

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ADJOURNED MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON THURSDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2017, AT 3.00 P.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:**

Councillor S. Keary, Mayor.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Browne, Butler, Collins (M), Costelloe, Crowley, Daly, Foley, Galvin, Gilligan, Gleeson, Hogan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keller, Loftus, Lynch, McCreesh, McMahon, Mitchell, O'Brien, Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh, O'Dea, O'Donnell, O'Donoghue, O'Hanlon, Pond, Prendiville, Ryan, Scanlan, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (M), Sheehy, Teefy, Teskey.

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Donegan.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive (Mr. C. Murray), Director, Service Operations and Business Improvement (Mr. G. Daly), A/Director, Support Services – Finance, Corporate, Human Resources and ICT (Mr. S. Coughlan), Director, Regional Development (Ms. C. Curley), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O'Connor), City and County Librarian (Mr. D. Brady), Financial Accountant (Mr. P. Murnane), Administrative Officer, Finance Section (Mr. K. Dore), Arts Officer (Ms. S. Deegan), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. T. O'Callaghan).

At the outset, it was noted that the following items on the Agenda were dealt with at Meeting of the Council held on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> September, and that the remaining items had been adjourned:

- No. 1 Minutes.
- No. 2 Disposal of Land.
- No. 3(a) Fixing of Date – Statutory Budget Meeting.
- No. 4(a) Report on Housing Action (referred to a Special Meeting of the Council).
- No. 4(b) Community Initiative Scheme.
- No. 14 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Prendville.

**3. Support Services Directorate**

**(b) Local Property Tax**

Circulated, report from the A/Head of Finance dated 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, in relation to Local Property Tax (LPT) – Local Adjustment Factor 2018.

It was noted that discussion on this item had not concluded at the previous Meeting and that a decision on the LPT had been deferred.

Councillor O'Brien requested that the Motion he had proposed under this item at the previous Meeting, that the basic rate of Local Property Tax be varied upwards by 5%, be withdrawn, and Members agreed to this.

It was proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Galvin, that the LPT should be varied upwards by 7.5%.

The Mayor directed that a vote be taken on this Motion and the result of the voting was as follows:

**For**

Councillors Butler, Galvin, Hogan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keary, Loftus, Mitchell, O'Brien, O'Donnell, O'Donoghue, Scanlan, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (M), Sheehy, Teefy, Teskey. **(17)**

**Against**

Councillors Browne, Collins (M), Costelloe, Foley, Gilligan, Gleeson, McCreesh, McMahon, Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh, O'Dea, Ryan. **(11)**

There were no abstentions.

The Mayor declared the Motion carried and it was agreed that the following resolution be adopted by the same voting:

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
Seconded by Councillor Galvin;  
And Resolved:

"That, in accordance with Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act, 2012, as amended by the Finance (Local Property Tax) (Amendment) Act, 2013, Limerick City and County Council hereby determines that the basic rate of Local Property Tax (LPT) should stand varied upwards by 7.5% for the year 2018 in respect of relevant residential properties situated in the administrative area of Limerick City and County Council."

**(c) Raising of Loan to finance Works Programme of Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC**

**(d) Granting of Loan Facility to Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC**

Circulated, report of the A/Head of Finance dated 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, in relation to Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC.

The report related to Items 3 (c) raising of a loan to finance the works programme of Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC, and 3 (d) granting of a loan facility to the company.

The report stated that Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC was a company which was 100% owned by Limerick City and County Council with the objective to plan and develop key strategic sites in Limerick that would act as anchors for enterprise and investment development across Limerick.

The Gardens International Site was currently under construction and due for completion in mid-2018. On completion, it would be Limerick City Centre's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Office Building. The Council had already approved a loan of €16m in relation to this development in 2016.

The Opera Site was currently in the statutory planning process. It was anticipated that the site would become an employment campus which would provide new state-of-the-art accommodation for offices, including the Revenue Commissioners, in addition to a range of cultural, retail and other ancillary uses. Funding had been sought from European Banks in relation to this development and it was anticipated that they would conclude their loan approval process within the coming months. The value of loan funding sought was €170 m and would be subject to specific covenants and pre-lets.

The Council was being requested to consider (i) approving application for sanction from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for a loan of €170m to finance the works programme of Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC; and (ii) granting a loan facility in the amount of €170m to Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC.

Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC would undertake to repay all monies received to the Council as outlined in the loan agreement.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
Seconded by Councillor Galvin;  
And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to application for sanction from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, for a loan of €170 million to finance the works programme of Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC."

A number of Members expressed concern as to the lack of clarity in relation to the detail of projects to be undertaken by Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC and, in particular, the Opera Site, and it was proposed by Cmhr. Ó Ceallaigh, seconded by Councillor Loftus, that this item be adjourned until a Briefing was held on the development, with adequate notice given to Councillors.

The Chief Executive stressed the importance of distinguishing between the loan, to enable the work of Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC, and any related Part VIII process that would be brought before the Members for approval. He indicated that a briefing on the work of Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC would be arranged but stressed the importance of ensuring that there was no compromise to the planning process in advance of a Part VIII being brought before the Members and, in relation to the Opera Site, pointed out that he was taking advice as to whether the related Part VIII should be brought before the Metropolitan District or the Full Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Hourigan, that the Council should proceed with the granting of a loan facility to Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC. It was agreed that a vote on this proposal would be taken in the form of a show of hands. The majority of the Members were in favour of the Motion, with 18 for the Motion and 6 against. Accordingly, the Mayor declared the Motion carried and it was agreed that the following resolution be adopted by the same voting:

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
 Seconded by Councillor Hourigan;  
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the granting of a loan facility to Limerick 2030 Strategic Development DAC of €170 million, in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

**(e) Change in Membership – Strategic Policy Committees**

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J), changes in membership of Strategic Policy Committees were approved as follows:

- The appointment of Councillor Crowley to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee to replace Councillor Collins (M),
- The appointment of Councillor Collins (M) to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee to replace Councillor Crowley.

**(f) Amended Strategic Policy Committee Scheme**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, together with Draft Amended Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2017-2019. The amended scheme had been prepared, in accordance with Guidelines received from the Department, to include the addition of a new Cultural Strategic Policy Committee following the establishment of the new Committee at the July Meeting.

Members stressed the importance of the Arts and Culture Sector having representation on a Cultural Strategic Policy Committee and noted that this might not be feasible under the proposed structure. Members suggested that an additional four places be

allocated on the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee to be filled directly from the Arts and Culture Section.

The Meetings Administrator acknowledged the lack of representation for the Arts and Culture Sector under the existing structures represented by National Pillars and the Public Participation Network and noted that the Strategic Policy Committee structure would be redrawn to match the Council's new Operating Model in 2019 with the formation of a new Council.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
 Secoded by Councillor Galvin;  
 And Resolved:

“That, the Draft Amended Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2017-2019 is agreed, subject to the amendment to include the addition of four representatives from the Arts and Culture Sector to the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee.”

**(g) Filling of Vacancy – Joint Policing Committee**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, in relation to the filling of casual vacancy on the Joint Policing Committee consequent on the resignation from the Committee of Councillor Leddin.

This item was deferred to the November Meeting of the Council.

**(h) Chief Executive's Report**

Circulated, Chief Executive's Reports for the months of July and August 2017.

The Chief Executive's Reports were noted by the Members.

**(i) Visit to Birmingham**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, seeking retrospective approval of the Council to visit by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to Birmingham.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
 Secoded by Councillor Galvin;  
 And Resolved:

“That, retrospective approval of the Council be and is hereby given to visit by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to Birmingham, under Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

**(j) Proposed Visit to New York**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2017, seeking the Council's approval to visit by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, and 2 Members, to New York.

Members discussed the level of expenditure incurred on a similar trip in 2016 and expressed concerns in relation to same.

The Chief Executive noted the importance of maintaining business links with America and elsewhere and promoting Limerick whenever possible. He acknowledged the efforts of Members and staff in this regard and noted the positive outcomes for Limerick that were resulting from same.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
 Seconded by Councillor Galvin;  
 And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to proposed visit to New York by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, and 2 Members, under Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended."

**(k) Proposed Visit to Queen's County, New York**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2017, seeking the Council's approval to visit by the Mayor of the Metropolitan District to Queen's County, New York.

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

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to proposed visit by the Mayor of the Metropolitan District to the annual Queen's County St. Patrick's Day Parade at Rockaway, Queens, New York, under Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended."

**(l) Strategic Policy Committee Report**

Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee dated 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, in relation to a meeting of the Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.

The report was noted by the Council.

## **5. Conferences**

### **(i) Participation by Members at Conferences**

Details of the following Conferences had been circulated electronically to the Members: (a) 'Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh 2017' held in Ros Muc, Co. Galway, from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2017; (b) 'Nuclear Free Local Authorities All-Ireland Forum' held in Navan, Co. Meath, on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2017; (c) 'ICSH Biennial National Social Housing Conference held in Limerick on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> September, 2017; (d) 'Local Authority Budgets 2018' to be held in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2017; (e) 'A Practical Guide to Budget 2018' to be held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2017; (f) 'What does a Hard Brexit Mean for Ireland' to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2017; and (g) 'Housing Conference 2017' to be held in Dublin on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), the Council approved the attendance of the following Members:

**Navan, Co. Meath:** Councillors Crowley, Gilligan, Hourigan.

### **(ii) Reports on Conference/Seminar/Meeting/Event**

Circulated, reports by Members who had participated at Conference / Seminar/ Meeting / Event.

The reports were noted by the Members.

## **QUESTIONS**

Replies to the following Questions on the Agenda were circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting and the Questions were therefore considered as having been dealt with:

### **6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting (a) the number of housing loans approved for first-time purchasers in the 3 years 2014/2016 and in the year to date; (b) the number of drawdowns in each case.*

**REPLY:** The number of loans approved and drawn down in the 3 years 2014 to 2016, and in 2017 to date, are as follows:

2014 - 8 loans approved.

2015 -1 loan approved.

2016 - 3 loans approved (including 1 Tenant Purchase).

2017 to date - 10 loans approved (including 4 tenant purchase).

2014 - 6 loans drawn down (4 of which approved in 2013).  
 2015 - 5 loans drawn down (4 of which approved late 2014).  
 2016 - no loans drawn down.  
 2017 to date - 3 loans drawn down.

**7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting (a) the current numbers approved for Housing with Limerick City and County Council; (b) the number in the pipeline awaiting approval; (c) the number of tenancies allocated in each of the first 8 months of 2017; (d) the average waiting period between the date of allocation and tenant(s) taking up residency.*

**REPLY: (a) Number of Approved Applicants on Limerick City and County Council Waiting List**

3,260 applicants approved as at 31/08/2017

**(b) Number in the Pipeline awaiting Approval**

274 applications awaiting assessment and decision as at 31/08/2017

**(c) Number of Tenancies allocated in each of the first 8 Months**

See breakdown as at 31/08/2017

	<b>Metropolitan District</b>	<b>Newcastle West</b>	<b>Adare-Rathkeale</b>	<b>Cappamore-Kilmallock</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>No. of Units August 2017</b>	12	5	4	5	26
<b>Year to Date</b>	142	15	12	25	194

**(d) Average Waiting Period between the Date of Allocation and the Tenant taking up Residency**

4 weeks – however, there are cases whereby the Council may allocate a property in advance of the property being ready for occupation. In such cases, the prospective tenant is notified at allocation stage of the expected completion date.

**8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting (a) how many State Agencies are responsible for the River Galey in Athea; (b) when will the proposed drainage works begin; and (c) what works exactly are to be carried out.*

**REPLY:**

(a) Athea is an area that was considered for detailed flood risk assessment, and appraisal of options to manage flood risk, under the Shannon Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment & Management (CFRAM) Study which was led by the Office of Public Works (OPW). Detailed flood mapping has been prepared for Athea and options for managing flood risk in the village have been considered. Following consultation on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plan for the Tralee Bay-Feale River Basin (UoM23) in the second half of 2016, the final Plan for this region has been prepared and has been sent for consideration by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. The River Galey in Athea is not within the remit of the OPW for maintenance and is subject to maintenance by the riparian owner. The works that are proposed in the River Galey in Athea under the CFRAM Study can be carried out by Limerick City and County Council as the cost of the works is within the OPW-funded Minor Works Programme threshold.

(b) It is hoped by the OPW that the national suite of plans will receive approval within the coming weeks, after which the Plans will be presented to the Local Authorities and the public. As the works in Athea are minor in the scale of national projects, it is likely that they could be implemented by Limerick City and County Council under the OPW-funded Minor Works Programme, subject to environmental assessment, public consultation and detailed design. The announcement with regard to approval of funding for all proposed works is still awaited from the Department so a definitive date for works to commence cannot be determined at this time. Limerick City and County Council has employed an Executive Engineer whose role is to work on all CFRAM projects.

(c) The Plan for the Tralee Bay-Feale River Basin includes a proposed measure for Athea, which includes approximately 150m embankment on the east bank upstream of the Bridge and approximately 150m flood wall on the west bank downstream of the Bridge. The proposed scheme is designed to a standard of protection against the 1:100 annual probability flood event.

**9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin**

***I will ask at the next Meeting for a list of all Council-owned land zoned Residential and all other lands deemed suitable for residential development, subject to zoning, and for confirmation of estimated timeframe for the building of social and/or affordable houses.***

**REPLY:**

The Assessment for Selecting Sites for Housing (ASH) for Limerick City was developed by Limerick City and County Council to identify, in an objective and consistent manner, suitable Council-owned sites for housing in appropriate locations. The policy was presented at the Housing Strategic Policy Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2016. A total of 23 of the 80 Council-owned sites located in the Limerick City area have passed the strategic constraints filter (zoning, flood risk, environmental designations, etc.) with a number of

sites deemed developable in the short to medium term for housing and are identified in Table 1 below. Since April 2016, a number of landbanks have been progressed and funding obtained from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for social housing.

In relation to Council-owned sites in Limerick City and County generally, the Executive of Limerick City and County Council is currently assessing and preparing a Strategic Development and Management Plan for the earliest possible development of Council-owned lands for social, affordable and private tenure in accordance with Circular APH 02/2017 issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. Limerick City and County Council will be in a position to issue a Strategic Development and Management Plan by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, listing all Council sites zoned residential and other Council lands suitable for residential use. A yield of units in terms of a minimum density threshold will also be listed for each site, in addition to an estimated timeframe for delivery. The Strategic Development and Management Plan will be made available for viewing to the Elected Members.

#### ASH sites as at September 2017

Map Ref.	Address
7	Infill site at Fair Green Road
15	Infill site at Glasgow Park
29	Infill site Ballinacurra Weston beside sports pitch in Our Lady of Lourdes
33	'Clonmacken Road' - Condell Road (within non flood prone area)
45	Infill site at Kilmurry Court
46	Infill site to the rear of housing at Upper Carey's Road
48	Infill site at Sarsfield Court
52	Infill at 'the Orchard' site
53	Parade Park site
54	Infill Nicholas Street site
55	Infill at Sheep Street
56	Infill Site at Island Road
57	Infill site at Gaol Lane
58	Mary Street (beside Gaelcholaiste)
59	Mary Street (CHAS Flats)
66	Site at corner of Wickham St/Parnell Street
67	Infill site at Carey's Road
68	Former Hyde Road Apartments
69	Beside Train Station
70	Site behind Bourke Ave fronting onto Russell Park
71	Lord Edward Street

81	Guinness Site
85	Vance's Lands

**Table 1**

In addition to the 23 sites listed above, a number of Council-owned sites have been identified, in the statutory Regeneration Areas of Ballinacurra Weston, Southill and Moyross, for housing with the aim of improving tenure-mix through affordable private owner-occupation and private rental, in accordance with Core Strategy of the Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016 (as extended) and as part of the tenure diversification strategy adopted in the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan. Developments of these sites are seen as long-term projects. These sites are outlined below in Table 2.

Map Ref.	Address
82	Coonagh lands
83	Glenagross Park
84	Adjacent to Cratloe Court Drive
28	Clarina Park
23	Toppin's Field
24	Rathbane adjacent to rail-line

**Table 2**

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting how many people are currently in hotels as emergency accommodation, how many of those are children, and what is the cost per room to the taxpayer.*

**REPLY:** (i) As of close of business 19/9/17, there are 61 families in emergency B&B / Hotel accommodation; (ii) There are 195 people in emergency B&B / Hotel accommodation, including 111 children; and (iii) Emergency B&B / Hotel accommodation is funded by the Department of Social Protection. The average cost per room per week lies between €800 and €900.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting has any consideration been given to allowing people to add themselves to the Register of Electors using an online form as an alternative to the current paper form; would this require changes to national legislation, and could it be piloted in Limerick.*

**REPLY:** While the preparation of the Register of Electors is a matter for each local Registration Authority, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local

Government has commenced work on the modernisation of the voter registration process. This is in the context of facilitating the registration of voters resident outside the State, in the event of an extension of the franchise at Presidential Elections being approved by the people in a referendum. All aspects of voter registration, including online applications, will be reviewed as part of this project.

At present, Dublin Local Authorities are piloting an ongoing [voter.ie](http://voter.ie) project (developed by Avnet) that is to include an online portal, and have been developing that over the last number of years. It is envisaged that this piloted system will be rolled out nationally once complete. To date, national legislation has not been changed to facilitate this.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting how many acres of Council-owned lands in Mungret are zoned Residential, how many houses can be located on the site in accordance with average recommended density for the area and what is the proposed timeline for developing this site***

**REPLY:** An application for funding was made under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) for Mungret and was successful in March 2017. The Government announced €10.5 million in funding for roads infrastructure to allow for the development of new homes.

The LIHAF infrastructure will ensure the delivery of approximately 800 residential units on 25 hectares (62 acres approx.) of land owned by Limerick City and County Council, with 250 of these units required to be completed by 2021 and a further 200 homes to be delivered on privately owned lands by 2021, under the terms of the LIHAF agreement. The remaining number of units (approximately 350 no. new homes) will be delivered in a balanced incremental manner by 2030.

**13. Question submitted by Councillor P. Keller**

***I will ask at the next Meeting, with regard to the scaling up of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) programmes in each local authority, and which has been sanctioned as a safe way to proceed by the Attorney General, (a) How many CPO orders on vacant dwellings have been issued by the Council in the past 2 years; (b) How many of these orders have reached a successful conclusion; (c) What budget has been allocated by this Council to secure vacant dwellings using the CPO method; and (d) When did this Council first use this method with regard to vacant houses.***

**REPLY:** No CPO acquisitions of vacant dwellings were carried out over the last two years. There have been 3 dwellings successfully acquired using CPO powers under Derelict Sites legislation over the last few years.

No specific budget has been allocated by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in this regard. However, from 2nd October, 2017, Limerick City and County Council will establish an "Urban and Village Renewal Department" to provide an enhanced response to dealing with vacant sites/property, derelict sites and delivering public realm improvement. Also, a Derelict Sites Action Plan, to work in tandem with a Vacant Homes Action Plan, will be developed as part of an ongoing and increased focus on addressing dereliction. The preferred method of acquisition will be via agreement where possible but, where it is appropriate, the Council will use its full range of statutory powers, including CPO powers, to meet its objectives.

In relation to budgets, the cost of all approved housing acquisitions is recouped under the Housing Capital Programme from central government. Budgetary requirements will be dealt with as part of the normal Budget procedure for 2018. The setting up of the new "Urban and Village Renewal Department" shows Limerick's commitment to this area.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

***I will move at the next Meeting that the Government put in place one Agency with full responsibility for the maintenance / repair/ upkeep of all our rivers and streams.***

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin noted that two of the three arches under the bridge at Athea were blocked and, as a result, there was a danger that the playing pitch at the adjacent school would be washed away. He sought clarity as to who was responsible for the maintenance of the river at this location and requested that the Council contact the Office of Public Works in relation to the works required to alleviate this problem, and that a Special Meeting should be held in Athea to discuss same.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor O'Brien.

Members supported the Motion and highlighted the danger of flooding in parts of Athea and the significant fundraising that had taken place to develop the school pitch. Members also noted that, in the past, locals removed the silt from the river at this location to alleviate the issue and should not now be stopped from doing same.

Councillor Costelloe reminded Members of the two lives that had been lost during recent works at Thomond Bridge and proposed that a simple stone be erected in their memory. This was seconded by Councillor O'Brien.

It was agreed that Councillor Galvin's Motion would be circulated to all Local Authorities for support.

**16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L.M. Sheehy**

***I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council call on An Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., to create a Minister for Social Enterprise to support and advance this ever-evolving sector.***

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheehy stressed the importance of social enterprise in terms of economic potential, employment, social inclusion and shared community spirit and noted the lack of proper structure for this sector and the level of bureaucracy it had to deal with.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor O'Brien.

Members supported the Motion and noted that this sector added value to the rural economy and represented the way forward for rural Limerick.

**17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhlr. S. Ó Ceallaigh**

***I will move at the next Meeting that this Council call on the Minister for Transport to address the astronomical rise in car insurance.***

In proposing the Motion, Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh noted that the cost of car insurance represented the major outlay for many young people and was an unfair burden, given the reliance on the car and limited public transport. He called for regulation of the insurance industry and for consideration to be given to a national insurance company.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor McMahon.

Members supported the Motion and the following points were made by Members during discussion on this Motion:

- While it was acknowledged that young people were perceived as high risk from a car insurance viewpoint, there should be a focus on altering driver behaviour using electronic monitoring and rewarding those who drove safely.
- A greater number of claims should be challenged by the insurance industry.
- The insurance industry was also targeting older vehicles and this defeated the purpose of the NCT.
- The nationalisation of the car insurance market would be anti-competitive and the Insurance Cost Working Group was actively engaging with the range of issues in this area.

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors E. O'Brien, S. Keary, C. McMahon, R. O'Donoghue, K. Sheahan and A. Teskey**

***We will move at the next Meeting that this Council support the introduction of the Life Saving Equipment Bill 2017.***

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Brien highlighted the extent of vandalism to life-saving equipment and his support for criminal sanctions against those who vandalised lifebuoys or defibrillators. He called for the Motion to be circulated to the Oireachtas Members for Limerick.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Keary.

Members supported the Motion and noted the damage caused by vandalism to the jet-ski used by Limerick Search and Rescue.

It was agreed that the Motion would be circulated to the Oireachtas Members for Limerick for support.

## **19. Correspondence**

The Correspondence circulated with the Agenda was taken as read.

## **Special Meetings**

At the conclusion of the agenda, the Meetings Administrator noted that three Special Meetings of the Council were planned for Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, commencing at 2pm.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

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**Mayor**

Date:

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