



**Minutes of Rathkeale Area Committee Meeting
Held in the Rathkeale House Hotel,
Lower Main Street, Rathkeale,
on Tuesday 5th September, 2006 – 11.30.a.m.**

Present In the Chair : Councillor J. Sheahan.

Members Present : Councillors J. Griffin, T. Neville, K. Sheahan.

Officials Present : J. Feane, Director of Services, B. Martin S.E.E., G. Liston, E.E.,
T. Breen, S.O., S. Hayes, A.O., T. Tarpey, S.E.,
L. McDaid, Estate Management, J. Kennedy, S.E.E., C. Lynch, E.E.

Apologies : Councillor D. Naughton.

Consideration of Draft Report on Water Services Investment Programme Assessment of Needs 2006 :

J. Kennedy, S.E.E., circulated copies of the Draft Services Report to Members, informing them a review of the Water Services Investment Programme was normally undertaken every five years, but had in this instance been brought forward due to the introduction of a new Development Plan. The critical issue contained within the Investment Programme was affordability and the necessity to represent good value. Previously approved Water Schemes were not included under the proposed new Programme.

Councillor T. Neville questioned if lands required zoning, in order to be eligible for the 40% grant funding available under the Serviced Lands Initiative ?

Councillor J. Griffin spoke of the rapid construction development/growth in Ballingarry, and queried if the Council had specific plans/policies in place for the provision of infrastructural services that is available to prospective contractors/developers ?

Councillor K. Sheahan welcomed the proposals brought before Members, and stated it was his understanding that “zoning” in the context used was applicable to towns and villages with Development Plans – other towns and villages in the County being “preferential zones” that could be amended by Council any time.

J. Kennedy, S.E.E., informed Councillor Neville that zoning in relation to the Serviced Land Initiative applied only in designated towns – smaller county towns/villages were not zoned, but had specific development boundaries that may be considered for grant funding under the Serviced Land Initiative. Mr. Kennedy confirmed there were a number of issues in Ballingarry, and confirmed the Council were in discussions with developers on an ongoing basis. A policy document was available - and had been circulated – in relation to “Water and Sewerage for Small Towns and Villages”. Mr. Kennedy stated a number of legal issues had arisen in respect of public/private partnership projects that have been resolved. It is a condition of contract that services provided under public/private type arrangements are handed over/taken-in-charge by the Council within two years. All new treatment plants were being designed/constructed to cater for a projected twenty-year capacity.

J. Feane, D.O.S., cautioned on the dangers of re-zoning lands, it being Council policy that any re-zoning is to the benefit of the town/village.

Flooding Relief Measures at Foynes – Update :

Councillor J. Griffin questioned if the Council had received complaints regarding odors originating from storage of waste in Foynes Port, and concerns expressed locally of cross-contamination with products stored adjacently.

Councillor K. Sheahan stated that measures had been taken by the C.E.O. of Foynes Port to address the odor issue, and had been complimented by the local community in resolving the problem.

T. Tarpey, S.E., informed Members the facility in Foynes Port was being used for the storage of soft plastics and papers that were baled and sealed. The company had been requested, and had agreed to double-wrap the bales on the basis of some possible odor leakage. This company held a valid waste permit, and was also in the process of looking at an alternative storage site in Foynes

J. Kennedy, S.E.E., stated that progress with the drainage works at Foynes were ongoing with an anticipated completion date towards the end of September.

Proposed Improvement Works at Kiltteery Pier :

B. Martin, S.E.E., circulated to Members copies of outline proposals/plans as agreed at the previous Area Committee Meeting in Loghill. The proposals included restoration of the stone sets to the pier pavement, kerbed green areas to cater for swimmers, a macadam surface to the remaining pier area, and the provision of ramping to the car parking area. The estimated cost of these works was €55,000 - €60,000. A grant allocation of €18,750 for improvement works to Kiltteery Pier had been received from the Department of Marine in 2006, with “top-up” funding from Council resources of €6,250. Mr. Martin confirmed he had spoken with Department of Marine Officials, who confirmed grant funding was limited to the pier structure and surface improvements only. Further contacts would be made with Department Officials with a view to obtaining addition grant funding for the proposed works – it was intended that the restoration of the stone sets would commence in the coming weeks.

Agreement to proceed with the works as outlined by the S.E.E., was proposed by Councillor K. Sheahan, and seconded by Councillor T. Neville. Councillor Sheahan recommended copies of the agreed proposals would be forwarded to the Loghill Development Association and the Council’s Water Safety Officer.

Councillor J. Griffin suggested the unprotected section of the roadway adjacent to the sea wall be examined with a view to providing a safety barrier.

Disposal of Lands at Moneymohill, Ballyhahill, Co. Limerick :

Agreement to the disposal of lands at Moneymohill, Ballyhahill, was proposed by Councillor K. Sheahan, and seconded by Councillor T. Neville.

Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan :

I will ask at the next ordinary Meeting of the Rathkeale Electoral Area Committee that the Main Roads Section source funding for improvement works, to prevent the illegal parking of caravans on the N69 at Borrigone, Askeaton.

Councillor K. Sheahan stated the illegal parking on the road margin of the N69 at Borrigone, Askeaton was an annual event. Councillor Sheahan informed Members this issue had been raised and requests made on several occasions for the provision of fencing. He stated this section of the N69 was originally fenced, and that the roadside boundary fence should be re-instated with immediate effect.

Councillor J. Griffin requested that Roads Officials furnish Members with an outline of legislation available for the removal of illegally parked caravans from Council lands abutting a public road.

B. Martin, S.E.E., informed Members the Main Roads S.E.E. had made a submission to the National Roads Authority for funding of the fencing works.

Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan :

I will ask at the next ordinary Meeting of the Rathkeale Electoral Area Committee what plans are in place for the installation of roadway rumble strips between the Catholic Church and the Askeaton By-Pass.

Councillor K. Sheahan spoke of the excessive traffic speeds at the location as described in the question, and queried the Council's resistance/aversion to the provision of roadway rumble strips. Councillor Sheahan requested a sketch of the roadway with suggested rumble strip locations, be provided to Members. Councillors Griffin, Neville, and J. Sheahan supported this request.

B. Martin, S.E.E., agreed to meet with Councillor K. Sheahan and agree rumble strip locations.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan :

I will move at the next ordinary Meeting of the Rathkeale Electoral Area that the Council's Housing Section put in place the necessary measures to overcome the right of way and access issues arising following the installation of bollards at Marian Place, Glin.

Councillor J. Sheahan spoke of the ongoing problems and friction between residents, arising from the installation of bollards at Marian Place, Glin, and was requesting the Housing Section to use whatever means necessary to resolve the right-of-way issues.

Councillor K. Sheahan requested the Notice of Motion item be adjourned to get a better understanding of what was happening on the ground, and if needed arrange a Special Area Committee Meeting to discuss the item fully. Councillor J. Sheahan agreed to the adjournment of the item as suggested.

J. Feane, D.O.S., Housing, stated it was his understanding that the Council had been approached by a number of locals to provide a hand-railing to cater for the needs of the elderly – this railing had restricted vehicular access to the rear of a number of houses. In recent times there had been disagreement between two residents, and a collapsible bollard to facilitate access, the key to the bollard held by the Water Services Caretaker. The works undertaken were deemed practical, and confirmed the Council would not be committing resources to the removal of a flowerbed. Formal notices had been issued by the Council for breaches a tenancy agreement, with counter claims that consent had been given for the flowerbed. The issue was not with legal representatives of both parties for resolution.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan :

I will move at the next ordinary Meeting of the Rathkeale Electoral Area that Limerick County Council take immediate action to deal with illegally parked caravans at several locations in Askeaton.

Councillor K. Sheahan spoke of illegally parked caravans in a number of locations in Askeaton, some of whom were obstructing/blocking up to 50% of a public roadway. He was aware that most of the caravan residents had been previously offered local authority housing, and requested a register be kept detailing the number of occasions housing had been offered and refused. The illegally parked caravans were also an obstruction to the Emergency Services. Councillor Sheahan stated he did not have a solution, but was

looking for one. He was aware of vacant houses that had been “wrecked to order”, with unauthorised electricity connections taken from these houses.

J. Feane, D.O.S., Housing, referred to the recent High Court decision in regard to traveller families in the Kilmallock area, who had been illegally parked and offered housing that had been refused. He confirmed the Council would apply the law as far as possible, and accepted the necessity to record all instances where local authority housing was refused.

A.O.B.

B. Martin, S.E.E., welcomed J. Feane, Director of Services, to the Area Committee Meeting, who had recently been assigned responsibility for the Rathkeale Area.

G. Liston, E.E., informed Members an allocation of €136,000 had been received for tertiary roads, and it was proposed to undertake improvement works on the following roads : Dark Road to 5 Crosses ; Carrowmore, Kilmeedy ; cul de sac at Tinnakilla ; Ballynort, Askeaton ; Clogh Road, Croagh.

That concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: _____ Chairman.

Dated this 11th day of DECEMBER, 2006.

Secretary.