

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON WEDNESDAY, 1ST MAY, 2024, 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 and 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), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Administrative Officer, Corporate, Governance and Customer Services (Mr. M. Leahy), Staff Officer, Corporate, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. E. Cousins), Staff Officer, Property Services (Ms. D. Ruth), A/Biodiversity Officer, Environment and Climate Action (Ms. S. McDonnell), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone in attendance to the May Meeting of the District.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 3rd April, 2024.

Proposed by: Councillor Collins
Seconded by: Councillor Scanlan
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 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 Head of Property Management, dated 18th April, 2024, concerning proposal to dispose of property at Main Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

- (b) Circulated, report of Head of Property Management, dated 15th April, 2024, concerning proposal to dispose of property, acquired compulsorily under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 at Feoghanagh, Co. Limerick, V42P578.

Members noted the proposal.

- (c) Disposal of Property at Convent Road, Abbeyfeale.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach and following a request from the relevant Directorate, the disposal of the property at Convent Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick was added to the Agenda for the Newcastle West District Meeting for noting.

The Staff Officer, Property Management, addressed the Meeting on the item and presented the following information to the Members:

- Proposed disposal of derelict property at Convent Road, Abbeyfeale, Co Limerick to Mr. Ruairi Dennison in the sum of €60,000.
- The property is derelict and in need of complete refurbishment works. The site comprises of an end of terrace, two-storey property with 3 bedrooms and surrounding land with a total area of approximately 0.12 Acres.
- The property and surrounding land have been vacant and in a derelict condition for a number of years. Statutory notices were served in accordance with the Derelict Sites Act 1990. The property was entered on the Derelict Sites Register in April, 2023. Limerick City and County Council subsequently acquired the property compulsorily.
- The property was brought to the market and advertised for Sale by Private Treaty on January 5th, 2024. The property was fully exposed to the market including the use of internet advertising, social media channels, property advertising platforms and an on-site For Sale sign.
- There were 19 direct enquiries on the subject property and 11 viewings took place. In total, 5 parties submitted 12 offers on the property when it was brought to the market and a competitive bidding scenario commenced following the viewings.

The Members noted and welcomed the proposed disposal of the property to Mr. Ruairi Dennison in the sum of €60,000.

4. Support Services Directorate

To Receive Update on the Voter Registration Process.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Administrative Officer and Staff Officer to the Meeting.

The Staff Officer gave a presentation to the Members. She stated that the total Local Government Electors is 151,044 which includes 22,709 in Newcastle West and 23,698 in Limerick City West.

She gave an update to the Members on how to register to vote and to the www.checktheregister.ie website which is used to check details, apply online to register, download a form and third party request form.

She outlined to the Members some key points which include directing people to Check The Register website in the first instance, to try using short versions of names, familiar names, try previous address when using the Register and to check if they have voted in Limerick previously.

She gave an overview on the use of paper applications and to the importance of ensuring information on the application form is legible, to the use of block capitals and to ensuring contact details including email, telephone number and previous address if relevant is submitted.

The Staff Officer made reference to postal votes and the main categories for postal votes which include the Defence Forces, Gardaí, Diplomats Overseas, Prisoners and Disabled/Illness. She stated that the deadline for receipt of Postal Vote applications is the 11th May, 2024 and the Close of Register deadline is the 20th May, 2024.

A lengthy discussion took place on the voting process and a number of queries were raised by the Members including postal categories and postal applications, address for return of voting form, voting by residents of nursing homes, keeping the Register up to date, voting by polling clerks, and voting when on work related absences. In replying, the Staff Officer responded to the queries raised by the Members.

5. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

To Receive Presentation on key projects and achievements in the Municipal District of Newcastle West 2019-2024.

The Director highlighted the various achievements and projects which had been progressed in the District as follows and in particular two key projects the Limerick Regional Athletics Hub and the Limerick Greenway which had been initiated in the Newcastle West District Office.

