

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2015, AT 9.45 A.M.**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Butler, Byrne, Collins, Crowley, Daly, Hourigan, Hurley, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, Lynch, McCreesh, Ó Ceallaigh, O'Hanlon, Prendiville, Quinlivan, Secas and Sheahan.

Apologies for his inability to attend had been received from Councillor Gilligan.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Transportation and Travel / Environment (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O'Connor), Senior Executive Officer (Ms. P. Liddy), Senior Engineer (Mr. V. Murray), Senior Engineer (Mr. D. Brennan), Director, Limerick 2020 European Capital of Culture Bid (Mr. M. Fitzpatrick), Senior Executive Engineer (Ms. C. Lynch), A/Senior Planner (Mr. S. Duclot), Administrative Officer (Mr. M. Cantwell), A/Senior Executive Officer (Mr. J. Murphy), Assistant Staff Officer (Mr. J. Cregan), 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 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.

Proposed by Councillor Collins;  
Seconded by Councillor Hurley;  
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 dated 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 in relation to the proposed disposal of freehold interest in dwelling house situate at 36 Marian Avenue, Roxboro Road in the City of Limerick.
- Report of the Director, Home and Community dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 in relation to the proposed disposal of freehold interest in properties at 100 Glasgow Park in the City of Limerick and at 3 Flood Street, Pennywell in the City of Limerick.
- Report of the Director, Home and Community dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 in relation to the proposed disposal of 3 Lilac Court, Keyes Park, Southill.
- Report of the Director, Economic Development and Planning dated 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 in relation to the proposed disposal of the freehold (ground rent) at 1 Farranshone, Limerick City.

Members noted the contents of the reports as circulated.

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

#### **(a) Taking in Charge of Estates - Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

Circulated, Report of the Director, Economic Development and Planning in relation to the proposed taking in charge of an estate at Ritaville, Old Cork Road.

At the outset the A/Senior Planner informed the Members that legal advice had been received that if this estate was taken in charge at this point it could affect the recovery of the bond. For that reason the taking in charge should not proceed and the permission of the Members was sought to withdraw this item.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Hurley, it was agreed that the item be withdrawn.

Members noted that a report on the taking in charge of estates in the District, previously requested, had not yet been received.

#### **(b) Part 8 Procedure – Former Dell Building, Plassey Road, Castletroy, Limerick**

Circulated, Report of the Director, Economic Development and Planning and attached Chief Executive's Report in relation to the former Dell Building, Plassey Road, Castletroy which had been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2015 and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001-2015 and it was proposed to proceed in accordance with the Chief Executive's Report.

Members welcomed the proposed development and noted the potential of the project to deliver jobs and benefit students studying media related courses in the region.

### **4. Travel and Transportation / Environment**

#### **(a) Part 8 Procedure – Parnell Street, Wickham Street and Davis Street Urban Realm and Street Improvement Works**

Circulated;

- Report of the Director, Travel and Transportation dated 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 enclosing Chief Executive's Report in relation to proposed urban realm and street improvement works at Parnell Street, Wickham Street and Davis Street which had been prepared in accordance with Section 179 (3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000-2015 and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001-2015 and which proposed to proceed as indicated in Section 5 of same.
- Report and accompanying map of the A/Director, Travel and Transportation dated 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 setting out potential revisions to the Part VIII, as originally circulated, to reflect the considered outcome of further workshop and consultation.

Members acknowledged the importance of the proposed development in improving the streetscape for those arriving in the city via Colbert Station and in conjunction with improvements to the adjacent apartments being carried out by Clúid and improvements to Colbert Station. Members acknowledged the efforts of the Travel and Transportation Department in taking on board concerns raised by the traders and those living in the area and called on traders to play their part by improving shop fronts.

The Director, Travel and Transportation informed Members that it was hoped that funding towards this project would be received from the National Transport Authority in 2016.

A query was raised as to whether improvements would be made to the building at the corner of Upper Gerald Griffin Street and the Mayor asked that the status of the building be clarified to Members.

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

“That the Chief Executive’s Report prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2015, and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001-2015, in relation to proposed Urban Realm and Street Improvement Works at Parnell Street, Wickham Street and Davis Street be amended as set out in the report and accompanying map of the A/Director, Travel and Transportation dated 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 in accordance with Section 179(4)(b) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000-2015 and that the project should proceed in accordance with the Chief Executive’s Report, as amended”.

