

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER, 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, 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/Director, Capital Investment (Mr. S. Hanrahan), A/Administrative Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Mr. P. Williams), Administrative Officer, Economic Development (Ms. C. Larkin), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll)

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

- Seamus Griffin, father in law of Councillor John Costelloe.
- John Rowland, father of Yvonne Rowland, Finance Services and father in law of John Sheehan, Engineer.
- Paul Carey, uncle of Cian Lynch, Limerick Hurler.
- Nial Carey, former Scout Leader in Limerick.

Members stood in silence in their memory.

Members extended their congratulations to the Limerick Hurling Team on winning the Munster Senior Hurling Title and also to Cian Lynch on winning Man of the Match.

Members welcomed the jobs announcement by Transact Campus, with the creation of 110 new jobs.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 19th October, 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;

Seconded by Councillor Collins;

And Resolved:

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

2. Disposal of Land

Circulated, report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 3rd November, 2020 setting out proposals to dispose of the Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at Camheen, Mungret, Co. 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. Capital Investment Directorate

Part 8 Procedure – Plassey Park Road and Plassey Road, Castletroy, Limerick

Circulated, Report of the A/Director of Services, Capital Investment Directorate dated 5th November, 2020 and enclosed Chief Executive's Report dated 5th November, 2020 setting out details in relation to the signalisation of the Plassey Road/Plassey Park Road and Plassey Road/University Road junctions with the addition of dedicated pedestrian/cycle crossing facilities and bus lanes. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and noted that it was proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 5 of the report.

A number of Members spoke in relation to this scheme and it was acknowledged that there are conflicting demands of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles in any such scheme with a number of Members proposing that cyclists and pedestrians be given priority when designing such schemes.

The Director, Capital Investment stated that the development would be carried out in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS).

Councillor Collins requested that it be noted that he was not in favour of the proposed development. He outlined concerns regarding the width of the proposed cycle lanes and highlighted that the local cycling group were not satisfied with the scheme. He also had concerns over the alignment of the scheme with the Castletroy Local Area Plan.

Following further discussion, Members proposed to proceed with the Scheme in accordance with Section 5 of the Report.

4. Support Services Directorate

Consideration of Amendment to Standing Orders

Circulated, Report of the A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 9th November, 2020, Circular LG 07-2020 Guidelines for Supplementary Standing Orders regulating the proceedings in relation to remote meetings of the Council' and S.I. No. 445/2020 - Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Section 29) (Local Authorities) (Designation) Order 2020.

The Cathaoirleach noted that Section 130 of the proposed Standing Orders would be reviewed after six months.

It was proposed by Councillor Butler, seconded by Councillor Sheahan and agreed, to amend Standing Orders to allow for remote meetings, subject to a review after six months.

QUESTIONS

5. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next meeting when works will commence at Peafield Road, Monaleen on the extension of the footpath.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council anticipate works will commence in March / April 2021 at Peafield Road, Monaleen on the extension of the footpath.

6. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

Can you advise when the field in Castletroy Park that is used by Aisling Annacotty will be drained as it is waterlogged every time it rains.

REPLY: The Council installed drainage in this area approximately six years ago. Due to current levels of rainfall, it is proving difficult to keep the pitch completely free of water at all times. The Council will however, keep it under review to see if further works may be required.

7. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask at the next meeting that the Council provide the costs of providing water supplies at burial grounds as requested at the Environment SPC in 2016 and again at the Council Meeting of the Metropolitan District held in January 2020.

REPLY: There are 267 burial grounds in Limerick, one quarter of which have a water supply. The estimated costs of providing a new connection vary from approximately €5,000, where a water main is located within 10m of a burial ground to approximately €10,000 for 20m from a burial ground, increasing incrementally for every 10m thereafter.

These costs are significant on the operational budgets for burial grounds and resources are currently not available to fund the additional costs that would be required to provide water connections to all burial grounds. The cost of water (Irish Water charges) are also in the order of €100 per year, per burial ground.

Rainwater Harvesting Systems can be considered in some locations and have been provided in a number of our burial grounds. This provides a more environmentally friendly and sustainable solution. However, it is acknowledged that this solution is not feasible for all locations, due to lack of infrastructure and water run off from roofs.

8. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask at the next meeting:

- *if the boundary wall project for Mount St. Oliver Graveyard will proceed this year as committed;*
- *if the project is delayed until 2021, will the €100,000 allocation from the Development Levy Fund still be there next year for this project;*
- *will the Council submit a Part 8 Planning Application for the boundary wall so that residents in the area can have an input.*

REPLY: The design for the project is being progressed by the Design and Delivery Unit. It is expected that the project will go to tender end Q1/Q2 2021. Funding for this project has been committed and will be available next year.

It is very likely that the project will require a Part 8 due to the increased scope of works hence the tender timeline end Q1/Q2.

9. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask at the next meeting if Limerick City and County Council will engage with Irish Water to build a new fit for purpose septic tank for the 16 houses in Brookhaven, Montpelier outside of the flood zone and to decommission the current tank.

REPLY: Please note below the response received from Irish Water.

“Thank you for our email on behalf of Councillor Elena Secas in relation to her below query.

This has been forwarded to the relevant Department for investigation and response. Once we receive an update, a member of our team will be in contact with you. Your Irish Water reference number is 57397 which you can keep for your own records.

I understand that this issue is a source of concern for both you and Councillor Secas, please bear with us while this matter is being investigated. I trust you find the above information satisfactory. Thank you for contacting Irish Water”.

10. Question submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir

I will ask the Council to detail their progress in meeting the commitments in Section 3 of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter signed up to last October, in particular in measuring carbon impacts, developing and implementing a process for carbon proofing, and monitoring, evaluating and annual reporting.

REPLY: Action 147 of the Climate Action Plan 2019 includes for, inter alia, the introduction of a local authority Climate Action Charter. Section 3 of the Charter provides that local authorities, with the support of Central Government, will undertake a wide range of climate action activities including a commitment to reduce emissions by 30% and increase energy efficiency to 50% of the baseline year (2009) by 2030.

Action 4 of the Climate Action Plan provides for the publication of legislation – the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2020, published in early October 2020 and currently progressing through the Oireachtas – which will give legal standing to the Climate Action Plan 2019.

Section 3 of the Bill – as it is currently constituted – states that “The State shall

pursue the transition to a climate resilient and climate neutral economy by the end of the year 2050.”

Section 12 of the Bill - *Role of Local Authority* – provides for the insertion, after Section 14 of the parent Act, of Section 14A which provides that the Minister shall request local authorities to make a 5-year local authority climate action plan which will specify mitigation and adaptation measures to be adopted by the local authority, within 18 months of the commencement of the Section. It is anticipated that included in the climate action plan will be the mechanisms by which the local authority intends to meet the emissions and energy efficiency targets contained in the Climate Action Plan 2019. Ministerial guidance on the content and preparation of the local authority climate action plan is provided for under Section 14A of the Bill.

At a national level a process is underway to develop the methodology by which public bodies will calculate their emissions reductions. It is likely that each local authority will have to account for its emissions and energy reduction targets as part of the climate action plans under Section 12 of the Bill, when enacted.

Notwithstanding the above, the Council continues to work towards meeting its 2020 energy reduction target of 33% against the baseline year and we would hope to have substantially met this target by year end. Working through the internal Energy Management Team we have implemented a number of projects and processes relating to our Significant Energy Users (SEUs) – primarily Public Lighting, Transport and Corporate Buildings - which will assist us in reaching the target.

The national Local Authority Public Lighting Energy Efficiency project, which is currently out to tender, will, in part, support our efforts to reach the 2030 targets. However, we will have to focus on actions under our other SEUs to meet the target. The Climate Action Plan 2019 sets out options for how this may be achieved including, for example, the transition to a low emissions fleet, or the upgrade of corporate buildings.

11. Question submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir

I will ask the Council to provide an update on the Limerick Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, submitted as part of the Covenant of Mayors, including the two monitoring reports for mitigation and adaptation actions, the updated emission inventory report to see the progress made, any evaluation as to the success or otherwise, and lessons learned from this plan that could be taken forward for future plans.

REPLY: The Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) was prepared in 2016 as part of the application to the Covenant of Mayors. It has its genesis in the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (2009) and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010, and is built on data sourced in the development of an energy and emissions balance, prepared for the Council by the Limerick Clare Energy Agency, which informed the development of the current City and County Development Plans.

The energy and emissions balance was a non-statutory exercise, which sought to identify how much energy does Limerick require as a society and an economy; how reliant is Limerick on imported fuels; and what are the environmental implications of our current fuel use.

The figures used in the energy and emissions balance, and hence the SECAP, are based on a statistical apportionment of SEAI national energy usage figures, and relevant CSO data, using a methodology agreed with the SEAI Statistical Unit.

The targets set out in the SECAP are intended to be an attempt at burden sharing national targets across sectors on the basis of government energy and emissions targets, to a local county or municipal level. The SECAP then aims to provide a picture of what would be required locally to achieve the national policy targets, reflecting local strengths and resources.

It is proposed to review the SECAP in 2021, and the outcomes of the review will inform the development of the local authority climate action plans provided for under the Climate Action Plan Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2020, which will cover both mitigation and adaptation measures. Other lessons / benefits from the SECAP have been the recognition of Limerick as Ireland's first Lighthouse City and the European Green Leaf Award for broader environmental practices, including energy and climate change.

Limerick City and County Council continues to work towards meeting its 2020 energy reduction target of 33% against the baseline year and we would hope to have substantially met this target by year end.

The Council secured the ISO 50001 energy management standard in 2019. Working through the internal Energy Management Team we have implemented a number of projects and processes relating to our Significant Energy Users (SEUs) – primarily Public Lighting, Transport and Corporate Buildings - which will assist us in reaching the target by year end.

Many of the actions in the SECAP, for which the Council is identified as the lead stakeholder, are being or will be progressed under the EU Horizon 2020 +CityxChange project including, inter alia, smart grid solutions, the establishment of community energy co-operatives, near zero energy buildings, smart travel technologies, smart metering and urban renewable energy generation.

The forthcoming public lighting energy efficiency programme, and the development of an enhanced sustainable transport network under the LSMATS will contribute to reduction in energy usage and emissions, and will feed into the Council's efforts to meet its 2030 energy use and emissions reductions targets, the methodology of which has yet to be finalised.

Funding for the broad range of energy and emissions related projects remains a challenge, which, it is hoped, will be addressed by the government commitment to carbon budgets in the forthcoming Climate Action and Low Carbon Development

(Amendment) Bill 2020.

12. Question submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan

I will ask at the next meeting for a progress update on the Affordable Housing Scheme and what is the projected timeline until it is open to applications.

REPLY: The Affordable Housing Scheme of priority was adopted by Full Council in November 2019. Limerick City and County Council currently are progressing five sites in the city under the Service Site Fund to Part VIII planning by Q3 of 2021. It is anticipated that Expressions of Interest will be advertised once planning is granted for the unit types under the permission.

13. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next meeting for a full breakdown of the number of houses in Rhebogoe broken down by the number of HAP tenancies, RAS tenancies and Approved Housing Bodies and Council houses.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council currently have tenancies in 90 houses in Rhebogoe. The breakdown is as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Housing Assistance Payment tenancies | 22 |
| Rental Accommodation Scheme tenancies | 33 |
| Approved Housing Bodies tenancies | 5 |
| Council House tenancies | 30 |

14. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next meeting for an update on the Notice of Motion 21 referred to the Protocol Committee at the September Full Council Meeting to erect a plaque on Wolfe Tone Street in memory of the late Captain Thomas Keane.

REPLY: This matter was referred to the Protocol Committee. The Protocol Committee meets prior to the Bi-Monthly Full Council Meeting. The next meeting is set for 3rd December.

15. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next meeting for an update on the number of horses seized in the Metropolitan District in the last 12 months, the number of seized horses recovered, the number of horses destroyed and the combined cost of employing the pound in the seizing horses over the last 12 months.

REPLY:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Horse Control Figures | 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020 |
| Horses Seized | 129 |
| Recovered (released to owner) | 25 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Destroyed | 3 |
| Net Cost to Council | €118,803.34 |

Notes:

Since January 2019 the usual method of disposing of seized horses is by rehoming to horse charities. The Council only releases horses back to their owners if the owners meet the criteria as set out in the Byelaws. These include applying for a horse passport (if none previously) and proof by way of sworn affidavit that the horse owner owns or has rented land on which to keep the horse. Also, the land must be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine as an Equine Premises. The owner is obliged to pay for the cost of impounding the horse. If the horse owner fails to make payment, the debt is pursued through the Courts. Under the Control of Horses Act 1996, a horse seized three times in a twelve-month period can be confiscated by the Council.

16. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next meeting for a detailed breakdown of works to be completed for successful applicants under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020 in the Metropolitan District. Have all successful recipients confirmed acceptance of funding and will there be a second round of applications for this scheme.

REPLY: The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht allocated €118,000 to Limerick City and County Council to operate the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020. A total of 48 applications were received of which 27 projects with qualifying works were nominated forward to the Department for consideration.

Of 27 applications forwarded to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for consideration, 11 were in respect of properties within the boundaries of the Metropolitan District. All these made it through the Department's screening procedures and all the successful applicants confirmed acceptance of their funding offers. Ultimately, within the Metropolitan District, 3 did not proceed. Of the foregoing, 5 successful projects were awarded additional funding.

In addition, a further application was accepted in, in accordance with the terms and conditions governing the operation of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, for re-roofing a thatched house.

Therefore, in total 9 historic properties within the boundaries of the Metropolitan District received assistance for qualifying works under the 2020 Built Heritage Investment Scheme.

The successful applications that proceeded are as follows:

- Reconstruction of windows and conservation and restoration of chimney and slate roofing element of a multi-period thatched cottage.
- Conservation and restoration of natural slate roofing of a public house;
- Conservation and restoration of rise and fall sash windows;
- Structural stabilisation of outbuildings;
- Conservation and restoration of rise and fall sash windows, to include thermal upgrade interventions;
- Conservation and restoration of rise and fall sash windows;

- Structural stabilisation of church bell tower, bell carriage and all ancillary works to include storm-water disposal system;
 - Conservation and reconstruction of artificial slate-roofing.
- No additional funding was forthcoming from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to fund a second round.

17. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next meeting for the number of applications received under the 2019 "Connect to the Grid: 250 years of Limerick's Urban Planning" Grant Scheme in association with Creative Ireland. The address of the successful applicants, the nature of the works carried out and grant funding awarded.

REPLY: The 2019 Creative Ireland funded project "Connect to the Grid: 250 years of Limerick's Urban Planning" Grant Schemes: Georgian Core 2020 Vision and Connect the Grids.

These measures marked the Semi-Quincentennial of the setting out of the Georgian Core in the year of the 250th anniversary of the Colles Plan.

The grant scheme was advertised in the Limerick Leader in October 2019. There were several expressions of interest and one application received for each measure.

Successful applications:

Georgian Core 2020 Vision, Restoration Works:

Address: 8, The Crescent

Nature of Works: Windows restoration Project

Grant funding: €12,500

Connect the Grids, Restoration Works:

Address: 68, O'Connell Street

Nature of Works: Conservation and restoration works on Street Elevation Brickwork, (Re-wigging)

Grant funding: €10,000

18. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will ask at the next meeting if the Council is monitoring the daily numbers of homeless people on a list for emergency accommodation and rough sleepers, if so can the following be provided:

- figures for the months of August, September and October 2019 V 2020.

- can these figures be included on the Chief Executive's monthly report going forward.

Also, what plans are in place to increase bed capacity over the winter months, what emergency plans are in place for extreme weather conditions and what defines extreme weather conditions.

REPLY: The Intake and Placement Team based in the Homeless Action Team monitors and reviews all Emergency Beds and Waiting Lists on a daily basis. Waiting lists have only become a permanent feature in the advent of Covid 19 in April 2020. Daily statistics fluctuate significantly and I have provided a monthly snap shot to highlight the extent of the problem as it is currently presented. We will review the correct figure format and endeavour to include these figures going forward in the CE Report as requested.

Please note that not all those on the waiting list are verified as rough sleepers.

| | |
|-----------|----|
| August | 15 |
| September | 27 |
| October | 10 |

Additional Information Addressing Homelessness

- Council Led Street Outreach Teams in partnership with the Community Policing Unit in An Garda Síochána and HSE have begun to engage with clients who are reported as sleeping rough.
- An additional nine beds have been opened up in line with the Winter Initiative Plan 20/21 to address waiting list and rough sleeping.

The Limerick City and County Emergency Plan and Extreme Weather Protocol was circulated as part of the reply.

19. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will ask at the next meeting for an update on the new Clonmacken development including a timeline for completion and an explanation as to why the site is progressing so slowly.

REPLY: The Clonmacken development, comprising the construction of 43 no. social housing units, is advancing with an anticipated completion date of Q1 / 2022. The project is currently behind programme. Limerick City and County Council are liaising with the contractor and Design Team on programme related issues which are being dealt with in accordance with the contract.

20. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will ask at the next meeting for an update on the Coonagh /Knockalisheen Road and Northern Distributor Road including a timeline for construction phases.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council are awaiting Ministerial Approval in order to proceed with the appointment of a contractor for the Coonagh / Knockalisheen Distributor Road. If approved by the Minister, the appointment will take place without delay and the construction period is 30 months.

A Stage 2 Scheme Appraisal for the Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR) will be forwarded to the Department of Transport week beginning 9th November, 2020, which appraised the scheme as a whole and as various sub-schemes either side of the Shannon Crossing. The Department will decide if the scheme as a whole, or indeed a smaller sub-scheme, proceeds to the next Planning stage. It should be said that eventual construction is several years away at this time.

21. Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will ask at the next meeting how many fines this year so far have been issued in relation to dog fouling offences which blights our city streets.

REPLY: A total of three (no) fines have been issued for dog fouling to date in 2020, all of which have been paid.

22. Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will ask at the next meeting what are the future plans for the Bishops field in Corbally given that the Council are currently in contact with the owners.

REPLY: The lands referred to in the Question and known locally as 'The Bishops Field' is land in private ownership and as such the future of this land is currently a matter for the owner to determine in accordance with the relevant Development Plan zoning policy and objectives for the land.

23. Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will ask at the next meeting in relation to Rebuilding Ireland home loan:

(a) How many applications were received in comparison to the 2019 figures.

(b) How many applications were approved in 2020 in comparison to the 2019 figures.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council received and approved the following number of Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan applications:

| | | 2019 | 2020 |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| (a) | Applications received | 94 | 59 |
| (b) | Applications approved | 48 | 15 |

NOTICES OF MOTION

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will move at the next meeting that the Council identify as a matter of urgency a suitable site for a new cemetery for the wider area of Castletroy given that Kilmurry BG is at full capacity and there is no another cemetery in this area.

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

In proposing the motion Councillor Secas highlighted the urgent need for an additional cemetery in the area. She stated the issue was particularly distressing for elderly people in the area who wanted to be sure that they would be buried in the area where they live. Members pointed out that private land owners can also develop private cemeteries. The meetings administrator Mr J. Clune then read out the reply:

REPLY: The Council are in the final stages of preparing a Draft Burial Ground and Interment Strategy for its functional area. This will provide an evidence based strategy for the need for new burial grounds in each Municipal / Metropolitan District. Workshops with the Elected Members to discuss initial findings and research have already been held in each District and the Community, Culture and Leisure SPC received a briefing at its recent meeting on 9th November.

A draft strategy will now be finalised and brought to the February 2021 Meeting of the Community, Culture and Leisure SPC for consideration before being brought to the Full Council.

It is anticipated that the Burial Ground Strategy, if adopted, will inform the objectives of the new Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028.

I also wish to advise that the Council are progressing a Columbarian Wall Project for Kilmurray cemetery. In addition, Castleconnell cemetery is used as an alternative to Kilmurray cemetery.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors S. Novak Uí Chonchúir and E. Secas

We will move at the next meeting that the Limerick Council write to Irish Rail and the NTA to request that they carry out an engineer's report on the Limerick to Ballybrophy rail track. There has been 31 miles of continuous welded track laid over the past few years which should have resulted in an increase in speed. This hasn't happened. Increased speed is crucial to the development and marketing of the line.

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

In proposing the motion Councillor Novak Uí Chonchúir highlighted the need for a frequent, reliable and fast train service on this route.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan

I will move at the next meeting that the Council undertake a campaign to encourage city businesses to make an extra effort to decorate their windows in the run-up to Christmas, creating an atmospheric city trail for families to enjoy and promoting retail footfall in the city as Covid-19 restrictions ease.

The motion was proposed by Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Butler and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor O'Sullivan stated that the city trail initiative would be an event that families would greatly enjoy and could become an annual event. The motion received broad support. Ms. Larkin outlined the initiatives that are in place this year, in particular the "Walking in the Window Wonderland" initiative around Limerick City Centre.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan (to be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Metropolitan Meeting of the Council that the Council develops a policy for the taking in charge of estates to ensure that all estates are taken in charge within a defined period of 7 years post completion.

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

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will move at the next meeting that Limerick Metropolitan Council extend public park opening hours from 7am to 7pm during Winter for Level 3-5 Covid restrictions.

The motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donovan, seconded by Councillor Leddin and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor O'Donovan outlined the need for safe areas that people can exercise during Winter time, particularly for those living in apartments in the City.

Members supported the motion and requested that improvements to amenities in Parks and Open Spaces would be looked at. The Director, Service Operations said the Council would look at the feasibility of opening the parks earlier and later in the winter months but highlighted a number of issues to consider.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will move at the next meeting that this Council accepts tenants of Approved Housing Bodies onto the local authority transfer list, where the Approved Housing Body is not in a position to offer a suitable transfer, within their stock, in the cases of overcrowding, downsizing and medical grounds.

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

In proposing the motion, Councillor Benson highlighted the need for greater co-operation and engagement between the Local Authority and Approved Housing Bodies. The meetings administrator Mr J. Clune then read out the reply:

REPLY: Approved Housing Bodies are currently engaged in Local Authority transfers with Limerick City and County Council and also other Approved Housing Bodies.

Approved Housing Bodies have the capacity to source specific housing based on their own tenants needs as circumstances change during the lifecycle of a tenancy. As a Council we encourage this as the first step in the process given the current transfer pressures on Limerick City and County Council.

30. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated: _____