

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 19TH OCTOBER, 2020 at 09:45 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Sarah Kiely, Cathaoirleach

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Butler, Collins, Costelloe, Daly, Hartigan, Kilcoyne, 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/Senior Executive Officer, Physical Development (Mr. D. McGuigan), A/Administrative Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Mr. P. Williams), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll)

Apologies for her inability to attend were received from Councillor Benson.

At the outset of the meeting, the Cathaoirleach and Members extended their condolences and sympathy to the families of the following who had died recently :

- Members expressed their condolences to Councillor Azad Talukder on the passing of his mother.
- Mr. Tom O’Donnell, former Minister and MEP, who had served the people of Limerick with great distinction for many years.
- Mr. Paddy Brennan, founding Member of Limerick Rock and Roll Club and one of Limerick’s most dedicated historians.

Members agreed to write to the French Ambassador to express their sympathies on the recent killing of teacher, Mr. Samuel Paty, in Paris.

Members stood in silence and the meeting adjourned for a short period.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 21st September, 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Secas;
Seconded by Councillor Collins;
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 and Community Facilities dated 6th October, 2020 setting out Proposed Exchange of Property at Castletroy College, Newtown, Castletroy, Limerick between Limerick City and County Council and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) 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 9th October, 2020 setting out proposals to dispose of the Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 129 Cosgrave Park, Moyross, 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 9th October, 2020 setting out proposals to dispose of the Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 130 Cosgrave Park, Moyross, 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 and Community Facilities dated 12th October, 2020 setting out proposals to dispose of Property at 2 / 3 Mallow Street, 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.

- (e) Circulated, report of the Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 9th October, 2020 setting out proposals to dispose of Property at LPYMA Grounds, Ennis Road, 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.

Councillor Collins requested that it be reflected in the lease that the new facility would be made available to other Clubs in the area in addition to the Schools and Club outlined in the report.

3. 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 8th October, 2020 seeking approval to the taking in charge of estate at Rathlinn, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.

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

“That the estate at Rathlinn, Castleconnell 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”.

4. Support Services Directorate

Draft Budgetary Plan 2021 – General Municipal Allocation

Circulated, Report of the Deputy Chief Executive dated 5th October, 2020, setting out the background to the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) and noting that the total provisional allocation for the GMA for 2021 was €1,403,000 of which €568,000 had been allocated to the Metropolitan District in the Draft Budgetary Plan 2021 as follows:

Svc	General Municipal Allocation 2021	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

Proposed by Councillor Slattery;
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan;
 And Resolved:

“That the Budgetary Plan 2021, as circulated, for the Metropolitan District of Limerick in the amount of €568,000 is adopted in accordance with Section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

5. Physical Development Directorate

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

Circulated, Report of the Director of Service, Physical Development Directorate dated 28th September, 2020, together with Draft Metropolitan District of Limerick (Parking Places) (Amendment) Bye-Laws 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Butler;
 Seconded by Councillor O’Sullivan; And Resolved:

“That, the Draft Metropolitan District of Limerick (Parking Places)(Amendment) Bye-Laws 2020, be and are hereby adopted, in accordance with Section 131A and Schedule 14A of the Local Government Act, 2001”.

QUESTIONS

6. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next meeting of the Limerick Metropolitan District for an update on the €15 million planned maintenance programme on Limerick City and County Council’s housing stock.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council approved the application for loan sanction in the amount of €15m for the Planned Maintenance Loan from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government at the Council Meeting held on 25th November, 2019.

Application for Departmental Sanction in the amount of €10m was made on 29th May, 2020 by Limerick City and County Council. The Council is awaiting this Departmental Sanction.

In line with our SPC workshops and meetings, Limerick City and County Council are working to maximise the impact of the loan monies by using same to leverage funding from other sources.

During 2020, loan monies will be combined with the grant funding to cover the cost of our Energy Efficiency programme, which will see energy efficiency improvements carried out on 120 of our houses throughout the city and county. In addition to setting up a planned maintenance programme for our housing stock, the loan finance will be used for future projects under the Energy Efficiency scheme – an update on this particular project will be provided at our next Housing SPC.

7. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

Can you advise when works will commence on the upgrade of the Golf Links Road and an update on the Castletroy Link Road also.

REPLY: The Part 8 for upgrade of the Golf Links Road is being prepared and is due to be advertised in October / early November, 2020. Works are scheduled to commence on site in mid-2021.

The Castletroy Link Road is at preliminary design and Part 8 is scheduled to be lodged by end of the year. The scheme is scheduled to commence in 2022.

8. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next meeting have Limerick City and County Council received communication from Bus Éireann regarding an additional bus stop on Childers Road to facilitate people from Kennedy Park and Glasgow Park on the existing bus route 329 to Georgian Village. The NTA have asked Bus Éireann to liaise with Limerick City and County Council to ascertain any infrastructural requirements that would be required to facilitate Route 329 stopping additionally on Childers Road. Have the Council responded to this communication and was it favourable.

REPLY: The Council has been contacted by Bus Éireann regarding the above route. An initial examination of a potential site for locating a bus stop was carried out. Its findings were that while there would be space to accommodate a bus stop on the Kennedy Park side of the Childers' Road, situating a bus stop on the opposite side would not currently be practical on safety grounds.

Bus Éireann has indicated that at present an additional bus stop is not warranted at this location on usage grounds.

9. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask at the next meeting how many applications has Limerick City and County Council submitted to the Department under the €1.4m July Jobs Stimulus Plan for National Monuments and how many have been successful.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council applied to the Community Monuments Fund in respect of Clonshire Church, Co Limerick.
Clonshire Church is a ruinous 12th century church extended and adapted in the later medieval period. It is a National Monument in the ownership of the Local Authority. The grant application was successful in the amount of €70,000 and will enable Phase I of a programme of works to be achieved by November 2020.

10. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask at the next meeting when has the review on use of temporary CCTV started, as committed in November last year, and when is it due to be completed.

REPLY: Limerick City and County is currently developing a CCTV strategy and any further CCTV installations will be in accordance with this strategy once finalised. This will include preparation of a business case for each proposal and also adherence with the legal requirements as set out under GDPR regulations and Data Protection Legislation. Until this is finalised it is not planned to install any additional temporary CCTV unless in exceptional emergency circumstances.

11. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next meeting if "Residents Only" signs and permits can be installed in housing estates on roads surrounding University Hospital Limerick.

REPLY: There are no provisions currently in traffic law or local bye-law to enable the proposal of "Residents Only" permit/signage to occur. Limerick City and County Council will examine the parking issues in estates in the vicinity of the University Hospital Limerick in an attempt to alleviate the problem.

12. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next meeting if Limerick City and County Council will review fish passage at the Annacotty Weir and will consider removal of this ornamental Weir.

REPLY: Inland Fisheries Ireland, in their role in the protection, management and

conservation of the inland fisheries resource, are, in conjunction with OPW, reviewing the feasibility of removal of some or all of the weir.

Annacotty (to a point just South of the M7) is within the Study area for the Limerick City & Environs FRS. As part of the Scheme, LCCC appointed consultants will be undertaking hydraulic modelling of the river to include effects of any existing structures within the rivers. As part of the Options Development, the removal of existing structures will be assessed, in terms of flood risk.

13. Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will ask at the next meeting what are the results of the Engineer's Survey on the structure across the Shannon at the Weir from Thomondgate to Saint Mary's Park.

REPLY: The full extent of survey work on Thomond Weir is not complete. When all elements of the survey are complete the consulting engineers will report on same.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, the following Questions were included – these had been submitted prior to the deadline for questions to be submitted.

13A. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next Metropolitan Meeting of the Council in relation to my question at the previous Metropolitan meeting if the €1.7M parking revenue for 2019 include parking fines of €640k or are parking fines recorded separately from parking revenue.

REPLY: The parking fine income is recorded separately from parking payment fee income:
 Income Traffic Fines 2019: €640,305.00
 Income Disc Parking 2019: €1,718,127.55

13B. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next Metropolitan Meeting of the Council for a detailed breakdown of tickets issued outlining the number of tickets by type and penalty fee.

REPLY:

Offence	Fine Amount:
For the range of parking offences:	€40
For non-display of current tax disc:	€60
For illegal parking in a disabled parking bay:	€150

Summary Report (Total Numbers 2019)

Name	Total
Failing to display a current vehicle disc.	1,347
Goods vehicle loading or unloading in a loading bay over 30 minutes.	149

Invalid parking disc displayed.	2,625
No parking disc displayed.	6,375
Obstructing entrance /exit to premises.	94
Obstructing entrance/exit to fire station/ambulance station / garda station.	3
Parking a vehicle at a time prohibited in a disc parking place	28
Parking a vehicle during prohibited period where a "No Parking Sign " provided.	65
Parking a vehicle in a bus lane during the period of operation of the bus lane.	4
Parking a vehicle in a disabled persons parking bay.	382
Parking a vehicle in a manner in which it would interfere with the normal flow of traffic or which obstructed or endangered other traffic.	278
Parking a vehicle in a pedestrianised street.	54
Parking a vehicle in a taxi rank.	627
Parking a vehicle on a foot way/ grass margin / median strip .	925
Parking a vehicle on a pedestrian crossing/ pedestrian crossing complex or at traffic lights ,or within 15 metres (on approach)/ 5 meters (on side other than approach side)	111
Parking a vehicle on double yellow lines.	1,015
Parking a vehicle on single yellow line.	92
Parking a vehicle other than goods vehicle being used for loading or unloading in a loading bay .	1,849
Parking a vehicle where "no parking" sign provided accompanied by an information plate with the words " except buses Ach Amh'ain Busanna.	141
Parking a vehicle wholly/partly with roadway markings at an omnibus/stopping/ place	592
Parking a vehicle within 5 meters of a junction.	134
Parking disc not clearly visible showing appropriate perforations from outside the vehicle.	135
Stopping or parking a vehicle at a school entrance where " stopping prohibited at school entrance sign " provided.	3
Stopping or parking a vehicle in a Car Club Vehicle Parking Bay	23
Stopping or parking a vehicle in an Electrically Powered Vehicle Recharging Bay	75
Stopping or parking a vehicle on a clearway.	41
Total	17,167

NOTICES OF MOTION

It was agreed to take Items 14 and 16 together

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Kilcoyne

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that a pedestrian crossing on the Church Road in Ballybrown to the side entrance of the church and a new footpath be put in place outside the boundary wall of the church extending to Ballybrown National School for the safety of local residents and children walking to school.

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

In proposing the motion, Councillor Kilcoyne stated that these works would be of great benefit to residents in the area. He also highlighted the safety issues and recalled the tragic death of a child in the area concerned.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council Traffic Department will examine whether or not the warrants are met for the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing on the Church Road in Ballybrown to the side entrance of the church.

The provision of a new footpath outside the boundary wall of the church extending to the school can be examined but would likely require landtake from the church carpark and as such an agreement to set back the boundary wall.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will move at the next meeting of the Limerick Metropolitan District that Limerick City and County Council complete draft plans to provide a safe and suitable walkway from Hayes Shop, Ballybrown to Breska Rovers FC with the prospect of securing funding for this project in near future.

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

In proposing the motion, Councillor McSweeney stated that Breska Rover FC had over 300 members and there had been significant investment in the Club in recent months. The walkway would be of benefit to users of the Club and residents in the area.

REPLY: The proposal submitted is for a rural location along the local primary road from Ballybrown school towards Mungret. The scheme proposed can be investigated, costed and would most likely involve the provision of public lighting, surface water drainage, land purchase and agreed accommodation works, etc.

Members supported the motions and requested that the matters be examined and that Mr. Lehane would revert to Members at a subsequent Local Electoral Area Briefing or Metropolitan Meeting.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick Metropolitan District Council invite the new owners of the former Limerick Racecourse to brief members on their future plans for this strategic site and how they will secure access in the interim to prevent anti social behaviour.

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

There was broad support for the motion and broad dissatisfaction expressed by Members at the anti-social behaviour witnessed at the site.

It was asked that an update be given by the planners responsible for the Southside Master Plan in relation to this site.

It was proposed by Councillor Sheahan (M.) and seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan to refer the motion to the next meeting of the Joint Policing Committee.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the next meeting of Limerick Metropolitan District that the relevant Department explore the use of body cams for traffic wardens in the city area for any staff who would wish to use them as a security measure.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kiely, seconded by Councillor C. Sheehan and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Kiely stated that there had been a serious incident in recent weeks involving a traffic warden. It was a difficult job and body cameras would act as a deterrent.

The Director, Service Operations thanked Members for their support of Staff. He stated that the health and safety of staff was a priority.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the next meeting of Limerick Metropolitan District that we write to the Minister for Agriculture to impress upon him the urgent need to implement an updated Control of Horses Act to give more effective powers to the Department of Agriculture, Local Authorities and the Gardai to deal with the urban horse control problem and strengthen the powers in relation to animal cruelty.

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

In proposing the motion, Councillor Kiely stated that issues in relation to horse control and animal cruelty are ongoing and the powers urgently need to be strengthened.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I call on this Council to write to Minister Coveney (Minister for Defence) and request that he constitute a fresh medals boards to consider the award of the 5 Military Medals for Gallantry and the 27 Distinguished Service Medals for the Irish Soldiers of A Company 35th Infantry Battalion who fought at the siege of Jadotville.

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

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, the following Motions were included – these had been submitted prior to the deadline for Motions to be submitted:

19A. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Metropolitan Meeting of the Council that the Council write to the Minister for Transport opposing Bus Eireann's decision to axe Expressway bus services between Cork and Galway via Limerick and Dublin and Limerick and to ask him to establish the National Public Transport stakeholder forum to address the loss of services.

The motion was proposed by Councillor C. Sheehan, seconded by Councillor O'Donovan and agreed. In proposing the motion, Councillor Sheehan stated that this was a vital service and the decision to axe the service should be reversed as a matter of urgency.

19B. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Metropolitan Meeting of the Council that Limerick City and County Council calls on the Irish Government Departments of Health, Justice and Equality and Children and Disability, Equality and Integration to recognise that Parental Alienation is "Substantial and sustained dissatisfaction within a caregiver-child relationship associated with significant disturbance in functioning" as coded by the World Health Organisation in the latest International Classification of Diseases version 11 and to implement Recommendation 36 of the Report of the Reform of the Family Law System October 2019.

The motion was proposed by Councillor C. Sheehan, seconded by Councillor Secas and agreed.

20. Correspondence

Correspondence was taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated: _____