

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 2021, AT 3PM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor D. Butler, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Benson, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (J), Collins (M), Costelloe, Daly, Donegan, Egan, Foley, Galvin, Hartigan, Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, Mitchell, Murphy, Novak Uí Chonchúir, O'Brien, O'Dea, O'Donoghue, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Sheehan (C), Slattery, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey.

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor O'Donovan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Mr. P. Daly), Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Support Services (Mr. S. Coughlan), Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Community, Tourism and Culture (Mr. G. Daly), Director, Regeneration (Mr. J. Delaney), Director, Transportation and Mobility (Mr. B. Kennedy), Director, National and Regional Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehane), A/Director, Economic Development and Enterprise (Mr. V. Murray), Meetings Administrator (Ms. L. Flannery), Administrative Officers, Corporate Services and Governance (Mr. M. Leahy and Ms. F. McCormack), Senior Executive Officer, Housing (Ms. S. Newell), A/Senior Architect, Place-Making and Public Realm (Mr. S. Hanrahan), A/Arts Officer (Ms. P. Little).

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Circulated, copies of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Annual Meeting of the Council held on 27th September, 2021.
- (b) Special Meeting of the Council held on 2nd November, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;
And Resolved:

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

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

With the permission of the Mayor, the Council expressed its sympathy to the following:

- Councillor John Egan on the recent passing of his brother, Joe Egan, Rath, Murroe, Co. Limerick;
- The family of former Limerick hurler Edmond (Ned) Rea, Effin, Co. Limerick.

The Meeting was adjourned for fifteen minutes as a mark of respect.

Update - King John's Castle

With the consent of the Mayor and Elected Members, the Director, Community, Tourism and Culture gave an update to the Members in relation to King John's Castle. He explained that a due diligence process, in relation to the proposed taking over of the running of King John's Castle from Shannon Heritage, had now been completed. He confirmed that there were no major issues arising but that the date of the 4th April, 2022 was being proposed for the proposed changeover, instead of late January 2022, to allow sufficient time to prepare for same.

He also confirmed that Shannon Heritage would continue to operate the attraction during this period and be open four days per week per normal opening times. He explained that a subsidiary company, Discover Limerick DAC, would be set up by Limerick City and County Council to take over the management of the Castle and that this company was a repurposing of Grove Island Company, that was currently in operation.

An interim board would be established which would include some staff of Limerick City and County Council and it was proposed that Tim O'Connor would be asked to chair the Board on a temporary basis. The Director of Service outlined how Discover Limerick DAC would not only assume the management of the Castle, but would also be used to promote other visitor attractions and tourism initiatives for the city and county. He confirmed that the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage was also supportive of this proposed initiative.

The Members welcomed this development, which would give reassurance to the staff working there. They were also happy that the Castle would continue to be open for visitors and welcomed the establishment of Discover Limerick DAC, which would promote this tourist attraction, along with other tourist attractions across both Limerick City and County.

The Members asked to be kept fully informed and briefed on further developments in relation to this.

2. Declaration of Interest

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Code of Conduct, she was inviting those present to notify the Mayor of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting.

Those present sitting on the Board of Directors of Limerick Twenty Thirty made a declaration of interest.

3. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 27th September, 2021, concerning disposal of property at 53, O'Dwyers Villas, Thomondgate, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;
 And Resolved:

"That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 53 O'Dwyers Villas, Thomondgate, Limerick, to Elizabeth Radcliffee and Murette Nash, for the sum of €195.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 27th September, 2021."

- (b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 27th September, 2021, concerning disposal of property at 81 O'Dwyer's Villas, Thomondgate, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;
 And Resolved:

"That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 81 O'Dwyer's Villas, Thomondgate, Limerick, to Mary O'Brien, for the sum of €195.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 27th September, 2021."

- (c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 27th September, 2021, concerning disposal of property at 187 Hyde Road, Prospect, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;
 And Resolved:

"That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 187 Hyde Road, Prospect, Limerick, to Mark Brennan, Legal Personal Representative (LPR) of John Brennan, deceased, for the sum of €195.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 27th September, 2021."

- (d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 27th September, 2021, concerning disposal of property at 10 Ash Hill, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
Seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon;
And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 10 Ash Hill, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, to Mary Doherty, for the sum of €195.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 27th September, 2021.”

- (e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 30th September, 2021, together with Site Location map, concerning disposal of land at Castlefarm, Hospital, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
Seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon;
And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land at Castlefarm, Hospital, Co. Limerick, to Thomas Crowe, for the sum of €1, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 30th September, 2021.”

- (f) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 8th October, 2021, concerning disposal of land at 7 Sheehan’s Road, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
Seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon;
And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 7 Sheehan’s Road, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, to Jason Flynn, for the sum of €195.42, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 8th October, 2021.”

- (g) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 5th November, 2021, concerning disposal of property (0.0157 acres) comprising Former Library Building, Hospital, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon;
 And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of property (0.0157 acres) – Former Library Building, Hospital, Co. Limerick, to Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, for the sum of €1, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 5th November, 2021.”

- (h) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 8th November, 2021, concerning disposal of land (0.29 hectares) at Turagh, Cappamore, Co. Limerick, comprising Vinmore and surrounding grounds.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon;
 And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.29 hectares at Turagh, Cappamore, Co. Limerick – comprising Vinmore and surrounding grounds – to Marillac Housing Association, for the sum of €1 (if demanded), particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 8th November, 2021.”

- (i) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 8th November, 2021, concerning disposal of land to the rear of ‘Oak Shade,’ Ballyorgan, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon;
 And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 0.1022 hectares to the rear of ‘Oak Shade,’ Ballyorgan, Co. Limerick, to Carmel O’Brien, for the sum of €635, subject to the Council not incurring any legal fees, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 8th November, 2021.”

- (j) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 9th November, 2021, concerning disposal of land adjacent to 27 Hillside Drive, Athea, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon;
 And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land (0.04 acres) adjacent to 27 Hillside Drive, Athea, Co. Limerick, to Noel O’Sullivan, for the sum of €7,500, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 9th November, 2021.”

- (k) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 10th November, 2021, concerning disposal of land at Parnell Street, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon;
 And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land comprising 33.33 square metres at Parnell Street, Limerick, to ESB Networks, for the sum of €1 (if demanded), subject to ESB Networks making a contribution to the Council’s legal fees, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 10th November, 2021.”

- (l) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 10th November, 2021, concerning disposal of land at Rathmale, Mungret, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon;
 And Resolved:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land comprising 0.025 hectares at Rathmale, Mungret, Co. Limerick, to Derek Mulcahy and Mary Murphy, for the sum of €1 (if demanded), subject to the Council not incurring any legal fees, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 10th November, 2021.”

- (m) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 10th November, 2021, concerning disposal of land at 1, Saint Peter Street, Limerick.

On the proposal of Councillor Costelloe, seconded by Councillor C. Sheehan, it was agreed to defer this item to the January Meeting of the Council.

- (n) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 11th November, 2021, concerning disposal of the entire site known as the Opera Site (including the Granary Building), located at Rutland Street, Patrick Street, Ellen Street, Michael Street and Bank Place, Limerick.

Some Councillors referred to the scale of the proposed disposal and queries previously raised in relation to various aspects of the disposal, including legal advice on the proposed disposal and the handling of leasing agreements, and wayleaves, etc.

Councillor Keary proposed that the item be deferred and the proposal was seconded by Councillor Mitchell.

Other Members noted the proposed governance structure of Limerick Twenty Thirty, which was a wholly owned entity of Limerick City and County Council. This comprised of four Elected Members sitting on the Board, along with three members of the Council Executive, as well as five independent Board Members, including a Chairperson. They noted that Limerick Twenty Thirty is also required to comply with all Public Spending Codes and Procurement Guidelines.

Elected Members also noted that the proposed development was one of the largest projects being developed outside of Dublin in recent times and noted the visible progress being made already on the site, and that it would be a transformational project for Limerick.

Following these discussions, the Mayor directed that a vote be taken on the proposal on whether to defer the item or to approve the disposal and the result of the voting was as follows:

For Deferral

Councillors Galvin, Keary, Murphy, Ruddle, Scanlan. (5)

In Favour of Disposal

Councillors Benson, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (M), Costelloe, Daly, Donegan, Egan, Foley, Hartigan, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, Mitchell, Novak, O'Brien, O'Dea, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Ryan (M), Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Slattery, Talukder, Teefy. (26)

Abstentions

Councillors Butler, Collins (J), O'Donoghue, Ryan (E), Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheehan (C). (7)

The Mayor declared the proposal to defer the item as defeated, and the disposal approved, and accordingly the following resolution was adopted.

Proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon;
Seconded by Councillor Egan;
And Resolved:

"That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the entire site known as the Opera Site (including the Granary Building), located at Rutland Street, Patrick Street, Ellen Street, Michael Street and Bank Place, Limerick, to Limerick Twenty Thirty

Strategic Development DAC, for the sum of €16,000,000, plus the development costs at date of legal transfer, subject to the condition that, on completion of the proposed disposal, a 999 year lease will be entered into transferring the Library Building, Revenue Building and Granary Building back to Limerick City and County Council at agreed apportioned development costs at that date, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 11th November, 2021.”

4. Support Services

(a) Chief Executive’s Report

Circulated, Chief Executive’s Reports for the months of September and October, 2021.

The Reports were noted by the Council.

(b) Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2020

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, enclosing the Limerick City and County Council Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2020.

The report was noted by the Council.

(c) Foreign Travel

- (i) Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services dated 12th November, 2021, seeking retrospective approval of the Council to a visit by the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick to Barcelona, Spain, from 16th to 18th November, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor O’Hanlon;
Seconded by Councillor Ryan (E);
And Resolved:

“That, retrospective approval of the Council be and is hereby given, in accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, to the attendance by the Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick at the Smart City Expo World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, from 16th to 18th November, 2021.”

- (ii) Circulated, report of the A/Director, Economic Development and Enterprise, dated 10th November, 2021, seeking the Council’s approval for attendance by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick at various Business and Diaspora events in London and Manchester from 1st to 3rd December, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor O’Hanlon;
Seconded by Councillor Ryan (E);
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given, in accordance with Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, to the attendance by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick at various Business and Diaspora events in London and Manchester from 1st to 3rd December, 2021.”

(d) Public Participation Network (PPN) Nominations – Local Community Development Committee, Joint Policing Committee and Strategic Policy Committees

Circulated, report of the Director, Community, Tourism and Culture dated 9th November, 2021, seeking the Council’s approval to the appointment of PPN representatives to the following Committees:

- Local Community Development Committee.
- Joint Policing Committee.
- Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee.
- Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Kiely;

Seconded by Councillor Collins (B);

And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the appointment of further Sectoral representatives nominated by the Public Participation Network, as set out in the report of the Director, Community, Tourism and Culture dated 9th November, 2021, to the Local Community Development Committee, Joint Policing Committee and Strategic Policy Committees as set out in the report, as follows:

Committee	PPN Pillar	Nominee’s Name and Nominating Body
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	Community/Voluntary	Linda Ledger St. Munchin’s Community Centre <i>(Replacing Susan O’Neill who resigned in October 2021)</i>
	Social Inclusion	Leona O’Callaghan The Haven Hub <i>(Replacing Edel Geraghty who resigned in October 2021)</i>
Joint Policing Committee (JPC)	Community/Voluntary	Frank Dennison Abbeyfeale Community Centre

Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment SPC	Environment	Ailís Ní Chofaigh Limerick Pedestrian Network (<i>Replacing Liz Gabbett who resigned in June 2021</i>)
Home and Social Development SPC	Community/Voluntary	Siobhán Reidy Corran-Deel Voluntary Housing Association

(e) Strategic Policy Committee Reports

- (i) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee dated 10th November, 2021, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 11th October, 2021, together with Limerick City and County Council’s Diaspora Strategy entitled ‘Global Limerick 2021-2025.’

Recommendation No. 1

That, the Full Council agree for the inclusion of swift bird nesting boxes on suitable sites as planning condition attaching to planning decisions.

On the proposal of Councillor Hartigan, seconded by Councillor Ryan (E), Recommendation No. 1 was agreed.

Recommendation No. 2

That, the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee recommends that Limerick City and County Council adopt the Council’s Diaspora Engagement Strategy entitled ‘Global Limerick 2021-2025.’

Proposed by Councillor Ryan (E);
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
And Resolved:

“That, ‘Global Limerick 2021-2025 – Limerick City and County Council’s Diaspora Strategy,’ as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

- (ii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee dated 13th October, 2021, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 5th October, 2021.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (iii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee dated 8th November, 2021, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 4th October, 2021.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (iv) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee dated 8th November, 2021, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 19th October, 2021.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (v) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee dated 20th October, 2021, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 20th October, 2021.

Recommendation

That, this Council write to the Minister for Housing requesting a review of the maximum grant allocation for Housing Adaptation Grants for Disabled People.

The Members discussed this recommendation and noted that it was getting more difficult for applicants to get contractors to provide quotations and to agree to do grant related works due to the current shortage of building contractors available to carry out works. They also noted recent increases in the cost of building materials and supplies, which was also an issue.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlon, seconded by Councillor Ryan, the following wording and recommendation was agreed.

Recommendation

That, this Council write to the Minister for Housing requesting a review of the maximum grant allocation, and terms of scheme, for Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability, Housing Grants for Older People and Housing Grants for Mobility Aids.

5. Transportation and Mobility

Limerick City and County Council Road Traffic (Croom Distributor Road Speed Limit) Bye-Laws 2021

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Operations and Maintenance Services, dated 2nd November, 2021, in relation to the making of the Limerick City and County Council Road Traffic (Croom Distributor Road Speed Limit) Bye-Laws 2021, together with copy of the Bye-Laws and Map.

Proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue;
 Seconded by Councillor Galvin;
 And Resolved:

“That, the Limerick City and County Council Road Traffic (Croom Distributor Road Speed Limit) Bye-Laws, 2021, as circulated, be and are hereby made in accordance with Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act, 2004.”

6. Housing

Update on Housing Delivery Action Plan

Circulated, Limerick City and County Council Draft Housing Action Plan 2022-2026.

The Senior Executive Officer, Strategy and Non-Local Authority Housing Construction confirmed that the Government had set a target of 300,000 homes to be delivered over the next decade for social, affordable and cost rental, private rental and private ownership housing, supported by over €4 billion in funding annually. She confirmed that the local authority was required to submit its proposed Housing Action Plan 2022-2026 to the Department of Housing, Local Government by the 17th December 2021.

She explained that the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) is Limerick’s plan to deliver the Department target of 2,693 homes over next 5 years. This Department target for Limerick from 2022-2026 is approximately 50% of the 1st choice need in settlements of demand, which currently totals 5,583 qualified applicant households.

Included in the Plan is a commitment to provide an Annual Monitoring Report each year and that there were set targets for Build, Buying (Buy and Renew), and Leasing (Repair and Lease).

The Members thanked the Senior Executive Officer, Strategy and Non-Local Authority Housing Construction for her presentation on the Housing Delivery Action Plan. The Members agreed that housing provision was an urgent priority for all the Elected Members across both the city and county.

They noted the high number of qualified applicants on the Housing Waiting List and that, overall, there was a huge demand across both the city and county for housing provision in all categories. They agreed that while the target of 2,693 housing units was a significant increase on the target contained in the previous Rebuilding Ireland housing Plan, that it wouldn’t meet all those currently on the Housing Waiting List.

They agreed that there were different issues and demands across the Metropolitan and Municipal Districts and requested that aspects of the plan relating to each District be presented to Members at District level to ensure full consideration of the proposals.

The Members also referred to the details outlined in relation to affordable housing and stated that, based on the various criteria and conditions that were outlined for affordable housing, that it would be difficult for people to access in most of rural Co. Limerick, whatever about the city areas.

They also noted the constraints in relation to water and sewage infrastructure, which would also affect the plan, along with the shortage of building contractors and increased costs of

building supplies and materials. They also agreed that housing should be provided, where possible, close to applicants indicated area of preference to take into account family supports, etc.

The Director, Housing undertook to arrange separate Briefings for the Metropolitan District and Municipal Districts in order for each District to discuss the Plan in more detail at District level, but flagged the tight timeframe in order to meet the Departments stated timeframe of the 17th December for the submission of the overall plan.

7. Community, Tourism and Culture

Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2021

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer dated 11th November, 2021, seeking the Council's approval to recommended allocations from the Assessment Panel under the Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2021.

Proposed by Councillor O'Sullivan;
 Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;
 And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to allocations under the Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2021, as recommended, and as set out in the report of the Arts Officer dated 11th November, 2021."

8. Conferences

(a) Participation by Members at Conferences

Details of the following Conferences had been circulated electronically to the Members: (i) 'Climate Action Economic Opportunities,' held online on 12th/13th October, 2021; (ii) 'Connecting Ireland Virtual Briefing,' held on 4th November, 2021; (iii) 'The Fair Deal Scheme – What's the Deal with Nursing Home Care?' held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 5th to 7th November, 2021; and (iv) 'Mental Health and Wellbeing,' to be held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, from 3rd to 5th December, 2021.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), the Council approved the attendance of the following Members:

Connecting Ireland Virtual Briefing: Councillors M. Murphy and S. Hartigan.

Clonakilty, Co. Cork: Councillors M. Collins, L. Galvin, F. Foley.

Carlingford, Co. Louth: Councillors M. Collins, K. O'Hanlon, C. Sheehan, K. Sheehan, A. Teskey.

(b) Reports on Conference / Seminar / Meeting / Event

Circulated, reports by Members who had participated at Conference / Seminar / Meeting / Event.

The reports were noted by the Council.

ADJOURNED NOTICES OF MOTION**9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas**

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council call on the Government and the HSE to deliver proper recognition and compensation for healthcare workers at the frontline of the Health Service for their risk, sacrifice and exceptional efforts during the COVID-19 crisis.

In proposing the Motion, Cllr Secas paid tribute to the professionalism and dedication of all those in the health service who had been working so hard to deal with the pandemic over the past two years, and the importance that these efforts be recognised by the Government.

The Motion was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Secas, seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C) and agreed.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock - Councillors G. Mitchell (Proposer), P.J. Carey, M. Donegan, J. Egan, E. Ryan, M. Ryan, B. Teefy

We will move at the next Meeting that the Government and the Local Authority use wool produce from sheep for house, business and commercial insulation as the price is on the floor at the moment. This accordingly would support farmers and the local economy.

The Motion was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Donegan.

REPLY: As part of construction works, Tender Documents are issued which describe the works to be completed. The specification document will describe a performance requirement for building materials. In compliance with public procurement, it is not permissible to specify a particular product type by name. Insulation materials that satisfy the performance specification can be nominated for use. Green procurement principles allow for wider considerations to be incorporated into the award process but do not permit product specific references.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to demand the full implementation of the recommendations of the Implementation Advisory Group report in relation to the legislation for the Directly Elected Mayor of Limerick.

In proposing the Motion, Cllr Sheehan (C) stated that it had been two and a half years since the vote in favour of a Directly Elected Mayor and that this new Office had still not been established. He noted the important work carried out by the Implementation Advisory Group but stated that this now needed to be established without further delay.

Cllr Sheehan (C) also proposed that the Notice of Motion be amended to also call on the Minister to set the date for the election of a Directly Elected Mayor, details as follows:

“I will move at the next Meeting that this Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to demand the full implementation of the recommendations of the Implementation Advisory Group report in relation to the legislation for the Directly Elected Mayor of Limerick and that the Minister set the date for the election of a Directly Elected Mayor”

Proposed by Cllr Sheehan (C) and seconded by Councillor Secas.

Cllr Donegan stated that he supported the proposal for Directly Elected Member but believed that the role was a work in progress and that not all the issues had been teased out regarding it. Cllr Donegan proposed that the position of Directly Elected Mayor be deferred for the moment and that it be deferred to the Local Elections due to be held in 2024. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Mitchell.

There was discussion amongst the Members with some of the view that the Office of Directly Elected Mayor should be established as soon as possible, whilst other Members were of the view that the election of a Directly Elected Mayor should be deferred until the Local Elections in 2024.

The Mayor directed that a Vote be taken on the proposal to defer the Election of the Directly Elected Mayor until 2024.

The result of the voting was as follows:

For

Councillors Donegan, Egan, McSweeney, Mitchell, O'Donoghue, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Scanlan, Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Slattery, Talukder, Teefy, Teskey. **(14)**

Against

Councillors Benson, Butler, Costelloe, Galvin, Hartigan, Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, Murphy, Novak, O'Sullivan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheehan (C). **(15)**

Abstentions

Councillors Collins (B), Collins (M), O’Dea. (3)

The Mayor declared that the counter proposal from the Members to defer the Election of the Directly Elected Mayor until 2024 was defeated and that the amended Notion of Motion proposed by Cllr Sheehan (C) and seconded by Councillor Secas was adopted.

QUESTIONS

Replies to the following Questions on the agenda were circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting and the Questions were therefore considered as having been dealt with:

12. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will ask at the next Meeting how many playing pitches are owned by the Council and what are the terms and conditions for use of these presently.

REPLY: Details in relation to numbers of playing pitches where the Council has an ownership interest are as follows: Soccer (36 pitches); GAA (11 pitches); and Rugby (11 pitches).

These pitches are held by Clubs under long-term Sporting Leases or Rights of Occupation accrued due to long-term tenure of the area, subject to the area being used for sporting purposes.

13. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will ask at the next Meeting if a report or analysis is available, from the before and after energy bills, that were collected from all houses that received a thermal upgrade, in Regeneration areas.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council does not monitor actual before and after energy bills. The objective of the Thermal Upgrade Programme is to reduce the level of energy required to heat and run homes. Dwelling energy performance is measured by means of a Building Energy Rating (BER). The Thermal Upgrade Programme seeks to bring the rating of all eligible dwellings to a C Grade BER (as set out within the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan).

14. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will ask at the next Meeting when does the Council intend to submit a proposal to the Department of Housing regarding the removal of Pineview Gardens from the demolition area.

REPLY: The zoning of Pineview Gardens is a matter for the Council.

The Moyross Residents' Forum made a submission in relation to the current proposed Pineview Gardens Open Space and Recreation zoning indicated in the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, on 6th September, 2021. The current zoning is derived from the demolition strategy, Limerick Framework Implementation Plan, which was embedded into the statutory Limerick City Development Plan in May 2016. The submission requests the removal of an element of Pineview Gardens from the Open Space and Recreation zoning and a rezoning suitable to reflect the existing residential and potential to progress future residential.

The submission is currently being reviewed as part of the Chief Executive's Report on the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 and Members will have an opportunity to consider that report ahead of a statutory consultation on the Development Plan in February and March 2022. The final adoption of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 will be determined by the Limerick City and County Elected Members.

15. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the use of Drones within public parks, public play areas and in residential areas; what signage and where has the Council installed in relation to drone flying.

REPLY: EU Regulations 2019/947 and 2019/945 governs the use of drones in Ireland and across the European Union. There are a number of limitations for the operation of drones. EU Regulations 2019/947 and 2019/945 define these limits.

The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) supervises and implements the Regulation in Ireland. The IAA also provides guidance for operating and flying drones in order to ensure public safety. The Regulation allows registered operators and pilots to fly their drones across the EU. Registration as a drone operator is required if the drone used weighs over 250 grams or if it has a camera or sensor.

Those who adhere to the limits prescribed within the regulations and the [EASA safety guidance material](#) do not need the permission of the IAA to fly a drone. Those who wish to fly a drone outside the limits prescribed in the regulations must apply for a Specific Operating Permission (SOP) from the IAA following training with one of the [IAA approved drone training facilities](#).

Regulation (EU) 2019/947, caters for most types of civil drone operations and their levels of risk. It defines three categories of civil drone operations: the 'open', the 'specific' and the 'certified' category.

The [‘open’ category](#) addresses the lower-risk civil drone operations, where safety is ensured provided the civil drone operator comply with the relevant requirements for its intended operation. This category is subdivided into three subcategories, namely A1, A2 and A3. Operational risks in the ‘open’ category are considered low and, therefore, no operational authorisation is required before starting a flight.

The [‘specific’ category](#) covers riskier civil drone operations, where safety is ensured by the drone operator by obtaining an operational authorisation from the national competent authority before starting the operation. To obtain the operational authorisation, the drone operator is required to conduct a risk assessment, which will determine the requirements necessary for the safe operation of the civil drone(s).

In the [‘certified’ category](#), the safety risk is considerably high; therefore, the certification of the drone operator and its drone, as well as the licensing of the remote pilot(s), is always required to ensure safety.

The management of drone traffic will be ensured through the U-space: a set of services that will be deployed in airspace where heavier traffic is expected, such as in urban areas. The U-space Regulation establishes and harmonises the necessary requirements for manned and unmanned aircraft to operate safely in the U-space airspace, so as to prevent collisions between aircraft and to mitigate air and ground risks. The U-space regulatory framework will provide for safe aircraft operations in all areas and for all types of unmanned aircraft operations. The U-space Regulation was [adopted in April 2021](#).

The Council will consider the risks posed by the use of Drones within public parks, public play areas and residential areas in terms of the above legislation and the appropriate use of signage to mitigate these risks.

NOTICES OF MOTION

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to give back ownership of our public sewerage systems and water supply to all Local Authorities; and furthermore, I will call on this Government to put in place a properly financed 10-year working plan to upgrade the above.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Galvin and seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J).

Adjournment of Meeting

In view of time constraints, the remaining items on the agenda were adjourned.

It was agreed that a date for the Adjourned Meeting would be fixed in consultation with the Mayor and that the Meeting would be held Online.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ORDERS:

The Register of Orders made by the Chief Executive up to the date of the Meeting was available on SharePoint and Alfresco for inspection by the Members.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

The Register of Decisions on Applications under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, was also available on SharePoint and Alfresco for inspection by the Members.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Date: _____