

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD ON MONDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 2021 at 09:45 A.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK AND ONLINE.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Catherine Slattery, Cathaoirleach

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, National and Regional SSC (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Leahy), Senior Planner (Ms. N. O’Connell), Senior Executive Engineer, Limerick Metropolitan District (Mr. A. Finn), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach welcomed Members, Officials, Members of the Press and the Public to the Blended Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

1. Adoption of Minutes

(a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 18th October, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Kiely;
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M);
And Resolved:

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

(b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Adjourned Special Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 18th October, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Kiely;
Seconded by Councillor McSweeney;
And Resolved:

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

2. Disposal of Land

(a) Circulated, report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 12th October, 2021 setting out proposals to dispose of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 24 Cuirt Clochan, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

- (b) Circulated, report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 12th October, 2021 setting out proposals to dispose of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 55 Keane Street, Killalee, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

3. Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate

Strategic Housing Development (SHD) Application to An Bord Pleanála at the Former Greenpark Racecourse, Dock Road, Limerick

The Senior Planner gave a presentation to the Members on the proposed Strategic Housing Development Application and briefed the Members on the content of the proposed application. She confirmed that the proposed development entails the proposed construction of 371 Housing Units, a Crèche and associated works. She confirmed that a summary of the views expressed by the Elected Members at the Metropolitan District meeting would be incorporated into the Chief Executives Report, which had to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála by the 1st December, 2021.

The Members welcomed the proposed development and agreed that it would result in the provision of much needed additional housing in a good strategic location close to the city. Following a detailed discussion of the application, the members highlighted the following items in relation to the current application:

- Importance of delivery of social & affordable housing as part of the development;
- Vehicular access and the access from the South Circular Road should only be for emergency access and queried on how the bollards would work in practice when installed;
- A Masterplan for the site should clarify the relationship between the site and adjoining lands owned by Limerick City and County Council, so as to manage any possible issues relating to horse control and any possible anti-social behaviour;
- Conditions should be attached to facilitate first occupation by individual purchasers, similar to An Bord Pleanála Inspectors recommendation on a similar proposed development in Woodtown, Ballycullen, Dublin 16;
- Suitably sized crèche should be provided on the site;
- A Bio-diversity management plan should be a condition of planning to adequately address any environment related issues on site, i.e. flora and fauna, etc.;
- A phasing plan for the proper development of the site should be included;
- Adequate boundary treatment on the site is important so as to ensure site security;
- Open space should be increased where possible on the site.

QUESTIONS

4. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, can the Council advise what plans they have for the Old Cinema Royal Building in Upper Cecil Street.

REPLY: The former Royal is owned by Limerick and Clare ETB and while Innovate Limerick have expressed an interest to acquire that site, no agreement has been reached yet.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many smoky fuel fines (supply or burning) have been issued in Limerick in the last 5 years.

REPLY: The Council has received and investigated 34 complaints relating to smoky fuels since 1 January, 2017. Of those investigations, four resulted in the service of fixed payments notices. One prosecution was taken as a result of these notices.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council provide a list and a map of all vacant land in the ownership of Limerick City and County Council, that are identified as suitable for either housing or recreation purposes.

REPLY: This request requires a large volume of data to be gathered and will require the input of multiple Directorates. We will review and revert at the next Metropolitan District Meeting.

2021 saw the appointment of an ICT Software Development Company to deliver a new Property Interest Register to Limerick City and County Council. The project, when completed in 2022, will provide Limerick City and County Council with a first of its type bespoke software database, which will manage all Limerick City and County Council property. This will allow for an efficient reporting functionality re. Property Ownership / Ownership Type / Current Use / Zoning, once implemented.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many fines for littering were issued in the last year and how many people were prosecuted and convicted for littering offences.

REPLY: The number of fines issued for littering offences in the past 12-month period - 1/11/20 to 5/11/21 is 116. The number and outcome of prosecutions for littering offences for the same period is set out below:

16 Prosecutions were successful;
11 cases have a court date set;
15 cases have a court date pending.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the construction of social housing units at Drominbeg, Rhebogoe.

REPLY: There is currently no scheme under construction or being considered in Drominbeg, Rhebogoe for social housing units under the Social Housing Investment Programme.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if a pilot project has been conducted to assess how a scheme similar to the one operated by the Scottish Government in making available period products free of charge in their schools/educational institutions/public buildings, could work in Limerick City and County Council and if the Chief Executive is going to report on that back to the Council as moved in my notice of motion at the meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on Monday, 15th February 2021.

REPLY: The Council notes that Programme for Government contains a commitment to provide free period products in publicly funded educational settings. The current National Strategy for Women and Girls has provided a framework in which to address this issue, following successful motions introduced by the Women's Parliamentary Caucus in Dáil Éireann and in Seanad Éireann in 2019 calling on the Government to introduce measures to mitigate period poverty.

Further to the reply furnished on 15th February, it is noted that the issue of the provision of free sanitary products in public buildings is the subject of the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill 2021 Bill. The Council will await the adoption of the law and the provisions and implications of same to be notified to Local Authorities in due course and will advise Elected Members accordingly. The Council will proceed with implementing the outcome of this process upon its completion at national level and as part of a coordinated and strategic response to this issue.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick

- a. if the Bloodmill Road has been considered under the Active Travel Schemes/Plans given that a Part VIII planning was passed many years ago for the realigned Bloodmill Road which included for cycleway provision, and*
- b. when this Part VIII project will be delivered.*

REPLY: a. Bloodmill Road is identified in the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) for active and sustainable travel modes. A section of Bloodmill Road has been completed which includes active travel modes, and this section was constructed to accommodate the new secondary school development.

b. Further development of the area is under consideration and once realised active travel modes will form part of the new road development. The remainder of the existing Bloodmill Road will become an Active Travel Project however is not on the current priority list at this time.

11. **Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, at what stage is the delivery strategy for the City Centre, given the O'Connell Street works and the Christmas season for retailers fast approaching.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council has commenced the initial development of a Delivery Strategy and is currently looking at best practice elsewhere, including in the UK and Europe. The most sustainable options for the city need to be explored, having regard to the needs of retailers and the requirement for low carbon solutions. The Council has also commenced engagement with delivery service providers to discuss sustainable options for Limerick.

It will be essential to have an agreed Transport Strategy (LSMATS) in place in order to fully develop a Delivery Strategy for the city. The National Transport Authority has informed us they intend to commence the 2nd phase of public consultation for the Transport Strategy in January next.

The Council will engage in consultation with the stakeholders as options are developed and ensure that consideration is given to all current arrangements with businesses, etc. There are currently arrangements in place in the city as a result of the O'Connell Street works and the Council will have regard to this construction delivery plan when developing the proposed delivery strategy.

A seven-week marketing campaign for Christmas in Limerick is being launched on Sunday 14th November. The campaign is developed to encourage people to support local retailers and shop in Limerick this Christmas. A free festive parking / park and stride initiative will also be promoted.

12. **Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the traffic management plan for the Parkway Roundabout given the volume of traffic back on our roads and the previous commitment that the possibility of traffic lights being installed would be examined.

REPLY: The Active Travel Team are currently working with the design team to review various options as part of the Dublin Road Bus Corridor.

Regular Councillor updates will be facilitated through Area Briefing & workshops.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to confirm what water quality monitoring is currently active in the Metropolitan District and for an update on monitored water quality for the possibility of bathing at the Corbally baths.

REPLY: Water Quality Monitoring in the Metropolitan District is carried out as follows:

1. As part of the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water, Limerick City and County Council provide:
 - a. an annual monitoring programme under the Drinking Water Regulations with results published on the Irish Water website at www.water.ie/help/water-quality/results
 - b. an annual monitoring programme under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations and the Wastewater Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations in accordance with Discharge

License conditions for the Castletroy Waste Water Treatment Plant with results published on the Irish Water website in the form of an Annual Environmental Report.

2. Limerick City and County Council undertake sampling of surface waters under the EPA Monitoring Programme to satisfy the Water Framework Directive at Athlunkard Bridge, Parteen Bridge, Castleconnell and Annacotty.

3. Limerick City and County Council undertake sampling and analysis of private water supplies (Group Water Supplies and small private supplies) as part of an Annual Monitoring Programme under the Drinking Water Regulations.

4. Limerick City and County Council provide sampling and analysis of private wells on request as part of the assessment process for the Well Grant administered by the Council on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Housing (Private Water Supply Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020.

In relation to water quality monitoring at Corbally Baths, Limerick City and County Council undertakes sampling fortnightly during the bathing season (mid May to mid-September) and has done so since May 2019. The Bathing Water Regulations require four years of microbiological testing in order to perform an indicative assessment of the water quality at this location for bathing. Currently the water quality is of "poor" quality and therefore not satisfying the limits set out in the Bathing Water Regulations.

A Surface and Storm water Strategic Assessment is currently being undertaken by Consultants on behalf of Limerick City and County Council with Corbally Baths included as a Priority Area. This assessment provides for additional sampling, over a 3-month period, at locations upstream of the Baths to establish if the sources of contamination can be established.

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

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the cost of the EuroVelo 1 bicycle signs placed in Limerick and where the funding for this signage came from. Will the signs have an accompanying publicity campaign to inform people what they mean?

REPLY: The Eurovelo 1 signage was funded by Limerick City and County Council's own resources. The cost of the signage was €5,600.

Sport Ireland will be doing a launch in 2022 of the full Eurovelo 1 route, which goes from Rosslare to Donegal.

15. **Question submitted by Councillor F. Kilcoyne**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, when are the lights going to be installed in Mungret Park.

REPLY: For reasons of public safety, the current opening times in all of the Parks accord with seasonal day light hours, which extend up to 9pm during the summer months.

At present, the Council has no plans to install lights in Mungret Park. There is currently no funding source for the provision of lighting in Parks.

16. **Question submitted by Councillor F. Kilcoyne**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, when are lights going to be installed in Vartry Field.

REPLY: The current opening times in all of the Parks accord with seasonal day light hours, which extend up to 9pm during the summer months.

While upgrading the Vartry Field earlier this year, ducting for lighting was installed around the perimeter of the field. The ducting was provided in order to future proof the project, should funding become available at some stage for the provision of lighting in our amenities. However, there is currently no funding source for this lighting.

17. **Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, have we a timeframe as to when the cameras in Altimara Court will be replaced following on from the damage caused to it recently.

REPLY: This camera was recently damaged following vandalism.

This camera had been in place for an extended period and did not have its own permanent infrastructure.

This camera was of a temporary type that was not being monitored. It was installed prior to the introduction of GDPR.

It is not proposed to replace the camera at this time. If it were to be replaced it would require a process to demonstrate compliance with GDPR requirements. This would require a DPIA to be completed given the fact that it would by necessity be upgraded (replacement). The CCTV Policy at present is that pending review no new cameras are being installed. This would be considered as a new camera as the requirement for DPIA would have to be completed.

18. **Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe**

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, given the fact that funding has been set aside for the refurbishment of the Black Bridge in Plassey when will the necessary works commence and is there a timeframe involved to complete.

REPLY: Waterways Ireland have informed us that they are working in partnership with Clare County Council & Limerick City and County Council as well as other agencies (ESB etc.) and are currently undertaking a feasibility and route selection process for a possible Limerick to Scarriff Greenway. The possible routes for the Greenway envisage the restoration and re-opening of the Black Bridge and its use as a crossing of the Shannon for the Greenway. The feasibility and route selection process is due to be finalised in April 2022.

While the restoration of the Black Bridge is included in the Limerick City & County Council 3-year Capital Programme, however progression of this restoration is dependent on securing a funding source.

NOTICES OF MOTION

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council will report on options to incentivise the use of the Civic Amenity Centre in Mungret and responsible waste disposal as an alternative to illegal dumping. (Such measures may include amnesty days at the Civic Amenity for different types of bulky waste items, a year-round publicly available schedule of collection of bulky items at easily accessible points around the Metropolitan area, and community provision of services for collection of waste from families without means to provide for their own waste collection or transport to the Civic Amenity).

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Novak Uí Chonchúir, seconded by Councillor Hartigan and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Novak Uí Chonchúir highlighted the issues with littering and the disposal of rubbish, in particular over the past year. She stated that initiatives such as amnesty days at the Civic Amenity Centre, Mungret had been held in the past and had a positive impact as it incentivised the disposal of bulky items such as old furniture and white goods, etc.

REPLY: The Council will examine options to incentivise the use of the Civic Amenity Centre at Mungret and will prepare a report for a future Metropolitan District meeting of measures which could be considered.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir (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 Chief Executive should conduct a feasibility study on how to improve accessibility to recycling facilities throughout the Metropolitan area and put in place plans to implement the necessary changes to ensure that recycling facilities, including bottle banks, can be accessed by everyone.

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

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council reviews the operation and sequencing of the traffic lights at the junction between the Dublin Road and the Old Park Road by St. Patrick's Girl School and at the junction of the Dublin Road and St. Patrick's Road and seeks NTA funding for safety measures at these locations.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheehan (C), seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon and agreed.

Members supported the motion and highlighted the issues for schoolchildren and residents, with very large volumes of traffic in the area.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council Traffic Department's Adaptive Urban Traffic Control

(A.U.T.C.) system monitors the operation and adaption of signal operation on an hourly basis. Active faults, malfunction and vandalism associated with signal apparatus on the street is attended to within four hours. Urgent or 'all out' faults are attended to within one hour.

An examination of system operation and records indicate that all traffic signals at this location are operating fault free and in compliance with Road Traffic Regulations. No system operation faults have been recorded at this location, which would contribute to road safety hazard for road users.

Limerick City and County Council Traffic Department is recently aware of a high incidence of 'red and amber lamp running' occurring from traffic entering the Dublin Road from Park Road. Limerick City and County Council Traffic Department have advised the Gardai, as Traffic Authority, of this development and have requested Garda examination.

The Safe Routes to Schools Programme has a dedicated Infrastructure Officer who will set up a meeting with St Patrick's Girls School and the Active Travel Team to discuss required safety measure.

Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the reply and referred to recent accidents that had taken place at this location, and that the sequencing of traffic lights need to be reviewed given the volumes of traffic at this junction. They agreed that Garda enforcement measures also needed to be provided at the junction. Members requested that a Meeting would be held on site, comprising the Members from the Electoral Area, and Council Officials to discuss and review the issue.

22. **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council write to Irish Water to ask them to allocate funding and to put in place a plan to renew the pipeline from Newcastle Reservoir to the North side of Limerick.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheehan (C), seconded by Councillor Costelloe and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Sheehan (C) referred to a flooding incident that occurred in the summer and the need for the renewal of the pipeline from the Newcastle Reservoir to prevent this happening in the future.

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

I will move at the next Meeting that the Metropolitan District of Limerick writes to the Minister for Education to consider establishing a new primary school in the Castletroy area to keep pace with the significant increase in the population and new housing developments in the area, as the existing primary schools in the area are at their full capacity.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Secas, seconded by Councillor Slattery and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Secas highlighted the significant population increase in the Castletroy and surrounding areas over the past number of years. She stated that Primary Schools in the area are at their full capacity and a new school is urgently required. Members supported the motion and stated that the Secondary School in the area is also at full capacity.

24. **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we write to the CEO of An Post to seek an update regarding the maintenance of Post Boxes, given the poor state they are in and their importance historically.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kiely, seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Kiely stated that An Post were an integral part of communities, providing an essential service, and she highlighted the importance of maintaining the post boxes, which were of historical importance and that some of them were in poor condition and badly neglected.

25. **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we facilitate a meeting through our Active Travel Section, Bus Éireann, An Garda Síochána and Mr. Tiernan O'Neill, Social Regeneration Coordinator to roll out an awareness campaign in schools in Regeneration areas to combat the targeting of buses.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kiely, seconded by Councillor Butler and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Kiely stated that a similar initiative had been rolled out a number of years previously and had a positive impact. She highlighted the benefits of educating young people and raising awareness of the importance of public transport, especially for the elderly and disabled in travelling around to various locations.

REPLY: Should the Notice of Motion be adopted the Active Travel Dept. will work with Bus Éireann, An Garda Síochána and Mr. Tiernan O'Neill, Social Regeneration Coordinator to roll out an awareness campaign in schools in Regeneration areas to combat the targeting of buses.

26. **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Kilcoyne**

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council extend the opening time of Mungret Park from 5pm, to 9pm or 10pm each evening, so as to facilitate members of the public who wish to use this facility in the evening times.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kilcoyne, seconded by Councillor Leddin and agreed.

Members supported the motion and highlighted the importance of providing infrastructure for Parks and amenities. It was agreed to refer the Notice of Motion to the next Local Electoral Area Briefings to discuss the costings for same and possible funding streams for lighting.

REPLY: The current opening times in all of the Parks accord with seasonal day light hours, which extend up to 9pm during the summer months.

As the winter months approach, the opening hours are reduced over a number of weeks resulting in earlier closing times, in line with corresponding reduction in daylight hours. This earlier closing time is required to ensure that all park users have exited the Park before it gets dark, as there is currently no lighting in Mungret Park.

In order for the Council to consider extending its opening hours, funding would have to be sourced to provide for lighting. There is currently no funding source for the provision of lighting in Parks.

27. **Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated: _____