

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 18TH JUNE, 2018.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Seán Lynch, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Butler, Collins, Costelloe, Crowley, Daly, Hogan, Hourigan, Hurley, Leddin, Loftus, McCreech, Ó Ceallaigh, Pond, Prendiville, Secas and Sheahan.

APOLOGIES

Councillor J. O'Dea

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Mr. J. Clune), Senior Executive Officer, Design and Delivery Services (Mr. J. Delaney), Senior Executive Officer, Physical Development (Mr. G. Dillon), Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development (Mr. B. Kennedy), Senior Engineer, Physical Development (Mr. V. Murray), Senior Executive Engineer, Physical Development (Ms. A. Goggin), Acting Senior Executive Architect (Ms. M. Donoghue), Staff Officer, Property Services (Mr. J. Cregan), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. S. Carroll).

At the outset, the Mayor welcomed Mr. Ciaran Crowe, Principal and pupils from Patrickswell National School to the meeting. The Mayor extended his good wishes to Mr. Crowe on his retirement from the School after 26 years and acknowledged his contribution to sport and the community. The Mayor then made a presentation to Mr. Crowe to mark his retirement.

The Mayor and Members extended their condolences and sympathies to the family of Rory Kiely, former Cathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann, current President of Limerick GAA and former Chairman of Limerick County Board GAA.

A vote of sympathy was also extended to the family of the late Jack Walsh on his untimely death in an accident in Spain.

A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 21st May, 2018.

Proposed by Councillor Hourigan;

Seconded by Councillor Butler;

And Resolved:

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

Members requested an update as to the maintenance of the pumping station at Ritaville, Old Cork Road. The Director, Physical Development confirmed that the Council would continue to maintain the sewerage pump and would work to resolve the other outstanding issues. Members again requested that this would be communicated to the residents.

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 7th June, 2018.

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

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

With the permission of the Mayor, it was agreed that Item 5 would be taken at this point.

5. Presentation by Dr. Des Fitzgerald, President, University of Limerick

The Mayor welcomed Dr. Des Fitzgerald, President, University of Limerick to the meeting.

Dr. Fitzgerald addressed the meeting making the following key points in relation to the University:-

- Background of University of Limerick and current programmes.
- U.L. to the forefront of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, computational sciences, robotics and automated systems and software development.
- Development of new and innovative training programmes.
- Ensure a place in the University for all, regardless of economic or social circumstances.
- National Plan for education to grow University student numbers by 30% by 2030.
- Develop an international identity to attract students and staff from across the world.
- Development of the Campus to incorporate the City and Mid West Region.
- New library opened and plans for development of new sports facilities and new student centre.
- Shannon Consortium working to develop education in the Mid West.
- Healthy Campus Initiatives.

The Members thanked Dr. Fitzgerald for his presentation and made the following points :-

- Importance of integrating the University with Limerick City Centre.
- Develop transport link between the University and the City.
- Issues with sub-standard and lack of student accommodation.
- Anti-social behaviour pertaining to student accommodation.
- Importance of the University in attracting multinational companies to the region.
- Develop more unified brand to promote the Mid West.
- Potential uses of Horizon Mall Site.

Dr. Fitzgerald responded to the points made and welcomed the support from the Members. The Mayor thanked Dr. Fitzgerald for his comprehensive address.

2. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, report of the Acting Senior Executive Officer, Community Support Services dated 30th May, 2018 setting out proposals to dispose of the freehold interest in a dwelling house at 26 Bourke Avenue, Lord Edward Street, Limerick and to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (b) Circulated, report of the Head of Property Services dated 12th June, 2018 setting out proposals to dispose of 0.0655 acres of land at St. Nessian's Road, Ballykeeffe to Dooradoyle Raheen Men's Shed Limited and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice in relation to same before the July Council Meeting.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

3. Physical Development Directorate

(a) Draft Metropolitan District of Limerick (Parking Places)(Amendment) Bye-Laws 2018

Circulated, Report of the Director of Service, Physical Development Directorate, dated 8th June, 2018, enclosing Report of the Physical Development Directorate on the Draft Parking Places (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2018 – Metropolitan District of Limerick and copy of the Draft Metropolitan District of Limerick (Parking Places)(Amendment) Bye-Laws 2018.

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

“That, the Metropolitan District of Limerick (Parking Places)(Amendment) Bye-Laws 2018, be and are hereby adopted, in accordance with Section 131A and Schedule 14A of the Local Government Act 2001, and in accordance with the reserved function under Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994”.

(b) CFRAMS Flood Risk Management Plans

Circulated, Report of the Director, Physical Development dated 11th June, 2018 setting out details of projects to be delivered under the CRFAMS Programme.

The Senior Engineer, Physical Development gave a presentation to Members on the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme Phase 11 as follows :

- National Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA)
 Nine areas within Limerick City and County Council's remit designated as requiring structural measures to significantly manage and reduce flood risk as a priority.
- Draft CFRAM Flood Risk Management Plans
 - Ministerial approval received.
 - Funding under Project Ireland 2040 National Development Plan.

- Limerick City and Environs Scheme, Athea, Castleconnell and Rathkeale Schemes included in Flood Relief Schemes.
- CFRAM Programme Phase 2
 - Proposals for high level concept designs including erection of glass walls along parts of the city quays.
 - Steering Group would be set up between Limerick City and County Council and the OPW.
 - Minor Flood Relief Scheme for Castleconnell will be delivered directly by Limerick City and County Council.
- Programme Delivery
CFRAM Flood Risk Management Plans on display for 3 months.

The following points were clarified by the Senior Engineer, Physical Development in response to queries raised by Members :-

- Significant work on the programme would commence in early 2019.
- Recreational facilities / walkways would be included in developments where possible.
- Extensive consultation would take place with the Members and communities.
- City Quays had temporary and permanent flood defences.
- Access would be protected at Scanlan Park, Castleconnell.
- King's Island was designated a special area of conservation and required An Bord Pleanala approval.
- New embankments were proposed for Condell Road and Dock Road.

On the proposal of Councillor Hourigan, seconded by Councillor Butler, it was agreed to proceed in accordance with the report.

(c) Noise Action Plan

The Senior Executive Engineer, Physical Development presented details of the Noise Action Plan which included the following :

- Environmental Noise Directive 2002 to take measures to prevent and reduce noise exposure and make information publicly available.
- Strategic Noise Maps and Noise Action Plans required to be prepared every five years.
- Residential Noise Hotspots identified. These areas will be subject to further assessment.
- Protection of 'quiet areas'.
- Draft Plan on public display with submissions to be made by 29th June 2018.
- Final Plan to be submitted to EPA in September, 2018 for review.
- Final NAPs reported to EC by EPA on 18th January, 2019.

Members welcomed the Plan and the following issues were raised :

- Noise levels from M7 causing huge difficulty for residents.
- Issues with builders working outside of normal working hours. Measures need to be put in place at planning stage.
- Is noise from pubs / night clubs surveyed?
- Are noise levels from wind turbine at Vistakon recorded?
- Shannonvale, Old Cratloe Road should be included in Plan.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Physical Development responded to the issues raised.

With the permission of the Mayor, it was agreed that Item 6 would be taken at this point.

6. Presentation by Mr. Peter Ward, Country Choice, The Milk Market

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Peter Ward, Country Choice to the Meeting. Mr. David Fitzgerald, Manager, Limerick Milk Market was also in attendance.

Mr. Ward thanked the Mayor for allowing him to address the meeting. He outlined the background to Country Choice, stating he had set up in the Milk Market in 1979 and now traded for five days each week. He outlined the ongoing popularity of the Milk Market and the demand for the fresh produce sold in the Market. He stated the Milk Market faced many challenges, including funding and was dependent on revenue from the Potato Market Car Park. He urged the Council to consider the Milk Market in all its future social, cultural and economic strategies.

Members thanked Mr. Ward for his address and highlighted the importance of the Milk Market to the city and the need to support it in a meaningful way. Members asked if the Council's Marketing Department could provide assistance in promoting the Milk Market. Members suggested that monies from the GMA tourism budget could be made available for marketing the Milk Market.

It was agreed that the presentation be brought to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee.

Suspension of Standing Orders

On the proposal of Councillor Butler, seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon, Standing Orders were suspended in order to complete the Agenda.

4. Service Operations Directorate

Design and Delivery Services

(a) Part 8 Procedure – Housing Development at St Patrick's Villas, Stradbally North, Castleconnell, County Limerick

Circulated, Report of Director of Service, Service Operations Directorate dated 13th June, 2018 enclosing the Chief Executives Report setting out details of Housing Development at St. Patrick's Villas, Stradbally North, Castleconnell, County Limerick. The Chief Executive's 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 requested that a 2.4 metre boundary wall would be part of the scheme.

(b) Part 8 Procedure – Housing Development at DeValera Park, Sexton Street North (2 units) and Quarry Road (3 units), Limerick

Circulated, Report of Director of Service, Service Operations Directorate dated 13th June, 2018 enclosing the Chief Executives Report setting out details of Housing Development at DeValera Park, Sexton Street North (2 units) and Quarry Road (3 units), Limerick. The Chief Executive's 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.

The Senior Executive Officer, Design and Delivery Services gave a presentation to Members outlining the demand for housing in the area, the proximity of the site to the city centre and the difficulty in identifying suitable sites for housing.

A number of Members expressed their concerns in relation to the development, highlighting its impact on amenities in the area, the size of the site and difficulty with parking.

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the July Meeting of the Metropolitan District.

QUESTIONS

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next meeting what progress if any has been made with the lands located at Ballykeeffe and originally intended for development as a neighbourhood park.

REPLY: The Council has been advised by legal representatives acting for the owner of the lands in question that the lands have been sold and are therefore no longer available to the Council.

The zoning on the land is Open Space and Recreation.

8. Question submitted by Cmhlr. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next meeting for an update on plans to create a safe walkway for access to Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh, and when it is envisaged to have a safe access route in place.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council has prepared a preliminary design for proposed future works on the R445 in Castletroy. These works may involve the provision of a roundabout, part of which will need to be on private lands. For the various options, lands are in the ownership of different landowners, and the Council is currently working with these landowners in relation to the overall development of the road, and the adjoining lands. The Council are hoping that this work can be concluded over the next few months and an overall road improvement scheme for the area finalised.

Limerick City and County Council and the National Transport Authority are commencing the Limerick Transport Strategy this Summer and as the R445 is a major access route to the City Centre, this study will also examine the R445 in its

entirety and determine the appropriate transport measures to be applied on this strategic transport corridor. Once this study and discussions on the proposed scheme with affected stakeholders is finalised, the scheme will be brought to Part 8.

9. Question submitted by Cmhlr. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next meeting for an update on plans to significantly improve the junction of the N24 and R513, more commonly known as Beary's Cross, and when it is envisaged such works will begin and be completed.

REPLY: Funding has recently been made available by the TII to proceed with the necessary Site Investigation and Topographic survey contract. This contract is expected on site within the next two months as the tendering process is well advanced. Once the results of the investigation are analysed, the maps relevant to a Compulsory Purchase Order will be prepared.

This will enable the Council to engage with the relevant landowners in particular (and with the wider public generally) through the statutory procedures associated with the CPO process. This formal engagement is scheduled to begin at the latter end of 2018. If a year is allowed for the necessary engagement, Bord Pleanála public hearing, decision-making, approval and information exchange, then construction work may be expected to begin in early 2020. This is always subject to TII approvals and funding being available.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will ask at the next meeting what are the Council's plans for the weir bridge in Thomondgate.

REPLY: The Thomond Weir is currently being used under licence on a temporary basis, to facilitate the restoration of a barge. The existing building on the site has been cleared back to a 'shell and core' state. It is envisaged, given its sound structural condition, that this building will be retained for appropriate re-use. Minor works were carried out to the boundary of the facility to improve security and enhance the site earlier in the year. There is development potential for the remainder of the site in conjunction with other lands in this area owned by Limerick City and County Council.

11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will also ask at the next meeting how many HAP and RAS inspections have been carried out this year.

REPLY: The total number of inspections of HAP and RAS properties and private complaints from 1 January, 2018 to 10 June, 2018 is 497. The table below sets out the breakdown between HAP and RAS properties.

Reason for Inspection	Total Inspections 1.1.18 to 10.6.18	Initial Inspections 1.1.18 to 10.6.18	Follow Up Inspections 1.1.18

			to 10.6.18
HAP	324	295	29
RAS	158	128	30

12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next meeting that Limerick Metropolitan Council provide an update on those sites currently listed in the vacant sites register and to supply a copy of the current register to Members for consideration.

REPLY: The vacant sites register is available on Limerick.ie at

<https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planningandproperty/unauthorisedstructures-derelict-sites-and-vacant-sites-3>.

Submissions are currently under consideration from the owners of properties who have been notified of Limerick City and County Council's intention to place their properties on the Vacant Sites Register.

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

I will move at the next meeting that Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh will hold a meaningful workshop with all Councillors of the Metropolitan District regarding the proposed plans to upgrade O'Connell Street, and that the views expressed by local representatives will be respected and adhered to.

In proposing the motion Cmhr. Ó Ceallaigh noted that a number of workshops had been held in relation to the upgrade of O'Connell Street but a further workshop was now required to allow for further input from Members and to discuss issues as they arise. He highlighted the need to create a viable city centre that would prioritise pedestrians and cyclists.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

Members supported the motion and highlighted the need to maximise the project.

REPLY: The Council has engaged in three separate and significant consultation processes to date on this Project. On each occasion, separate consultation events were held with the general public, interested stakeholders and the Elected Members. The first consultation was held in September 2016 at the outset of the project to gather as much opinion as possible to inform the Project. The second event in December 2016 outlined a series of options and interested stakeholders, included the Elected Members, were invited to comment on them. The third event in June 2017 outlined an emerging preferred option and invited comment from the Elected Members, interested stakeholders and the general public. At all times the views of the Elected Members have been respected and changes made as a result of the various

consultations. If requested, a further workshop can be held with the Elected Members prior to the submission to An Bord Pleanála.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh (to be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next meeting that Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh, market the Metropolitan District as a Golfing destination for tourism, and commit to ensuring that Rathbane Golf Club receives the necessary investment to manage the security of the golf course, and maintain the golf course to a competitive standard.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Pond

I will move at the next Metropolitan Meeting that following the unveiling of the proposed Castletroy Local Area Plan 2019-2025 that allows the population of the area to increase to 28,000, Limerick City and County Council would petition the Minister for Justice and the Garda Commissioner to provide a Garda Station for the area. This Garda Station could also serve the needs of University of Limerick which now caters for approx 13,000 third level students plus staff.

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

It was agreed to write to the Minister for Justice and refer the Notice of Motion to the Joint Policing Committee.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I call at the next meeting on this Council to immediately start a formal Part 8 Planning Submission for the road improvement scheme on the R445 from the Kilmurray Roundabout eastwards and also to progress proposals to improve access and traffic safety in the area adjacent to the Gaelscoil.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Secas and seconded by Councillor Leddin.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council has prepared a preliminary design for proposed future works on the R445 in Castletroy.

These works may involve the provision of a roundabout, part of which will need to be on private lands. For the various options, lands are in the ownership of different landowners, and the Council is currently working with these landowners in relation to the overall development of the road, and the adjoining lands. The Council are hoping that this work can be concluded over the next few months, and an overall road improvement scheme for the area finalised.

Limerick City and County Council and the National Transport Authority are commencing the Limerick Transport Strategy this Summer, and as the R445 is a

major access route to the City Centre, this study will also examine the R445 in its entirety, and determine the appropriate transport measures to be applied on this strategic transport corridor.

Once this study and discussions on the proposed scheme with affected stakeholders is finalised, the scheme will be brought to Part 8.

Councillor Secas noted that a similar Motion was discussed at the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee in April, 2017 and it was indicated that a Part 8 planning submission would be lodged in May, 2017 and she queried why this did not happen.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. McCreesh

I will move at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council hold a workshop with all Councillors of the Metropolitan District regarding the NTA (National Transport Authority) proposal to commence a study of traffic management plans for the entire Metropolitan area. There are a number of traffic issues in all parts of the city that require immediate attention.

In proposing the motion, Councillor McCreesh highlighted the urgent traffic issues in many parts of the city and the need for a workshop and Member's input into same.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Loftus.

The Director, Physical Development confirmed that a workshop would be arranged. He also pointed out that the Traffic Management Plan had progressed in other cities and Limerick is now in a position to benefit from the experience gained in dealing with the issues that arose in these cities.

18. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

_____ **MAYOR**

Dated:
