

**MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK TO BE HELD ON Monday 20<sup>th</sup>  
September 2021**

**Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many houses in Council ownership are currently boarded up and for how long these houses are unoccupied.

**REPLY:**

Currently there are 112 category 3 & 4 houses in Limerick City and County the details of their length of time unoccupied is set out in the following table:

	Cat 3	Cat 4
Less than 3 months	4	0
3-6 months	3	0
More than 6 months	39	66
	<b>46</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	

No data is held on the number of units of the 112 that are boarded up as this is not done for every dwelling. Boarding up is based on an assessment of the need at the time the unit becomes vacant.



Conor Culloo



**Senior Engineer**

**LA Housing Construction and Maintenance**



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& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City  
& County Council

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**MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 21<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin:**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick Metropolitan Council undertake a comprehensive survey of all properties located in our Georgian area to determine ownership, occupancy and potential residential capacity subject to possible redevelopment.

**REPLY:**

The Forward Planning Department have carried out land use surveys of the city centre. The most recent of which was carried out in November 2019. The survey identified use and vacancy across floors in buildings. Separately, the Urban Innovation Department has currently carried out a building condition survey of buildings in the Georgian core.

The Urban Innovation Department will liaise with the forward Planning Department to prepare an updated use and vacancy survey in the context of the identifying potential residential units in the city centre.

The Council are actively working on encouraging and supporting the redevelopment of historic buildings in the city centre through a number of programmes:

- The Urban Innovation Department (UID) manage the Living City Initiative – a tax incentive scheme designed to support the refurbishment of historic (pre 1915) properties. Since its relaunch in 2018 the UID have actively promoted the scheme through the holding of events and seminars as well as the production of promotional material and videos. Furthermore, the UID have liaised with auctioneers in the city to promote the scheme as part of the sales pack for properties within the qualifying area.

- To support this process the UID operate a “one stop shop” advice clinics for property owners and potential property owners that are attended by the Conservation Officer, Fire Officer, Area Planner as well as relevant staff from the Urban Innovation Department.

To date 48 applications have been received for residential development under the initiative. Commercial developments are certified directly by the Revenue Commissioners.

- The Urban Innovation Department is also working on developing solutions to some of the specific challenges faced by people redeveloping these building.
- Funding has been secured under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund to redevelop 2 existing Council owned properties for residential use. The projects are at preliminary design stage.
  - The +City xChange EU project is examining methods that enhance the energy performance of historic buildings and potential financial mechanisms that could support these works.
  - In respect of fire safety, the Urban Innovation Department has secured funding from Enterprise Ireland under the Small Business Innovation Research to develop potential sensor based solutions to meet the requirements of the building regulations.

In both of these projects the Urban Innovation Department are working directly with property owners to develop solutions to these issues.

Other initiatives operated by the Council include:

- Conservation grants – The Planning Department through the Conservation Officer, administer a number of conservation grant schemes on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on an annual basis. These schemes are advertised in the local press when the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage advise the Council.
- Property Services in the Council, sits within the Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate; they are responsible for operating the Derelict Sites Act and are actively engaging with property owners to bring properties out of dereliction. The department are actively engaging with property owners to bring derelict properties back into use. A number of properties have been Compulsorily Acquired under the provisions of the Act.

  
 PP  
 Rosie Webb  
 Senior Architect  
 Urban Innovation Department  
 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK TO BE HELD ON Monday 20<sup>th</sup>  
September 2021**

**Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, how many unoccupied houses owned by Limerick City and County Council are in Kennedy Park and when will they be refurbished and allocated to a person on the housing list.

**REPLY:**

There are 3 houses in Kennedy Park that require major refurbishment works in order to be allocated. At present, the estimated date of completion of the works required is not available.

House 1 – Opening up works and survey has been completed. Issue to Tender in February 2022, Commence Works April 2022, Completion October 2022.

House 2 and 3 - Opening up works and survey to be completed by 29<sup>th</sup> October. Issue to Tender in March 2022, Commence Works April 2022, Completion November 2022.

All the above dates are subject to a receipt of approvals from DHLGH on foot of the Stage 3 and 4 submissions.

As all the properties are subject to a Stage 4 (post Tender) submission, if higher than anticipated tender costs are received it may result in value engineering exercises being required which will endeavour to reduce the overall cost. This may impact the delivery timeline should it arise. Given the size of the works packages other issues may arise which will be managed in the course of the project.



