

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 THURSDAY, 2ND APRIL, 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), 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. Valley), Town Centre First Officer, Rural Development (Ms. K. Burke), Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Rural Development (Mr. M. J. McNamara), Administrative Officer, Property Management (Ms. T. Knox), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

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

The Cathaoirleach and Members referred to the closure of Wyeth Nutritionals in Askeaton, Co. Limerick on the 31st March, 2026 and to the loss of a substantial number of jobs due to the closure of the plant. Concern was expressed for the workers affected by the closure and to the long-term impact on the local economy. The Members referred to the importance of encouraging employment back into the facility to keep employment in the region. Councillor Galvin also made reference to the announcement of job losses at Kostal Ireland in Abbeyfeale.

1. Adoption of Minutes

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

Proposed by: Councillor Collins

Seconded by: Councillor Foley

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

The Town Centre First Officer commenced by stating that various projects are underway in the District. She introduced the Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Rural Development, to the Meeting who then gave a presentation on RRDF Projects. The Acting Senior Executive Engineer gave a comprehensive overview of RRDF Category 1 projects which include West Limerick Tourism Hub Fuller's Folly and Limerick Greenway Hubs Development Projects. He also referred to RRDF Category 2 projects which include Limerick Greenway Hub at Abbeyfeale.

Fuller's Folly Project Update

- Current Status – Detailed Design Ongoing
- Construct Tender Issue Q2 2026
- Estimated Construct Start Q4 2026
- Estimated Construction Completion Q1 2028

He outlined to the Members the Project Details which include Refurbishment of existing buildings and courtyard, development includes a café, toilets, interpretation/exhibition spaces and viewing platforms at roof level, new glass structure, resurfacing of courtyard and public realm works adjacent to the river with improved linkage to the Desmond Castle site.

Limerick Greenway Hubs Development Projects (Ardagh, Newcastle West and Barnagh Station House Update).

(a) Ardagh: Tender Assessment Ongoing, Estimated Construction Start Q2 2026 and Estimated Construction Completion Q3 2027.

The Acting Senior Executive Engineer outlined to the Members the Project Details which include Refurbished Station House with Café, toilets and visitor experience, train carriage, carpark, playground, campervan parking area, refurbished goods shed and extensions to Station House and Goods Shed.

(b) Newcastle West Car Park: Construction Works commenced September 2025, Estimated Construction Completion June 2026.

The Acting Senior Executive Engineer relayed details of the project to the Members which included provision of car park with 80 spaces including disability spaces, EVCP spaces and

coach parking, public realm area, signalised pedestrian crossing, provision of hard standing area, installation of services and installation of public lighting and CCTV.

(c) Barnagh Station House: Construction Works commenced May 2025, Estimated Construction Completion June 2026.

The Acting Senior Executive Engineer stated that the project details for Barnagh Station House include refurbishment and fit out of the former Station House, interpretive elements, upgrade of platform and external area, installation of public lighting and CCTV.

(d) Limerick Greenway Hub at Abbeyfeale: He stated that works are complete to remove and make safe the Goods shed roof, the majority of existing timber trusses, rafters, purlins, slates have been recovered and stored for future use and that there is ongoing engagement with designers to identify future use for Goods Shed.

The Members expressed satisfaction on the enhancement of the various projects outlined above and referred to the great benefit these projects will have in the District. During discussion, reference was made to a number of matters including lighting up of the Barnagh tunnel, necessity for the provision of campervan facilities and the importance of the Greenway complimenting businesses in the local area. The dilapidated condition of the Goods Shed in Abbeyfeale was referred to and a brief discussion took place on funding for the Limerick Greenway Hub at Abbeyfeale. The funding for other projects including Fuller's Folly was raised. Reference was also made to the Irish aviator and sportswoman, Ms. Sophie Pierce, from Knockaderry who was born in 1896 who at the time was regarded as one of the world's leading aviators. The significance of William Smith O'Brien in the District was also raised.

In replying, the Town Centre First Officer stated that consultants are currently working on an Interpretation piece for Ms. Pierce. She also gave an update to the Members on the application for funding for the Limerick Greenway Hub at Abbeyfeale and in replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that this project was progressed at the same speed as the other projects but issues arose with regard to ecology which impacted on progressing the project, through the planning consent process.

