

Metropolitan District of Limerick

Meeting to be held on Monday, 15th July 2019

Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask the Council to confirm what action is currently being taken on poor parking practices throughout the city including parking on footpaths and parking at bus stops and to present a report on this matter.

Reply:

It is an offence to park a vehicle on a footpath. Where the traffic wardens encounter a vehicle parked on a footpath, it is issued with a fine immediately. Since January 2019, a total of 490 tickets have been issued for this offence.

It is also an offence to park in a bus stop. Where the traffic warden encounters an illegally parked vehicle it is immediately issued with a fine. In addition the Council has introduced colour coded macadam to more clearly identify bus stops in the core business district and improve public transport. Since January 2019, a total of 310 fines have been issued by the Council for this offence to date.

On a more general issue of poor parking practices, the Council's Traffic Wardens issue fines for parking on double yellow lines, pedestrian crossings and parking within 5 metres of a junction.

It is important to note that An Garda Síochána are very active in relation to all the above offences and work collaboratively with the Council on enforcement.

**Kieran Lehane
Director of Service
Service Operations Directorate**

11th July, 2019

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL.

JULY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK.

MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 15TH JULY 2019.

Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan.

I will ask the Council what actions are being taken to address littering and dog fouling across the city and to clarify if more public bins will be installed to address these issues.

Reply:

Limerick City and County Council has a co-ordinated approach to implementing the various provisions of the Litter Pollution Act / Waste Management Acts and the Waste Presentation Bye Laws. It involves the Domestic Waste & Litter, Street Cleaning, Community Support, Environmental Awareness Teams, together with the Area Offices and other stakeholders including Community / Tidy Towns Groups / Residents' Associations and businesses

At an operational level, the Council continues to address the ongoing challenges of: casual littering / indiscriminate deposit of household rubbish, dog fouling, the lack of evidence recovered, the operations of unpermitted waste collectors and increasing the number of households availing of approved refuse collection arrangements.

To date in 2019 enforcement activity has included:

- 1,910 domestic waste & litter inspections
- Issuing of 264 on-the-spot fines, including 8 dog fouling fines.
- 680 domestic waste & litter cases/complaints resolved.
- 40 cases referred for legal proceedings in respect of littering / dog fouling offences.
- The Council has also arranged for the clean-up of five severely littered sites in the City / County under the 2019 Anti-Dumping Initiative and will be overseeing similar works in other sites in its jurisdiction in the coming weeks.
- Dog Fouling awareness campaign on local radio/cinema in early 2019. The campaign will be re-run at a later date.

The Council are undertaking a review of existing litter bins in the City. It is our experience that a number of bins in the city centre are being used for illegal dumping. The review will identify these locations and the Council will remove these bins and relocate to a more suitable location in the Core Business District and places of greatest footfall.

Kieran Lehane.
Director of Service.
Service Operations.

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15th July 2019.**

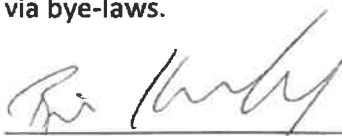
Question submitted by Councillor Leddin

I will ask Limerick Metropolitan Council to consider the introduction of relevant bye-laws in collaboration with An Garda Síochána to prevent the use of scrambler bikes on public footpaths or privately owned lands.

Reply:

The relevant legislation relating to the regulation of vehicles using public footpaths is the Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations 1997, which are given effect by Section 35 of the Road Traffic Act 1994. Article 13 of the regulations provides that "a vehicle shall not be driven along or across a footway." Section 35 (5) of the Road Traffic Act 1994 makes it an offence to contravene a regulation. It is a matter for An Garda Síochána, as the Traffic Authority, to enforce the regulations in this instance.

Section 199 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, confers the power on local authorities to make bye-laws for or in relation to the use, operation, protection, regulation or management of any land, services or other such matter provided by or **under the control or management** of the local authority. In that context the Council has included bye-laws regulating the use of vehicles (including motorcycles) in its existing Parks and Open Spaces Bye-Laws. However, the Council does not have the power to regulate the use of private land via bye-laws.



Brian Kennedy
Director of Service
Physical Development Directorate
9th July, 2019

Metropolitan District of Limerick City and County Council

Meeting to be held on 15th July 2019

Question submitted by Councillor F. Kilcoyne

I will ask at the next meeting that the footpath going down the Church Road, Patrickswell be extended across Newboro and back toward Collopys Cross as this area constantly has pedestrians on it which is quite dangerous with oncoming traffic.

Reply:

The proposed location requested is in a rural setting. It is a policy of the Council to maintain existing footpaths within the city, towns and villages of Limerick. Members will be aware that there is very extensive network of roads and footpaths in Limerick and these are subject to significant wear and tear. Regrettably, there is also a high rate of claims against the Council for slips, trips and falls on this network and this is reflected in the high cost of public liability insurance costs, which the Council must pay every year. In recent years the Council has invested considerable resources in the repair and maintenance of existing footpaths to mitigate the risk to users. However, it is also the case that there has been serious underinvestment in this service area for many years.

Having regard to the details set out above, it is not possible, regrettably to accede to requests to extend footpaths in non-built up / rural areas, as the focus of the Council is on maintaining the existing public realm within the resources available to it.

**Kieran Lehane,
Director of Service,
Service Operations.**

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON: MONDAY 15TH JULY 2019

Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next meeting whether the Council have received the 2019 Disabled Persons Grant allocation and for a breakdown of the allocation.

REPLY:

Disabled Persons Grant Scheme

	Department Contribution 90%	LA Contribution 10%	Total (Department and LA Contribution)
2019	€1,275,000	€141,667	€1,416,667

Private Grants – Housing Adaptation, Mobility Aid and Housing Aid for Older People

	Departments Contribution 80%	LA contribution 20%	Total (Department + LA contribution)
2019	€3,351,160 million	€670,232	€4,021,392

Rob Lowth, Housing Support Services

10/07/2019

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK

MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 15th July, 2019

EIRCODE V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 407 100

f: +353 (0) 61 415 266

Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan


I will ask at the next meeting whether the Council have made contact with the Department of Housing in relation to a cost rental scheme.

Response to Question

Given the affordability challenge faced by the rental sector in Limerick and other parts of the country, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) is committed to the introduction of a not-for-profit, cost rental sector in Ireland. Together with delivering more affordable and predictable rents, cost rental will make a sustainable impact on national competitiveness and the attractiveness of our main urban centres as places to live and work.

In order to support local authorities in delivering affordable homes, including cost rental, €310 million is being made available from 2019 until 2021 under the Serviced Site Fund (SSF). The SSF will fund facilitating infrastructure, on local authority sites, for the provision of affordable housing including cost rental. At a funding rate of €50,000 per affordable home, at least 6,200 will be facilitated in total.

In May 2019, the Housing Development Directorate of Limerick City and County Council prepared masterplans and cost plans for a competitive bid application under the Serviced Sites Fund for 7 key sites in the City and County to deliver affordable housing including cost-rental. We are awaiting a decision on these applications from the DHPLG in the coming weeks and will notify the Elected Members of the outcome.



Aoife Duke
Director of Service
Housing Development

10th July, 2019

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK

EIRCODE V94 EH90

MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 15th July, 2019

t: +353 (0) 61 407 100

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Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next meeting for an update and a detailed outline of the Council's planned housing maintenance for vacant houses in the Metropolitan area.

Response to Question

Limerick City and County Council has committed to removing the current batch of Voids by June 2020, understanding that the return of properties, for various reasons, takes place on an on-going basis throughout the City and County.

To manage the issue, we have introduced a fast-track process that will see a pilot project being launched to return more of the properties in batches of 30.

The project will include a mix of properties from City and County areas.

The pilot will be completed in conjunction with the existing work programme of Operations and Maintenance and Design and Delivery, who look after the properties approved for Voids funding and properties approved under the Buy and Renew Scheme.

We are introducing a single point of contact to assess the returned property immediately. This will ensure that the vacated property enters a work stream based on a standard scope and timeframe, which is determined by an inspection of the property at the outset.

The above measures will be reviewed on a monthly basis to assess progress made with regular reporting on same to be included in our report to Council.



Aoife Duke
Director of Service
Housing Development

10th July, 2019



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City
& County Council**

Seirbhísí Tacaíochta Tithíochta,
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,
Ceanncheathrú Chorpáraideach,
Cé na gCeannaithe,
Luimneach

Housing Support Services,
Limerick City and County Council,
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick

EIRCODE V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 556 000

Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on Monday, 15th July, 2019

Question submitted by Councillor J. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting for:

(a) a detailed listing of HAP payments by Limerick City and County Council to renters in the Limerick Metropolitan Area since its introduction in March 2017. The detailed listing to show:

*total HAP payments in quarters, beginning April 2017, through to June 2019.

*total number of HAP recipients for each of the above quarters.

*the total number of properties covered under the HAP payments per quarter, with the properties identified by region, i.e X HAP recipients received €Y relating to Z properties in Limerick City North/Limerick City East/Limerick City West.

(b)(i) A breakdown by quarter beginning April 2017, through to June 2019, and by metropolitan region - city north, city east, city west - of how many HAP renters have to make top up payments, in addition to the HAP payment, to meet the full monthly rent being charged by the landlord.

(ii) If the information in B(i) is available, a breakdown by quarter and city region of what percentage of the monthly private rent is made up of top up payments/HAP payments?

Reply:

The question outlined above will require a further period of time to prepare as it is a significant request and Housing Support Services do not have this level of financial data available locally. This is due to payments being processed via the HAP Shared Services Centre. HSS Centre have agreed to support our request but have indicated that it will take a number of weeks to prepare due the data required.

In the absence of the requested data, please see available data on Page 2.

Currently Limerick City and County Council have 2,264 active Limerick HAP Tenancies that we monitor, review and maintained.

	April 2014 to end of 2015	2016	2017	2018	January 2019 to the end of June 2019
No. of HAP tenancies set up.	1,140	628	703	557	257
No. of Amendments.	235	657	834	1,383	923
No. of Cessations.	103	268	299	432	228

Rob Lowth, Housing Support Services
10/07/2019.



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

Seirbhísi Pleanála agus Comhshaoil,
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,
Tuar an Daill,
Luimneach

Planning and Environmental Services,
Limerick City and County Council,
Dooradoyle,
Limerick

EIRCODE V94 WV78

t: +353 (0) 61 556 000
f: +353 (0) 61 556 001

**Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on Monday,
15th July, 2019.**

Question submitted by Councillor J. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting for the number of housing units by type (houses and apartments) in the Metropolitan Area where planning permission currently has been granted but development has yet to commence.

Reply:

There are 40 housing developments in the Limerick Metropolitan District with permission for a total of 2328 residential units,

The breakdown of the status of these housing developments is as follows:

- 1 housing development for 41 residential units is granted but is currently on appeal to An Bord Pleanála
- 18 housing developments have commenced construction or are partially completed
- 21 housing developments have yet to commence for a total of 877 residential units

**Donogh O'Donoghue,
Acting Senior Executive Planner,
Planning & Environmental Services.
10th July, 2019**

