

# **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, 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2024, AT 10AM.**

## **PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:**

Councillor L. Galvin, Cathaoirleach.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Collins, Foley, Ruddle, Scanlan and Sheahan.

## **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mayor of Limerick (Mr. J. Moran), Director, Planning and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. H. Supple), Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District (Mr. J. Sheehan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Valley), Director, Finance, Economic Development and Digital Services (Mr. M. White), Financial Accountant, Finance (Mr. P. Murnane), Management Accountant, Finance (Ms. I. Griffin), Administrative Officer, Property Management (Ms. T. Knox), Executive Engineer, Planning Enforcement (Mr. S. McGrath), Graduate Engineer, Development Management and Place-Making (Mr. E. Hannon), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

Following the Workshop on the Draft Budgetary Plan 2025 and with the permission of the Cathaoirleach, it was proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, and unanimously agreed to adjourn the Municipal District Meeting for ten minutes.

## **1. Support Services Directorate**

### **Draft Budgetary Plan 2025 General Municipal Allocation**

Circulated, Report of Mayor of Limerick dated 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, setting out the background and legal provisions relating to the Draft Budgetary Plan, along with details of the Draft Budgetary Plan 2025 for the Municipal District of Newcastle West in the total sum of €280,800.

The Management Accountant outlined the figures as set out in the report and informed Members that the Draft Budgetary Plan 2025 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.

She also informed the Members that a total of €1,652,500 had been allocated to the General Municipal Allocation for 2025, an increase of €189,500 on the 2024 GMA amount of €1,463,000. She stated that the total amount assigned to the Municipal District of Newcastle

West is €280,800 as follows which represents an increase of €10,800 one 2024 allocation of €270,000.

<b>Svc</b>	<b>General Municipal Allocation -2025</b>	<b>Newcastle West Municipal District</b>
<b>B04</b>	<b>Local Roads</b>	<b>95,000</b>
<b>D05</b>	<b>Tourism Development Recreation &amp; Amenity</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>F04</b>	<b>Community Initiatives</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>D05</b>	<b>Special Projects (Tourism Development Recreation and Amenity)</b>	<b>155,800</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>General Municipal Allocation</b>	<b>280,800</b>

Proposed by: Councillor M. Collins

Seconded by: Councillor T. Ruddle

And Resolved:

“That the Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Newcastle West for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2025, in the total sum of €280,800, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2024.

Proposed by: Councillor Collins

Seconded by: Councillor Ruddle

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 Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

#### **4. To Adopt Standing Orders for the Municipal District of Newcastle West.**

The Meetings Administrator referred to the recently circulated Revised Standing Orders which are proposed for the District in order to align with the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 2024

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, and agreed by all the Members that the Standing Orders be adopted for the District.

#### **5. Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate**

##### **Taking in Charge of Estates – Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

##### **(a) To consider the Taking in Charge of Estate Cluain Arra, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.**

Circulated, report of Senior Planner, Planning, Environment and Place-Making, dated 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle and resolved:

“That Cluain Arra, Newcastle West, be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993”.

##### **(b) To consider the Taking in Charge of Estate Daar River View, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.**

Circulated, report of Senior Planner, Planning, Environment and Place-Making, dated 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle and resolved:

“That Daar River View, Newcastle West, be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993”.

The Members welcomed the Taking in Charge of the estate.

**(c) To consider the Taking in Charge of Estate Dunquin, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.**

Circulated, report of Senior Planner, Planning, Environment and Place-Making, dated 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle and resolved:

“That Dunquin, Newcastle West, be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993”.

The Members welcomed the Taking in Charge of the estate.

**(d) To consider the Taking in Charge of Estate Glenquin Manor, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.**

Circulated, report of Senior Planner, Planning, Environment and Place-Making, dated 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle and resolved:

“That Glenquin Manor, Newcastle West, be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993”.

The Members welcomed the Taking in Charge of the estate.

**(e) To consider the Taking in Charge of Estate Hawthorn Drive, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.**

Circulated, report of Senior Planner, Planning, Environment and Place-Making, dated 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle and resolved:

“That Hawthorn Drive, Newcastle West, be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993”.

The Members welcomed the Taking in Charge of the estate.

## **6. Disposal of Land**

- (a) Circulated, report of Head of Property Management, dated 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, concerning proposal to dispose of property, by way of lease at Main Street, Ardagh, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

- (b) Circulated, report of Head of Property Management, dated 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, concerning proposal to dispose of 16.50 acres (6.677 hectares) of land at Churchtown, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal. A brief discussion took place on the disposal of land to Ortec, Newcastle West and the Members referred to a number of matters including any proposals for buying land in Newcastle West to support businesses who wish to set up in Newcastle West, zoned lands for commercial activity, consideration be given to lands adjacent to zoned lands for re-zoning and the provision of budget for additional zoned lands.

## **7. Rural, Community and Culture Development Directorate.**

### **To consider Community Initiative Scheme for 2024.**

Circulated, report of Administrative Officer, Municipal District of Newcastle West, dated 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2024.

Following discussion at a Workshop held prior to the Meeting, the Members agreed to allocate funding to the organisations as outlined in the report. This was proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Galvin.

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

The Meetings Administrator referred to a review of the General Municipal Allocation application process which was agreed at the October Meeting of the District. She stated that it was agreed that GMA application forms would be submitted in advance of the District Meeting.

Following a brief discussion, there was no allocation of GMA funding at the November Meeting of the District.

## **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.

### **9. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle**

*I will ask at the next Meeting that the Council clean up the Oakpark estate, trees need to be surveyed as some may require removal and the grass area cut as this is leading to dumping and encourages vermin.*

**REPLY:** The Council will arrange an inspection of the area and will undertake a survey of the trees. The Council will arrange for any necessary tree maintenance and also grass maintenance in the area.

### **10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting when the issue of issue of storm water evident fronting and entering Nolan's premises along Station Road will be addressed.*

**REPLY:** The roads, services and footpaths within this industrial estate off Station Road is not in charge of Limerick City and County Council.

### **11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting when footpath repairs will be undertaken fronting the former nursing home at Coolaboy, Dromcollogher.*

**REPLY:** The footpaths will be repaired under the 2025 Roadworks Programme.

### **12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting when ongoing drainage issues on the eastern side of Knockaderry Church will be addressed.*

**REPLY:** During 2022/2023 Limerick City and County Council carried out extensive drainage works, in the meantime these drainage works have been closely examined and have been found to work well. Limerick City and County Council will continue to monitor this area.

### **13. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed update on (a) Lees Cross (b) Dore's Cross (c) Abbeyfeale Bypass (d) Newcastle West Bypass (e) Traffic calming from Moloney's Garage towards Dalton's Cross to include costings and start/completion dates where possible.*

## **REPLY:**

- (a) Part 8 planning was approved for this scheme in 2023 following completion of the preliminary design. Detailed Design and Land Acquisition is currently underway. Following this stage, a detailed programme and project cost will be known.

Subject to the necessary lands being acquired it is intended to proceed to tender in 2025 with works to be complete by 2026.

- (b) Limerick City and County Council are still awaiting confirmation from TII to allow progression of this design and any associated applications for funding.

The proposed scheme considers the construction of a footpath/cycle track 149 metres in length which would join up with the existing designated walkway from the village of Templeglantine to the junction of the N21/L7055. This Scheme will facilitate pedestrian connectivity to Templeglantine GAA Club and improve the junction safety by providing a traffic calming measure.

TII have commented that the recent pavement scheme has also addressed safety concerns at this location.

The cost associated with delivering the proposed improvement scheme identified above is estimated to be €93,813.72 incl. VAT.

Limerick City and County Council will continue to follow up on this scheme and provide an update once available.

- (c), (d) Since our update to you, on the N21 Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West schemes, for the September Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West we have continued through Phase 3 of TII's Project Management Guidelines which includes design and preparation of statutory guidelines.

Our design team are finalising the design to consider additional design requirements including consideration of the active travel facility cross section and the impacts of the 2023 speed limit review. We have also carried out additional environmental surveys and the results have been fed back into the design.

We are on target to publish a further design update early in 2025 and this update will outline the road alignments for each of the schemes and will provide timeline estimates for the progression of the N21 Abbeyfeale and N21 Newcastle West schemes.

We will not have detailed costings until the design has been completed and the required business cases are prepared in accordance with Public Spending Code requirements.

The design update target is subject to the continued support of public funding for the projects.

- (e) Limerick City and County Council are examining options for traffic calming in the form of footpaths from the town park to Dalton's Cross and a pedestrian crossing of the N21 east of the town park. To date funding is not available but we will continue to follow up and provide an update once available.

**14. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on Ray's Estate, Mountcollins, to include road resurfacing, water and lighting.*

**REPLY:** In response to your Question, we are currently in the process of dealing with Uisce Éireann in regards to the costing for the installation of a new watermain and fire hydrant within the estate.

**15. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting (a) who is responsible for the grass cutting on the newly created islands from Mountmahon towards the town (b) can a contract be put in place to have these cut on a regular basis.*

**REPLY:** The areas along the N21 eastern approach to Abbeyfeale will be reviewed as part of the routine maintenance which will be carried out by Limerick City and County Council.

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach, that in absence of Councillor Scanlan, the Notice of Motion at Item No. 18 on the Agenda would be deferred to the December Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

**16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle**

*I will move at the next Meeting that the Council consider extending the footpath from Churchtown out to the Sysco factory. There are over 200 employees working here and it would be of great benefit to the employees to have a linkage to the Town.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

**REPLY:** All potential NTA schemes will have to be vetted and approved by the NTA, this proposal is unlikely to fall under the criteria for their approval.



In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle requested that the footpath from Churchtown to the Sysco factory be extended and that a link from the factory to the Greenway be considered. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that the provision of a footpath from Churchtown to the Sysco factory would require NTA approval and that specific grants are available for Greenway connections which can be considered.

#### **17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle**

*I will move at the next Meeting when the Council expect to resolve the ongoing flooding issue on the Killoughteen road L7076.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council have applied for a grant under the Climate Adaption Fund 2025. It is hoped the necessary funding will be achieved.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle referred to a flooding issue on the Killoughteen Road and in replying, the Executive Engineer stated that a request for funding has been made for the coming year.

#### **19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will move at the next Meeting that speed ramps be installed at the two entrances Athea village (Upper and Lower Athea).*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council installed a raised platform at the Abbeyfeale junction in the village centre of Athea in December 2023. This location was agreed with the Community Council of Athea as being their preferred option of traffic calming. In any case, any new proposals will have to comply with the Traffic Calming Policy 2024.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin requested that speed ramps be installed at the two entrances to Athea Village.

In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that following consultation and agreement with the residents, a raised platform was installed in Athea village. A discussion took place on the installation of speed ramps at various locations in the District and following discussion it was agreed that a priority list for the proposed installation of speed ramps would be compiled. Reference was also made to the 2024 Traffic Calming Policy which needs to be complied with and the provision of funding for these schemes was also raised.

It was agreed to hold the December Meeting of the District on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, at 2 p.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

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**Cathaoirleach**

Dated: