

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 17TH JULY, 2017 AT 9.45 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Seán Lynch, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Butler, Collins, Costelloe, Crowley, Daly, Gilligan, Hogan, Hurley, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, McCreesh, Ó Ceallaigh, O'Dea, Pond, Prendiville 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), Head of Property Services (Ms. J. Leahy), Senior Architect, Social Development (Mr. S. Hanrahan), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. T. O'Callaghan), Administrative Officer, Property Services (Mr. J. Clune), Arts and Culture Officer (Ms. S. Deegan), Assistant Arts Officer (Ms. P. Little).

At the outset of the meeting, the Mayor and Metropolitan District Members extended their condolences and sympathy to the families of the following who had died recently and a silence was observed in their memory :-

- Mr. Martin Molony, Crecora, who had been six times champion jump jockey in Ireland and won the Irish Grand National three times and a Cheltenham Gold Cup.
- Mr. Tom Cooney, former staff member.
- Ms. Eileen Dillon, mother of staff member, Ger Dillon.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 19th June, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Hurley;
Seconded by Councillor Butler;
And Resolved:

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 23rd June, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Hurley;
Seconded by Councillor Butler;
And Resolved:

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

2. Disposal of Land

Circulated, report of the Acting Director, Service Operations setting out the intention to bring the disposal of land at 16-19 Henry Street (The Gardens International Site) to Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development Designated Activity Company in the consideration of €1,323,439 plus VAT to the full Council for approval. It was noted that should the disposal be approved, it would supersede the resolution passed at the meeting held on the 23rd March, 2016 which approved the disposal to LEO Local Community Enterprise Development Company Limited for a nominal sum of €1.

The Head of Property Services clarified that the decision to sell at cost was in line with International Accounting Standards 40 which set out that an asset should be held at cost or fair price.

Members noted the proposed disposal and sought clarity on whether the Members would have any say should Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development Designated Activity Company decide to dispose of the property in the future. The Head of Property Services undertook to revert to the Members in this regard.

3. Customer Services, Culture and Arts Directorate

GMA Festivals and Events Grant Scheme

Circulated, report of the Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick dated 12th July, 2017 setting out the recommendations of the assessment panel for the allocation of funds under the Metropolitan District's GMA Festivals and Events Grants Scheme 2017. It was noted that procedures regarding conflicts of interest had been in place during the assessment.

Members noted the potential economic benefit of festivals to the city and the region and stressed the importance of ensuring that the financial support being given by the Council resulted in a quantifiable return. It was noted that specific recommendations were being made on how existing festivals and events could be improved or expanded and that there was a general national trend towards the increased private sponsorship of events and festivals.

In response to issues raised, the Director, Customer Services, Culture and Arts noted that funding was being provided to EVA to facilitate it to increase its levels of inclusiveness and engagement with the public and that an assessment of the impact of the funding provided would be carried out in all cases.

Proposed by Councillor Hourigan;

Seconded by Councillor Hogan;

And Resolved:

“That the following allocations are agreed under the Metropolitan District of Limerick GMA Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2017”

Strand 1

Grant Recipient / Name of Festival / Event	Grant Awarded
Shakespeare by the Shannon	€ 500
Lumen-Samhain	€2,000
Arts & Culture Office-New Year's Eve	€1,000
CWB-Electronic Music Festival	€5,000
Limericks International Georgian Festival	€1,500
TOTAL	€10,000

Strand 2

Grant Recipient / Name of Festival / Event	Grant Awarded
Old Crescent RFC, Pig N Porter	€20,000
Stanzas-Weekend of Words	€ 1,500
Elemental, Limerick Arts Festival	€ 5,000
Cannonball Ireland	€ 2,000
Veterans International Parade	€ 2,000
Lime Tree Theatre-Buladh Bos Children's Festival	€ 5,000
Make a Move Festival	€ 3,000
Culture & Chips	€10,000
ACM Co Operative Ltd. – ACM Halloween Festival	€ 2,000
Limerick Spring-Festival of Politics and Ideas	€ 3,000
EVA International	€ 5,000
Limerick Fringe Festival	€10,000
Limerick Institute of Technology-Limerick Fashion Week	€10,000
University Concert Hall-Limerick Sings International Choral Festival	€ 5,000
Limerick Jazz Society-Limerick Jazz Festival	€ 5,000
St. Mary's Cathedral-Pipe Organ Festival	€ 1,500
Food Truck Association of Ireland-Limerick International Food Truck Festival	€10,000
TOTAL	€100,000

4. Service Operations Directorate**(a) Part 8 Procedure – Palm Court, Southill**

Circulated, report of the Deputy Chief Executive dated 7th July, 2017 enclosing Chief Executive's Report setting out proposals for the construction of 27 new residential units at Palm Court, Keyes Park, Southill that 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 proposed to proceed as indicated in Section 5 of the report.

Members welcomed the proposed development and acknowledged the consultation that had taken place with regard to same and the fact that the residents views had been taken on board.

(b) Part 8 Procedure – Cliona Park, Moyross

Circulated, report of the Deputy Chief Executive dated 7th July, 2017 enclosing Chief Executive's Report setting out proposals for the construction of 18 new residential units at Cliona Park, Moyross that 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 proposed to proceed as indicated in Section 5 of the report.

Members welcomed the proposed development and requested that they be kept informed of similar Part VIII proposals from the time of site investigation so that queries from the public could be dealt with in an informed manner.

The Senior Architect informed the Members that it was anticipated that both developments would be delivered in 2019.

It was agreed that item 15 on the agenda would be taken next.

15. Presentation from SIRO

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Stephen O'Connor, SIRO (a joint venture between the ESB and Vodafone) to the meeting.

Mr. O'Connor presented SIRO's plans to install a high speed, wholesale broadband network at locations throughout Limerick availing of the ESB's existing infrastructure. The network would provide speeds of up to 1 GB/sec to homes and businesses and would be available to a range of service providers.

In response to queries from Members, Mr. O'Connor noted that SIRO planned to spend €50m in providing a high quality product in Limerick that would benefit the citizens of Limerick and had been anxious to bring this fact to the attention of the Members. He pointed out that the project was a commercial enterprise and not a Government initiative and the availability of an existing ducting infrastructure would form an important part of the business case in deciding where the service would be provided.

QUESTIONS

5. Question submitted by Councillor M. McCreesh

I will ask at the next meeting for an update on the status of the refurbishment of the vacant housing units in the three storey block at Bourke Avenue for which design work commenced last year?

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council have submitted a cost plan for the refurbishment of 12 units on Bourke Avenue to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government on the 26 May 2017 and are awaiting decision.

6. Question submitted by Cmhlr. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next meeting why there has been so few meetings of the Horse Control Committee, and when is it envisaged that this committee will begin to meet regularly, the current spend so far this year on horse control, the number of horses seized, the number reclaimed, and the number put down.

REPLY:	Horse Control Statistics 1 st January 2017 to 10 th July 2017
	Horses seized: 74
	Horses released to owners: 4
	Horses rehomed: 9
	Horses euthanized as per bye-laws: 60
	In pound at 10/07/2017 1

Expenditure on Horse Control to 1st January 2017 to 10th July 2017: €89,327.14

REPLY: The Council established a control of horses working group to consider the ongoing matters in relation to horse control and in particular the urban horse issue. The working group comprises a small number of Elected Members and staff. A particular focus of the group is examining the feasibility of establishing a horse project in the Limerick City area. This was on foot of the possibility of obtaining funding for same from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. A number of other local authorities were also considering the possibility of such a project. As a result, the Council organised a visit to an existing horse project in Tralee and this took place on the 13th March 2017.

On foot of this successful visit it was planned to carry out a further site visit to the Clondalkin Equine Club and the Dunsink Horse Club shortly thereafter. Unfortunately due to the unavailability of Elected Members on the proposed date it was agreed to defer the second visit until later in the year. The Council will work with Members to select a suitable date to visit the Dublin projects and the working group can meet as required.

So far in 2017, 74 horses have been seized of which 4 were recovered by the owners, 9 were re-homed, and 60 were euthanised. One horse was in the pound on the instant date of this reply. Expenditure to date in 2017 is €90,000. It should be borne in mind that this service is demand driven and this influences the cost to the Council.

The Council continues to raise the various issues pertaining to the operation of the control of horses legislation at a national level. At a local level revised bye-laws aimed at prohibiting sulky racing have been drafted and have been advertised for public consultation.

A report on the submissions received will be prepared for consideration by the Environmental Strategic Policy Committee at an early date for onward reference to the Full Council.

7. Question submitted by Cmhlr. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next meeting when the Council decided to go to Part 8 with the Opera Centre Site, when the plans were finalised, when internal briefings occurred, who made the decision to give Councillors just 2 days notice to become available for the briefing and will there be another briefing organised for Councillors with adequate notice to be given.

REPLY: The Council in May 2016 requested Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development

DAC (then LCO Enterprise Development Company) to prepare design frameworks for each of the strategic sites identified in Limerick 2030. The purpose of the design frameworks is to identify the optimum use mix and key urban design principles that should apply to their development and to examine the business case for their development.

The Opera Site was the first such site to be examined by Limerick 2030. Limerick 2030 DAC has completed a full development appraisal of the site and prepared a comprehensive master plan for its development based on generating an economic and social return for Limerick.

The revised master plan was approved by the board of Limerick 2030 in December 2016 and the proposal to use the Part 8 process was identified as a means of progressing the development to the next stage. Detailed design work on the planning application has taken place since February with a target date of June 30th for the submission of the application agreed with the Chief Executive. These plans were finalised in June of this year by the board of Limerick 2030 who requested that a briefing be arranged for Councillors. This briefing was arranged once all documentation for the submission of the planning application was completed which unfortunately resulted in the short notice being given.

All Councillors were provided with the press release in advance of its publication and provided with copies of the briefing given on the 30th of June. Limerick 2030 DAC have offered to make themselves available to Councillors should they require additional information. It is intended that prior to completion of the public consultation phase that a further briefing will be given to Councillors on all submissions received prior to the meeting of the Metropolitan District to decide on the application.

NOTICES OF MOTION

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Hogan

I will move at the next meeting that this District supports the drinks industry and hospitality sector which supports 6,997 jobs in Limerick and is a critical component of our offering to tourists, with tourism spend in Limerick worth €271 million in 2016. This District backs the 'Support Your Local' campaign in calling for a reduction in excise tax on alcohol in budget 2018, in order to support local jobs, the hospitality sector and our local economy.

It was agreed that this motion would be withdrawn.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. Butler

I will move at the next meeting that the Council examine the feasibility of hiring a Traffic Engineer so that as an authority we can better manage our traffic and develop our own traffic management plans, in house.

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

In proposing the motion, Councillor Butler noted the increased traffic that would be generated in the Raheen / Dooradoyle area with the opening of new schools and in excess of 200 new houses proposed. He noted the ongoing requirement to engage traffic consultants and resultant delays caused by the tendering process and the benefit additional in house expertise would contribute through the maintenance of existing, and the development of new, traffic management plans.

REPLY: The Council continually reviews its staffing and human resource requirements to respond to its business objectives in accordance with the Council's Corporate Plan. The economic recovery has led to increased traffic volumes which are particularly prevalent in urban areas and especially so in the city area.

The Physical Development Directorate is progressing a number of transportation schemes across Limerick with a view to improving management of these increased traffic volumes and is keeping Elected Members updated on same. Traffic planning and management is a highly specialised skill set. These skills are usually availed of by the Council through the procurement of consultant services in relation to projects.

Separately the Council has a number of very experienced staff in its employment with many years background in transportation and traffic management. Training is provided to these staff in order to further develop their competencies.

The issue of adding further technical resources to the Council's team will be kept under review in the context of available resources and the additional demands that the Council will face in the years ahead.

Members supported the motion and highlighted the importance of proper traffic management as a selling point for the city and suggested that existing staff be brought to the required qualification standard.

