

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN
ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO.
LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON WEDNESDAY, 29TH 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, Rathkeale Municipal District (Ms. K. Butler) Town Centre First Officer, Rural Development (Ms. K. Burke), Administrative Officer, Marketing and Communications (Mr. E. Clarke), Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District (Mr. B. Noonan), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

Mr. Nick Rabbitts, Senior Reporter, Limerick Leader/Limerick Live.

APOLOGIES:

Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. H. Supple).

1. To Discuss Mayoral Fund

To Discuss Mayoral Fund towards Christmas lights in Newcastle West.

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the Special Meeting of the District. The Cathaoirleach stated that this Meeting is called to discuss the Christmas lighting in Newcastle West and to a commitment of additional €100,000 given by Mayor Moran prior to the October Monthly Meeting to assist towards funding for the Christmas lights in Newcastle West.

The Mayor gave an update to the Members on his understanding of the proposed funding for the Christmas lights. The Mayor clarified that the additional funding of €100,000 was for a specific public realm enhancement project in The Square, Newcastle West. However, the Members did not approve the proposal from a value for money perspective at the last Meeting. The Members and the Mayor wished to ensure the funding would remain in the Newcastle West Municipal District.

Subsequently, the Mayor was informed that €67,753.83 (inclusive of VAT) was allocated from Limerick City and County Council's own resources. The Mayor felt that an additional €100,000 was excessive. The Mayor was agreeable to a further €15,000 allocation from the Mayoral Fund for festoon lighting in Bridge Street, Newcastle West, bringing the total allocation to €82,753.83.

A discussion ensued around consultation with Members, timeframes and community engagement. The Members requested that earlier consultation take place in respect of the Christmas lights programme for all County towns take place by February/March 2026 going forward.

At the conclusion of the Meeting, it was agreed with the Members in conjunction with the Mayor that the following would be spent on Christmas lights for Newcastle West in 2025:

- (a) €67,753.83 (inclusive of VAT) from Limerick City and County Council's own resources
- (b) €30,000 additional from the Mayoral Funding for festoon lighting to be spent before the end of November 2025.
- (c) The outstanding €70,000 assigned to Newcastle West Public Realm should be examined in consultation with the local community by the 31st December, 2025.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____