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Press Release

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West Limerick Area Councils to be Established

West Limerick Resources proposes to establish five area councils based on five geographic regions in West Limerick – Abbeyfeale, Rathkeale, Deel Upper, Estuary and Newcastle West. Once operational it is hoped each area council will act as a conduit to promote and facilitate communication between local community and voluntary groups and West Limerick Resources. “We believe members of local community and voluntary organisations know best what is needed in their own area and will now be able to pass that information back to West Limerick Resources through their areas representative on our board,” explains West Limerick Resources Chairperson Mary Quaid.

The Abbeyfeale area held their first area council meeting on Wednesday last April 8th where eight people were elected to represent their communities. These individuals come from a variety of backgrounds including community games, local arts groups and tidy towns committees but all look forward to exploring the potential which this new initiative offers their community. The first meeting of the Rathkeale area council has been scheduled for Wednesday next April 22nd at 7.30pm in the Rathkeale House Hotel. Local community and voluntary group are being encouraged to send representatives to this meeting where West Limerick Resources will outline the positive opportunity which this initiative offers their community.

The election of representatives to the Rathkeale Area Council will take place on the night also. For the purpose of this election, each community group may nominate one representative for the election. West Limerick Resources has highlighted that although the nominated person does not have to be present on the night it is essential that the person agreed in advance to have their name put forward. From these nominations each parish will be asked to elect two representatives to the area council. “The hope is that parishes will elect a person who they know will stay in contact with them and who will be interested in the wider community,” says Ms. Mary Quaid.

Area Councils will meet at a minimum twice a year and it is hoped that the local knowledge, experience and feedback of local groups can help identify priorities and potential for development of the West Limerick community. In turn West Limerick Resources will use these area councils to help increase awareness of the supports it can offer to the community.

Area Councils elections will also take place in the Deel Upper area in the Knockaderry Community Hall on April 29th, in the Estuary area on May 6th and in Newcastle West district on May 13th. West Limerick Resources also intends to establish a Social Inclusion Network, details of which will be announced in the coming months. For further information contact Eimear on 069 62222.

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For further comment contact:

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