The Director, Physical Development pointed out that he was satisfied with existing resources in this regard and noted the Members request for a single point of contact on these issues.

On the proposal of Cmhrl. Ó Ceallaigh, seconded by Councillor Costelloe, it was agreed that standing orders would be suspended to allow for the completion of the agenda.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will move at the next meeting that the Council install some form of crossing between Cruises Street and the Urban Garden, O'Connell Street as has been discussed on many previous occasions.

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

REPLY: The Urban Garden was created to enhance the experience of the city centre and contains a number of food and drink retail units and is generally seen as a very positive asset.

Limerick City and County Council has made provision for regulated pedestrian crossing facilities to be provided at this location as part of the improvements to O'Connell Street. It should be borne in mind that there are existing controlled pedestrian crossings at Denmark Street and Sarsfield Street/William Street.

Consideration will be given to extending the planters at the garden to restrict pedestrians crossing.

Members expressed opposing views on this motion with some noting that pedestrians were choosing to cross at this location as there was a logical flow of pedestrian traffic from Cruises Street across to the Urban Garden and Penneys and the crossing should be acknowledged and made safe. Other Members pointed out that there were a number of alternative official crossings nearby that could be availed of by pedestrians and the potential to cross at this point should be removed.

The Meetings Administrator undertook to bring Members views to the attention of the Executive.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhr. S. Ó Ceallaigh (to be referred to the Joint Policing Committee)

I will move at the next meeting that the Metropolitan District of Limerick host a family-friendly, public bonfire night to alleviate pressure on Gardaí and the Fire Services and to curb illegal burning of rubbish and the damaging of green areas.

It was agreed that this motion should be sent to the Joint Policing Committee for consideration.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will move at the next meeting that this Council erect a memorial plaque, in remembrance of Bryan Whelan and T. J Herlihy, who died tragically while restoring Thomond Bridge on the 29th of August 2015.

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

Members acknowledged the sensitivity associated with this motion and the other deaths that were associated with this location and the need to consult with the different families involved. Members discussed the most appropriate location for a memorial and whether a separate memorial should be erected for those who had lost their lives while working on behalf of the Council. The Director, Physical Development indicated that further discussion on this matter should be held after the meeting.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Hogan

I will call at the next meeting for the Council to remove the bus lane on Ballinacurra. It has made driving on Ballinacurra very dangerous. Residents of the area are complaining about the fact that is virtually impossible to reverse their cars into their gardens. Also residents on Lifford Avenue and Omega Avenue find it extremely difficult and dangerous to access Ballinacurra with taxis and buses driving extremely quickly on the bus lane.

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

In proposing the motion Councillor Hogan highlighted the difficulties of residents on the left hand side of the Ballinacurra Road, exiting the city, in accessing and exiting their property by car as this operation generally involved blocking traffic on the busy Ballinacurra Road. Similarly she noted that residents on the opposite side of the road had to carry out similar manoeuvres across the bus lane with many residents now choosing to park on Lifford Avenue giving rise to capacity issues there, with others using it as a park and ride location.

REPLY: The improvements on the Ballinacurra Road were completed a number of years ago. The project was funded entirely by the National Transport Authority and could only be delivered where there was a gain for public transport in accordance with Government policy. As with any major transport project the Council continues to monitor the effectiveness of the scheme. Based on the observations of the Council the scheme has delivered on its primary objectives, which was the improvement of public transport.

As part of the delivery of the project there was considerable public engagement with residents at an individual and collective level. The outcome of this engagement led to amendments in the delivery of the scheme to accommodate the needs of the households on the Ballinacurra Road. One of the key requirements was facilitating ease of access to off-street parking.

The scheme was designed in accordance with national guidelines with a view to limiting speeds. In response to submissions received from the residents a “driver feedback sign” was installed on the Ballinacurra Road recently. This sign advises motorists of their speed and these signs have been proven effective in terms of speed control.

However, enforcement of speed control is a matter for An Garda Siochana and this issue can be referred to the Joint Policing Committee with a request for an increased presence of speed enforcement on the Ballinacurra Road.

Members noted an issue at the end of the bus lane and requested accident statistics for that location. Members noted the important part played by bus lanes in the overall transport strategy and highlighted the extent of the consultation and negotiation that had taken place over a number of years leading up to the installation of this bus lane. It was suggested that the bus lane operate, as such, only during peak times.

The Director, Physical Development acknowledged the issues raised by the motion and noted that the bus lane had been retro-fitted at this location and that driver courtesy was needed to accommodate the residents.

14. Social Development Directorate

Community Facilities Scheme Applications for Approval

Circulated, report of the Chief Officer, LCDC dated 12th July, 2017 setting out the recommendations of the LCDC on the allocation of funding under the Communities Facilities

Grant Scheme, 2017. It was noted that the guidelines for the scheme specified that the funding related to capital projects only.

It was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Cmhrl. Ó Ceallaigh, that the proposed allocation of €1,000 to Limerick Belles for Shower System be amended to €500 for equipment as a grant towards fixtures might not be appropriate for this group as they did not own the property involved. It was agreed that the remaining €500 be awarded to Monaleen Park Residents Association for equipment, in the interest of geographical balance.

It was proposed by Councillor O’Dea, seconded by Councillor Daly, that those applicants that had been unsuccessful should be written to and the reasons for same outlined.

Proposed by Councillor O’Dea;
Seconded by Councillor Crowley;
And Resolved:

“That the following allocations be made under the Communities Facilities Grants Scheme 2017”

Metropolitan West

Name	Purpose of Grant	Allocation
Mungret Community Council	Gardening equipment e.g. large planters, plants	€1,000
Furqan Centre	IT Equipment	€1,000
Doordoyle Men’s Shed	IT Equipment	€1,000
GROW	Furniture	€1,000
Central Buildings	Upgrade Common Room / Kitchen	€1,000
Limerick Dragons	Equipment (Nordic Poles, Paddles)	€1,000
Patrickswell Community Council CLG	IT Equipment	€1,000

Metropolitan East

Name	Purpose of Grant	Allocation
Limerick City CDP – Southill	Refurbishment 266 Avondale Court (Resource House)	€1,000
Headway	Fit Out-Activity Room	€ 596
Dochas	Printer	€1,000
Limerick Belles	Lawnmower	€1,000
Limerick Belles	Equipment	€ 500
Happiness – Sudanese Womens Group	Refurbishment Works	€1,000
ACM Community Development Society Ltd (Heritage Centre)	Provide hot beverage machine for the Heritage Centre	€1,000
Curragh Birin Residents Association	Community Garden	€1,000
Southill Family Resource Centre – Southside Disability	IT Equipment – Visual	€1,000

Awareness Group		
Southill Family Resource Centre – Older Peoples Group	Equipment	€1,000
Southside Marching Band	Uniforms / Instruments	€1,000
Limerick Community Radio	Portable Equipment	€1,000
Southill Area Centre	Community Garden Equipment	€1,000
Monaleen Park Residents Association	Equipment	€ 500

Metropolitan North

Name	Purpose of Grant	Allocation
St. Mary's Adult Education Centre	Refurbishment – Painting / Decoration	€1,000
St. Mary's Adult Education Centre	Porch	€1,000
St. Patrick's Men's Shed	Material + Equipment	€1,000
Northside Family Resource Centre – Youthwork Services	IT Equipment	€1,000
Northside Family Resource Centre	Refurbishment – Fire Safety	€1,000
St. Mary's AID	Allotment Equipment	€ 300
St. Mary's AID	Café Equipment	€1,000
Limerick City CDP St. Munchins	Phone System / IT	€1,000
Limerick City CDP – Drugs Education Prevention Strategy – Northside Youth Space	IT Upgrade	€1,000
St. Munchins Community Centre	Freezer	€1,000
St. Munchins Community Centre	Hot Boxes	€1,000
Women's Network	Printer	€ 785
Women's Network	Refurbishment	€1,000
Moyross United	Equipment	€1,000

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
MAYOR

Dated: _____