

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, 1ST OCTOBER, 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. B. Noonan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), City and County Librarian, Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development (Mr. D. Brady), Arts Officer, Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development (Ms. E. McCooey), Community Safety Co-Ordinator, Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development (Mr. P. Moroney), Community Safety Administrator, Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development (Mr. E. O'Hanlon), Acting Senior Executive Officer, Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

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

The Cathaoirleach and Members welcomed the Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. B. Noonan) on his return to the District and wished him well in his role as Senior Executive Engineer of the Municipal District of Newcastle West. The Members also wished to thank the outgoing Senior Executive Engineer (Mr. J. Sheehan) for his excellent work while in the District and wished him well in his new role.

The Cathaoirleach referred to previous discussions which had taken place to discuss the procedure for the administration and distribution of funding under the Community Initiative Scheme. The Cathaoirleach proposed that the funding allocated under the Community Initiative Scheme for 2025 be dealt with under the terms and conditions of the General Municipal Allocation guidelines and procedures.

A discussion took place on whether this funding should now be dealt with under the General Municipal Allocation process or to continue with the existing arrangement when dealing with the Community Initiative Scheme.

Following discussion and as no agreement was reached by the Members, the Cathaoirleach declared that a vote be taken on this matter, the following which is the results of the Vote taken:

FOR THE AMENDMENT:

Councillors Collins, Ruddle and Scanlan

AGAINST THE AMENDMENT:

Councillors Foley, Galvin and Sheahan

Due to the equality of votes above and as the Cathaoirleach has the casting vote in this instance, it was agreed that the €20,000 funding for the Community Initiative Scheme for 2025 would now put into the General Municipal Allocation to be used as discretionary expenditure.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 3rd September, 2025.

Proposed by: Councillor Galvin

Seconded by: Councillor Foley

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

3. To Receive Update from the Dromcollogher26 Cinema Commemoration Committee.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the City and County Librarian (Mr. D. Brady), Arts Officer (Ms. E. McCooey) and representatives from the Dromcollogher26 Commemoration Group to the Meeting.

The City and County Librarian gave an overview of the work which has been carried out to date and which is ongoing in advance of the Commemoration of the Cinema Disaster which is to take place on the 5th September 2026. He referred to the Limerick Library’s local studies website which will host a permanent, dedicated feature on the Dromcollogher disaster. He

stated that Limerick City and County Library has compiled materials of the disaster and he made reference to various articles relating to the Dromcollogher disaster which will be presented in full on the day. The City and County Librarian gave an overview of the first key steps in the preparation and compilation of an Invitation List to the Official Ceremony and to the importance of same.

The Arts Officer addressed the Meeting and briefed the Members on a Choral Piece Project to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Dromcollogher Fire (1926 – 2026) which is ongoing at present. She stated that part of the Plan is to engage with community members in creative workshops and rehearsals and to present a public performance on 5th September, 2026, as part of the Dromcollogher Commemoration events. The Arts Officer gave an overview of the key activities and various timelines in the project. Reference was also made to staging of the play “The Bellringer” which will be performed in Dromcollogher over several nights during the week preceding the commemoration on the 5th September, 2026 and to a competition which is proposed to be held to design and create an Artist Designed Public Seat.

Mr. Greaney referred to a number of matters including potential numbers for the event, when the Archive would be available, if the archive could be viewed before uploading to the website and if the substantial amount of research could be used after the event. In replying, the City and County Librarian stated that work is ongoing on the source material and that it is anticipated to have this material available shortly after Christmas.

Mr. Keyes addressed the Meeting and referred to funding for the project and to the importance of sensitivity when dealing with the issuing of the invitations for the event

At this stage in the Meeting, the Minute Taker (Ms. A. Lenihan) left the Meeting and the Meetings Administrator took over the role.

Mr. Keyes outlined to the Members the expenditure to-date on the project. He stated that there is a requirement for matching funding of approximately €50,000 to be sought. Ms. Toomey referred to the condition of Dromcollogher library and asked if remedial works could be carried out to the library. In replying, the City and County Librarian stated that a design team has been procured to carry out a survey of the building and that a Meeting is to take place with the Conservation Officer on what works can be carried out to improve the façade of the building.

Ms. Toomey referred to the sharing of the commission piece of music prior to finalisation and to the timeframe for commencement of works on the library. In replying, the City and County Librarian stated that the library works will be dealt with separately to the Commemoration event.

The Members acknowledged the work of all in progression of the project and referred to a number of matters including timelines for the project, role of the Office of Public Works, the logistics of organising the site for the day, location for the event, numbers for the event, manner in which invitations are to be issued and funding for the project.

The Senior Executive Engineer made reference to the role of the Local Authority in terms of public lighting and road surfacing in advance of the Commemoration taking place.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a further update including the budget for Dromcollogher26 would be given at the November Municipal District Meeting and that the Commemoration Committee would be invited to attend the December Meeting of the District.

4. Rural, Culture, Community, and Tourism Development Directorate

To receive presentation on the Limerick Local Community Safety Partnership

The Community Safety Co-ordinator (Mr. Moroney) addressed the Meeting and outlined to the Members the background on the Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) which is now replacing the former Joint Policing Committee Meetings.

He stated that the purpose of the Local Community Safety Partnership is to promote local responsiveness and that Membership requires Ministerial appointment for a three year term. He gave an overview of the structure and objectives of the Local Community Safety Partnership which is the same throughout the country. He also stated that the Membership consists of seven Councillors with one Councillor from each Municipal District.

The Safety Co-Ordinator explained that the Newcastle West Community Safety Local Leadership Programme which is a pilot scheme is separate to the Local Community Safety Partnership and that four safety wardens are being recruited predominately for Limerick city centre.

The Members expressed disappointment at the structure of the Limerick City and County Local Community Safety Partnership and the workings of the Partnership. Concern was also expressed that no safety warden was being assigned to the Newcastle West District. Following discussion, it was agreed that Acting Senior Executive Officer, Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development would refer to the relevant legislation to seek clarification with regard to movement of staff to be equitable and fair. The work of various staff in the Community Sustainment Section was acknowledged.

5. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

To Consider Report on the Paid Parking Bye-Laws Extension at Convent Street, Abbeyfeale.

Circulated, report of Senior Executive Engineer, Municipal District of Newcastle West, dated 1st October, 2025.

It was proposed by Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley and agreed by all that

the extension of the bye-laws at Convent Street, Abbeyfeale be implemented subject to signage being put in place in advance of traffic parking fines being issued.

6. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to West Limerick Singing Club.

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On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €500 to West Limerick Singing Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to street light in Dromcollogher.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to drainage works at Drominbeesom, Newcastle West .

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to street light in the Demesne car park.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to headstone at Killeedy Graveyard.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Ballingarry Soccer Club.

An update was requested on an a General Municipal Allocation application received from Broadford Community Campus Development Limited and in replying the Meetings Administrator stated that this application has since been withdrawn.

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 for an update on (a) the proposed footpath from the Devon Hotel to Templeglantine G.A.A. field [Give detailed reply as to where this application is at], (b) the extension to the footpath and traffic calming at Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale towards Dalton's Cross.

REPLY:

- (a) The current proposal is with Transport Infrastructure Ireland for approval to allow the scheme to progress to preliminary design. TII have confirmed this week they will provide an update once the TII Safety Engineers have completed the review process of the Feasibility and Options report. A decision is expected at the next TII safety meeting.
- (b) Limerick City and County Council are currently conducting a Survey and Feasibility options report to which we hope to present to Transport Infrastructure Ireland at next monthly meeting. There are three options being presented to the TII with the likely option to receive funding being a Pedestrian Crossing at the Town Park with footpath extension to the 60 KMPH speed limit.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on (a) Daly's building, Main Street, Abbeyfeale (b) the house at the corner of New Street and Colbert Street, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY:

- (a) The Council are currently exploring all options to identify a suitable use for JD Daly's building on Main Street, Abbeyfeale. Some initial surveys have been complete in recent months and the Council are progressing the engagement of a conservation led design team to progress a proposal to planning consent stage.

Engagement with the local community and Elected Members will take place in the Autumn when proposals have evolved.

- (b) I have discussed this project with the Department at our last meeting and they have requested that I submit a revised costing for the refurbishment of the existing vacant unit and the construction of three units to the rear. If, prior to the completion of the roadworks they deem the project uneconomical, we will progress with the refurbishment of the vacant unit only.

