

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN  
ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST,  
CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY, 2024, AT 10AM.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:**

Councillor L. Galvin, Cathaoirleach.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Collins, Foley, Ruddle, Scanlan and Sheahan.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Senior Planner, Strategic and Forward Planning (Ms. M. Woods), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. H. Supple), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Staff Officer, Property Services (Ms. D. Ruth), Senior Planner, Forward Planning (Ms. M. Woods), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

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

**APOLOGIES:**

Director, Planning and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray).

Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District (Mr. J. Sheehan).

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

(a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2024.

Proposed by: Councillor Collins

Seconded by: Councillor Foley

And Resolved:

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

(b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.

Proposed by: Councillor Collins

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

## **3. To Adopt Standing Orders for the Municipal District of Newcastle West.**

It was agreed to defer this Item to the September Meeting of the District. It was also agreed that the Standing Orders would be circulated to the Members prior to the September Meeting.

## **4. Disposal of Land**

**(a)** Circulated, report of Head of Property Management, dated 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2024, concerning proposal to dispose of property at 52 Bothar Buí, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

**(b)** Circulated, report of Head of Property Management, dated 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2024, concerning proposal to dispose of property at Tournafulla, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

**(c)** Circulated, report of Head of Property Management, dated 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2024, concerning proposal to dispose of 0.0544 acres (0.022) hectares) of land at Glendarragh, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

**(d)** Circulated, report of Head of Property Management, dated 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2024, concerning proposal to dispose of property at Kerry Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

Councillor Galvin requested an update on plans to renovate the property next to Reidy's Bike Shop in Abbeyfeale and the J.C. Daly property in Abbeyfeale. He referred to the Protected Structure status on the J.C. Daly property and the suggested removal of this status from the property. Following a brief discussion on these properties, the Staff Officer, Property Services agreed to revert to the Members with an update on these properties.

## **5. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)**

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to footpath widening works at the Demesne, Newcastle West.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Newcastle West Indian Cultural Association.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €525 to William Smith OBrien project at St. Kieran's Heritage.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to footpath widening works at the Demesne, Newcastle West.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,500 to the Newcastle West Indian Cricket Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to footpath widening works at the Demesne, Newcastle West.

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

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €525 to William Smith OBrien project at St. Kieran's Heritage.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Killoughteen National School.

Following the distribution of the above General Municipal Allocation, Councillor Collins requested an update on the funding drawn down over the last five years under his General Municipal Allocation.

The Meetings Administrator referred to the current practice of submitting General Municipal Allocation (GMA) application forms after the funding allocation is proposed and seconded at the Monthly Meeting of the District. She informed the Members that she wished to change this practice going forward and proposed that the GMA application forms be submitted in advance of the Monthly Meeting prior to the funding being allocated. She stated that this is to ensure application forms are validated prior to funding being allocated and also to ensure that drawdown of funds is carried out in a timely manner.

Following discussion, the Members wished to consider this matter further and revert at 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.

Reference was made to having discussion on the Replies to Questions at the District Meetings. A brief discussion followed and in replying, the Meetings Administrator referred to the Standing Orders for the District which states that Standing Orders shall not be for discussion. She also stated that the Questions are circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and any queries on the Replies to Questions can then be raised with the Meetings Administrator prior to the Meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed the Meetings Administrator would seek further clarification from the Corporate Services Section with regard to having discussion on the Replies to Questions at the District Meetings.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting when will the drainage and footpath issues evident at Hazelgrove Estate, Newcastle West be addressed.*

**REPLY:** Footpaths are due to commence in the next month at Hazelgrove estate.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting that safety measures be reviewed at Kilmihill Cross, Ballingarry.*

**REPLY:** Safety measures are due to be completed in the coming week. Road markings will be improved at Kimihill.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting that average speed indicators be provided at Ballygran Village, as well as Castletown and Clounagh settlements.*

**REPLY:** There is a speed indicator due to be installed in Ballyagran in the coming weeks, locations at Castletown and Clounagh will have to be agreed and funding sought.

### **9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting that a disability bay be installed in the area of the Church in Broadford.*

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council will locate a disability bay in the carpark across from the Church subject to agreement.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting that a Low Cost Safety Scheme be applied for Reens Pike junction, this should include signage, road markings and most importantly public lighting.*

### **REPLY:**

Under TII's National Road Delineation Renewal Programme, RPS has been appointed to design a new road marking scheme for the entire N21 route. They are planning on being on site this year and this will include a review of Reens Pike. We have contacted TII/RPS to request and update on this program and have also brought your specific request to their attention.

Limerick City and County Council have previously explored providing lighting at similar T-junctions on the national road network. As this does not meet the requirements for Lit Junctions as per DN-LHT-03038 a departure would be required.

For junctions of this type to be lit there are a number of criteria that must be considered. TII have a method of evaluating applications with items such as accident history, the number of houses in the vicinity and physical activity facilities.

Given that, there does not appear to be a history of night-time collisions at this location, based on the information available to TII and that there does not appear to be other justification for lighting in a rural area it has been advised that any departure application would likely be rejected. With this in mind, we are unfortunately not in a position to provide lighting at this location.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting that a stop sign and road markings be installed in The Orchard housing estate, Abbeyfeale.*

**REPLY:** Signage and road markings are due to commence in the Orchard Housing Estate in the coming week.

## **12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council engage immediately with Uisce Éireann to enter discussions with Glin Development Association with regard to compulsory acquisition of land at Killacolla, Glin, Co. Limerick.*

### **REPLY:**

Uisce Éireann is progressing plans to end the discharge of untreated sewage from Glin, Co. Limerick, to the Shannon Estuary. This important project involves the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and sewerage infrastructure including a pumping station and

sewer pipelines. These essential works will ensure compliance with national and EU regulations relating to the treatment of wastewater in Glin.

Uisce Éireann will continue to proactively engage with local stakeholders as we work to deliver this essential project.

### **13. Question submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting what contract have we in place with Enerveo Ireland for the provision of public lighting services in Limerick City and County, when does the contract lapse and what are the KPI's on the services provided.*

#### **REPLY:**

The maintenance arm of Enerveo will be ceasing activity from the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2024.

Currently there is a tender competition ongoing, the results of which will be made known to the Members when complete and we are examining options for emergency cover to bridge the gap between contractors.

We have a number of performance related penalties included in the new contract including penalties associated with

- Failure to repair a reported fault within 10 days
- The fault percentage exceeding 1.5%
- Failure to update the asset management tools within specified timeframes
- Failure to Inspect Lights During Day/Night Patrols
- Failure to Respond to/Attend To An Out of Hours Emergency Fault

Further communication will be issued to the Members in the coming week.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that appropriate safety measures are put in place between the 50kph limit and the traffic lights along the R522 at Killeline.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

**REPLY:** Road markings are due to be inserted at this location in the coming week.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to the speed of traffic on the R522 at Killeline and to the speed indicator sign on this roadway. In replying, the Executive Engineer

stated that road markings are to be installed at this location shortly and the speed indicator sign is also to be inspected.

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that disability bays be provided in the area between the Post Office and the Supervalu premises on Bishop Street, Newcastle West.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

**REPLY:** A suitable location is to be agreed following a site visit in the coming week.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan requested that disability bays be provided between the Post Office and the area fronting Dooley's Supermarket.

Following discussion on a proposed location, the Executive Engineer stated that discussions are ongoing with regard to a suitable location for a disability bay and an onsite visit is to take place next week. At the Meeting, reference was also made to a loading bay which had been removed from Bishop Street, Newcastle West and an alternative location was to be sought in Bishop Street.

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that the Council carry out a traffic survey in Carrickerry Village. This should include traffic calming, signage, road markings from the eastern side of the Filling Station to the western side of the Church past the school.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

**REPLY:** A traffic survey is to be carried out at this location and results will be forwarded in due course.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to increased traffic through the village of Carrickerry over the last number of years. He also referred to the speed of traffic through the village and requested that a traffic survey be carried out at this location.

The Members referred to speeding in other villages and to previous requests for traffic calming measures in the District. Following discussion and at the request of the Members, it was agreed that the Executive Engineer would compile a Programme of Works for traffic calming measures in housing estates and villages in the District.

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that Páirc Luachra housing estate be resurfaced and speed ramps installed as a matter of urgency in the interest of safety.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

**REPLY:** Resurfacing works can be considered as part of the 2024 Municipal District Roadworks Programme. Speed ramps can be considered subject to the approval of the Traffic Calming Policy.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin requested that the road surface in Pairc Luachra housing estate, Abbeyfeale be resurfaced and that speed ramps be installed at this estate. Councillor Galvin also referred to the implementation of Jake's Law in housing estates in the District. A discussion followed on the condition of other housing estates including Hillside Drive, Abbeyfeale and Radharc Na Féile, Abbeyfeale and to speeding within housing estates.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek an update from the Senior Engineer, Housing Directorate with regard to a Programme of Works for housing estates in the District.

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

*I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council install ramps on the busy roadway at Boherbue, Newcastle West to slow down traffic in the interest of safety to residents and other road users.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

**REPLY:** A suitable location is to be agreed following a site visit and subject to the approval of the Traffic Calming Policy.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins referred to a plebiscite which has taken place for the installation of speed ramps on the Boherbue road, Newcastle West. He stated that there is a school and Church located along this road and elderly residents are living in this area. Councillor Collins stated that a speed indicator sign is also missing from a pole at this location. In replying, the Executive Engineer stated that due to vandalism this sign is currently being repaired.

## **19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan**

*I will move at the next Meeting that a Part VIII planning permission application commences immediately for the provision of extra car parking spaces in Marian Place, Glin and Corbry Estate, Glin. This application should also include traffic calming measures.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan referred to the current situation of car parking at Marian Place Housing Estate and Corbry Housing Estate in Glin. He referred to the necessity of the Ambulance Service and the Fire Service having safe access within Marian Place in Glin and to the recently developed Glin Rovers Soccer pitch at Corbry estate. Councillor Sheahan

requested that a Part VIII planning application for additional car parking spaces be piloted at Marian Place Housing Estate and Corbry Housing Estate in Glin.

Following discussion, the Senior Planner stated that further work is required to assess this proposal as it is necessary to ensure that this Part VIII planning application is carried out legally and that the Part VIII application does not contravene the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 and the Specific Planning Policy Requirements (SPPR) in relation to car parking standards. The estates will be inspected to assess current parking standards and a decision on how to proceed will be made thereafter.

Councillor Sheahan requested that a written response be given to this Notice of Motion. In replying, the Meetings Administrator agreed to circulate a response to Councillor Sheahan on this Notice of Motion.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on the installation of a speed meter at the Railway Road, Abbeyfeale at the town side of Buckley's Cross. In replying, the Executive Engineer stated that speed indicators have been ordered for the Railway Road, Abbeyfeale and Ballyagran.

Reference was made to a telephone call made to the Council's out of hours emergency telephone number and to the response received. In replying, the Meetings Administrator agreed to follow up on this matter.

It was agreed to hold the September Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith O'Brien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

**Cathaoirleach**

Dated: