



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

DATE: 6th November, 2020.

To the Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

**Chairperson's Report of the Travel & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Meeting
of 20th October, 2020.**

Item 1: Adoption of Minutes

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Teefy, seconded by Cllr. Foley and adopted.

Item 2: To approve the proposed 2021 dates for the Travel & Transportation SPC Meetings:

The proposed dates for 2021 Travel and Transportation SPC meetings were approved.

Item 3: Discussion on LSMATS:

The Chair confirmed that the consultation period for the LSMATS has been extended to 30 October 2020, following a request by members to the NTA in September. The Members discussed carbon emissions, a Ministerial review of the Strategy and public engagement with the Strategy.

Item 4: Update on Sustainable Transport Projects:

Mr. Gallagher outlined the status of projects which are currently in progress including O'Connell Street; Castletroy Urban Greenway; Milford/Plassey Park Road Junction Improvement; Clare Street to Condell Road Cycleway; Wickham Street to Clare Street Cycleway; UL to Annacotty Cycleway; Pedestrian/cycleway bridges; Castletroy Link Road; St. Paul's Roundabout to Ballykeefe Roundabout to Dooradoyle Road; Raheen Roundabout to Quinn's Cross Roundabout; Quinn's Cross Roundabout to St. Paul's Roundabout; Traffic Management Plan for City Centre

The Members welcomed the update and discussed progress on projects; the Smarter Travel Route to UL; public realm upgrades; the July Stimulus package.

Item 5: Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

"I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick Metropolitan Council consider the placement of signalised pelican crossings and / or zebra crossings on both the Dooradoyle Road close to

Huntsfield Roundabout and also on the Mulcair Road near Stoneyhurst to facilitate the safe crossing of elderly and school children living in the area”.

In proposing the Motion Cllr. Leddin stated that representations have been made to him regarding safety issues particularly at the Huntsfield roundabout, Kilteragh and also on Mulcair Road. Cllr Secas seconded the Motion.

In a written response Mr. Kennedy stated that projects would be considered, where warranted, under a number of forthcoming schemes.

Cllr. Leddin welcomed the response.

Members also discussed traffic calming on Mulcair Road; pedestrian crossing signals and the need to prepare for social distancing in the run up to Christmas.

Item 6: Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. Butler (referred from Metro Meeting)

“I call on Limerick City and County Council to create a parking permit system for vans used by construction workers and trades people carrying out works in city centre buildings. This is to support the renovation and re-imagining of our city centre buildings as without this it makes it unattractive for those trades to take up work in the city centre”.

In proposing the Motion, Cllr. Butler referred to difficulties faced people living in the city getting the services of a tradesperson, due to difficulties with parking outside the premises.

In a written response, Mr. Kennedy stated that Traffic Management Unit may temporarily suspend the on-street parking regulatory requirement where extensive building operations necessitate the delivery of materials or the use of plant and equipment for periods of up to seven days. Thereafter where Traffic Management is satisfied that construction vehicle parking or regular delivery is warranted, a permit may be issued at the rate of €8.00 per day for a period agreed relating to a building programme. This provision is called a Construction Access/Parking Permit. Such permits are not issued in respect of regular deliveries to building fit out professions, or trades requiring unnecessary on street parking at the expense of the parking requirements of shoppers and visitors to the city.

Mr. Kennedy added that there is a balance required between trying to get people in to spend money in the city and trying to ensure they have space to park.

Cllr. Butler argued that this is prioritising people coming into the city but the Council is not supporting people living in the city centre Mr. Kennedy advised that he will discuss it further with Traffic Management and will revert to Cllr. Butler.

Item 7: Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir (referred from Metro Meeting)

“I will move at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council prepares and adopts a footpath standard to guide all public realm interventions, with a purpose to have a consistent

and uniform approach in terms of finish and safety, and to only install infrastructure that is safe and accessible for people of all ages and all abilities”.

In proposing the Motion, Cllr. Novak stated that it is challenging for those walking on poorly maintained surfaces, especially for people with disabilities and for parents with small children and buggies. She would like to see a design manual completed and standards adopted.

In a written response Mr. Gallagher stated that Limerick City and County Council endeavours to provide 2m wide footpaths, where feasible, in new construction projects. These footpaths are constructed to ensure that they are safe and accessible, with the provision of appropriate blister paving at crossing points and appropriate dropped kerbing.

The materials used are predominantly concrete but other materials - typically paving blocks and stone sets - are sometimes used if appropriate for the overall public realm. It should be noted that the Council is currently in the early stages of preparing a Public Realm Strategy for Limerick City and a recommended framework palette of footpath materials will form part of that work.

Mr. Gallagher added that footpaths will comply with Health and Safety requirements and will meet the 2m standard to allow proper distancing where feasible. In relation to the public realm strategy the Physical Development Department is now preparing the tender documents and will be going to market before Christmas.

Item 8: Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir (referred from Metro Meeting)

“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”.

In proposing the Motion, Cllr. Novak stated that she was hoping that the Council would take a more proactive role with children returning to school in September. She added that parking and driving on footpaths with engines running is happening in most schools. She is asking today that the Council commits to produce a pilot for ‘school street Initiative’ and work with the green schools, principals and local residents to make it happen as soon as possible.

In a written response, Mr. Kennedy stated that in August 2020 assistance was requested by a collective group of secondary schools concerned with safe access for their students, having regard to social distancing requirements. On Wednesday 2 September 2020, an initiative, similar to ‘School Streets’ was commenced in the South Circular Road area of Limerick City.

During the initial trial period, a barrier was put in place at the junction of Laurel Hill Avenue with South Circular Road during the stated hours; with access only available to residents during those hours. To date, the trial has been positively received by all stakeholders.

The Council are now evaluating this scheme to determine the success of the trial and to determine if it could be continued on a voluntary basis with school support. He added that requests for similar assistance from other schools will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Item 9: Any Other Business:

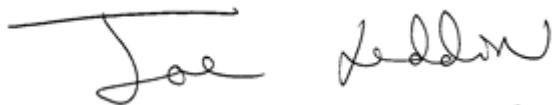
Mr. Harper asked if it is possible to get drawings on the cycle plans and if Council can share quality audits. He added that under DMURS, Quality Audits need to be completed taking into account cycling, walking and safety.

Mr. Gallagher advised that drawings are not available at present as different options are being examined. They can be shared for any scheme when an Options Report is completed and as soon as they go through consultation.

Mr. Gallagher confirmed that any design completed will be in compliance with DMURS. With regard to including quality audits as part of the consultation package, Mr. Gallagher advised that the Council will keep the matter under consideration.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joe Hedden". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Chairperson of the Travel & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee