

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN
ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST,
CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 2ND JULY, 2025, AT 10AM.**

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor M. Collins, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Foley, Galvin, Ruddle, Scanlan and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development (Mr. S. Duclot), A/Senior Executive Officer, Municipal Districts (Ms. K. White), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. H. Supple), Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District (Mr. J. Sheehan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Senior Executive Engineer, Planning and Place-Making (Mr. D. Reynolds), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. O'Keeffe), Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. E. Harrison), Administrative Officer, Property Management (Ms. T. Knox), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Collins welcomed everyone in attendance to the July Meeting of the District.

1. Adoption of Minutes

(a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 4th June, 2025.

Proposed by: Councillor Sheahan

Seconded by: Councillor Scanlan

And Resolved:

“That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed”.

(b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 4th June, 2025.

Proposed by: Councillor Foley

Seconded by: Councillor Galvin

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 Cathoairleach 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 19th June, 2025, concerning proposal to dispose of Property at Feoghanagh, Co. Limerick, V42P578.

Following discussion, the Members noted the proposal.

(b) Circulated, report of Head of Property Management, dated 19th June, 2025, concerning proposal to dispose of Property (Garage) at Feoghanagh, Co. Limerick.

Following discussion, the Members noted the proposal.

(c) Circulated, report of Head of Property Management, dated 19th June, 2025, concerning proposal to dispose of Property at 13 The Hawthorns, Ballyagran, Co. Limerick.

Following discussion, the Members noted the proposal.

The Administrative Officer, Property Management also gave an update to the Members on the above Disposals.

4. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

To Receive Presentation on submissions made to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for funding to carry out roadwork repairs on the N21.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Senior Executive Engineer and the Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing to the Meeting.

The Senior Executive Engineer gave an overview of funding mechanisms for pavement schemes and repairs in the District.

He stated that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) has a comprehensive Defect Management System which oversees and addresses faults across the national road network and these faults are recorded as Geo Apps. He also stated that the TII oversees a comprehensive programme of pavement maintenance and renewal across the national road network and while the TII

sets the strategic direction and allocates funding, the Regional Design Office plays a pivotal role in managing and delivering these larger-scale pavement schemes.

The Senior Executive Engineer referred to HD28 Schemes which are targeted maintenance or resurfacing projects developed in response to HD28 survey results and the goal is to restore skid resistance and enhance road safety. He stated that the TII addresses urgent pavement issues through various emergency and reactive maintenance schemes, ensuring the national road network remains safe and operational. He made reference to the PARR Report (Pavement Asset Repair and Renewal report) which is a document which outlines the rationale behind choosing a specific pavement solution for repair or renewal on a national road network.

He stated that the total spend on N21 Road Pavement in 2024 is €1,839,000.00. He outlined to the Members locations and funding provided for the minor pavement maintenance Geo Apps submitted and completed 2022-2024, Pavement Schemes and HD 28s 2022-2024, Emergency Pavement Schemes submitted and delivered 2024 and Emergency Pavement Schemes submitted 2025. He referred to future schemes which include the Abbeyfeale Public Realm Scheme on the N21 National Primary Road at Abbeyfeale.

The Members thanked the Executive Engineer for the detailed update and expressed concern at the condition of the road surface at various sections along the N21 to include the Kerry bounds towards Abbeyfeale, Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale, sections of the N21 in Newcastle West and towards Adare. The Members also expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of funding and queried when funding will be made available.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would write to the Mr. Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Transport, Deputies O'Donovan, Collins and O'Donoghue with regard to this matter and also ask if there is provision in place to upgrade the N21 in light of the Ryder Cup which is due to take place in Adare in 2027.

5. Planning and Place-Making Directorate

To receive Update on Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Senior Executive Engineer, Planning and Place-Making, to the Meeting.

The Senior Executive Engineer gave an update to the Members on the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan. He gave an overview of the scheme including the 2018 Part VIII for the Scheme and the Part VIII Compliance. He outlined to the Members the current overall scheme and the works under the current Phase 1 Works and current Phase 2 Works.

He referred to the demolition of O'Riordan's Pub, site clearance, the temporary car park and the demolition of property at Junction of Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale. He stated that the Detailed Design Stage, Phase 1 is nearing completion and that a Quantity Surveyor is pricing Phase 1 Bill of Quantities to generate the tender estimate. He referred to a Meeting which was held with Uisce Éireann on the 25th June regarding funding sought.

He outlined to the Members proposed changes to Phase 1 and 2 of the project. He referred to the Committed Funding as at June 2025 and the Estimated Costs as at June 2025 which represents a substantial shortfall for the project. He stated that the primary challenge currently facing Phase 1 Works is the funding shortfall. He outlined to the Members the various value engineering proposals for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project and to cost exercises which are to be undertaken. The Senior Executive Engineer agreed to revert to the Members with an update on the cost exercises at the September Meeting of the District.

A discussion took place on a number of matters including the shortfall in funding, the opening of the car park, timeframe for progression of the project, and Part 8 for the project. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that the timeframe for the project will depend on the cost exercise but initially a ten month period is envisaged for the programme.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Mayor, Director General and Deputies O'Donovan and Collins would be invited to attend a Meeting of the District to discuss progression of the project.

6. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €500 for remedial works on the L7089 at the Hill Road, Abbeyfeale.

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

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €450 to the Newcastle West Music Trail.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Killeedy Hall Management Committee.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Killeedy Hall Management Committee.

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

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Fleadh by the Feale Committee.

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On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Templeglantine Community Development.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Templeglantine Community Development.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Desmond Scribblers Writers Group.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 for drainage works on the L8585 at Ballyagran.

An application for General Municipal Allocation was submitted by Dromcollogher Carnival Committee and it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would revert to the Committee with regard to other expenditure items to be submitted.

It was agreed that a list of groups who have not drawn down their General Municipal Allocation would be compiled for discussion at a Workshop to be held directly before the September 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.

7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting that drainage works be carried out at the Grove Road in Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will survey the road and assess the need for drainage. A meeting will be arranged on site to discuss what actions are required.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on (a) the bollards for the Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale and (b) the parking byelaws from the school up to the Greyhound and Pet World.

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.

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for someone to be available to discuss the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan and a detailed financial report be given.

REPLY: Donnacha Reynolds, Senior Executive Engineer and Kieran O'Brien, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Planning and Place-Making, will attend the July Meeting to provide an update on the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that a disabled parking bay be provided at Main Street, Ardagh.

REPLY: The road is narrow and it may not suitable to allocate a disabled bay along Main Street. A Meeting onsite will be arranged to investigate further.

11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when (a) reinstatement of a collapsed section of R522 through Feohanagh Village will take place (b) when the new footpath towards the Community House will be delivered.

REPLY:

- (a) The collapsed section of roadway will be dealt with within the NTA scheme.
- (b) The footpath scheme will commence on Friday 20th June.

12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that the road verge opposite Church View Estate and Castlemahon Church be cut back.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council are carrying out a drainage scheme in Castlemahon currently and this scheme extends to the Church and beyond. Limerick City and County Council will set back the road verge within that scheme.

NOTICES OF MOTION

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the road from the Church in Tournafulla over to Keating's Bar be resurfaced.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheehan.

