

**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, 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 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, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. K. Murphy), Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. K. Carroll), A/Senior Engineer, Ryder Cup (Mr. T. McKechnie), Executive Engineer, Roads Central Services (Mr. C. Liddy), Administrative Officer, Property Management (Ms. T. Knox), Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance (Mr. B. Kidney), Administrative Officer, Strategy & Non LA Housing Construction (Mr. J. Hayes), Administrative Officer, Development Management & Place-Making (Ms. M. O'Brien), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting Councillor Teskey expressed concern at the alarming rate of rising fuel costs and proposed a communication be forwarded to the Minister of Climate, Energy and Environment, Minister Darragh O'Brien requesting a reduction on fuel carbon tax to off set these fuel increases. This was seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue and agreed.

**1. Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2026.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;

Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;

And Resolved:

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

Councillor Ward declared his interest as a member of the Devere Curraghchase Society.

### **3. Disposal of Land**

Circulated, report of the Head of Property Services dated 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2026 setting out proposals for the disposal of 0.0229 Acres/0.00928 Hectares of land at the rear of 3 Fairhill, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The Administrative Officer, Property Management advised Members the acquirer of the land has agreed to cover the legal costs associated with the disposal and was also requested to construct a wall around the land being disposed before completion of conveyancing.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

### **4. Transportation and Mobility Directorate**

#### **Taking in Charge of Estates – Declaration of Roads to Public Roads**

Circulated, report of the Mayor of Limerick dated 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 seeking approval to the taking in charge of the Manor Fields Road, Adare, Co. Limerick.

The A/Senior Engineer, Ryder Cup explained this roadway would be a main access route of the 2027 Ryder Cup event and added three submissions had been received in support of this road being taken in charge.

Following discussion, the A/Senior Engineer, Ryder Cup advised the road was in a very poor condition and the costs associated with bringing the road up to proper standards would be borne by Central Government. The Elected Members requested a cycle lane also be considered as part of the overall works. The A/Senior Engineer, Ryder Cup advised the addition of a cycleway would have to be considered in the future as part of an Active Travel Project once the upgrade works were complete and the road taken in charge.

The A/Senior Engineer, Ryder Cup further advised if Members were agreeable to this taking in charge, works would commence in the immediate future and contractors would endeavour to keep disruption in the village to a minimum.

Proposed by Councillor Collins;  
Seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue;  
And Resolved:

“That the Manor Fields Road, Adare, Co. Limerick be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993”.

## 5. Housing Directorate

### Social Housing Delivery

Circulated, report of the Housing Strategy & Non-LA Housing Construction Directorate dated 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 setting out details in relation to the Social Housing Delivery for the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District.

The Administrative Officer, Strategy & Non LA Housing Construction updated Members on the social housing progress in the District which included:

- There is an overall 154 new build units in the Limerick City and County Council Housing Strategy target for delivery by December 2026 with 71 units approved to date.
- 16 approved acquisitions units.
- 10 approved lease units.
- 10 Void properties with estimated completion dates of Q1 & Q2, 2026.
- There are currently 2 affordable purchase schemes in Cois Sruthain, Croom with estimated completion date of December 2026 and Cois Curran, Pallaskenry with estimated completion date of January 2027.

The Administrative Officer, Strategy & Non LA Housing Construction concluded his presentation advising Limerick City and County Council received €4.5 million in funding for second hand acquisitions, which includes tenant in situ adding this funding does not cover any refurbishment works required on tenant in situ properties. There is currently no internal funding available to cover refurbishment works for tenant in situ properties.

The Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance added the social housing site in Adare has gone to tender this week for 31 units and 8 serviced sites. There will be a construction period of approximately 18 months with completion date estimated for Q4 2027. Councillor Keary expressed his dissatisfaction that this proposed project has taken so long to get to construction stage as the cost of building a house on these sites has increased significantly and asked if the surface water issue leading to the delay of the project has been resolved. The Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance advised it's imminent with agreement close to completion.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Keary requested an update on the Council owned property that was damaged by a fire in Coolanoran. The Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction

and Maintenance agreed to arrange a workshop to provide Members with an update on the property.

- Councillor Keary requested an update on when the social houses in The Orchard, Pallaskenry would be ready for allocation. The Administrative Officer, Strategy & Non LA Housing Construction advised he had spoken with the developer who informed him that 4 houses will be ready for allocation during April 2026 with the remaining 4 ready for allocation in July 2026.
- Councillor Hartigan asked when the people who have been allocated these houses in The Orchard would be informed. The Administrative Officer, Strategy & Non LA Housing Construction advised the successful applicants will be informed three weeks in advance of the confirmed occupancy date.
- Councillor Collins asked if part of the Mayoral Fund could be put towards bringing some of the Voids back into stock. The Director of Housing advised the Mayor is prioritising Voids for 2026. Currently funding from Central Government is €11,000 per unit with the average cost of refurbishment a Void being €35,000 - €40,000.

The Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance advised that Energy Retrofit is being carried out on Limerick City and County Council housing stock at the moment. The target for 2026 is 120 houses across Limerick City and County. The Housing Department are currently identified units in Croom, Foynes, Askeaton, Pallaskenry and Rathkeale and advised Members if they receive requests from Council tenants to upgrade windows, doors or heating sources to forward the details to the Housing Department where they will verify eligibility adding rent accounts must be up to date to allow upgrades to proceed. Councillor O'Donoghue asked if a tenant signs up for the retrofit scheme will solid fuel stoves have to be removed. The Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance advised to receive a good BER rating the chimneys have to be removed. Following further discussion he agreed to circulate details of the energy retrofit scheme requirements to Members.

## **6. District Engineers Report**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

Members welcomed Kevin Carroll, Executive Engineer to the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District and wished him well in his new role.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised Members due to the adverse weather over the last number of months the Roads Department have been

inundated with issue such as potholes and drainage adding an additional velocity patcher has been sourced temporarily and it is hoped to resolve the patching issues over the next three to four weeks.

The following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Collins raised the issue of the condition of the Castleroberts road following works carried out by Uisce Éireann and asked if potholes can be repaired on a weekly basis until the resurfacing is complete. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised the Contractor is responsible for the maintenance of the road as part of their Road Opening License and agreed to follow up with them on this issue. He added the final resurfacing cannot take place until May when weather improves to ensure new surface remains intact.
- Councillor O'Donoghue referred to the increase in funding for surface dressing, road reconstruction works and general maintenance and a Notice of Motion passed at Full Council for increased funding and queried if the increase was sufficient. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised the increase in funding would cover the inflationary costs of materials but would not cover the additional works required in the District.
- Councillor O'Donoghue requested an update on what works would be completed from the funding made available for the Lees Cross junction improvement scheme. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised he would provide an update for the next meeting.
- Councillor O'Donoghue requested a breakdown of 2026 Active Travel schemes for the next meeting.
- Councillor Keary requested a list of current Local Improvement Scheme applications for the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District. The A/Senior Executive Officer, Municipal Districts advised she would look into the matter and revert.
- Councillor Keary also requested an update on the footpath from the Blackabbey Road to the GAA field in Adare. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised that project is being progressed by Active Travel and currently at design stage. Councillor Collins requested a member of the Active Travel team attend the April Municipal District Meeting to provide an update on this project.
- Councillor O'Donoghue stated the road surface in front of the bus stop in Croagh needs to be cleaned on a regular basis. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised Traffic Infrastructure Ireland are responsible for

maintaining the road surface, signage and hedge cutting on the N21. Councillor Keary added the road surface on the N21 approaching Adare from Murphys Cross to the village is in very poor condition and needs to be addressed.

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

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

- €1,500 to St. Mary's Athletic Club.
- €1,000 to Ballingarry Soccer Club.
- €1,000 to Crecora/Manister GAA Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Hartigan, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Ballingarry AFC.

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

- €3,000 to Loughill Community Development.
- €3,000 to Crecora/Manister GAA Club.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Hartigan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Scoil Chiaráin, Kilfinny.

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

- €3,000 to Knockaderry Community Council.
- €3,000 to Knockfierna Heritage Society.
- €2,497 to Ballingarry AFC.
- €4,000 to Rathkeale Sports Complex.

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

- €8,700 to Kilcornan National School.
- €6,000 to Curraghchase Devere Society.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **8. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed guideline from our motor tax section as to how an individual obtains a registration or the process involved in registering a classic or vintage vehicle and how an individual can register a vehicle in his or her name with just the vehicles registration number.**

**Reply:**

**Classification:**

Any vehicle body type 30 years old from date of manufacture qualifies as vintage on which a concessionary rate of motor tax can apply.

**Declaration:**

Assuming the vehicle in question is already recorded on the National Vehicle and Driver File (NVDF), changing the taxation class on any vehicle eligible for vintage classification, requires a declaration on section 4 of application form RF111 (change of particulars)

[https://www.motortax.ie/OMT/pdf/RF111\\_en.pdf](https://www.motortax.ie/OMT/pdf/RF111_en.pdf)

and the submission of the old VRC (Vehicle Registration Certificate).

If the vehicle was registered in the Republic of Ireland prior to 1993 and the Registration (Log) Book is available, the Registration Book needs to be submitted with the RF111 form. The Registration Book will be updated to “vintage” and returned to the registered owner.

**Other considerations:**

Where the vehicle has been acquired without the appropriate registration documentation the new owner should:

**If NOT the registered owner of a vehicle registered in the Republic of Ireland prior to 1993.**

- Submit a completed Statutory Declaration. This form can be obtained by contacting the local Motor Tax Office.
- If registered as owner but has no Registration Book, complete an RF134 application and submit with €12.00 fee for a replacement Registration (Log) Book.
- If the details of the vehicle on the NVDF do not correspond to what the individual has submitted, then the individual has no option but to re-register their vehicle with the National Car Testing Service (NCTS). I understand the fee for this is €200 and the NCTS will issue either a “ZV” number or a registration number in the format of 72-LK-1234 for example, if the vehicle was originally manufactured in 1972.
- If the vehicle details are not on the NVDF, but the person in possession of the vehicle has a registration number for the vehicle,

we can check with the relevant Motor Tax Office where the vehicle was originally registered. "IU" vehicles were originally registered in Limerick. "IN" vehicles originally registered in Clare etc. The availability of those records (and if the details correspond) will determine if the application can be processed.

**If NOT the registered owner of a vehicle registered in the Republic of Ireland after 1993.**

- These vehicles hold a Vehicle Registration Certificate (VRC), and the customer needs to contact the Change of Ownership Section, Department of Transport, Shannon, County Clare as there is a separate Statutory Declaration Form for those vehicles.
- 0818-411-412 and [dvcsdchangeofownership@transport.gov.ie](mailto:dvcsdchangeofownership@transport.gov.ie) are the contact details for the office in Shannon.

For individual queries, the local Motor Tax Office can also be contacted as detailed below:

**Motor Tax Office**

Limerick City and County Council  
 Dooradoyle Road  
 Dooradoyle  
 Limerick  
 V94 WV78  
 Email: [motortax@limerick.ie](mailto:motortax@limerick.ie)  
 Phone: +353 61 556000

**9. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will ask at the next Meeting what extra monies will be afforded to the other towns within our district to improve amenities, facilities and capital infrastructure in preparation for the hosting of the Ryder Cup.**

**Reply:** As previously mentioned, Limerick City & County Council has not, for the moment, been advised of any additional funding that will be afforded to other towns and villages within the District specifically associated with Ryder Cup other than what is already allocated.

Limerick City & County Council, is looking at measures to enhance and address local towns and villages.

**10. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will ask at the next Meeting how many wind farm noise and shadow flicker complaints are open/active, date file opened, current status and if/when the Council referred the complaint to the HSE.**

**Reply:** There is currently one planning enforcement case regarding wind farm noise and three planning enforcement cases regarding shadow flicker that are under investigation.

The HSE advised Limerick City and County Council on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025 that they have no statutory role in the investigation of Wind Turbine Noise or shadow flicker complaints. Any such complaints received by the HSE would be referred to the Local Authority for investigation.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will move at the next Meeting that this District write to the Minster for Transport to request that the Department set about new regulations in order to streamline the registering of primarily vintage and classic vehicles that have no vehicle registration allocated to them or vehicles with a current registration that an individual requires a log book in his or her name.**

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Ward and agreed.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Teskey said he did so as he would like the Department of Transport to put an online system in place to allow an individual to upload the chassis number of their vintage classic vehicle to expediate the registration process and reduce time consuming paperwork for same.

#### **12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council undertake a review of its current procedures for the assessment of complaints relating to wind turbine noise and shadow flicker.**

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Ward and agreed.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Teskey stated given the amount of windfarm installations in this Country, households do not feel they are better off financially with

the current infrastructure and current energy costs. He also noted that a lot of wind turbines have stopped producing energy as the national grid currently does not have the capacity to store the electricity produced. He asked how many open complaints have been received by both the Planning and Environment Departments of Limerick City and County Council for noise and shadow flicker in West Limerick region and stated where a person's health was put at risk due to noise and shadow flicker, questioned if these complaints should be referred to the Health Service Executive for investigation. The Administrative Officer, Development Management & Place-Making advised Councillor Teskey the Health Service Executive do not have the tools or guidance to investigate such complaints. She added 1 noise and 3 shadow flicker complaints are currently being investigated. Councillor Teskey asked for a Council staff technical attendee at the April meeting advising what Limerick City and County Councils policy is upon receipt of a noise complaint in a particular area and what technical equipment they use to investigate same.

The Director of Housing noted that some of the questions being asked were beyond the wording of the Notice of Motion submitted and asked Councillor Teskey if he wished to amend his Notice of Motion. Councillor Teskey stated he would need to find out what the current procedures are adding a letter should be forwarded to the National Planning Regulator stating that the applicant cannot be the sole supplier of information in relation to shadow flicker and noise, this should be carried out by an independent third party. Councillor Teskey concluded that he had been informed that Offaly County Council have formally agreed to refer complaints such as shadow flicker and noise to the Health Service Executive who have agreed to engage with this Council on these issues. He asked that the Director of Planning for Offaly County Council be contacted to ascertain what procedures are used when dealing with these type of complaints.

**Reply:** Where a complaint concerns wind turbine noise and shadow flicker associated with a planning permission and any associated conditions, the Planning Enforcement Team, in conjunction with the Environment Team where necessary, investigate complaints in line with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). A review of current procedures will be undertaken.

### **13. Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

### **14. A.O.B**

- The Meetings Administrator advised Foynes Community Council had requested a private briefing with Elected Members to discuss concerns of the residents of Foynes village on the proposed Waste Water Treatment Plant. She proposed this

briefing would be held prior to the April Municipal District Meeting. Councillor Teskey requested a member of Uisce Éireann attend the briefing also to address concerns Councillors will be unable to answer.

- Councillor O'Donoghue requested Irish Rail attend a District Meeting to discuss the progress of the Limerick to Foynes railway line.
- Councillor O'Donoghue also stated that recently there has been only two days notice given for online meetings and requested that relevant departments would contact Members when little notice is given.
- Councillor Keary requested resources be allocated to Ballyneety Village as they are hosting the Junior Ryder Cup golf competition and asked for an update in relation to roads and footpaths in the village for the next meeting. Councillor O'Donoghue asked if the organising committee could be contacted to discuss same. The Director of Housing advised Elaine O'Connor and Trevor McKechnie are examining the requirements for the competition in Ballyneety Village in terms of parking and signage and would raise concerns with them.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

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**Cathaoirleach**

Dated:

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