

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 20TH JULY, 2020 at 09:45 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Sarah Kiely, Cathaoirleach

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Benson, Butler, Collins, Costelloe, Daly, Hartigan, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, Murphy, Novak Uí Chonchúir, O’Dea, O’Donovan, O’Hanlon, O’Sullivan, Secas, Sheahan, Sheehan, Slattery and Talukder.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Service Operations (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Mr. J. Clune), A/ Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. P. Williams), Director, Housing Development (Ms. A. Duke), Head of Property and Community Facilities (Ms. J. Leahy), Senior Executive Officer, Housing Development (Ms. M. Donoghue), Administrative Officer, Property and Community Facilities (Ms. T. Knox), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. S. Carroll).

The Cathaoirleach and Members extended their condolences and sympathy to the family of Ruth Morrissey on her sad passing. A minute’s silence was observed as a mark of respect.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, the following matter was raised: Councillor O’ Hanlon proposed, seconded by Councillor Costelloe that the prohibition of vehicles at Groody Hill, Rhebogue, be removed on road safety grounds. Mr. Lehane agreed to ask the Council engineers to review the matter with a view to removal of the barriers. Further, Councillor Slattery proposed, seconded by Councillor Daly that the prohibition of vehicles at O’Callaghan Strand be removed on road safety grounds. Mr. Lehane agreed to ask the Council engineers to review the matter.

1. Adoption of Minutes

(a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 15th June, 2020.

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

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

(b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 15th June, 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
Seconded by Councillor M. Sheahan;
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 Head of Property Services dated 9th July, 2020 setting out proposals to dispose of the former Fulflex Property, Galvone Industrial Estate to Rigid Containers Limited.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

It was proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Secas and agreed that the report be amended that Limerick Youth Service, Le Cheile and Southill Outreach would remain in the building until alternative accommodation was provided.

(b) Circulated, report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 9th July, 2020 setting out proposals to dispose of the Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 82 Keane Street, Killalee, 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.

3. Support Services Directorate

Community Initiative Scheme 2020

It was proposed by Councillor Daly, seconded by Councillor M. Sheahan and agreed to approve the allocations under the Community Initiative Scheme 2020.

LIMERICK CITY EAST

Name of Group	Amount
Southside Womens Group	€500.00
Granville Rangers	€500.00
Claughaun Womens Group	€400.00
The Urban Co-Op Limerick	€500.00
Monaleen Cancer Support Group	€500.00
Castleconnell Boat Club	€400.00
Lisnagry Football Club	€700.00
Castleconnell Scout Group	€700.00
Doras	€700.00
Castleconnell Boat Club	€700.00
Deel Animal Action	€1,000.00
Fairways Castletroy Residents Association – Community Enhancement	€400.00
Janesboro Football Club	€700.00
Saoirse Addiction Centre	€700.00
Hyde Rangers Football Club	€700.00
Pike Rovers Football Club	€700.00

LIMERICK CITY NORTH

Mayorstone Community Games	€ 700.00
Limerick Dragons	€ 700.00
Richmond Rugby Club	€1,400.00
Caherdavin & District Actively Retired	€1,000.00
Limerick Scouts – Christ the King Caherdavin Scouting Ireland Group	€ 400.00
Richmond Rugby Club	€1,400.00
Caherdavin Residents Association – Repairs to Community Centre	€1,400.00
Ballynanty Rovers Football Club	€1,400.00
Caherdavin Scouts	€ 700.00
Ennis Road Community First Responders	€ 700.00

LIMERICK CITY WEST

Ballinacurra Gaels GAA	€ 700.00
Summerville Rovers	€ 700.00
Patrickswell GAA Club – Camogie Division	€ 700.00
Ballybrown GAA Club – Camogie Division	€ 700.00
Ormston House	€1,400.00
Raheen Active Retirement Group	€ 700.00
32 nd Limerick St. Paul's Scout Group	€ 700.00
Munster Indian Cultural Association	€ 700.00
Sudanese Community Centre	€ 700.00
Patrickswell Tidy Towns	€ 700.00
Newtown Cottage Association	€ 700.00
Dooradoyle Raheen Mens' Shed	€ 700.00
Mungret Heritage Society	€ 700.00

4. Service Operations Directorate**Planning and Environmental Services****Taking in Charge of Estates – Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

Circulated, Report of the A/Senior Planner, Planning and Environmental Services dated 9th July, 2020 seeking approval to the taking in charge of estate at Bru na Guadan, Castletroy.

Proposed by Councillor Secas;
 Seconded by Councillor Hartigan;
 And Resolved:

“That the estate at Bru na Guadan, Castletroy be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993”.

5. Physical Development Directorate

Draft Metropolitan District of Limerick (Parking Places) (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2020

Circulated, Report of the A/Senior Executive Officer, Physical Development Directorate dated 5th June, 2020, together with Draft Metropolitan District of Limerick (Parking Places) (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Butler;
Seconded by Councillor Slattery;

And Resolved:

“To approve the draft Metropolitan District of Limerick (Parking Places) (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2020 to go on public display in accordance with the requirements of Section 200(1) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended”.