- Limerick Regional Athletics Hub – Opening day 14th September, 2023
- Limerick Greenway - Progression of various projects
- Economic Achievements during the term of the Council some of which include Pallas Foods rebranded to Sysco Ireland €8m investment, Ballygowan €2m investment, Filtertek €2m investment, Britivic Ireland €6m investment, Opening of Homesavers and Ortec, new Primary Health Care Centre in 2020
- 20 Small and Medium Enterprises supported in the Newcastle West Municipal District €398,076 in grants approved by the LEO

- National Enterprise Awards 2023 and Student Enterprise Programme 2022/2023 – Winners from the District
- Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale Local Area Plans – Delivered in 2023
- Launch of Abbeyfeale Town Centre First Plan in February 2024
- Various Derelict Sites and Housing Projects – Delivered in the District
- Active Travel projects in various towns and villages in the District some of which include Ardagh footpath extension €175,837, St. Ita's Road, Abbeyfeale €211,129, Mountmahon Village €142,439.
- Roads Projects – Various projects delivered in the District
- Newcastle West Tennis Club
- Arts Projects – Mobile Festival "Festival in a Van" during Covid-19 in 2021, Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival
- Community Projects – Various Town and Village Renewal and Outdoor Recreation Incentive Projects

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked the Director for the presentation, to the Government funding received and acknowledged the great work carried out in the District over the term of the Council.

A brief discussion followed and the Members made reference to the need for a promotional drive of the Limerick Regional Athletics Hub and the provision of additional car parking to cater for larger events at the Athletics Track was also raised.

6. Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate

To Receive Presentation on the Draft Discussion Paper to begin the process of drafting the Limerick City and County Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2024/5 – 2030.

Circulated, report of Acting Biodiversity Officer, dated April, 2024, setting out details of the Discussion Paper to begin the process of drafting the Limerick City and County Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2024/5 – 2030.

The Members welcomed the A/Biodiversity Officer to the Meeting. She referred to the Draft Discussion Paper which was circulated to the Members to commence the process of drafting the Limerick City and County Council Biodiversity Action Plan. She stated that the aims of the Discussion Paper is to hear views on nature, biodiversity and natural heritage, to listen to the views on what actions are needed, to record, conserve and restore biodiversity in Limerick.

She outlined to the Members what biodiversity means which is the variety of life on Earth, in all its forms and its interactions including humans. She referred to the importance of protecting Ireland's biodiversity for various reasons some of which include providing cleaner air, water, food, materials, medicines, health benefits and recreation. She stated that biodiversity also supports pollination and soil fertility, regulates climate and is a protection from extreme weather and other effects of climate change.

She made reference to the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan and that each Local Authority is required to prepare a Local Biodiversity Action Plan. She stated that the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan has identified a number of pressures that impact on biodiversity including habitat loss, climate change, pollution, over exploitation and invasive species. She also referred to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and to the three pillars of the Sustainable Development Goals including biosphere, society and economy. She outlined Limerick City and County Council's progress in supporting biodiversity to date and to future events planned by Limerick City and County Council to support and recognise the benefits of biodiversity.

The Acting Biodiversity Officer gave an overview of the provisional timeframe to draft the Limerick City and County Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan which include Limerick City and County Council Biodiversity Action Plan Discussion Paper and invite for submissions/comments on the Discussion Paper in Q2 2024. She stated that it is envisaged that in-house draft of the Draft Plan and Environmental Screening of the Draft Plan will take place in Q3 2024. She also stated that it is anticipated that the Draft Plan and Screening Documents will be open for public consultation in Q4 2024 and the Final Limerick City and County Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030 is also to be drafted in Q4 2024 and is expected to be published in Q1/Q2 2025.

She made reference to a series of online sessions which are taking place on the Discussion Paper at present and that submissions, observations and views can be submitted on Mypoint, by email or by post by the 27th May, 2024.

The Members thanked the Acting Biodiversity Officer for the comprehensive presentation, acknowledged the importance of biodiversity and referred to a number of matters including the importance of consistency, conservation of the hen harrier and encouraging Residents Groups to leave aside an area for biodiversity.

7. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €600 to Newcastle West Music Trail Festival.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €1,200 to Daarwood Crescent Residents Group.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Athea G.A.A.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €3,000 to Clounleharde Massacre Memorial Committee.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Roads Section, Newcastle West, for drainage works.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €15,000 to Roads Section, Newcastle West, for pavement works.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Community Building, Feenagh village.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 for Sensory Room and playground at Carrickerry.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Glengurt National School, Tournafulla, for Sensory Room.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,500 for Sensory Garden at Carrickerry.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,400 to Killeedy GAA for seating in playground area.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €400 to Newcastle West Music Trail Festival.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Daarwood Residents Association, Newcastle West.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 for Sensory Garden at Carrickerry.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to reallocate €500 from St. Patrick's Day Parade to Newcastle West Music Trail Festival.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Newcastle West Retirement Group.

Councillor Sheahan also wished to make a Declaration that he is Secretary of the Clounleharde Massacre Memorial Committee.

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 Meeting for (a) a breakdown of all outdoor staff in the 3 Municipal Districts, part time and full, (b) how many tar patchers have each district got (c) what investment have each of the Districts spent on private operators opening water tables in 2023 (d) who inspects that all the above works are done correctly.

REPLY:

(a)

Municipal District	Full Time	Part Time	Total
Adare-Rathkeale	51	4	55
Cappamore-Kilmallock	71	3	74
Newcastle West	72	2	74

(b) The Machinery yard historically operates four velocity patchers on a permanent basis, one in Cappamore Kilmallock, one in the Metropolitan Area, one in Adare-Rathkeale and one in Newcastle West. At present there is an additional velocity patcher hired in the Newcastle West Municipal District giving a total of five.

(c) In 2023 the following allocations were made to Limerick City and County Council with respect to drainage:

Drainage Works €865,000

The Metropolitan area received €265,000 with the 3 rural districts receiving €200,000.

2023 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works €655,000

This funding was provided on a job specific basis and was apportioned based on a department review of submitted schemes.

While these are the two main funding sources associated with drainage, money is also made available to the areas in the form of Own resources and the Discretionary Grant to manage drainage issues. This money is managed by the Municipal District and is apportioned on a needs basis and includes for an element of gully cleaning, outlet management and other drainage works on both the regional and local road network. Through the Districts own resources allocation inlet opening /maintenance occurs during the wetter months of the year usually from October to March annually. Furthermore a suction sweeper is employed on a daily basis from November through to end March with the emphasis on removing leaves from urban locations as well as cleaning out the gullies.

I confirm that CES Environmental were employed throughout the latter end of 2023 and for the early months of 2024 to clean the existing surface water network throughout the district. This work was very effective during the wet period from September 2023 to April 2024 ensuring our urban surface water systems were fully functional. The locations addressed were as follows:

- 18th/19th of Sept 23 Kilmeedy Village.
- 22nd of Sept 23 St Mary's Road N21 Ncw.
- 26th of Sept 23 St Mary's Road N21 Ncw.

- 3rd Oct 23 St Mary's Road N21 Ncw.
- 13th Oct 23 Longcourt N21 / Kilcoleman Drive.
- 31st Oct 23 Ballyagran Village / Tournafulla.
- 1st Nov 23 Ballyagran Village.
- 14th Nov 23 Monagea Village.
- 15th Nov 23 Monagea Village / Ballyagran.
- 17th Nov 23 Ballyagran Village / Killougheenteen.
- 28th Nov 23 John Brown's Bogmount.
- 20th Feb 24 Garbally Kilmeedy / Castletown.
- 20th Feb 24 Monagea Village / Rathcahill East.
- 21st Feb 24 Morrisseys N21 Abbeyfeale.
- 21st Feb 24 Willbrook Cross Abbeyfeale.
- 6th Mar 24 Ballynoe Castlemahon / Ballydonnell Feohanagh / Monashinnagh Ardagh / Killougheenteen Ncw / Dually Ncw.
- 26th Mar 24 Dromtrasna Abbeyfeale / Ballydonnell Feohanagh / Killeline Ncw.
- 27th Mar 24 Killougheenteen Ncw / Monashinnagh Ardagh.

As well as the regular maintenance carried out there were drainage projects carried out at the following locations in 2023 in line with NTA schemes, Drainage Grant schemes and Climate Action schemes.

