

**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, 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 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), Executive Engineer, Planning Enforcement (Mr. S. McGrath), Graduate Engineer, Development Management and Place Making (Mr. E. Hannon), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

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

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 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”.

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Draft Budgetary Plan Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2025.

Following discussion, as the Minutes of the Draft Budgetary Plan Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2025, was not adopted by the Members, the budget for the District would now, therefore, form part of the overall budgetary process for the Council.

- (c) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2025.

Proposed by: Councillor Collins  
Seconded by: Councillor Ruddle  
And Resolved:

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

A lengthy discussion took place on the proposed Mayoral funding for the District which was agreed at a Special Meeting of the District held on the 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2025, some of which included €70,000 for road resurfacing works at the Market Yard in Newcastle West. The Members queried a subsequent proposal by the Mayor that this funding in the amount of €70,000 be spent on the provision of a mini sweeper. However, the Members expressed disappointment at this proposal.

The Members referred to a number of matters relating to this proposal including a request for prior consultation with the Members, cost of the mini sweeper, where the remainder of the funding is being sought for the mini sweeper and what area the mini sweeper will be covering. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Director would seek clarification on this matter and revert to the Members at the next Meeting of the District.

Reference was also made to the provision of €30,000 from the Mayoral Funding to be spent on festoon lighting before the end of November, 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. Disposal of Land**

Circulated, report of Head of Property Management Services, dated 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2025, concerning proposal to dispose of property at Glin Library (Annex), Co. Limerick, by Way of a 20 Year Lease to Glin Development Association CLG.

The Members noted the proposal.

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

### **Taking in Charge of Estates – Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

**To consider the proposed Taking in Charge of Ray's Estate, Mountcollins, Co. Limerick, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.**

Circulated, report of Acting Senior Planner, Planning and Place-Making Directorate, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin and resolved: "That Ray's Estate, Mountcollins, Co. Limerick, be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993".

The Members acknowledged the work of the Council in the taking in charge of Ray's Estate in Mountcollins.

**5. To Receive Update on budget for the Dromcollogher26 Cinema Commemoration event.**

A brief discussion ensued and reference was made to the time constraints involved in organising the event and if further discussions could take place with the Committee to speed up the decisions in relation to this event. The work of the Dromcollogher26 Committee was acknowledged.

No update was given on the budget for the Dromcollogher26 Cinema due to ongoing discussions with the overall budget for the Council. It was agreed that this item would be deferred to the December Meeting of the District.

**6. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)**

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Glin Development Association for the Glin Traditional Music Week.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Glin Development Association for the Glin Traditional Music Week.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €4,000 to public lighting at Meenoline, Templeglantine and Dromindeel, Newcastle West.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Tony Noonan Christmas lights.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €934 to Tony Noonan Christmas lights.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €750 to Abbeyfeale Community Council.

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On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Naomh Íde Graveyard, Feenagh.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €250 to Newcastle West Music Trail.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Dromtrasna Challenge Race.

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## **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 J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at our next Meeting (a) what was the average daily usage of Newcastle West Athletic Track during 2024 and that through the current year to date, (b) the number of national tracking events hosted in each period in question, (c) what revenue stream was generated through both periods, (d) what was the actual running cost of the facility for 2024 as well as in the current year to date.*

### **REPLY:**

(a) Limerick City and County Council are currently working with the company who are managing the booking portal for the track to develop a detailed system for recording the number of users. We will report back with an update on this at the next meeting.

(b) There has been no National events to date.

The events that have taken place are as follows:

- LCETB Athletics Day for the past 2 years which was previously held in the University of Limerick Campus, approximately 8 secondary schools from the City & County participated in a mixed event with over 200 students attending.
- County Juvenile Championships 2025
- Irish Wheelchair Association Training
- National Transplant Games Training

- Munster Athletics Development Squad training
- David Gillick Marathon Kids Primary School Initiative
- Special Olympics Ireland

There has been a steady increase in the number of people using the track both individually and training as part of a group since it opened in September 2023. West Limerick AC have a number of groups using it with the juvenile club and the FIT4LIFE group being there on a weekly basis. St. Mary's Athletics Club also have it booked on a weekly basis for their juveniles. Primary schools were targeted in 2025 by the District Office and a number of local primary schools including Scoil Íósaf, Newcastle West and Feenagh National School have commenced using the facility for PE activity and sports days.

**(c), (d)** Please see revenue and expenditure breakdown below:

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Revenue for 2024         | €18,647  |
| Revenue 2025 to date     | €16,471  |
| Expenditure 2024         | €135,687 |
| Expenditure to date 2025 | €104,132 |

#### **8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting when overgrown trees on (a) the Ashgrove side of Evergreen Court and (b) those on the Assumpta Park approach to The Archway will be cut back.*

#### **REPLY:**

- (a) The Council will arrange an inspection of the trees and will arrange appropriate works to be added to the programme of work for tree maintenance.
- (b) The Council will arrange an inspection of the trees and will arrange appropriate works to be added to the programme of work for tree maintenance.

#### **9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting when road junction lining will be undertaken at the five junctions leading from the Castlemahon to Kilmeedy road as well as those in the Killeedy to Broadford area.*

**REPLY:** Road markings will be put in place at these junctions in the coming weeks.

**10. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting that the Council place (a) Narrow bridge signs at the bridge next to the old creamery at Devon Road (b) Dangerous bend signs at the bend next to V94NTX8 Upper Direen, Athea.*

**REPLY:**

- (a) Additional signs will be put in place in the coming weeks.
- (b) Additional signs will be put in place in the coming weeks.

**11. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed update on the road safety audit for the unsatisfactory job done from the school to the graveyard at Athea.*

**REPLY:**

A Road Safety Audit Stage 3 will be complete from the school to the graveyard at Athea once construction is complete in full.

**12. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for (a) A road surface audit to be carried out from the Church, Abbeyfeale to the old Garda barrack. Please include all manholes, sewerage connections which have dropped, potholes, grates blocked and locations where the road has sank (b) Are the NRA and TII aware of the poor condition of the road, (c) What short term plans are in place to make Abbeyfeale town passable to motorists.*

**REPLY:**

A PARR (Pavement Asset Repair and Renewal Report) was completed by Malachy Walsh & Partners on behalf of Limerick City and County Council and submitted to TII in October 2024. This report covers the length of N21 being considered under the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan Project, from the Church of the Assumption to Cryle View Manor Junction on Killarney Road. The report outlines condition of the pavement including pavement defects in this area.

TII Pavements Section have confirmed capped funding to the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan and have reiterated their commitment at the most recent meeting in October 2025. Any resurfacing works are currently linked to the progression of the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan in this area. There is a major funding shortfall for the Abbeyfeale Traffic

Management Plan. A Meeting is being arranged with Ministers O'Donovan and Minister Collins to discuss the progress on this scheme and the funding shortfall. Next steps shall be considered thereafter.

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will move at the next Meeting that the rights of way leading from St. Mary's Road to Coole Lane and that from Upper Maiden Street to The Market Yard be reopened.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

#### **REPLY:**

**St Marys Road to Coole Lane** – Limerick City and County Council are unaware that a public right of way exists at this location.

#### **Upper Maiden Street to Market Yard**

A report was issued at the Newcastle West Municipal District Meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020, setting out details with regard to the Declaration of Public Road at Brewery Lane, Newcastle West.

A discussion took place on the day and the Members referred to the submissions received on the proposal and the concerns, which were raised by property owners adjacent to Brewery Lane with regard to access and security issues and anti-social behaviour at night-time by leaving the laneway open. It was agreed on the day to defer this item to allow for further consultation on this matter.

To date no further consultation has taken place.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan requested that the public rights of way from St. Mary's Road to Coole Lane and Upper Maiden Street to the Market Yard be re-opened. In replying, the Meetings Administrator read the response to the Notice of Motion.

### **14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will move at the next Meeting that immediate action be taken to deal with the traffic flow along Boherbee.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

#### **REPLY:**

Limerick City and County Council roads personnel will meet with locals to discuss traffic flow and road safety in Boherbui.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to issues with regard to car parking, fire brigade access and the difficulty for residents in getting in and out driveways.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Senior Executive Engineer would consult with the locals and various stakeholders on this matter.

#### **15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will move at the next Meeting that the Council carry out a Road Safety Audit at Dromtrasna school.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

#### **REPLY:**

Limerick City and County Council roads personnel will meet with the school principal to discuss road safety along the public roadway.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to the volume and speed of traffic on this roadway and to the safety of children at this location. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Executive Engineer would meet with the school principal to discuss this matter.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach and all the Members, it was agreed that Notice of Motion 16 and Notice of Motion 18 would be taken simultaneously.

#### **16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council call on Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to make the necessary funding available immediately in order that emergency safety works be carried out on the junction at Devon Road Cross, Templeglantine as soon as possible. In light of the many road traffic accidents which have occurred at this junction over recent years and given that a fatality occurred at this site on Saturday last, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, it is imperative that action is taken forthwith to prevent further injury and loss of life.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

#### **REPLY:**

Limerick City and County Council appointed Barry Transportation in 2019 to design and develop appropriate measures to address safety issues at Devon Cross on the N21, between Abbeyfeale and Templeglantine, Co. Limerick.

Following consultations with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Mid West National Road Design Office (MWNRDO), Barry Transportation completed a Feasibility Report which recommended the construction of a staggered junction at Devon Cross as the preferred



option to improve safety at this location. This Feasibility Report was submitted to TII in 2020, and Limerick City and County Council requested TII's approval to progress the scheme.

Funding was not allocated to progress the scheme at that time, however some funding was allocated by TII for additional signage on the approach to the N21.

The MWNRDO has recently corresponded with TII, with an updated Feasibility Report requesting funding and approval to progress the scheme to detailed design, preparation of tender documents and construction.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to the tragic event which occurred recently at the Devon Road Cross and expressed sympathy to the family involved. Councillor Galvin expressed urgency at getting safety measures carried out at this junction to prevent future accidents and tragedies taking place.

### **18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins**

***I will move at the next Meeting that Transport Infrastructure Ireland be asked to carry out a Road Safety Audit at Devon Road Cross, Templeglantine on the N21 and to make necessary safety measures there to prevent further road traffic accidents.***

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

### **REPLY:**

Limerick City and County Council appointed Barry Transportation in 2019 to design and develop appropriate measures to address safety issues at Devon Cross on the N21, between Abbeyfeale and Templeglantine, in Co. Limerick.

Following consultations with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Mid West National Road Design Office (MWNRDO), Barry Transportation completed a Feasibility Report which recommended the construction of a staggered junction at Devon Cross as the preferred option to improve safety at this location. This Feasibility Report was submitted to TII in 2020, and Limerick City and County Council requested TII's approval to progress the scheme.

Funding was not allocated to progress the scheme at that time, however some funding was allocated by TII for additional signage on the approach to the N21.

The MWNRDO has recently corresponded with TII, with an updated Feasibility Report requesting funding and approval to progress the scheme to detailed design, preparation of tender documents and construction.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins and all the Members wished to express sympathy to the family involved in this tragic event. A discussion took place on the need for safety measures to be carried out at this junction as a matter of urgency to prevent future tragedies taking place. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would

invite representatives from the Mid West National Road Design Office to attend the next Meeting of the District to discuss this matter.

### **17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins**

*I will move at the next Meeting that Brewery Lane, Newcastle West be taken in charge by Limerick City and County Council. The roadway was to be taken in charge by Limerick City and County Council a few years ago and why wasn't this completed.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

### **REPLY:**

A report was issued at the Newcastle West Municipal District Meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020 setting out details with regard to the Declaration of Public Road at Brewery Lane, Newcastle West.

A discussion took place on the day and the Members referred to the submissions received on the proposal and the concerns, which were raised by property owners adjacent to Brewery Lane with regard to access and security issues and anti-social behaviour at night time by leaving the laneway open. It was agreed on the day to defer this item to allow for further consultation on this matter.

To date no further consultation has taken place.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins stated that Brewery Lane forms a huge part of the history of Newcastle West and requested that the lane be taken in charge by Limerick City and County Council.

A lengthy discussion took place on the taking in charge of Brewery Lane, opening and closing of the laneway and antisocial behaviour should the laneway remain open at night.

In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a report was issued to the Newcastle Municipal District Meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 setting out details with regard to the Declaration of Public Road at Brewery Lane, Newcastle West. He referred to submissions which had been received and to concerns raised by the property owners adjacent to Brewery Lane with regard to anti-social behaviour.

Following discussion, the Members queried if it was necessary to start the taking in charge process again for Brewery Lane, Newcastle West. It was agreed that the Senior Executive Engineer would seek clarification on the lifespan of the report and the submissions received, public car parking, lighting, cctv and re-surfacing of the laneway.

## **19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Foley**

*I will move at the next Meeting that funding be provided for (a) Works on the bridge at Secontglas, Mountcollins, (b) Bridge at Meenkilly, Abbeyfeale and (c) The stone walls at Fealesbridge, Abbeyfeale.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

### **REPLY:**

- (a) An engineering inspection was undertaken at the bridge at Secontglas, Mountcollins. This inspection has identified that the bridge requires extensive rehabilitation works to the damaged section of wall and the existing composite steel/concrete deck which needs to be replaced with pre cast concrete slabs. Due to lead in time for the supply of these pre cast units, Limerick City and County Council bridge contractors will mobilise to site in early January 2026 to undertake all works required which are estimated to take from 8-12 weeks to complete. The nature of the works along with the constraints of the road layout will require a full road closure for the duration of the works.
- (b) The bridge at Meenkilly, Abbeyfeale will be inspected to determine its condition. Following the findings of the inspection, the bridge will be added to the list of bridge structures requiring rehabilitation works within Limerick City and County Council, for consideration for inclusion in the annual bridge rehabilitation programme in future years, based on priority of need.
- (c) The stone walls at Fealesbridge, Abbeyfeale have been inspected. The sections of damaged wall do not form part of the bridge structure as they are located on the approach walls to the bridge abutments and lie outside of the extents of the bridge structure. In this regard it will not be considered for repair under the bridge rehabilitation works programme. The roads operations team in Newcastle West will review possible funding streams with a view to carrying out works in 2026.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Foley referred to the condition of the bridges at the above locations and to a request for funding to repair these bridges. Councillor Foley expressed urgency in particular to the carrying out of repair works to the Fealesbridge in Abbeyfeale.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on signage being erected in advance of traffic fines being issued following the extension of the paid parking byelaws at Convent Street, Abbeyfeale. In replying, the Executive Engineer stated that the signage is now in place at this location.

Reference was made to a number of water outages which had taken place in the District recently and to the name of a liaison person to contact in these instances. Reference was also made to the holding of clinics which had taken place previously prior to the District Meeting.

It was agreed that the Acting Senior Executive Officer would seek an update for the Members on these matters.

An update was sought on the provision of a public toilet as part of the development of Riordan's car park, Abbeyfeale. The importance of ensuring that a public toilet is put in place and the opening of the car park temporarily for the Christmas period was also raised. In replying, it was agreed that a further update would be sought from the relevant Directorate.

Reference was made to the Limerick Local Community Safety Partnership and to clarification which was to be sought from the relevant legislation with regard to having no safety warden assigned to the Newcastle West District. In replying, the Meetings Administrator stated that a response is awaited but however agreed to follow up on this matter with the relevant Directorate.

It was agreed to hold the December Meeting of the District on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2025, at 3 p.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

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**Cathaoirleach**

Dated: