

CASTLECOMER WATER SUPPLY.

GENEROUS OFFER FROM MR.
WANDESFORDE.

ALL EXPENSES BORNE AND PRO-
PERTY TO BE TRANSFERRED
TO DISTRICT COUNCIL.

At the meeting of the Castlecomer Rural District Council on Tuesday last, before Mr. J. P. Fogarty, J.P., Co.C., chairman, presiding, an offer by Mr. H. P. Wandesforde, J.P., D.L., to provide at his own expense a water supply for the town of Castlecomer, was considered.

Mr. John Lanigan, solicitor, Kilkenny represented Mr. Wandesforde and explained the objects, cost, benefits, etc., arising from the adoption of the scheme.

The following circular had been issued to the members of the District Council by Mr. Wandesforde:—

"From time to time I have had practical knowledge of and been much impressed by the inadequacy of the present water system in the town of Castlecomer, and recently I sought the advice of Mr. A. M. Burden, County Surveyor, as to the best and most economical means of remedying the undesirable state of affairs that now exists. Mr. Burden has prepared for me a scheme for improving the water supply in the town, and I beg to enclose herewith copy of the plans. It is proposed to utilise the source of supply from which water is now delivered to the fountain in the Square and at the top of Barrack street. The water will be collected in a concrete tank, to be erected in the corner of the field between the Ballyragget road and Love Lane. The tank will have a holding capacity of 40,000 gallons, and from it a three-inch cast iron main is proposed to be laid in the streets of the town, viz., along Barrack St., down two sides of the Square to the Bridge; along Chatsworth St. to Clohogue Bridge, and along Kilkenny St., to the Convent. Mr. Burden suggests that twelve fountains be erected at convenient places, from which water could be drawn by the residents, and that eight hydrants be also provided, from which water could be taken in large quantities for sprinkling the road surface and in case of fire, etc. To avoid contamination it will be necessary to enclose the spring, the source of supply. All the water of the spring will require to be directed through the existing line of pipe towards the tank on the Ballyragget road. Part of this pipe line was relaid some years ago, but the present scheme involves the laying of new pipes from Mr. Mark Bradley's bounds to the tank.

"I have reason to believe that no considerable trouble will be experienced in securing the necessary permissions and way-leaves for the laying of the pipes through the lands of private owners and for the right hereafter to enter, if necessary, for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the pipes and mains. It is understood that the sole ownership of the spring is vested in the District Council.

"I have reason to believe that no considerable trouble will be experienced in securing the necessary permissions and way-leaves for the laying of the pipes through the lands of private owners and for the right hereafter to enter, if necessary, for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the pipes and mains. It is understood that the sole ownership of the spring is vested in the District Council under compulsory or other powers. This point will require to be looked into, as it is essential to the success of the proposal that the spring should be properly enclosed. In the event of the wayleaves, etc., not being forthcoming by agreement, the District Council may have to exercise their compulsory powers, and in that case I am prepared to recoup to the Council any legal or other expenditure on the Council's part in obtaining a Provisional Order. Mr. Burden has given an approximate estimate of £800 as the cost of the work, and this sum or any other or larger amount required for the completion of the scheme I am satisfied to provide.

"As one of the largest ratepayers in the electoral division, I respectfully ask that the District Council will be pleased to accept the offer contained in this memorandum. The only conditions that I lay down are:—(1) That should the necessity arise the District Council will exercise, at my expense, their compulsory powers under the Public Health and other Acts regulating the acquisition, otherwise than by agreement, of any lands or easements requisite for the carrying out of the proposal. (2) That as soon as may be after the completion of the works, they shall be taken over formally by the Council, by deed, the expenses of and incident to any legal work involved in the transfer, including the obtaining of permission from the Local Government Board, if same be necessary, to be defrayed by the District Council. (3) That in the deed of transfer the District Council shall specifically covenant and undertake for the proper maintenance of the works in a thorough and efficient state of repair and condition and so that the water supply now proposed to be provided shall at all times be available for the use and benefit of the residents of Castlecomer. (4) That by resolution or otherwise, as I may be advised, the District Council, as the Road Authority shall licence and authorise me, in the execution of the works, to open up and excavate the streets, and to lay mains, pipes, etc., thereunder; and (5) That the District Council do permit private owners under suitable conditions, and with reasonable restrictions to make the necessary connections with the water mains for the purpose of introducing the supply into their own houses, such private owners to bear all expenses of such introduction, and the work to be done under proper supervision, and so that the efficiency of the main scheme be not interfered with by such private connections."

Mr. Lanigan submitted a plan of the scheme.

The chairman proposed that Mr Wandesforde's offer be accepted. He thought it was a very generous offer indeed, and they should do everything in their power to facilitate Mr. Wandesforde on behalf of the people of Castlecomer.

Mrs. Lacey, in seconding, said they felt too much in the matter to say what they thought, because the offer was a princely one and would be a great benefit to the whole locality. She was sure that from every point that they looked at it, that it did honour to the man who proposed it (hear, hear).

The proposition was passed unanimously.

Mr Lanigan, solicitor, submitted a number of resolutions embodying the proposals as outlined in Mr. Wandesforde's circular, which were duly proposed and seconded and carried unanimously.