

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST
HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY,
9th NOVEMBER, 2016, AT 10:00 A.M.**

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J. Sheahan, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Browne, Collins, Foley, Galvin and Scanlan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Service Operations, (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. C. O'Connor), Acting Senior Executive Engineer, (Mr. R. Noonan) Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development (Mr. B. Kennedy) Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Architectural Conservation Officer (Mr. T. Cassidy), Senior Staff Officer, (Ms. M. Corbett), Clerical Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. D. O'Kelly).

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 5th October, 2016.

Proposed by Councillor Foley;
Seconded by Councillor Galvin;
And Resolved:

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

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Draft Budgetary Plan 2017 Meeting held on the 19th October, 2016.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
Seconded by Councillor Scanlan;
And Resolved:

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

It was agreed to defer Item 2 to later in the Meeting as the Architectural Conservation Officer had been delayed.

3. Economic Development Directorate

Great Southern Trail

The Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development, gave an update to Members on the Great Southern Trail under the following headings:

- Great Southern Trail (GST) progress to date.
- Part VIII works to be carried out.
- Future potential – other examples.
- Future development of GST- key priorities.

The Members thanked the Senior Executive Officer for his presentation and were delighted that a dedicated Agency and personnel were in place to bring this to the level that was required. Members also wished to acknowledge the previous committee who had managed the Great Southern Trail and had progressed it to this stage. Members expressed a wish to arrange a meeting with Councillors in Listowel to discuss the extension of the trail in County Kerry.

The Senior Executive Officer responded to queries raised under the following headings:

- Illegal dumping and maintenance on the Trail.
- Safety Issues on the Trail.
- Branding and Marketing of the Trail.
- Liaising with Landowners and Business interests on the Trail.

He stated that considerable funding had been secured and that funding for maintenance had been provided in the Council Budget. It was his intention to carry out a Part VIII in order to progress the Trail. He clarified that a discussion on the Part VIII would have to be made at plenary level. He said it was hoped to be in a position to revert back to a Meeting of the District in February, 2017.

As part of Part VIII process the public could voice their concerns and this could result in modifications.

He also stated that he had had discussions with Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding the Barna Tunnel which goes under the N21 with a view to including this on the Trail in the future.

2. Service Operations Directorate

Planning and Environmental Services

Proposal to add one structure to the Record of Protected Structures

Circulated, Report of the Senior Manager, Planning and Environmental Services dated 28th October, 2016 enclosing a copy of the Chief Executive's Report setting out details of proposed addition of one structure, Cooney's Thatched House, Gortnagluggin, Feenagh (P.P.S.2016/B) to the Record of Protected Structures in accordance with Sections 54 and 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The Architectural Conservation Officer outlined the details of the proposal pointing out that the statutory process, as set out in Sections 54 and 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), had been complied with.

Proposed by Councillor Scanlan;
Seconded by Councillor Galvin;
And Resolved:

"That, in accordance with Sections 54 and 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) the approval of the Municipal District of Newcastle West be and is hereby given to the addition of Cooney's Thatched House, Gortnagluggin, Feenagh (P.P.S.2016/B) to the Record of Protected Structures, in accordance with the Chief Executive's Report.

4. Physical Development Directorate

Assessment Report following Public Consultation Process for the Draft Limerick City and County Council Road Traffic (30 Kilometres per hour Special Speed) Bye-Laws 2016.

Circulated, Report of the Director of Service, Physical Development Directorate dated 28th October, 2016 in relation to Assessment Report following Public Consultation Process for the Draft Limerick City and County Council Road Traffic (30 Kilometres per hour Special Speed) Bye-Laws 2016.

The Acting Senior Engineer stated that Members were being requested to note the Assessment Report in relation to the 5 housing estates as outlined in the Report. It was hoped that in early 2017 speed reviews would be carried out and a full assessment on the Pilot Scheme would be considered by this time next year. He also stated that relevant signage would be put in place by mid December. Once the pilot project had been rolled out it was the intention to consider further estates in the District of Newcastle West. Members asked that they be kept informed of the outcome of the pilot project as there were many other estates in the area where 30 km per hour speed limits should also be applied. The report was noted by the Members.

5. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

(a) To consider allocation of funding from General Municipal Allocation to fund Impact Analysis of Newcastle West Pool Feasibility Study (Terms of Reference agreed at October Meeting).

