



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City
& County Council**

**TO: The Chairperson and Each Member of the Limerick City and County Council
Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.**

Minutes of the Meeting of Limerick City & County Council's Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee held on Monday 8th October 2018 at 10:00am in the Council Chamber, Merchant's Quay, Limerick.

Members Present:

Councillors Daly (Chairperson), Butler, Browne, Hogan, Mitchell, Ó Ceallaigh, O'Hanlon, Pond, Teskey, O'Donoghue, Lynch, Mr. Michael Tiernan, Ms. Maureen Browne, Mr. Brian Leddin, Mr. Denis McAuliffe, Mr Peter Skeahan

Apologies:

Councillors Donegan, M. Sheahan, Secas, Ms. Anne Gaughan, Mr Michael Lenihan.

In Attendance:

Councillors Leddin, Galvin.

Officials Present:

Mr. Brian Kennedy, Director of Service, Mr Vincent Murray, Senior Engineer, Mr. Dara McGuigan, A/Senior Executive Officer, Ms. Carmel Lynch, Senior Executive Engineer, Ms Miriam O'Donoghue, Administrative Officer, Ms Sadbh Hanley, Smarter Travel Co-ordinator, Ms Máiréad Corrigan, Staff Officer, Ms. May Fitzgerald, Assistant Staff Officer, Ms. Amy O'Halloran, Clerical Officer.

Before the meeting began, Cllr Lynch proposed and Cllr Daly seconded that a minutes silent prayer be observed in memory of Ms Emma Mhic Mhathúna.

Item 1: Adoption of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr. Lynch, the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on the 9th April 2018 were unanimously adopted.

Item 2: Presentation on Mobility Management Plans by Limerick Smarter Travel

At the suggestion of the Chair, and with the agreement of the Members, this item was brought forward on the agenda.

Ms Sadbh Hanley, Smarter Travel Co-ordinator, delivered a presentation to the Members on Limerick Smarter Travel (LST) Mobility Management Plans. Ms Hanley explained that LST engages with employees that are seeking to diversify work commuting patterns to identify actions which could facilitate alternative travel options. LST then supports the employer to implement the actions by way of a Mobility Management Plan. Plans are reviewed on a regular basis. There are currently 12 participating in the initiative.

In welcoming the presentation the Members raised a number of issues relating to safe cycling, quality of footpaths, rural bus services, crossing points and transportation policy. In response Mr Kennedy advised the Members that the Limerick Transport Strategy, which is scheduled to commence in October/November 2018, will look at transport issues in the city. The Strategy will form a major policy document for transportation in Limerick. He agreed that a presentation on the Strategy would be made at a future Committee meeting.

Item 3: **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Galvin** (deferred from June 2018 Meeting)

“I will move at the next Meeting that the Government review the locations of the 'Go Safe' vans within Co. Limerick”.

In proposing the Motion, Cllr Galvin called for a review of the locations and purpose of the Go Safe Vans. He argued that the service had become a source of income for the operating company, and suggested that the local authority, the Garda, the public and Go Safe needed to re-examine the locations of the vans.

In seconding the Motion, Cmhlr Ó Ceallaigh said that the location of the vans was well known and therefore the service was not meeting its function. He stated that speed limits should be enforcing by the Garda and not be private companies. Other Members lent their support to the Motion.

In responding, Mr Murray advised that the Council had ongoing discussions with the Garda and with Go Safe regarding the locations of the Go Safe Vans. He noted that the locations were places of work as defined by the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005. Therefore, the locations of the vans had to comply with the legislation. He agreed to bring the Members comments to the next meeting of the Road Safety Committee.

Item 4: **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Galvin** (deferred from June 2018 Meeting)

“I will move at the next Meeting that a programme be put in place to number all the local roads within this Municipal District”.

In proposing the Motion, Cllr Galvin said that the proper numbering of all roads was important for the reporting of littering, crime, or road quality issues. He acknowledged that regional and some local roads already had road number signs in place, but called for number signage for all local roads.

In responding, Mr Murray stated that Physical Development Directorate would undertake a study, to establish the cost and resource requirements of providing number signs on all local roads not already signed, and will revert to the Strategic Policy Committee with the outcome of the study.

Cllr Galvin welcomed Mr Murray's response. The Motion was seconded by Cllr Lynch, and approved by the Members.

Item 5: **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin** (deferred from June 2018 Meeting)

"I will move at the next meeting that Limerick Metropolitan Council review the current use of the Rosbrien Road to Edward Street by Bus Éireann in view of the speed and frequency of buses and the growing danger to both elderly and young children living on this road."

In proposing the Motion, Cllr. Leddin raised the issue of Bus Éireann InterCity using the Rosbrien Road/Lord Edward Street route as a short cut to accessing the Colbert Station terminus. He noted that there was a three tonne weight restriction on this road.

In response, Mr Murray advised that Physical Development officials had been in contact with Bus Éireann regarding this matter and that Bus Éireann had given an undertaking to instruct its drivers not to use this short cut. Mr Murray pointed out that the enforcement of the weight restriction was a matter for the Garda. He advised that there was provision to allow for exceptions to the weight restrictions where vehicles required access to a particular area, for example, trucks delivering home heating oil or emergency service vehicles.

Cllr Leddin thanked the officials for engaging with Bus Éireann to resolve this matter, and the Motion was approved by the Members.

Item 6: **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin**

"I will move at the next meeting that Limerick Metropolitan Council prepare a submission as part of the NDP2040 to upgrade the existing disused rail lines in the city into new cycle routes under the €2 billion urban regeneration fund."

In proposing the Motion, Cllr. Leddin stated that there are a number of disused railway lines in the Limerick area, and there is currently funding available for greenway type proposals, and suggested that the Council should link with Irish Rail to explore the possibilities for development of the lines.

In seconding the Motion, Cllr Lynch suggested that Irish Rail should be invited to make a presentation on its plans for the rail lines in Limerick to a future SPC meeting.

In responding, Mr Kennedy said that the Council would be very interested in exploring the possibility of expanding the greenway network in Limerick with Irish Rail, and that it was the Directorate's intention to apply for funding for greenways as and when it became available. He advised that the infrastructure remains in the ownership of Irish Rail and its future plans for the lines needed to be considered. He advised that possible future greenways would also be considered as part of the Limerick Transport Strategy.

The Members were supportive of the Motion and called on the Rathkeale to Limerick City element of the former rail line to be progressed as a greenway route. Members stated that there were examples of rail lines being used as greenways on a short to medium term basis.

Cllr Leddin thanked the Director of Service for his response and welcomed the commitment to the development of greenways. The Motion was approved by the Members.

Item 7: Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

"I will move at the next meeting that Limerick Metropolitan Council examine the feasibility of constructing a new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the river Shannon from O'Callaghan Strand to Bishops Quay using the original funds allocated for a footbridge."

In proposing the Motion, Cllr. Leddin said that having recently taken up cycling he had experience of the dangers of cycling on the roadway, and believed that a proposal for a pedestrian and cycling bridge would engender widespread support. Mr B Leddin commented that in his opinion the solution for cyclists on the Shannon Bridge was a dedicated cycle-lane that could be facilitated by removing the existing centre lane.

In responding, Mr Kennedy informed the Members that a proposal for a footbridge across the river Shannon has been included in a recently submitted application for funding under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF). He advised that pedestrian and cycling movement and mobility will be examined under the Limerick Transport Strategy. Mr Murray confirmed that the Strategy will take between 9 to 12 months to complete. He advised that the DTTAS element of the funding for the previous footbridge proposal is still available, but that he was not aware of the status of the philanthropic element of the funding.

Cllr Leddin welcomed the application for URDF funding, and the Members approved the Motion.

Item 8: Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh

"I will move at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council introduces designated parking spaces for motorbikes and mopeds in Limerick City centre and that these will be monitored to view the viability of their expansion at a later time."

