

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 18TH DECEMBER, 2017

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Seán Lynch, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Butler, Collins, Costelloe, Gilligan, Hogan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, 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), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. T. O'Callaghan), Senior Executive Officer, Social Development (Mr. S. O'Connor), Senior Executive Officer, Design and Delivery Services (Mr. J. Delaney), Senior Architect, Social Development (Mr. S. Hanrahan), Arts Officer (Ms. S. Deegan) and Administrative Officer (Mr. J. Clune).

At the outset, the Mayor and Members extended their condolences and sympathy to Matt Ryan and family on the death of his sister Lily Alexander who had died tragically in a road traffic accident in Wexford along with her husband Doug and their two sons Doug Junior and Stephen.

Condolences were also extended to the family and friends of Rose Hanrahan from Thomondgate following her tragic death and Members called on any member of the public with information relating to the circumstances of her death to come forward to the Gardaí.

Condolences were extended to the family of the late Jackie Gibbons.

A silence was observed in their memory.

Congratulations were extended to the Mid West School for the Deaf on the passing of the Irish Sign Language for the Deaf Community Act, which would be positive for the school.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 20th November, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Hurley;
Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;
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, Social Development dated 28th November, 2017 outlining proposals for the disposal of land at 5 Byrne Avenue, Prospect, Limerick in consideration of ownership of 33 Byrne Avenue, Prospect, Limerick being transferred to the

Council and the intention to bring a related Section 183 Notice to the Full Council for approval. The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

3. Rapid Funding 2017

Circulated, Report of the Chief Officer, LCDC dated 8th December, 2017 setting out recommendations of the LCDC for the allocation of funding under the RAPID Grants Scheme 2017, for approval.

Proposed by Councillor O’Hanlon;
Seconded by Councillor Hourigan;
And Resolved:

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

Rapid Area	Group/Organisation Name	Purpose of Grant	Recommended Grant
Ballynanty & Kileely	St Munchins Community Centre	To insert new cameras and lighting to secure Age Friendly Campus and to draw up visibility plan	€16,125
Kings Island	St Marys Community Adult Education Group CLG	Make premises more secure (insulate roof, new flooring, upgrade bathroom, replace doors , lighting in yard)	€16,125
South Limerick	Southill Area Centre	Lighting/Removal of Bollards/CCTV	€16,125

4(a) Part 8 Procedure - Lisheen Park, Ballyanrahan East, Patrickswell

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Service Operations Directorate dated 13th December, 2017 and enclosed Chief Executive’s Report dated December, 2017 setting out details of proposed residential development (16 units) at Lisheen Park, Ballyanrahan East, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and noted that it was proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 5 of the report.

Members welcomed the proposed development and acknowledged the efforts of staff in working with the local community to resolve issues that had arisen. Members noted the growth potential of Patrickswell and highlighted the need for the provision of adequate community facilities, in conjunction with same.

(b) Part 8 Procedure - 1-12 Bourke Avenue, Limerick

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Service Operations Directorate dated 13th December, 2017 and enclosed Chief Executive’s Report dated 13th December, 2017 setting out

details of proposed residential refurbishment / development (12 units) at 1-12 Bourke Avenue, Limerick. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and noted that it was proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 5 of the report.

Members welcomed the proposed development and highlighted the need to fast track projects of this nature. Members also noted the potential to provide social housing in a number of sites in the city.

5. Presentation on proposed new Festival, LEAF – Limerick Electronic Music and Arts Festival

Messrs. P. Boland and J. Clarke from CWB Event Management joined the meeting for this item and presented details of a proposed Limerick Electronic Music and Arts Festival which it was proposed to run on the 9th and 10th March, 2018. The presentation covered the extent of research that had been engaged in, the range of possible events to be included, the use of existing facilities and the target audience which would include the student population of the city.

It was agreed that the proposal should be brought to the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

QUESTIONS

6. Question submitted by Councillor M. McCreesh

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the current status of any plans to address the general maintenance issues raised by the residents of Meagher Close (Hyde Road, Prospect).

