

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 18TH APRIL, 2016, AT 9.45 A.M.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Transportation & Travel / Environment (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O'Connor), Senior Executive Officer, Home and Social Development (Ms. P. Liddy), Senior Engineer (Mr. V. Murray), Senior Executive Planner (Ms. M. Woods), Executive Planner (Mr. M. Geraghty), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. T. O'Callaghan).

Apologies for his inability to attend had been received from Councillor O'Hanlon.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 21st March, 2016.

Proposed by Councillor Byrne;
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;
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 Community outlining proposal to dispose of the freehold interest in a dwelling situate at Castleview, Ballybrown, Clarina, Co. Limerick and to bring a Section 183 Notice to full Council in relation to same.

Members noted proposals for the disposal of land as circulated.

3. Economic Development and Planning

Amendment to Southern Environs Local Area Plan 2011 - 2017

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Economic Development and Planning dated 7th April 2016 enclosing a copy of the Chief Executive's Report dated 7th April, 2016 on the Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Amendment No. 2 to the Southern Environs Local Area Plan, which related to an Amended Zoning and Master Plan for the Mungret Loughmore Area of Limerick.

Members acknowledged the level of consultation engaged in by the Planning Department in conjunction with the proposed amendment to the Southern Environs Local Area Plan and welcomed the commencement of works on the Mungret College site and the negotiations that had taken place with Mungret GAA Club.

In response to queries raised by Members, the Senior Executive Planner clarified the following :-

- In relation to the submission made by the GAA requesting change of zoning and vehicular access from the distributor road, which was under construction, this land was zoned for open space and recreation use and vehicular access off the distributor road was not acceptable as the Part 8 was already decided. However, access from the next phase of the distributor road could be considered at a later date.
- Permission was granted for the primary school sites and as far as she was aware, work was progressing on same.
- In relation to a plan for the overall Metropolitan Area there would be a recommendation made to the May Metropolitan District Meeting to extend the life of the Southern Environs Plan to allow time to prepare a new Metropolitan Plan.
- With regard to proposed community uses in the existing Mungret College buildings, a study was being carried out on the building and the cost of repair works. The use of Educate Together school buildings, once vacated, may also be considered for community uses.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;

Seconded by Councillor Byrne;

And Resolved:

“That the Amendment to the Southern Environs Local Area Plan 2011 be made in accordance with the Chief Executive’s recommendations dated 7th April, 2016, under Section 20(3)(n) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)”.

4. Schedule of Works for the Metropolitan District of Limerick

Circulated, Report of the Director of Service, Transportation & Travel / Environment and attached Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works for the Metropolitan District of Limerick, for consideration and adoption.

Members acknowledged the efforts of the staff involved in drawing up the Draft Schedule of Works and welcomed the severe weather funding that had been allocated. Members raised a number of queries in relation to the Draft Schedule of Works and an issue was raised in relation to the need to reduce the speed limit, introduce traffic calming measures and cut roadside hedging on the Chapel Road in Ballybrown. It was pointed out also that there was a speed limit of 100kph on the approach to the roundabout in Clarina, from the Kildimo side and this should be reviewed.

In response to queries raised by Members the Senior Engineer clarified the following :

- The priorities for road repair works were based on road inspection reports and in accordance with Department of Transport guidelines.
- In relation to the ongoing pothole repair at Islanduane, Mungret, this road was included in the three year roads programme.

- Irish Water was mandated to carry out reinstatement works in St. Mary's Park and it was expected that these works would be significantly progressed or finished within three months.
- The road restoration allocation to Ashbrook Gardens would be rechecked to confirm that the allocation was intended for that part of Ashbrook.
- A number of methods, including the use of velocity patches, were employed to repair potholes. Hot patching was used to repair the overlay in the city, using the cut and fill method.
- The level of the Ballyvallone Road would be raised and double surface dressed.
- Efforts were being made to find a suitable date to discuss traffic management in the city with the District Members.
- An allocation had been made to resolve the flooding on the Hyde Road.
- A workshop would be arranged with the District Members to discuss the three year road works scheme and proposals for expenditure of the General Municipal Allocation and any development fund allocations that might be made. The road condition survey would be made available in connection with same.

Proposed by Councillor Secas;
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;
 And Resolved;

"That, in accordance with Section 103A(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended), the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2016 for the Metropolitan District of Limerick, as circulated, is adopted".

5. Question submitted by Cmhlr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next Meeting if it is still intended to have works on the Hyde Road Flats completed and to have families living in them by October 2016?

REPLY: I wish to advise that tender documents have issued to contractors with a date for receipt of tenders of mid-May. Subject to a favourable tender outcome it is anticipated that construction will commence in Q3 2016. It is scheduled for a construction period of 10 months.

