

**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, 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 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 of Service, Planning and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray), 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), A/Senior Executive Officer, Municipal District (Ms. K. White), Head of Property Management (Ms. J. Leahy), Administrative Officer, Property Management (Ms. A. Crowe), Vacant Homes Officer, Property Management Services (Mr. D. O'Grady), Executive Technician, Property and Community Facilities (Mr. G. O'Donovan), Technician, Property and Community Facilities (Mr. G. Lawinski), Administrative Officer, Property Management (Ms. T. Knox), Senior Executive Engineer & Client Project Manager – Adare Bypass, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. U. Heffernan), Project Resident Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. P. Dillane), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Catchment Flood Risk and Management (Mr. D. Ryan), Senior Executive Engineer, Limerick Clare Energy Agency, Environment and Climate Action (Mr. C. McDonagh), 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 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Collins;  
Seconded by Councillor Keary;  
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. Disposal of Land**

Circulated, report of the Head of Property Management dated 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2025 setting out proposals for the disposal of 0.0097 acres (0.0039 hectares) of land at Main Street, Askeaton, 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 Collins and agreed.

### **4. Deputation from Coolcappa Action Group**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed representatives from Coolcappa Action Group to the Meeting. The Deputation consisted of Ms. Noreen O'Mara, Brenda Dowling and Donal Egan.

Ms. Dowling addressed the Meeting advising the Coolcappa Community Action Group was formed in 2022 following the announcement of the proposed construction of a wind farm in their local community. She outlined the potential health effects, such as noise pollution and shadow flicker, the wind turbines would have on the community. She requested Members support their campaign and consider putting forward a resolution to include public health protection in any future planning applications for wind turbines in the District.

Discussion ensued in relation to the World Health Organisation having lower decibel level criteria than Limerick City and County Council and sought clarity on the discrepancy. The Director, Planning and Place-Making advised he would request Simon Jennings, Executive Scientist, Environment and Climate Action Department to attend a future meeting of the District to discuss the issues raised.

The Delegation thanked Members for the opportunity to discuss their concerns and they then withdrew from the Meeting.

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

#### **Flood Relief Scheme for Adare**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Jonathan Reid, from Ryan Hanley Consulting to the Meeting. Mr. Reid gave Members an update on the project to date which included:

- Opening consultation and constraints study.
- Data collection environmental surveys and investigation contracts.
- Hydrology, hydraulic modelling and draft flood mapping.
- Geotechnical assessments, option assessment and public participation events which took place in November 2023 and May 2024.
- Environmental assessments.

Mr. Reid advised Members environmental assessments would be finalised in the near future and a presentation of the scheme would be put forward for Gateway Approval by the Office of Public Works Board. If the proposed scheme is successful it would then advance to planning stage.

Following discussion Councillor Teskey requested the proposed Flood Relief Scheme for Askeaton be progressed prior to the reopening of Askeaton Pool and Leisure Centre. The Senior Executive Engineer, Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management agreed he would correspond with Martin McDonnell in the Office of Public Works and request a review of the proposed Askeaton Flood Relief Scheme.

## **6. Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development Directorate**

### **Croí Cónaithe – Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed staff from the Property Management Services Department to the Meeting. The Vacant Homes Officer, Property Management Services proceeded to provide Members with a presentation on the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme offered to homeowners who have a vacant properties which they would like to refurbish as a principal private residence or make available as a rental property. The grant criteria applies to properties that have been vacant for more than two years prior to date of application and constructed prior to and including 2007 and added the grant does not include agricultural or storage buildings.

The Vacant Homes Officer, Property Management Services advised Members grants of up to €50,000 are available, however, where refurbishment costs are expected to exceed this amount a further maximum amount up to €20,000 may be available providing a report is received from an independent qualified professional to verify the property is in a derelict state and further added the types of refurbishment work supported by the grant scheme which include:

- Demolition and site clearance.
- Substructure works.
- Completion of windows and doors, skirting, fascias and soffits.
- Plumbing, heating, ventilation, power, smoke and CO2 detection.
- Kitchen and bathroom fittings.
- Professional services such as fees and surveys associated with the works.

Discussion ensued, Members raised the issue in relation to the amount of grant funding private homeowners currently receive under the Housing Adaptation Grant for Older People grant scheme. Members requested this funding be increased by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage due to the rise in material and construction costs.

## **7. Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services Directorate**

### **Gortadroma Landfill**

The Senior Executive Engineer, Limerick Clare Energy Agency, Environment and Climate Action updated Members on the Expression of Interest received for the potential future use of the Gortadroma Landfill as previously presented to Members. He advised one submission was received proposing a solar farm be built on the site and the next step with this option would be to have a feasibility study done of the site. Councillor Teskey requested the costs associated with a feasibility study and requested an estimated profit figure for Limerick City and County Council should this option proceed. The Senior Executive Engineer, Limerick Clare Energy Agency, Environment and Climate Action advised costs of approximately €25,000 to carry out a feasibility study and profits in the region of €13,000 per month would apply to Limerick City and County Council.

## **8. Transport and Mobility Directorate**

### **Foynes to Limerick Road (including the Adare Bypass) Project**

The Senior Executive Engineer & Client Project Manager – Adare Bypass, Mid West National Road Design Office updated Members on the progress to date on the Foynes to Limerick Road (including the Adare Bypass) Project, which includes:

- Site access works at Croagh and Contractor mobilisation to site.
- Embankment works at Croagh Link Road.
- Excavation works at Croagh Interchange.
- Excavation from mainline cut area.
- Topsoil stripping and formation proofing adjacent to Clonshire River, adjacent the L1422 and the Greanagh River.
- Excavation from borrow pit and placement in adjacent fill area.
- Railbridge RB02 deck poured.
- ESB diversion works.
- Construction of piling platform on the west bank of the River Maigne Bridge.
- Deck steel fixing at railbridge RB03.
- Article 27 fill placement areas between the Adare Bypass and the motorway.

The Senior Executive Engineer & Client Project Manager – Adare Bypass, Mid West National Road Design Office advised his Department are currently finalising a consultancy brief with a view to appointing consultants to prepare Contract documents for the construction of the remainder of the Project with an aim of having the project fully completed by the end of 2030.

Members requested that they be kept updated on any potential development on the 3km stretch from the dual carriageway to the Adare Lantern Lodge not currently included in the overall scheme.

## **9. District Engineers Report**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

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

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

- €4,000 to Crecora GAA Club.
- €4,000 to Croagh/Kilfinny Camogie Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Hartigan, seconded by Councillor Teskey, it was agreed to allocate €5,000 to Scoil Mhuire National School, Pallaskenry.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **11. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will ask at the next Meeting does this Local Authority carry out independent noise monitoring in areas in which wind farms exist, if so how often do these take place and what repercussions are to be imposed on such a development if noise levels are recorded as unsatisfactory.**

#### **REPLY:**

The Council does undertake noise monitoring where complaints are received with respect to noise from wind farms. Since 2008 the Council has investigated noise complaints regarding five wind farms in County Limerick. The Council assesses wind turbine noise levels against relevant conditions granted under planning, best practice and guidance where available. Where wind farm noise is considered to be unsatisfactory the Council has a variety of enforcement actions it can take under the Planning and Development Act (2000 as amended) and Environmental Protection Agency Act (1992 as amended), or in the most severe cases an application to the Courts for an injunction. In all cases the Council will attempt to engage with complainants and operators to find a satisfactory solution to a complaint.

**12. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will ask at the next Meeting what are the official speed limits now on the N21 particularly on entering and exiting Croagh. Was the limit changed recently. If so by who and who authorised such change.**

**REPLY:** The Road Traffic Act 2004 introduced the provision for a County or City Manager (now CE) to apply, by order, a Special Speed Limit in respect of Road Works ( Road Works Speed Limit Order).

Temporary Works Speed Limits have been introduced on the N21 at Smithfield, Croagh and at Gortaganniff, Adare following consultation with An Garda Siochana and with TII. Temporary Speed limits have also been introduced on Kildimo L1423 and Askeaton L1422 roads out of Adare.

These temporary speed limits are to facilitate the construction of new roundabouts on the N21 as part of the Foynes to Limerick road- Adare Bypass and associated site traffic entering /exiting the site. Similarly, the temporary Speed Limits on the Kildimo and Askeaton roads out of Adare are to facilitate works interfacing with local roads.

Specifically with respect to Croagh- heading in the direction of Adare from Croagh, the existing 60km/hr zone is extended eastwards.

The 60km/hr zone is then reduced to 50km/hr zone until past the proposed works area where the 50km/hr steps up to a 60km/hr zone and from then up to a 100km/hr zone.

**13. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will ask at the next Meeting how much was paid out by Limerick City and County Councils Insurance Department for all public liability associated claims and costs in 2024.**

**REPLY:** All Public Liability Claims notified to Limerick City and County Council are managed on the Council's behalf by Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Limited.

In 2024, 215 Claims were settled at a total cost of €3,527,131.

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will move at the next Meeting that the May District Meeting takes place in St. Mary's National School, Croom.**

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

**15. Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_