

COMMUNITY, LEISURE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee was held in Council Chamber, Limerick City and County Council, Dooradoyle, Limerick on Monday 18 June, 2018

The following were in attendance:-

IN THE CHAIR: Cllr. M. Hurley

PRESENT: Cllr. M. Collins, Cllr. J. Costelloe, Cllr. V. Crowley, Cllr. F. Foley, Cllr. M. Hourigan, Cllr. M. McCreesh, Cllr. C. McMahon, Cllr. G. Mitchell, Cllr. C. Prendiville, Cllr. K. Sheahan, Cllr. M. Sheehan, Cllr. L.M. Sheehy, Cllr. B. Teefy, Mr. C. Flynn

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. S. O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. A. Rizzo, Administrative Officer, Social Development
Mr. P. Malone, Administrative Officer, Social Development
Ms. I. Hennessy, Staff Officer, Social Development
Mr. Josh Kirby, Civil Defence Officer
Ms. J. O'Brien, Southill Area Centre
Ms. C. O'Flaherty, Civil Defence Officer
Ms. V. Stundon, Water Safety Development Officer

APOLOGIES: Ms. C. Curley, Director of Services, Mr. G. Daly, Director of Services, M. Fitzgerald, Mr. S. Hanrahan, A/Director of Service, M. Healy.

Item 1: Adoption of Minutes of Community Leisure and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee held on 19 February, 2018

Minutes of meeting were unanimously agreed by members. Proposed by Cllr. C. Mc Mahon, seconded by Cllr. B. Teefy.

Item 2: Matters Arising

Cllr. M. Hurley noted that the Integration Plan 2017-2021 was adopted by members at the full Council meeting in May 2018. Cllr. Hurley acknowledged and congratulated Eugene Quinn, Limerick Integration Working Group and Leonie Kerins, Limerick Integration Working Group for their contribution to Limerick's Integration Plan. Cllr. M. Hurley anticipates the successful implementation of same.

Item 3: Presentation on Civil Defence

The members received a presentation from both Mr. Josh Kirby, Civil Defence Officer and Ms. Cecilia O'Flaherty, Civil Defence Officer, informing them on Limerick Civil Defence; its structure and development, range of services provided and supported, list of activities and events, details of volunteer training and range of equipment. The presentation was followed by a Q & A session. The members thanked and commended the Civil Defence, for their valued contribution, many of whom have volunteered for a long number of years, often in adverse weather conditions, and continue to do great work for the citizens of Limerick City and County.

Item 4: Presentation on Water Safety

The members received a presentation from Ms. Valerie Stundon, Water Safety Development Officer, informing them on Water Safety; outlining her role as Water Safety Development Officer in Limerick City and County Council, the Water Safety Team (Seasonal) employed, details of Water Safety Skills courses available in both primary and secondary schools and at various locations around Limerick City and County, the importance of Lifebuoys and its replacement programme and details of river rescues. The presentation was followed by a Q & A session. The members thanked Ms. Stundon for her detailed presentation and for her 8 years' valued service with Limerick Marine Search and Rescue.

Ms. Stundon agreed to forward statistics from Irish Water Safety (IWS) regarding course participation and drownings.

Cllr. K. Sheehan noted that Limerick City and County Council owns 51% of Askeaton Pool and Leisure Complex and extended an invitation to Ms. Stundon to visit the complex with him.

A national registry of Bathing Waters was noted to be closing on 22 June 2018.

Members conveyed their condolences to the families of the two teenaged boys who drowned in the disused quarry in Ennis, Co. Clare, last month.

Notice of Motion:

Cllr. K. Sheehan proposed a notion of motion, to write to the Taoiseach and all local authorities to legislate for landowners to adequately fence quarry sites. Cllr. L.M. Sheehy seconded the motion. Cllr. M. Hurley informed the members that under standing orders, it would have to be passed at full Council but agreed that it would be forwarded to full council for consideration.

Cllr. L.M. Sheehy proposed that lifebuoys be installed at quarry sites.

Cllr. Sheehan proposed that the Executive substantially increase the Water Safety budget for next year. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. G. Mitchell.

Item 5: Presentation on Development and Scope of Work in the Southill Area Centre

The members received a presentation from Ms. Jennifer O'Brien, Southill Area Centre Manager, informing them of the centre's vision for Southill, the opportunities it offers on Limerick's Southside as a facility and as a facilitator, offering space for groups and activities as well as supporting groups, running education programmes and creating links to generate positive outcomes over the past 10 years and for the future. With the recently expanded café, new housing development, and 10th party relaunch, (date to be confirmed for September), the centre is looking forward with open minds and open hearts, to working with the Council and the community in the 10 years ahead.

The members thanked Ms. Jennifer O'Brien for her contribution to the social fabric of Southill, leaving Southill with a great foundation to work on, and wished her well in her new role in Clare County Council.

Item 6: Any Other Business

Cllr. M. Hurley extended her congratulations to the six new recruits who joined Limerick's Fire and Emergency Services.

The members supported, commended and acknowledged the tremendous work of all the Emergency Response Teams, deeming them to be, the unsung heroes of the community.

Mr. S. O'Connor advised members that a new Traveller Accommodation Plan process would be commencing shortly.

Date of next meeting

Ms. A. Rizzo noted that the Corporate Services Department will advise of the next schedule of meetings (September 2018 - July 2019), at which point it will be conveyed to members.

Minutes Proposed By: _____

Minutes Seconded By: _____

Minutes Signed By Chair: _____ Date: _____