The Director stated that the Members had agreed to commission a report to assess the impact, if any, that the development of a new pool in Newcastle West would have on existing public and private swimming pool facilities in the area. He added that the terms of reference for this report had been presented to the Members and agreed at the October Monthly Municipal District Meeting. It had also been agreed to fund this report from the Tourism Recreational Fund of the GMA. In reply to queries from Members he stated that the terms of reference were clearly defined and only focused on one element. He also stated that it was hoped to have this report finalised within 3 to 4 months.

Following a brief discussion, the Members stated that they hoped once this report was concluded that the matter could be moved forward and presented to the Department with an application for funding. In relation to the preparation of the report the need to ensure that contact was made with the current local provider was stressed.

Councillor Collins stated that as he had not been present at the previous Meeting he wished to place on record that he was in agreement with the terms of reference as set out.

(b) To review position in relation to allocations under the Municipal District Special Projects General Municipal Allocation (GMA) 2016.

The Director stated that all funds had not been allocated under the Special Projects element of the GMA. Members asked for confirmation that funds could be carried forward to the following year as some worthy projects may come before the Members. The Director stated that this was in order.

6. Renaming of the Square, Newcastle West to Con Colbert Square

Members referred to discussions with property owners and landlords in the Square, Newcastle West and pointed out that they were happy to progress with the name change.

The Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, outlined the procedure for renaming the Square to Con Colbert Square, which was set out in Sections 76 to 79 of the Local Government Act, 1946 (as amended by Section 53 of the Local Government Act, 1955 and Section 67 of the Local Government Act, 1994). The Local Government (Changing of Place Name) Regulations 1956 detailed the procedures for the holding of a plebiscite by a Local Authority to change a placename.

The Local Authority must pass a resolution agreeing to change the name of the street and hold a plebiscite of those living on the street/square and those who were ratepayers on the street/square in accordance with the 1956 Regulations. If the majority of those polled agreed to the change of name the Local Authority may make an order changing the name and make arrangements to display the new name in whatever form it may decide.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Browne it was agreed that the Newcastle West District Council would submit a recommendation to the Full Council for the process of renaming of The Square, Newcastle West to Con Colbert Square to begin in accordance with the relevant legislation set out.

7. Deputation

On the proposal of Councillor Foley and seconded by Councillor Browne it was agreed to receive a deputation from Abbeyfeale Community Council at the December Meeting of the Municipal District.

QUESTIONS

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting if the crash barrier can be extended at Springmount/Ballaugh North towards Leahys Cross.

REPLY: A number of safety barriers have been erected at this location. Further barriers will be considered later this year dependent on the availability of funding.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the following derelict sites, namely (a) 15

Assumpta Park, Newcastle West; (b) The O’Gorman properties along Lower Maiden Street, Newcastle West; (c) what was formerly Nunans Garage at Broadford; (d) The Ashford Tavern; (e) The West End Hotel, Dromcollogher.

REPLY: (a) 15 Assumpta Park: A site inspection was carried out on the 26th October 2016 and a Notice under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (Section 8(2)) is being served on the owner.

(b) O’Gorman Properties Lower Maiden Street: A Notice under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (Section 8(2)) was served on the 28th September 2016, the owner has been in contact with the local authority.

(c) Nunan's Garage Broadford: A site inspection was carried out on the 26th October 2016, and a Notice under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (Section 8(2)) is being served on the owner with recommended remedial measures.

(d) Ashford Tavern: The Local Authority are currently engaged in legal proceedings with the owner under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964.

(e) West-End Hotel Dromcollogher: A Notice under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (Section 29) was served on the 11th Feb 2016, the owner has been in contact about the recommended remedial measures. A further Notice under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (Section 8(2)) Notice is being served on the owner.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when the front garden fencing is likely to be replaced at Oak Crescent, Newcastle West.

REPLY: The Estate Management Unit are currently carrying out works which include wall repairs and painting in this area. There are currently no plans to replace the front garden fencing in this estate.

11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when footpath renewal works will occur at (a) Castlemahon Village between Collums and the Village Pub; (b) at Michael Hartnett Close; (c) along Bishop Street, Newcastle West from Best Value towards Dooley’s Super Value.

REPLY: Currently there is not funding available to progress the footpath renewal works at Castlemahon Village and Michael Hartnett Close. Possible funding sources for these works to be progressed during 2017 are either under the Development Fund or GMA Roads funding.