REPLY: In the context of a new budget year, it is proposed that staff from Operations & Maintenance and from Estate Management would undertake a joint inspection of Meagher Close in January with a view to identifying what improvement measures may be undertaken and how these might be funded.

7. Question submitted by Councillor M. McCreesh

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on Air Quality monitoring within the Metropolitan area.

REPLY: The three air quality monitors which are located in Castletroy, O'Connell Street and Mungret went live on 10th May 2017, and have been providing real time particulate data to the public at <http://www.airqweb.com> since then.

The monitors have been working continuously apart from two interruptions due to technical faults. The O'Connell Street monitor was offline from 25th May until 12th June due to a cable fault. The Mungret monitor was offline from 28th Nov. to 13th Dec. due to a blown transformer.

The results from the monitors show the air quality in the three locations to be very good. All 24hour averages and long term averages are well within the World Health Organisation guidelines and the limits contained in the Clean Air for Europe Directive.

The long term averages (May to Dec 2017) for each of the monitoring locations is shown in the table below and compared with the guideline and limit values for annual mean.

Parameter	Location	Measured long term mean ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	WHO annual mean guideline ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	EU CAFÉ directive annual mean limit ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
Total Particulates	O'Connell St	16	None Specified	None Specified
	Castletroy	11		
	Mungret	12		
PM10	O'Connell St	11	20	40
	Castletroy	8		
	Mungret	9		
PM2.5	O'Connell St	8	10	25
	Castletroy	6		
	Mungret	6		
PM1	O'Connell St	4	None Specified	None Specified
	Castletroy	3		
	Mungret	3		

Additional sensors to monitor gases (NO₂, NO, SO₂ and Ozone) have been purchased and will be installed early in the New Year. These will give a more complete picture of air quality in Limerick.

Again, all data will be available in real time to the public at the www.airqweb.ie

Beginning in early 2018, it is intended to publish monthly reports summarising the results from each of the monitors.

8. Question submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next meeting what progress has been made in the development of a Choice Based Letting Scheme for housing allocation in Limerick.

Reply: Community Support Services has previously delivered a presentation on Choice Based Letting to the Housing SPC committee. The 2017 Allocations Scheme adopted by Limerick City and County Council provides for the allocation of properties by this Council utilising choice based letting. CSS is to examine the feasibility of undertaking a pilot CBL project in 2018 and will report on this matter to the Housing SPC in advance of same.

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

I will ask at the next meeting how many houses were allocated by Limerick City and County Council in the Metropolitan District for 2017.

Reply: The number of houses allocated by Limerick City and County Council up to and including 30th November 2017 in the Metropolitan District is 206.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting for a breakdown by date of the occupancy of the Temporary Emergency Provision homeless shelter on Edward Street for October, November and December so far, if it has ever gone over capacity or been unable to accommodate people.

Reply:

- 1) Please see attached spreadsheet for the breakdown of the occupancy of the Temporary Emergency Provision in Lord Edward St from October to December 2017.
- 2) The unit has not exceeded capacity in the period in question.
- 3) All persons who have presented to the H.A.T. service and have been deemed to be in need of emergency accommodation have been accommodated as required at the TEP.

Temporary Emergency Provision – Lord Edward Street

Date	December	November	October
1	20	19	17
2	21	21	21
3	19	20	20
4	19	22	21
5	20	21	20
6	19	20	20
7	20	20	18
8	20	20	19
9	21	17	20
10	19	20	20
11	20	22	20
12	21	22	20
13	20	23	20
14		24	19
15		20	20
16		20	20
17		20	20
18		20	22
19		22	20
20		23	18
21		25	20
22		24	21
23		21	20

24		15	20
25		18	21
26		17	21
27		22	20
28		20	20
29		23	20
30		21	20
31			19
	259	622	617

11. Question submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

I will ask at the next Meeting if the abandoned Dunnes in Sarsfield Street and the Horizon Mall Site have been inspected for addition to the list of derelict sites, and if so what was the result of the inspections.

Reply: The former Dunnes Stores site on Sarsfield Street has not recently been inspected under Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

A notice under Section 11 of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 was served on the Horizon Mall site on 21st September, 2017. A six month period has been granted to comply with the terms of this notice. The site is not entered on the Council's Derelict Sites Register to date.

12. Question submitted by Councillor P. Keller

I will ask at the next Meeting how many Council houses, purpose built for elderly people, are due to be constructed in the Metropolitan District next year.

Reply: A number of purpose-built housing schemes for the elderly have been completed over the last number of years. These include:
Vizes Court Phase 1 (16 units);
Cliona Park Elderly Apartments (21 units);
Southill Older Person Accommodation (35 units); and
Vizes Court Phase 2 (29 units).

The mixed-use development at Lord Edward Street is nearing completion and has been allocated. This development includes 57 elderly units including specialist universal access units. The next elderly housing scheme scheduled to be progressed is the Orchard Site, King's Island, Limerick, which is a 26 unit scheme. Other developments, while not specifically categorised as elderly housing, such as the Kilmurry Court development in Garryowen will be attractive to elderly residents as well as potential downsizers. Kilmurry Court is primarily a single storey development centred on a courtyard space in the heart of an existing community. A number of Developers have opted, in consultation with Limerick City and County Council, to meet their Part V obligations with the provision of community dwellings and elderly accommodation.

13. Question submitted by Councillor P. Keller

I will ask at the next Meeting how regularly are Council properties inspected to ensure they meet minimum standards.

Reply: Inspections take place in the Council's Housing Stock on a daily basis via our Foremen, our Tradesmen or appointed Contractors. Staff may have specific tasks when entering a Council Property, however they have a duty of care to the Tenant and if an item of non compliance is identified, they will report this to the Foreman or Technical Staff.

Further to the presentation at the Housing SPC Meeting held on December 11th 2017, it was outlined that a Conditional Survey of all Limerick City & County Council Housing Stock is planned to be completed in 2018. This survey will include the minimum housing standards and highlight those elements of stock which require improvement. The survey will take the opportunity to look at every aspect of the house and cost the works required to ensure we are providing our Tenants with a sustainable home for the next 40 years.

The Conditional Survey will be key to supporting Limerick City & County Council maintain Minimum Standards into the future and ensure that further changes to the standards can be addressed in a timely manner.

NOTICES OF MOTION

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Lynch

I will move at the next meeting that this District supports the establishment of an Annual National 'Make Way Day' and will write to the Government calling on them to support, establish, fund and resource an Annual National 'Make Way Day' which would be localised in each region and that this District will annually support and promote a local 'Make Way Limerick' campaign as part of the wider 'Make Way Day'.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor Collins.

In proposing the motion Councillor Lynch highlighted how practices such as parking cars on footpaths, bicycles / bins / sandwich boards left on footpaths and overgrown hedges can impact on those with disabilities or the elderly in negotiating these obstructions.

Members supported the motion and called on the Council, businesses and the public to increase their awareness of this issue and for any infrastructure works in the District to take this issue into consideration.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville (to be referred to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee)

I move at the next Meeting that, given the scale of the housing crisis in the City, the Metropolitan District call for a halt to the sell off of Council owned lands suitable for housing,

and instead for these lands to be used for public housing, including a mix of social rental and affordable mortgages.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

I move at the next Meeting that the Metropolitan District requests the Mayor of Limerick City and County to organise a special meeting in January of the Full Council to discuss the new planning application for the development of the Opera Centre, including prospects for including social and affordable apartments in the development.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Prendiville and seconded by Councillor Keller.

In proposing the motion Councillor Prendiville outlined the process involved to date with regard to the Opera Site and noted that, as the Part VIII process would not now go ahead, the Members would not be afforded the opportunity to consider the submissions that had been made in relation to same and that this could be included in the meeting of the Full Council proposed under the motion.

Members supporting the motion made the following points during discussion of the motion:

- Given the scale of expenditure involved, Members should ensure that they agreed with the details of this project.
- Many workers seek to live close to their workplace and the provision of good quality residential units as part of the development should be considered.
- The provision of residential units as part of the development should bring increased footfall and activity to the city, outside of working hours.

Members opposing the motion made the following points during discussion of same:

- Members have been kept well informed of proposals regarding the site and submissions can be made as part of the planning application process by anyone wishing to do so.
- The proposed development of the Opera Site will bring much needed jobs to Limerick by providing the type of office accommodation sought by companies.
- While acknowledging the housing crisis in terms of social, private and student accommodation there are sites available elsewhere, suitable for the provision of social and private accommodation.
- A high quality commercial centre is required to attract business to the city and ample space for residential accommodation is available on foot of the merger of the two Limerick Authorities.

The Meetings Administrator noted the procedure under Standing Orders for calling a meeting of the Full Council. He pointed out that the Chief Executive, on foot of legal advice, determined that an EIA should be prepared in association with the proposed development and as a result a planning application for the development would have to be submitted to An Bord Pleanala. He noted the Chief Executive's commitment to brief the Members, prior to submission of the planning application, which would take into consideration any submissions already made.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P. Keller

I will move at the next Meeting that we request a report from the Council Officials on the progress in getting the long-promised community centre for Garryowen.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Keller and seconded by Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh.

In proposing the motion Councillor Keller acknowledged the efforts of the Council in supporting the community in Garryowen but stressed that existing community facilities were inadequate for the range of services they were seeking to support, with services occasionally having to locate elsewhere.

Reply: Limerick City and County Council is aware of the issues in relation to Community Centre Provision for the Garryowen Area and have looked at a number of possible locations in recent years for said proposed centre. Officials have worked closely with, and support (via Social Intervention Fund, SICAP Funds) Garryowen Community Development Project who are, along with elected representatives advocating for a community facility. Locations considered include the Markets Field and the former Brannigans Pub but without success to date. The issue of funding will also need to be explored if the project is to proceed once a suitable site is agreed. A more detailed report can be made available to the Members at a later date if necessary.

Members supported the motion and stressed the extent of the area in need of community facilities covered by Garryowen and its surrounding areas and discussed a range of locations, including greenfield sites, that should be considered in this regard.

Members noted the lack of community facilities elsewhere in the District and called for the development of a co-ordinated strategy for the provision of community facilities in the District that would identify need, funding requirements and funding sources.

Members discussed the most appropriate vehicle to progress this proposal and noted that the LCDC and Home and Social Development SPC had potential in this regard.

The Meetings Administrator acknowledged the work carried out by both Committees and undertook to bring the proposal to the Director of Home and Social Development with a view towards a strategy for the development of community facilities being brought via the SPC to the Full Council.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. Butler (to be referred to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting that this District calls on Limerick City and County Council to remove the parking fee for park and charge slots around the city in line with nearly 90% of other Councils nationwide supporting environmentally friendly transport.

It was agreed that this Notice of Motion be referred to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Hogan

I will move at the next Meeting that, following my Motion at the Council Meeting twelve months ago, the Council provide an update on what dialogue is ongoing to ensure that Pope Francis will include Limerick as part of the itinerary of his visit to Ireland in 2018.

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

In proposing the motion Councillor Hogan noted the previous visit of the Pope 39 years ago and the strong connection the Jesuit Order had with Pope Francis through Fr. Seamus Enright.

The Meetings Administrator outlined details of contact that had taken place with the Office of the Papal Nuncio and noted that, while no formal decision had been received in response, a further communication would be sent.

20. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Mayor wished all present a safe, peaceful and happy Christmas.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
MAYOR

Dated: _____