

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2016, AT 9.45 A.M.**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O'Connor), Operations Manager, Central Services & North Division (Mr. V. Murray), Chief Officer, Limerick Local Community Development Committee (Mr. S. O'Connor), Senior Executive Officer (Mr. P. Foley), Senior Executive Officer (Ms. P. Liddy), Senior Executive Architect (Mr. S. Hanrahan), Administrative Officer (Mr. J. Clune), Assistant Staff Officer (Mr. J. Cregan), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox).

At the opening of the Meeting a minutes silence was observed in memory of those who had died in the Orlando tragedy.

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

Proposed by Councillor Hourigan;

Seconded by Councillor Collins;

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 :-

- (a) Disposal of Freehold Interest in dwelling house situate at 100 Star Court, Carew Park, in the City of Limerick.
- (b) Disposal of Freehold Interest in dwelling house situate at 6 Quins Cottages, Rosbrien in the City of Limerick.
- (c) Disposal of Freehold Interest in dwelling house situate at 3 Colbert Park, Janesboro, in the City of Limerick.
- (d) Disposal of Freehold Interest in dwelling house situate at 9 An Casan, Garryowen, in the City of Limerick.
- (e) Disposal of 7 Sites at Dromdarrig, Mungret, Co. Limerick.
- (f) Sub-lease of Arthur's Quay Car Park for a further period of 3 years from 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2017.
- (g) Disposal of 2 areas of land, totalling 347 square metres (approx.) to Coras Iompar Eireann (C.I.E.) at Parnell Street by way of long term lease. Acquire from C.I.E. 2,446 square metres

- (approx.) of land by way of long term lease, comprising of the newly refurbished plaza area.
- (h) Disposal of 5.87 acres of land at Caheranardish, Mungret.
- (i) Renewal of existing leases with the current lessee, Savage Management Limited at the Bar and Night Club, The Granary, Michael Street for a further 3 years.

In response to queries raised by Members in relation to sub-lease of Arthur's Quay for a further period of 3 years, the Senior Executive Officer, Property Services stated that the Members would be further briefed in relation to same.

### 3. Civic Reception

On the proposal of Councillor O'Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Hourigan, and in accordance with Section 74 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, it was agreed to host a Civic Reception on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016 at 4.30pm in Corporate Headquarters, Merchant's Quay, to honour Fionn O'Sullivan McCarthy on winning the World Irish Dancing Championship in Boys Under 11 Age Group.

### 4. Social Development Directorate

#### To consider the adoption of a Statement of Consistency on the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021.

Circulated, Report of the Chief Officer, Limerick Local Community Development Committee dated 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2016, setting out the background to the item and what was required of the Members; Report of the Director of Economic Development dated 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 which stated that the Director was satisfied that the draft Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan was consistent with the Limerick City Development Plan 2010, the Limerick County Development Plan 2010 and the relevant Local Area Plans and that both economic and community elements of the plan were consistent; and draft Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021 dated 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

Ms. Humphreys gave a powerpoint presentation on the plan which included the following :-

- The origins and purpose of the LECP.
- The evidence base for the LECP including socio-economic analysis, consultation process and who would deliver the plan.
- The 9 high level goals of the LECP and the action areas under the three pillars of economic, social and physical / environment.
- The presentation and implementation of the plan and the timeframe for its adoption.

In response to queries from Members, the following was clarified:

There was still reference, under Action 3.1.01, that public capital / infrastructures such as housing, schools and health facilities would be arranged using the model of Public Private Partnership. It was noted that under current government policy, this model was proposed as a way of potentially financing such projects.

Agencies involved in the delivery of the LECP were mainly those represented on the LCDC. These included: Limerick City and County Council (and the LEO within the Council), Limerick and Clare

Education and Training Board, Department of Social Protection, the HSE and the Local Development Companies (3) in Limerick City (PAUL Partnership) and County (Ballyhoura Development and West Limerick Resources). Other agencies such as Enterprise Ireland would also be involved.

Presentation from the LCDC on the implementation of the SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) in Limerick City and County would be arranged.

Members thanked Ms. Humphreys for her presentation.

Proposed by Councillor Hurley;

Seconded by Councillor Daly;

And Resolved;

“That the Members of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, having considered the draft Limerick Local Economic Community Plan, find it is consistent with the Limerick City Development Plan 2010, the Limerick County Development Plan 2010 and the relevant Local Area Plans and that there is consistency between the economic and the community elements of the LECP, in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended”.

## **5. Economic Development Directorate**

### **Part 8 Procedure – Former GPO incorporating the ‘Hanging Gardens’ Henry Street and No. 19 Henry Street, Limerick**

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Economic Development and attached Chief Executive’s Report in relation to the Former GPO incorporating the ‘Hanging Gardens’ Henry Street and No. 19 Henry Street, Limerick 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.

## **6. Service Operations Directorate**

### **Part 8 Procedure – Verdant Place Flood Defence Wall**

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Service Operations and attached Chief Executive’s Report in relation to Verdant Place Flood Defence Wall 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.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **7. Question submitted by Councillor Joe Leddin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting, in relation to Rathbane Golf Club, how much funding had been paid to the current service provider per annum, what service level agreement is currently in place and what are the future plans to secure a new management company.*

**REPLY:** The current operator has been engaged on a month by month basis, on the terms of the original contract to operate and manage the facility. The operator was paid €296,400 (ex VAT) in 2015.

A procurement procedure is currently being undertaken to identify an operator for the course for a 5 year period with an option to extend for an additional 5 years. The procurement process is at an advanced stage and having regard to due process it is not possible to provide further details at this point as it may have an impact on the outcome of the process.

**8. Question submitted by Councillor Joe Leddin**

*I will ask at the next meeting what rates are liable on the derelict building located on Ellen Street and have these rates been paid to date.*

**REPLY:** The building in question is an unfinished building with no roof and as such has never been rated.  
A Section 29 Notice and a Section 8(2) Notice under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 were issued on 7th May 2013. Engagement was made with the owner and certain works were carried out.  
This property remains in a derelict condition.

**9. Question submitted by Councillor James Collins**

*I will ask at the next Meeting what plans the Council has to provide facilities for local basketball clubs, Limerick Lions and Limerick Celtics, at Mungret College.*

**REPLY:** The Council has been engaging with representatives of the local basketball clubs and has endeavoured to identify solutions to the requests for outdoor playing space at Mungret College.

To this end it has been agreed as part of the arrangement with Mungret St Pauls GAA that efforts will be made with the local basketball club to provide practice space under terms to be agreed mutually. These discussions are currently advancing.

**10. Question submitted by Councillor James Collins**

*I will ask at the next Meeting what plans the Council has to provide facilities for St. Paul's Scouts at Mungret College.*

**REPLY:** The Council is agreeable to providing space to St. Paul's Scouts at Mungret College. The next phase of work to the Mungret College site is the repair of the roof on the building which will shortly go to tender. On completion of same the Council will make arrangements with St. Paul's Scouts to lease agreed accommodation accordingly.

**11. Question submitted by Councillor John Costelloe**

*I will ask at the next Meeting that the Council provide a timeline for works to replace lead piping across the Metropolitan District of Limerick.*

**REPLY:** Design of Limerick City Water mains Rehabilitation Works Package 2 (WP2) commenced in 2013 and the project novated to Irish Water in January 2014. Irish Water prioritised the elimination of all currently known common lead backyard services in Limerick City by progressing WP2 to tender and construction. Irish Water tendered Limerick City Water main Rehabilitation Works Packages 2 in February 2015. The scope of the contract includes the decommissioning of 24km of defective water mains and the replacement of 1,914 customer service connections (of which 1,405 are common lead backyard services).

The provisional date for completion of WP2 is quarter 4 of 2016.

**12. Question submitted by Cmhr. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh**

*I will ask at the next Meeting when the full upgrade of the Bloodmill Road will begin and be completed.*

**REPLY:** A full upgrade of the Bloodmill Road (Old Singland Road) is not planned at present. In 2016 the Council have made provision to upgrade this road from the entrance to Carn Ná Ree Housing Estate for a distance of approx. 400 meters to the bridge over the Monaclinoe Stream. The upgrade works over this stretch of road will consist of the setting back of the existing boundary, widening of the existing road, provision of surface water drainage and the provision of a new road surface. Sufficient road width will be made available to provide footpaths, cycle paths and public lighting in the future when additional monies are available.

Works are due to commence in early July 2016 over this stretch of Bloodmill Road and will last for approx. three months.

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Jerry O'Dea**

*I will move at the next Meeting, in the absence of a completion to the tendering process at Rathbane Golf Club, that this District requests Management to implement an immediate programme of short-term works in order to allow the Club host visiting clubs and competitions this Summer.*

In proposing the motion Councillor O'Dea referred to ongoing problems with the maintenance of Rathbane Golf Club which had resulted in the cancellation of fixtures by visiting clubs and a very significant fall in the membership of the club. The motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

A number of Members raised concerns regarding the level of funding which had been provided to bring this course up to a high standard and stressed the need for urgent action to be taken to ensure that the course was managed effectively.

The Senior Manager, Social Development, in reply, pointed out that there had been difficulties in relation to the maintenance agreement for Rathbane Golf Club. The current operator had been engaged on a month by month basis, on the terms of the original contract, to operate and manage the facility. A procurement procedure was currently being undertaken to identify an operator for the course for a five year period, with an option to extend for an additional five years. The procurement process was at an advanced stage and it was hoped would be finalised shortly. In the interim a number of meetings had been held with the club members and efforts were being made to bring the course up to a satisfactory standard to allow competition schedules for the coming weeks / months to go ahead. The situation was being kept under review and every effort was being made to finalise the procurement process and install a new operator at an early stage.

#### **14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Joe Leddin**

***I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick Metropolitan District introduce appropriate By-Laws to standardise the design of signage placed by retail and business owners in Limerick City so as to prevent the placement of unsuitable signage at the front of various businesses and shopfronts.***

The motion was proposed by Councillor Leddin who referred to problems associated with poor signage around the city area.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hourigan who also referred to problems with businesses which had closed down and where the signage was still in place and he requested that action be taken to remove such signage.

**REPLY:** The Limerick City Development Plan sets out standards in relation to signage and advertising on buildings. In general advertising on buildings should conform with the following:

- Be sympathetic in design and colour both to the building on which the signage will be displayed and the surrounding buildings etc.
- Not obscure architectural features such as cornices or window openings.
- Illuminated signs or other advertising structures will not be allowed above the eaves or parapet level on buildings in any part of the City.
- Shop front advertising should be designed as an integral part of the shop front and not left as an afterthought.
- Applications for new, or a change of use of commercial units, will be required to indicate what type of signage is proposed.

In response to further queries, the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services stated that the matter would be referred to the Enforcement Section for follow-up. It was also agreed that the motion would be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration.

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Joe Leddin**

*I will move at the next Meeting that the Council consider the placement of additional temporary bins along the river quays, boardwalks and Arthurs Quay to facilitate locals and tourists who wish to discard their rubbish.*

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

Reference was also made to the need for additional bins in public parks and also for bins in the Wetlands area in Westfield Park. A number of Members referred to the problems with littering and issues with weeds etc and reference was made to the need for replacement of the lamps on the Abbey Bridge as four lamps were currently not working. There was a problem also with the general condition of the area adjacent to where the coca-cola bikes were kept, which required tidying up.

Congratulations were expressed to the Parks Department for their great work around the city and in particular reference was made to the flower arrangements which improved the vision of the city streets significantly.

