

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON TUESDAY, 3RD JUNE, 2025, AT 10AM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor L. Galvin, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Foley, Galvin, Scanlan and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development (Mr. S. Duclot), Town Centre First Officer, Rural Development (Ms. K. Burke), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. H. Supple), Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District (Mr. J. Sheehan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

APOLOGIES:

A/Senior Executive Officer, Municipal Districts (Ms. K. White).

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Galvin welcomed everyone in attendance to the June Meeting of the District.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 6th May, 2025.

Councillor Scanlan referred to the Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 6th May, 2025. He asked that it be noted in the Minutes that Councillor Scanlan seconded Councillor Galvin's General Municipal Allocation of €1,000 to Tournafulla GAA for fencing.

Proposed by: Councillor Scanlan

Seconded by: Councillor Galvin

And Resolved:

"That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read, adopted and signed, subject to the amendment outlined above to the Minutes of the Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 6th May, 2025".

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

3. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Ashford Festival Group for the organising of the festival.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Ashford Festival Group for the organising of the festival.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Ashford Festival Group for the organising of the festival.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €908 incl. VAT towards the repair of headstone in St. Ita's Graveyard (Old Cemetery).

The Meetings Administrator stated that a request was made by the Newcastle West Music Trail Committee that the General Municipal Allocation funding for the Newcastle West Music Trail be paid to the Newcastle West Community Council in the absence of a bank account for the Newcastle West Music Trail, which is currently being addressed by the trail. Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed by all, that the GMA funding allocation be paid to the Newcastle West Community Council, subject to approval in writing being sought from the Newcastle West Community Council that the funding allocation would then be given to the Newcastle West Music Trail.

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.

4. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the proposed footpath extension from the Creamery at the Bridge of Tears to the Castlemahon road.

REPLY: Currently the NTA office at Barrow House have procured a consultant to carry out the design for these works. It is hoped that by Q3 2025, a design proposal will be available.

5. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on (a) The bollards planned for the Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale (b) The extension of the Bye Laws up to the Greyhound and Pet World premises, Abbeyfeale (c) An update on the Programme of Works for Collins Park, Abbeyfeale, (d) An update on the extension of the footpath out to Dalton's Cross, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY:

- (a) Agreement was reached and if funding comes available before the year end the works will be carried out. The estimate for the works is between €30k and €40k and currently there is no funding stream available.
- (b) Limerick City and County Council contacted the Gardaí to seek their approval and the Gardaí have responded positively. In order to proceed this further it will be necessary to advertise in the local newspapers and make public our intention to extend the byelaws at this location. Based on the timeframe required, it will be presented to the Councillors for adoption at the October Municipal District Meeting.
- (c) The Roads and Housing Section have agreed that planned works can be carried out on the entry section to Collins Park estate whereby the outer random rubble surfaced footpath will be removed and replaced with a concrete footpath. Please note where bollards exist these will be replaced by trees. Surfacing will be carried out where required from the entrance to Collins Park to the first junction on the right. This programme commenced on the 26th May.
- (d) There is currently a restructuring occurring within TII. Limerick City & County Council have requested a meeting with the TII Active Travel Department to discuss funding opportunities for a number of schemes within the County. The projects under discussion will include the proposed project to extend the footpath out to Dalton's Cross in Abbeyfeale.

6. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed update on the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan.

REPLY:

The primary challenge currently facing the Phase 1 Works is the funding shortfall. Additional sources of funding are actively being explored and a Meeting has been requested with Uisce Éireann by Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) on behalf of the Mayor to help unlock

further financial support.

The Phase 1 works package has been revised to reflect necessary changes following positive engagement with utility providers, including ESB and EIR. An additional topographical survey was conducted on Pump House Lane to finalise a specific design element. While a few minor updates remain, the works package is effectively ready to proceed to Tender.

7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the Flood Relief Scheme for Abbeyfeale (Mart bridge towards the rear of the soccer field).

REPLY:

In response to flooding experienced in Abbeyfeale on 23 November 2024 due to Storm Bert, Limerick City and County Council requested that a Scheme Viability Review for Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick is considered to be undertaken by OPW – please find OPW response below. Based on this response, the Newcastle West Municipal District will compile a Flood Map Review Request Form for further consideration by the Office of Public Works.

“I write to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 30th January, 2025 on behalf of the elected members of the Newcastle West Municipal District relating to a Flood Relief Scheme for Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick and the elected members request for a Scheme Viability Review to be carried out.

The Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) identified 300 areas nationwide that required further flood risk assessment, Abbeyfeale being one of those areas. The Flood Risk Management Plan for Tralee Bay – Rive Feale Basin, assigned a Baseline Measure “Do Nothing” and the Non-Structural measure “Public Awareness”, however neither of these measures could provide the required standard of protection of 1% AEP.

The OPW’s Predictive Flood Maps produced under the National Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme and as part of Flood Relief Schemes were developed from detailed engineering analysis and modelling. Updates and revisions to these Flood Maps may occasionally be required due to a change in physical conditions, detection of errors or based on other specific evidence.

A Flood Map Review is a two-stage process with the first stage representing a screening exercise. Where there is sufficient evidence provided that a published Flood Map does not reflect the current conditions, the OPW will proceed to a detailed re-assessment of the area in question.

For full details of the Flood Map Review Programme Guidance Note go to www.floodinfo.ie.

If Newcastle West Municipal District would like to request a new Flood Map Review, please submit a completed [Flood Map Review Request Form](#) to floodinfo@opw.ie.

Limerick City and County Council can introduce localised flood mitigation measures in Abbeyfealec with 90% funding from the OPW's Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Scheme. Under the minor works scheme, applications are considered for projects that are estimated to cost not more than €750,000.

I hope the above information is of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Martina Kiernan

"Private Secretary to the Minister of State, Kevin Moran TD"

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when road lining will occur at Cooliska Cross as well as a number of other junctions in our Municipality.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council are carrying out a junction marking programme this year and in subsequent years, the funding to carry out this work is provided under the general maintenance programme.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that this Authority liaise with the local Driving Test Centre in terms of appropriate safety observation when conducting tests in the Daar River View Area.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council have no legal basis to interfere with driving test centre activity while operational on a public roadway.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting the number of insurance claims made against this Municipality in respect of (a) Falls on footpaths and (b) Pothole induced damage to cars on our roads network in 2023, 2024 as well as the current year to date.

REPLY:

(a) All personal injury claims are managed on the Council's behalf by I.P.B Insurance. The Member Quarterly Management Claims Trend Report for Quarter 4 2024 attached provides full details on all personal injury claims for the period 2022 – 2024.

The level of detail requested above is not available from the I.P.B system. The report gives a breakdown of the different cause trends across all claim types.

- (b) The table attached provides details on all pothole-induced damage to cars on our roads network in 2023, 2024 as well as the current year to date for the Municipal District of Newcastle West. Within those years, the total amount of claims referred to Third Parties for attention was 8, as works were not carried out by Limerick City and County Council.

Municipal District of Newcastle West

2023	25
2024	21
2025	7

Attached below is supporting documentation.

11. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting that the Limerick City and County Council cut back the grass at the following locations (a) Ballynoe Cross (b) Castlemahon/Ardrine Cross. They are badly overgrown and it is difficult to see.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council have engaged the services of a hedge cutting contractor and hedge cutting operations at these junctions will be carried out in order to improve sightlines.

NOTICES OF MOTION

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that the hedgerow on the right hand side at Woodfield Grove on the boundary with Newcastle West Town FC pitch be cleaned and the green palisade fence be continued to the end of the road. This is to stop illegal dumping and antisocial behaviour.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: A Meeting will be arranged onsite to clarify the extent of the works required.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins referred to the issue of anti-social behaviour occurring on a nightly basis and to correspondence received from An Garda Síochána who are monitoring the situation. The fencing at the Woodfield Green end of DC Manor which ends abruptly and access to a stream at the back of social housing was raised. A request was also made to have the ESB substation protected in the interest of safety. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a Meeting has taken place on site and quotations are also

awaited from FRS Fencing. It was agreed that a further update would be given at the July Meeting of the District.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council present a detailed report of submissions made to the Department of Transport for repairs badly needed on the N21 over the past two years. Please give the following: (a) Locations on the N21 where works are/were required (b) Dates of submissions (c) Costings and replies to each submission.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council have completed a report on pavement maintenance and funding submissions for the N21. The report will be presented at the July Municipal District Meeting or an agreeable date.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to the poor condition of the N21 at various locations including the Kerry bounds towards Abbeyfeale up to the Church, a section of the N21 towards Adare and queried if submissions have been made to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for funding. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a comprehensive report on this matter is to be presented to the Members at the July Meeting of the District. He stated that submissions have been made to Transport Infrastructure Ireland and that these submissions are subject to funding. He also referred to the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan for the town of Abbeyfeale and that any submissions made to Transport Infrastructure Ireland will not include this section of the N21.

The level of funding allocated to line marking was raised and to the placing of continuous white lines outside premises which is hindering access to premises. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a continuous white line does not prohibit a person from entering a premises. Following discussion, the Senior Executive Engineer agreed to forward the Traffic Management Guidelines to the Members. The issue of road safety on roads was also raised.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that a safety survey be carried out at the exit from Liosán on to Sheahan's Road at Gortboy, Newcastle West.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: This area has been examined and it is not deemed to require a road safety audit.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to the issue of safety exiting Liosán housing estate onto Sheahan's Road near the funeral parlour and to lighting at this location. Following discussion, it was agreed that contact would be made with the ESB with regard to the lighting at this location.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that safety measures be considered as a matter of urgency on both approaches to Bunoke Bridge on the R 522.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: Safety measures will be considered as a proposal for the 2026 Low Cost Safety Scheme programme.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to safety on both approaches to the Bunoke Bridge and in replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that safety measures at this location will be considered as a proposal under the Low Cost Safety Schemes in 2026.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council take up and refit the slab footpaths in The Square, Newcastle West and surrounding streets. This has led to accidents and potential claims in recent times. Also, long term to provide a better type of path.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY:

Limerick City and County Council have a maintenance crew working within the Newcastle West town centre assessing potential trip hazard locations and repairing same and this work will continue. Long term, Limerick City and County Council are seeking funding from Planning and Place Making to extend the remedials beyond The Square.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle referred to the condition of the slab footpaths in The Square, Newcastle West and requested that these slabs be replaced in the interest of safety. Reference was made to accidents which have taken place in The Square, Newcastle West and in North Quay in Newcastle West. In replying, the Town Centre First Officer referred to a proposed Mayoral Allocation of €100,000 for a project in the Square, Newcastle West which is not for general maintenance but rather for features in The Square to be delivered upon by year end. Following discussion, the Members proposed that 50% of this allocation be spent on general maintenance in The Square, Newcastle West and in replying, the Town Centre First Officer agreed to revert to the Mayor with regard to this request.

17. Correspondence

Correspondence as circulated was noted by the Members.

However, a discussion took place on the funding allocation of €325 million allocated to Local Authorities in 2025 to buy social housing second hand properties with a particular focus on tenant in situ acquisitions. The specific allocation of €15 million allocated to Limerick City and County Council was raised and following a discussion a request was made that clarity be sought on how much Limerick City and County Council asked for in the first place and if a request has been made for additional funding since the €15 million allocation. It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would revert to the relevant Directorate on this matter.

The following items were also raised.

Reference was made to the hold-up of the Sycamore Crescent housing development in Newcastle West due to Uisce Éireann issues and in replying, the Meetings Administrator agreed to seek an update from the relevant Directorate on this matter.

The budget for the Housing Grants in the District which is now exhausted was raised and in replying, the Meetings Administrator stated that a request has been made for additional funding and a response is awaited. A discussion took place on what measures can be taken in the interim to progress the housing grants and following discussion, it was agreed that a detailed update will be sought from the relevant Directorate on this matter. A request was also made that the funding allocated to the Metropolitan District for Housing Grants be made available. Concern was also expressed over the shortfall in funding across the Local Authority and the Members wished to have this matter noted.

The strengthening and enhancement of the Municipal Districts was raised. A request was also made to have the Housing Engineer present at the Municipal District Meetings. In replying, the Director stated that if there is a particular item on the Agenda for Housing, the relevant person from the Housing Directorate can then be invited to attend the Meeting.

The Members wished to congratulate the Limerick Senior Football Team and Management on their recent win when playing Westmeath in the Tailteann Cup Tournament.

The Meetings Administrator referred to the Community Initiative Scheme for 2025 and it was agreed that a Workshop would take place on Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025, at 9.15 a.m., at Áras William Smith O'Brien to discuss this matter.

It was agreed to hold the July Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated: