



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha,
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,
Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach,
Cé na gCeannaithe,
Luimneach

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To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Mayoral Visit to New York, USA-4th-7th March 2022

Background

An invitation was received by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Daniel Butler, to attend the Annual St Patricks Day Parade in Rockaway Beach, Queens, New York on Saturday 5th March, 2022. This is the second largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York and is held in early March, where it gains significant exposure prior to the other large St. Patrick's Day parades held around St. Patrick's Day itself.

At the January 2022 Meeting, approval was given by the Council to this proposed visit, in accordance with Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Delegation & Trip

As the Mayor was also invited to attend the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah later in March 2022, I was nominated to lead the delegation that visited Rockaway Beach, Queens for this Annual St Patricks Day Parade.

On Saturday 5th March, the delegation travelled out to Rockaway Beach and attended the Mass for Peace and Justice at St Francis de Sales Church, Rockaway where Michael Benn, President of the Parade and a Limerick native, introduced the delegation to the congregation.

After mass, the Delegation attended a St Patricks Day Breakfast Brunch Event at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Rockaway where the delegation met with

members of the Irish American Community, along with local elected and business representatives and officials.

At this function, I briefed those present on the developments and progress in Limerick in terms of investment and tourism, and the importance of further developing linkages between Limerick, the Mid West, and Ireland with the United States.

Following on from this, the Delegation participated in the St Patricks Day Parade, which commenced from Beach 130th St and Newport Ave, Rockaway.

This was led by Grand Marshal, John Samuelsen, President of the Transport Workers Union, along with Joseph P. Addabo Jr., New York State Senator and Honorary Grand Marshal. Parade participants also included Jennifer Tubridy, Honorary Grand Marshall, John Fahy, Deputy Grand Marshall and Capt. Raymond Gallagher, Deputy Grand Marshall, along with other parade nominees

On Sunday 6th March, the Delegation met with representatives of Limerick GAA, New York in Yonkers, New York and a presentation was made to them in recognition of their efforts in fostering and retaining the connection with the Limerick diaspora and for developing possible economic opportunities and contacts.

Discussions also took place with Michael Benn regarding plans and preparations for the New York St Patricks Day Parade, as well as discussions on modular housing and how it can be scaled up in Ireland.

Signed: **Cllr Liam Galvin,**

Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.



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To: The Mayor and each Member of Limerick City & County Council

12th April 2022

Report on the visit to New York for St Patricks Day celebrations 14th – 18th March 2022

A Chomhairleoir, a Chara,

As Members will be aware, a delegation from the Council travelled to New York for the St Patrick's Day celebrations from the 14th – 18th of March 2022.

The delegation was comprised of Cllr. Tom Ruddle, Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Cllr. Michael Donegan, Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan, Cllr. Dan McSweeney, Cllr. Joe Leddin, Mr. Joe Delaney, Director of Service, Limerick Regeneration, Mr. Vincent Murray, Acting Director of Service, Economic Development & Enterprise and Mr. Rory Corbett, Trade & Investment.

Members of the delegation took part in a number of activities and events during their visit with the objective of promoting Limerick, developing deeper business relationships and engaging with the Limerick diaspora community.

I am satisfied that the economic objectives of this trip were met and that suitable engagement with our diaspora and business community was achieved. I am particularly pleased with the passion, pride and energy for Limerick which I experienced from meeting Limerick people abroad.

The meetings and events that were attended by the delegation over the three days of our visit are summarised below:

American Chamber of Commerce 2022 Report US Launch Event

AmCham released the results of a survey of its member companies, which signaled that more than 95 percent of US multi nationals have a positive view of Ireland as an investment location. The report, 'Ireland- The Next Century', was launched by Minister Roderic O'Gorman, Minister for Children, Disability, Integration and Youth at the Irish Consulate office in New York.

Visit to the New York Irish Centre

The New York Irish Centre is a community centre in Long Island City. The mission of the centre is to provide a place for the Irish community to gather together. It's Executive Director is a Limerick native, George Heslin. George served as founding Artistic Director of off-Broadway's Origin Theatre Company for 19 years before taking up his role at the New York Irish Centre. George gave us a tour of the centre and a presentation on the various services and facilities they offer to the Irish community in Queens

Bank of Ireland St Patrick's Festival Business Networking Event

The group were invited to join Bank of Ireland CEO Francesca McDonagh and her Bank of Ireland colleagues to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the opening of a new Hub for Bank of Ireland's Business Banking clients who are looking to expand in the US. This was a very good opportunity for business networking.

Evening reception with Club Limerick New York

Club Limerick New York is the Limerick GAA supporters club in New York and is the fundamental fundraising arm of Limerick GAA. The group represents and promotes the interests of Limerick Gaelic Games in the New York region. We were invited by Peter Cummins to meet some of the Limerick GAA community in New York.

Meeting with St. Patrick's Day Foundation

A delegation of the travelling party met with the St Patrick's Day Foundation who has overall responsibility for organizing the St Patrick's Day Festival in New York where they discussed the overall festival and the work and organization that goes into creating the largest St Patrick's Day Festival in the World.

Meeting with Tourism Ireland (NY Office)

Some members of the group made an arranged visit to Tourism Ireland's office and had a meeting with Eimear McAllister and her team. This was an opportunity to update our Tourism Ireland colleagues on various new tourism offerings in Limerick, including the Limerick Greenway. There was also an opportunity to discuss opportunities to further develop the tourism offering in Limerick and to hear what the American tourism trends will be in the coming seasons post Covid. The delegation heard about the major campaigns underway in the US including the 'Green Button Campaign' to encourage visitors to visit Ireland in 2022 and the work been done to promote Golf and other Activity Tourism and to discuss opportunities for Limerick in the build-up to the Ryder Cup.

Meeting of the Ireland US Council

The Ireland US Council held their annual St Patricks Day Meeting and Lunch at the Metropolitan Club, New York. The Ireland US Council is a business organisation dedicated to building business ties between Ireland and the US. This was an opportunity for networking and to promote Limerick as an investment location to members of the Council. Minister Ryan was guest of Honour at this event.

Walking tour with NYC Department of City Planning

The NY Department of City planning facilitated a walking tour of Downtown Brooklyn to show us some of the recent public realm improvements and developments which are being implemented to make New York a more liveable city. The group were met by Planning Director Winston Engel who gave us some insights into the challenges and opportunities the NYC Department of Planning are working with.

Meeting with Enterprise Ireland (NY Office)

Some members of the travelling delegation attended a meeting at the Enterprise Ireland offices and had a meeting with Marisa Mannion and her team. This was an opportunity to discuss the work being done to assist Limerick and Midwest companies exporting into and tendering for work in north America and to discuss where Enterprise Ireland saw future opportunities emerging.

Meeting with IDA (NY Office)

Some members of the delegation made a planned visit to IDA offices in New York and held a meeting with Bernadette Lynch and her New York Team. This was an opportunity to update our IDA colleagues on recent economic and enterprise developments taking shape in Limerick, including progress on the Limerick Development Plan, Limerick 2030 progress and updates on major infrastructure projects like the M20, LSMATS and Foynes/Adare Limerick Road scheme. The delegation also discussed recent successes the IDA had at delivering new FDI investment into Limerick and discussed what were the current trends in inquiries and what the main criteria investors were examining before making new investment decisions.

Breakfast Reception hosted by the Mayor of the City of New York

Members of the delegation attended the annual St Patricks Day breakfast hosted by the Mayor of New York on the morning of the city's St. Patrick's Day Parade. This event brings together the Irish community to celebrate the history and culture of Irish Americans.

St Patricks Day, Morning Mass at St Patricks Cathedral.

The delegation attended mass at St Patricks Cathedral which was celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, this again was a wonderful occasion and an opportunity for the group to meet with Limerick groups.

Ireland Chamber of Commerce U.S.A. Breakfast

The Ireland Chamber of Commerce U.S. hosted their annual St Patricks Day breakfast shortly before the parade began. This was a networking opportunity for the delegation and gave us the opportunity to develop business contacts, promote Limerick and to meet with some of the Limerick groups marching in the parade.

St Patricks Day Parade

The delegation was invited to march in the New York St Patricks Day Parade by the County Limerick Association of New York and the Deputy Mayor of Limerick, Cllr. Tom Ruddle was given the honour of leading the Limerick section of the parade. The group assembled on East 44th Street, two hours before

the parade and had a very enjoyable time meeting the various Limerick participants in the parade. When the parade began our group marched for almost three hours, getting a fantastic reception from the parade spectators and the parade was televised live on local US channels. The New York St. Patricks Day Parade marches up Fifth Avenue, New York's premier thoroughfare, beginning at East 44th Street and ending at East 79th Street. A large group of Limerick people across many Limerick sporting and Area Associations marched under the County Limerick Association of New York Banner in this year's parade and the Limerick delegation made many important contacts among these groups.

St Patricks Day Dinner for Limerick Diaspora Leaders

The Deputy Mayor hosted a meeting and dinner for Limerick Diaspora Leaders and delegation members.

Home

The group departed New York JFK on Friday 18th and returned to Shannon.

Tom Ruddle

Councillor Tom Ruddle,

Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick



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Daniel Butler

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10th May, 2022

Re : Attendance at St.Patrick's Day Parade, Savannah, Georgia, US

Dear Councillor,

Context

An invitation was received by Mayor Daniel Butler to attend the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia on the 17th March 2022. It would be the 197th parade in Savannah and it has grown to be one of the largest St. Patrick's Parade in the world, attracting crowds of in excess of half million people.

Introduction

At the January 2022 Council meeting, approval was given for a delegation to represent the Council in Savannah, Georgia from Monday 14th to Friday 18th March 2022 to include participation at the St Patrick's Day Parade on the 17th of March.

The visit represented a great opportunity to continue the economic, social and cultural links between Savannah and Limerick. Savannah has very rich Irish Heritage and ancestry dating back to the mid-18th Century once colonisation commenced there. Around the 1840's the influx increased dramatically as a large employment boom in Savannah attracted the Irish before and after the Potato Famine. Accordingly, recent census information states that 1 in 4 Savannahians claim to have Irish origin.

Savannah has many similarities with Limerick as it has similar population size and is built on an Estuary linking the Savannah River to the Atlantic Ocean. They have regular flooding events annually similar to those experienced in both the city and various locations in the county in Limerick.

With this in mind, several meetings were arranged with key players in Savannah to build on existing linkages and forge new contacts for our mutual benefit in the future.

These meetings are summarised as follows:

Presentation at World Trade Centre Savannah (WTCSav).

The delegation met Board members and representatives from the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA), WTCSav and the Savannah Regional Film Commission and presentations were given by all parties including LCCC and it also provided a great opportunity to network with these organizations.

The presentations included information on the structure of SEDA and in their economic development role in the region and internationally. Their mission is to attract investment and create jobs and their strategy to achieve that is to:

- Help regional companies do business internationally
- Help facilitate foreign direct investment opportunities for the region
- Generate revenue to support these activities

They have identified Ireland as one of their target countries for cooperation and we would hope to enhance those links over the coming months and years.

Tour of Historic Quarter

A 2-hour bus tour of the Historic Quarter took place where all the buildings and statues of significance were presented.

Meeting with City of Savannah Infrastructure, Development and Sustainability Department

The delegation visited City of Savannah Administration Building to meet Assistant City Manager, Mr. Heath Lloyd and his team. This was an opportunity to share learnings in relation to managing and delivering operational duties and capital projects.

Presentation on and Tour of Georgia Ports Authority

The tour got a wonderful insight into the scale and workings of one of the biggest Sea Ports in the USA. John Petrino, Director of Business Development and International Marketing of Georgia Ports Authority gave the delegation a presentation and a bus tour of the 2mile long dock.

Jasper Parade

The Council delegation took part in the ceremonial parade from Johnson Square to Madison Square where ceremonial remarks were made by the hosts. This parade is a formal ceremony honouring Sgt. William Jasper Green and all military personnel with or without Irish decent. The ceremony was also addressed by the Minister for Justice, Ms. Helen McEntee, TD.

Mass of St. Patrick

The delegation attended mass celebrated by the Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah, Bishop Stephen Parkes in the Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The delegation marched in the 3 hour parade from Forsyth Park on Abercorn Street through the Historic District, the riverfront and finishing at the junction of Bull Street and Harris St. Over 280 entries participated in the parade in front of approx. 500,000 people under the warm Savannah sun.

Most of the delegation left Savannah on the 18th March but the Mayor stayed for an additional day where he had a formal meeting with Mayor Van Johnson in his offices where Corporate gifts were exchanged.

The delegation forged very important links with both the Members and Executive of the City of Savannah, Savannah Economic Development Association and the World Trade Centre in Savannah which should be fostered into the future for the benefit of all parties.



**Councillor Daniel Butler,
Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.**



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Daniel Butler

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To: Each Member of Limerick City & County Council

10th May 2022

**Re Report on the Mayoral Visit to London, Savannah, Greenville and New York, USA
from 11th to 23rd March 2022**

A Chomhairleoir, a Chara,

Background

As Mayor of the City and County of Limerick I received invitations to participate in the St Patrick's Day Parade and associated activities in London, UK and in Savannah, Georgia USA. While in the USA, I used the opportunity to visit Greenville, South Carolina and New York City. I was accompanied on the visit by Mr. Pat Fitzgerald, Head of Trade & Investment.

At the January 2022 Council meeting, approval was given for the Mayor to attend the various events on Savannah leg of the visit. Other invitations and business opportunities arose after this approval. Retrospective approval is sought for the addition legs of the visit to include London, Greenville and New York City (see separate report). I departed Shannon on 11th March 2022 and returned there on 23rd March 2022.

The report that follows outlines my schedule and the rationale for the various visits.

London

The Mayor was invited to lead the St Patrick's Day Parade in London on 13th March by the Irish Exiles UK.

On the first day of official duties (12th) I met with representatives of the Irish/ Limerick Exiles in London to review my previous visit to London in February and to agree arrangements for the St Patricks Day Parade.

I attended the St Patrick's day lunch in the Irish Embassy hosted by An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin. Invitees to the lunch came from the political, state agencies, civic dignitaries, the business community and the community sector

On 13th March I attended a St Patrick's Day Breakfast hosted by the parade organisers and the Irish Exiles in London.

This was followed by leading the St Patrick's Day Parade through the streets of London followed by an after parade event in Trafalgar Square.

Savannah

Travelled to Savannah on 14th March to join up with the Limerick Delegation.

Please see separate report on the Savannah visit from 14th to 18th March 2022. I remained in Savannah on 18th and 19th March pending my onward journey to Greenville. During these days, I met with Mayor Johnson and had meetings with 1) the Executive Board Members of the Savannah World Trade Centre and 2) the Savannah Economic Development Association. I also hosted an evening dinner with reps from the WTC Savannah.

Greenville, South Carolina

I travelled to Greenville, South Carolina on 20th March 2022. I met with the Senior Management Team of Ortec Inc to discuss their operation in Newcastle West. This company are currently in the process of finishing out their manufacturing facility in Newcastle West.

On the following day I toured the Ortec Inc. sister facility in Piedmont, Greenville to see first-hand what the operation in Newcastle West will be when fully operational.

I also met with representatives of Greenville Area Development Corporation and toured their new Bio Tech Business Accelerator in downtown Greenville.

New York

I arrived in New York City (NYC) on the evening of 21st March 2022.

I met with Bloomberg Philanthropies in Manhattan on the morning of 22nd March to discuss the details of the Bloomberg / Limerick City and County Council training initiative on vacancy and dereliction on town centres.

In the afternoon of 22nd March met with officials of the Parks & Recreation Dept. of NYC City Hall in Battery Park, Lower Manhattan to visit the statue of John Wolf Ambrose (originally from Newcastle West). Mr. Wolf Ambrose was highly respect engineer who was responsible for many New York infrastructural and architectural landmarks including the main deep-water channel into New York Port.

I departed New York for Shannon on 22nd March 2022.

I am satisfied that the objectives of promoting Limerick and highlighting the potential of closer relations in cities such as London and Savannah was met. My experience in Greenville is that Limerick could learn from their City Centre redevelopment and innovative business supports. I am aware that there has been follow up on our visit by officials in the Council in this regard. It was important to acknowledge the contribution that Ortec is and will make by investing in Limerick. It is also important that Limerick maintains in profile in New York and continues to strive to deepen relations with all aspects of New York life.

I am particularly proud of being able to reach out and engage with our wonderful diaspora in the UK and in USA, thus fulfilling a key objective in the Councils Diaspora Strategy, Global Limerick.



**Councillor Daniel Butler,
Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.**



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To: Each Member of Limerick City & County Council

9th May 2022

Report on: 'Limerick to London', An Ilen Marine School Cultural Voyage and Celebration of Limerick Culture and Trade

A Chomhairleoir, a Chara,

As members will be aware, I travelled to London from the 3rd to 5th of May 2022 to attend an event marking the Ilen heritage ship's six-day voyage from the docks in Limerick City to St Katherine's Dock in London.

I was accompanied on this trip by Vincent Murray, A/DoS, Economic Development, Eileen Coleman, SEO Tourism Department & Arts Office and Rory Corbett, Trade & Investment.

The Limerick to London journey undertaken by the Ilen and her crew was a symbolic acknowledgment to the shared maritime and riverine heritage of both cities, and an ideal way to celebrate the past, inter-community trade which flowed between them.


Limerick City and County Council recently published its diaspora engagement strategy, "Global Limerick 2021 – 2025". Together with our new brand, "Atlantic Edge, European Embrace", we are going through a process of reflection on our connection to the wider world. Our diaspora engagement mission is simple; *"To Animate and Mobilise the*

Connection between Limerick and its Diaspora". In order to achieve this, we are committed to supporting cultural initiatives, such as the Limerick to London voyage, which are key drivers of the relationship between Limerick and Limerick people around the world.

Approximately 100 members of our diaspora community attended the event at St Katherine's Dock. It gave me great pleasure to meet everyone who attended and to discover the various connections they had to Limerick. The event gave me the opportunity to update our diaspora on developments in Limerick and to remind them that Limerick will always be their home and will always welcome them.

During my visit to London, I also took the opportunity to visit London Sport. London Sport is a not-for-profit organisation, which works in partnership with London's local authorities, and other organisations to provide opportunities for less active adults and young people to develop a positive physical activity habit for life. This is a similar concept to SportsTech Ireland, which is headquartered in Limerick. SportsTech Ireland is a not-for-profit initiative committed to the development of the sports technology industry in Ireland. Both organisations are collaborating on a number of projects and I am looking forward to seeing them develop in the coming years.

I am satisfied that the objectives of this trip were met and suitable engagement with our diaspora community was achieved. I am particularly pleased with how our "Atlantic Edge and European Embrace" brand was used to capture the spirit of Limerick in this particular setting.



Councillor Daniel Butler,
Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.