

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD ON MONDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 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, Sheahan (M) and Talukder.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, National and Regional SSC (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Leahy), Head of Property and Community Facilities (Ms. J. Leahy), Administrative Officer, Property and Community Facilities (Ms. T. Knox), Senior Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy (Mr. R. Gallagher), Assistant Planner, Travel and Transport Strategy (Ms. K. McDonnell), Executive Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy (Mr. J. O’Leary), 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 Special Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;

Seconded by Councillor Leddin;

And Resolved:

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Kiely;

Seconded by Councillor Collins;

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 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 setting out proposals to dispose of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 126 Sycamore Avenue, Rathbane, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2021 setting out proposals to dispose of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 68 Lower Carey's Road, 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.

- (c) Circulated, report of the Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 setting out proposals to dispose of land at New Road, Thomondgate, 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.

- (d) Circulated, report of the Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 setting out proposals to dispose of land at Ballinacurra Gardens, 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.

- (e) Circulated, report of the Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 setting out proposals to dispose of land at Bunlicky, Mungret, 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.

- (f) Circulated, report of the Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 setting out proposals to dispose of land at Long's Lane, 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, but some Members referred to a number of queries previously raised in relation to the site valuation and disposal on the open market for the site at Long's Lane, and the recent Workshop held to discuss the proposed disposal. Members also referred to the proposed €8m investment at this location and potential job creation and tourism benefits, if the proposed disposal was approved at the Full Council Meeting.

### 3. **Transportation and Mobility Directorate**

#### **(a) Part 8 Procedure – Junction Improvement Works on R445 (Dublin Road) / R506 (Cappamore Road), Limerick**

Circulated, Report of the Director of Service, Transportation and Mobility Directorate dated 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 and enclosed Chief Executive's Report dated 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 setting out details in relation to Junction Improvement Works on the R445 (Dublin Road) / R506 (Cappamore Road), Limerick. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations,

2001 (as amended) and noted that it was proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 5 of the report.

The report, as circulated, was noted by the Elected Members.

**(b) Taking in Charge of Estates – Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

Circulated, Report of the Director of Service, Transportation and Mobility Directorate dated 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 and Taking in Charge Report dated August, 2021 seeking approval to the taking in charge of the road at Attyflin, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick.

Members welcomed the taking in charge of the road and thanked the Officials for their work on this. They also raised queries in relation to potholes to be repaired outside the graveyard; issues with surface water in the graveyard and the pedestrian access gate was in poor condition. They also requested that consideration be given to commencing the process to take in charge the additional 50m of roadway at the same location.

Proposed by Councillor Kilcoyne;

Seconded by Councillor Leddin;

And Resolved:

“That the road at Attyflin, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993”.

**QUESTIONS**

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick Metropolitan Council consider the closure of Little William Street to through traffic from William Street to Thomas Street and place automated bollards to facilitate controlled deliveries and emergency access, such a closure will improve the safety of pedestrians.***

**REPLY:** The proposal warrants consideration with suggested provision of controlled vehicular access in the periods 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. daily.

The introduction of this proposal will require consultation with all stakeholders at Thomas Street, William Street and Little William Street.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what the delay is in getting the bus corridor completed on the Dublin Road and Parkway Roundabout and if the Council can ask the NTA to follow up on the commitment given by them on this in 2016.***

**REPLY:** The Active Travel Team, along with our consultant engineers, are progressing the first stage of the Dublin Road Bus Corridor (Plassey Park Road to Parkway Roundabout). This follows the publication of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) in

June 2020. It was necessary for Limerick City and County Council to await this publication in order to develop an integrated Transport Strategy to support planned growth in the area to 2040. Our design team are currently working closely with key stakeholders along the route to progress this first phase of the bus corridor.

The remaining section of the Dublin Road bus corridor (Parkway Roundabout to City Centre) will commence following the establishment of Limerick BusConnects in 2022.

6. **Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can Limerick City and County Council advise when will Glenview Gardens, Farranshone be taken in charge as this estate is over 50 years old.***

**REPLY:** Glenview Gardens is not in the charge of Limerick City and County Council.

Reports will now be sought from the appropriate Council departments and Irish Water in order to assess the current condition of the estate.

When these reports are completed Limerick City and County Council will then be in a position to determine as to whether Glenview Gardens is to a taking in charge standard.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, can Limerick City and County Council advise as to what plans are in place for flood defences in the Montpelier area of County Limerick.***

**REPLY:** O'Briensbridge / Montpelier was an AFA (Area for Further Assessment) included in the OPW CFRAM Flood Risk Management Plans. This AFA was not identified as being economically cost beneficial and did not progress as one of the areas for funding under the CFRAM Programme.

It was noted in the FRMP that embankment works may be progressed under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection (Minor Works) Scheme.

Embankment works have already been completed in Montpelier under the Minor Works scheme. As part of these works, a geotechnical assessment was completed which identified the presence of deep gravels which may allow seepage underneath the embankment. It was concluded that the option of installing a cut-off wall to this flow path would be prohibitively costly and that the seepage is managed, during flood events, through the use of temporary mobile pumps.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, can Limerick City and County Council advise if Stradbally Cemetery is full to capacity or if people can purchase plots.***

**REPLY:** The graveyard at Stradbally has been closed for grave purchases since 2000. Only families with existing plots can apply for burial in those plots. All burials associated with new grave purchases are accommodated in St. Joseph's BG, Scanlon Park.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on repaving footpaths on South Circular Road from Mary Immaculate College to Henry Street as they are in a very poor condition.***

**REPLY:** A budget of €26,333 was allocated under the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works for footpaths in the South Circular Road Area. These works are expected to commence in January 2022. There is also an Active Travel project proposed for this area, preliminary design details for this project will be shared with the Elected Members prior to the Part 8 Public Consultation Process.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for criteria to access the Homeless Action Team and criteria for this service being denied to a person/s.***

**REPLY:** Attached is the eligibility criteria for accessing emergency accommodation as operated by the Homeless Action Team.

If a person/s are not eligible for emergency accommodation, other supports may be offered, if appropriate.

The Limerick City and County Council, Housing Support Services, Homeless Policy Document was circulated as part of the reply.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what progress is being made with relevant stakeholders on the redevelopment of the cities disused railway network to facilitate smarter travel options.***

**REPLY:** The issue of utilising disused rail lines in the city was raised following the publication of LSMATS, Draft 1. This draft had included for some significant improvement to be made, primarily to the inter-urban rail network serving Limerick, but had not recommended intensification of heavy rail transport within suburban Limerick.

Following the request for more investigation of the rail options, further detailed modelling of potential heavy rail improvements was undertaken, including for detailed Business Case Usage and Benefit/Cost analysis. Detailed discussions on the potential of reusing parts of the disused rail network, including new suburban rail stations, are still ongoing involving the Council, the NTA, Iarnród Éireann and the Department of Transport. The outcome of these discussions will influence the Rail content of LSMATS, Draft 2, which is due to be released at beginning of 2022.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what budget is currently available to Limerick City and County Council for the 2022 thermal upgrade works programme and what budget will be required to achieve a BER C1 grade on all of the remainder of homes in the four regeneration areas that are due thermal upgrade works in 2022.***

**REPLY:** The Regeneration Thermal Upgrade programme is subject to the budget approval processes prescribed by the Capital Works Management Framework. This framework requires the Sponsoring Agency (the Local Authority) to present business cases for proposed projects / contracts to the funding / Sanctioning Authority (the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage) for budget approval purposes. The approval process applicable to the Thermal Upgrade programme is a two-stage approval process with an initial approval required ahead of tendering and a second approval required upon receipt of tenders. A preliminary budget is sanctioned on foot of the initial approval and this is either subsequently reconfirmed or adjusted accounting for the outcome of the ensuing tender process.

Budget approval has yet to be sanctioned in respect of those Thermal Upgrade Contract submissions made, by the Local Authority to the Department, across the latter half of 2021. Scoping works are still ongoing on a number of remaining Thermal Upgrade Contracts also planned to be progressed to construction stage in 2022. The business cases for these remaining contracts are expected to be advanced to the Department early in 2022. The budget requirement to deliver the target energy upgrade will not be fully quantified until the scopes of works for these residual contracts have been finalised.

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what progress, if any, has been made to-date to identify a site for a new cemetery in the Castletroy area.***

**REPLY:** The Council has commenced a desktop exercise of identifying sites for a new burial ground for the Castletroy area. The Castletroy area is contained within the Ballysimon DED. The process is at an early stage and will involve assessing sites against a defined set of criteria before a preferred site can be identified. It is the Council's intention to have a site identified by mid-2022.

The need for a new burial ground to serve the Castletroy area was identified in the Burial Ground Strategy. The approximate timeframe for the development of this new burial ground, which will accommodate the needs of the Ballysimon DED, is set out below:

- Land Acquisition 2022 – 2023
- Develop New Burial Ground 2024 - 2026

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

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, following on from the recent incident at Ardnacrusha turbines where a number of fish were killed, have Limerick City and County Council liaised with the ESB in determining what caused this to occur.***

**REPLY:** This is a matter for the ESB as Limerick City and County Council does not have any role or responsibility in relation to this.

15. **Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney**

*I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a breakdown of grants approved, paid and recouped from the Department in the Metropolitan District for the year to date and for the same period in 2020 for the Housing Adaptation, Housing Aids for Older People and Mobility Aids grants.*

**REPLY:**

<b>2021</b>	<b>Grants Approved</b>	<b>Grants Paid</b>	<b>Grants Recouped</b>
HAG	116	72	80% Recouped up to 17 <sup>th</sup> December, 2021
HAOP	246	118	
MAG	111	75	
<b>2020</b>	<b>Grants Approved</b>	<b>Grants Paid</b>	<b>Grants Recouped</b>
HAG	67	57	80% Recouped from Department
HAOP	89	109	
MAG	60	54	

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update from the design team on Boland's Cross, Rathmale, Mungret, N69.*

**REPLY:** The proposed scheme comprises the re-alignment of Boland's Cross and the provision of pedestrian facilities to the south of the N69 from Boland's Cross to Mungret Cross.

Limerick City and County Council recently appointed Clandillon Civil Consulting Ltd as technical advisors to develop the N69 Mungret Cross to Boland's Cross Road Safety Improvement Scheme through detailed design, statutory procedures and tender phases. A commencement meeting was held with them earlier this month and they are currently familiarising themselves with the scheme, collating the data and mapping required for the design and scoping the various surveys required including topographical surveys, traffic counting and ground investigation.

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

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on section of road from Clarina Roundabout to Red Brick Lodge, these improvement works are due to commence in 2022.*

**REPLY:** A Preliminary Design Report for the proposed footpath is with TII for review and comment. Once approval for the PDR is provided we will look to appoint a consultant to develop the design and run the Part 8 application. To expedite this process we are currently preparing the consultants brief with a view of proceeding with the next steps in Q1 next year. (Note this will be subject to TII funding and approvals)

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

18. **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors D. Butler, S. Kiely, D. McSweeney, M. Murphy, O. O'Sullivan and M. Sheahan**

***We will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council write to the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly to impress upon him the urgent need to fast track surgical review for children with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.***

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

In proposing the motion, Councillor Kiely highlighted the need to ensure the provision of services in acute hospitals for children with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus and the distress this was causing families, and referred to the importance of accelerating the process of surgical review for children with these conditions.

19. **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely (to be referred to the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee)**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we explore the idea of having a day similar to the TLC Good Friday clean up initiative for burial grounds/graveyards involving stakeholders from the same agencies as Team Limerick Clean up to replicate its success.***

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, the Notice of Motion was taken at the Meeting.

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

Members highlighted the success of Team Limerick Clean Up and the benefits of a similar initiative for Burial Grounds / Graveyards. They noted the important work being done by the local authority, local graveyard committees, the Civic Trust, etc. but agreed that such an initiative could be of great help and raise awareness of the importance of properly maintaining all burial grounds and graveyards.

20. **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that extra lighting be installed at the entrance to Aspen Gardens and Hillcroft Close. There is one light currently at the corner of St. Patrick's Road and two additional lights are needed on the approach to the Estates.***

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Slattery, seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Slattery stated that many elderly people were living in the area and additional lighting was urgently required.

Members supported the motion and referred to the ongoing issue of providing additional lighting in areas and they queried if funding for lighting could be made available from the NTA or Active Travel budgets.

**REPLY:** The operation and maintenance budget does not include an allowance for the provision of additional lights, however should the funding be made available from other sources, Limerick City and County Council will examine if these lights can be installed.

21. **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

*I will move at the next Meeting of Metropolitan District of Limerick that all Councillors here today support a motion that was passed in Dail Eireann in November 2019 to recognise the right to Personal Assistance Service (PAS) for disabled people to have freedom, choice and control over all aspects of their lives to enable them to fully participate in an inclusive society as equals. Since this motion was passed numerous local authorities across Ireland have voted to support it and we need to do the same and call on the Minister of State at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and the Government to provide legislation on this motion for people with Disabilities so they can live independently.*

The motion was proposed by Councillor Slattery, seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Slattery highlighted the need for a Personal Assistance Service to allow people with disabilities to live independently.

22. **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas (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 Metropolitan District develops a proposal whereby each Councillor will plant 100 broad leaf trees and also writes to TII to explore the possibilities of each Councillor having 50 percent of the broad leaf trees planted on land banks along the Motorway to serve towards absorbing carbon emissions from traffic on the Motorway.*

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

23. **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney**

*I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council put in place a schedule of general maintenance for cycle lanes throughout the Metropolitan District.*

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor McSweeney, seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M) and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor McSweeney highlighted the issues with debris on cycle lanes and the need to maintain and sweep them regularly so as to ensure they could be availed of by the public without possible damage to tyres, etc.

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council are currently in the process of purchasing 2 small sweepers with funding it has received from the NTA. These sweepers are expected to arrive early in the New Year. The sweepers will be utilised to keep Limerick's Cycle Paths in a clean and serviceable condition through a regular schedule of maintenance.

24. **Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

**Any Other Business**

Councillor Sheahan (M) congratulated Ahane on winning their first football title in twenty years.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Elected Members and Officials for their commitment and hard work over the previous twelve months. She acknowledged the dedication and efforts of healthcare workers and all frontline staff who provided services in difficult circumstances during the year. She also referred to the ongoing pandemic and the importance of adhering to public guidelines and staying safe over the Christmas period and she remembered all those who had passed away from Covid 19. She wished everyone a happy, healthy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

This concluded the Meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_