QUESTIONS

6. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

Limerick Museum has reopened in line with Government Guidelines, However as it only opens from Monday to Friday between 10am and 5pm, I am requesting that it should be opened up for longer hours and more days such as weekends to allow people to visit and also to allow for easier implementation for social distancing.

REPLY: On the 29th June 2020 Limerick Museum reopened for 5 days per week Monday to Friday, including lunch time opening. Since then new procedures and practices have been put in place in order to meet Covid-19 safety requirements.

A review is currently underway to examine how the Museum can open at weekends in accordance with the new Covid-19 operating guidelines. When this review is complete we will revert to the Council with a further update.

7. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask at the next meeting if Limerick City and County Council have completed inspections of the vacant properties in Newenham Street and if a report is yet available.

REPLY: The inspections in Newenham Street are in progress but report is not yet completed.

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask Limerick Metropolitan Council how many social and affordable houses have been delivered under LIHAF, where the schemes are and the costs per scheme provided to developers.

REPLY: Mungret Gate is the only LIHAF site in Limerick.

To date our records show that a total of 98 LIHAF reduced properties have sold in Mungret. 20

properties have been agreed for social rental under Part V of the Planning and Development Act (as amended). None of the Part V Units have been delivered as yet as they are in later phases.

No funding in the scheme has been provided to any developer. Grant funding in the amount of €7.88m has been approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the development of the road infrastructure on the site.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask Limerick Metropolitan Council how much funding has been applied for to the NTA to facilitate Guiding Limerick through Covid infrastructure works and how much funding has been received.

REPLY: We are in regular contact with the National Transport Authority in relation to guiding Limerick through Covid. Currently the Council has applied for €150,000 in funding for capital expenditure relating to this project and to date €100,000 has been received in this regard.

10. Question submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir

I will ask at the next meeting whether assessment is being done of the impact of individual measures of the Guiding Limerick through Covid-19 plan, what metrics are being used (for measuring, among others, advisory speed limit compliance, changes in footfall, uptake of cycling, air pollution levels, citizen satisfaction, economic impact, etc.), and when will the results be available?

REPLY: The Guiding Limerick through Covid-19 Plan developed through consultation by Limerick City and County Council set out a large number of measures under a number of headings to assist Limerick through COVID19. These include;

- Measures to change our public spaces
- Culture and place making measures
- Business support measures

1. Changing our Public Spaces

Counts have been undertaken on weeks beginning the 6th and 13th July to assess traffic, pedestrian and cycle numbers at a number of locations throughout the city.

Similar and ongoing counts will be undertaken following implementation of the measures to determine impact on footfall, cycling and car movements and will be available as the scheme develops. In addition, existing noise and air monitors located in the city will also measure these important environmental metrics.

Subject to availability of resources, consideration will be given to carrying out a number of vehicle speed surveys in the city.

2. Culture and Place Making Measures

The success of these Culture and Place Making measures is monitored by the numbers of people attending the various events and the level of interest from local artists in the public call. We will

also monitor the level of coverage in the local media channels.

3. Business Support Measures

The numbers of organisations availing of the various support measures and grants monitors the success of the business support measures.

We will document and review the measures as outlined above in September.

11. Question submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir

I will ask at the next meeting how many of the Council staff have completed training in Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS), and National Cycle Manual (NCM) and if there is any training planned in the near future with the focus on the changed circumstances due to the Covid-19 public health crisis and the implications of it?

REPLY: All Council staff working in road infrastructure projects are fully aware of both DMURS and the NCM and have regards to contents of both in the projects being managed, in some cases through internal tutoring, as recent organised training has not been available. It should be noted that the design process for most NTA schemes is actually carried out by 3rd party consultants, who are required to be fully conversant with both manuals.

However, it is acknowledged that the NCM is becoming increasingly significant in the context of current and new NTA schemes and discussions are underway with the NTA to organise some courses in this area, both for consultants and relevant Council staff.

In a similar fashion, refresher courses in DMURS will be undertaken for the newer members of staff working in this area when they are readily available again.

However, it should also be noted that individual staff training requirements are a matter for line managers as part of their Performance Development Plan.

12. Question submitted by Councillor E O'Donovan

I will ask the Council for an update on the installation of advisory speed limit signs in Limerick City centre. I would like to know the contractors hired for these works and cost. Was there an additional cost to Limerick Council for the poles installed and subsequently removed on Sarsfield Bridge? Who is responsible for quality control of these works?

REPLY: Signage associated with the 25kph advisory speed for the city centre has now been erected at the most appropriate locations entering the zone where the advisory is being publicised. In accordance with the Mobility Plan, as approved, additional signage associated with restricted access to certain roads has also been erected in accordance with National Guidance and Traffic Regulations. Grant funding has been provided for such works and implementation is managed by Limerick City and County Council's Transport and Infrastructure Department.

Limerick City and County Council operates publicly tendered framework contracts for road maintenance and small civil works. There are a number of contractors on this framework and Maramba Road Services Ltd is one of these contractors and was engaged for the speed limit signs

work. All contractors must produce a current tax clearance certificate to be paid and comply with the Government conditions of contract for public works. The cost for all the speed limit signs installed was €6050. Two poles were unfortunately vandalised on Sarsfield Bridge and had to be replaced at a cost of €240 plus VAT. The Senior Engineer (Roads) is responsible for the quality control.

13. Question submitted by Councillor E O'Donovan

I will ask the Council for an update on feasibility of speed restriction measures and segregated cycling infrastructure on Hyde Road and Ballycummin Road

REPLY: We have commenced discussion with the NTA about introducing traffic calming measures on Hyde Road. The proposals would include rationalising and improving the side road junctions and incorporating a cycleway on both sides of the road. Following this progressive discussion, a formal application to include Hyde Road as an NTA project in 2020 has been made and we await confirmation of funding before commencing the design process. A request will also be made to the NTA to include for cycleway infrastructure/traffic calming measures on Ballycummin Road.

NOTICES OF MOTION

It was agreed to take Item 17 next on the agenda.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will move at the next meeting that Limerick Metropolitan Council outline proposals to facilitate public consultations to include online and public forums to facilitate engagement prior to LSMATS strategy being brought to Council.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Leddin, seconded by Councillor M. Sheahan and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Leddin stated that the LSMATS was one of the most important documents in the lifetime of the Council and that stakeholders and the public should be involved in the process.

REPLY: The public consultation for the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) will be run directly by the National Transport Authority (NTA). The request to facilitate online and public forums has now been brought to the NTA for consideration and will be discussed in an upcoming meeting between the NTA, Limerick City and County Council and Clare County Council. We will advise of a decision once the consultation process has been finalised.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will move at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council introduce traffic calming measures on Hyde Road, Limerick to reduce speeding on this road.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Slattery, seconded by Councillor O'Dea and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Slattery spoke of the tragedies on this road and the need for traffic calming measures and the urgency for funding to be drawn down from the National Transport Authority.

Members supported the motion and queried if speed cameras could be used in the area.

REPLY: We have commenced discussion with the NTA about introducing traffic calming measures on Hyde Road. The proposals would include rationalising and improving the side road junctions and incorporating a cycleway on both sides of the road. Following this progressive discussion, a formal application to include Hyde Road as an NTA project in 2020 has been made and we await confirmation of funding before commencing the design process.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I call on Limerick City and County Council's Water Services Department to join me in writing to Irish Water requesting that previous plans to extend the public sewer line from Patrickswell Village towards Lurriga be included in Irish Waters Capital Investment Plan 2022-2026

The motion was proposed by Councillor McSweeney, seconded by Councillor Butler and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor McSweeney stated that this had been an ongoing issue for the residents for the past seven years and that Limerick City and County Council should do all they can to ensure that this project is included in Irish Water's Capital Investment Programme.

Members spoke in favour of the motion.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hartigan (to be referred to the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council carry out a feasibility study into the development of a Shannon River Interpretive Centre, to be located on the banks of the river in Limerick City.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir (to be referred to Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next meeting that the Council develop a School Streets Pilot Initiative, which would identify and include at least two primary schools with an aim to address and tackle the health and physical safety problems associated with traffic congestion around schools; road safety risks caused by cars driving near the school and inconsiderate parking; car dependent, less physically active children; and the damage to children's lungs from cars parked with their engines running.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir

I will move at the next meeting that the Council remove two piers of the Thomond Weir for better

navigation of the river and to improve safety for the rowing clubs and others using the river.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Novak Uí Chonchúir, seconded by Councillor Costelloe and agreed.

In proposed the motion, Councillor Novak Uí Chonchúir outlined the difficulty for rowing boats in navigating through the Weir as it exists.

Members discussed the viability of a footbridge and noted the heritage value of the Weir.

REPLY: A structural survey will be carried out imminently of the Thomond Weir Bridge; this will form part of a feasibility study for the future refurbishment and re-use of this structure under the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan.

The results of the structural survey will inform any decision made around fundamental structural changes.

The Office of Regeneration is eager to ensure multiple uses of this area under the objectives of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan and will exploit any flexibility the structure presents within current constraints.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan (to be referred to the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next meeting that this Council put in place a working group to establish Limerick as an Autism-friendly City.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will move at the next meeting, that this Council support the Haven Hubs call and write to the Government, requesting an independent inquiry into the mental health and crisis services at University Hospital Limerick.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Benson, seconded by Councillor Costelloe and agreed.

Members paid tribute to the volunteers from the Haven Hub who were in attendance at the Meeting. Members referred to the overcrowding in the A&E at University Hospital Limerick stating it was not a suitable environment for people with mental health issues. Members also referred to the urgent need for a special mental health unit to be set up.

22. Correspondence

Correspondence was taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated: _____