Newcastle West

Knockaderry

Kilmeedy

Lower Road and Illostowel road, Athea

Mountcollins

St Itas Road Abbeyfeale

Feenagh

Monagea

Ardagh

- (d)** All roadworks in the District that are carried out in the Newcastle West District are inspected by Foremen, Senior Supervisors, Technicians and Engineers.

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on all the derelict buildings in Abbeyfeale, the stages that all are at. It appears that there is very little movement on same.

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 it may be downloaded in summary from www.limerick.ie/council

Limerick City and County Council currently has **24 no.** active derelict sites cases in Abbeyfeale. of these, there are **22 no.** cases where the particulars of the land are entered in the Derelict Sites Register.

Abbeyfeale is a beneficiary of the Rural Limerick Housing Development programme (RLHD), funded in part by the Government's Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. This fund has enabled the Council to activate a number of heretofore neglected and unsightly sites in the town, for example residences on Convent Road and two units on Colbert Terrace heading towards total renovation and re-use, being soon followed by contractors appointment for renovation of properties on Old Church Street and New Street in the coming weeks.

Progress is also evident in the number of closed cases where owner themselves have engaged with the Council and solved the dereliction.

In summary, the status of derelict sites 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	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-058-23	Main Street, Abbeyfeale	On Derelict Sites Register
DS-128-20	Kerry Road, Abbeyfeale	Open case
DS-017-24	Scannells Bar Church St, 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
- DS-131-21 Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale
- DS-129-20 Main Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick

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-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
- DS-129-20 Main Street, 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, New Street, Abbeyfeale
- DS-150-18 Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale
- DS-118-19 Convent Road, Abbeyfeale

It is notable 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-132-21 Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale
- DS-134-21 Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale
- DS-137-18 Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale
- DS-133-21 Old Church Street, Abbeyfeale
- DS-187-20 New Street, Abbeyfeale
- DS-102-21 Killarney Rd, Abbeyfeale
- DS-103-21 Killarney Rd, Abbeyfeale
- DS-048-18 Killarney Rd, Abbeyfeale
- DS-041-18 No. 8 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale
- DS-156-20 No. 10 Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale

10. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting that this Council clean and tidy up the bring banks at the Civic Amenity Centre in Newcastle West.

REPLY: The area surrounding the bring banks are cleaned twice a week by the Roads Team, Newcastle West and on bank holidays and Christmas time additional cleaning is carried out.

11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when the footpath extension from the Old School towards the Community Property at Feohanagh will be laid.

REPLY: This project will be sent to the NTA office as a potential scheme for the future as the NTA projects in the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2024 have already been approved.

12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when work on the agreed footpath extension from the Kerry Co-Op premises to the speed limit along Clooneyskehane will be constructed.

REPLY: This work will not be carried out in 2024, this project will be fully designed in 2024 by the NTA office and it is hoped construction will be carried out in 2025/2026 depending on the availability of funding from the NTA.

13. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will ask at the next Meeting that the concrete between the trees along the entrance in Collins Park, Abbeyfeale, be replaced as it is a trip hazard.

REPLY: The damaged sections will be repaired in the coming weeks.

NOTICES OF MOTION

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that a speed meter be installed at the Railway Road, Abbeyfeale at the town side of Buckley's Cross.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: Additional safety measures will be considered for this junction in the form of signage and road markings as these will be more appropriate at this junction.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to a number of road traffic accidents which have taken place at this location and requested that speed meters be installed at the Railway Road in Abbeyfeale on the approach to the town. In replying, the Executive Engineer agreed to follow up on this request. The Members also made reference to the issue of speeding and to the importance of having average speed cameras put in place in the District.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the effected businesses in Abbeyfeale town be allowed a rate reduction/rebate during the reconstruction period of the Town Surface Overlay-Traffic Management Plan.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY:

Commercial rates are legally payable on all commercial properties. A Vacant Property Allowance Scheme has been adopted by the Council and all other businesses are liable to pay rates. This policy is consistent in all areas of the city and county. The roadworks/improvement works are managed to ensure minimum disruption to the business community. The Rates Section offers an annual Small and Medium Business Enterprise Scheme, whereby the rate-payer may be entitled to 13.5% rebate of their annual rates, up to a maximum grant of €1,500.