**(b) Deputation to meet with NRA (now Transport Infrastructure Ireland)**

On the proposal of Councillor Hourigan, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was recommended that a nominee from each of the three Electoral Areas within the District should meet with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and names would be submitted to the Director, Travel and Transportation in due course.

Councillor Byrne raised the issue of Christmas parking arrangements in the city and proposed that the Christmas arrangements be extended from the 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 to the 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2016. This was seconded by Councillor Lynch. Members noted that the Christmas parking arrangements had extended into January last Christmas and expressed disappointment that they had not been consulted in relation to changing what they had perceived as agreed practice.

The Director, Travel and Transportation noted that the extension of the Christmas parking arrangements, as requested, would involve foregoing income, not budgeted for, but undertook to discuss the issue with his colleagues and revert to the Members as soon as possible.

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

***I will ask at the next meeting when the Council is going to pilot the 30km/h speed limits concept in housing estates in the Metropolitan District.***

**REPLY:** It is intended to bring draft byelaws to the February Meeting of the Metropolitan District to be held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

**6. Question submitted by Councillor Elena Secas (to be referred to the Local Area Operational Briefings)**

***I will ask at the next meeting what treatment options the Council has considered for the section of the R445 road (Dublin Road) between the Kilmurry Roundabout and the entrance to Munster GAA Offices and when the Council is going to carry out the improvement works.***

The Meetings Administrator informed Councillor Secas that it was proposed that this question should be dealt with at the Local Area Operational Briefing.

Members noted that the Operational Briefings were working well in most instances but stressed the need, at times, to escalate to District level issues that were not being dealt with to their satisfaction at Operational Briefings. Members also stressed the requirements to raise, at District Meetings, issues relating to the city centre which would be of concern to all Members.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Quinlivan, it was agreed that the Mayor and Party Leaders should meet to discuss this issue.

**7. Question submitted by Councillor Elena Secas**

***I will ask at the next meeting what solutions the Council has explored for safe road crossing for children attending Milford National School in Castletroy and if the Council has considered providing a school warden service for children's safety.***

**REPLY:** In order to confirm the full extent of current traffic issues in the vicinity of Milford School the Council will undertake revised surveys of traffic in early 2016 along Plassey Park Road. The outputs from those surveys will allow the Council to best examine the range of suitable options for this location to enhance the safety of children crossing the Plassey Park Road from or to Milford School. It would be premature to comment on any one possible solution before then.

**8. Question submitted by Councillor Sean Lynch**

***I will ask at the next meeting for an update on the latest count to establish how many are actually sleeping rough in Limerick and what measures have been taken to ensure that we have no one sleeping rough this Christmas.***

**REPLY:** The Limerick Homeless Action Team (LHAT) scheduled a rough sleepers count for Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2015. This had to be postponed due to a weather alert, it has been rescheduled for Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December.

LHAT endeavours to constantly monitor evidence of rough sleeping in Limerick. We have ongoing liaison with the Garda Siochana, Approved Housing Bodies and the HSE Emergency Department in order to identify any individuals actually, or at risk of sleeping rough. Other individuals and agencies such as members of the public, the media and elected members also aid in identifying transient rough sleeping persons. LHAT has not received any indication that there are persons consistently rough sleeping in Limerick.

The Limerick Homeless Action Team office hours are 9am to 5pm, Monday to

Friday. Our telephone number is 061 481212. Anyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness is invited to present for assessment. From 5pm to 9pm, Monday to Friday, and 12pm to 4pm Saturday and Sunday, an Out of Hours Service operates, to which persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness may present in person. An emergency telephone number 1800606060, operates 24 hours a day.

In November, Limerick City & County Council funded the Winter Beds Initiative. Eight emergency beds are available through this initiative for individuals who present to the LHAT, which are allocated on a daily basis. This service is provided in addition to the existing hostel emergency accommodation, this provision is adequate to meet current presented needs.

It should be noted that we are always planning ahead to be prepared in the event of an increase in presentation, we are currently in discussions with a number of agencies to have contingency emergency beds in place should the need arise.

Councillor Lynch indicated that he was not satisfied with the reply received and highlighted the need for a walk in shelter in the city where people could avail of a warm drink.

#### **9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Malachy McCreesh**

***I will move at the next meeting that the Council provides the funding to implement a permanent solution to the recurring flooding on Hyde Road close to the Byrne Avenue junction.***

Councillor McCreesh noted that it was proposed that this issue be dealt with at Operational Briefings but noted that this issue had been raised repeatedly at Operational Briefings but had not been resolved.

Members supported the motion and stressed the need for funding to be sourced to apply the appropriate engineering solution to this problem, which had been occurring for many years.

It was agreed that Item 11 on the agenda would be taken next.

#### **11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhrl. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh**

***I will move at the next meeting that this District calls on the Government to immediately act on its promise to provide for flood defences in Limerick City, and to extend flood defences to the Castleconnell/Lisnagry/Montpelier areas.***

The motion was proposed by Cmhrl. Ó Ceallaigh and seconded by Councillor Quinlivan.

In proposing the motion Cmhrl. Ó Ceallaigh noted the previous flooding of St. Mary's Park, the ongoing absence of adequate flood defences there and the fears of the residents in relation to high tides.

Members acknowledged the great work carried out in maintaining flood defences during the recent extreme weather but expressed concern at the flooding that had occurred in Corbally. It was proposed by Councillor Quinlivan and seconded by Cmhrl. Ó Ceallaigh that this District calls

on Waterways Ireland to attend a Metropolitan Meeting to discuss the recent flooding of Richmond Park, Corbally and its surrounds on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2015. Reference was also made to flooding in the general Corbally area and that this should be considered in conjunction with the original motion.

Members referred to the impact climate change was having on extreme weather events and the challenges faced by the ESB dealing with the slow flow of the Shannon and it was proposed that all stakeholders come together to develop short and long term proposals to minimise flooding and its impacts.

It was pointed out that sandbags had been stolen and damaged during the recent flooding and that a hoax emergency call had been responded to during the flooding in Corbally. The public were encouraged to come forward with any information they had in relation to these incidents.

**10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh**

***I will move at the next meeting that this District calls for prominence to be given to the Irish Language in the Limerick 2020 bid and for the language to be included in the title of the bid, making it Limerick2020Luimneach.***

The motion was proposed by Cmhr. Ó Ceallaigh and seconded by Councillor Quinlivan.

In proposing the motion Cmhr. Ó Ceallaigh noted that the Irish language was a part of our culture of which people were proud and could be an asset to the European Capital of Culture 2020 bid. He called for plans and events that promoted the Irish language to be included as part of the 2020 bid.

**REPLY:** The title of European Capital of Culture shall be awarded each year to a maximum of one city in each of the two Member States appearing in the calendar set out in the Annex of **Decision 445/2014/EU**, which governs the European Capital of Culture Union action for the years 2020 to 2033. Under the formal criteria it states “an English version of the application will be the working version for the panel (jury) established to carry out the selection procedure”. With this in mind the bid book was prepared in English.

The visual identify and logo for the Limerick bid is indicated as Limerick 2020. We will ask the creators of the visual identity to address the idea of including Luimneach in the next iteration of the visual identity.

The bid itself must ensure a relevant European Dimension and within this context Limerick will include a project that will highlight the growing diversity of Limerick and the increasing numbers of new Irish and migrants and the resultant number of languages spoken in Limerick, including the Irish language. We acknowledge that the Irish language is a vital part of our living heritage.

Members indicated their support for the Irish language and a suggestion was made that an alternative Irish language version of the logo be used in some circumstances. Members also noted that, as we were applying for European Capital of Culture Status, other cultures had to be taken into consideration.

Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh indicated his satisfaction with the response he had received to his notice of motion. The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the Council's logo in the District Chamber would be reviewed early in the new year with a view to giving equal prominence to the Irish and English language.

**12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Michael Hourigan**

*I move at the next meeting that the double yellow lines on Honan's Quay at the back of the old Dunnes Stores, that were put in place to facilitate loading, be removed and replaced with normal disc parking measures. The store has been closed now for many years.*

The motion was proposed by Councillor Hourigan and seconded by Councillor Quinlivan.

In proposing the motion Councillor Hourigan noted that these double yellow lines had been put in place 10 years ago, the adjacent building was not longer in use and these double yellow lines were no longer appropriate.

The Meetings Administrator informed Councillor Hourigan that this item would be raised at the Local Area Operational Briefing.

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

*I will move at the next meeting for the Council to engage with the relevant organisation to begin a process of removing the now redundant phone boxes from the city centre.*

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

Councillor Collins noted that in other cities redundant phone boxes were used as wifi hot spots and for charging phones.

The Meetings Administrator informed Councillor Butler that this item would be raised at the Local Area Operational Briefing.

**14. Correspondence.**

Correspondence was noted.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Mayor thanked Members for their contributions and wished everyone present a peaceful and happy Christmas.

This concluded the Meeting.

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

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