Footpath renewal works along Bishop Street, Newcastle West are to commence within the next two weeks.

12. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting if Transport Infrastructure Ireland can be asked to carry out a safety audit to the traffic calming at Templeglantine West due to a high number of traffic accidents there.

REPLY: The Templeglantine Traffic Calming Scheme was constructed in 2014. As requested, a review of the accident statistics, following its construction, will be undertaken. This review will also be undertaken in consultation with An Garda Síochána and the Road Safety Section of Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

13. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update to requests for lighting, footpath repairs, pelican crossing, clean up of derelict site, road markings, road repairs and signage at Bothar Bui/Killeline junction.

REPLY: It is intended that a street light shall be erected at this junction before year end, subject to funding availability.

The existing road markings and road condition in the immediate vicinity of this junction shall be assessed and the necessary improvement measures carried out if deemed necessary.

The existing footpath condition shall be assessed and repaired if deemed necessary. Any large scale repair works will need to be considered in the 2017 Newcastle West Schedule of Municipal District Works under the GMA or the Development fund allocation.

The existing signage shall be assessed and improved if deemed necessary.

The derelict site adjacent to the junction is privately owned. The Council's Derelict Sites Officer has been informed of this site and has been asked to put the site on our Derelict Sites Register and serve a notice on the owner specifying the measures that he deems necessary to prevent the land from continuing to remain a derelict site.

The Council do not envisage that a pelican crossing is required at this junction. However, a traffic and pedestrian survey shall be conducted to determine its requirement.

NOTICES OF MOTION

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that a full review and safety audit be carried out on the traffic calming measures installed at Templeglantine in light of the recent serious accidents.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Galvin stated that the traffic calming works were welcome

but that since the installation of these measures several accidents had occurred at this location. The overall design needed to be looked at. He also requested statistics on the number of accidents since the installation of the measures.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: The Templeglantine Traffic Calming Scheme was constructed in 2014. As requested, a review of the accident statistics following its construction, will be undertaken. This review will also be undertaken in consultation with An Garda Síochána and the Road Safety Section of Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that a costing be prepared for the following:

- *Removal of the railway bridge at Ballybehy, Abbeyfeale.*
- *Straightening of the road (Dave Murphy's Cross).*

In proposing the Motion Councillor Galvin stated that this railway bridge was crossing over the Great Southern Trail. He requested that application for funding for this project and for straightening the road would be made under the Capital Roads Programme.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: This project could be considered under a Specific Improvement Scheme and the Bridge Rehabilitation Scheme. It will be forwarded to the Physical Development Directorate for their consideration.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that immediate steps be taken to acquire lands along Boherbee on the approach to the Old Killeline Road, Newcastle West, in order to accommodate a footpath amenity to enhance safety at that point as well as to allow local residents acceptable connectivity with the town.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Scanlan stated that a footpath was necessary at this location in the interest of safety.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: Discussions have taken place in relation to this matter. There is an existing proposal for an extra street light to be put in place in 2017. The current footpath infrastructure will also be reviewed locally to determine if additional improvements are required including land purchase.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that a full structural evaluation and immediate remedial works be carried out by Irish Water on the water reservoir in Glin, which is leaking profusely.

Councillor Sheahan in proposing the Motion stated that works were required immediately on this reservoir. He asked that this item be placed on the Agenda again for December.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

It was noted that the Motion had been referred to Irish Water and that a reply was awaited.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that a footpath audit be carried out at Beechwood Gardens and that the tree stump which was to be removed many months ago be now acted upon.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Collins asked that the audit be carried out as soon as possible. He stated that the tree stump was to be removed some time ago but did not appear to have been done. It was however pointed out that the tree stump had been removed in recent days.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: An audit on the footpaths at Beechwood can be carried out however repairs to footpaths at Beechwood Gardens are not on the footpath repair list for 2016. Repair works can be considered as part of the Development Fund or GMA Fund for 2017. However, should any additional funding become available in 2016 for footpaths, some works will be carried out at Beechwood Gardens.

The matter of the tree stump has been referred to the Parks Department and they have advised that the necessary works will be carried out within the next 10 days.

19. Correspondence

In relation to correspondence sent to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, regarding pupils of Castlemahon National School it was noted that the matter had been referred by them to the Department of Education and Skills for reply. Members asked that this item be placed on a future Agenda.

It was agreed that the December Meeting of the District would be held on Wednesday, 7th December, 2016.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____