

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ÁRAS SEÁN FINN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE, CO.
LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON TUESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 9.30 A.M.**

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor A. Teskey, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Hartigan, Keary, O'Donoghue and Ward.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development (Mr. S. Duclot), Meetings Administrator (Ms. K. Butler), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. G. O'Connor), Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. O'Keeffe), Head of Property Management (Ms. J. Leahy), Administrative Officer, Property Management (Ms. A. Crowe), Town Regeneration Officer, Rural Development (Ms. K. Burke), Town Development Officer, Rural Development (Mr. S. O'Doherty), Senior Executive Engineer & Client Project Manager Adare Bypass, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. U. Hefferan), Project Resident Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. P. Dillane), A/Senior Engineer, Active Travel (Mr. S. McGlynn), Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel (Ms. S. Kennedy), Executive Engineer, Active Travel (Mr. R. Gorey), Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation (Mr. J. Delaney), A/Senior Executive Officer, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation (Mr. D. White), 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 14th January, 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;

Seconded by Councillor Collins;

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, 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 interest was declared.

3. Property Management Services

Derelict Sites and Vacant Homes Activation Programme

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Jayne Leahy, Head of Property Management and Audrey Crowe, Administrative Officer, Property Management to the Meeting. The Administrative Officer, Property Management gave Members a presentation on the ongoing work on Dereliction and Vacancy in the District adding there are currently 84 properties in the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District on the Derelict Sites Register. The Administrative Officer, Property Management further advised of various works that had been carried out on numerous sites and properties in the District to improve the appearance of the area and address the derelict nature of the properties. This included engaging with the owners of derelict properties and encouraging them to avail of the different schemes available i.e. The Paint Scheme, Repair & Lease and the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant. Members were advised Limerick City and County Council have one of the highest uptake of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme in the Country. It was agreed a presentation would be given to Members at a future Meeting of the District on the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant.

4. Mid West National Road Design Office

Foynes to Limerick Road (Including Adare Bypass) Project

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ultan Heffernan, Senior Executive Engineer & Client Project Manager Adare Bypass and Patrick Dillane, Project Resident Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office to the Meeting.

The Senior Executive Engineer & Client Project Manager Adare Bypass gave Members an update on the current status of the N21 Foynes to Limerick Road (Including Adare Bypass) Project. The project is currently at Phase 5 – Enabling and Procurement. This phase includes the awarding of the contact to Sisk Sorensen Joint Venture. He added construction commenced in September 2024 on the three road over rail bridges with completion dates from Q2 to Q3 of 2025. The planned completion date for the Adare Bypass is in late June 2027.

Discussion ensued, Councillor Teskey requested an update on the NM20 Cork to Limerick Project and also the proposed Distributor Roads Projects in Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale. The Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office advised he would forward the request onto the relevant staff dealing with both these projects.

Councillor Collins advised there were concerns from local residents about the speed lorries were travelling at on roads in the Adare area as well as the condition of the road leading to construction sites presently and stated damage to these roads should be repaired on a weekly basis. Councillor O'Donoghue added such repairs should not be funded by the Adare-Rathkeale District local road maintenance budget. The Senior

Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office advised a haulage road has now been constructed to avoid further damage by lorries travelling on these public roads and added the Contractor will carry out pre construction surveys of the public roads in the vicinity of the Adare Bypass and further surveys will be carried out at the end of the project and will take responsibility for any repair works needed as a result of damage caused during the project.

Members requested an update and progress report on the Limerick to Foynes rail link for the March Municipal District Meeting.

5. Active Travel

The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised Members Item 12 on the Agenda wold be taken in connection with this item.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Hartigan

I will move at the next Meeting to extend an invitation to the Transportation and Mobility Department to discuss the applications submitted for the District under the Active Travel recent schemes.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing gave Members a presentation on Active Travel projects proposed for the Adare-Rathkeale District during 2025 and advised €750,000 in funding was available from the National Transport Authority for three schemes as follows:

- €350,000 for Loghill – this scheme incorporates a School Zone outside the National School along with footpath connectivity, drainage works and public lighting connectivity to the Woodlawn Area.
- €300,000 for Askeaton – this scheme includes a link road connecting Plunkett Road with Railway Road, incorporating widening the carriageway with footpaths on both sides.
- €100,000 for Rathkeale – this scheme includes footpath refurbishment at various locations including Coláiste na Trócaire, Well Lane junction as well as the roundabout towards Holycross on the Askeaton Road.

Discussion ensued in relation to the distribution of Active Travel funds and some Members were of the opinion the distribution was not equal between the City and County. The A/Senior Engineer, Active Travel advised Members the Director of Service, Transport and Mobility was working with the National Transport Authority to secure an increase on current funding levels for Active Travel projects in Limerick City and County.

Councillor Collins requested an update on the proposed extension of the footpath from Kilcornan Church to the Burial Ground. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic

and Cleansing advised this was not an Active Travel project as funding is provided by the Transport Infrastructure Ireland for schemes in towns and villages on the National Roads in the District.

6. Roads, Traffic and Cleansing

District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 11th February, 2025 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing gave Members a presentation on the proposed Adare Water Supply Rationalisation Programme. He advised following an audit carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency on Water Treatment Plants in the area, it was found the existing water network was not fit for purpose and upgrade works were required to reduce burst water mains and water outages. He further advised the upgrade works, which will be carried out by Uisce Éireann on a phased basis, will include twenty four hour road closures at various locations along the route of the scheme for the duration of works and this work will cause significant disruptions to traffic. Members were all in agreement that public awareness would be vital during the construction of this project.

Following discussion the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing informed Members the contractor will liaise directly with anyone effected by the road closures including residents of the area, schools, farmers and other service providers.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

It was agreed Item 13 on the Agenda would be taken next.