In proposing the Motion, Cmhrlr Ó Ceallaigh said that there was a need to trial a number of secure parking spaces for motorcycles in the City, suggesting that the area around the Milk Market might be a suitable location. He argued that motorcycles are more fuel-efficient and were a more environmentally-friendly mode of transport.

The Motion was seconded by Cllr S Browne and approved by the Members.

Item 9: Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhrlr. S. Ó Ceallaigh

“I will move at the next meeting that efforts be made to include the refurbishment and re-opening of the Black Bridge in any plans for a Greenway/Cycleway along the river Shannon.”

In proposing the Motion, Cmhrlr Ó Ceallaigh said that the Black Bridge was a well-used amenity until its closure some years ago. He acknowledged that Councillors had contributed to the cost of carrying out a study on the Bridge which had identified a cost of approximately €1 million to re-instate it. He was now seeking national funding to redevelop the Bridge.

The Motion was seconded by Cllr S Browne. Members pointed out that there was another bridge with pedestrian and cycling facilities in UL, a short distance from the Black Bridge, and that €1 million was a lot of money to be spending on a similar facility. Cmhrlr Ó Ceallaigh noted that there would also be a cost in removing the Black Bridge, cited the historical significance of the Bridge, and stated that he had received numerous requests from constituents to re-open it.

Mr Murray provided the Members with the background to how the Bridge came to be closed, and advised that this was as a result of damage to the wooden piles supporting the Bridge in flooding events. A consultant’s report estimated the cost of repair to be €1M.

In responding, Mr Kennedy advised that there may be an opportunity to seek funding for the Bridge in greenway or future URDF applications.

The Motion was approved by Members.

Item 10: Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor R. O’Donoghue

“I will move at the next Meeting that the Council install, without delay, traffic calming measures in all towns and villages in County Limerick where there is a lack of Garda presence due to the shortage of Gardaí and the closure of local stations. In the interest of the health and safety of residents – both young and old – speed indicators, ramps and other traffic calming measures are urgently needed as is clear from the fatalities, near misses and traffic issues in the towns and villages of County Limerick.”

In proposing the Motion, Cllr O'Donoghue referred to the recent tragic fatality in Ballingarry and called on traffic calming measures to be installed in all towns and villages in County Limerick. He stated that speed ramps were the only effective way to reduce speeding.

In seconding the Motion, Cllr Lynch referred to the speed limit at Clarina and to three fatalities in that area. Other Members supported the Motion calling on a number of traffic calming solutions to be installed at various points throughout the County.

In responding, Mr Murray referred to the Council's Traffic Calming Policy for Urban Areas. He advised that the Council would initially have to consult with An Garda Síochána to identify speeding blackspots. The Council would then carry out speeding surveys, and where it is established that traffic calming is warranted, the area office would have to seek grant funding, or provide a budget, for the proposed scheme. As per the approved Traffic Calming Policy for Urban Areas a prioritisation of schemes will have to be established and implemented on a phased basis as funding allows.

Mr Murray stated that Physical Development Directorate would work with the area offices to identify speeding blackspots and request the area offices to proceed with the traffic calming warrants.

He noted that speed limits were being addressed under the review of the Speed Limits Bye-Laws, which will be coming before the Districts shortly. He advised that DMURS provisions had been included in the Council's Traffic Calming Policy for Urban Areas.

Item 11: Make Way Day

Ms M Browne advised the Meeting that Make Way Day events were held nationwide on 26th September. Events were held in Limerick in association with the Council's Disability Officer. The Step Forward Group in Hospital undertook walkability surveys in Ballylanders, Galbally, Bruff, Hospital, Kilmallock and Kilfinane. She raised concerns regarding issues for people with disabilities and older people with obstructions on footpaths, in particular cars parking on footpaths. She invited a representative of the Council to attend a Step Forward Group meeting.

Mr Kennedy acknowledged that the Council has worked with many disability groups and would continue to do so. He offered to meet with Ms Browne to discuss specific issues and to link with the Area Engineer regarding same.

The Meeting then concluded.