

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, 4TH MARCH, 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:

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), Staff Officer, Property Services (Ms. R. Ross), Town Centre First Officer, Rural Development (Ms. K. Burke), Assistant Staff Officer, Newcastle West Municipal District (Ms. E. Kelly).

APOLOGIES:

Director, Planning, Heritage and Ryder Cup (Mr. S. Duclot)
Executive Engineer, Roads, Newcastle West (Mr. P. Vallely)
Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan)

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Collins welcomed the teachers and pupils of the 4th class Courtenay Boys School in Newcastle West to the Meeting.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 4th February, 2026.

Proposed by: Councillor Galvin
Seconded by: Councillor Ruddle
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. Regeneration, Community, Sport and Rural Development Directorate.

To Discuss Public Realm Plan for Dromcollogher.

A copy of the Draft Dromcollogher Public Realm and Tourism Plan was distributed to the Councillors. Ms. K. Burke, Town Centre First Officer addressed the Meeting and briefed the Councillors on the vision, aim and objectives of the Plan and constraints of same. The Plan was noted by the Councillors and it was agreed to move it to the next stage which is a detailed design to bring the proposal to shovel ready stage. Ms. Burke stated that she is hoping to secure funds from the Development Levies to bring it to design stage.

4. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, report of Head of Property Services, dated 6th February, 2026, concerning proposal to dispose of 2.5711 Acres (1.0405 Hectares) of Land at Castletown, Ballyagran, Co. Limerick, by Way of a 30 Year Lease.

Members noted the proposal.

- (b) Circulated, report of Head of Property Services, dated 5th February, 2026, concerning proposal to dispose of 1.2897 Acres (0.5219 Hectares) of Land at Athea, Co Limerick by way of 30 Year Lease.

Members noted the proposal.

5. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin , it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Athea Vixen Basketball Club.

Councillor Galvin €500
Councillor Foley €500
Councillor Ruddle €500
Councillor Sheahan €500

On the proposal of Councillor Foley , seconded by Councillor Collins , it was agreed to allocate €1,800 to Abbeyfeale St. Patrick's Day Committee.

Councillor Foley €900
Councillor Galvin €900

A GMA application form was received from Tournafulla GAA. It was agreed to defer the application to the April meeting to allow the Meetings Administrator to check the application.

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.

6. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed update on the public convenience, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY:

There was a workshop held with Elected Representatives on 28th January, 2026, to discuss options for delivery of a Public Convenience Facility in Abbeyfeale. Several options were presented including costings. As presented the most cost-effective solution is for Limerick City and County Council to purchase a toilet facility. Limerick City and County Council will continue to explore options for the maintenance and cleaning of the toilet.

The Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan project will provide funding for the purchase and installation of the public convenience and maintenance costs for 2026 and 2027. It is proposed that the public convenience would be installed as part of the upcoming Grove Crescent Carpark Link works.

Beyond this maintenance period (from 2028 onwards) the Elected Representatives will need to make budgetary provision for the ongoing maintenance of the toilet.

7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed update on (a) Devon Road junction (b) Dore's Cross, Templeglantine.

REPLY:

(a) In November 2025, the Mid West National Road Design Office (MWNRDO) submitted an updated Feasibility Report to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), seeking approval and funding to progress the scheme to detailed design, preparation of tender documents and construction.

Following its review of the submission, TII requested further clarification on certain aspects of the updated Feasibility Report. The additional information sought has since been provided by the MWNRDO and a response from TII is currently awaited.

TII has allocated funding in 2026 to enable MWNRDO to undertake additional surveys and site investigations to assist with the preliminary design of the staggered junction option recommended in the Feasibility Report.

- (b) Limerick City and County Council have developed a number of design options for footpath delivery in the eastern side of Templeglantine village, extending the existing footway to Dore's Cross. Limerick City and County Council have submitted an updated feasibility report to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for consideration.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed update on Daly's building, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY:

Limerick City and County Council are currently in the process of procuring a Design Team to take the project to a shovel ready stage, as the building is a Protected Structure and is located in the Architectural Conservation Area, the proposal requires input from conservation specialists. The proposal will advance through the planning consent process, over the coming months and stabilisation works, if deemed necessary, will be completed, subject to available resources.

9. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council cut back the tree branches which are over hanging onto the N21 at South Quay and Cullinagh, Newcastle West. They are hanging very dangerously over the main N21 to Killarney/Tralee.

REPLY: The trees that are being referred to are on private lands. Limerick City and County Council will write to the landowners regarding the concerns above.

10. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council prioritise the Ballintubrid road L21008 for this year's Road Works Programme. The road is in a very bad state of repair for the past few years.

REPLY: This road will be inspected, rated and considered for the 2026 Road Works Programme.

11. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council consider putting ramps and raised platforms on the Knockane/Monegea road to reduce speed.

REPLY: There has been a review of this location by the District Office and it is proposed to put forward a proposal for speed ramps – flat tops. These works are subject to the availability of funding.

12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when Uisce Éireann will repair the water damaged area at Upper Maiden Street, Newcastle West.

No response was received.

NOTICES OF MOTION

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the black material on the fences at Kilconlea, Abbeyfeale be replaced/repared with a different material as it keeps blowing down.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: The material on the fence at this location will be removed and a more suitable one will be put in place.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council calls on the Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works to expedite the flood relief scheme for (a) Athea and (b) Abbeyfeale.

(a) Athea Flood Relief Scheme

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin requested that this Motion be referred to the Corporate Services Section for inclusion on the Agenda for the next Full Council Meeting.

REPLY:

The preferred option for the Athea Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) was submitted to OPW for formal option approval (PR3) on 15 August 2025. Since then, Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) has regularly requested updates from OPW on the status of this approval process. OPW has responded that the scheme remains under review with no current timeline advised for a decision.

Limerick City and County Council will now write directly to the Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works (OPW) to request a formal update on the status of the scheme.

(b) Abbeyfeale Flood Relief Scheme

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin discussed the urgency of the matter. He stated that in Abbeyfeale, three private residences and the Golden Vale Mart were flooded previously.

REPLY:

The Senior Executive Engineer has met with the Office of Public Works and a flood map review request form has been submitted to them so that they will revisit their CRFAMS map. A scheme viability review was also requested for the area that has been flooded so as to see if it is now feasible for a flood scheme to be provided to protect these properties.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council will carry out necessary safety works, lighting and pedestrian crossing at Dromcollogher National School. As part of these works I would ask that St. Joseph's Park be included in these works also. I am bringing this Motion on foot of recent correspondence from the Principal and pupils of the school.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins stated he has received numerous representations from concerned parents. Councillor Galvin raised concern for the safety at schools and stated that the Department of Education and Transport should be made aware of the issue. The Acting Senior Executive Officer responded stating that the school principal should raise the issues with the Department of Education.

Councillor Collins enquired if St. Joseph's Park will be included in drainage works. The Senior Executive Engineer stated that the Council is examining various drainage works in several locations to be included in the Schedule of Municipal District Works.

REPLY: The Roads Department have been assessing this location following multiple representations including one from the school principal. The location is being assessed in terms of what is required. It is proposed that a plan will be developed and any works deemed necessary will be carried out subject to funding being available.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council repaint the pedestrian crossings in Newcastle West that require it in particular the crossing from Modini shoe shop to Fitzgerald's Corner.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle highlighted the importance of clear markings for safety reasons.

REPLY: This crossing will be repainted when the road lining contractor is in the District for works.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that a safety review be conducted of traffic and travel conditions on the R522 between Castlemahon Cross and Danganbeg.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan expressed concern with the speed on this road and it was agreed that the matter should be brought to the attention of the Superintendent.

REPLY: The road that extends between Castlemahon Cross and Danganbeg on the R522 is in good condition. Limerick City and County Council are not responsible for managing speed on the road and the matter should be brought to the attention of the Gardaí.

18. Correspondence

Correspondence as circulated was noted by the Members.

The Meetings Administrator briefed the Councillors on correspondence received from Uisce Éireann in relation to the Newcastle West Wastewater Treatment Plant. She stated that the project is currently at Stage 3 and this stage is expected to be complete in 2028.

Councillor Collins also informed the Meeting that the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. James Browne announced yesterday that builders will be able to develop new wastewater treatment facilities in collaboration with Uisce Éireann for smaller developments of up to 40 homes.

Councillors expressed concern on the timeframe for delivery of the project.

The following items were also raised.

Councillor Ruddle requested an update at the next Meeting on the taking in charge of Desmond Business Park.

Councillor Scanlan expressed concern at the state of the roads including main roads in the District. The Senior Executive Engineer stated that roads will be done on a priority basis as works are subject to funding.

Councillor Scanlan requested that a list of retailers selling parking discs be displayed in the Church Street car park in Newcastle West

Councillor Galvin expressed concern at the subsiding of the N21, most notably the Main Street in Abbeyfeale. He asked if the Council could apply for funding in exceptional circumstances with regard to this matter.

Councillors requested that a Meeting be organised with Mr. D. Brady, Senior Manager, Culture in relation to the Dromcollogher 26 Commemoration.

It was agreed by the Councillors that €95,000 would be allocated to Roads from the GMA funding. It was agreed that if there is additional projects to be delivered, the Councillors would agree to review funding through GMA.

It was agreed to hold the April Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 1st April, 2026, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
