

# **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2015, AT 9.45 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor Jerry O'Dea, Mayor

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Butler, Byrne, Clifford, Collins, Crowley, Daly, Gilligan, Hurley, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, Lynch, McCreesh, Ó Ceallaigh, Prendiville, Quinlivan, Secas and Sheahan.

## **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive (Mr. C. Murray), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O'Connor), Director, Transportation and Travel / Environment (Mr. K. Lehane), Senior Executive Officer (Ms. P. Liddy), City and County Librarian (Mr. D. Brady), Senior Executive Librarian (Mr. D. Dullaghan), Senior Executive Engineer (Mr. F. Keyes), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. T. O'Callaghan).

At the outset the Mayor welcomed the group of journalism students from University of Limerick to the meeting.

### **1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2015.

Proposed by Councillor Byrne;  
Seconded by Councillor Butler;  
And Resolved:

“That the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed”.

### **2. Disposal of Land**

Circulated, Report of the Director, Home and Social Development dated 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 setting out details of proposals to dispose of land at 258 Deer Court, Carew Park, Limerick City and that it was intended to bring a Section 183 Notice in relation to same to the full Council for approval.

Members noted the proposal for the disposal of land as follows :

- Dwelling situate at 258 Deer Court, Carew Park in the City of Limerick.

### **3. Home, Community, Culture and Sport**

#### **Part 8 Procedure – Franciscan Friary, Henry Street, Bedford Row, Limerick**

Circulated, Report of the Director, Home, Community, Culture and Sport dated 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 along with the Chief Executives Report dated October, 2015 which was prepared pursuant to Section 179 (3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001–2015 in respect of proposed works at the Franciscan Friary, Henry Street, Bedford Row, Limerick. It was proposed to proceed in accordance with the Chief Executives Report.

Members welcomed the proposed development and discussed previous commitments to open a museum in King's Island.

Members acknowledged the works carried out to improve the appearance of Nicholas Street as an integral part of the tourist trail and discussed the need to make improvements to the Fireplace Site at that location.

In response to queries the City and County Librarian clarified the following:

- The Franciscan Building was held by a Trust and the Council would continue to work with the Trust.
- This was a signature building in a prime location and the redevelopment of the Friary portion of the building into a museum served both to preserve a landmark building and provide a museum at a reasonable cost.
- The project involved primarily internal works to the building at a budget of €0.5m. It was hoped that works could commence in November or December of 2015 with completion by March or April of 2016.
- It was intended to initially develop the Friary section of the building, followed by the Church section which could be used as an open space for exhibitions or similar events and it was anticipated that the building would form part of a cultural trail within the city.

### **4. Question submitted by Councillor Elena Secas**

***I will ask at the next meeting what progress has been made in relation to enforcement proceedings issued for Curragh Birin to have the outstanding works completed in order to facilitate the taking in charge of this estate and what is the current position regarding the taking in charge of the Castlelands portion of Caislean na hAbhann estate in Castletroy and the Rathlinn estate in Castleconnell.***

#### **REPLY: Curragh Birin, Castletroy**

This estate was developed by Steamboat Development Ltd. The Planning Authority had initiated enforcement proceedings against this company but the company went into receivership. An enforcement notice will be served on the appointed receiver in order to have the estate completed to a satisfactory standard.

### **Caislean na hAbhann, Castletroy**

The owners of the Castlelands portion of this development submitted a taking in charge request to the Council. The development was inspected and a snag list of outstanding works issued. Once these works are completed to the satisfaction of the Council the formal taking in charge process will be commenced.

### **Rathlinn, Castleconnell**

The bond lodged for the satisfactory completion of the development has been claimed, the estate has been assessed and costs of the outstanding works sent to the Bank who hold the bond. We are awaiting a response from the Bank in respect of the claim.

## **5. Question submitted by Councillor Elena Secas**

*I will ask at the next meeting for an update in relation to the initial discussions to acquire some of the available land bank adjacent to the new Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh in order to provide the necessary safe access to the Castletroy School.*

**REPLY:** The Council has met with some of the stakeholders adjoining the walkway where initial feedback has been positive towards a walkway/cycleway adjacent to the Gaelscoil. To advance discussions with the site owner, drawings are currently being prepared for further discussion. It is expected to progress these discussions in the coming weeks.

## **6. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Marian Hurley**

*I will move at the next meeting that the Council Executive initiate a report on the current status of the halting sites in the Metropolitan District - outlining the size of each site, current living conditions and plans for each site for the next 5 years.*

The motion was proposed by Councillor Hurley and seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

In proposing the motion Councillor Hurley commended the work of the team of social workers servicing the needs of the halting site residents and asked that greater resources be applied in this regard to facilitate an even higher level of engagement with the halting site residents.

**REPLY:** A Traveller Accommodation Programme for the full administrative area of Limerick City & County for the period 2014-2018 was adopted in 2014. In the Metropolitan District there are seven halting sites and one Traveller Specific Group Housing Scheme. The halting sites consist of individual bays with serviced units within each bay and individual families are allocated a bay. The families sleep in mobile homes, chalets or caravans. In total, there are 85 traveller specific units of accommodation provided and 14 of these units are currently vacant. In addition to the above eight families have been provided with emergency accommodation within or adjacent to the sites.

The Council Executive will prepare a report on the current status, size, living conditions and plans for each site for the next five years and advise the members accordingly.

Members supported the motion and called for the inspection of halting sites to be carried out as soon as possible.

The Director, Transportation and Travel / Environment noted the excellent track record of the Council in relation to traveller accommodation and acknowledged the traveller requirement for housing and the need for social and educational intervention.

**7. Correspondence**

Correspondence was taken as noted.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**MAYOR**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_