

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH APRIL, 2015, AT 3.00 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor K. Sheahan, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Browne, Butler, Collins (J), Collins (M), Crowley, Daly, Donegan, Foley, Galvin, Gleeson, Hurley, Keary, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, Lynch, McCreesh, McMahan, Mitchell, Ó Ceallaigh, O'Donnell, O'Donoghue, O'Hanlon, Prendiville, Quinlivan, Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (M), Sheehy, Teefy.

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Byrne, Clifford, Hourigan, O'Dea, Ryan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Deputy Chief Executive (Mr. P. Dowling), Director, Community, Leisure and Emergency Services (Ms. J. Cotter Coughlan), Meetings Administrator (Mr. E. Griffin), Administrative Officer, Community (Mr. D. McGuigan), Project Manager, Limerick Age Friendly Initiative (Ms. M. Killeen-Fitzgerald), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox).

Adjournment of Meeting:

At the outset, a Vote of Sympathy was extended to the O'Carroll Family, Newcastle West, on the tragic death of James (Jim) O'Carroll, who was based in the Machinery Yard, Newcastle West, and it was unanimously agreed to adjourn for 15 minutes as a mark of respect.

Sympathy was also extended to the following on their recent bereavements:

- Mrs. Noreen Ryan and Family, Old Church, North Circular Road, Limerick, on the death of her husband, Michael Ryan, former Member of Limerick City Council.
- Mrs. Maureen Murphy and Family, Willowbrook, Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale, on the death of her husband, Dan Murphy, one of the founders of West Limerick Resources.

The Deputy Chief Executive, on his own behalf and that of the staff, associated himself with the expressions of sympathy to the bereaved.

On resumption of the Meeting, the Mayor indicated that he would take Item No. 2 on the Agenda.

2. Twinning Visit to USA

The Mayor addressed the Meeting in relation to this item. He stated that he was proposing to visit Boston following receipt of an invitation from his counterpart there, Mayor of Boston, Marty Walsh. He outlined the purpose of the trip which was to try and formalise a twinning arrangement between Limerick and Boston, Massachusetts. He said it was a requirement under the Local Government Act, 2001, to obtain the approval of the Council for such visits.

Councillor Prendiville, on behalf of his Party, raised queries in relation to cost, duration of the visit and itinerary.

The Mayor stated that the visit was for 3 days and that he hoped it would yield benefits for Limerick in the areas of tourism, culture, community and economic development. The Mayor also informed the Meeting that there were now daily flights between Shannon and Boston and that this should have a positive effect for tourism in both cities.

In reply to the query on cost, the Meetings Administrator stated that the visit by the Mayor and 1 official would cost approximately €5,100.00.

Following further discussion on the twinning visit, a vote was taken in the form of a show of hands. The majority of the Members were in favour of the visit. 3 Members indicated that they were abstaining from the vote.

Proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon;
Seconded by Councillor Donegan;
And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to Twinning Visit to Boston, Massachusetts, in accordance with Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act, 2001."

1. **Age-Friendly Limerick**

The Mayor welcomed Ms. Mary Killeen-Fitzgerald, Project Manager, Limerick Age-Friendly Initiative, and Mr. Dara McGuigan, Administrative Officer, Community, to the Meeting and invited them to give a presentation on Limerick Age-Friendly Strategy.

It was stated that an age-friendly world enabled people of all ages to actively participate in community activities and treated everyone with respect, regardless of their age, and many cities and communities were taking active steps towards becoming more age-friendly.

The Project Manager referred to the Limerick Age-Friendly Strategy and elaborated on the proposed Actions, the Lead Partner and, where relevant, the Support Partners for each of the Themes covered in the Presentation.

A comprehensive PowerPoint Presentation was made under the following World Health Organisation (WHO) Themes:

- **Theme 1 - Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings:**

“Physical environments that were Age-Friendly could make the difference between independence and dependence for all people, but especially for those growing older.”

- **Theme 2 - Transportation:**

“Research showed that transport for older people was linked to independence, autonomy and quality of life.”

- **Theme 3 - Housing:**

“Research on quality of life found that older people felt their homes and neighbourhoods had a strong influence on the quality of their lives and that most people wanted to grow old in their own homes.”

- **Theme 4 - Respect and Social Inclusion:**

“The positive impacts of social connections and social networks were well known and several international reports had shown that all people, regardless of age, who had active social networks, tended to feel happier about their lives.”

- **Theme 5 - Social Participation:**

“Information was key to allowing older people to avail of social objectives in their communities.”

- **Theme 6 - Communication and Information:**

“Research highlighted the importance of staying connected with people and getting timely information to manage life and meet personal needs for active ageing.”

- **Theme 7 - Civic Participation:**

“Ensuring the voice of the older person was embedded in the age-friendly process.”

- **Theme 8 - Community Support & Health Services:**

“Increased longevity was largely an outcome of improvements in health care, lifestyles and diet. As a result, providing health care for older people required the collaboration of a number of different professionals.”

At the conclusion of the Presentation, a large number of Members contributed to the discussion and thanked both officials for their very comprehensive presentation.

It was noted that the launch of the Age-Friendly Strategy 2015-2020 would take place on 12th May, 2015, and that a separate notification for the event would issue to the Members in due course.

Signed:

Mayor

Date: