

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER, 2017

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Seán Lynch, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Butler, Collins, Costelloe, Crowley, Daly, Gilligan, Hogan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, McCreech, Ó Ceallaigh, O'Dea, O'Hanlon, Pond, Prendiville, Secas and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. T. O'Callaghan), A/Senior Engineer (Mr. G. O'Connor), Senior Executive Engineer (Mr. T. McKechnie), Executive Engineer (Mr. J. O'Keeffe).

At the outset, the Mayor and Members extended congratulations to Na Píarsaigh on winning their fourth Munster Club Senior Hurling Championship in seven years.

Members also congratulated Council Staff on the event organised around the turning on of the Christmas lights in the city which had been enjoyed by thousands of people.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Re-Scheduled Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 27th October, 2017.

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

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Draft Budgetary Plan Meeting for the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 27th October, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Butler;
Seconded by Councillor Hourigan;
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 Senior Executive Officer, Community Support Services dated 13th November, 2017 setting out proposals to dispose of the freehold interest in a dwelling house at 18 Sycamore Avenue, Rathbane, Limerick and to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval. The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

3. Service Operations Directorate

Speed Limit Review

Circulated, Report of the Acting Senior Engineer, Operations and Maintenance Services, dated 15th November, 2017 setting out the background to the speed limit review and the preparation of related Draft Bye Laws for Non National Roads and National Roads. It was noted that submissions, proposing changes to the Bye Laws, were assessed in accordance with “Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland” (March, 2015) and that an Engineer’s Report, with recommendations, was completed in respect of each location. It was also noted that workshops had been held with Members in each District and issues raised by Members were reviewed by the Council Executive or TII, as appropriate, and the outcome of these reviews was now being presented to the District Members for consideration. The report noted that Members approval was sought to proceed with the publication of Draft Byelaws for public consultation, in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines.

Also circulated:

- National Road Speed Limit Review 2015-2017;
- National Road Speed Limit Review 2015-2017, Limerick National Road Draft Bye-Laws;
- Limerick City and County Council, County Limerick Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Byelaws 2018 for Regional and Local Roads (Draft);
- Speed Limit Review Submissions received for the Metropolitan District for Non-National Roads.

At the outset the Acting Senior Engineer noted the issues that had been raised at workshop by Members requesting an increase in the speed limit on the R527, Condell Road and pointed out that, following a review of same, it was not recommended that the speed limit on this road be increased. He noted that the National Cycle Manual, published by the National Transport Authority, identified that the appropriate speed limit for this road type, with a non-segregated cycle lane adjacent to a live carriageway, was recommended at a maximum of 50kph.

Members noted the frustration of drivers using this road having to limit their speed to 50 km/hr but noted the danger to cyclists sharing the same surface with vehicular traffic and discussed the benefits of segregating the cycle lane from vehicular traffic and having a shared pedestrian / cycle facility.

Members also noted issues around unconnected segments of cycle lanes in the city and the need for a cycle strategy and suggested that an audit of cycle use on the Condell Road be carried out.

The following additional issues were raised by various Members during discussion of this item :-

- The request to reduce the speed limit on the R511 between Roxborough and Fedamore. The recommendation not to alter this speed limit was accepted with engineering measures to be looked at.
- The request to increase the speed limit on the R445 from Daly’s Cross to the County Boundary from 80 km/hr to 100 km/hr to match the speed limit on the Tipperary side of the boundary.

- The high density and extent of school traffic at Ballybrown and it was noted that the request to reduce the speed limit there to 50 km/hr had been accepted.
- The request to reduce the speed limit on the R526 from the flyover at Ballykeeffe into the city to 30 km/hr to facilitate those living along this road to gain vehicular access to same.
- A possible error on the review document issued in relation to the L1144 Mill Road. It was clarified that the document was correct and that no alteration was proposed for the speed limit on this road.

The Acting Senior Engineer clarified the position in relation to the speed limit arrangements for the N7 at Junctions 28, 29 and 30 and for the M7/M20 Rossbrien Interchange.

The Acting Senior Engineer noted that the adoption of the bye laws was a matter for the Full Council and that the approval of the District was sought to move on to the public consultation phase.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Hourigan, seconded by Councillor Gilligan and agreed that the speed limit on the Condell Road, R527 be increased from 50 km/hr to 80 km/hr in conjunction with the segregation of the cycle lane from vehicular traffic.

The Director, Physical Development emphasised that the Council strongly recommended no increase in the speed limit on the R527 Condell Road considering the presence of a non segregated cycle lane adjacent to live traffic.

It was proposed by Councillor Pond, seconded by Councillor O'Dea and agreed that the speed limit on the R445 be increased from 80 km/hr to 100 km/hr.

QUESTIONS

4. Question submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next meeting when is it envisaged that the works to install a crossing for pedestrians at the junction of Cruises Street and O'Connell Street will commence, as voted for previously by the Metropolitan District.

REPLY: It is envisaged that the proposed re-development of O'Connell Street will move to the Part VIII planning process in either late 2017 or early 2018.
The area between Cruises Street and O'Connell Street will be considered as part of the proposed re-development.
However, it should be noted that there are currently traffic lights at the Patrick Street / Denmark Street junction and the O'Connell Street / William Street junction to facilitate pedestrian crossing.
Both of these junctions are in close proximity to the Cruises Street / O'Connell street junction.

5. Question submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next meeting when is it envisaged that the Committee established to oversee the Northern Distributor Road will meet, in order to progress this vital piece of infrastructure.

REPLY: The Council has been working with the relevant personnel in Clare County Council to progress this project.

I confirm it is my intention to hold a meeting with the members of the committee in December, 2017 to update the members on progress to date.

6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will ask at the next meeting what Christmas and New Year's festivities the Council has organised this year.

REPLY: **Christmas in Limerick** will see Limerick City and County Council work with event providers, local businesses, communities, venues and entertainers to illuminate, enliven and promote the city and its Christmas offering during this key commercial period. Building on a new format established last year the Christmas and New Years programme will:

1. **Create a festive atmosphere** in highly visible outdoor locations commencing on the 19th of November and finishing on the 31st of December. These activities aim to enhance the local offering rather than compete, providing a platform, attraction or atmosphere enhancing outcome.

Locations include;

- O'Connell Street
- Bedford Row
- Thomas Street

In addition to these we will promote other key locations hosting festive events including but not limited to the Milk Market, Hunt Museum, King John's Castle and Limerick on Ice in Arthurs Quay. The overall impact is a coordinated 'switching on' of key locations in the city centre to enhance and spread footfall of benefit to local business and venues.

2. **Establishing promotional initiatives** of benefit to local businesses, venues, charities and communities. The Marketing Department of Limerick City and County Council are providing an extensive coordinated calendar of events promoting all Christmas related activities in the city and county and providing a programme for families and audiences which is easily obtained, clearly illustrated and showcases the best of Christmas in Limerick.
3. **Highlighting and supporting charitable giving** in Limerick at Christmas LCCC will host Musical Treats of Thomas Street providing a stage for 2 weekends as a platform for local charities, fundraisers and buskers promoting performance, charitable giving and emerging artists. In addition to this Santa's Post box will also invite visitors to bring gifts to donate to a local charity in Limerick.
4. **Introduce a New Years Eve Event to Limerick** with a fireworks display on New Years Eve at King John's Castle

Audience

The targeted audience for these events are families. The majority of events provided are free of charge and focus on activities which children and families can engage with ease, in a fun environment at minimum cost encouraging them to come into the city centre and spend time together soaking up the atmosphere and enjoying the city and all it has to offer.

LCCC will directly Fund and Produce the Following Events in 2017:**Lighting Up Limerick**

Date: Sun 19th Nov

Time: 16:30

Location: O Connell Street

The switching on of the city's Christmas lights will take place on Sunday 19th November 2017, marking the official start of the festive season in Limerick.

Thousands of people are expected to attend the '[Light up Limerick](#)' switching on ceremony organised by Limerick City and County Council which takes place at 6pm on O'Connell Street with entertainment starting from 4.30pm.

The highlight will be the switching on of the lights by Skye, Marshall and Chase from the popular children's TV show PAW Patrol who are taking time out from their heroic adventures to help Mayor Stephen Keary and Santa Claus kickstart the festive season in Limerick. Prior to that, the crowds will be entertained by an array of street performers and special guests including soprano Sinéad O'Brien, tenor Derek Moloney, Limerick Gospel Choir and musician Jason Hennessy ahead of the biggest cheer of the weekend in the city when the spectacular lights display switches on. The Christmas programme in Limerick is being co-ordinated by Limerick City and County Council Arts Office and the Office of Marketing and Communications with support from Grooveyard Event Management and GoldieFish events.

Christmas in Limerick: Festive Craft Fair

Date: 2nd -3rd of December

Time: All Day

Location: Bedford Row

Sample some wonderful local Christmas fare at the festive food and craft market on Bedford Row. Fun for all the family from delicious seasonal treats, to Irish craft and beautiful vintage carousel and traditional carnival rides. Visitors will also be able to pick up that all important Christmas Tree!

Christmas in Limerick: Musical Treats on Thomas Street

Date: 2nd – 3rd December and 9th – 10th December

Time: All Day

Location: Thomas Street

The little Caravan stage with a big heart returns to Limerick this year to give voice to local charities, carol singers, musicians, buskers and choirs.

Christmas in Limerick: Santa's Postbox

Date: 9th – 10th of December

Time: All Day

Location: Bedford Row

Santa will send his helper elves from the North Pole to help the children of Limerick write their letters and post them in Santa's Magic Post Box! Join the elves in their busy workshop for a feast of free activities including Christmas decoration making, card making, gift wrapping and puppet making. With vintage carousel and carnival rides, a Christmas photo booth, festive music and food stalls, there is something for all the family to get into the festive spirit this Christmas.

Visitors are also invited to bring presents to donate to local charity.

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will ask at the next meeting are there bye laws in place prohibiting cyclists from cycling on footpaths.

REPLY: Cyclists are prohibited from cycling on footpaths under the Road Traffic Acts and General Traffic and Parking legislation/regulations etc.
The enforcement of this prohibition is a matter for the Gardaí.
The issue of cyclists on footpaths was again addressed in recent legislation i.e. S.I. No. 331/2015 - Road Traffic (Fixed Charge Offences - Cyclists) Regulations 2015. These Regulations, operative from 31st July 2015, declare the offences detailed in the table below to be fixed charge offences for the purposes of Section 103 of the Road Traffic Act 1961, as amended, and prescribe the amount of the fixed charge for each offence.

Regulation Description of Offence	Fixed Charge
4(a) No front lamp or rear lamp lit during lighting-up hours on a pedal cycle.	€40
4(b) Cyclist driving a pedal cycle without reasonable consideration.	€40
4(c) Cyclist failing to stop for a School Warden sign.	€40
4(d) Cyclist proceeding past traffic lights when the red lamp is illuminated.	€40
4(d) Cyclist proceeding beyond a stop line, barrier or half barrier at a railway level crossing, swing bridge or lifting bridge, when the red lamps are flashing.	€40
4(d) Cyclist proceeding into a pedestrianised street or area.	€40
4(d) Cyclist proceeding past cycle traffic lights when red lamp is lit.	€40

It has been reported that the Minister made a decision to omit cycling on footpaths from the penalties list for fear it would discourage families who cycle to school with their young children.

NOTICES OF MOTION

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Gilligan (to be referred to the Protocol Committee)

I will move at the next meeting, as next year marks the 325th year since the death of Patrick Sarsfield, I propose that his statue be moved to a more prominent position.

It was agreed that this Motion be referred to the Protocol Committee for consideration.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhr. S. Ó Ceallaigh (to be referred to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next meeting that the Council will not allow public parks in the district to be closed to the public, in order to benefit private, profit making events.

It was agreed that this Motion be referred to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

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

I will move at the next meeting that the Metropolitan District calls on the relevant department to fund the remaining finances needed to complete repair works on the Black Bridge, following a feasibility study being funded, and funds set aside from the GMA allocation for Limerick City East.

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

In proposing the motion, Cmhr. Ó Ceallaigh noted the estimated cost of repairing the bridge and the amount that had been allocated by the District from the GMA towards same. He pointed out the potential to receive support from University of Limerick and Clare County Council towards these works, the need to establish the amount of any contribution that might arise from these sources and the need to request the remainder from the appropriate Government Department.

Members supported the motion and highlighted the merits of the bridge from a tourism and heritage viewpoint.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council has received grant funding in respect of Bridge Rehabilitation Works in the sum of €428,000 from DTTAS to fund works of repair in 2017 to 16 bridges on Regional and Local roads throughout the County. The Bridge Rehabilitation Works Scheme generally funds works to roads carrying vehicular traffic where significant funding is not required. The Council has also received an allocation of €700,000 under the 2017 Specific Improvement Grant for Thomond Bridge. However, the costs of restoration works to the black bridge have been estimated at €1m. The Council will engage with DTTAS to establish if funding could be sourced under the Specific Improvement Grant Scheme.

The Council will also seek to ascertain if other relevant statutory or non statutory bodies may be in a position to contribute financially to the restoration of the bridge.

Members stressed the need to source funding for this project and bring the relevant parties together in this regard. It was suggested that a working group be set up in this regard and that this be discussed further at the Local Electoral Area Briefings.

The Director noted his commitment to reopen this bridge and to continue to work with Central Government, University of Limerick and Clare County Council in this regard.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas (to be referred to the Local Electoral Area Briefings)

I will call at the next meeting on Limerick City and County Council to start the process of taking in charge Milford Close Road in Castletroy.

It was agreed that this Motion be referred to the Local Electoral Area Briefings for consideration.

12. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
MAYOR

Dated: _____