



## **Minutes of Special Rathkeale Area Committee Meeting Held in County Hall, Dooradoyle, on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2005 – 11.00.a.m.**

**Present In the Chair :** Councillor D. Naughton.

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

**Officials Present :** T. Enright, Director of Services, B. Martin, S.E.E., T. Breen, S.O.,  
M. Ryan, S.E.O., D. Brady, County Librarian,  
D. Troy, Executive Planner.

**Architects :** D. Maguire, S. Wilmott.

### **Presentation to Members on Proposed Rathkeale Electoral Area Headquarters and Library Development :**

The Design Team were welcomed to the Special Area Committee Meeting by Councillor D. Naughton and requested to proceed with their presentation to Members on the Proposed Rathkeale Area Headquarters and Library.

Ms. S. Wilmott circulated copies of the proposed design to Members, and briefly outlined amendments to previous drawings/designs that included modifications previously requested by Members. The front elevation of the new build/extension was designed to match and blend with the existing Carnegie Library building, and included a limestone facing to the front facade as well as a combined entrance to both buildings, with front and rear access.

Councillor K. Sheahan complimented the Design Team for taking on board the design recommendations of Members, and expressed his satisfaction with the design/plans presented. Councillor Sheahan requested one minor modification be incorporated to the internal floor layout, this being provision of a dedicated office space for the Rathkeale Area senior administrator.

Councillor D. Naughton requested the administration office issue be resolved, and stated his opposition to any restriction being put in place that would limit Members access to staff - be recorded in the Meeting Minutes. Councillor Naughton stated his dissatisfaction at the restrictions imposed on Members access to both staff and sections in County Hall and the Newcastle West Offices, and such restrictions should not be applied/repeated in the Rathkeale Electoral Area.

Councillor K. Sheahan agreed with Councillor Naughton on the issue of restricted access to officials by the elected Members at County Hall and Newcastle West. He stated that conversations taking place on the ground floor at County Hall could be clearly heard on the third floor, and was insistent the elected representatives be afforded access to officials, and privacy when discussing issues.

Councillor J. Sheahan was critical of the "open plan" type reception areas in County Hall and Newcastle West, that afforded no privacy for either members of the public, or their elected representatives, and was supportive of the other Rathkeale Electoral Area Councillors that this scenario not be repeated in Rathkeale.

D. Maguire, Architect, confirmed to Councillor Sheahan that his request for an additional administration office could be accommodated within the internal layout plan.

Councillor J. Griffin stated his satisfaction with the design plans brought before Members, that finally provided Rathkeale with a dedicated Area Office Headquarters, in the form of a landmark building - that incorporated a re-vamped state-of-the-art Carnegie Library Building - of which Rathkeale Town and the Electoral Area would be proud. Councillor Griffin was high in his praise for all involved in the production of the design plans.

Councillor T. Neville concurred with the sentiments expressed by both Councillors Sheahan and Griffin in relation to the new Library and Area headquarters, but was anxious the plans be advanced from design to construction stage, as soon as possible, with the necessary funding commitments for commencement of construction works to be indentified and put in place.

B. Martin, S.E.E., informed Members staff had been consulted at all stages during the design process, and had expressed their satisfaction/agreement with the design/layout of the proposed new Area Headquarters.

T. Enright, Director of Services, welcomed the feedback of Members at all stages of the design process, stating the importance of providing a quality, modern, and efficient service to constituents in the Rathkeale Electoral Area, and also the provision of proper meeting and working facilities for both the elected Councillors and Council staff. Mr. Enright stated the issue raised in relation to provision of an administration office in the internal design would be included, and with the agreement of the elected Members, was anxious to advance the project to planning stage.

Councillor J. Griffin proposed the Design Submission be formally agreed by Members. Councillor T. Neville, with Councillors Naughton, J. Sheahan and K. Sheahan supporting the motion seconded the proposal.

B. Martin, S.E.E., informed Members that with Design formally agreed/approved by Members, it would be necessary to proceed with a Material Change to the Rathkeale Town Plan, as the lands for the new Area Headquarters were currently zoned "Open Space" and required a change to "Mixed Development".

D. Troy, Executive Planner, stated it may be necessary to prepare an environmental report and consult with various state agencies as part of the "Material Change" process – the change would also require full Council approval, and undertook to refer back with a progress report to Area Committee Members for the November Meeting.

Councillor K. Sheahan proposed the Re-zoning issue be advanced as a matter of priority. Councillor J. Griffin seconded the proposal.

T. Enright, Director of Services, suggested a Strategic and Environmental Assessment may not be required for re-zoning, and this would be investigated. All avenues would be explored to avoid any delays in advancing the Design proposals to the planning stage. It was also proposed to advance with preparation of the tender documentation.

M. Ryan, S.E.O. advised Members there would be no opportunity for public comment on the current design proposals if displayed as requested. Ms. Ryan recommended the Draft Design documents for public display would advise by way of a caption that plans were "For information purposes only, and that the Plans would go through the formal Part 8 (Planning Process) at a later stage when Public Comment would be taken on board".

Members were agreed that the design Plans with the suggested modifications be put on public display in public buildings and libraries in the Rathkeale Electoral Area. Proposed by Councillor K. Sheahan and seconded by Councillor J. Griffin, and all Councillor agreed.

Councillor D. Naughton thanked the Design Team on behalf of the Members.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman.

Dated this **13<sup>th</sup>** day of **SEPTEMBER, 2005**.

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary.