

## To the Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

### Chairperson's Report of the Meeting of the Climate Action Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee of Tuesday 21st June, 2022.

#### **Item 1: Adopt minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 28th February, 2022 and the Special Meeting of Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee held on 14th March, 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were proposed by Cllr. Collins (B) and seconded by Cllr. Talukder , and adopted.

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were proposed by Cllr. Secas and seconded by Cllr. Collins (B), and adopted.

#### **Item 2: Director's Report**

Correspondence to and from An Taoiseach in relation to the LNG proposal at Ballylongford, Co. Kerry has been issued and a response received.

#### **Item 3. Draft Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy**

Ms. Stephanie Crewe of Land Use Consultants gave a detailed presentation on the Draft Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy. The presentation outlined in detail the aims and the benefits of the BGI Strategy. The presentation covered ten action areas included in the document, which it is proposed to roll out over the lifespan of the Strategy. There was a broad welcome among the members for the Strategy and its proposals.

It is proposed that the draft Strategy to go to Full Council for approval to go on Public Display, around late August/early September 2022.

The committee members commented on the following:

- Importance of applying this strategy across the rural areas
- Community engagement in the strategy
- Traffic noise and how BGI can mitigate this
- Application of BGI principles outside of the study area
- Focus on Shannon estuary

Cllr Secas proposed and Cllr Talukder seconded the draft BGI Strategy to be referred to Full Council for approval to go on Public Display.

#### **Item 4. Presentation on Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project**

Mr. Hugh McGrath, Senior Engineer, Roads, gave a detailed on Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Scheme. He outlined that the Council is one of five in the southern region in which the project will be rolled out. The lead authority for the region is Cork County Council. The project will be rolled out county-by-county with surveys commencing in Limerick in early 2023 and works in early 2024. Mr. McGrath outlined the benefits of the scheme to the Council including energy use reductions, emissions reductions and savings on maintenance.

The committee members commented on the following:

- lux levels of LED lighting
- condition of existing public lighting infrastructure
- previous lighting surveys and proposed survey
- current public lighting maintenance programme
- timelines for delivery of the project

#### **Item 5. Presentation on the Council's Burial Ground Strategy:**

Ms. Carmel Lynch, Senior Executive Engineer, gave a detailed presentation on the Burial Ground Strategy and outlined proposals to roll out advance sales of graves in particular burial grounds.

The committee members commented on the following:

- capacity of Abbeyfeale Burial Ground
- cost of grave plots
- progress on new burial ground site in Castletroy area
- provision of water connections in graveyards
- strategy on dealing with waste in burial grounds

Cllr Sheahan (J) proposed that monies should be allocated at Budget time to provide for Ground Penetrating Radar surveys to be carried out in all older rural burial grounds to establish availability of grave spaces. This was seconded by Cllr J Scanlan.

#### **Item 6. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely (referred from the Metropolitan District Meeting, October 2021).**

"I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the possibility of litter bin sponsorship be examined as a way to provide revenue for the provision of more bins in the city and its environs and to support local businesses to be more visible on their respective streets / areas."

#### **Response:**

*"The Council provides on-street bins throughout the city and its environs through the Cleansing Unit of our Roads and Travel Department. There are a variety of bin styles and types currently in use."*

*We will work with our colleagues in Roads and Travel to establish the feasibility of placing advertising on on-street bins, and to establish what mechanisms may be available to support this, including sponsorship”.*

Cllr Kiely commented that she was very pleased with the response from Limerick City & County Council with regards to her motion.

Cllr Secas seconded the motion from Cllr Kiely.

**Item 7: Notice of Motion from Councillor M Ryan (referred from the Cappamore-Kilmallock District Meeting, March 2022)**

“I will move at the next meeting of the Cappamore Kilmallock Municipal District for Limerick City and County Council and Ballyhoura Development Ltd to assess and plan the Slieve Felim lands, Grageen, Clare Glens for outdoor recreation/pursuits and also assess the potential for green energy production.”

In response, Mr. McGuigan said that the proposals for the upgrade of existing or the provision of new outdoor recreation infrastructure in the Slieve Felims would best be considered as part of a plan, and said that this would have to be considered.

The motion was supported by Mr. Hedderman and formally seconded by Cllr Sheahan (K). Cllr Ryan (M) welcomed the response.

**Item 8: Any Other Business**

**Dates for Meetings in 2023.**

It was agreed that the following dates would be set for the first two meetings of 2023:

Tuesday 14 February, 2023.

Tuesday 11 April, 2023.

In closing the meeting Cllr Scanlon advised that this meeting would be his last meeting as Chair of the CABE SPC. He thanked all members and Council officials for all their support and help to him as Chair over the last number of years.

Mr. McGuigan on behalf of the Executive thanked Cllr Scanlon for his stewardship of the CABE SPC over the last number of years and said that it had been a pleasure to work with the Chair in advancing Council policy through the SPC.

Is mise le meas,

**Jerome Scanlan**

**Chairperson of the Climate Action Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee**

## **Recommendations:**

### **Recommendation 1:**

That the draft Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy to be referred to Full Council for approval to go on Public Display.

### **Recommendation 2:**

That monies should be allocated at Budget time to provide for Ground Penetrating Radar surveys to be carried out in all older rural burial grounds to establish availability of grave spaces.