REPLY: This scheme forms part of the Roadworks Scheme 2025 and works are due to commence early July.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to the road works from the Church in Tournafulla to Keating's Bar and that access to the households be maintained. In replying, the Executive Engineer stated that road reconstruction works is taking place from the bridge/GAA field to Fr. McCarthy Terrace, Tournafulla and that the remaining part of the village will be considered under the Roadworks Scheme 2026 subject to Department funding.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will move at the next Meeting that speed ramps be put in place in Mountcollins village in the interest of safety.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: An investigation will be carried out and the need will have to comply with the Traffic Calming Policy 2024 and funding will have to be sourced.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Foley requested that speed ramps be put in place in Mountcollins village and in replying, the Senior Executive Engineer referred to the installation of speed ramps around schools which is a priority. The Members referred to the need for speed ramps at other locations in the District and the placing of rumble strips was also raised. Following a brief discussion, the Senior Executive Engineer agreed to assess this matter.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will move at the next Meeting that the new car park formally known as Riordan's Bar be open to the public.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

The temporary nature of the surfacing within the car park area, along with the lack of adequate lighting and road markings, does not make it suitable for regular use. Permanent

access for patrons would require appropriate surfacing, lighting, and drainage infrastructure. These works are included as part of the planned “Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan”.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Foley requested an update on the provision of car parking at the rear of Main Street previously known as Riordan’s Bar and if this work is being progressed. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer, Planning and Place-Making stated that a Cost Exercise is to be undertaken shortly.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that immediate action is taken by the Local Authority in respect of significant local safety concerns attending to Clounagh Creamery.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: Irish Water are currently appointing a contractor to make safe Clounagh Creamery and the works are due to commence shortly.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to storm damage to the roof and to safety concerns.

A discussion took place on what works are proposed for Clounagh creamery, who has title to the property and possible demolition of same to make it safe. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek clarification on this matter.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that this Local Authority provide a guide in terms of support to residents locally where health and safety is at risk consequent to extreme weather events.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

Based on the snow event that occurred in January 2025, Limerick City and County Council appointed a social worker to deal with humanitarian issues. On previous rainfall and storm events, the Local Area Office dealt with the situation adequately.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to the significant downpour of rain which took place in May and to the flooding of a number of premises at this time. Reference was made to the cause of noxious odours in Church Street and Maiden Street, Newcastle West and in replying, the Executive Engineer stated that this matter is being investigated by the Environment Section. It was agreed that the Executive Engineer would seek an update for the September Municipal District Meeting and if not resolved at that stage, a Meeting would take place with the Environment Section.

18. Correspondence

Correspondence as circulated was noted by the Members.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on the placing of continuous white lines outside premises and in replying the Senior Executive Engineer referred to the Department of Transport Traffic Signs Manual 2010 Chapter 7 which states that drivers may cross a continuous centre line to enter or leave land or a premises on the right hand side of the road and that it is not necessary to break the line at such locations. It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would forward the relevant extract from the Traffic Signs Manual to the Members.

The carrying out of appropriate safety observations when conducting driving tests in the Daar River View area was raised. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer agreed to meet with representatives of the Driving Test Centre on this matter.

An update was sought on the allocation of funding for housing grants. In replying, the Meetings Administrator stated that an application has been made for additional funding and an update is expected shortly. A discussion took place on the shortfall in funding for administration of the housing grants, the drawing down of funding and following discussion, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek clarification on the budget request and the budget allocation received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. It was also agreed that the Meetings Administrator would write to Deputies O'Donovan, O'Donoghue and Collins with regard to this matter.

The extension of the bye-laws up to and including the Greyhound and Pet World premises in Abbeyfeale was raised and in replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that this matter is ongoing and will be put on public display shortly.

An update was requested on when Masterplan for the playground at the Demesne would be placed on public display and it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek an update from the relevant Directorate on this matter.

The carrying out of road overlay works at the South Mall in Glin was acknowledged.

An update was sought on the lands at the rear of the old bank in Abbeyfeale being made available for additional car parking in the town as part of the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan and it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek an update from the relevant Directorate on this matter.

The Members wished to congratulate the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing, on the taking up of his recent promotion at Limerick City and County Council offices in Dooradoyle, Limerick.

The Members also wished the best of luck to the Limerick Senior Football Team in the 2025 Tailteann Cup Final and proposed that bunting and flags be erected in the District.

It was agreed to hold the September Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 3rd September, 2025, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith O'Brien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated: