

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 FEBRUARY, 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 and 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. Vallely), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

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

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 14th January, 2026.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, the Acting Senior Executive Officer, Municipal Districts referred to the Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 14th January, 2026. She asked that it be noted in the Minutes the amount of €700 which was allocated by Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, to Athea United for the purchase of station seats for dug out and other equipment.

Proposed by: Councillor Foley
Seconded by: Councillor Ruddle
And Resolved:

“That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read, adopted and signed, subject to amendment outlined above to the Minutes of the Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 14th January, 2026”.

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. Planning, Heritage and Ryder Cup Directorate

To Discuss Public Realm Plan for Dromcollogher.

The Senior Executive Engineer addressed the Meeting and referred to previous discussions on the Public Realm Plan for Dromcollogher. He stated that it is proposed to bring the Plan before the Members for noting at the March Meeting of the District.

At this stage, Councillor Sheahan joined the Meeting.

4. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Copse's Christmas lights.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to the Paddocks Residents Association for hedgerow reduction and tree topping.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Castletown/Ballyagran GAA for hurling balls and ball nets.

The Meetings Administrator referred to a late application received from Vixen's Basketball Club and it was agreed to defer this item to the March Meeting to allow time 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.

5. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when the social housing developments earmarked for (a) Gortboy, Newcastle West is expected to commence and (b) what is the status of those underway at Ardagh and Broadford Village.

REPLY:

(a) Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) are awaiting a connection agreement for the development at Gortboy, Newcastle West (Sycamore Crescent). We have requested a meeting with Uisce Éireann with a view to providing an interim solution.

(b) The estimated date of completion on the Ardagh project is 20/10/2026. The estimated date of completion on the Broadford project is 01/09/2026.

6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when remedial action will occur to repair the bridges (a) along the R522 at the townland boundaries of Ballydonnell and Appletown, Feohanagh and (b) the Abacomusk at Kilcoora, Broadford will be undertaken.

REPLY:

(a) The bridge along the R522 at the townland boundaries of Ballydonnell and Appletown, Feohanagh will be inspected and will be added to the list of 120+ structures requiring rehabilitation works in Limerick City and County.*

(b) The Abacomusk at Kilcoora, Broadford will be inspected and will be added to the list of 120+ structures requiring rehabilitation works in Limerick City and County.*

*Please note that any bridge rehabilitation works throughout Limerick City and County will be delivered on a priority basis based on bridge condition and subject to funding availability.

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting how soon do the Housing Section intend to redevelop and allocate its property at the West End, Dromcollogher.

REPLY: A design team has been appointed to this project. Currently surveys have been carried out, and design development is being progressed to explore if two units can be delivered. Once stage approvals are granted it can advance to tender where an 8 month build process would be expected.

8. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council consider Road No. L85841 Ballybane, Ballyagran, for resurfacing in the 2026 Programme of Municipal District Works. It is in a very bad state of repair.

REPLY: The Roads Department will inspect the road in question and determine what works would be required.

9. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting that the Council repair the third speed ramp as you come into the Woodfield Estate in Newcastle West as it has eroded and the base of the ramp has a large dip, which is causing damage to cars.

REPLY: The Roads Department will inspect the ramp in question and determine what works would be required.

10. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting that the Council request Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for a significant amount of funding to repair all parts of the road that have subsidence and are a serious hazard to drivers throughout the town of Newcastle West. This should especially be done inside the speed limits.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council currently have an Emergency Pavement Scheme report with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to address the defected pavement areas from South Quay to Cullinagh. We will continue to raise this scheme in the pursuit of funding and also highlight all the defected pavement sections throughout the town of Newcastle West.

NOTICES OF MOTION

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that an Audit of the Arterial Roads within Newcastle West town be carried out.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: The Roads Department will carry out a review and survey of the roads within Newcastle West town.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to major issues of road subsidence in various parts of the town of Newcastle West including Bishop Street to Lacey's Cross, Maiden Street, Sheehan's Road, Newcastle West and requested a review of the road network which pass through the town of Newcastle West.

The Members referred to a number of matters including deterioration of roads in the District and buildup of potholes since the deterioration in weather conditions. A query was raised with regard to the classification of roads in or around the town of Newcastle West and also if the funding allocation for 2026 has been received. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that the funding allocation for 2026 has not yet been received. He stated that Limerick City and County Council has applied to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for funding under the Emergency Pavement Scheme for the N21. He also stated that the Roads Team is actively working patching potholes over the last six weeks in the District. He informed the Members

that the Roadworks Scheme 2026 is currently being prepared and that roads are put on the Roadworks Scheme based on a rating following a condition survey and inspection.

Councillor Sheahan queried what is the surface finish of roads in the town of Newcastle West. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated they would be a macadam finish. It was discussed that this finish would be classed as a high specification and therefore has high costs.

It was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins, that due to the surface finish in the town of Newcastle West being to a high specification that the town would be dealt with in the same manner as Limerick city in that additional funding be allocated for maintaining them.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that the method of payment for parking at our authorities Church Street facility and general parking facilities within Newcastle West be reviewed.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: The current method of payment of parking in Newcastle West is twofold.

Parking discs can be purchased in several retail outlets in the town and there is also Limericks e-parking payment service.

This combination of parking control is regarded as efficient, flexible and most importantly convenient for visitors and locals.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to the method of payment in place at the Church Street car park and that this method of payment be reviewed as it is not user friendly.

In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a pay parking machine was in place previously but that the current method of pay parking which includes the sale of parking discs at several retail outlets in the town and also using a smartphone app is deemed more effective and efficient.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a list of the retail outlets who sell parking discs in the town would be forwarded to the Members and that signage displaying Parking Discs for Sale in shops would be checked. The Acting Senior Executive Officer also referred to security and health and safety issues around the use of a pay parking machine.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting (a) What progress has Uisce Éireann made to the temporary expansion of the current sewerage treatment plant as promised and (b) When will we have a Plan for the long term expansion of the existing plant which a planning application was

expected to be submitted by Q1 2026 (c) What is the approximate time line for the plant to be upgraded.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle requested an update on the temporary expansion of the Newcastle West Wastewater Treatment plan. In replying, the Meetings Administrator read a previous response received from Uisce Éireann which stated that the pre-treatment unit will be the responsibility of the developer and that the available options for new connections to plant are (a) wait for the completion of the upgrade project or (b) for the developer to install pre-treatment at their site, which would be at the developers own cost to install, operate and decommission and the units shall be provided with a by-pass. In replying, Councillor Scanlan referred to the unsatisfactory experience in the use of temporary treatment plants previously in the District.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek clarification on the Newcastle West Treatment plant options from the Director of Housing.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council start the process of taking in charge the Desmond Business Park in Newcastle West.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: The Newcastle West District office is awaiting a plebiscite from the businesses of the Desmond Business Park in order to progress this.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Foley referred to poor lighting at this location. He stated that there is a lot of businesses in the Desmond Business Park and requested that the Desmond Business Park be taken in charge by the Council. Councillor Collins also made reference to a plebiscite which was submitted previously on this matter. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Executive Engineer would follow up on this matter.

The following items were also raised.

A request was made for traffic calming measures in front of the GAA field in Dromcollogher.

The condition of the road surface and a pothole which is in need of repair outside Centra on the N21 was raised.

The Meetings Administrator referred to an Update on the Dromcollogher Fire Disaster Centenary Commemoration which was received from Mr. Damien Brady, City and County Librarian. She stated that the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport will undertake an initial scoping exercise on 19th February in Dromcollogher to assess feasibility and technical requirements to progress planning of the state led commemoration.

Following this initial scoping exercise an update briefing will be provided to the Elected Members of the Newcastle West Municipal District.

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

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
