



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

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**13 October, 2021**

**To the Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council**

**Chairperson's Report of the Climate Action Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy  
Committee Meeting of 5 October, 2021.**

The Chair, Cllr. Jerome Scanlan opened the meeting.

**Item 1: Adopt minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy  
Committee Meeting that was held on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. Hartigan, and adopted.

**Item 2: Presentation on Energy and Emissions Balance for Limerick (Pat Stephens, Limerick  
Clare Energy Agency)**

Mr. Stephens gave a presentation on the preparation and findings of an energy emission balance for Limerick City and County. LCCC/LCEA commissioned ARUP to carry out the energy and emissions balance. The methodology used is based on national energy and emissions data, analysed on a pro-rata population burden share basis for Limerick. The Limerick data sits inside national methodology. He noted that while the commercial and industrial sectors have achieved some efficiencies in recent years, the residential and transport sectors represent the largest energy and emissions sectors at over 52%, and present the best opportunities for private individuals to make savings in energy use for the future. Cllr Scanlon thanked Mr. Stephens for his report.

The Members asked about emissions and the agricultural sector; reliability of renewable energy; the energy requirements of data centres; the continuation of small scale peat extraction; and retrofitting of Council houses.

**Item 3. Question submitted from Ms. Michelle Hayes**

Could the Council provide an update in relation to changes in recycling in Mungret? I understand some recycling is now transferred to a Dublin based company, Panda, which has been awarded the contract and involves transport to Dublin.

A. (i) What are the reasons for the change in contract?

(ii) Has there been any analysis of Carbon Footprint arising from this change.

B. In relation to consumables such as printer toner cartridges, would the Council consider a facility to recycle these having regard to the reuse, repair, recycle aspirations of the Circular Economy?

The reply – hereunder - was circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

“The contract for the operation of the Recycling Centres in Limerick ceased at the end of 2018, resulting in the Council having to retender for a new contract. The new contract was awarded to Panda who are responsible for operating the Civic Amenity Sites in Mungret, Newcastle West and Kilmallock. The Mungret CAS had been providing a service whereby the public were encouraged to avail of compost recycled from green waste that was being collected adjacent to the Civic Amenity Site. This service had been temporarily suspended due to the breakdown of equipment for shredding the green waste. The Council is arranging for a temporary replacement of a shredder for the end of October, which is the period when the public will be able to bring green waste to Mungret. Panda had assisted with the disposal of the green waste in the interim, which was considered necessary for safety reasons due to the accumulation of green waste at the site.

In relation to printer toner cartridges, the Council do not consider it necessary to provide a recycling facility for same as the manufacturers will accept used toner cartridges.”

#### **Item 4. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery.**

“I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan district of Limerick that the Council do a feasibility study on a large green area at the back of the Old Cork Road that runs the length of 4 housing estates to determine if a community facility such as a dog walking park can be established in the area.”

Ms. Gallagher responded:

“The Council would like to advise that a dog run area is currently being piloted in Mungret Park. The purpose of the pilot is to gauge interest from the public in a dog park and also to establish any issues that may arise with dog parks. This will be reviewed after the initial pilot with a view to determining the feasibility of rolling out dog parks in other Council parks and open spaces.

The Council will arrange an inspection of the site at the back of the Old Cork Road. The site will be considered for community use and its suitability as a possible dog park.”

Clr Slattery welcomed the response.

**Item 5. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely (referred from the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2021).**

“I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we phase out the use of glyphosate / roundup, that we seek clarification on the extent of use of this chemical from any contractors who provide weed control / spraying to Limerick City and County Council and that of our own staff members also, given the possible health implications of its use on wildlife, domestic pets and people. “

Ms Gallagher responded:

“In 2020, we carried out a full review of where, how and why we use herbicide in the Council, the quantities we use and the role of subcontractors. The objective was to identify opportunities to reduce usage. The review found that glyphosate is not used in large quantities, and only on hard surfaces for cleansing purposes and in our parks.

Since the review, it has been agreed that glyphosate will no longer be used in Council parks. Its use in green space is being reviewed, however, the cost implications of moving to alternative methods of control such as strimming will need to be factored in. The Council is also considering the use of steel wire brushes on the street cleaning vehicles in certain situations in the city. At present there is no viable alternative to weed killer on hard surfaces. While it may not fully eliminate the use of Glyphosate in the short to medium term, we believe there is scope to reduce its use significantly.” Cllr Kiely welcomed the reply.

The Chair advised that the next meeting is scheduled for 4pm on Tuesday 7 December, 2020.

The meeting then concluded.

Is mise le meas,

*Jerome Scansan*

Chairperson of the Climate Action Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee