

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ONLINE MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD ON MONDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2021 at 09:45 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor Sarah Kiely, Cathaoirleach

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Service Operations (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Leahy), A/Senior Executive Officer, Planning and Environmental Services (Mr. D. McGuigan), Senior Executive Engineer, Limerick Metropolitan District (Mr. A. Finn), Senior Executive Engineer, Operations and Maintenance (Ms. C. Lynch), Senior Executive Planner, Planning and Environmental Services (Mr. D. O’Donoghue), Executive Planner, Planning and Environmental Services (Ms. R. O’Donnell), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Online Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Sheehan (C);  
Seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon;  
And Resolved:

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

**2. Strategic Housing Development (SHD) Application to An Bord Pleanála at Walkers Lane, Annacotty**

The A/Senior Executive Officer, Planning and Environmental Services gave a presentation to the Members on the proposed Strategic Housing Development Application and briefed the Members on the content of the proposed application.

The Members noted that the proposed development was similar to the application, which was brought to the Members during 2020 and queried whether the concerns raised previously had been taken into account by An Bord Pleanála.

Following a detailed discussion of the application, the members highlighted the following items in relation to the current application:

- The proposed density is higher than set out in the Castletroy Local Area Plan and is higher relative to other nearby developments including the Rivers Estate. They suggested that the development should be reduced to 35 units per hectare;

- There is a general lack of adequate car parking provision for the scheme which will result in parking issues on the road and in the general vicinity;
- With existing traffic congestion issues, this proposed development will result in additional traffic volumes of cars, adding to congestion;
- Concerns regarding excessive height of 3 to 5 stories, having regard to the fact that predominately there are mainly two storey dwellings adjacent to site;
- Did An Bord Pleanála consider the concerns raised previously by Elected Members in relation to the previous application;
- There was a lack of one bedroom apartments in the development, and this development would be suitable for a higher proportion;
- The development is out of character with the area, with a negative visual impact from the road;
- Social housing is grouped in two locations, contrary to policy;
- Concerns in relation to the single entrance and poor sightline visibility for drivers.
- An Bord Pleanála should revisit the whole project in a wider sense and consider the local community;
- The need for housing is recognised but concerns remain in relation to density and height;
- Adequate secure bike storage is needed;
- Adequate charging facilities for electric cars and electric bikes are required;
- Has an adequate assessment of the impact of the development on the river taken place?

### **3. Annual Meeting**

It was proposed by Councillor Slattery, seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C) and agreed to hold the Annual Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, following the Monthly Meeting on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2021.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **4. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a list of vacant local authority homes, by address, that have received funding for renovation from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government or have been submitted for funding with decision pending, for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 to date and if any of these properties are still vacant.*

**REPLY:** Please note, Voids 2021 units are pending the approved funding from the Department. Vacant B&R and SHIP properties, also vacant Voids 2021 and properties funded by TAP are vacant because works are not completed yet.

Summary of Refurbished LCCC Properties using DHPLG funding															
		B&R		SHIP Acquisitions		Regeneration		Traveller		Voids		Covid 19		Total	
		Occupied	Vacant	Occupied	Vacant	Occupied	Vacant	Occupied	Vacant	Occupied	Vacant	Occupied	Vacant		
2018	Adara - Rathkeale	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	NA	NA		
	Newcastle West	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	NA	NA		
	Cappamore - Kilmallock	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	NA	NA		
	Metropolitan District	16	7	11	1	21	0	0	1	14	0	NA	NA		
		21	9	17	2	21	0	0	1	24	0	NA	NA	95	
2019	Adara - Rathkeale	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	NA	NA		
	Newcastle West	1	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	NA	NA		
	Cappamore - Kilmallock	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	NA	NA		
	Metropolitan District	0	5	12	3	29	1	1	0	41	1	NA	NA		
		1	12	25	3	29	1	1	0	73	1	NA	NA	146	
2020	Adara - Rathkeale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	7	0		
	Newcastle West	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	1	10	0		
	Cappamore - Kilmallock	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	14	0	14	0		
	Metropolitan District	1	3	0	0	15	3	1	1	49	3	19	0		
		1	9	1	0	15	3	2	2	84	4	50	0	171	
2021	Adara - Rathkeale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	NA	NA		
	Newcastle West	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	NA	NA		
	Cappamore - Kilmallock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	11	NA	NA		
	Metropolitan District	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	5	23	NA	NA		
		0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	11	47	NA	NA	63	
	Total	23	30	43	6	65	7	3	4	192	52	NA	NA	475	

## 5. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the number of vacant Council owned houses brought back into use from 2014-2020.*

**REPLY:** One thousand one hundred and seventy properties were allocated from 2014 to 2020.

However, four hundred of these were succession and variation tenancies. Therefore, the number of vacant Council owned houses brought back into use from 2014-2020 is **770**.

New build allocations are not included in the figure below.

The number of re-lets listed below all have had a component of re-let repair/refurbishment works completed depending on the condition of the property when returned.

	Allocations per iHouse (Report 110)	Succession/Variation tenancies	Actual Re-lets
2014	184	38	146
2015	222	81	141
2016	145	45	100
2017	141	51	90
2018	146	78	68
2019	157	60	97
2020	175	47	128
	<b>1170</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>770</b>

## 6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many houses have been upgraded and purchased under the Buy and Renew Scheme and the location of these houses by Electoral Area.*

**REPLY:** The table below details the overall delivery by Municipal District since the scheme was

launched in 2017:

	Metro	Cappamore -Kilmallock	Adare- Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Total	Improvements carried out
2017	9	1	1	0	11	11
2018	23	2	2	3	30	29
2019	5	0	2	6	13	10
2020	5	2	0	2	9	0

The 2021 projection is currently estimated at 5no. Units.

This consists of 3no. Metropolitan units, 1no. Cappamore-Kilmallock units and 1no. Newcastle West unit.

#### **7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many landlords have engaged with the Council under the Repair and Lease Scheme to upgrade houses and the location of these houses per Electoral Area.***

**REPLY:** I can confirm that 76 separate landlords have submitted properties to Limerick City and County Council for review since the commencement of the scheme, with a breakdown of these submitted properties detailed below per Electoral Area;

Metropolitan	NCW	Adare/Rathkeale	Cappamore/Kilmallock
94	5	10	30

I can confirm that 24 units have been delivered under the scheme to date, relating to 15 different landlords – breakdown per Electoral Area detailed below for delivered units;

Metropolitan	NCW	Adare/Rathkeale	Cappamore/Kilmallock
13	1	2	8

#### **8. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can Limerick City and County Council give an update on the Road Safety Scheme for Hyde Road and what stage is this Scheme at.***

**REPLY:** A topographical survey was commissioned by Limerick City and County Council of Hyde Road and is in process. This information will be issued to the National Transport Authority (NTA) on completion. The NTA will complete an initial design study to determine the most appropriate option/s, including proposed bus lanes on this street or an alternative option with cycle lanes and bus priority provision at junctions. Limerick City and County Council will co-ordinate with the NTA and advance the scheme once the optimum approach is agreed.

**9. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can Limerick City and County Council advise was Boherkyle included in the noise pollution survey given to the TII and if not can a survey be done on this area.***

**REPLY:** In Limerick's Noise Action Plan 2018 to 2023, a total of 14 noise "hotspots" were identified. These are areas of relatively high population density where significant numbers of people may be exposed to excessive noise levels from traffic. Noise monitoring and modelling has been carried out in respect of two of these hotspots to date. These are Monaleen and Ballycummin. Cost benefit analyses in respect of potential mitigation measures for these areas were prepared and submitted to TII for review. Similar exercises will be carried out in relation to the other hotspots over the life of the Noise Action Plan.

Boherkyle was not identified as a noise hotspot in the Noise Action Plan and it is unlikely to be identified as one in the future due to the low population density in this area and the small number of properties affected.

**10. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can Limerick City and County Council provide an update on what road safety measures are proposed for the Bloodmill Road and Old Singland Road. With the new development on the Bloodmill Road traffic will increase significantly in the area.***

**REPLY:** There are currently no road safety measures proposed for the Bloodmill Road or Old Singland Road. Should an issue arise in the area it will be assessed under the Traffic Management Policy of Limerick City and County Council.

**11. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick when the Part 8 for the boundary wall for Mount St. Oliver Cemetery will be advertised and why there has been a delay in advertising it. Previously, the Council committed to carry out the works on the boundary wall at this location in Q1/Q2 of 2021. We are in Q2 now and the Part 8 is still to be advertised.***

**REPLY:** Design & Delivery Services have recently commenced work on this project. This project was discussed at a recent Area Briefing with agreement to consult locally on the detail of the design of the boundary wall, e.g. height, railing type, etc. prior to submitting the Part 8 application. It is envisaged that this consultation will take place in May with the Part8 submitted in June.

**12. Question submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir**

***I will ask the Director of Services, Physical Development, for an update on actions taken to date in response to my Notice of Motion from the July 2020 Meeting of the Climate Action,***

***Biodiversity and Environment SPC dealing with pilot sensors for the litterbin service as well as looking at the possible use of solar compacting bins.***

**REPLY:** The Council had intended to install sensors in a number of the street litterbins to monitor capacity but Covid 19 affected the supply of these sensors to the Council. Over the last number of months, the Council has witnessed a dramatic increase in waste in a number of areas, resulting in the provision of additional wheelie bins in the city in a number of locations and also providing an additional litterbin collection service. The Council also relocated four solar compacting bins into the city centre, adjacent to food outlet areas. These solar bins provide information on when the bins are reaching certain levels of capacity. The Council are now utilising these bins as a pilot to determine level of service required in these areas.

The Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment has recently announced €5million in funding for litter prevention and cleaning. The Council intends to apply for this funding to purchase solar bins for the city. The information provided by solar compacting bins will allow the Council to monitor the litterbin service and ensure an efficient service with bins concentrated in areas of greatest need. The Council has investigated a litterbin tagging system and currently do not have the funding available for the system. The Council are considering the litterbin tagging system as part of the funding application to the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment.

**13. Question submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for details of traffic calming measures and interventions in housing estates that have been designated a "30kph Slow Zone".***

**REPLY:** 30kph Slow Zones are identified with signage at the boundaries of the zones. If further measures are requested, these are assessed on a case-by-case nature in accordance with the Limerick City and County Council Traffic Management Policy.

**14. Question submitted by Councillor J. Collins**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what measures Limerick City and County Council are implementing to facilitate hospitality reopening and trading under COVID restrictions during the "Outdoor Summer"? What canopies, awnings or other coverings will be erected by Limerick City and County Council, at what locations will they be placed and when will they be complete?***

***What footpath buildouts will be completed, at what locations will they be placed and when will they be complete? What streets or laneways will be pedestrianised / partially pedestrianised or made available for outdoor hospitality and when will this happen?***

**REPLY:** Fáilte Ireland has invited local authorities to apply for funding for the installation of facilities that will enable weatherproofed outdoor dining to assist in the re-opening of the economy. The Council is currently completing an application to Fáilte Ireland to install covered pergolas in Bedford Row and Lower Thomas Street that will enable businesses in these streets to provide al fresco dining. The infrastructure, once provided,

must last for 5 years to qualify for funding. Additionally, the proposal must be for pedestrianised/partly pedestrianised streets. If approved by Failte Ireland, the proposal will require Part VIII approval by Elected Members and will be subject to detailed design. Delivery is dependent on the above steps being completed.

Members are aware that the Metropolitan area has been assigned approx. 10 build outs from funding available from the National Transport Authority for 2021. A number of applications/expressions of interest have already been received, of which some have been provisionally approved and some continue to be assessed at present. Applicants will be notified as soon as their applications have been approved in principle. The delivery of the build outs will commence as early as possible.

The Council has received applications from businesses with proposals to temporarily and partially close 8 streets/laneways in the core business district. All requests received have been examined and will be advertised in the local press as a first step. The proposal is to close the streets each day with effect from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June through to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November and for differing times, depending on the location. It is necessary under the Roads Act that these proposals be advertised for submissions to be made by persons that may be affected by same.

#### **15. Question submitted by Councillor J. Collins**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, given the fantastic public response and success of recent street murals, what is the process of choosing who is depicted, how are locations chosen and if the process can be opened for the public to engage and make further submissions or suggestions for consideration.***

**REPLY:** Limerick has a rich variety of Street Art, the majority of which has been produced independently, by a number of organisations. This is subject to approval by the relevant Limerick City and County Council Departments and Committees. Usually Limerick City and County Council have no input into themes and selection of location.

The majority of the street art in Limerick has been coordinated by **Draw Out: Urban Exhibitionist** - an Urban Regeneration Initiative that uses the most contemporary examples of Urban Art to reimagine space. Over the ten years they have been operating in Limerick, Draw Out have funded their work through competitive open calls and through securing private funding.

The honouring of Dodo Reddan through a street art installation was submitted to Protocol Committee. Given the exceptional nature of the COVID19 pandemic, Limerick City and County Council were delighted to partner with Draw Out to make this project possible.

While Limerick City and County Council have no regular programme for the production of murals, in 2021 a stream of funding became available, which due to the nature of the project was theme and location specific. This project is in progress and has been administered through open call; The Military, Maritime, Industrial Atlantic Heritage (MMIAH) project. The location and theme for this project is site specific.

Limerick City and County Council are preparing a Public Art Policy and Strategy, which will

reference types of Public Art, and examine this issue further.

**16. Question submitted by Councillor J. Collins**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the results of the recent traffic survey on Rosbrien Road to be made available.***

**REPLY:** A copy of the Traffic Study conducted at the Rosbrien Road was circulated as part of the reply.

**17. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an updated list of the membership of the newly recommenced Limerick Forum.***

**REPLY:** The Chief Executive decided to re-convene the Limerick Forum to assist in the review of the Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Strategy which is now seven years old and requires revision.

Similar to the previous Limerick Economic Forum established in 2013, the new forum will be chaired by Denis Brosnan with members acting in a voluntary capacity to advise the Chief Executive on the review.

The Forum this time will also advise on the social dimension of the strategy especially around poverty reduction and social investment. In addition, the Forum brings key Limerick organisations together to share discussions and plans.

The current membership is as follows:

Councillor Michael Collins	Mayor of the City and County of Limerick
Denis Brosnan (Chair)*	<i>Previous roles include:</i> Chair of Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development DAC Chair of Mid-West Taskforce Founder Chief Executive and Chairman of Kerry Group Plc Chair of Horse Racing Ireland
Fr Pat Hogan	Moyross Parish Priest Chaplin of the Limerick Traveller Community Member of Limerick Regeneration Advisory Monitoring Group
John Moran*	<i>Previous Roles include:</i> Interim Chair of the Land Development Agency Secretary General of the Department of Finance
Tim O'Connor*	<i>Previous Roles include:</i> Chair of the Shannon Consortium Secretary General to the President, Joint Secretary of the North/South Ministerial Council Consul General of Ireland, New York
Barry O'Sullivan*	Vice President of Manufacturing at Johnson & Johnson Board member of the IDA Former Chair of Mid-West action plan for Jobs
Mary Harney	UL Chancellor Former Tánaiste and Government Minister



Josephine Feehily*	Current Chair of the Pensions Commission <i>Previous Roles include</i> Head of the Revenue Commissioners Chair of the Policing Authority
Dee Ryan	Chief Executive Officer Limerick Chamber
Conn Murray*	Chairman Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development DAC Former Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council
Collette Cowan	Group Chief Executive UL Hospitals Group
Declan Jordan	Senior Lecturer in Economics at Cork University Business School Director of the Spatial and Regional Economics Research Centre

- Original member of the Limerick Economic Forum 2013-2016

#### **18. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update of the tree felling on the site of Gough Place, Rossbrien Road.***

**REPLY:** As part of the design development for the 17 new housing units at Gough Place a tree survey and arborist report was prepared in October 2018, by Michael Garry of Arbor Care, a professional member of the Arboricultural Association. Eleven trees along the boundary line between Gough Place and Punch's Close were examined. Two of these trees were suitable for retention and 9 have been removed for the reasons detailed below.

- Of the 9 trees that were removed 6 were "large over-mature Monterey cypress trees", 2 were early-mature small leaf limes and 1 was an early-mature sycamore.
- The trees along this boundary were identified as having "outgrown their living space and are no longer appropriate for their location."
- The condition of the trees are described as follows: "Many of the cypress have suffered significant storm damage and stem loss, they have also been over pruned on the apartment side (Punch's Close), which has resulted in un-balancing the canopies. There are two trees worthy of retention in the row namely T10 and T11 these trees are in good condition and can be retained. It is recommended from an arboricultural view that the remaining trees are removed."
- The report adds: "These trees are currently a hazard for the apartment's and will be within falling distance of the new development, it is prudent arboricultural management to remove these trees and to plant site appropriate trees that would maintain screening and enhance the amenity and biodiversity of the site."
- The report recommended that the trees were removed prior to construction and occupation of the new housing.
- The tree report and survey was included in the Part 8 application to the local authority (Planning ref: 18/8014) and granted planning on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2018.
- The design team have engaged with the National Parks and Wildlife Services, who are satisfied with the approach.
- A comprehensive landscaping plan is proposed as part of the current works, which includes for replanting this boundary with semi-mature native species, with 2 new trees proposed for each tree removed (18 no. new trees in total along this boundary).

**19. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the Clonmacken Part 8 housing development and if the Council could issue an explanation for the delay.*

**REPLY:** The Clonmacken development, comprising the construction of 43 no. social housing units, is advancing. 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 C. Sheehan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the Council to install additional temporary bins around the "Three Bridges Walk" in the Metropolitan area for the Summer period.*

**REPLY:** The Council has provided additional wheelie bins in the busiest areas of the City to cater for the increased level of waste. This includes the "Three Bridges Walk". The Council also services the litterbins twice daily. The Council are monitoring the litterbin service to determine the most effective times to service the bins, as this may likely be the solution in the interim.

**21. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for Limerick Council to put in place temporary traffic counters on the Father Russell Road to count bikes, cars, trucks and pedestrians and furnish the Members with the data at the next meeting.*

**REPLY:** The Council are currently in the process of procuring traffic counters to monitor road movements (traffic, cycle and pedestrian) on the Strategic Transport Routes identified in LSMATS. Father Russell Road will be included in the roads to be surveyed. Once the procurement and installation of the counters is completed, counts will be available to view.

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**22. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin (to be referred to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee)**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick Metropolitan District Council require the preservation of existing mature trees where feasible in all housing and commercial developments.*

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

**23. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. Butler (to be referred to the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee)**

***I call on Limerick Council to develop a recreation plan for Limerick City West to include a Municipal sports facility such as basketball, a skate/bike park and other sports.***

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

**24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas**

***I will move at the next meeting that the Metropolitan District of Limerick seek funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA) immediately for a pedestrian crossing on Old School House Road in Castletroy to facilitate people to safely cross the road and access the bus service.***

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

In proposing the motion, Councillor Secas highlighted the urgent need for a pedestrian crossing at this location, as it was an extremely busy road with housing estates on both sides.

**REPLY:** The provision of a pedestrian crossing on Old School House Road has been recently discussed with the NTA and they have given a commitment to advance this crossing in the current year. A design/delivery strategy for this crossing will now be progressed with a view to starting construction later this year.

**25. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors S. Kiely and D. McSweeney**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council engage with hospitality traders, other local traders and An Garda Síochána to put plans in place to create a designated outdoor dining area in Limerick City Centre.***

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

Members welcomed the initiatives for outdoor dining facilities and highlighted the need to have proposals in place as quickly as possible.

**REPLY:** Officials of Limerick City & County Council have been liaising closely with all stakeholders in the City Centre in preparation for the re-opening of businesses in the coming weeks.

The Council has put in place a series of initiatives that will assist and support the hospitality sector to provide outdoor dining facilities. These include:

- Operation of the Outdoor Furniture Grant Scheme
- Winter proofing and Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme
- Tables & Chairs License's and Footpath Buildouts
- Street Event Licensing and Temporary Road Closures

The Winter proofing Scheme (above) is specific to the Bedford Row / Lr Thomas Street area of the City Centre where there is a concentration of hospitality type businesses. The

traders in this area have been consulted regarding the proposals. An application for funding for this initiative is to be lodged with Fáilte Ireland in the coming weeks. This scheme allied to the Outdoor Furniture Scheme has the potential to create a focal point for outdoor dining in the City Centre. It will be complimented by the other initiatives outlined above.

The Council has engaged, not only with the traders in this area but also with hospitality / retail interests in the wider city centre area. A City Centre Liaison group has been established by the Limerick Chamber of Commerce and the Independent Traders Group to work with the Council to help create a more vibrant city centre experience for the citizens of Limerick and visitors alike. The liaison group is representative of the hotels, restaurants, vintners and retail businesses operating in the City Centre. Currently this group is meeting on a weekly basis.

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

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that road space on the Dock Road be reallocated more appropriately towards cycling, walking and an improved public realm.***

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

**27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Benson**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council commits to clearing and maintaining all gardens of vacant properties in their stock, particularly those that have been identified as category 3 and 4 that may be vacant for longer periods. This is to ensure that vacant properties do not become overgrown or rodent infested.***

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

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council are in the process of implementing a number of actions in relation to Category 3 & 4 properties as follows;

1. Single Stage Approval to the Department to fund refurbishments.
2. Stock Transfer to AHB's to complete the works and return to use.
3. Sale in current condition based on an Expression of Interest to those who qualify for Affordable Housing.

Where houses remain in our ownership we will endeavour to maintain the appearance of same with a view to preventing the issues noted. Where people note issues of concern we ask that they bring this to our attention so that we can deal with the matter as a priority.

**28. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan (to be referred to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee)**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council calls on all restaurants and takeaways with drive through facilities to print car registration numbers on***

***all packaging for food and drinks items that are purchased and to call on the Minister for Transport, Environment and Climate Change to roll out the initiative nationwide.***

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

**29. Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_