

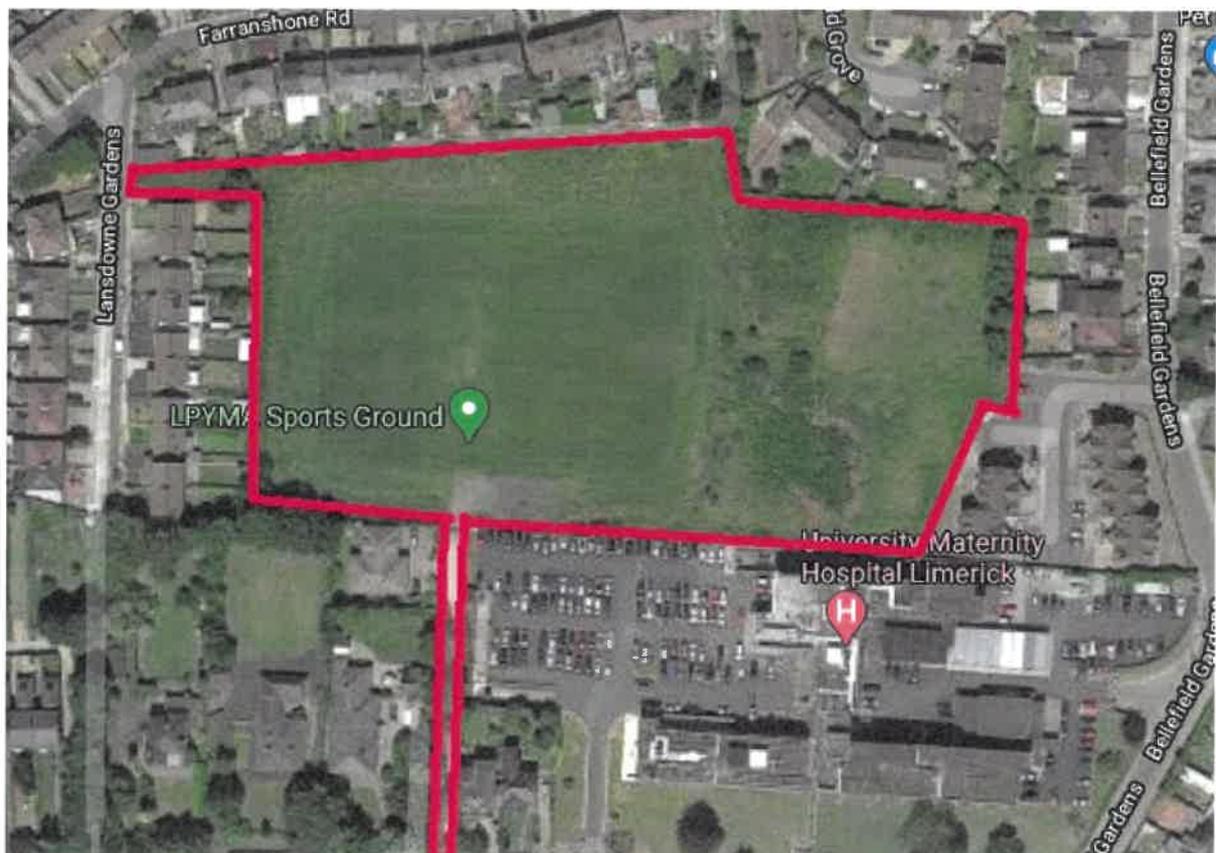
Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

9<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.

**To: The Cathaoirleach and each Member of the Metropolitan District of Limerick**

**Proposed Disposal of Property at LPYMA grounds, Ennis Road, Limerick. Sporting Purposes only for a term of 35 years.**



1. Introduction

It is proposed to dispose to the LPYMA Grounds, Ennis Road to the Trustees of Shelbourne AFC Soccer Club. The Club have been in occupation of the lands since 1977 and now wish to invest in improving the facility, including a flood-lit Astro facility, dressing rooms and storage facilities.

2. Key Elements of Proposal

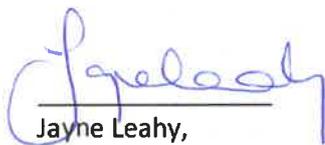
Shelbourne AFC plan to develop the grounds as a multi-purpose venue with many sports being played there – soccer, hurling, gaelic football and rugby. While Shelbourne AFC are to be the Lease holders, the grounds will be available to the local schools as well as Ard Scoil Old Boys Rugby Club. **See attached proposal from Shelbourne AFC in Appendix 1.**

There is also potential for a walkway and a community area. The Club intend on applying for planning permission to develop the grounds at the earliest opportunity.

The proposal is for the Council to Lease the area to the Trustees of Shelbourne AFC for **Sporting Purposes only for a term of 35 years. This will allow the Club to access Sports Capital funding.**

3. Executive Recommendation to Council

This disposal of land – by way of 35 year Sporting Lease is recommended.



Jayne Leahy,  
Head of Property & Community Facilities,  
Community Development Directorate,  
Limerick City & County Council.

## Appendix 1



### **Letter of Ambition and Intent re. LPYMA Grounds, Ennis Road, Limerick**

Derek Allen  
Club Secretary  
[shelbourneafc@gmail.com](mailto:shelbourneafc@gmail.com)  
086 4109895

Tony Cusack  
Club Chairman  
085 1745106  
[Tony.cusack123@gmail.com](mailto:Tony.cusack123@gmail.com)

Dave Crowe  
Project Manager  
[davidmcrowe@gmail.com](mailto:davidmcrowe@gmail.com)  
087 2411007

Dear Sir/Madam,

Shelbourne AFC is the oldest soccer club in the Limerick area having been founded in 1928 in the Thomondgate area. The club is based in Shelbourne Park and the LPYMA Grounds on the North side of the city. The catchment area is a "horse-shoe" from the North Circular Road to the Long Pavement including areas such as Greystones, Mayorstone, Ennis Road, Glenview Gardens, Bellfield, Thomondgate, De Valera Park, Stenson Park, Kileely, Moyross etc.

Shelbourne currently has 14 Schoolboy/girl teams competing in the Limerick District Schoolboy/girl Leagues ranging in age from Under 7s to Under 16s and we also cater for tots from the age of 4. The club has 4 teams playing under the LDMC – 2 at Senior level and one each at Under 17s and Under 18s. In summary, the club is fielding a total of 18 teams with over 300 playing members.

In order to facilitate the playing numbers, the club hires Astro Turf and/or Indoor facilities which are not always available. The resolution for the club would be to develop the LPYMA Grounds. In 2017 the club invested €8,000 in upgrading the playing surface at the LPYMA with the agreement of the Limerick City and County Council. We have been maintaining the pitch since 1977, including cutting the grass

and treating the playing surface and doing regular clean-ups of the surrounding area. In 2019, with the agreement of City and County Council, we implemented a new traffic system at the grounds. We reopened the Lansdowne Garden's entrance and laid a gravel roadway from the Ennis Road entrance. This facilitated a new one-way system which eliminated the traffic flow issue at the grounds.

The club has an excellent relationship with the local community. The club house facility in Shelbourne Park is regularly used by the local schools such as JFK, Salesians and Ard Scoil Ris. There is a Bridge club on a Monday evening where senior citizens from the neighbourhood meet to play their cards. We have made the facility available to the Council when requested and the FAI run Summer Camps in the Park during July.

Recently, we were approached by the Ard Scoil Old Boys Rugby club to share the LPYMA Grounds and the school Ard Scoil Ris also approached us, as they are under pressure for facilities, they have only one pitch which is used for Rugby and GAA. We agreed to allow Ard Scoil soccer teams use the LPYMA however the grass playing surface in the grounds would not sustain Rugby and Soccer. Educate Together currently use the facility to train their soccer team and sometimes some athletes from Ard Scoil Ris train there.

The solution to having a multi-purpose pitch would be to develop a Full-size Floodlit Astro Facility, in partnership with the Council, including Dressing Room and Storage Facilities. We are more than willing to share the facility with the Rugby club and all the schools in the area, as well as the local residents with the possibility of a potential walkway, Men's Shed etc. The pitch would have to cater for Soccer, Hurling, Gaelic Football and Rugby.

The proposal is that Shelbourne AFC would manage the upkeep and use of the Grounds. The long-term plan would be to have the Grounds in operation as much as possible, for example the schools would use it during daytime while Shelbourne AFC and others would use it in the evening and at the weekends. In summary the proposal is to develop the LPYMA Grounds as a multi propose venue with Shelbourne AFC as the Lease Holder. The FAI is committed to providing financial support once the Lease has been agreed. The club is more than willing to work with the Limerick City and County Council and with the various stakeholders in the area to ensure that the facility is utilised as much as possible. The club will ensure that the venue is managed in a professional manner and that the Calendar is fair to all stakeholders.

This letter of ambition and intent has been presented to the Principals Mr Prendergast of Ard Scoil, Miss O'Sullivan of JFK and Miss Rea of the Salesians and to Mr Meehan of Ard Scoil Old Boys Rugby club and received with great enthusiasm. When the agreement is in place our plan is to do an open presentation to the various stakeholders in the area.

Looking forward to working with the Limerick City and County Council on this exciting Project for the north side of the city.

Yours in Sport

-----

Derek Allen, Club Secretary

-----

Tony Cusack, Club Chairman

-----

Dave Crowe, Project Manager