



**Meeting of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy
Committee to be held on Tuesday 8th June 2021**

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor B. Collins

I move at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council seeks to engage a consultant to calculate the carbon credits that are created by trees and hedgerows throughout Limerick City and County and the findings be included in the LCCC Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2019-2024.

REPLY:

Subject to the adoption of the Climate Action Bill 2020 which will require each Local Authority to develop a Climate action plan covering the areas of mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity, this plan will examine the role of the natural environment including trees and hedgerows in supporting the transition to a low carbon economy and society.

As the SPC members may be aware the Council is currently drafting a tree management strategy and this motion can be examined as part of that process.

Brian Kennedy
Director of Services
Physical Development Directorate
8th June 2021



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**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 Limerick City and County Council identify suitable locations for additional public toilets within the Metropolitan area.

REPLY:

Limerick City and County Council have conducted a pilot scheme in providing portable toilets at the following locations – 5 at Merchant’s Quay, 5 at Arthur’s Quay Park and 3 at Robert Byrne Park on Clancy Strand. The success/effectiveness of the pilot is now being evaluated. The toilets of hospitality businesses engaging in outdoor dining are now also open to customers.

Brian Kennedy
Director of Services
Physical Development Directorate
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8th June 2021



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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.

REPLY:

LCCC notes the merits of introducing such a scheme but unfortunately we have not found a legislative basis under the Waste Management Act or Litter Pollution Act upon which we could compel vendors to affix vehicle registrations to takeaway bags.

In terms of GDPR legislation vehicle registrations would be classed as personal information and it seems the takeaway vendors would have no lawful basis for collecting that information from their customers.

In similar advice the Data Protection Commissioner has advised that the collection of such information is disproportionate to the littering offence committed.

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications currently have no plans to introduce legislation to give a legislative basis for doing this.

The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy commits to substantially reducing the amount of single use plastic cups and food containers we use. Measures to achieve this include the introduction of levies, similar to the plastic bag levy. Producers have a role to play in cutting down on the amount of these items we use and, under the Single Use Plastics Directive and current Extended Producer Responsibility model, they will be liable for the costs of litter clean up associated with the products they place on the market.

Finally, it is noted that Minister Ryan has recently announced the allocation of €5m in additional funding for litter infrastructure and awareness campaigns to encourage people to dispose of their rubbish thoughtfully, in the context of an outdoor summer. The funding will add more recycling and litter facilities to meet increased demand but there is an onus on all of us to make a conscious effort to leave no trace.

If the Motion is recommended by the CABE SPC and is subsequently approved by Limerick City and County Council we will write to the Minister outlining the contents of the proposal.

Philippa King

Regional Waste Co-ordinator,

Southern Waste Region

8th June 2021



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**Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas (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 Metropolitan District of Limerick City and County Council introduce a digital advertising bins pilot program at parks that will remind people to feed the bin not the grass and will display public information messages and ads. Such a program will help the Council to get some revenue in return for the advertising opportunities.

REPLY:

The Council intends to roll out solar compacting bins in the city centre to address the increased waste being generated in the city. Funding is being made available nationally to Local Authorities for the purchase of these bins. The number and locations of these bins has yet to be determined and will be confined to areas of most need in the city centre. It is not possible to state at this time how many bins will be located in the Parks or whether they can facilitate digital advertising. The Council would need to investigate this as part of the procurement process.

It is also worth noting that the CityxChange project is considering external digital signs around the city which is an alternative option to providing messaging on bins. The Council needs to consider the request of messaging and advertising further in order to determine the most appropriate method.

Brian Kennedy
Director of Services
Physical Development Directorate
8th June 2021

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**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 requires the preservation of existing mature trees where feasible in all housing and commercial developments.

REPLY:

Mature trees are a hugely important asset in Limerick City and County. There are several relevant aims in Goal 4 of the Limerick City and County Corporate Plan 2019-2024 which aim to protect biodiversity and green infrastructure generally and which can be applied to trees. In addition, the Limerick City Development Plan 2010 -2016 (as extended) contains the following statement and policy aimed at preserving mature trees:

Trees & Urban Woodlands (Limerick City Development Plan 2010 - 2016)

Trees make a valuable contribution to the landscape, local visual amenity and biodiversity of Limerick City. They also have an educational and scientific value. Trees can help to absorb pollutants, filter dust, reduce noise, produce oxygen and reduce carbon dioxide as well as enhancing the aesthetics of the built environment and public realm thus benefiting Limerick City's environmental and economic wellbeing. The Planning & Development Act 2000-2008 sets out the legal framework and procedures to make a Tree Preservation Order. To date the City Council has not instigated any Tree Preservation Orders, although it may consider additions within the lifetime of this plan, as resources allow.

Policy LBR.10 (Limerick City Development Plan 2010 - 2016)

It is the policy of Limerick City and County Council:

- To protect and maintain existing important individual and groups of trees from development risk, provide additional tree planting of native deciduous trees and other appropriate plantings through planning permissions in order to benefit local biodiversity;
- To strengthen the protection of trees in the City and protect tree lined settings;
- To preserve, maintain and increase the general tree cover in the City by extending planting at identified locations and identifying new sites suitable for the creation of small woodland areas;
- To make use of tree preservation orders to protect important trees or groups of trees which may be at risk;
- To protect and maintain existing important wetland habitats from development risk, encroachment of incompatible uses, and proposals for filling to ensure sustainability, enhancement of local biodiversity and retention of flood plain storage areas.

Finally, this issue will also be covered by the Limerick Tree Policy which is currently being drafted.

Brian Kennedy
Director of Services
Physical Development Directorate
8th June 2021