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Conor Culloo

Senior Engineer

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**MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF METRO TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> OF  
SEPTEMBER 2021**

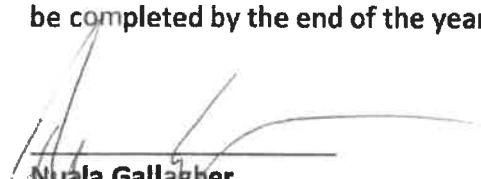
**Question submitted by Councillor C Slattery**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, funding was allocated to repair footpaths at Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery, was funding applied for to do the drainage works that need to be done before footpaths are repaired and if not why has funding not been applied for as drainage is an ongoing problem in this cemetery.

**REPLY:**

Capital works are required to be undertaken within Mount Saint Lawrence (Old) Cemetery where currently the excess spoil from grave digging is temporarily stored, adjacent to existing burial plots.

The works will involve the construction of a new more visually appropriate temporary storage facility along with additional ancillary works i.e. surface water drainage and new footpaths. The Council will prioritise the drainage aspect of the works. It is expected that the works will be completed by the end of the year.



Nuala Gallagher  
Director  
Planning, Environment & Place Making

**MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK TO BE HELD ON Monday 20<sup>th</sup>  
September 2021**

**Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, can I have an update on what plans the Council have for the green area located off Mulcair Drive, Annacotty.

**REPLY:**

Currently Housing Construction and maintenance are undertaking unit capacity checks. On completion of these checks, a Capital Appraisal will be prepared for submission to the DHLGH.

The proposed layout will be present to elected members for review prior to the submission.



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Conor Culoo

Senior Engineer

LA Housing Construction and Maintenance



## Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick

### to be held on Monday, 20th September, 2021

#### Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, the reason why bollards were removed along the cycle lane in Clonmacken and what safety surveys, if any were carried out prior to removal.

#### Reply:

Segregation of shoulders and on road cycle lanes by means of kerbs and bollards to delineate a cycling area is a recognised traffic calming/management practice and meets safety requirements for such facilities, subject to onsite inspection to determine if any localised safety concerns arise. This site, following pre installation inspection was deemed suitable for this type of treatment.

The quantity of bollards installed at the time was at the upper limits of requirement. Following review of the scheme it was determined that the kerbing installed was providing adequate segregation and that the quantity of bollards could be reduced.

Robert Gallagher  
Senior Engineer  
Transportation and Mobility Directorate  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK TO BE HELD ON Monday 20<sup>th</sup>  
September 2021**

**Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, how many people are currently on the housing waiting list in Limerick and if this figure includes those in receipt of HAP and RAS. If not could a total figure be provided to include HAP and RAS.

**REPLY:**

The Housing Waiting List details are:

General approved applications	2,342
Transfer applications	335
HAP	2,479
RAS	735

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Rob Lowth  
A/Senior Executive Officer  
Housing Support Services

## MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK TO BE HELD ON Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, for an update on the Council's plan to introduce choice based letting which was supposed to be introduced over a year ago.

### **REPLY:**

Choice Based Letting (CBL) was piloted by Housing Support Services in 2019 on a number of test properties. Below are a few observations on the scheme.

- The System is suited to a points based Housing Allocations Scheme.
- Newspaper advert was the most successful method to advertise the properties.
- Aligning to other LCCC back office IT infrastructure such as i-house and Agresso, the IT infrastructure for a closed Choice Based Letting closed system would require an investment.
- Properties have still been refused on the pilot CBL scheme. Penalties do apply in this scenario.
- It is still resource intensive which is not always visible.

CBL schemes are widely recognised as giving applicants greater choice of housing, reducing void periods, reducing letting times, increasing tenancy sustainment and dramatically reducing the difficulties associated with people refusing properties. It remains part of an overall solution available to the Housing Allocations Team that may be utilised in different parts of the County and different properties at any time.

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Rob Lowth  
A/Senior Executive Officer  
Housing Support Services



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### **Response to Question submitted by Councillor J.Costeloe**

#### **MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK TO BE HELD ON Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

#### **Question submitted by Councillor J.Costeloe**

In relation to the site at Sheep Street, how much progress has been made in the tendering process given the site has been derelict a number of years.

#### **REPLY:**

The proposed development of the Sheep Street / Athlunkard Street site on King's Island which comprises the development of 8 no. new residential units has been tendered via public procurement competition through the summer of 2021. Tenders which returned in August 2021 are currently being assessed by the appointed Integrated Design Team consultants and a Tender Report is expected to issue to the Local Authority through September 2021. Upon receipt of the Tender Report and a recommendation of the appointed technical consultants, the Local Authority intends to progress a Stage 4 application to the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government seeking approval to award the construction contract.

