

## **LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.**

**Question submitted by Councillor Elena Secas**

I will ask at the next Meeting when the process for the next City and County Speed Limit Review is scheduled to commence.

**REPLY:**

The current bye-laws in respect of special speed limits (general review) in Limerick became effective on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 following a detailed review. In accordance with the national guidelines a comprehensive review and update should occur at least every 5 years.

The next review should commence no later than November 2022 to allow adequate time for consultation.

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**Hugh McGrath C.Eng  
Senior Engineer**

**Transportation & Mobility**



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Luimneach

Housing Development Directorate  
Regeneration Department  
Limerick City and County Council  
Moyross | Roxboro  
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## **COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 5TH JULY, 2021**

### Question submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will ask at the next meeting, in relation to the Limerick Regeneration Process: (a) Since Limerick Regeneration began, how much money has been spent on this project; (b) The total number of houses that have been demolished in all of the three areas to date; (c) The number of new houses that have been constructed at the three locations to date; and (d) The proposed no. of houses to be constructed at these locations in the future

### Reply:

#### Context

The Vision Plans for the regeneration of Southill and Ballinacurra Weston and for Moyross prepared by the Limerick Southside Regeneration Agency and Limerick Northside Regeneration Agency respectively were launched by President Mary McAleese in January 2008. These documents set out the broad objective for the regeneration of these three areas and followed the publication of the Fitzgerald Report in April 2007. The publication of the Limerick Regeneration Masterplan - A vision for Moyross, Southill/Ballinacurra Weston and St. Mary's Park followed in October 2008.

#### (a) Since Limerick Regeneration began, how much money has been spent on this project;

Expenditure in the first phase of regeneration from start up in 2007 to June 2012 is €152,282,611 when regeneration was managed by the Limerick Regeneration Agencies.

The Regeneration Agencies ceased in 2012 and the Regeneration Programme was transferred to Limerick City Council. Expenditure by Limerick City Council and Limerick City and County Council from June 2012 up to 2021 is €244,996,702. The spend relates to specific projects and objectives under the Social, Economic and Physical Framework Plans of the adopted Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan.

#### (b) The total number of houses that have been demolished in all of the three areas to date;

The demolition programme in the first period (up to the adoption of the LRFIP in February 2014) followed the objectives set out in the Vision Plans launched in January 2008 and the Regeneration Masterplan launched in October 2008. In line with the ambition of the Limerick Regeneration Masterplan published in 2008 under the Limerick Regeneration Agencies which favoured a 'clean slate' demolition approach and reflecting a sharp population decline in the regeneration areas over a 30-year period, 895 vacant and in some cases derelict or partially-derelict houses were

demolished during the Limerick Regeneration Agency's tenure from 2007-2012. To put this in context, the population of the areas involved declined by between 48 and 70 per cent in the 30 years up to Census 2011. In simple terms, many people had left these areas with a resultant spike in the number of vacant units which adversely impacted on the quality of life of remaining residents and gave rise to additional problems with anti-social behaviour.

A comprehensive review of the programme was carried out from June 2012 (*following the transfer of responsibility for regeneration from the Limerick Regeneration Agencies to Limerick City Council*) to September 2013 which had regard to all relevant factors including the prevailing and projected economic circumstances. During the consultation process, the principle of large to full scale demolition was reassessed. In addition, retention and refurbishment options were reviewed and identified, which shifted the focus away from wholesale demolitions. This reviewed approach is now embedded in the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP) - a robust, evidence-based, measurable Implementation Plan adopted by elected members in February 2014.

The number of units demolished since the adoption of the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP) in February 2014 across the 4 areas is 381 units. This includes demolitions in recent times in St. Mary's Park to deal with anti-social behaviour issues as part of a joint task force approach between An Garda Siochana and Limerick City and County Council.

