition, individual arts bursaries, Dolores O’Riordan and Theatre bursaries will be open to applicants in coming weeks. All of these interventions assist in promoting and supporting arts activities throughout the City and County.

Other initiatives specific to the Adare-Rathkeale MD area this year, include the proposed loan of the Limerick Art Collection to Croom Hospital and supports under the Festival and Events programme.

12. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

13. A.O.B

- The Meetings Administrator advised Shannon Foynes Port Company had issued an invitation for a presentation of future plans for the port and a port tour on a date had to be agreed by the Elected Members. All Members thanked the Shannon Foynes Port Company for the invitation to visit the Port and agreed date of Tuesday 16th April, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.
- Councillor O’Donoghue requested an update on Askeaton Pool and Leisure tendering progress for both the capital works and the pool operator for the April District Meeting. The Meetings Administrator advised the process is nearing completion and a briefing was imminent to all Elected Members.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____