

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 20TH JANUARY, 2020

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon, Leas-Cathaoirleach

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Benson, Butler, Costelloe, Hartigan, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin (B), Leddin (J), McSweeney, Murphy, O'Dea, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Secas and Sheehan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Service Operations, (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Housing Development (Ms. A. Duke), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. F. McCormack), Senior Executive Engineer, Design and Delivery Services (Ms. T. Flanagan), Staff Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. L. Creamer).

Apologies for their inability to attend were received from Councillor J. Collins, Cathaoirleach and Councillor M. Sheahan. Councillor O'Hanlon, Leas-Cathaoirleach took the Chair in the absence of the Cathaoirleach.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 16th December, 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Butler;
Seconded by Councillor Leddin (J);
And Resolved:

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

2. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 17th December, 2019 setting out proposals to dispose of the Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 130 Vale Avenue, Carew Park, Limerick and the intention 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 Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 23rd December, 2019 setting out proposals to dispose of the Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 43 Colbert Park, Janesboro, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (c) Circulated, report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 7th January, 2020 setting out proposals to dispose of the Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a

dwelling house situate at 31 Kilmurry Avenue, Garryowen, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (d) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Services dated 10th January, 2020 setting out proposals to dispose of land comprising of a derelict property on site which extends to 0.578 acres at Ballinveala, Crecora, Co. Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to the March Meeting of Council in this regard, for approval.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed to Members that this item is for consideration at the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District.

3. Housing Development Directorate

Circulated, Report of Director of Services, Housing Development dated 3rd January, 2020.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

QUESTIONS

4. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask the Council if a decision has been made to have cycle lanes painted as part of the Dublin Road improvement scheme.

REPLY: I refer to the R445 Dublin Road and the overlay scheme that was completed between the Annacotty and Kilmurray roundabouts in 2019.

I confirm that the cycle lanes cannot be painted onto this road for the following reasons;

- *The traffic volumes on the R445 Dublin road is 20,000 AADT. It is recommended that cycle lanes are placed if the traffic volumes are less than 8000 AADT*
- *The speed limit on this section of road is 60kmph. It is recommended to place cycle lanes only where the speed limit is 50kmph*

Consulting Engineers have been employed to investigate smarter travel proposals on the R445 Dublin Road. I will comment further when they conclude their investigation.

5. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask the Council what progress, if any, has been made to advance the project on upgrading Lower Golf Links Road near O'Shea's Pub and why the Part 8 planning application has not yet been lodged to date.

REPLY: The Part 8 for Golf Links Road involves works on lands, which have been identified

as requiring flood defence measures under CFRAM. The Council has been in discussions with Office of Public Works regarding the flood study for the bridge and flood protection measures. The Council is finalising the documents for the Part 8 and it is planned to lodge planning in Q1 2020.

6. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask the Council when the Burial Ground Strategy will be presented to the relevant SPC as that was supposed to happen in late 2019 and whether consideration has been given to either acquire more land at Kilmurry or create another cemetery for Castletroy.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council has commenced work on the Burial Ground and Interment Strategy. There will be a workshop with each Metropolitan/Municipal Districts in Quarter 1 2020 to discuss the draft strategy prior to it being considered by the Community, Culture and Leisure SPC. The need for additional burial grounds for the Metropolitan area will be considered as part of the strategy.

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting can Limerick City and County Council consider the placement of stickers stating 'parked illegally fine issued' in collaboration with Gardaí to increase awareness of enforcement due to the high level of indiscriminate parking in the city.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council consider that the introduction of such a "sticker" placement programme is unwarranted for the following reasons :

- Unlikely to have or sustain any significant impact.
- Likely to encourage others to engage in similar practice.
- Would contribute to the creation of unnecessary littering of the city.
- Prohibited under the provisions of the Litter Pollution Acts, 1997 – 2009.

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council consider the placement of a semi permanent structure with appropriate facilities to enable musicians and cultural organizations to perform in the People's Park.

REPLY: The Council is receiving an increasing number of requests for use of the Peoples Park for events of this nature. There is a band stand in the Park and also two small shelters. Having regard to the request, the proposal will be examined further to determine any power upgrades that may be required and an update will be provided in the near future.

9. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the Southside Master Plan and what progress has been made since public meetings in 2018.

REPLY: The Southside Masterplan consists of three stages as follows:

- STAGE A: SURVEY AND ANALYSIS This stage is complete.
- STAGE B: DRAFT PLAN This stage is complete.
- Stage C: Final Plan This stage has commenced, with outstanding tasks to complete including updating Toppins Field masterplan, landscape updates, access, streets and utilities update, cost plan updates to inform funding applications, client review and sign off before draft masterplan can be workshopped with Councillors and proceed to public display. It is anticipated that public display will commence in Q1 2020 with final adoption in Q2 2020.

10. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting if there is currently a tree planting and wildflower strategy for the Metropolitan area, and if not are there plans to develop one.

REPLY: At present the Council does not have a tree planting and wildflower strategy. As was indicated at the recent Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment SPC, the Council intends to develop a tree strategy which will only deal with trees that the Council is responsible for. This Strategy will be prepared by the Physical Development Directorate and should be drafted by the end of 2020, subject to the resources available in the Directorate.

The Council is currently piloting three wildflower areas in Limerick, and in accordance with our commitments under the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, intends to create more pollinator friendly and wildflower planting areas in Limerick.

11. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting what standards and design guide the Council followed for cycle infrastructure on Parnell, Davis and Wickham Street upgrade scheme? Whom agreed to the final design of Davis and Wickham Street and what will the finalised works for Parnell Street consist of?

REPLY: The Parnell Street, Wickham Street and Davis Street Urban Realm and Street Improvement Works has been designed following the guidance provided in the following documents:

- Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS)
- National Cycle Manual
- Traffic Signs Manual

The design has developed through the Part VIII Planning process along with consultations with local residents, traders and stakeholders as well as LCCC and the NTA. Part VIII Planning Approval was granted in December 2015.

Works are now substantially complete.

12. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District, for an update on the Part 8 development approved for the 5 properties on Kileely Road and if possible to include an expected

start and completion date.

REPLY: Tenders from building contractors for the construction of the 5 houses at Kileely Road have been received by LCCC. These will be opened on 16th January 2020. A Stage 4 application will be submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) within the coming two weeks, with an anticipated site start of March 2020. The contract period is 12 months in duration.

13. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District, how many families with children are living in student villages under each of the following: HAP, RAS, long term lease and temporary contracts.

REPLY:

HAP	RAS	Long Term Lease	Temporary Contracts
21	0	13	4

On the 21 HAP we don't have the specific details in relation to families.

14. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District, how many Council tenants are currently on the transfer list and of those, how many are seeking a transfer on overcrowding grounds and how many on medical grounds.

REPLY: At 31st December 2019, there are 186 Local Authority Transfers approved within the Metropolitan Area (i.e. existing council tenants).

62 are approved based on health grounds.

54 are approved based on overcrowding.

15. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next Metropolitan Meeting of Limerick City and County Council in relation to the response to my question at the October Metropolitan Meeting for a copy of the report that was supposed to be circulated to Members in response to my previous question on the progress for the proposed Corbally playground and if the report/consultative committee have identified a site for the proposed playground and for a presentation on the plans for the playground to be made to Elected Representatives.

REPLY: At the Metropolitan District Meeting of Limerick City and County Council held on July 16th 2018 a proposal to allocate groups funding under the GMA was made under item 13 of the agenda. The Notice of Motion was submitted by Councillors M. Hourigan, V. Crowley, F. Daly, J. Costelloe and J. Gilligan and it asked to agree to nominate a number of groups for funding out of the GMA including Corbally Group Park Enabling Association for €15,000. The motion was proposed by Councillor Hourigan and seconded by Councillor Daly.

A progress report and presentation on the project as outlined in the notice of motion has been requested from Corbally Group Park Enabling Association and a response is awaited.

16. Question submitted by Councillor B. Leddin

I will ask Limerick Council to provide a full breakdown of its traffic and parking enforcement resources, i.e. number of traffic wardens employed by Limerick Council, what areas do they cover, what are their working hours, and to provide the annual cost to Limerick Council of traffic and parking enforcement.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council currently employs seven Traffic Wardens and one Traffic Warden Supervisor in the Metropolitan District. In February 2020, an additional Traffic Warden will commence employment.

Traffic Warden duties involve the enforcement of traffic and parking regulations including bye laws, which control paid parking.

Traffic Wardens are employed on rostered duty, Monday – Friday, 8.30am to 6.00pm and 9.00am to 4.00pm Saturdays.

The total cost of operating the parking enforcement service, including administration and so on, is €680,000.00

17. Question submitted by Councillor B. Leddin

I ask at the next Meeting how many properties were added and removed from the derelict sites register in 2019, and to be provided with a list of said properties and their addresses.

REPLY: Properties Added to the Derelict Sites Register 2019 – 43

DS-116-17	Main Street, Oola, Co. Limerick.
DS-042-17	Moore Street, Cappamore, Co. Limerick.
DS-063-16	Main Street, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-065-16	Lower Main Street, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-090-17	88 Sheelin Road, Caherdavin, Limerick.
DS-052-17	84 Hyde Road, Prospect, Limerick.
DS-075-16	34-41 Catherine Street, Limerick.
DS-069-16	20 Elm Park, Croom, Co. Limerick.
DS-076-17	37 Windmill Street, Limerick
DS102-17	3 Long Lane, Sir Harry's Mall, Limerick.
DS-007-12	53-54 Clare Street, Limerick.
DS-004-19	Culliney Mhór, 1 Ennis Road, Elm Park, Limerick.
DS-002-19	Dock Road, Limerick. V94 D407
DS-081-17	3 Mount Vincent Place, O'Connell Avenue, Limerick. V94 NPD3
DS-115-17	35 Lord Edward Street, Limerick. V94 TD56
DS-019-18	Ground Floor, Barrow House, Michael Street, Limerick
DS-069-17	2 Dromore Rise, Raheen, Limerick.
DS-028-18	3 Knockane Road, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick

DS-016-15	Maiden Street, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick.
DS-138-18	98 Arra View, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick.
DS-043-19	21-23 Old Clare Street, Limerick.
DS-015-19	Knight's Court, Cullinagh, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick
DS-089-16	Lord Edward Street, Limerick. V94 YH27
DS-054-19	14 The Glebe, Monagea, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick. V42 A407
DS-055-19	15 The Glebe, Monagea, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick. V42 HR92
DS-056-19	21 The Glebe, Monagea, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick.
DS-057-19	22 The Glebe, Monagea, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick.
DS-049-16	1 Collins Avenue, Kincora Park, Southill, Limerick. V94 DXY6
DS-070-16	Tournafulla, Co. Limerick
DS-053-17	85 Hyde Road, Prospect, Limerick.
DS-079-17	Melrose, Ballysimon Road, Limerick.
DS-017-17	The Square, Galbally, Co. Limerick
DS-023-19	11 & 12 Clontarf Place, Limerick.
DS-047-19	15 O'Callaghan Avenue, Kileely, Limerick.
DS-028-16	46 Garryglass, Ballinacurra Weston, Limerick.
DS-011-19	4 Shelbourne Terrace, High Road, Thomondgate, Limerick.
DS-042-16	Mulcair Drive, Annacotty, Co. Limerick.
DS-053-19	Fuller's Folly, Bridge Street, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
DS-085-19	Former Railway Station, Kilreash, Ardagh, Co. Limerick.
DS-142-19	Wolfe Tone Street, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.
DS-017-18	Ballyania, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.
DS-111-18	6 & 7 St. Gerard Street, Limerick.
DS-099-18	26 Seán Heuston Place, Limerick.

Properties removed from the Derelict Sites Register 2019 - 10

DS-002-94	3 James Street, Limerick.
DS-003-94	2 James Street, Limerick.
DS-004-94	7 Upper Mallow Street
DS-005-94	6 Upper Mallow Street
DS-002-11	111 Hyde Road, Prospect
DS-009-08	Fordgefield Pallaskeny
DS-004-12	27 Quins Cottages, Rosbrien
DS-020-12	23 Roches Road, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.
DS-094-17	7 Mulgrave Street, Limerick.
DS-006-17	Main Street, Cappamore

18. Question submitted by Councillor B. Leddin

I ask at the next Meeting whether the introduction of the MyPoint system has resulted in an increase in participation in public consultations, and whether internal capacity exists within Limerick City and County Council to make minor improvements to the system.

REPLY:

MyPoint is a digital alternative to receiving submissions through traditional means, e.g. hard copy submissions and is not a replacement. Since launching My Point in April 2019, 14 consultations and 2 citizen surveys have gone live on the portal. Part VIII submissions received in hard copy are now routinely uploaded to MyPoint along

with the digital uploads allowing citizens to view every submission in one location.

Depending on the nature of the consultation, participation can vary. The recent O'Connell Street Revitalisation Project received 64 submissions from engaged citizens, 58 of these submissions were made via the online portal. This has reduced Limerick's carbon footprint by eliminating the need for paper and the system is available to our citizens 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

The Business Improvement Department is the primary contact for the administration of MyPoint and is continually assessing the system for potential improvements.

NOTICES OF MOTION

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hartigan (to be referred to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee)

I wish to propose a motion that Limerick City and County Council review its tender process for weed control service contract to eliminate unnecessary herbicide application, reducing the frequency of spraying and reduce the volume of herbicides used.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hartigan

I propose that Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Health demanding that immediate emergency funding be made available to provide sufficient bed spaces and staff for the safe and efficient functioning of the hospital.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hartigan stated that University Hospital Limerick is one of the most financially neglected hospitals in the country with people having to wait two or three days on trolleys in A & E before getting a bed. Sufficient bed spaces, staff and finances need to be put into this hospital as a matter of urgency.

This Motion was seconded by Councillor Costelloe and agreed.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will move at the next meeting that the Council presents at the next relevant SPC meeting detailed information on the potential costs of providing water supplies at burial grounds.

Councillor Secas, in proposing the Motion, stated that the cost of providing water supplies at burial grounds was considered at an Environmental Strategic Policy Committee Meeting in 2016 and more detailed information on costs was to be provided. A Strategy was also to be presented at the end of 2019 but was not done. She asked that these costs be prepared and submitted to next Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee Meeting.

This Motion was seconded by Councillor McSweeney and agreed.

REPLY: This Notice of Motion will be considered as part of the Burial Ground Strategy that is under preparation. This Strategy is examining the investment required in our existing burial grounds and the need for new burial grounds. The draft Burial Ground Strategy will be discussed at a workshop in each Municipal / Metropolitan District before being considered by the Community, Culture & Leisure SPC.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I welcome the belated decision to defer the event to commemorate the Royal Irish Constabulary and the Dublin Metropolitan Police which was scheduled for the 17th January, and I call on the Government to cancel the event entirely.

Councillor Costelloe, in proposing the Motion, welcomed the decision to defer the event to commemorate the Royal Irish Constabulary and the Dublin Metropolitan Police which was scheduled to take place on 17th January and proposed to write to the Government requesting that the event be cancelled entirely. He welcomed the decision by Mayor Sheahan not to attend this event.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Benson and agreed.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Metropolitan Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that the Council instigate a review of the cycling lane on Parnell Street given the problems with illegal parking and the blocking of the cycle lane that occur regularly.

Councillor Sheehan, in proposing the Motion, expressed concerns that vehicles are parking on the cycle lanes on Parnell Street and referred to the need to issue penalty points for drivers who park in the cycle lanes. He also expressed concerns at double parking occurring on Parnell Street and the need to change driver behaviour in this regard. Members also discussed the Colbert Station Plaza area, the difficulties experienced by cyclists as the cycle lane is being used as a drop off facility and also parking for disabled drivers needs to be reviewed. Members discussed the design concept in relation to Parnell Street, Wickham Street and Davis Street. Members also referred to the installation of flexi wands in order to deter drivers from parking on the cycle lanes.

Director of Service Operations noted Members comments and confirmed that the design for Parnell Street was approved through a Part 8 process and a public consultation process was undertaken. He also stated that the council would utilise all available resources to enforce illegal parking and would examine the use of flexi wands. Director of Service Operations confirmed that Colbert Plaza was owned by Iarnrod Eireann and the council, as part of the redevelopment of the area, made lands available to the railway station. The Director confirmed that there will be a full safety and design audit done on the Parnell Street area.

Members discussed the retail trade in the City Centre and requested a presentation on the strategy to address the revitalisation of the city centre.

This Motion was seconded by Councillor Secas and agreed.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Metropolitan Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that the Council review the timing/sequence of the traffic lights at the Dublin Road/Park Road junction.

Councillor Sheehan, in proposing the Notice of Motion, referred to the ongoing issue at these traffic lights where motorists are constantly breaking the amber light and blocking the yellow box junction. He suggested a time restriction on delivery trucks and the number of accidents over the years and emphasised the need for this junction to be reviewed urgently. In seconding the Motion, Councillor O'Hanlon referred to the need to address this issue and to review the location of the pedestrian crossing.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor B. Leddin (to be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee)

As the National Planning Framework envisages Limerick City to grow by 50% in the coming years, and in order to underpin the principle of compact growth, while protecting the built and natural heritage of the city, Limerick Council would prepare a Tall Buildings Strategy in order to guide medium to high rise development and give confidence to citizens and developers.

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

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor B. Leddin

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick Council provide pedestrian crossings on the intersections of O'Connell Street with Cecil Street, Glentworth Street, Hartstonge Street and Barrington Street to the standard set out in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets.

Councillor B. Leddin, in proposing the Motion, said that there are no plans at present to continue the redevelopment to Barrington Street and referred to the need for a provision for pedestrian crossings at the intersections of O'Connell Street with Cecil Street, Glentworth Street, Hartstonge Street and Barrington Street. In seconding the Motion, Councillor O'Donovan stated that these are highly populated residential areas which would benefit hugely from pedestrian crossings.

REPLY: Provision of pedestrian crossings at the locations described will be assessed as part of the O'Connell Street Revitalisation Project Phase 2. Any proposed works will be carried out in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS).

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. O'Dea

I will move at the next Meeting that our Metropolitan Council follow through on our support for Limerick football and provide start up funds, from our GMA funding, to enable Limerick United and it's Academy continue its work for soccer football in Limerick.

Councillor O'Dea, in proposing this Motion, said various people have come on board in setting up this 'Not for Profit' company. He referred to the large number of children who took part in trials last weekend and the importance of continuing this underage activity. Cllr O'Dea requested the

Members to consider allocating a portion of the GMA funds to the Club to cover this interim period.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Butler called on support from the University of Limerick and agreed in principle to support this Motion.

Councillor Costelloe referred to the recent death of Mr. Johnny Matthews and acknowledged the contribution that he made to football in Limerick.

REPLY: A sum of €568,000.00 has been provided in the GMA for the Metropolitan District for 2020. The allocation of funds from the GMA is a reserved function that can only be carried out by the Elected Members. On foot of this, Members were circulated with details of the GMA before Christmas and a workshop was held to allow Members discuss proposals for the GMA for 2020.

The GMA for the Metropolitan Area is broken down as follows :

Svc	General Municipal Allocation – 2020	Metropolitan District
B04	Local Roads / Traffic Management	€235,000
D05	Tourism Development Recreation & Amenity	€ 88,000
F04	Community Initiatives	€ 30,000
	Special Projects – LA Infrastructure	€150,000
	Special Projects – LPT	€ 65,000
Total	General Municipal Allocation	€568,000

It was agreed by the Members that Service D05 - €88,000, Special Projects – LA Infrastructure - €150,000 and Special Projects, LPT €65,000 would be combined over the five years of the life of the Council and that this would be allocated at €500,000 per Electoral Area. Workshops were held on 14th January to discuss proposals in respect of this sum, by Electoral Area, and a number of suggestions were put forward by the Elected Members for consideration and agreement in the coming months.

The remaining sums of B04 Local Roads / Traffic Management of €235,000 must be spent on public realm. Another sum in Service F04 – Community Initiatives will be split at €10,000 per Electoral Area and will be decided by the Members for that Electoral Area.

28. Correspondence

Correspondence was taken as read.

The Director of Service wished those Members contesting the upcoming General Election every success.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated: _____