

**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 FRIDAY, 12TH DECEMBER,
2025, AT 3 P.M.**

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, Newcastle West (Mr. P. Vallely), Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Mid-West Road Design (Mr. F. Kelliher), Senior Executive Officer, Strategy and Non-LA Housing Construction (Ms. S. Newell), Senior Engineer, Administrative Officer, Housing Support (Ms. K. O'Grady) Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

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

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 5th November, 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".

Vote of Sympathy

Condolences were expressed to Stephane on the sad passing of his aunt Annette Long and Cllr. Scanlon also expressed sympathy to the Barry family on the recent passing of Kevin Barry, Ardagh.

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. Housing Directorate

To consider the Mayor's Report pursuant to Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), in relation to the proposed development involving the demolition of the existing unfinished structures (12 No. dwellings) and the erection and development of 12 no. residential units at Cois Na Féile, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

Circulated, Report of the Mayor, dated 3rd December, 2025, in respect of the proposed Part VIII Housing Scheme at Cois Na Féile, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick. The Senior Executive Officer discussed the proposed development and the recommendations of the Mayor's report. Councillor Galvin raised the ongoing issues of access to the public footpath and the boundary around the existing half of the housing estate which should form part of the Part VIII. The timeframes for delivery of the project was also discussed.

Following discussion, the report was proposed by Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin and agreed.

4. Housing Development Directorate

To receive Update from the Housing Directorate for the Newcastle West Municipal District.

Circulated, report of Senior Executive Officer, Strategy and Non-LA Housing Construction dated 12th December, 2025.

The Senior Executive Officer presented the quarterly update in relation to Housing in the District. She stated that 58% of build programme is approved for Newcastle West at 21st October 2025, the slippage being due to issues with Irish Water and programme delay into 2027. She referred to the key programmes outlined in the report which include Galeside Athea, 4 units due in Q4 2025 Castle Place, Churchtown, 51 No. 3 and 4 bedroom houses over four phases currently on site with delivery through 2025 and 2026, Carrig Desmond, Newcastle West, 3 No. three bedroomed houses under affordable housing, 18 applications received and offer letters issued for three units and accepted. The Senior Executive Officer advised that the Local Authority was working with Uisce Éireann on a modular solution to the

Wastewater Treatment Plant in order to unlock a further 300 units for the District. Councillor Collins requested that Uisce Éireann report to the January meeting on this proposal.

Disappointment was also expressed on the number of tenant in situ schemes being delivered in the District and in replying, the Senior Executive Officer stated that the Council is currently working through the list for same. Councillor Galvin expressed the need to have more Part VIII's submitted in the District to advance housing development and that the level of vacant housing is not acceptable. The Senior Executive Officer informed the meeting there is a number of Part VIII's that the Section is actively progressing.

Councillor Scanlan requested an update on the social housing development at Castlemahon. In replying, the Senior Executive Officer stated that it is proposed to hold a Workshop in January with regard to Social and Affordable Housing in the District and that an update on the housing development at Castlemahon would be given at this Workshop.

The Members thanked all for the housing update and attendance at the Meeting.

5. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

To Receive Update from the Mid West National Road Design Office on safety measures at the Devon Road Cross, Templeglantine, on the N21.

Councillor Collins welcomed the item on the agenda. The Senior Executive Engineer discussed the option that was presented to Transport Infrastructure Ireland in November for a staggered junction and that a case is being made for funding for traffic calming measures at this location. The Senior Executive Engineer reiterated that the recommendation has gone to Transport Infrastructure Ireland to assess this option as it addressed the main issue of sightlines. He stated that if approved consultants will be appointed to progress the scheme.

Councillor Sheahan raised the issue of access to the Tournafulla road at Buckley's Cross. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that as part of the staggered junction, traffic calming measures would be considered at this location.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) is reviewing the option and that following a response from the TII which is due in January, an update will be given by the Mid West National Road Design Office on this matter.

6. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,700 to Craobh Chluain Chreadail for a lighting system.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €3,600.00 to Newcastle West Community Council for a Halloween Screening event.

Councillor Ruddle - €1200
Councillor Scanlan - €1200
Councillor Collins - €1200

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €5,642.92 to Abbeyfeale Search & Rescue to be split equally between the six Councillors, €940.49 per Councillor.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €2,599.62 to West Limerick Radio to be split equally between the six Councillors, €433.27 per Councillor.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €920.88 to Abbeyfeale Tidy Towns for Christmas Window Project.

Councillor Galvin - €460.44
Councillor Foley - €460.44

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €431.70 to Abbeyfeale Men's Shed for equipment.

Councillor Galvin - €215.85
Councillor Foley - € 215.85

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €850.20 to Creative Youth Hub Abbeyfeale.

Councillor Galvin - €425.10
Councillor Foley - €425.10

Councillor Sheahan raised that at the recent budget meeting it was agreed the entire GMA allocation be distributed evenly between the Councillors, this would mean the allocation for the Newcastle West Municipal District for Roads schemes would be redistributed. After a discussion it was agreed that this would be deferred until the January meeting.

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 detailed update on the flood relief schemes for Athea and Abbeyfeale (Mart bridge).

REPLY:

Athea Flood Relief Scheme

The preferred option for the Athea Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) was submitted to the Office of Public Works for formal option approval (PR3) on 15th August, 2025. The Office of Public Works has advised that this remains under review.

In parallel with this review and in anticipation of PR3 approval from OPW, Limerick City and County Council has continued to advance the final planning design. Subject to OPW formal approval, it is anticipated that the Athea FRS will be submitted for planning consent to An Coimisiún Pleanála in Q1 2026.

Abbeyfeale Flood Relief Scheme

The Senior Executive Engineer is meeting with the Office of Public Works to look at completing a Flood Map Review Request Form so that they can determine if a new flood map review is required for Abbeyfeale.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for detailed update on traffic calming on the N21 from the filling stations to Dalton's Cross, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY:

A Feasibility Report outlining a number of design options has been submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for review. These options include the provision of a pedestrian crossing, footpath extension works and an extended gateway. Limerick City and County Council will continue to engage with TII and will provide an update once further information becomes available.

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for detailed update on the proposed footpath from the Devon Hotel to the GAA field.

REPLY:

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) has completed its review of the Feasibility and Options Report prepared by Limerick City and County Council for safety improvement works at this location. TII has requested that additional detail be incorporated into the proposed design options. Limerick City and County Council will address these requirements and submit an updated Feasibility Report for TII's further consideration.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that road repairs be undertaken where subsidence is evident fronting the Courtenay Boys School at Gortboy, Newcastle West.

REPLY: The Roads Department will inspect this location and if works are required, they will be carried out in the coming weeks.

11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that Transport Infrastructure Ireland be requested to renew sections of the N21 from South Quay towards Cullinagh.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council currently have an Emergency Pavement Scheme report with TII to address the defected pavement areas mentioned. We will continue to raise this scheme in the pursuit of funding.

12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when safety works will be undertaken along the Danganbeg side of Bunoke Bridge.

REPLY: The Roads Department has carried out an inspection of the bridge and will appoint bridge rehabilitation consultants to prepare a preliminary design and costing for works.

NOTICES OF MOTION

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting (a) What is the up-to-date position with Uisce Éireann on new connections to the sewer at Newcastle West, (b) Have we obtained extra capacity for the construction of new houses in Newcastle West, and (c) When will there be a full upgrade on the sewer.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

Please see response from Uisce Éireann attached.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that the bollards at Calvary graveyard be changed to a plastic type bollard as they are leading to a large amount of damage to cars who park there as they are too low for people to see them.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: The Roads Department will meet with Councillor Ruddle on site to review the request.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that the public lighting on the westward bound bus stop fronting the Courtenay Lodge be upgraded in the interest of safety.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

At present, there is a national shortage of bus shelters. In April, 2025, the National Transport Authority appointed Bauer Media Outdoor to supply and install bus shelters throughout Ireland. We have been advised that Bauer Media Outdoor are expecting to have a steady supply of bus shelters in Q2 of 2026.

As part of the 2026 Bus Stop Enhancement Programme, Active Travel will seek to install a new bus shelter at this location. The bus shelter structures have an in-built courtesy light which should improve the lighting conditions in the area. As part of the overall works, an assessment of the existing public lighting shall be undertaken and it may be possible to install a new public lighting column as part of the overall works.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan requested that any unlit bus shelters should be properly lit. Councillor Foley also stated that the bus shelter in Abbeyfeale has no lighting.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting for a pedestrian crossing to serve both the school and the playground in Carrigkerry village and flexible bollards to be placed on the footpath to prevent parking.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: The Roads Department will carry out a site investigation and determine the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing and bollards at this location. They will also meet with relevant stakeholders regarding the request.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin reiterated the importance of safety outside the school.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that a pedestrian crossing and bollards be installed at the new playground in Carrigkerry which will also act as a safety measure for the National School.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: The Roads Department will carry out a site inspection and determine the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing and bollards at this location. They will also meet with relevant stakeholders regarding the request.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that a safety crossing be installed at Assumpta Park, Newcastle West to aid older persons, disability sector and children crossing in safety.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: The Roads Department will meet with Councillor Collins on site to review the request.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins stated there was road surfacing works carried out at this location a number of years ago and that now there is a need to get a pedestrian crossing installed at Assumpta Park, Newcastle West.

The following items were also raised.

Councillor Galvin requested an update on the Road Safety Audit at Athea School. It was agreed that the Senior Executive Engineer will provide an update on the works before the next meeting.

Councillor Scanlan requested an update on access to St. Mary's Road and a right of way. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Senior Executive Engineer would investigate this matter further.

The Cathaoirleach and all the Members thanked the management and staff for all the excellent work done throughout the year, particularly during adverse weather conditions and wished all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas. The work of the Press was also acknowledged.

The hard work carried out by the Acting Senior Executive Officer, Municipal Districts and the support given to the Members since taking up the role in the District was acknowledged. The Members also acknowledged the work carried out by the Senior Executive Engineer since his return to the District.

It was agreed to hold the January Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 14th January, 2026, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:

Dear Councillor Ruddle,

I am writing to you regarding your queries in relation to the wastewater infrastructure in Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick. Your Uisce Éireann reference number for same was 41682/96990, which was raised on the 14/11/2025.

I understand this issue has been a source of concern for you and your constituents.

The Management Department has provided the following responses to your queries:

Q1. What is the up-to-date position with Uisce Éireann on new connections to the sewer at Newcastle West.

Response:

Newcastlewest Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is identified as being at capacity in the 2024 Wastewater Capacity Register. Uisce Éireann is progressing a major upgrade and expansion of Newcastlewest WWTP to provide for the long-term needs of Newcastlewest. The project is currently at Stage 2 Preliminary Business Case and it will take a number of years before the project has completed the statutory approvals, the tender process and construction.

Q2. Have we obtained extra capacity for the construction of new houses in Newcastle West?

Response:

Uisce Éireann is examining options to provide some additional capacity for new connections in advance of the major upgrade . Uisce Éireann will consider proposals from developers to provide temporary onsite treatment to discharge standards acceptable to Uisce Éireann and the EPA in advance of the WWTP upgrade. The developers will be able to decommission and remove the temporary treatment once the Newcastlewest WWTP upgrade is complete.

Q3. When will there be a full upgrade on the sewer?

Response:

Uisce Éireann is progressing a wastewater sewer upgrade project in Newcastlewest. The project includes upgrading approximately 850m of sewer to facilitate growth and new connections in Newcastlewest. The project is currently at the detailed design stage.

Should you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact us on the details below. For the latest supply and services updates, please see: <https://www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates>.

Thank you for using Uisce Éireann's Local Representative Support Desk.