

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, AND ONLINE, ON MONDAY, 28TH MARCH, 2022, AT 3PM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor D. Butler, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Dr. 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 Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Mr. M. Leahy), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Planner, Planning and Environmental Services (Ms N. O'Connell), Administrative Officer, Planning and Environmental Services (D. McGuigan), SEO Property Services (Ms. J. Leahy), A.O. Property Services, (Ms. T. Knox)

At the outset of the Meeting, the Mayor, on behalf of himself and the Elected Members, extended his best wishes to Norma Prendiville, Limerick Leader who had retired recently. He commended her for her integrity and work over the years in local journalism and he wished her the very best in the next chapter of her life.

The Mayor also congratulated the Limerick Senior Football team on their recent promotion to Division 2 of the National Football League and commended the progress that the Limerick Footballers had made in recent years.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copies of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 24th January, 2022.
- (b) Special Meeting of the Council held on 11th February, 2022.
- (c) Special Meeting of the Council held on 18th February, 2022.
- (d) Special Meeting of the Council held on 3rd March, 2022.
- (e) Special Meeting of the Council held on 11th March, 2022.

Proposed by Councillor Collins (M);

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);

And Resolved:

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

2. Limerick Comhairle na nÓg

The Meetings Administrator advised that this item was being deferred and that the Deputation from Limerick Comhairle na nÓg would be received at the May Meeting.

3. 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. No such interests were declared.

4. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 21st January, 2022, concerning disposal of 14 Donnellan Buildings, Rosbrien, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);

Seconded by Councillor Ruddle;

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 14 Donnellan Buildings, Rosbrien, Limerick, to Christina Leyden and Mary Sweeney, 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 21st January, 2022.”

- (b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 25th February, 2022, concerning disposal of 0.161 ha. of land at Killarney Pole to Barnagh, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);

Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);

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 0.161 ha. of land at Killarney Pole to Barnagh, Co. Limerick, to John Geary, The Garage, Kilmeedy, Co. Limerick, for the sum of €9,000, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 25th February, 2022.”

- (c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 1st March, 2022, concerning disposal of 4, Mitchell Street, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
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 4 Mitchell Street, Limerick, to Elm Long Income ICAV, for the sum of €199.20, 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 1st March, 2022.”

- (d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 3rd March, 2022, together with Drawing No. AG/5067, concerning disposal of property at Ballybehy South, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
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 at Ballybehy South, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, to Timothy D. Collins, for the sum of €1.00, 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 3rd March, 2022.”

- (e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 8th March, 2022, together with Drawing No. AG5056, concerning disposal of 2, Church Street, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (K);
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
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 2, Church Street, Askeaton, Co. Limerick, to the Estate of Mary Barry, deceased, for the sum of €1.00, 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 March, 2022.”

- (f) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, together with Drawing No. AG/5070, concerning disposal of 1, Fairhill, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
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 1 Fairhill, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, to Michael and Bridget O’Brien, for the sum of €1.00, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Transfer of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property in order to regularise the original disposal of the property under Tenant Purchase in 1997 which was not finalised, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022.”

- (g) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, together with Property Registration Map, concerning disposal of property at Holycross, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
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 at Holycross, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, to Anne Wilmott and Ita Kenneally, Legal Personal Representatives of Mary Kenneally, 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 14th March, 2022.”

- (h) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 11 and 12 Clontarf Place (including 1-4 Wellesley Lane), Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M);
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 at 11 and 12 Clontarf Place (including 1-4 Wellesley Lane), Limerick, to Henry Street Developments Ltd., for the sum of €235,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022.”

- (i) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, concerning disposal of property at Woolworth’s Lane, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
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 at Woolworth’s Lane, Limerick, to H & L Republic Holdings Ltd., for the sum of €301,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022.”

- (j) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 35, Lord Edward Street, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
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 at 35 Lord Edward Street, Limerick, to Mark Varley, for the sum of €275,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022.”

- (k) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, concerning disposal of property at Clash North, Athea, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
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 at Clash North, Athea, Co. Limerick, to Marcin Kruszyna, for the sum of €37,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022.”

- (l) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 3, Mount Vincent Place, O’Connell Avenue, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
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 at 3, Mount Vincent Place, O’Connell Avenue, Limerick, to H & L Republic Holdings Ltd., for the sum of €230,000, subject to the covenants and conditions contained within the Contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022.”

