



**Minutes of Rathkeale Area Committee Meeting
Held in the Ground Floor Meeting Room,
Rathkeale Area Office, New Line, Rathkeale
on Tuesday 25th September, 2007 – 10.45.a.m.**

Present In the Chair : Councillor D. Naughton.

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

Officials Present : B. Martin S.E.E., G. Liston, E.E., T. Breen, S.O., E. Griffin, S.E.O.,
T. Knox, A.O., J. Kennedy, S.E.E.

Deferred item from Rathkeale Electoral Area Committee Meeting of the 24th September, 2007.

Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan :

I will ask at the next Area meeting of Limerick County Council that Members be briefed on the Council's Official Policy for the provision of Speed Ramps.

J. Kennedy, S.E.E., informed Members there had been a priority listing for speed ramps in 2001, with some completed. A number of difficulties arose with the fitting of speed ramps, and included substantial installation costs, signage, and the necessity to provide the associated public lighting for ramping. No budget had been provided for the fitting of road speed ramps during the past five years. He conformed there to be a Draft Policy on Traffic Calming from the Strategic Policy Committee – the traffic calming measures in Kildimo Village being an example. The only funding available has been for low cost safety improvements, with a limit of ten countywide – generally two per area. To date the funding had been used for junction improvement works, the criteria for which included the number of reported accidents. Funding for Traffic Calming was provided through the Department with no allocation provided by the Council. He confirmed the Plunkett Road road ramp design was acceptable for use, but were expensive to install.

Councillor K. Sheahan stated ramps were provided in all new housing developments, and queried if permission had been sought, or was a condition of planning. Councillor Sheahan recommended a policy be prepared and adopted for the Rathkeale Roads Area, with the other Areas to follow. He spoke the immediate necessity to provide a pedestrian crossing at the Secondary School in Askeaton, and was willing to utilise a portion of his discretionary roads allocation. Substantial numbers of ramps had been provided in throughout Limerick City, and neighboring counties. Councillor Sheahan was unaware of any other local authority having the same resistance to ramps as Limerick County, insisting the elected Members were the policy makers. He expressed his concern in relation improved road surfaces, and an increased number of powerful cars utilising some areas of the County Towns and roads as “rat runs”, and the failure on the part of the Council to react in dealing with these driving trends. Councillor Sheahan suggested funding should not be an obstacle as adequate resources were available from the Development Fund to undertake such works. He indicated ramps or rumble strips had been requested over the past three years, to be located adjacent to the Church in Askeaton, where speeding was an ongoing problem, and suggested the works be undertaken prior to year-end.

G. Liston, E.E., agreed to meet with Councillor Sheahan to agree the location of rumble strips in the vicinity of the Church to the western side of Askeaton.

Councillor J. Sheahan, stated his awareness of the excessive speeds being used in many housing estates, and the need to implement a strategy for the provision of ramps to reduce speeds.

Councillor Griffin requested a “menu” of the various ramp types - bolted plates, brick, macadam etc. - that would be acceptable to the Council, be circulated to Members. Members needed to be briefed with this information, and should include signage and lighting requirements. Councillor Griffin requested the Area Roads Engineer to examine a number of the Rathkeale Town drainage gullies, stating that more recent installations were lightweight and noisy.

Councillor K. Sheahan proposed that traffic calming measures, including ramping, be incorporated into all Housing Developments. The proposal was seconded by Councillor D.Naughton, and supported by Councillors J. Griffin, and J. Sheahan.

Councillor K. Sheahan further proposed that a pedestrian crossing or ramp be provided at Askeaton Secondary School as part of the Council’s proposed Housing Development at William Street. This proposal was also seconded by Councillor D.Naughton, and supported by Councillors J. Griffin, and J. Sheahan.

Councillor K. Sheahan recommended the Director of Services, Transportation and Infrastructure be advised of a request from the Rathkeale Electoral Area Committee to provide a funding allocation in the Draft Estimate, for road safety improvements and ramps in the County Towns and Villages. This recommendation was agreed by Councillors J. Griffin, D. Naughton, and J. Sheahan.

Councillor J. Griffin suggested the provision of road ramps be included as an Agenda item for discussion at the December Meeting.

J. Kennedy, S.E.E., agreed to prepare a report on the issues raised for the December Meeting, as requested.

A.O.B.

Members agreed the November Area Committee Meeting would be held in Aras Sean Finn, Rathkeale, on Tuesday, 13th November, 2007, at 9.30.a.m.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: _____Chairman.

Dated this 13th day of NOVEMBER, 2007.

Secretary.