In accordance with the commitment to review and Monitor the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP), the *Demolition and Retention Strategy* for the four regeneration areas was reviewed in 2015 and again in 2018. The outcome of the review in 2015 saw the retention of an additional 44 houses (i.e., reduction in demolition of 44 houses). The review in 2018 saw the retention of an additional 36 houses. In total with the two reviews, an additional 80 no. units were retained (i.e., reduction in demolition of 80 houses overall). Given that new housing proposed in the regeneration areas is replacement housing, the overall number of houses required, based on the calculation adopted in the LRFIP in 2014, reduces from 593 to 513 replacement homes.

(c) The number of new houses that have been constructed at the three locations to date;

& the total number of new houses, apartments built in each area

269 units have been completed to date across the 4 areas.

- 30-36 Moylish Road (7 units)
- Cliona Park Phase 1 (34 units)
- Vizes Court Phase 3 (29 units)
- Southill Older Persons Accommodation (35 units)
- Wallers Well Phase 1 (10 units)
- Cliona Park Gap Site (2 units)
- Cliona Park Phase 2 (10 units)
- Lord Edward Street (81 units)
- Churchfield Phase 1 (a), (b) and (c) (42 units)
- St Mary's Park Infill Housing (19 units)

(d) The proposed no. of houses to be constructed at these locations in the future

There are 161 units scheduled for completion over the next 2 years.

- Churchfield Phase 2 – 38 units - 18 month programme – site start Q3/2021 - substantial completion Q1/2023
- Cosgrave Park – 30 units – site start Q3/2021 - substantial completion Q1/2023
- Dalgaish Park – 27 units – site start Q3/2021 - substantial completion Q1/2023
- Cliona Park Phase 3 – 18 units – site start Q3/2021 - substantial completion Q4/2022
- Infills Moyross/Southill – 38 units – site start April 2021 – substantial completion 01/04/2022

- Sheep Street – 8 units – site start Q4/2021 – substantial completion Q1/2023
- 45/46 Cliona Park – 2 units – construction commenced – substantial completion Q3/2021

The type of properties these are (1,2,3,4, etc bed properties)

Each of the 4 areas have a different bedtype demand profile (based on the approved housing waiting list) that the new build replacement housing schemes meets.

On average, across the 4 areas the profile for bedtypes delivered and in progress are as follows:

- 1 bed: 15%
- 2 bed: 43%
- 3 bed: 38%
- 4 bed: 3%
- 5 bed: 1%

  
**Elaine O'Connor**  
A/Senior Executive Officer  
Regeneration Department, Housing Development Directorate  
30th June, 2021



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Limerick City  
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## COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 5TH JULY, 2021.

### Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the Part 8 process for the Limerick Institute of Technology to Mary Immaculate College cycleway.

### Reply:

The Council is currently progressing the designs of the following schemes;

1. Limerick Institute of Technology to city centre.
2. Mary Immaculate College to city centre.

It is proposed to advertise the Part VIII for LIT to city centre in July of this year, with the Part VIII for Mary I to city centre to follow in Sep/Oct of this year.

Note that both these schemes converge in city centre at O'Callaghan/Clancy Strand and Honan's Quay respectively. Cycle connectivity between the two schemes is provided along Shannon Bridge.

Brian Kennedy  
Director of Service  
Physical Development Directorate  
28th June, 2021



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## **COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 5TH JULY, 2021**

### **Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

I will ask at the next meeting for an update on the regeneration plans for Thomond Weir.

### **Reply:**

BHP have completed vertical and horizontal testing of the concrete piers and core results have been provided to Garland Consulting Engineers. Initial assessment would suggest that the piers have capacity for select vehicular movements.

However, a final conclusion cannot be made until such time as the foundation of the individual piers are assessed by Dive and Marine Contractors. Such an assessment has not been undertaken to date due to the high flow rates and water levels in the Shannon.

Dive and Marine are scheduled to inspect flows at Thomond Weir on the week commencing 5th July 2021 and assess if flows are low enough to allow divers undertake the assessment of the foundations. They are also to discuss same with the ESB to check as to the frequency of any planned discharges.

Assuming river conditions are favourable, Dive and Marine intend to mobilise in the coming weeks. It is envisaged that Dive and Marine will issue a report on the foundations within 4 weeks of mobilising.

On receipt, Garlands will then finalise their structural assessment and will issue their feasibility report within a further 4 week period.

Regards

Declan White  
Senior Executive Engineer  
Regeneration Department

30th June, 2021

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Limerick City  
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**COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 5th JULY, 2021.**

**Question submitted by Councillor J Costelloe**

I will ask at the next Meeting, as part of the CFRAMS flood prevention measures, have O'Dwyers Villas, Thomondgate, and New Road, Thomondgate, been included, given their close proximity to the River Shannon and the likelihood of further flooding.

**Reply:**

O'Dwyers Villas, Thomondgate and New Road, Thomondgate are within the Scheme Area for the Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme. RPS Consulting Engineers have recently been appointed to progress this scheme.

RPS will be completing a full review of the initial CFRAM Preferred Options at these locations. The Initial Preferred Option in the CFRAM Study included a combination of walls and embankments to protect properties at these locations, details as per attached drawing.

*John*  
Director of Service  
Planning, Environment and Place Making  
30<sup>th</sup> June, 2021

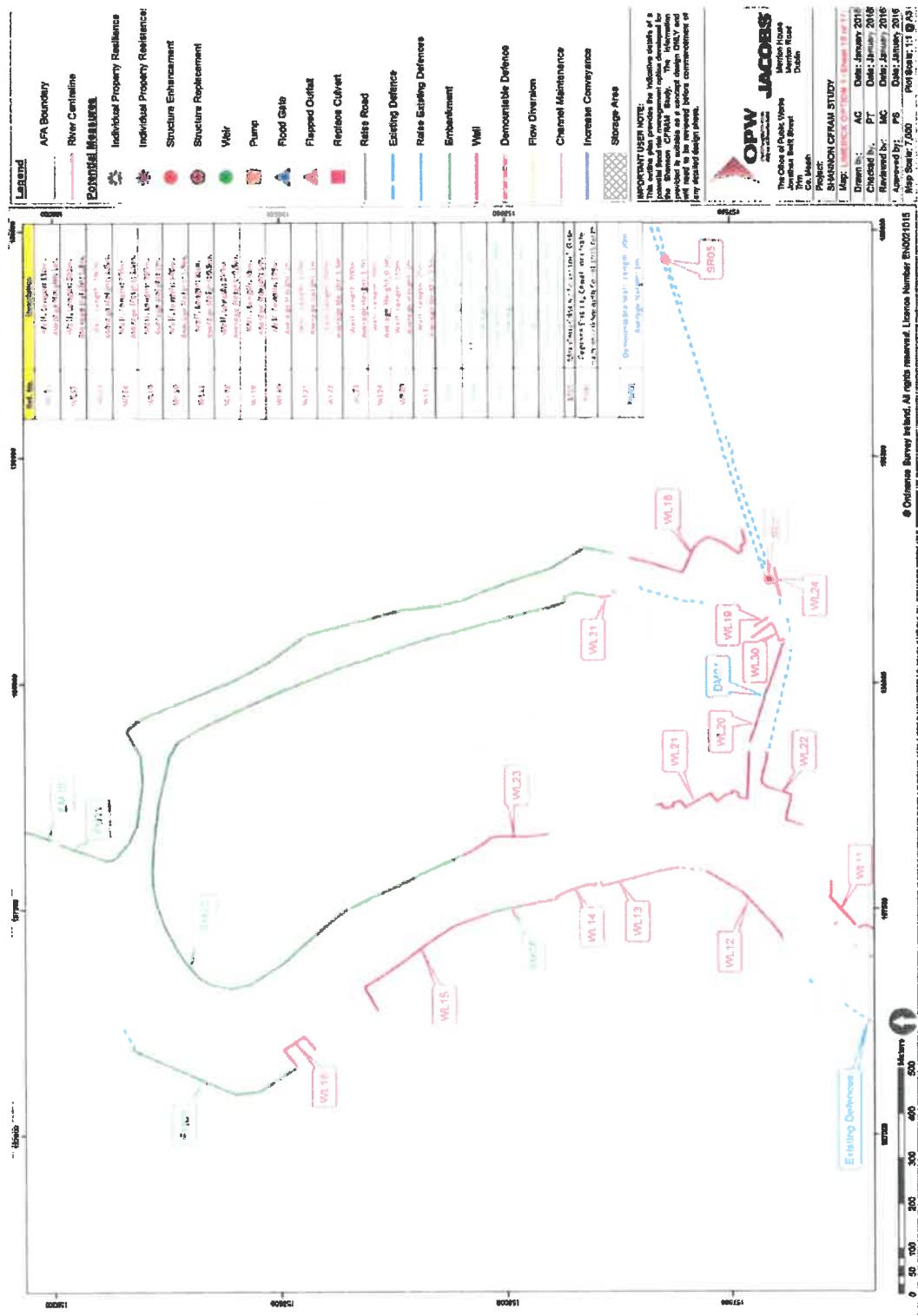


Figure 6.10 – Option Lik-01 (Sheet 10)

## COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### Question submitted by Councillor J. Costello

I will ask at the next Meeting what are the future plans for Sonny's Corner which was designated for housing up until recently when work ceased due to the discovery of one of the original Stone Gateways into the ancient City; and will the Council preserve this important piece of local history given its location to the Medieval Quarter.

### REPLY:

The presence of the city defences at or near the site at Sonny's Corner and traversing the adjacent site at St. Ann's Court was anticipated. Sections of the city wall are upstanding further along the street towards Exchange Street, and parallel to the Island Road beyond St. Ann's Court. Historic mapping also showed the outer line of the city defences crossing the former small housing estate at St. Ann's Court in a NNW/SSE direction, crossing the road incorporating a gate known as Little Island Gate and returning SW/NE along the northern boundary of the site at Sonny's Corner. In addition, the mapping shows an earlier line of defences extending along the western boundary of St. Ann's Court in line with Bishop Street. Sonny's Corner was immediately outside the city wall.