Regards,

Billy Lynch  
Project Manager  
Regeneration Department

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021



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**MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK TO BE HELD ON  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, following the discovery of one of the ancient gated entrances in our city at Sunnys Corner, have the Council liaised with the various bodies to do the necessary works to expose this and preserve it for future generations.

**REPLY:**

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. Further testing at a later stage in the road will confirm the width of the opening for the gateway.

The recent archaeological test trenching was carried out under licence from the National Monuments Service and copies of the final report will be submitted to that department. City defences are considered to be of national importance and are therefore designated as National Monuments (National Policy on Town Defences 2008) and protected under the National Monuments (Amendments) Act 1930-2014. Due to the presence of the defences all works on the site will require Ministerial Consent issued by the National Monuments Service. It is the intention that any final design will address and incorporate the line of the defences. In regard to exposing the gate which seems on the current evidence to actually just be an opening in the wall defined by faced breaks, the original ground level is likely to be at least 2m below the current ground level, so it may not be practical to expose but its location will certainly be marked on the modern ground surface and it certainly will be preserved for future

generations.

There is tremendous potential in any future development to highlight and re-establish the line of the wall and the location of the gate. As a member of the Irish Walled Towns Network Limerick City is very aware of the importance of its city defences. Since their deliberate 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.



Conor Culloo  
Senior Engineer  
LA Housing Construction & Maintenance  
17.09.2021



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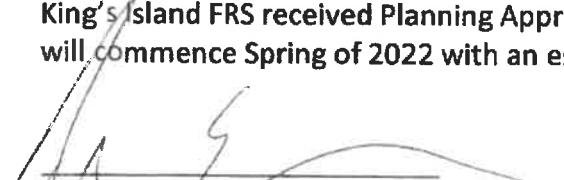
### **Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an updated timeline on the construction for the flood defence projects in Corbally and Kings Island.

### **Reply:**

Corbally is within the Limerick City and Environs FRS area. RPS Consulting Engineers are now appointed on this project (April 2021) and are currently undertaking scoping and preparation of survey and geotechnical tender packages. The current programme is completion of Stage I (Option Assessment, Scheme Development and Design) by February 2024, Stage II (Planning / Development Consent) to continue to May 2025 and Stage IV (Construction) to run from September 2025 to February 2030, noting that there may be several construction projects associated with the scheme that may be of shorter duration within this window.

King's Island FRS received Planning Approval in May 2021 and it is expected that construction will commence Spring of 2022 with an estimated construction programme of 18-24 months.

  
Nuala Gallaher  
Director of Service  
Planning, Environment & Place-Making  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**

**Question submitted by Councillor Conor Sheehan:**

I will ask at the Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the procurement and installation of additional CCTV cameras in Garryowen

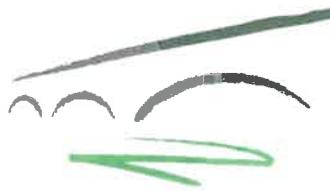
**Answer:**

There are currently no arrangements being made for the procurement or installation of any new CCTV cameras on behalf of Limerick City and County Council in the Garryowen area.

No additional installations are being considered at this time pending a review of policy. In the event that additional infrastructure is to be considered then there are procedures included in the CCTV Policy which would have to be followed.

Signed: Conor Culoo  
Conor Culoo,  
Senior Engineer,  
Housing Construction and Maintenance.

Date: 15/9/21



**Question submitted by Councillor A. Talukder**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick about the reopening time for the Limerick City Library.

**Reply:**

An extensive adaption of Barrow House has been underway for the past number of months. Some delays were experienced due to Covid restrictions during this period.

The challenge presented by the project was to adapt an existing building that was vacant for approximately 10 years into a suitable modern public library premises. Inevitably, a lot of complex issues arose.

The progress to date includes,

- A full re-design of two floors at Barrow House for Library purposes and a re-design of the two upper floors for office purposes.
- A schedule of electrical, mechanical and ventilation works, to ensure that the new Library space meets all functional, operational and safety standards, has been completed.
- Re-location of the extensive City Library book stock, music collection, furniture and equipment to Barrow House has been completed by the Library staff.
- We are currently completing the snagging stage for the building works in order to finalise the completion of the building contract and to ensure that the Library can open safely for public use

When these necessary works have been completed and signed off, we will be able to confirm a date for opening.

The estimate for opening to the public at the moment is late October 2021. We will confirm an exact date closer to the time.

Signed: Damien Brady  
Damien Brady,  
Limerick City & County Librarian  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2021