Also the Increased Cost of Business Grant, funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment is currently available to rate-payers and applications for same are open until 1st May, 2024.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to the recent roadworks which took place in the town of Abbeyfeale. He stated that there was major traffic congestion in the town which led to retail businesses being seriously affected. He requested that the car park in the town be prioritised before any further works take place and that consideration be given to an alternative traffic management system when roadworks are due to take place again. All the Members welcomed the project but however concurred with Councillor Galvin on the traffic congestion and disruption to businesses in the town. Councillor Sheahan also referred to the manner in which the town was left in the evening following the works.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would refer this Notice of Motion to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that trading premises in the towns of our Municipality are allowed a minimum of two Parking Permits where a residential need co-exists with that of the business.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

Currently the bye-laws allow for one residential parking space/permit in the Municipal District of Newcastle West. There is no provision for a commercial permit.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan requested that a minimum of two residential parking permits be given where a residential and commercial need exist. A brief discussion took place and in replying, the Meetings Administrator referred to a Meeting of the Transportation and Mobility Strategic Policy Committee which took place in April 2024. She stated that it was agreed at this Meeting that the Residential Parking Bye Laws would be reviewed on completion of the Limerick Transport Plan and updated as necessary.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council consider purchasing extra ground off

Nash's Lane to provide more badly needed parking for the town.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: The parking issue should be dealt with under the Public Realm Plan and hopefully this will be reviewed in 2024.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle requested that the Council purchase extra ground off Nash's Lane to provide additional parking in the town of Newcastle West.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council put up signage at the entrance to the Demesne, pointing out the car parks that the Council have in charge for parking. People are not aware of these car parks.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council are currently working on a plan with regard parking signage for the town and the signage will be in place by June.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle requested that signage be put in place to direct members of the public to where Council car parking is in the town of Newcastle West.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that the roadway at Rooskagh East be considered for resurfacing and passing bays be installed now that traffic flow has increased in the locality due to a commercial business at the top of Rooskagh Hill.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ruddle.

REPLY: This project will be considered for the Restoration Improvement Grant 2025 and the installation of passing bays will be considered within this project.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins referred to the poor condition of this roadway and requested that the roadway be resurfaced and passing bays installed to facilitate residents and a commercial premises on this roadway.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on the current system of payment of car parking in the town and in replying, the Meetings Administrator stated that park magic is in operation in the town and signage will be in place shortly.

A discussion took place on the contractor Enerveo who are currently contracted by the Council to provide and maintain public lighting in the District. The Members expressed concern on the ongoing issue of street lights not working in the District.

An update was sought on the provision of a pedestrian crossing and safety measures in the vicinity of the Town Park in Abbeyfeale and if a response had been received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland on this matter. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that Transport Infrastructure Ireland has requested that a case be made to the TII for these works. He stated that the Roads Section are currently organising a pedestrian count survey to be carried out at this location.

Concern was expressed on proposed changes to the Local Improvement Scheme and clarification was sought on why people who qualify under the Scheme may not have works carried out to the full laneway. Following discussion, the Executive Engineer agreed to seek clarification from the Transportation and Mobility Directorate on this matter. The Meetings Administrator also stated that an updated application form is awaited which can be forwarded to the Members when available.

An update was sought on a traffic survey, which is to be undertaken at the River Arra and Bridge of Tears roundabout, Newcastle West. In replying, the Executive Engineer, Roads, agreed to follow up on this matter.

The Members referred to the importance of progressing a Distributor Road for Newcastle West to alleviate traffic congestion in the town.

Prior to the conclusion of the Meeting, the Director thanked and acknowledged the support of the Members and staff in the District and other Directorates in progressing various projects over the last five years. He also made reference to the District having two Mayors, Councillor Collins and Councillor Foley during the term of the Council.

The Members thanked all the staff both indoor and outdoor and the previous Meetings Administrators of the District for their support and assistance over the term of this Council.

It was agreed to postpone the holding of the June Meeting of the District until after the Local Elections which are to be held on the 7th June, 2024.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:

