

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2016, AT 9.45 A.M.**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Butler, Byrne, Collins, Crowley, Daly, Gilligan, Hourigan, Hurley, Leddin, Lynch, McCreesh, Ó Ceallaigh, O'Hanlon and Sheahan.

Apologies for her inability to attend had been received from Councillor Secas.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Home, Community and Sport (Mr. P. Dowling), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O'Connor), Senior Executive Officer, Transportation & Travel / Environment (Mr. G. Dillon), Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development & Planning (Mr. P. Fitzgerald), Senior Engineer (Mr. V. Murray), Senior Executive Planner (Ms. M. Woods), Executive Planner, (Mr. M. Geraghty), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. T. O'Callaghan).

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.

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**

Members noted the proposals for the disposal of land as follows :-

- Disposal of Freehold Interest in dwelling house situate at 13 Donnellans Buildings, Rosbrien in the City of Limerick.
- Disposal of Freehold Interest in dwelling house situate at 16 Flood Street, in the City of Limerick.
- Disposal of Freehold Interest in dwelling house situate at 26 Ascal Clochain, Garryowen in the City of Limerick.
- Disposal of Freehold Interest in dwelling house situate at 45 Galvone Road, Kennedy Park in the City of Limerick.

### **3. Economic Development and Planning**

#### **Proposed Amendment No. 2 to the Southern Environs Local Area Plan 2011-2017 in relation to Mungret - Loughmore Area**

Circulated, Report of the Director, Economic Development and Planning dated 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 enclosing the Chief Executive's Report to Members dated 20th January 2016 prepared in accordance with Section 20(3)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to proposed Amendment No. 2 to the Southern Environs Local Area Plan 2011 – 2017 Mungret – Loughmore Area.

At the outset Councillor Byrne put forward the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Butler :-

“That the following change shall be made to Objective ML015(B), Point 4 :

Remove the text “With the exception of the development of the main block in Mungret College”. Point 4 shall therefore state the following:

Community Uses: Within the Mungret College Hub community uses should be prioritised. No new development shall take place within the Mungret Neighbourhood Hub, which is zoned for mixed use purposes, until such time as the local community facility needs are met within the hub. The Council will work with local community organisations to facilitate the provision of community uses in this area.

Reason: To ensure the prioritisation of community facilities at this location. It is considered that the proposed amendment is in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and will have no impact on the SEA and AA”.

Councillor Collins highlighted the absence of a detailed plan for the development of Mungret College and his opposition to proposals to change the zoning for Mungret College to Mixed Use, pending consideration of such a plan.

Councillor Collins proposed the following motion as an amendment to Councillor Byrne’s motion and this was seconded by Councillor Lynch :-

“Remove the proposed mixed use zoning in Mungret College and revert back to current zoning and omit objective ML05B and any other reference to mixed use there, throughout the proposed amendment to the Local Area Plan, until a detailed plan for the College is presented”.

Councillor Butler raised concerns in relation to the zoning of serviced sites in Rathmale and proposed the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Byrne :-

“I move that lands rezoned as serviced sites in Rathmale be zoned as established residential and agricultural use as there is sufficient zoned land for housing and that the text in the amendment document should be changed as necessary. The land zoned as established residential is along the front of the site as shown on the map submitted (see Appendix 1)”.

Members discussed the appropriate use and zoning of Mungret College going forward and in response to queries from Members the Senior Executive Planner clarified the rationale behind the proposed 1.4 hectare mixed use zoning of the Mungret College complexes as follows :-

- The need for a neighbourhood hub to serve the extensive residential zoned lands planned in the vicinity of the complex.
- That this neighbourhood hub should, according to national planning guidelines, be a lively centre with activity and passive surveillance during night and day which essentially involved having a residential component as part of it.
- That existing zoning was too restrictive.

The Senior Executive Planner also indicated that there were adequate conditions in the wording of the original proposed amendment to ensure that community uses were prioritised and that the floor space of the retail component was limited according to what was needed to serve the residential areas to the rear.

Members noted the complexity of the items under discussion and there were calls for the item to be adjourned to the next District Meeting or to a Special Meeting and in response to same Councillor Collins called for a vote on his motion to amend Councillor Byrne's motion.

The Meetings Administrator indicated his desire to clarify and accurately record the wording of the various motions submitted and on the proposal of Councillor Leddin, seconded by the Mayor, it was agreed to adjourn the Meeting for five minutes.

On the resumption of the Meeting, the Meetings Administrator noted that Councillor Collins had put forward a motion amending Councillor Byrne's motion and in accordance with standing orders Councillor Collins' motion should be voted on. He noted further that Councillor Butler had brought forward a separate motion and that this should also be voted on.

The Mayor called for a vote on Councillor Collins' motion, which had been proposed earlier in the Meeting and seconded by Councillor Lynch, and the result of the voting was as follows :-

**FOR**

Councillors Collins, Crowley, Gilligan, Lynch, McCreesh, O'Dea and O'Hanlon (7)

**AGAINST**

Councillors Butler, Byrne, Hourigan, Hurley, Leddin and Sheahan (6)

The Mayor declared Councillor Collins' motion carried.

The Mayor called for a vote on Councillor Butler's motion, which had been proposed earlier in the Meeting and seconded by Councillor Byrne, and the result of the voting was as follows :-

**FOR**

Councillors Butler, Byrne, Collins, Crowley, Hourigan, Hurley, Lynch, McCreesh, O'Dea, O'Hanlon and Sheahan (11)

**AGAINST**

Councillors Gilligan and Leddin

(2)

The Mayor declared Councillor Butler's motion carried.

The Mayor then referred to the original agenda item which the Members were now required to deal with.

Proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Lynch and resolved :-

"That the proposed amendment No. 2 to the Southern Environs Local Area Plan 2011 – 2017 Mungret – Loughmore Area be amended in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief Executive's Report dated 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2016, subject to the amendments to same as set out hereunder, in accordance with Section 20(3)(d) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)"

"Remove the proposed mixed use zoning in Mungret College and revert back to current zoning and omit objective ML05B and any other reference to mixed use there, throughout the proposed amendment to the Local Area Plan, until a detailed plan for the College is presented".

"That lands rezoned as serviced sites in Rathmale be zoned as established residential and agricultural use as there is sufficient zoned land for housing and that the text in the amendment document should be changed as necessary. The land zoned as established residential is along the front of the site as shown on the map submitted (see Appendix 1)".

It was noted that any material alterations to the plan would go on public display for a further four weeks.

#### **4. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Daniel Butler**

***I call at the next meeting for the Council to engage with University Hospital Limerick to address the ongoing issues of people, visiting or working in the hospital, parking in the surrounding housing estates causing serious traffic and safety concerns.***

The motion was proposed by Councillor Butler and seconded by Councillor McCreesh.

In proposing the motion Councillor Butler noted the lack of sufficient parking spaces within the hospital grounds to accommodate staff and visitors to the hospital and called on the HSE to open the recently completed multi-storey car park at the hospital and also provide a taxi rank there. He stressed that those visiting or working in the hospital and parking in the adjacent housing estates were preventing residents accessing / exiting their property, blocking site lines and footpaths and were parking on green areas.

Members supported the motion and noted that plans to relocate the Maternity Hospital to the University Hospital Limerick site would exacerbate the problem.

**REPLY:**

The Council is aware that there are difficulties arising in adjacent Housing Estates attributed to people using the University Hospital, Limerick.

We will engage with the Management of the Hospital in relation to these issues to ascertain their proposals in relation to same.

In the longer term the most effective solution in terms of controlling parking would be to consider extending parking regulations operated by the Council to the affected Housing Estates. The initiation of the process would in the first instance be a matter for the Residents of the Estates.

**5. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Daniel Butler**

*I will move at the next meeting that this District calls on the Council to develop one unified cycling strategy for the Limerick Metropolitan area offering a comprehensive and safe cycle network to encourage greater use.*

The motion was proposed by Councillor Butler and seconded by Councillor Collins.

In proposing the motion Councillor Butler highlighted the health benefits of cycling and its potential to be used as a mode of transport for many of the short trips currently undertaken by car around the city. He stressed the need for cycling routes to be taken into consideration in all city planning and the need to join up existing cycle routes.

In seconding the motion Councillor Collins highlighted the need to encourage greater use of cycling and the need to protect cycle routes from competing vehicular traffic.

Members supported the motion and stressed the need to focus on the provision of safe cycling routes for cyclists.

**REPLY:** The Limerick Metropolitan Cycle Network Study is currently being prepared to complement the *Limerick Metropolitan District Movement Framework Study* which was completed last year and presented before the Travel & Transport SPC on 7th September 2015. It is intended to finalise the Cycle Network Study shortly.

Following advertisements, the Limerick Smarter Travel Office received feedback from interested persons and groups, and these views have assisted in the development of the Limerick Metropolitan Cycle Network Study to date. The Study when completed will provide a hierarchy of future cycle route improvements, and will also be a structured basis from which to negotiate with national funding bodies when seeking financial support for future cycle network improvements.

**6. Correspondence.**

Members noted correspondence and in reply to an enquiry the Meetings Administrator clarified that a reply had not been received from Irish Water in relation to supply interruptions in the area adjacent to the Childers Road.

This concluded the Meeting.

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

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