- (m) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, concerning disposal of 0.61 acres and Unit at Galvone Business Park, Galvone, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
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 0.61 acres and Unit at Galvone Business Park, Galvone, Limerick, to Mr. John Scanlan, for the sum of €185,000, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022.”

- (n) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, concerning disposal of 2.0 acres of land at Rathronan, Gortnagross, Athea, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
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 2.0 acres of land at Rathronan, Gortnagross, Athea, Co. Limerick, to Mr. Timothy Murphy, for the sum of €10,000, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022.”

- (o) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, concerning disposal of 0.66 acres of land at Ardrahin, Galbally, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Ryan (E);
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
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 0.66 acres of land at Ardrahin, Galbally, Co. Limerick, to Mr. Aidan Carew and Ms. Niamh Carew, for the sum of €73,000, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022.”

- (p) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 69, Castlevue Estate, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M);
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 at 69, Castlevue Estate, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, to Focus Housing Association, for the sum of €127.00 - Focus Housing Association shall be liable for legal and other costs that may arise from this disposal and will be subject to the covenants and conditions arising in the sales contract - particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022.”

- (q) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 6, Radharc na Feile, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M);
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 at 6 Radharc Na Feile, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, to Focus Housing Association, for the sum of €127.00 - Focus Housing Association shall be liable for legal and other costs that may arise from this disposal and will be subject to the covenants and conditions arising in the sales contract - particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022.”

- (r) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 4, Lower Maiden Street, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M);
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 at 4 Lower Maiden Street, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, to Focus Housing Association, for the sum of €127.00 – Focus Housing Association shall be liable for legal and other costs that may arise from this disposal and will be subject to the covenants and conditions arising in the sales contract – particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022.”

- (s) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, concerning disposal of property at Kilmurry, Feenagh, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M);
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 at Kilmurry, Feenagh, Co. Limerick, to Focus Housing Association, for the sum of €127.00 – Focus Housing Association shall be liable for legal and other costs that may arise from this disposal and will be subject to the covenants and conditions arising in the sales contract – particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022.”

- (t) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, concerning disposal of 0.94 acres of land at Monemohill, Ballyhahill, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M);
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 0.94 acres of land at Monemohill, Ballyhahill, Co. Limerick, to Mr. Martin Woods, for the sum of €13,000, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022.”

- (u) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022, concerning disposal of property at North Road, Coolaboy, Dromcollogher, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M);
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 at North Road, Coolaboy, Dromcollogher, Co. Limerick, to Focus Housing Association, for the sum of €127.00 – Focus Housing Association shall be liable for legal and other costs that may arise from this disposal and will be subject to the covenants and conditions arising in the sales contract – particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th March, 2022.”

- (v) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 16th March, 2022, concerning disposal of Former Garda Station, Mary Street, Limerick.

Some Members referred to discussions on this at a previous Metropolitan District Meeting, where concerns were expressed in relation to this proposed disposal. Members had highlighted that the property was in an important tourist location and the importance of it

being utilised to the fullest extent possible, given its location and tourism objectives for the area. They had also agreed that the property ideally should be open for use outside of normal office hours if possible too. They also queried what objectives had been met in relation to the criteria outlined in the Expression of Interest document that had been issued as part of the disposal process, and what options had been considered for the use of the building.

The Administrative Officer, Property and Community Facilities confirmed that several Expressions of Interest had been received, but that concrete funding proposals were not included in most of the Expressions of Interests received. She also confirmed that as the building was a protected structure, that it would be a costly process to refurbish the building to return it back to a satisfactory condition. She explained that this was the reason it was so difficult to get a purchaser who could meet all the suggested criteria. She also confirmed that other properties for disposal in the area would be coming before the Members in due course, which might meet more of the particular tourism objectives being sought by some Members.

The Director, Regeneration also confirmed that regeneration funding was not available to refurbish the building and that a community centre was not being considered at this location. Some Members also highlighted the fact that the building had been derelict for over 30 years and was in a tourist area, and that it was important to try to get it restored and back into use, rather than leave it derelict for a further period of time.

Proposed by Councillor Costelloe;
Seconded by Councillor Benson;
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 proposed disposal of Former Garda Station, Mary Street, Limerick, to Newenham Street Group Limited, for the sum of €100,000, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 16th March, 2022, shall **not** be carried out.”

(w) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 16th March, 2022, concerning disposal of property at 1-10 Cois na Feile, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

In proposing the Motion, Cllr Sheahan (J) suggested that the properties subject to this disposal should be brought up to standard as soon as possible.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M);
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 at 1-10 Cois na Feile, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, to Clúid Housing Association, for the sum of €1,270 (€127 per unit) – Clúid Housing Association shall be liable for legal and other costs that

may arise from the acquisition and disposal and will be subject to the covenants and conditions arising in the sales contract – particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 16th March, 2022.”

5. Support Services

(a) Chief Executive’s Report

Circulated, Chief Executive’s Report for the months of January and February, 2022.

The Reports were noted by the Council.

(b) Raising of Loan to fund the issuing of Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans (RIHL) and Local Authority Home Loans (LAHL) by Limerick City and County Council to Borrowers

Circulated, report of the Deputy Chief Executive dated 7th March, 2022, seeking the Council’s approval to application for sanction from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a loan in the amount of €4,840,000 to fund the drawdown of Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans and Local Authority Home Loans, with the loan to be drawn from the Housing Finance Agency.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to application for sanction from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended, for a loan in the amount of €4,840,000 to fund the drawdown of Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans and Local Authority Home Loans, the loan to be drawn from the Housing Finance Agency.”

(c) Annual Service Delivery Plan 2022

Circulated, report of the Director, Support Services, dated 21st March, 2022, enclosing Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2022 for Limerick City and County Council and including, as an Appendix, a Review of the 2021 Service Delivery Plan.

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

“That, in accordance with Section 134(a) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2022 for Limerick City and County Council, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

(d) Annual Report 2021

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services, dated 21st March, 2022, enclosing copy of the draft Annual Report 2021 for Limerick City and County Council.

The report stated that the draft Annual Report had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) and set out details of the policies, programmes, services and other activities undertaken by the Council. It also included the Financial Statements for 2021 and an outline of activities to promote the interests of local communities and twinning. The final version of the Annual Report would be brought before the May Meeting of the Council for adoption.

The draft Annual Report was noted by the Council.

(e) Strategic Policy Committee Reports

- (i) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee dated 9th March, 2022, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 23rd February, 2022.

The report was noted by the Council.

Recommendation

‘That, Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister with responsibility for Public Procurement to seek guidance in relation to the development of a policy on the procurement of sustainable food and beverages, and catering services.’

On the proposal of Councillor O’Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J), the Recommendation was agreed.

- (ii) Circulated, reports of the Chairperson of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee in relation to meetings of the Committee held on 28th February and 14th March, 2022.

The reports were noted by the Council.

Recommendation No. 1 (from SPC Meeting of 28th February, 2022)

‘That, Limerick City and County Council develop a proposal whereby each Councillor will plant 100 broadleaf trees, and also write to Transport Infrastructure Ireland to explore the possibilities of each Councillor having fifty per cent of the broadleaf trees planted on land banks along the Motorway to serve towards absorbing carbon emissions from traffic on the Motorway.’

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Collins (M), the Recommendation was agreed.

Recommendation No. 2 (from SPC Meeting of 28th February, 2022)

‘That, Limerick City and County Council adopt a policy and appoint a senior official to co-ordinate a plan, in conjunction with Coillte, to identify suitable places for the planting of 50 mature native broadleaf Irish trees per annum in site-specific locations, in an effort to combat climate change.’

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (K), seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J), the Recommendation was agreed.

Recommendation No. 3 (from SPC Meeting of 14th March, 2022)

‘That, Limerick City and County Council call on the Government to change national policy to support the liquid natural gas plant at Ballylongford.’

In proposing this Motion, Cllr Sheahan (J) stated that the provision of a liquid natural gas plant at Ballylongford should be supported by the Government so as to provide another alternative energy option for Ireland, and that this was especially important at the current time having regard to current increased energy costs which were due primarily to the recent war in the Ukraine. He also stated that it was important that Ireland should be as self-sufficient as possible in managing its energy demands and had to be realistic in how it would achieve this. He also stated that it could be possible in the future to convert the liquid natural gas plant to hydrogen as well.

While some Members were in favour of this proposal, other Members stated their opposition to it on the basis that Ireland should be choosing renewable energy options instead and that it was not appropriate to be developing a liquid natural gas plant at this location. Some Members stated that there were sufficient gas supplies in Europe already and that alternatives like wind and tidal energy generation measures were what Ireland should be pursuing given its location on the edge of Western Europe.

Following these discussions, the Mayor directed that a vote be taken on the proposal to call on the Government to change national policy to support the liquid natural gas plant at Ballylongford, and the result of the voting was as follows:

For

Councillors Collins (M), Donegan, Foley, Galvin, Keary, Kilcoyne, McSweeney, Murphy, O’Donoghue, O’Hanlon, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlon (J), Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Talukder, Teefy, Teskey.

(20)

Against

Councillors Benson, Carey, Hartigan, Leddin, Novak Uí Chonchúir, O’Donovan, Sheehan (C).

(7)

Abstain

Councillors Butler, Collins (B), Costelloe, Kiely, O'Sullivan, Secas.

(6)

The Mayor declared the vote on the proposal to call on the Government to change national policy to support the liquid natural gas plant at Ballylongford as passed, and accordingly the following resolution was adopted.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);

Seconded by Councillor Galvin;

And Resolved:

'That, Limerick City and County Council call on the Government to change national policy to support the liquid natural gas plant at Ballylongford.'

Recommendation No. 4 (from SPC Meeting of 14th March, 2022)

'That, the increase in burial ground charges be reversed.'

In proposing his Notice of Motion, Cllr Teskey referred to the increase in the cost of grave spaces, which were introduced at the start of January 2022, which he described as excessive. Members expressed disappointment that this increase had not being flagged with them and that there was a lot of public resentment and anger at the increase. They also noted that this was a very sensitive issue for people and that the costs involved were very high.

They also noted that the Burial Ground Maintenance Grant was very small in comparison, despite the tremendous work being carried out by Burial Ground Committees. While the Members agreed that the Council Budget had to be balanced in order to cover all aspects of the Councils activities, they agreed that this issue was particularly sensitive. Members asked if the shortfall could be covered by forward sales of grave spaces in graveyards instead.

The Deputy Chief Executive briefed the Members on the costs involved in operating the burial ground service where the annual operating cost was €1.7m, while income was €820k per annum. He also outlined details of the Burial Ground Capital Programme, which entailed Capital Expenditure of €4.5m. He referred to the operating costs in adjacent local authority areas, which varied quite significantly and noted that every local authority had different issues and approaches in relation to the delivery of this service.

The Chief Executive noted the concerns raised by Members in relation to this issue and agreed that the Executive would take it away to review the feedback from Members and look at the cost implications involved and would revert back to the Members in due course.

On the proposal of Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J), the Recommendation was 'that, the increase in burial ground charges be reversed.'

With the permission of the Mayor, the following Notice of Motion - No. 20 - was taken in conjunction with this Recommendation:

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that this Authority bring the cost of grave space in Rural County Limerick into line with that charged for graves in our neighbouring Authorities of Kerry and Clare.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Scanlan and seconded by Councillor Ryan (E).

REPLY: The Council reviewed burial ground charges as part of the budgetary process for 2022. The decision to increase the cost of graves arose for a number of reasons, including the reduction in income received from sale of graves, the increased demand for maintenance works, in particular in the County burial grounds and the increased costs associated with same.

The Council adopted a Burial Ground Strategy in 2021, and this strategy has revealed that a number of burial grounds need to be developed, including the provision of Columbarium Walls. Therefore, the monies generated are key to the delivery of this work programme and to ongoing service delivery.

The Council, in taking this decision, undertook a review of the cost of grave spaces across urban and rural local authorities, including neighbouring local authorities. The proposed charges are considered to be appropriately benchmarked with other local authorities. The proposal also for the first time aligns charges across the Limerick City and County area and establishes a fair and consistent approach to same.

- (iii) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee dated 11th February, 2022, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 7th February, 2022.

The report was noted by the Council.

- (iv) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee dated 16th March, 2022, in relation to Meeting of the Committee held on 22nd February, 2022.

The report was noted by the Council.

Recommendation

‘That, Limerick City and County Council will, in accordance with commitments made as signatory to the Local Authority Climate Charter (2019), employ a process for carbon-proofing in any future major transport decisions, programmes and projects

to ensure that the plan, programme or investment is aligned with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.'

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), the Recommendation was agreed.

- (v) Circulated, report of the Chairperson of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee dated 16th February, 2022, in relation to meeting of the Committee held on 16th February, 2022.

The report was noted by the Council.

Recommendation

'That, this Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage asking him to implement a Scheme which would allow an existing Local Authority tenant to extend property where needed due to social or health issues whereby the tenant would then be given a discount/write-off on their rent.'

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Ryan (E), the Recommendation was agreed.

6. Community, Tourism and Culture

(a) Grants under the Arts Act

Circulated, report of the Arts Officer dated 10th March, 2022, seeking the Council's approval to recommended grants, as set out in the report, under the Arts Act, 2003.

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

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the payment of grants under the Arts Act, 2003, as recommended, and as set out in the report of the Arts Officer dated 10th March, 2022."

(b) Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Annual Report 2021

Circulated, report of the LCDC Chief Officer, Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate, dated 10th March, 2022, enclosing 2021 Annual Report of the Limerick Community Development Committee.

The LCDC Annual Report was noted by the Members.

7. Conferences

(a) Participation by Members at Conference

Details of Cross Border Tourism Webinar – Learn from the Best and Grow your Visitor Numbers – to be held on 16th April, 2022, had been circulated electronically to the Members.

The Conferences were noted by the Council.

(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 Members.

ADJOURNED NOTICE OF MOTION

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council give its full support to commemorate the five hundred year anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Askeaton taking place in June 2023.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan (K) and seconded by Councillor Collins (M).

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council recognises that public commemoration and memorials offer opportunities to honour, celebrate, or remember a person, group of persons or events of significance. They provide an opportunity to highlight important social, cultural and economic contributions to society, to celebrate the uniqueness of the city and county of Limerick and to create a ‘sense of place’ which is identified as being of great importance to citizens and visitors.

Limerick City and County Council Civic Memorial Policy sets out the process by which Limerick City and County Council will consider the commemoration of events or individuals who have shaped the city or county, either by the naming of infrastructure or by the installation of monuments, memorials and plaques in the public domain.

A Civic Memorial and Public Art Technical Committee was established by Limerick City and County Council in 2020 to make recommendations regarding the naming of key infrastructure and the selection of individuals or events that will be commemorated through the erection of civic monuments or plaques.

It is recommended that this proposal be forwarded to the Limerick City and County Council Civic Memorial and Public Art Technical Committee for consideration.

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:

9. Question submitted by Councillor F. Daly

I will ask at the next Meeting are we not going to acknowledge Limerick Senior Hurling Champions 2020/21 and management - a team and management that brought joy and honour to every man, woman and child to the City, County and beyond. I am being asked this on a regular basis by my constituents.

REPLY: A Civic Reception to celebrate the Limerick Senior Hurling Team's three All-Ireland titles in four years, including back-to-back victories in 2020 and 2021, which was scheduled for 26th November 2021, had to be cancelled at short notice due to the high level of COVID cases in Ireland around the time of that proposed Civic Reception.

To celebrate their back-to-back All-Ireland senior hurling titles, members of the Limerick Senior Hurling Panel were this year's Grand Marshal at the Limerick St. Patrick's Day parade. They were joined by the Liam MacCarthy Cup as they led a 250-strong procession from Limerick GAA. An estimated 50,000 people lined the streets to celebrate.

10. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed outline of the current plans to tackle derelict houses in Limerick that are Council-owned in areas such as Kennedy Park and Hyde Road and Lenihan Avenue, Prospect. These areas have many derelict Council-owned properties and the Council is in the process of acquiring more properties through Compulsory Purchase Order. The Council needs to refurbish these properties so they can be allocated as soon as possible.

REPLY: 14 derelict Council-owned properties have been identified in Hyde Road, Hyde Avenue, Lenihan Avenue, Hyde Villas and Ballyclough Avenue for transfer to the AHB sector for refurbishment and allocation.

Involving the AHB (Approved Housing Body) Sector will assist the Council in tackling the substantial backlog of derelict properties (Category 3 and 4) within the Council's responsibility. It is expected that these properties will be completed and ready for allocation within a 9-10 month timeframe.

In addition to the above, the Housing Construction and Maintenance Section also arrange for works to be undertaken directly to derelict housing units so as to provide homes for tenancy.

The approach is that units are grouped into Lots. Each dwelling within the Lot is then scoped to identify the extent and nature of work that is required to be completed. Once this is done, the tender documents are prepared and the Lot is advertised through the public tender process.

Depending upon the specific proposals, some of these properties can require planning consent before they can be undertaken. Once a contractor is appointed, the construction period will typically take 8-10 months, depending upon the number of units and extent of work to be undertaken.

The specific number of units is as follows:

Kennedy Park	4 Units
Hyde Road	7 Units
Lenihan Avenue	3 Units

- Of the 4 units in Kennedy Park, 1 unit is in Lot 2, 2 units are in Lot 3 and the other unit is a recent addition.
- Of the 7 units on Hyde Road, 3 units are in one group and an individual Capital Appraisal is being prepared, 1 unit is in Lot 2 and the other unit is a recent addition.
- Of the 3 units in Lenihan Avenue, 1 unit is in Lot 2 and 2 units are in Lot 4.

11. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Brien

I will ask at the next Meeting what is the protocol of flying flags adjacent to our National Flag.

REPLY: Article 7 of the Constitution states “The national flag is the tricolour of green, white and orange.” The Department of the Taoiseach has general responsibility in relation to the National Flag and is responsible for the guidelines for the flying of the Flag. Section 6 of the Guidelines states: (i) When the National Flag is flown with the flags of other nations, each flag should have the same width and should fly from a separate flagpole of the same height; (ii) When the National Flag is flown at a building or entrance along with other flags of equal height, it should be first on the right (on an observer’s left).

12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will ask at the next Meeting how many families, including children, are currently housed in Thomond Student Village.

REPLY: There are 12 families with children currently residing in Thomond Village.

13. Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will ask at the next Meeting what progress has been made in acquiring the funding to restore and reopen the Black Bridge in Plassey given its vital link to Co. Clare, and when will work commence on the structure.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council is working in partnership with Clare County Council, ESB and Waterways Ireland to explore the potential of developing a Greenway between Limerick and Scarriff. This scheme is at the early phase of development and is scheduled for public consultation in April / May 2022. The restoration and use of the Black Bridge to connect the existing walkway/cycleway on the Limerick side of the River Shannon to a new potential route north of the Shannon will be considered as part of the scheme's development. As the project is at early development stage, we are not in a position to provide delivery dates for any element of the scheme.

Note that the funding and delivery of Greenways was transferred from the Department of Transport to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in September 2021. All Greenway schemes will be subject to the relevant TII guidance and approval processes. TII have made an allocation of €70,000 to Clare County Council in 2021 towards the ongoing development of the Limerick to Scarriff scheme.

NOTICES OF MOTION

With the permission of the Mayor, Notice of Motion No. 17 was taken at this time:

17. Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale – Councillors A. Teskey (Proposer) Collins (B), Keary, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, Sheahan (K)

We will move at the next Meeting that this Council should support the Health Service Executive in the current pandemic situation, where there are delays for ambulances due to staffing shortages, by allowing the Fire & Emergency Services be activated to emergency medical calls to provide first responder assistance in life and death situations.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Teskey and seconded by Councillor Kiely.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council has been working very closely to support the Health Service Executive since the start of the pandemic on a wide range of matters, including the release of staff to work for the Health Service Executive, facilitating pop-up test centres, assisting with traffic management for the vaccination centres and planning for a range of responses. Close collaboration between the agencies of the state has been a key cornerstone as Ireland

responded to the major and unheralded challenges associated with the pandemic. It is important to note that there has been an excellent working relationship between the principal response agencies throughout the pandemic as part of the 'whole of government approach' at the local and regional level.

The issue of ambulances is currently being discussed at national level between the Health Service Executive and the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management under the aegis of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Pending progress at a national level, the Limerick Fire and Emergency Service will have to await guidance from the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management in terms of this issue and cannot progress this matter until the national discussions have concluded.

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

We will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council Library Service produce a document to commemorate local engagement in the Irish War of Independence in Limerick City and County, similar to the War of Independence West Cork Trail published by Cork County Council Library Service.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Ryan (M), on behalf of Cllr Egan, and seconded by Councillor Teefy.

REPLY: The proposal to produce a document to commemorate local engagement in the Irish War of Independence in Limerick City and County similar to the War of Independence West Cork Trail published by Cork County Council Library Service, is recognised as a very worthwhile project and will be included in the Decade of Centenaries Commemoration Programme 2022.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council put in place a working system for signing GDPR consent forms. The current system is not manageable in any event, especially emergencies. I will also call on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to intervene and that this Motion be circulated to all Local Authorities.

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

REPLY: The Council agrees that a digital process would be preferable to the current manual process. Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) will take steps to implement an electronic process in consultation with stakeholders, namely Councillors, Local Government Management Agency, Association of Irish Local

Government, Customer Services LCCC, the Data Protection Officer LCCC and Digital Services LCCC.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council calls on the Irish Government to ratify, as soon as possible, the Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs which was adopted by the Council of Europe on 9 July 2014 in order to criminalise illegal organ transplantations.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheehan (C) and seconded by Councillor Secas.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale – Councillors A. Teskey (Proposer) Collins (B), Keary, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, Sheahan (K)

We will move at the next Meeting that this Council should support the Health Service Executive in the current pandemic situation, where there are delays for ambulances due to staffing shortages, by allowing the Fire & Emergency Services be activated to emergency medical calls to provide first responder assistance in life and death situations.

It was noted that this Motion had been dealt with earlier in the Meeting.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council write to the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D., in support of Vicky Phelan's call for the establishment of a Minister for Women's Health, and to seek an update on the progress of the Patient Safety Bill.

The Motion was amended to include writing to the Taoiseach, in addition to the Minister for Health.

The amended Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Sullivan and seconded by Councillor Kiely.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will move at the next Meeting that this Authority would seek funding from the Minister for Social Protection, Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, TD, to provide Kildimo's new Community Centre with the shortfall of €182,000 needed to complete the project as a result of Covid and recent inflationary construction cost increases.

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

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that this Authority bring the cost of grave space in Rural County Limerick into line with that charged for graves in our neighbouring Authorities of Kerry and Clare.

It was noted that this Motion had been dealt with earlier.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will move at the next meeting that Limerick City and County Council (i) initiate public consultation to get female perspectives on how best to make public spaces safe, and (ii) carry out a safety audit of all public spaces in the city and county to identify all public spaces that are not women-friendly, with a view to redesigning them with the safety needs of women in mind.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Secas and seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan.

REPLY:

We are currently engaged in a procurement process for the appointment of an Urban Design and Planning Agency who will be preparing a Limerick Public Realm Strategy for Limerick City. This important work will initiate a series of public consultations in order to engage all views on various issues and plans for the future of Limerick's Public Realm. The public consultations will include but not be limited to the following:

- Review how citizens would change public spaces in order to facilitate safer and more positive environments;
- Review how citizens currently see and use Limerick's public realm and how they wish to use the public realm going forward;
- Review of lighting to facilitate safer access and improve the night-time ambience and economy;
- Consultation on street clutter and 'improving access for all.'

On foot of the public consultations, an Urban Design Analysis and Characterisation Study will be prepared as part of the Strategy that encapsulates learnings from the process.

The consultation process will be inclusive and a communication programme will be in place that encourages effective participation in the preparation and delivery of the Strategy with all members of the public and key stakeholders. The public consultations will take multiple formats, but one of these will include a 'walking workshop' session and ask members of the community to photograph and record features to understand the aspects of local character that people value and those that they would like to change.

In relation to the Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas, we will include elements to look specifically at safety for women and we will explore options on how to achieve best practice on it and engage with relevant groups.

Limerick City and County Council will actively work with our consultants and the people of Limerick to capture all views and needs required in order to make our public spaces a safer and universally friendlier environment.

22. Correspondence

The Correspondence circulated with the agenda was noted.

The Meetings Administrator drew the Members' attention to responses received from the following Government Departments:

- Office of the Minister of State for Community Development and Charities in reply to resolution adopted by the Council requesting the Government to waive the requirement of matching funding for local community groups in light of the fact that their ability to fundraise had been severely hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Office of the Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the State to have only one agency with responsibility for rivers and lakes.
- Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to resolution adopted by the Council calling on the Minister to raise the income eligibility limit for Social Housing.
- Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that the Minister bring forward legislation that An Bord Pleanála would have regard to policies in the Limerick Development Plan, along with National policy, taking account of habitual objectors.

RESIGNATION OF CLLR JOHN COSTELLOE

The Mayor noted that it was Cllr John Costelloe's last Full Meeting as a Member of Limerick City and County Council as he was resigning from the Council on the 1st April 2022. The Mayor, on behalf of himself and all the Members, thanked him for his service to the Council during his time as a Councillor and wished him good health and all the very best in the next chapter in his life.

The Members paid tribute to Cllr Costelloe for his service to his electorate and the Council, and in particular his work on the Northside of the city where he was a passionate advocate for the Northside and for representing his constituents in relation to all the services provided by the Council. They noted the hard work and commitment he had brought to his job, and the sense of humour that he brought. They wished him good health and the very best for the future.