This Scheme is being delivered by Cluid Housing Association. Limerick City and County Council will work, in conjunction with Cluid Housing Association, to allocate the units once completed.

6. Question submitted by Cmhlr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next Meeting if there will be a plaque or statue of Con Colbert included in Colbert Station once works to the station have been completed?

REPLY: We will raise this question with Iarnrod Eireann who are in the process of refurbishment of the Plaza in front of Colbert Station.

7. Question submitted by Councillor Cian Prendiville

I will ask at the next meeting if there are any plans to improve the road surfacing along Carragh Ave, Caherdavin?

REPLY: A section of Carragh Avenue was resurfaced in October 2015. Carragh Ave is not on the 2016/17/18 resurfacing program. Decisions are based at the time of inspection with the worst roads gaining priority.

8. Question submitted by Councillor Cian Prendiville

I will ask at the next meeting what the planning process was for the erection of the new advertisement hoardings and public phones in the City Centre and did it take into consideration the impact on the usability of the footpaths for those with disabilities?

REPLY: These developments are permitted by license under Section 254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2015. In permitting these the Council had regard to the Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016 and the principles and guidelines as set out in the 'Design Manual for Urban Streets' (DECLG, 2013) in terms of siting, scale and design. Adequate usable footpath was maintained at all locations. It should be noted that the Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016 was varied on the 26th January 2015 to include amendments to advertising policy relating to "Bus shelters/other stand alone structures".

9. Question submitted by Councillor John Costelloe

I will ask at the next meeting, in relation to the Limerick Metropolitan District, the number of people approved for social housing, the number of people on Housing Assistance Payment (H.A.P.) and the number of people on the Rental Accommodation Scheme (R.A.S.).

REPLY: The number of people approved for social housing in the Limerick Metropolitan District are:- 3,602 applicants on Limerick City and County Council's Housing Waiting List, excluding HAP tenants, as of 13/04/2016.

The number of people on Housing Assistance Payment (H.A.P.) are:- 814 HAP tenants in the Limerick Metropolitan District as of 13/04/2016.

The number of people on the Rental Accommodation Scheme (R.A.S.) are:- 906 RAS tenants Limerick Metropolitan District as of 13/04.2016.

10. Question submitted by Councillor Paul Keller

I will ask at the next meeting if there is a timeline for the expansion of the Limerick Bicycle Sharing Scheme to UL, LIT and the Crescent Shopping Centre?

REPLY: The Public Bike Scheme is funded and managed by the National Transport Authority (NTA). Limerick City and County Council has assisted the NTA in the roll-out of this facility.

The sponsorship of the bikes and the contract for the maintenance of the facility is a matter for the NTA.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Elena Secas

I will move at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council arrange for the necessary works to be carried out as a matter of urgency to the roads and services in the following estates: Rathlinn in Castleconnell, Curragh Birin and Caislean Na hAbhann Phase 1 in Castletroy, and on completion of these works, immediately, start the formal process of taking the three estates in charge.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Secas and seconded by Councillor Leddin.

In proposing the motion Councillor Secas indicated that she had raised this issue previously and stressed the importance of works being carried out in this case.

REPLY: **Rathlinn, Castleconnell & Caisleann na hAbhann** – The Council has received payment of the bonds for these estates. The Council will now arrange for the necessary works to be carried out. The formal taking in charge process will commence once confirmation is received from our Roads and Water Service Engineers that the estate is completed to a satisfactory standard for taking in charge.

Curragh Birin, Castletroy – There are outstanding works to be completed in this estate and there is no bond in place. A schedule of outstanding works and the estimated cost for completing same will be required in order for the Council to assess the amount of funding required to complete this estate to a satisfactory standard for taking in charge.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhlr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh

I will move at the next Meeting that the city's traffic wardens, during their operational hours, prioritise the city centre area for illegal and dangerous parking on double yellow lines and in the middle of the road.

The motion was proposed by Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh and seconded by Councillor McCreesh.

In proposing the motion, Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh highlighted the need for the smooth flow of traffic through the city to encourage further business investment in Limerick and in view of proposals to pedestrianise part of the city centre.

He noted that Wickham Street and the second lane of William Street were often blocked by illegally parked vehicles and that there were also issues in relation to illegal parking in taxi ranks and bus lanes.

REPLY: Traffic Wardens are employed by Limerick City and County Council under the provisions of Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act 1994. This legislation empowers Limerick City and County Council as a Roads Authority to make provision for the management and control of on street parking and parking charges.

The Control and Management of traffic and on street parking is vital to enabling the economy of the city, the safety of its residents and visitors, and to the functioning of pedestrian and cycle mobility and public transport.

Currently Standard Operating Procedure requires Traffic Warden staff to deal with in the 'first instance' the following categories of offence.

- Parking a vehicle in a manner in which it would interfere with the flow of traffic or which obstructed or endangered other traffic.
- Parking on a footway / grass margin or median strip.
- Parking a vehicle in a disabled parking bay.

Traffic Warden staff must issue Fixed Charge Offence Notices only when they are satisfied that an offence has been committed and must support their allegations with evidence under Oath in the District and Circuit Court where prosecutions fall within the realm of a criminal offence.

Currently there are five Traffic Wardens in Limerick City engaged to monitor and enforce the above mentioned Bye Laws. Traffic Wardens are assigned to eleven different 'beats' in the city and the environs to patrol, monitor and issue appropriate Fixed Charge Notices for all offences encountered on these beats. Traffic Wardens are rostered through these eleven beats on a cycle of one week.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cian Prendiville

I will move at the next meeting that Limerick Metropolitan District write to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government requesting that the government institute a national programme to replace the current street lighting with more environmentally friendly and cost effective LED lights.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Prendiville and seconded by Councillor Keller.

In proposing the motion Councillor Prendiville pointed out the potential for Ireland to face extensive fines for failure to reach carbon emissions targets and noted that a national programme to replace current street lighting with LED lights would reduce the country's carbon footprint and result in reduced electricity and maintenance cost in the provision of public lighting.

Members generally supported the motion and suggested that the Council should monitor its carbon footprint and that proposals in relation to same should be included in the Council's Social Plan. A view was also expressed that the cost of such a proposal was prohibitive and that the white light emitted by LED lights in estates such as Briarfield, Castletroy were indistinguishable from the lights of oncoming vehicles. The Senior Engineer undertook to review the lighting in Briarfield.

The Director of Service, Transportation & Travel / Environment noted that the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) was facilitating a Public Lighting Working Group to bring forward best practice guidelines for energy efficient public lighting procurement and design and acknowledged that, given the scale of public lighting, this was an issue that needed to be addressed at a national level. In relation to carbon footprints, he noted that a presentation was

to be made to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee on foot of the COP21 Paris Climate Conference.

In response to queries raised by Members the Senior Engineer noted that the use of LED technology for public lighting was still developing but was improving in relation to bigger lights. These units offered 30% to 40% savings on energy costs but were still expensive, with the price depending on the quantity tendered for.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cian Prendiville

I will move at the next meeting that the Council investigate the possibility of running a series of outdoor cinema showings in the People's Park over this or next summer, as has been done in Dublin and other areas.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Prendiville and seconded by Councillor Keller.

In proposing the motion Councillor Prendiville noted that there was no cinema in the city centre and his proposal could form part of a series of small events that would enhance the city. The potential to use the Milk Market for cinema was noted by Members.

REPLY: Outdoor cinema events were held successfully in the People's Park in 2014 as part of the City of Culture. The Parks Department examined the possibility last Summer but due to the very poor weather conditions throughout the Summer, it was decided not to undertake a screening.

We will keep this under review for Summer 2016 and would hope to be able to facilitate some cinema events.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Jerry O'Dea

Given the importance of the planned National Children's Hospital to so many families in the Metropolitan District, I will move at the next Meeting that this District calls on the Minister for Health to reverse the decision to locate the National Children's Hospital at St. James's Hospital and locate the new Children's Hospital for all the children of Ireland at Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown.

The Connolly site offers 145 acres, vast space for expansion, easier access for children and their families and extensive parking. The co-location with Connolly Hospital and the new Rotunda Maternity Hospital will result in better clinical outcomes. It will be cheaper and faster to build than on the St. James's site.

The motion was proposed by Councillor O'Dea and seconded by Councillor Crowley.

In proposing the motion Councillor O'Dea highlighted the construction challenges that would have to be overcome on the confined urban site at St. James' and noted that it would be cheaper and safer to build at Connolly with access to adequate parking, parkland areas, proper parent accommodation and an adjacent maternity hospital where high risk cases could be dealt with and thereby ensuring the best care for both mother and child.

Some Members spoke in favour of the St. James' site noting that a new children's hospital was

first mooted in 1993 and was still not built and to change plans at this point would result in further delays. They noted that many experts were in favour of the St. James' site which, unlike Connolly, had the backing of all medical specialities available on site.

It was agreed that the Mayor, in conjunction with Members who supported the St. James' site, would agree the text of a letter to be sent to the Minister for Health.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
MAYOR

Dated: _____