

**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> JUNE, 2017 AT 9.45 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor Michael Hourigan, Mayor.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Butler, Collins, Costelloe, Crowley, Hogan, Hurley, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, Lynch, McCreesh, Ó Ceallaigh, O’Dea, O’Hanlon, Pond, Prendiville, Secas and Sheahan.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O’Connor), Director, Customer Services, Culture and Arts (Ms. J. Cotter Coughlan), Senior Executive Officer, Design & Delivery Services (Mr. J. Delaney), Senior Executive Engineer, Design & Delivery Services (Mr. K. O’Gorman), Environment Awareness Officer (Ms. S. McDonnell), Arts and Culture Officer (Ms. S. Deegan), Assistant Arts Officer (Ms. A. Potter- Cogan), Executive Engineer, Design & Delivery Services (Mr. N. Boyle), Staff Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. L. Creamer).

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;  
Seconded by Councillor Hogan;  
And Resolved:

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

**2. Disposal of Land**

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Officer, Community Support Services dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 setting out proposal for the disposal of the Freehold Interest in dwelling house situate at 20 Cregan Avenue, Kileely in the City of Limerick and the intention to bring the related Section 183 Notice to the full Council for approval.

Members noted the report, as circulated.

**3. Service Operations Directorate**

**(a) Planning and Environmental Services**

**Taking in Charge of Estates – Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Planner, Planning and Environmental Services dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2017 seeking approval to the taking in charge of estate at Curragh Birin, Castletroy and the declaration of roads to be public roads.

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

“That the estate at Curragh Birin, Castletroy be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993”.

**(b) Operations and Maintenance Services**

**Extinguishment of Public Right of Way**

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Engineer, Maintenance Services – Roads dated 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2017, seeking approval to Extinguish the Public Right of Way at Alleyway known as Cassidy’s Lane leading to Sarsfield Court, Garryowen.

Proposed by Cmhr. Ó Ceallaigh;  
 Seconded by Councillor Costelloe;  
 And Resolved:

“That, the Metropolitan District of Limerick hereby makes an Order extinguishing the public right-of-way at Alleyway known as Cassidy’s Lane leading to Sarsfield Court, Garryowen in accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993”.

**(c) Community Support Services**

A Presentation was given by the Environment Awareness Officer on TLC3 and also an update on Limerick Going for Gold Grant and Competition.

Members welcomed the presentation and commented favourably on TLC as an initiative and the increased community spirit it generated. Members supported the development of a policy in relation to ‘Single Use Items’ with a focus on single use plastic items and referred this proposal to the Environmental Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

Members made the following points during discussion of this item :

- More needed to be done to raise environmental awareness, particularly in national and secondary schools;
- The introduction of a levy nationally, similar to the plastic bag levy, or a ‘Return and Deposit Scheme’ should be considered;
- Litter monitoring and enforcement should be increased;
- Commercial sponsorship of litter bins should be explored;
- The introduction of a Bye Law whereby all households were required to have a bin should be considered;
- Producers and businesses should be encouraged to reduce packaging and ensure recyclable products were used;
- Rubbish should be removed from the River Shannon.

**(d) Service Operations Directorate**

**Part 8 Procedure – Kilmurry Court, Garryowen**

Circulated, Report of Director of Services, Service Operations dated 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 enclosing the Chief Executives Report setting out proposals for the construction of 7 new residential units at Kilmurry Court, Garryowen. The Chief Executive's Report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and it was proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 5 of the report.

The majority of Members welcomed the proposed development. A number of Members stated that residents in the area had concerns regarding security in Garryowen and it was requested that CCTV be included in this proposed development.

In reply, the Senior Executive Officer, Design and Delivery Services stated that the Council would make an application to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government for additional funding for CCTV cameras to be included in the proposed development. He also informed Members that it was important to have a variety of house types, e.g. one bedroom, two bedroom and three bedroom units, in order to accommodate households through the various life cycles.

Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh requested that his opposition to this proposal be recorded, as he had initially made representations to the Council to have this land transferred to the Alzheimers Association.

**4. Physical Development Directorate**

**Declaration of Road to be a Public Road**

Circulated, report of the Director of Services dated 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 seeking approval to declare the road at Clondrinagh, Limerick to be a public road.

