

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ÁRAS SEÁN FINN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON TUESDAY, 13TH JANUARY, 2026 AT 9.30 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor G. Ward, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Hartigan, Keary, O'Donoghue and Teskey.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Housing (Mr. V. Murray), Meetings Administrator (Ms. K. Butler), A/Senior Executive Officer, Municipal Districts (Ms. K. White), Senior Executive Engineer, Central Services (Mr. J. O'Keeffe), Limerick City and County Librarian (Mr. D. Brady), Senior Executive Librarian (Ms. N. O'Neill), Town Regeneration Officer, Rural Development (Ms. K. Burke), Town Development Officer, Rural Development (Mr. S. O'Doherty), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

1. Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 9th December, 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;

Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;

And Resolved:

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

Following the adoption of the Minutes, Councillor Collins requested a meeting be arranged with Tom Enright, Ryder Cup Project Director, Ger Carey, Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office and Minister O'Donovan to discuss the 2027 Ryder Cup.

Councillor Teskey proposed the District write to The Superintendent and An Garda Síochana to express Members gratitude for executing a well operated policing plan during the Christmas period in the District. This was seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue and agreed. Councillor Teskey also expressed his gratitude to the staff of Limerick City and County Council who assisted the Gardaí as part of the interagency response team over the Christmas period in the District.

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 interest was declared.

It was agreed Items 4 and 5 on the Agenda would be taken next.

4. Regeneration, Community, Sport and Rural Development

Bank of Ireland Building, Askeaton

The Limerick City and County Librarian, Damien Brady, gave Members an update on the proposed Askeaton Library upgrade and relocation project advising the current building is not suitable for modern library services. The building was also prone to flooding and the ground floor had to be raised above street level creating access issues for some members of the public. The former Bank of Ireland building was vacated in October 2025 and the building was then assigned to the Library Service for redevelopment. He advised the vision for the new library building is to become a centre for community engagement hosting various activities and training courses for all members of the community.

The library will occupy half of the ground floor with community groups occupying the other half and the first floor of the building. A request was received from Deel Art Group and Askeaton Contemporary Arts to provide an arts space in Askeaton Library.

The Limerick City and County Librarian informed Members the costs of the refurbishment is expected to be in the region of €40,000 and as there is no National library funding available for these works it is to be financed from Limerick City and County library budget 2025 and 2026.

The Limerick City and County Librarian concluded his presentation advised repurposing works have commenced on the building to ensure health and safety requirements for a public space are met and it is anticipated that the new library will be opened to the public in March 2026.

Discussion ensued in relation to future proofing the facility, increasing the public usage of the new library and ensuring the old library building will not be left derelict. The Limerick City and County Librarian advised there will be a programme of events in place in the new library which will increase footfall into the library. All Members were fully supportive of this project.

Members welcomed the update on the proposed repurposing of the Bank of Ireland building in Askeaton saying this was a good new story for the town of Askeaton and Members were fully supportive of the project. Councillor Hartigan asked community consultation take place with the local groups in Askeaton on what the additional space in the building could be repurposed for. Councillor Keary agreed with the sentiments of Councillor Hartigan and asked that a briefing be provided to Elected Members also on what the repurposing of the additional space would entail. Councillor Keary also requested rooms be provided in this space for public access to high speed broadband.

5. Bank of Ireland Premises, Rathkeale

The Town Regeneration Officer, Rural Development gave Members an update on the former Bank of Ireland premises in Rathkeale advising following the announcement of funding for community and enterprise space, a design team will be assigned to best use the space available. The Town Regeneration Officer also advised the building is currently being heated. A workshop will be arranged with Members for early February 2026 when the design team are in place. Capital funding will be applied for to deliver the project throughout 2026. Proposed works to take 18 months to complete.

Discussion ensued, Members expressed disappointment at the timeline for when the building would be ready for occupancy. Councillor Collins requested a maintenance schedule for the exterior of the building up and until the building is ready for occupancy. Councillor Teskey queried the extensive refurbishment required for the building when it was a fully operational bank in 2022 and why outside consultants are required for this project when in house members of Limerick City and County Council staff could do this work. The Director, Housing advised the building was originally fitted out to cater for a bank set up and is not suitable for alternative use. There was also water damage to the back of the building and as the upper floors were unoccupied and not in use by the bank now need to be stabilised. In reference to Limerick City and County Council staff, the Director, Housing advised that these Architects and staff are currently statutory mandated to deliver social and affordable housing and cannot be used due to Department deadlines being met to avail of the funding to repurpose the bank building. Councillor Keary stated he would like to see a third level institute take occupancy of some part of the building in the future. Councillor O'Donoghue requested, for the February Meeting, a list of all Council owned vacant and derelict properties in Rathkeale to include length of time each building is in Council ownership and what their proposed future use would be.

The Town Regeneration Officer concluded by informing Members that a Town Centre First plan has been completed which identifies fifteen projects that would revitalise the town of Rathkeale if funding is made available to deliver same.

3. Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm Directorate

District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 13th January, 2025 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

Following discussion, the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Keary expressed concern in relation to excessive use of local and regional roads as a result of the construction of the Adare bypass and queried if extra funding can be provided to maintain these sections of roads. The Senior Executive Engineer, Central Services advised the Mid West Road Design Office are managing the Adare bypass project and there is a haulage plan in place, he also advised the Municipal District Office contact the Mid West Road Design Office to ensure the hauliers are adhering to the plan. He added it is unlikely additional funding will be made available. The Director, Housing advised he would request the Director of Transportation would write to the Transport Infrastructure Ireland to seek residual funding for the roads highlighted by the Municipal District Office.
- Councillor Teskey queried if the Beabus Road, Adare had been inspected since works were complete. The Senior Executive Engineer, Central Services advised the surface dressing was carried out late in the season which might cause an issue, however, there is a two year guarantee of the surface post completion and this will be monitored at District level.

6. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

At the outset all Members agreed to allocate €2,000 per Councillor to Adare, Askeaton and Rathkeale Saint Patricks Day parades.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Ward, it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €333.33 to Adare Saint Patricks Day Parade.
- €333.33 to Askeaton Saint Patricks Day Parade.
- €333.33 to Rathkeale Saint Patricks Day Parade.
- €10,000 to Manor Fields, Adare.
- €10,000 to Adare Village Hall Group.
- €8,000 to Adare GAA Club.
- €1,500 to Rathkeale AFC.

On the proposal of Councillor Hartigan, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue, it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €333.33 to Adare Saint Patricks Day Parade.

- €333.33 to Askeaton Saint Patricks Day Parade.
- €333.33 to Rathkeale Saint Patricks Day Parade.

On the proposal of Councillor Keary, seconded by Councillor Teskey, it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €333.33 to Adare Saint Patricks Day Parade.
- €333.33 to Askeaton Saint Patricks Day Parade.
- €333.33 to Rathkeale Saint Patricks Day Parade.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Teskey, it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €333.33 to Adare Saint Patricks Day Parade.
- €333.33 to Askeaton Saint Patricks Day Parade.
- €333.33 to Rathkeale Saint Patricks Day Parade.
- €3,000 to Castle Rovers AFC (from 2025 allocation).

On the proposal of Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Keary, it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €333.33 to Adare Saint Patricks Day Parade.
- €333.33 to Askeaton Saint Patricks Day Parade.
- €333.33 to Rathkeale Saint Patricks Day Parade.
- €2,000 to Coláiste Mhuire, Askeaton.
- €2,000 to Embury Close Book Project.

On the proposal of Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Teskey, it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €333.33 to Adare Saint Patricks Day Parade.
- €333.33 to Askeaton Saint Patricks Day Parade.
- €333.33 to Rathkeale Saint Patricks Day Parade.
- €5,000 to ABK GAA Club (2025 GMA Allocation).
- €2,000 to Coláiste Mhuire, Askeaton.
- €2,000 to Embury Close Book Project.
- €1,000 to Ballyhahill Residents Association (2025 GMA Allocation).

NOTICE OF MOTION

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. O'Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting that the proposed budget schedule works of maintenance and repairs for 2026 in Limerick City and County Council will be prepared for consideration by the members ensuring equitable allocation of the roads budget per km of road network across all Districts.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion for inclusion in the Agenda for the Full Council Meeting.

8. A.O.B.

- Councillor Collins referred to the Community Safety Partnership advising Limerick City and County Council have not nominated seven Councillors to sit on the committee. Discussion ensued and the Director, Housing agreed to raise it at the next party leaders Corporate Policy Group.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
 Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____