The chronology of the area of St Ann's Court was that it lay immediately outside the earlier city wall. In the last quarter of the 12<sup>th</sup> century St. Peter's Cell, a nunnery was founded and at the turn of the 13<sup>th</sup> century the city defences were expanded to the east to incorporate the precinct of same. By 1540 the nunnery buildings were ruinous and the area had become fallow. By the 17<sup>th</sup> century the site had been built on and in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century at least half of the street was occupied by a leather tannery. The most recent development was built in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Prior to acquisition, a preliminary archaeological assessment had flagged these issues. The assessment recommended advance archaeological test trenching and a final design that would bring the line of the wall back into the public realm, with the layout reflecting its location. The most recent test trenching took place when the 20<sup>th</sup> century houses in St Ann's Court were demolished and the site was secured. The city wall extends SSE across the site just below ground level. It is up to 2m wide and there is a height of at least 2m surviving below ground level. At the rear of the footpath on the northern side of the road a faced break in the wall was identified. This is likely to be the northern side of the opening for Little Island Gate. No testing was carried out in the street. The outer face of the city wall was exposed at Sonny's Corner returning northward in line with the faced break.

There is tremendous potential in any future development to highlight and re-establish the line of the wall and the location of the gate. City defences are considered to be of national importance and are therefore designated as National Monuments and protected under the National Monuments (Amendments) Act 1930-2014. As a member of the Irish Walled Towns Network Limerick City is very aware of the importance of its city defences. Since their destruction in the 18<sup>th</sup> century they have become fragmented. Redevelopment of this site has the potential to re-unite over 80m of the early 13<sup>th</sup> century defences.

The LCCC team working on the feasibility for affordable and social homes on the site, will now use this detailed archaeological investigation, to inform and dictate the character, sense of place and nature of the planned residential development possible in the area. The exact location of the wall will inform the design process and there is tremendous potential for any future development to highlight and re-establish the line of the wall and the location of the gate in the public realm.



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Caroline Curley

Director of Services,

Housing Development Directorate