Proposed by Councillor Costelloe;  
Seconded by Councillor Prendiville;  
And Resolved:

“That the road at Clondrinagh, Limerick be declared a public road in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993”.

**5. Customer Services Directorate – Arts & Culture Office**

**GMA Festivals and Events Grant Scheme**

Circulated Report of the Arts and Culture Officer dated 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2017, seeking approval to nominate representatives to the Evaluation and Assessment Panel for the Limerick Metropolitan GMA Festivals and Events Grant Scheme.

The Arts and Culture Officer stated that the allocation approved by Members under this Scheme, which offered funding to festival and event organisers operating in the Metropolitan District,

was €100,000. The closing date for receipt of applications under this Scheme was 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 and a total of 39 applications were received. Strand 1 of the Scheme was to support the research and development of concepts for new festivals/events and Strand 2 was to build capacity around the delivery of existing festivals/events. An evaluation and assessment panel was now needed to evaluate the applications, based on the criteria set out, and subsequently make a series of recommendations that would be put before a meeting of the Metropolitan District on 17<sup>th</sup> July, for ratification.

It was noted that the report of the Arts and Culture Officer, as circulated, proposed that the panel would consist of 5 persons and one Chairperson as follows :

- Chair – The Mayor of the Metropolitan District;
- 3 Elected Members from the Metropolitan District;
- Two members from the national festivals and events sector.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Sheahan and seconded by Councillor D. Butler to nominate Councillor E. Hogan to sit on the Assessment Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor J. Costelloe and seconded by Councillor M. McCreesh to nominate Cmhlr. S. Ó Ceallaigh to sit on the Assessment Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor J. Collins and seconded by Councillor S. Lynch to nominate Councillor V. Crowley to sit on the Assessment Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor E. Secas and seconded by Councillor J. Loftus to nominate Councillor J. Leddin to sit on the Assessment Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor V. Crowley and seconded by Councillor P. Keller to nominate Councillor J. Loftus to sit on the Assessment Panel.

The following motion was proposed by Councillor C. Prendiville and seconded by Councillor P. Keller :

“That the Evaluation Committee would be chaired by the Mayor of the Metropolitan District and made up predominantly of external people with experience in organising festivals and events, but no specific ties to any of the applicants, to report back to the Metropolitan District”.

As all Members were not in agreement, a vote was taken by a show of hands, following which the Mayor declared the motion rejected.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Sheahan, seconded by Councillor D. Butler and agreed that the number of Elected Representatives to sit on the assessment panel be increased from three to five.

As no further nominations were proposed, it was agreed that Councillors Hogan, Ó Ceallaigh, Crowley, Leddin and Loftus would sit on the Assessment Panel for the Limerick Metropolitan GMA Festivals and Events Grant Scheme.

## QUESTIONS

### 6. Question submitted by Councillor S. Lynch

***I will ask at the next meeting if the Council has any agenda in place to deal with or combat any threat of terrorism in our City and if not, can they do so and keep Councillors apprised.***

Reply: A Framework for Major Emergency Management (2006) enables An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and Local Authorities (or Principal Response Agencies) to prepare for and make a coordinated response to major emergencies. An Garda Síochána is the lead agency in responding to a terrorist type incident and is responsible for leading the coordination between the Principal Response Agencies.

The other Principal Response Agencies (i.e. Local Authorities and the Health Service Executive) ensure effective liaison is maintained with An Garda Síochána at all times during an incident and to support the response as appropriate.

An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and Limerick City and County Council are in on going regular contact.

### 7. Question submitted by Councillor P. Keller

***I will ask at the next meeting, given recent reports on concerning radon levels across the country, what monitoring of this harmful gas is there in the District?***

Reply: The Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland, which recently merged with the EPA, is the competent authority for monitoring ionising radiation levels in the country.

The RPII has produced a map of Ireland which indicates areas which are likely to be at risk from Radon (called high radon areas). The higher risk areas are shown in light and dark brown. This interactive map can be found at: <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap/>

Limerick has relatively few areas which are considered to be at high risk. However, it is possible to find individual residences with high radon in low risk areas and vice versa.

The EPA/RPII provides a radon measuring service. Radon monitors will be sent to a homeowner on request and these are placed in the main bedroom and living area for three months. They are then returned to the EPA who will issue results to the homeowner.

Further information is available at: <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radon/>

### 8. Question submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

***I will ask at the next meeting, as part of the Healthy Ireland initiative, has consideration been***

***given to requiring a Health Impact Assessment to be included in major planning applications and Council plans for the District.***

Reply: Healthy Ireland is a Government-led initiative which aims to create an Irish society where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health, and where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society. Healthy Ireland has come about because of concerns that the current health status of people living in Ireland, including lifestyle trends and health inequalities, are leading us towards a future that is dangerously unhealthy, and a very likely unaffordable society. Healthy Ireland refers to health and wellbeing being assessed as part of social impact assessments with tools and supports to be developed for local authorities working with other sectors. Limerick City and County Council has employed a Healthy Limerick Co-Ordinator, with the role of ensuring that there is a collaborative cross organisational approach to health and well being, which makes the best use of resources and actively addresses health issues.

While, the Limerick County Development Plan 2010 -2016 (As Extended), already contains an objective which, requires a Sustainability Statement and Social Infrastructure Assessment be carried out on residential developments of 5 or more dwellings and commercial/industrial developments over 1,000m<sup>2</sup>. It is proposed that all future plans, will consider objectives and policies on health and well being. In line with the National Planning Framework – Ireland 2040, Issues and Choices Paper, which was published in February 2017, for the first time highlighted the issue of Health and Wellbeing. Health needs to be considered from planning stage to implementation and beyond.

**9. Question submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville**

***I will ask at the next meeting for a breakdown, in tabular form, of the number of households in the Metropolitan District in receipt of HAP, Rent Allowance, RAS or in a Council or AHB house.***

Reply: The following is the breakdown of the number of households in the Metropolitan District in receipt of HAP, RAS, Local Authority or AHB accommodation.

Please note that these figures do not include Rent Allowance recipients as this scheme is operated by the DSP and not by the Local Authority.

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| HAP                    | 1273           |
| RAS                    | 785            |
| Local Authority (LCCC) | 3113           |
| AHB's                  | 644 + 92 (RAS) |
| Total Households       | 5,907          |

**10. Question submitted by Cmhlr. S. Ó Ceallaigh**

***I will ask at the next meeting for an update on the current situation with regard to Rathbane Golf Club, in terms of membership fees, financial sustainability and long term plans for the Golf Club.***

Reply: The current position in relation to Rathbane Golf Club is that the tender evaluation process was completed in November 2016 and a tender has been awarded to Mack Trading Limited as a result of same. The Contracts are currently with our Solicitor and are waiting to be signed.

**11. Question submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh**

*I will ask at the next meeting what the current expected completion date is for the Regeneration Project in Limerick.*

Reply: The Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan was adopted in February 2014. The plan is a 10 year programme based on an annual budget of approximately €30 million and covers physical, economic and social interventions.

The Social and Economic pillars of the programme are rolled out on an annual basis and were subject to a review published in December, 2016, available on [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie).

Elements of the physical programme, such as the thermal upgrading of existing housing stock, are set to be completed in 2018. Status on new build activity;  
Overall number of new build units to be constructed 549  
Complete: 122 Units 22%  
On Site 124 Units 22%

**12. Question submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh**

*I will ask at the next meeting what the current situation is regarding the Council owned car park in Arthur's Quay, and when it is expected to be returned to the Council Chamber for either the approval or refusal of its lease.*

Reply: The Council has held a lease on Arthurs Quay Multi Storey Car Park for the past 26 years with an option to purchase the car park into infinity. The Council has entered into a sub letting arrangement over the same period for the operation of the car park.

Negotiations are still ongoing regarding the future arrangements for the car park. It is intended to be in a position to shortly revert to the Council with proposals in this regard.

**13. Question submitted by Councillor M. McCreesh**

*I will ask at the next meeting for an update on the status of the Arthurs Quay Car Park with regard to the proposed renewal of the lease that was deferred last year.*

Reply: The Council has held a lease on Arthurs Quay Multi Storey Car Park for the past 26 years with an option to purchase the car park into infinity. The Council has entered into a sub letting arrangement over the same period for the operation of the car park.

Negotiations are still ongoing regarding the future arrangements for the car park. It is intended to be in a position to shortly revert to the Council with proposals in this regard.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Pond**

***I will move at the next meeting that the Council immediately start the process of taking in charge the Salmon Weir estate in Annacotty.***

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Pond and seconded by Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh.

Reply: Salmon Weir will be assessed by the relevant departments in order to ascertain what works are required to complete the estate to a satisfactory standard for taking in charge.

#### **15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville**

***I will move at the next meeting that the District request a presentation to be given to a future meeting on the work of the Council in the Metropolitan District to inspect private rental accommodation in the City and monitor standards.***

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Prendiville and seconded by Councillor Loftus.

Reply: Community Support Services is happy to facilitate the request for a presentation on the work of the Private Rented Inspections Unit at a future meeting of the Metropolitan District.

Councillor Crowley requested that the Presentation also focus on the increasing number of rented properties which were not registered with the Private Rented Tenancy Board (PRTB).

Cmhlr. S. Ó Ceallaigh requested that houses owned by the Council be examined also to ensure that they met the relevant standards.

It was proposed by Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh, seconded by Councillor Secas and unanimously agreed that a representative from the Private Rented Tenancy Board (PRTB) be invited to give a presentation also.

#### **16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P. Keller**

***I will move at the next meeting that Limerick Metropolitan District condemns the recent attacks on mosques in our city, re-affirms that Limerick is an intercultural city and that we strive for full freedom of religion for all, regardless of their religion or lack of religion and asserts that racism has no place in this city.***

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Keller and seconded by Councillor Lynch.

Members, in supporting the Motion, requested that the Council address effective integration of



migrants and refugees into our communities and give out the message that racism and hate had no place in Limerick.

**17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas**

***I will move at the next meeting that the Council review and amend the Limerick City Public Park bye-laws to include the Baggot Estate Nature Park as a designated public park.***

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Secas and seconded by Councillor McCreech.

Reply: The Baggot Estate is comprised of approximately 20 acres and functions as a nature park.

It must be noted that the Baggot Estate, as a 'nature park', represents a different characterisation to that afforded to a municipal park. The nature park affords habitats etc. to various species of animals and birds. The designation of Baggot Estate as a public park could possibly lead to a change to the essential nature of the Baggot Estate. This estate should not be seen in isolation from the other parks, nature parks and open spaces.

There are other nature parks, reserves and open spaces in the metro area which are not designated as public parks.

Public parks serve a different function with a much higher standard of development and maintenance.

There are parks in the Metropolitan area such as the Peoples Park, Shelbourne Park and O' Brien Park all of which are over 100 years old and are maintained to a city park standard with extensive planting.

There are 2 suburban parks in Castletroy and Mungret which are primarily leisure spaces without extensive planting and maintenance. Arthurs Quay Park and Russell Park are also maintained.

Considerable capital investment would be required by the Council to bring the Baggot Estate to the required standard.

It is likely that the following works would be required to bring Baggot Estate to the required standard suitable for a public park.

These works would include the provision of public lighting, as well as a network of footpaths, dustbins, benches etc. It is also likely that extensive tree growth would have to be cut back and removed and extensive landscaping works carried out. As stated previously there is a risk that undertaking such works would alter the natural aspect and characteristic of the Baggot Estate.

The Baggot Estate would also require higher annual maintenance and the presence of a park ranger with obvious cost implications.

Resources are not available for these works or the staffing issues that will arise.

Councillor Hogan requested that an overall cleanup of the Baggot Estate take place and that the issue of anti social behaviour there be addressed.

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas**

***I will move at the next meeting that the Council, in conjunction with TII, identify and put measures in place to reduce the constant noise from the M7, affecting residents of Golf Links Road, Thornfield and Cherryfield estates in Castletroy/Monaleen, whose properties back on to M7.***

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Secas and seconded by Councillor Pond.

At the conclusion of the agenda, the Mayor asked that a minutes silence be observed for the people of Manchester in memory of the victims of the terror attack and also in memory of the late Fr. Jack Finucane, Freeman of Limerick.

This concluded the Meeting.

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

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