NOTICE OF MOTION

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. O'Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting for an opening date to be confirmed for the Askeaton Swimming Pool along with any other updates.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Hartigan and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donoghue told the Meeting he was very aware of the local community in Askeaton desire to have the pool reopened and operational again as a matter of urgency and was of the opinion it should be a priority of the Council to make this happen as soon as possible and he acknowledged that there are only a limited number of operators in the market who operate this type of resource.

Members welcomed Joe Delaney, Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation and Declan White, A/Senior Executive Officer, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation to the Meeting who proceeded to update Members on the plant upgrade works and provision of an operator for the Askeaton Pool and Leisure complex.

The Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation advised Members that the plant upgrade works were nearing completion at Askeaton Pool and it was hoped these works would be complete by the end of February 2025.

The Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation also advised Members his Department were currently in discussions with a potential operator and added that previous discussions with a number of alternative operators had not been successful.

The Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation told members his Department are not in a position to re-open the pool until an operator is secured and agreed to update Members as soon as the process is complete and an operator is secured to run the facility in Askeaton.

Following discussion the Cathaoirleach requested the Communications Department of Limerick City and County Council would issue a formal statement with regard to the status of the upgrade works and the appointment of an operator when the process of securing an operator is complete in order to alleviate the frustrations of the local community and surrounds of Askeaton.

Reply: Upgrade works to the Askeaton Pool and Leisure facility are not yet complete but are nearing substantial completion.

The Council are liaising with a potential operator at the moment, however, it is difficult to advise an opening date at this time given the process is still on-going.

7. Travel and Transport Strategy

Footpath from Kildimo to the Beer Garden Public House

The Meetings Administrator advised Members the following update was received from Natasha McGarry, Senior Executive Engineer, Travel & Transport Strategy:

“The required lands have been purchased and negotiations are ongoing with the property owners along the section of unfinished footpath on the N69 at Kildimo. A Section 50 was submitted to the Office of Public Works and approved in July 2024. The Road Safety Audit was completed in 2024. The Traffic Infrastructure Ireland requested a Preliminary Design Report which was submitted in October 2024. An updated Options and Feasibility Report was submitted to the Traffic Infrastructure Ireland in January 2025 and we await confirmation of funding to prepare the detailed design and contract documents to

construct the scheme. It is hoped funding will be allocated in 2025 to complete the scheme”.

Members noted the update and requested the attendance of the Travel & Transport Strategy Department at the March Municipal District Meeting to discuss the matter further.

8. Planning, Environment and Place Making

Flood Relief Scheme for Adare

The Meetings Administrator advised Members the following update was received from John Moloney, Senior Executive Engineer, Planning, Environment and Place Making:

“Consultants working on the Adare Flood Relief Scheme are nearing completion of the preferred option for flood defences along the River Maigue and Adare Stream. This option has been shaped by extensive analysis of hydrological, environmental, heritage, and archaeological factors, ensuring it provides robust flood protection while respecting Adare's sensitive context. The next step is to seek Office of Public Works's approval to proceed to planning. Once approved, a detailed planning application will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in the second quarter of this year. This submission is a critical milestone towards implementing the necessary flood relief measures to safeguard the Adare community”.

This response was welcomed by Members and Councillor Collins requested John Moloney, Senior Executive Engineer, Planning, Environment and Place Making attend the March Municipal District Meeting to present the Plan to Members.

9. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

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

- €1,000 to Rathkeale Community Council.
- €5,000 to Our Lady's Abbey National School, Adare.
- €1,000 to Adare Saint Patrick's Day Parade.
- €1,000 to Askeaton Saint Patrick's Day Parade.
- €2,000 to Askeaton/Ballysteen Community Council.
- €1,500 to Adare First Responders.
- €1,500 to Abha Bhán Parish Park.
- €500 to City of Limerick Pipe Band.

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

- €1,000 to Adare Saint Patrick's Day Parade.
- €2,000 to Askeaton Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

- €1,000 to Rathkeale Community Council.
- €1,000 to Abha Bhán Parish Park.
- €1,000 to City of Limerick Pipe Band.

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

- €1,000 to Adare Saint Patrick's Day Parade.
- €1,000 to Askeaton Saint Patrick's Day Parade.
- €1,000 to Rathkeale Community Council.
- €4,000 to Abha Bhán Parish Park.
- €2,000 to Coolcappagh Community Council.

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

- €1,000 to Adare Saint Patrick's Day Parade.
- €1,000 to Askeaton Saint Patrick's Day Parade.
- €1,000 to Rathkeale Community Council.
- €1,000 to Abha Bhán Parish Park.
- €500 to City of Limerick Pipe Band.

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

- €1,000 to Askeaton Saint Patrick's Day Parade.
- €1,000 to Rathkeale Community Council.
- €500 to City of Limerick Pipe Band.

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

- €1,000 to Rathkeale Community Council.
- €1,000 to Askeaton Saint Patrick's Day Parade.
- €1,000 to Adare Saint Patrick's Day Parade.
- €1,000 to Abha Bhán Parish Park.
- €5,000 to Askeaton/Ballysteen GAA Club.
- €2,000 to Ballyneety Men's Shed.

10. Request to receive a Deputation from Foynes Flying Boat Museum

The Meetings Administrator informed Members that a request to receive a Deputation had been received from representatives of Foynes Flying Boat Museum. Members agreed further discussion would take place on this matter and would revert in due course.

11. Request to receive a briefing from Tusla

The Meetings Administrator informed Members that a request had been received from representatives of Tusla to consider a briefing on the fostering process. It was agreed to receive this briefing at the April Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District Meeting.

14. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____