The Members thanked the Acting Senior Executive Engineer's predecessor Mr. Ben Noonan, Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District for his work in developing the Limerick Greenway and projects outlined above.

The Members also thanked the Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Rural Development for the comprehensive presentation.

4. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

To consider Draft Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Circulated, report of Director of Services, dated March 2026, setting out the details of the Draft Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Newcastle West 2026.

The Senior Executive Engineer addressed the Meeting and gave an overview of the Schedule of proposed works planned for the District together with proposed funding for these works. He made reference to funding received for Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance projects and to additional funding of €100,000 received this year for Tar Patching. The Senior Executive Engineer referred to funding allocated to Drainage Works, Low Cost Safety Schemes and Active Travel projects.

He outlined to the Members the funding of €100,000 allocated under the Development Fund and to the funding of €95,000 General Municipal Allocation (GMA) to Roads Projects. He referred to Bridge Rehabilitation Schemes funding allocation of €349,500 and to five bridges in the District which are to be upgraded through Central Services.

The Members welcomed the report and the funding which was made available for the various projects in the Schedule. The Members were satisfied with the geographical spread of schemes in the District.

Reference was made to the funding allocated in the Schedule to the N21 Newcastle West Bypass and the N21 Abbeyfeale Bypass and to the importance of progressing these projects in the District.

The roads depot at Kinard, Glin was raised and if a roads crew could be designated to operate out of Kinard Depot. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that the roads in this area are actively managed and it may not prove efficient to have a crew operate out of Kinard Depot. Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor Collins that this matter be reconsidered.

Reference was made to the significant allocation of funding to various Active Travel projects including the Broadford Village Boardwalk and to engagement with local communities in these projects. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a Part 8 planning application is currently being prepared for the Broadford Village Boardwalk and it is envisaged that this will be finalised shortly.

The issue of funding for works on the Dromdeeven road in Ashford was raised and following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Executive Engineer, Roads would arrange a Meeting onsite to discuss this matter.

Reference was made to the condition of other roads in the District which are not included in the Schedule and to emergency funding being made available for these roads. In replying, the Senior Executive Officer stated that the Director, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm is actively making representations to seek funding for emergency works in the District. The Members referred to a number of other matters including timeframe for completion of the Schedule, drainage works, patching units, cost of inflation and current staffing levels to carry out the works outlined in the Schedule.

The Members acknowledged the excellent work of the Senior Executive Engineer, Executive Engineer and outdoor staff in the District. The Director also welcomed the full support from the Members and the Roads Team in the District.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Foley and agreed by all the Members to adopt the Schedule of Works 2026 for the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

5. Disposal of Land

Circulated, report of Head of Property Services, dated 20th March, 2026, concerning proposal to dispose of 0.1495 Acres (0.0605 Hectares) of land at Lilac Close, Knockane, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

The Members noted the proposal.

6. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €2,393.61 as follows to Broadford Community Development CLG for development of the Community Centre.

- Councillor Collins €398.93
- Councillor Foley €398.93
- Councillor Galvin €398.93
- Councillor Ruddle €398.93
- Councillor Scanlan €398.93
- Councillor Sheahan €398.93

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €3,000 as follows to Dromcollogher/Broadford GAA for roof repairs.

- Councillor Ruddle €1,000
- Councillor Scanlan €2,000

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €3,000 to drainage works on the L1333 at Dunganville, Ardagh.

A GMA application was received from Castlemahon Development. It was agreed to defer this application as further information is awaited from the Group.

A GMA application was received from Tournafulla Vintage Club. It was agreed to defer this application as further information is awaited from the Group.

A GMA application was received from Tournafulla GAA. It was agreed to defer this application pending further information.

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.

7. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update regarding speed ramps in Mountcollins.

REPLY: A speed survey has been conducted on the Western approach to Mountcollins. The installation of ramps and traffic calming measures are subject to the Limerick City and County Council Traffic Calming Policy. This location will be examined further in the coming weeks as per the policy.

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when road surface renewal will be carried out along Maiden Street, Newcastle West.

REPLY: This road forms part of the draft Road Works Scheme 2026 and if approved, works will commence in Q3 2026.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when drainage works are likely to be carried out along Buckley Terrace, Dromcollogher.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council Roads Department has met with the landowner and are currently drafting an agreement. If agreement is reached works will commence in Q3 of 2026.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when works on the anticipated footpath on the western side of Ashford village is set to commence.

REPLY: A Part 8 planning permission is required for the proposed works in Ashford. If the Part 8 progresses, works will commence in Q3 of 2026.

11. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed update on (a) Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan (b) the new graveyard in Abbeyfeale.

REPLY:

(a) The Council are preparing a Part VIII application for a new burial ground for Abbeyfeale. The preparatory stage included a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit that identified operational speeds on the access road significantly in excess of the speed limit of 50kph. Therefore, the scheme requires a traffic calming scheme to be incorporated into the proposed development and included in the Part VIII documentation. A preliminary traffic calming scheme has been prepared and is currently being assessed by the relevant internal departments of Limerick City and County Council. This review will inform the final design and Part VIII documentation. It is expected that the Part VIII documentation will be finalised and ready for public consultation in Q2 2026.

(b) The Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan is now split into stages for delivery purposes as follows:

- Advanced Works/Demolition of the O’ Riordan’s Bar and a residential building at Colbert Terrace (This was completed in 2024).
- Construction of the Grove Crescent Carpark Link - Contractor has been appointed and construction is commencing in March 2026 (4 month works programme).
- Uisce Eireann will replace the watermains on Killarney Road, Main Street and Colbert Terrace commencing in June 2026 (3 month works programme). This is funded by Uisce Eireann directly.
- N21 Killarney Road Phase – It is planned to tender and commence works in H2 2026 with a target of having the works completed pre- Ryder Cup (September 2027).
- N21 Main Street and Colbert Terrace - It is planned to commence works post Ryder Cup (September 2027).

At the moment we are working with our Consultant Malachy Walsh and Partners to finalise the value engineering design exercise on the N21 Killarney Road Phase to deliver the project within budget. Once this phase is re designed and cost estimate completed, we will engage with the project funder TII to confirm funding prior to tender. We plan to publish the traffic calming proposals under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 to make the public aware of the proposed traffic calming measures. This will take place in May.

12. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed update on the six properties developed in Abbeyfeale funded under the Rural Regeneration and Development fund (a) What stage each of the properties are at (b) What are the plans for each (c) When can we expect each to be occupied (d) What are the costs of each to bring to completion (e) What are the delays.

REPLY:

(a) Table below:

Property	Location	Property type	Status
6 Colbert Terrace	Abbeyfeale	3 bed terrace	Complete to Builders Finish
7 Colbert Terrace	Abbeyfeale	3 bed terrace	Complete to Builders Finish

Convent Road **	Abbeyfeale	2 bed detached	Complete to Builders Finish
Old Church Street	Abbeyfeale	3 bed end terrace	Complete to Builders Finish
Bridge Inn Bar A	Abbeyfeale	4 bed terrace	Complete to Builders Finish
Bridge Inn Bar B	Abbeyfeale	1 bed terrace	Complete to Builders Finish

(b) & (c)

The 6 properties in Abbeyfeale are being reviewed to examine the feasibility of a rental model in line with the Mayoral Objective ML15 – “with a view to deploy risk transfer mechanisms and equity sharing to unlock rental deliver in relation to renovation”.

Financial modelling options are at final stages and discussions are ongoing, with the RRDF team in the DHLGH to reach agreement as to the future of these properties.

(d) Under the RLHD scheme the properties were to be brought to “Builders finish”. Costs to complete to liveable/rental standard have not been reviewed to date, as it was not part of original remit and are pending a final decision as to the future use of the properties.

(e) With the exception of the Convent Road property, the remaining properties have been completed, following snagging etc, from the end of 2025/early 2026. Property Services Department is awaiting the agreement to be reached with DHLGH and Housing Directorate, to advance the properties activation in compliance with the final decision.

Councillor Galvin requested that the matter be referred back to the Mayor and the Director of Housing and that a detailed response be provided before the next Meeting. Councillor Galvin asked that clarification be sought on progression of the six properties in Abbeyfeale and when it is anticipated that these properties will be put into occupation. The other Members also expressed dissatisfaction on the six houses in Abbeyfeale which still remain unoccupied given that a lot of people are dependent on getting these houses into occupation. It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would revert to the Property Section to seek a further update on this matter before the May Meeting of the District.

13. Question submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will ask at the next Meeting how many claims for Personal Injuries have been made to Limerick City and County Council over the last five years due to the surface of the cobbled area in The Square in Newcastle West town.

REPLY: There have been no personal injury claims made to Limerick City and County Council over the last five years due to the surface of the cobbled area in The Square in Newcastle West town.

NOTICES OF MOTION

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will move at the next Meeting that the road from Dromtrasna North to Meenaheala Creamery be resurfaced as it's in a poor state.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Foley referred to the poor condition of the road from Dromtrasna North to Meenaheala Creamery.

REPLY: This road forms part of the draft Road Works Scheme 2026 and if approved, works will commence in Q3 2026.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council do a clean-up of the Square in Newcastle West for the summer including cleaning and painting the tables and seats, additional seating in the Demesne and replace broken seat across the river in South Quay.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle referred to the condition of the tables, seats and parklets, seating in the Demesne and requested that a clean up of The Square take place. The condition of the cobble stones was also raised and that maintenance of The Square in Newcastle West should form part of an annual maintenance project.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will carry out a survey and determine what works are required in terms of the Square. The provision of seating in the Demesne will be discussed with our colleagues in Parks.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that an urgent review of traffic flow and parking be conducted along Boherbue to include that within Meadow Court residential estate.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to the serious issue of traffic flow in the vicinity of the Scoil Mhuire agus Íde and to the difficulty of emergency services accessing the area. The issue of students parking in Meadow Court estate was also raised. A discussion took place and it was agreed that this matter would be raised at a Meeting with the Superintendent which is to take place shortly.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council roads personnel will meet with relevant stakeholders to discuss this matter.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council carry out immediate traffic calming measures at Abbeyfeale United Soccer Club.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to safety in the vicinity of the Abbeyfeale United Soccer Club and to a recent accident which took place at this location. Councillor Galvin requested that traffic calming measures be carried out in the interest of safety.

REPLY: The installation of ramps and traffic calming measures are subject to the Limerick City and County Council Traffic Calming Policy. This location will be examined further in the coming weeks as per the policy.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that a safety audit for pedestrian use be taken of the cobbled areas of The Square in Newcastle West town and that the area be upgraded forthwith.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan stated that a lot of activity takes place in The Square and referred to accidents which have taken place in The Square over the last twelve months. A discussion took place on proposed works to be carried out at The Square including sealant on the cobble stones. A Public Realm Plan for Newcastle West was also raised.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins that following a previous Mayoral funding allocation proposal of €100,000 for a structure in The Square that this funding now be spent on maintenance works on The Square in Newcastle West. It was agreed that the Director would seek an update on this matter.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council Roads Department will examine the area that has been highlighted.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council appoint a Clerk of Works with the required qualifications to deal specifically with the reinstatement works associated with works done by utility companies.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan referred to the quality of reinstatement works carried out by utility companies and contractors and that these works be monitored. Reference was made in particular to the Athea, Abbeyfeale road.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council Roads Department manage the reinstatement works being carried out in the District by utility companies. All works carried out by utility companies are subject to a Road Opening Licence and therefore must meet specific requirements and standards.

The following items were also raised.

The rehabilitation works which have commenced on the bridge along the R522 Castlemahon Cross to Bunoke Bridge was acknowledged.

Clarification was sought on the number of homes allowed under a new initiative announced by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. James Browne allowing developers to build wastewater facilities for smaller developments (40 No.)

Reference was made to the issue of speeding on the R522 between Castlemahon Cross and Danganbeg and a request was made to have this item included for discussion with An Garda Síochána at a Briefing to take place shortly. It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would arrange for this item to be included for discussion at that Briefing.

A further update on the Devon Road Cross and Dore's Cross was requested at the May Meeting of the District.

It was agreed to hold the May Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 6th May, 2026, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