**REPLY:** There are currently 10 bins between Shannon Bridge and Sarsfield Bridge on the Harveys Quay side of the river. There are 7 bins on O'Callaghan Strand and 5 bins on Clancy Strand. These numbers should be adequate to facilitate users in these areas.

Temporary bins would be very difficult to manage in terms of movability and probability of being used for illegal dumping. We will keep these areas under review.

**16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor James Collins**

*I will move at the next Meeting that the Council request Eir to provide high speed broadband at Mungret without further delay.*

In proposing the motion Councillor Collins expressed disappointment that the national provider Eir had not included Mungret in their plans for provision of high speed broadband in the short term. He referred to the development of Mungret College and the park area and the residential development which would take place in this general area and requested that Eir be called on to provide high speed broadband for this area and Mungret Village at an early stage. The motion was seconded by Councillor McCreesh and agreed.

**17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor James Collins**

*I will move at the next Meeting that this District calls on the Government to tackle the spiralling costs of insurance.*

The motion was proposed by Councillor Collins, who pointed out that while this was a national issue, it had a very significant effect on businesses and people in general in the Municipal area. He referred to the spiralling cost of insurance and to the expected additional increases following the increases proposed in the new book of quantum regarding insurance compensation.

The motion was seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon.

A number of Members also referred to the issue of rising motor insurance costs and that urgent action was required to deal with this issue generally.

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Malachy McCreesh**

*I will move at the next Meeting that the Council contact Bus Éireann with regard to having a bus shelter installed at the University Hospital Limerick for passengers using the outbound bus routes.*

The motion was proposed by Councillor McCreesh who referred to the lack of a bus shelter outside the University Hospital in Limerick where there were high levels of usage both from persons attending the hospital and visitors. He pointed out that there was an urgent need to provide a bus shelter at this location. The motion was seconded by Councillor Costelloe.

Reference was also made to the location of the current bus stop which was very near the roundabout and was difficult to access.

Members also raised the issue of the need for more bus shelters throughout the city and county and requested that this matter be examined further.

**19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors Michael Hourigan and Frankie Daly**

*We will call at the next Meeting for the Council to have the resurfacing of North Circular Road and Mill Road, Corbally and the repair of footpaths that have been damaged by the installation of water pipes carried out as a matter of urgency.*

The motion was proposed by Councillor Daly, who referred to the damage to roads and footpaths at the North Circular Road and Mill Road, Corbally, caused during the installation of water pipes.

A number of Members pointed out that similar issues were occurring in many locations throughout the city where works were being undertaken by contractors, acting on behalf of Irish Water, and there was a need for greater levels of co-ordination between the public utility companies and the Council in relation to the planning and carrying out of such works.

**REPLY:** The installation of water pipes on North Circular Road, Limerick and Mill Road, Corbally is being carried out by Contractors working on behalf of Irish Water. The Regional Services Directorate (Water Services Department) of Limerick City and County Council has a role in managing these contracts on behalf of Irish Water. The Service Operations Department of Limerick City and County Council has issued a Road Opening Licence to Irish Water for these works and the conditions of this Licence include that good quality reinstatements of the roads and footpaths are carried out after completing pipe laying works in accordance with the terms of the Road Opening Licence and in accordance with the Purple Book, (Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads-Guidelines for the Opening, Backfilling and Reinstatement of Openings in Public Roads).

Therefore, responsibility for repairing the roads and footpaths damaged by pipe laying works is the responsibility of Irish Water and our Service Operations Department is working with the Regional Services Directorate, Limerick City and County Council and the staff in the Water Services Section to have the permanent reinstatement and repair works at North Circular Road, Limerick and Mill Road, Corbally completed as soon as possible. It is expected that permanent reinstatement and repair works will be completed over the next couple of weeks.

The Director, Physical Development agreed that staff from Water Services would attend the next Operational Briefings in relation to items raised by the Members relevant to the Motion and with regard to works carried out by the contractor, on behalf of Irish Water, in other parts of the city.

**20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors Frankie Daly and Michael Hourigan**

*We will move at the next Meeting that a strategic plan be developed, in conjunction with the community, to develop the LPYMA Ground into an amenity that will benefit the whole community and address ongoing issues such as anti-social behaviour. This under-utilised resource to be maintained and secured while a long term plan is brought forward.*

The motion was proposed by Councillor Daly who referred to the need for a plan to be prepared for the LPYMA Ground which could be a tremendous amenity for the local area.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Collins who pointed out that, in addition to the making of a plan, there was a need to provide the finance to upgrade the area once a plan had been prepared.

**REPLY:** The Council will prepare a strategic plan in relation to the LPYMA Grounds in the coming months.

There was a welcome from Members that a plan would be prepared in this case. It was requested that consideration be given in the plan for the provision of a pitch for Ballynanty Rovers who were in this area.

**21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhrl. Séighin Ó Ceallaigh**

*I will move at the next Meeting that this District calls on the Minister for Education to relocate the planned secondary school for Castletroy to Castleconnell.*

The motion was proposed by Cmhrl. Ó Ceallaigh who referred to the current secondary school at Castletroy and the level of overcrowding and significant traffic disruption in the area. He pointed out there was a significant population in the Castleconnell area and that the provision of a new school in that area would be of greater benefit than providing a second school in the Castletroy area. The motion was seconded by Councillor Costelloe.

A number of Members however were not in agreement with the motion, referring to the general growth of population in the Castletroy area which meant that a second school was required in that area. Reference was made to the potential for such a school at the Parkway Valley area which would then cater for the Singland and Garryowen areas and would curtail the

numbers from that area travelling to Castletroy College thereby eliminating some of the overcrowding and traffic problems at that location. It was agreed that further consideration should be given to this matter and that information should be sought from the Department of Education and Skills regarding the appropriate location for such a school. In this regard the motion was adjourned to the next Meeting.

Congratulations were extended to the former Minister for Education, Deputy Jan O'Sullivan, T.D. for her work in the promotion of a second school in that area.

**22. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John Costelloe**

*I will move at the next Meeting that this Council facilitates a public meeting for residents of Thomondgate and St Mary's Park in relation to the proposed new bridge at the weir.*

The motion was proposed by Councillor Costelloe who pointed out that many of the residents in this area were not in favour of the proposal. The motion was seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon.

**REPLY:** The Council will facilitate the meeting as has been sought.

**23. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Vivienne Crowley**

*I will move at the next Meeting that, before the project is advanced any further, the proposed social housing development in the Rhebogue area be investigated and considered further, following several concerns raised by the community.*

The motion was proposed by Councillor Crowley who referred to the concerns of the local residents in this area, pointing out that there had been no consultation and that the site in question was not considered suitable for additional social housing.

The motion was seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon who pointed out that while he was committed to the provision of social housing and was aware of the urgent need for additional housing, this site in question raised significant concerns among the community.

There was a general discussion in relation to the current lack of social housing and the difficulties associated with same and to the significant delays in the provision of housing.

**REPLY:** Under the Capital Assistance Scheme 'Call for Proposals 2015' Co-operative Housing Ireland were approved for the construction of 21 units in Rhebogue.

Co-operative Housing Ireland met with a number of residents from Drominbeg and Dromroe. The residents were briefed on the management of dwellings in existing estates and communities and informed that a planning application will be lodged in the coming weeks.

Co-Operative Housing Ireland are to provide additional information to the residents and will be holding a public meeting in the coming weeks to discuss the issues and concerns of the residents.

Members pointed out that the consultation by Co-operative Housing Ireland had been very inadequate in this instance and it was requested that officials from the Housing Section should

also attend the public meeting in relation to this matter.

**24. Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted.

This concluded the Meeting.

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

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