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting what inspection has been carried out of works completed from the school up to the graveyard in Athea? Please give me a detailed response.

REPLY:

Works are ongoing and are inspected at a minimum once a week if not twice. Once works have been completed in full a Road Safety Audit Stage 3 will be carried out on the completed project.

In response to the above, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a Meeting is to take place

with Active Travel and the Roads Team with regard to the design of the above project which has taken place at this location. He agreed to revert to the Members on this matter.

ADJOURNED NOTICES OF MOTION

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council maintain our public park/Demesne to a much higher standard for the enjoyment of the public in terms of grass cutting and hedge cutting.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

The maintenance of the Demesne is carried out by a combination of Arra Development and the Council. The grass cutting is carried out by a contractor who cuts the grass on a two-weekly cycle. The Council will monitor closely the performance of the contractor in order to address any under performance and ensure that the standard of grass cutting is in accordance with the requirements of the contract. The Council will also engage with Arra Development in relation to hedge cutting and remaining maintenance to see how these maintenance issues can be addressed going forward.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle referred to maintenance of the Demesne and the need to have consistent monitoring of the Demesne. Reference was made to having a point of contact in the District Office for the maintenance of the Demesne and in replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that the Parks Section of the Limerick City and County Council is responsible for maintenance of the park.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that the Square area of Newcastle West is cleaned and maintained. There is grass growing up through the cobbles, lamp posts, tables cleaned etc. The Council should have a system in place to clean this area to a high standard every year.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

There is currently a full-time street cleaner in Newcastle West who cleans and sweeps the Square on a daily basis. The District also has a suction sweeper which going forward will be used regularly in and around the Square. Some works have already been undertaken in terms of grass and weed control. There will be washing and cleaning of the Square in the coming weeks and this will be programmed going forward.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle referred to the condition of The Square in Newcastle West and that it is an area where people congregate for lunch. The benefits of the parklets were acknowledged but however concern was expressed over the condition of them and it was requested that a survey be carried out on them.

NOTICES OF MOTION

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the public toilet be included in the plans for the development of Riordan's car park, Abbeyfeale.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY:

There is a very significant shortfall in funding for the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan as currently envisaged.

The capital cost of installing public toilet infrastructure is in the region of €85,000. There is currently no budget allowance for a public toilet within the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan and there is no other financial provision made for the capital cost in the Council budget.

The yearly maintenance cost of running a public toilet is in the region of €25,000 per annum. There is currently no budget allowance for this within the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin made reference to the provision of a public toilet as part of the development of Riordan's car park, Abbeyfeale. Councillor Foley sought clarification on the mapping of public toilet sites. Following discussion, it was agreed that an update would be sought from the relevant Directorate on this matter.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the footpath be extended in Athea on the Abbeyfeale road towards the new scheme of houses.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY:

Limerick City and County Council will include this potential scheme within the NTA proposals for 2026/2027.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin requested that the footpath be extended in Athea on the Abbeyfeale road to accommodate parents living in the new scheme of houses.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on flooding at the Grove Road in Abbeyfeale and in replying, the Executive Engineer stated that this matter has now been resolved. However, a request was made to have the road piped at this location and in replying, the Executive Engineer stated that funding is required for these works.

Reference was made to two lights not working outside House No.s 24 and 25 Maiden Street, Newcastle West and it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would follow up on this matter with the relevant Directorate.

An update was sought on a request for an onsite Meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Roads Team with regard to the installation of double yellow lines at the western side of Templeglantine village towards the Forge Cross. In replying, the Executive Engineer stated that a response is awaited from Transport Infrastructure Ireland but however agreed to follow up with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

The issue of safety at Nash's Lane, Newcastle West, was raised and reference was made to the provision of bollards at this location. It was agreed that the Senior Executive Engineer would provide an update at the November Meeting of the District.

The criteria around purchasing graves in advance for elderly people over seventy five years of age was raised. It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek clarification on this matter.

An update was sought on the Pilot Newcastle West Community Safety Local Leadership Programme and it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek an update from the relevant Directorate.

It was agreed to hold the November Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 5th November, 2025, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith O'Brien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated: