

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, 14TH JANUARY, 2026, AT 10 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor M. Collins, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Foley, Galvin, Ruddle, Scanlan and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Planning, Heritage & Ryder Cup (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. Vallyely), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Collins welcomed everyone in attendance to the January Meeting of the District and wished all a Happy New Year.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 12th December, 2025.

Proposed by: Councillor Foley

Seconded by: Councillor Scanlan

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

3. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €700 to Athea United for the purchase of station seats for dug out and other equipment.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, to Athea United for the purchase of station seats for dug out and other equipment.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €700 to Athea United for the purchase of station seats for dug out and other equipment.

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.

4. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting if Limerick City and County Council will open the access at Bridge Street, Newcastle West leading to the River Arra. As part of this Motion, it is important to make the necessary safety measures along the river bank.

REPLY:

This access has been closed for 15 years as the access points and pathway do not meet any standards in terms of safety and accessibility. If this access is to be opened, then a detailed report and costing will have to be prepared to determine if the proposal is feasible.

5. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when the poles will be removed from the recently provided footpath infrastructures at Monagea and Feohanagh.

REPLY:

Limerick City and County Council has been in contact with Openeir since last year in relation to getting these poles moved. Openeir has indicated that the poles will be moved by their subcontractor Circet in the coming weeks.

6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when road reconstruction along that section between O'Brien's Auctioneering Agency and An Greasai will be undertaken at Maiden Street, Newcastle West.

REPLY:

The Roads Engineer will carry out a site inspection at this location and will determine what works are required to bring the roadway up to standard.

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when junction safety measures will be undertaken where the old Camas Road intersects with Cloonsherick.

REPLY:

Limerick City and County Council will carry out the necessary works at this junction in Q1 2026.

NOTICES OF MOTION

It was agreed by the Members that Councillor Collins Notice of Motion No. 8 and Councillor Scanlan's Notice of Motion No. 10 would be taken together and this would be followed by Councillor Collins Notice of Motion No. 9 on the Agenda.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that an appropriate assessment and plan be drawn up for traffic calming and pedestrian crossings in the town of Dromcollogher. When complete, funding to be sought to complete the works as soon as possible.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY:

A Draft Public Realm and Tourism Plan was prepared for Dromcollogher in 2023 by the Community Department of Limerick City and County Council. There was significant public consultation associated with the preparation of the draft plan which was also presented at a Workshop to the District Councillors in August 2023. Traffic calming, pedestrian crossings etc. formed part of the plan which was paused due to concerns over loss of car parking spaces.

In light of this Notice of Motion is it timely to revisit what was proposed in this very detailed draft plan and consider if the plan or elements of the plan are appropriate and could be delivered subject to available funding.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins stated that the town of Dromcollogher has grown immensely over the last number of years, with a large secondary school and buses travelling through the town on a daily basis. Councillor Collins asked that priority be given to works being carried out in the town of Dromcollogher. Councillor Ruddle also referred to the need for traffic calming measures in front of the GAA field in Dromcollogher.

A brief discussion took place on the Draft Public Realm and Tourism Plan which was prepared for Dromcollogher in 2023. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a comprehensive public consultation process took place as part of this Plan and that any proposals for traffic calming would potentially result in the loss of car parking spaces. The Senior Executive Engineer and the Director stated therefore that a holistic approach is required on this matter.

Following discussion, it was agreed that this Plan be revisited and that the Meetings Administrator would organise a Workshop on the Draft Public Realm and Tourism Plan for Dromcollogher.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that immediate action be taken to provide pedestrian crossings at three pinch points on the Square, Dromcollogher, in the interest of safety.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

A Draft Public Realm and Tourism Plan was prepared for Dromcollogher in 2023 by the Community Department of Limerick City and County Council. There was significant public consultation associated with the preparation of the draft plan which was also presented at a Workshop to the District Councillors in August 2023. Traffic calming, pedestrian crossings etc. formed part of the plan which was paused due to concerns over loss of car parking spaces.

In light of this Notice of Motion is it timely to revisit what was proposed in this very detailed draft plan and consider if the plan or elements of the plan are appropriate and could be delivered subject to available funding.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to the importance of the safety of pedestrians when crossing The Square in Dromcollogher and requested that measures be undertaken to provide pedestrian crossings at The Square.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council request Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to extend traffic calming measures, footpaths, speed limit and lighting at Shanagarry, Newcastle West in the interest of safety.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY:

Limerick City and County Council will present the proposal to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for consideration, with a view to assessing the identified need and the feasibility of

delivering the scheme. A further update will issue following the January Meeting.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins referred to a number road traffic accidents which had taken place on the N21 at Shanagarry, Newcastle West and to an accident which took place in October 2025 at this location. Councillor Collins stated that this is a busy location with heavy goods vehicles traversing on a daily basis. Councillor Collins submitted a Petition which he received in relation to this matter. Councillor Foley also made reference to the existing turn off on the N21 for Killoughteen where a broken white line is in place and if a continuous white line could be considered as part of the programme.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that tree maintenance be undertaken at the Ashgrove side of the entrance to Evergreen Court at Churchtown.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

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.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan requested that tree maintenance be undertaken at the Ashgrove side of the entrance to Evergreen Court at Churchtown beyond the Day Hospital. Councillor Scanlan also referred to concerns expressed by a number of householders in relation to this matter.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on the upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant for Newcastle West and the temporary onsite treatment for the Newcastle West plant. In replying, the Meetings Administrator read the response received from Uisce Éireann which stated that the Newcastle West Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade works are currently progressing as part of RC4 (2025-2029) investment plan. She stated that until the plant is upgraded, additional connections might be feasible if pre-treatment is provided by the developers to discharge standards acceptable to Uisce Éireann and that once Newcastle West WWTP upgrade works are completed the developers will be able to decommission and remove the temporary treatment once the upgrade is complete.

A discussion took place on this matter and the ongoing maintenance of the temporary onsite treatment plant post installation. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek further clarification on responsibility for maintenance of the onsite treatment plant post installation.

The urgent need for social housing in the District was raised.

The condition of the road surface at South Quay, Newcastle West was raised and to an Emergency Pavement Scheme report which is with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to address defected pavement areas outlined. It was agreed that the Council will continue to follow up with Transport Infrastructure Ireland on this matter. The condition of the road surface outside the Courtenay School was also raised and a request was made to have an audit of road surfaces carried out in the town of Newcastle West. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that all areas of the town will be considered as part of the Road Works Scheme 2026.

An update was sought on the upgrading of the public lighting on the westward bound bus stop fronting the Courtenay Lodge and in replying the Senior Executive Engineer stated that Active Travel is currently exploring the option of enhancement of the bus stop and public lighting at this bus stop.

Reference was made to the bollards at Calvary cemetery and an update was sought on the changing of the bollards to a plastic type to alleviate damage to vehicles. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that he will follow up on this matter.

An update was sought on the Part VIII housing scheme at Cois Na Féile in Abbeyfeale.

The volume of requests for pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures in the District was raised and if a Programme of Works could be put in place together with funding to be made available for these works.

An update was sought on the carrying out of safety works at the N21 Devon Road Cross and N21 Ward's Cross. Reference was also made to traffic calming measures from Moloney's Garage towards Dalton's Cross in Abbeyfeale. It was agreed that further updates would be sought from the relevant Directorate.

The provision of a pedestrian crossing and bollards at the new playground in Carrickerry was raised and to a site investigation which is to be carried out at this location. It was agreed that the Roads Team would revert to the Members on this matter.

Prior to conclusion of the Meeting, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would arrange the following Workshops to take place:

- (a)** Review the 2023 Draft Public Realm and Tourism Plan for Dromcollogher.
- (b)** To Discuss Christmas Festivities in Newcastle West.
- (c)** To discuss General Municipal Allocation for 2026.
- (d)** To discuss the Provision of Public Convenience in Abbeyfeale.
- (e)** To Discuss Housing in the District.

It was agreed to hold the February Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 4th February, 2026, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
