

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, 13TH MAY, 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), Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Ms. D. Clarke).

APOLOGIES:

Senior Executive Officer, Municipal Districts (Ms. K. White).

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Collins welcomed everyone in attendance to the adjourned May Meeting of the District. He stated that the May Meeting had been adjourned, in accordance with Standing Orders, as a mark of respect to Councillor Galvin on the recent passing of his mother Mrs. Betty Galvin, RIP.

The Members expressed deep sympathy to Councillor Galvin, his brother, sisters and Mrs. Galvin's brother Liam Lenihan, for their great loss. Mrs. Betty Galvin was recalled as being a great family woman who was held in high esteem in the community.

The Director also extended sincere sympathy on his own behalf and on behalf of Management and Staff to Councillor Galvin and family members.

A minute's silence and refection was observed as a mark of respect.

In replying, Councillor Galvin expressed his appreciation to the Cathaoirleach, Members and staff of the District for the adjournment of the Meeting.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 2nd April, 2026.

Proposed by: Councillor Foley
Seconded by: Councillor Sheahan
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. Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm Directorate

To Receive Update on the Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale Distributor roads.

The Senior Executive Engineer addressed the Meeting and gave an update to the Members on the N21 Newcastle West and N21 Abbeyfeale road schemes.

She commenced by giving an update on the N21 Newcastle West road scheme. She stated that since the last update a number of processes have been completed and are well advanced. She stated that the Design Peer Review has been completed and that the comments are currently being incorporated into the scheme design and associated reports. She referred to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report which has been drafted, reviewed by the Road Design Office, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Senior Counsel and that the Consultants, Jacobs Engineering are now finalising the document based on that feedback.

The Senior Executive Engineer stated that extensive engagement has taken place with the landowners on both schemes and the project team is carefully considering all feedback received. She stated that where possible and appropriate, this feedback is being reflected in the design and documentation.

She referred to ecology surveys which are being repeated to ensure the most up to date information is available. She also referred to the Compulsory Purchase Order maps and schedules which have been drafted and reviewed by the Road Design Office and are now being finalised.

In conclusion, she stated that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Compulsory Purchase Order documentation is expected to be ready for submission to An Coimisiún

Pleanála by the end of the summer. She stated that subject to approvals, the scheme is on track to be formally submitted towards the end of this year.

The Senior Executive Engineer proceeded to give an update on the N21 Abbeyfeale road scheme. She stated that both schemes are being progressed in parallel but however the Abbeyfeale scheme is running slightly behind Newcastle West due to the hillier terrain around Abbeyfeale which makes the design process more complex and requires more careful consideration. She stated that as a result, approvals and publication for Abbeyfeale are expected to follow approximately two to three months after Newcastle West.

Following the update given, the Members requested that the update be given in writing to the Members. The Members referred to a number of matters including the progression of both projects simultaneously, various phases in the projects, funding, more engagement with landowners, timeframe for submission of schemes to An Coimisiún Pleanála along with completion dates and that the two projects be given priority by An Coimisiún Pleanála. The acquisition of houses by affected householders was raised and in replying the Executive Engineer stated that there is no funding available at present but however stated that priority would be given to this matter in due course and when funding is available. Prior to conclusion, the Members thanked the Senior Executive Engineer, acknowledged the work of the Mid West Road Design office on these schemes and requested that the Members be kept informed of progress on these schemes.

4. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Dromcollogher/Broadford GAA for roof repairs (To be covered under existing GMA application received at the April Municipal District Meeting).

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 as follows to Killeedy Eco Park for maintenance and outdoor teaching area:

- Councillor Collins €250
- Councillor Scanlan €250
- Councillor Galvin €250
- Councillor Ruddle €250

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €750 as follows to Castlemahon Development for St. Patrick's Day:

- Councillor Collins €250
- Councillor Ruddle €250
- Councillor Scanlan €250

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,347.37 as follows to Tournafulla and District Vintage Club for medals, refreshments and printing:

- Councillor Collins €782.46
- Councillor Galvin €782.46
- Councillor Foley €782.46

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 as follows to Abbeyfeale United FC for professional fees:

- Councillor Galvin €666.67
- Councillor Foley €666.67
- Councillor Ruddle €666.67

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €3,000 as follows to Newcastle West Knights Basketball Club for basketball equipment:

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

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 as follows to Feohanagh/Castlemahon Community Games for outdoor toilets and equipment:

- Councillor Collins €750
- Councillor Ruddle €750

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Ballyguiltenane National School for works to car park.

It was agreed to defer the Dromcollogher26 General Municipal allocation application until a Special Meeting of the District takes place to discuss the Dromcollogher26 event and funding for same. It was also agreed that a Workshop on Dromcollogher26 would take place and that all relevant stakeholders including the Mayor would be invited to attend the Workshop and Special Meeting. The Senior Executive Engineer stated that from a roads perspective there is no budget allocation provided for this project.

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 L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting can the Council open inlets from a public road to a farmers land where there is no dyke to carry the surface water.

REPLY:

Yes, the local authority can open inlets from a public road to private lands under Section 76 of the Roads Act 1993.

There is an onus on the Road Authority to manage and maintain road drainage to prevent surface water ponding on public roads. Surface water ponding on the carriageway poses a significant safety risk to road users and also leads to the deterioration of the road surface. Under Section 76(1) of the Roads Act 1993, a Road Authority may construct and maintain drains in, on, under, through or to any land for the purpose of draining water from, or preventing water flowing onto, a public road.

In addition, Section 76(5) and (6) states – The owner or occupier of any land adjacent to a public road shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that water is not prevented, obstructed or impeded from draining into, onto, under, through or to his land from a public road. A road authority may serve a notice in writing on the owner or occupier of any land adjacent to a public road requiring him to carry out specified works or take specified measures to ensure that water is not prevented, obstructed or impeded from draining into, onto, under, through or to his land from a public road.

6. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed update on the Railway Yard including the old storehouse in Abbeyfeale.

REPLY:

Works to remove the partially collapsed old railway goods shed roof were completed earlier this year by contractor Alan O’Connell Developments Ltd., with opportunity to carry out minor repointing and repair works also completed. This work was procured on an emergency basis due to the collapse of one of the main timber trusses supporting the roof structure. The roof was carefully deconstructed with as much of the original roofing materials as possible retained for future usage.

A multi-disciplinary Design Team are currently developing design proposals for the site, including the old railway goods shed. The next steps are now to progress to detail design and prepare tender documents for the overall site, including the old railway goods shed. Subject to available capital funding in the future, development works on the site will be progressed.

7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a copy of all the contracts for grass cutting in this District.

REPLY:

Limerick City and County Council have engaged the services of a contractor to provide the grass cutting service for the 29.66 hectares of green areas in the charge of the Council within the Municipal District of Newcastle West. The contract requires 16 cuts annually

(every two weeks during the growing season) at a rate of €126.50 per hectare per cut. This equates to €60,031.84 exclusive of VAT in 2026 for this District.

NOTICES OF MOTION

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that the Director of Service, Transportation, Mobility and Public Realm, to trail average speed cameras along the R520 and R522 and to revert to our Municipal Council with the outcome. Findings are needed in the interest of safety.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan expressed dissatisfaction at the response received and referred to the major issue of speeding and safety on the R520 and R522 at various locations. A discussion took place on the use of Go Safe vans, identifying locations and the static speed camera on the N69. Following discussion, it was agreed that this matter be placed as an Item on the Agenda for discussion at the next Meeting with the Superintendent and An Garda Síochána.

REPLY:

The use of average speed cameras is particularly effective on high speed, low conflict roads for example Motorways, National roads and Tunnels.

To date in Ireland the use of average speed cameras has been confined to the following locations:

- Dublin Port Tunnell
- M7 (J26 Nenagh to J27 Birdhill) since 2022
- Further rollouts were on N3 (Cavan), N4 (Mayo) and N2 (Meath) in 2024 and 2025.

The reason for the deployment to those locations were that they were located along higher speed link roads with a notable collision history.

The use of average speed cameras is less effective where there are frequent junctions or accesses and therefore is not suitable for much of our Regional Road network. Furthermore the upfront costs for this form of speed reduction mechanism is significant €150k - €250k, therefore future deployment onto our Regional road network will be based on measured collision history, speed data and road geometry.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council carries out a safety audit at Fitzgerald's farmhouse, The Hill, Abbeyfeale and carry out appropriate measures for child safety.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to the issue of safety at Fitzgerald's Farmhouse and Equestrian Centre and requested that the Roads Team meet on site to discuss safety measures at this location. Councillor Foley also stated that a lot of young children are attending the riding school. Councillor Galvin acknowledged the footpath works which were carried out on the Hill Road in Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: The Roads Department will meet with Councillor Galvin on site to review matter.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council includes grass collection to all contracts for all estates in the District of Newcastle West.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin requested that the collection of grass following grass cutting would be included in the contract for grass cutting due to grass on driveways following grass cutting and grass potentially blocking surface water drains. Following discussion on costing and substantial increase in costs for grass collection to be included in the grass cutting contract, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would bring this matter to the attention of the relevant Directorate.

REPLY:

Limerick City and County Council have engaged the services of a contractor to provide the grass cutting services for the 29.66 hectares of green areas in the charge of the Council within the Municipal District of Newcastle West. The contract requires 16 cuts annually (every two weeks during the growing season) at a rate of €126.50 per hectare per cut. The services does not include collection of the cut grass.

The inclusion of grass collection in any new contract for the District would incur a rate (for cut and collection) of €750 per hectare (2026 pricing) and a requirement for an additional €300,000 exclusive of VAT for the Municipal District of Newcastle West alone.

Current budget allocation precludes the inclusion of grass collection as part of the grass cutting contract. Members are advised that grass collection is not a service provided in any District of Limerick City and County Council and the Parks Section provide the same level of grass cutting service level across all Districts for green areas in the charge of the Council.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will move at the next Meeting that an audit be carried out in the Municipal District on all our disabled parking spaces and that proper signage is in place.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Foley requested that an audit be carried out of disabled parking spaces in the District and to ensure that proper signage is in place. Councillor Foley requested that consultation take place with the individuals affected to ascertain the difficulties being encountered. Councillor Foley also referred to illegal parking in disabled parking spaces after 6p.m.

The Members concurred with Councillor Foley and referred to illegal parking which is taking place in disabled parking spaces in private car parks. The use of clamping to prevent illegal parking of vehicles in disabled parking spaces and loading bays during the six week period leading up to year end was raised.

REPLY: The Roads Department will carry out an audit of disabled parking spaces in the Newcastle West District and ensure there is signage in place which does not impede on the parking.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council consider putting ramps/raised platforms on the Boherbui road (by SMI school) to help reduce excessive speed here.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle referred to the speed of traffic and accidents which have taken place on the Boherbui road and requested that traffic calming measures be considered near Scoil Mhuire agus Íde secondary school. The Members concurred with Councillor Ruddle and referred to the issue of speeding and traffic calming measures on all of the Boherbui road, not just one particular section.

REPLY:

The matter of ramps and raised platforms is being considered on the Boherbui road but stakeholder engagement is required. It is proposed to meet on site with representative Councillors in the coming weeks.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on the Broadford Village Boardwalk following funding allocated to this project under Active Travel. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a Part VIII proposal is currently being prepared and it is anticipated that the Part VII for the Broadford Village Boardwalk will be advertised shortly. He also stated that discussions are ongoing with landowners with regard to this project.

The condition of the road surface at Maiden Street and leading to the Courtenay School was raised. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that works on Maiden Street form part of the Roads Works Scheme 2026.

The Members expressed urgency on the progression and allocation of the six properties in Abbeyfeale which have been unoccupied for a long period of time. Following discussion on the manner in which this matter is to be progressed, a request was made that a further detailed update be sought on these properties to include allocation, costing and timeframe for occupation. It was agreed that the Director would seek an update on this matter prior to the June Meeting. An update was also sought on Daly's building and an update on the house at the corner of New Street towards Colbert Road was also requested.

The issue of safety in the vicinity of the Abbeyfeale United Soccer Club and an update on a request for traffic calming measures at this location was raised. In replying, the Executive Engineer agreed to revert to the Members on this matter.

An update was sought on Fuller's Folly and it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek an update for the next Meeting.

The provision of a roads crew at Kinard Depot in Glin was raised and a request was made to have a costing carried out to ascertain what resources are required to get a roads team to operate out of Kinard Depot. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer gave an outline of the measures required to operate a roads team out of Kinard Depot which would include staffing, staff welfare unit and CCTV surveillance.

The condition of the cobbled stones in The Square, Newcastle West was raised. The Members sought an update on a proposed Mayoral funding allocation of €100,000 for a structure in The Square and to a proposal by the Members that this funding should now be spent on maintenance of The Square in Newcastle West. It was agreed that the Director would seek an update on this matter.

The provision of speed ramps in Mountcollins and in the District was raised and in replying, the Executive Engineer stated that a speed survey has been carried out and the installation of speed ramps and traffic calming measures are subject to Limerick City and County Council Traffic Calming Policy. A discussion took place on the provision of speed ramps in the District, Traffic Calming Policy, Funding and a Programme for traffic calming in the District. A query was raised if the current Traffic Calming Policy is cumbersome, leading to delays in getting traffic calming carried out and in replying, the Senior Executive Engineer referred to the Policy in place for traffic calming and gave an overview of what measures are required in the implementation of traffic calming measures. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Director would liaise with Rathkeale and Kilmallock Municipal Districts on the implementation of the traffic calming measures in these Districts.

An update was sought on the taking in charge of the Desmond Business Park in Newcastle West. It was discussed that the plebiscite that was thought to be in place was not, therefore a plebiscite is required in order to consider this request.

Prior to conclusion of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach and Members wished to acknowledge the filming of "The Wayfinders Season 2" at the Desmond Castle in Newcastle West this week. The Cathaoirleach stated that this is of huge benefit to the town and thanked all involved including the Roads team in facilitating the filming.

It was agreed to hold the June Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 3rd June, 2026, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

It was also agreed to hold the Annual Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 3rd June, 2026, at 12.00 noon, at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
