

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE AND ONLINE ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH JULY, 2022 at 09:45 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Olivia O’Sullivan, Cathaoirleach

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors Benson, Butler, Collins, Collopy, Daly, Hartigan, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, Murphy, O’Hanlon, Secas, Sheahan (M), Slattery and Talukder.

Apologies for their inability to attend were received from Councillors Novak Uí Chonchúir and O’Donovan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, National and Regional SSC (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Ms. L. Flannery), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Executive Officer, Tourism (Ms. E. Coleman), Head of Property and Community Facilities (Ms. J. Leahy), Head of Digital Services (Mr. A. Dooley), Administrative Officer, Property and Community Facilities (Ms. A. Crowe), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. M. Richardson), Senior Executive Engineer, Recreation (Ms. C. Lynch), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach welcomed the Elected Members, Officials, Media and Members of the public to her first Meeting as Cathaoirleach. She expressed her shock and sadness at the sudden passing of Councillor Jerry O’Dea and said his absence was dearly felt both in the Council Chamber and throughout the Organisation.

The Cathaoirleach and Members congratulated the Limerick Senior Hurling Management and Team on their fantastic three in a row All Ireland Hurling Championship win.

The Meetings Administrator invited those present to notify any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

1. Adoption of Minutes

(a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 20th June, 2022.

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

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

(b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 20th June, 2022.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;
 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 A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services dated 20th June, 2022 setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 1 Hogan Avenue, Kileely, 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 A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services dated 20th June, 2022 setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 6 Rossa Avenue, Mulgrave Street, 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 6th July, 2022 setting out proposals for disposal of property at 48 Bengal Terrace, Kilmallock 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.

- (d) Circulated, report of the Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 6th July, 2022 setting out proposals for disposal of property at 4 Sexton Street, 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 6th July, 2022 setting out proposals for disposal of property at 21–23 Old Clare Street, 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 6th July, 2022 setting out proposals for disposal of property at Enniskeen House, Kishikirk, Ballysimon, Co. 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.

- (g) Circulated, report of the Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 4th July, 2022 setting out proposals for the disposal of 0.0606 hectares of land at Teach na hAbhann, Rhebogue, 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.

3. Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate

The Head of Property and Community Facilities gave an outline on the operation of the Bin Waiver Scheme 2022, highlighting the total number of applications received and processed by her team. She explained the qualifying criteria in detail, and the rationale as to why documentation needs to be resubmitted yearly.

Members expressed concern over the strict closing date of the scheme, and asked that consideration be given to extending the closing date for next year's scheme. The Members also stated that the scheme is opened during the busy Christmas period, which leaves a very short time for applicants to submit their forms and all documentation.

The Head of Property and Community Facilities noted the comments and feedback received from the members and she confirmed that these would be relayed back to the Director of Services for information and consideration.

QUESTIONS

4. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the potential for outdoor bathing facilities in the Metropolitan District.

REPLY: The Council have identified a number of areas for outdoor bathing in the Metropolitan District. The areas that have currently been identified include the city centre, Corbally Baths and Castleconnell. The feasibility of each location needs to be addressed for a number of reasons including, tidal influence and water quality.

In relation to the Corbally Baths, the Council are currently undertaking a water quality testing regime to establish the source of contamination at the bathing site. The testing is still ongoing.

5. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, in relation to the site in Carew Park that was earmarked for 14 modular homes, is this project going ahead. If not, what are the plans now for the site in question.

REPLY: Peter McVerry Trust have advised that they intend to be on site by the end of August for the 14 units with an anticipated completion date of October 2022.

6. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, can you advise if there are any plans to address the flooding under the bridge towards the Old Cork Road as this area is impassable in the bad weather causing traffic issues and delays in the area.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council Roads Department are currently undertaking a 2022 Climate Change scheme named the Childers Road to Ballysimon Road Stormwater network assessment. The aim of this scheme is to alleviate flooding issues in the area including flooding under the bridge towards the Old Cork Road. Once this scheme is completed the stormwater network will be reviewed to determine if any further additional measures are required pending on budget availability.

7. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can an update be provided on the derelict property at 79 Roundwood Estate as to when works will start to refurbish this property.

REPLY: The property referred to in Roundwood Estate is included in Lot 2B of the Refurbishment Programme. This Lot will see the refurbishment of 9 Units in total.

The contract has been awarded to Dolmen Contracting. It is anticipated that this Lot will be on site in August. The full Lot will be completed within six months of commencement with a staggered completion of the units within the Lot.

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask Limerick Metropolitan Council when the planned upgrades of the Children's Playground in the Peoples Park will start and what if any additional play facilities will be included.

REPLY: The Council requested an initial design for the playground to match the €150,000 GMA budget allocation for the redevelopment of People's Park playground. The purpose of this approach was to establish the extent of equipment and play surfacing that could be provided with this level of funding. The budget has subsequently been increased to €195,000 with a contribution from Limerick Sports Partnership for inclusive play equipment. The provision of inclusive play equipment is a focus for the redevelopment of the playground and in this regard, the Council are commencing an inclusive survey to seek feedback from interested parties on what they would like to see in the newly developed playground.

The Council will advertise for tenders next week and any feedback sought through the consultation process that has not been taken into consideration in the new design will be communicated to the successful tenderer.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask Limerick Metropolitan Council if consideration is being given to extend the opening hours of the Limerick Museum to include weekends to facilitate increased visitors especially during Summer season.

REPLY: Limerick Museum is currently open 5 days per week, Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm including lunchtime opening.

The need to extend opening hours to include weekend opening was identified by the Council and approval was sought from the Department to create a new Assistant Curator post. Sanction has been received from the Department, the post has been advertised, and a short listing process has been carried out. It is envisaged that final interviews will be held at an early date.

On the appointment of the Assistant Curator, the Museum will have the capacity to extend opening hours to include weekend opening.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask Limerick Metropolitan Council to clarify what measures are being instigated with the purchasers of the former Dunnes Stores building on O’Connell Street regarding them providing a timeframe to renovate and upgrade the building.

REPLY: The new owner of the former Dunnes building on O’Connell Street has recently engaged with the Economic Development and Planning Departments in relation to a proposal to reuse the building. The Council will continue this engagement in order to facilitate its reuse and redevelopment as soon as may be practicable.

11. Question submitted by Councillor E. O’Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on when sporting infrastructure through Limerick Sports Partnership will be installed in Arthurs Quay Park.

REPLY: The Council are looking at alternative locations in the city for sporting infrastructure in lieu of Arthur’s Quay Park. While some sporting infrastructure can be facilitated in Arthur’s Quay Park, it may restrict future opportunities for events in the Park for example Riverfest and also at Christmas time. It is considered that other locations should be identified in the city for sporting facilities. The Council are considering locations as part of overall Public Realm and Place Making in the City.

12. Question submitted by Councillor E. O’Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a detailed expenditure of the Party in the Park event held as part of Riverfest 2022.

REPLY: Party in the Park: Breakdown of Costs

Production Costs	€11,600
Entertainment	€ 6,250
Crowd Management	€10,650
Contractor Costs	€ 8,200
Event Mgmt. Costs (ins, licence plan)	€ 3,490
Total (ex VAT)	€40,640

VAT	€ 9,347
Total (incl VAT)	€49,987

13. Question submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for details of how many times and when Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC has presented to the Metropolitan District, the Full Council, or Strategic Development Committees in the last three years of this Council term. Please also provide detail of how often it was agreed on its formation (in 2016) that Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC would report to the Members of Limerick City and County Council, in the interest of public accountability and transparency.

REPLY: In the last three years, LTT would have presented to the Council on a regular basis and aim to present a minimum of twice annually or on a project-by-project basis, however during the Covid pandemic, its effect on the construction industry has made this challenging. LTT are willing to respond to queries or make presentations raised by Councillors. To enhance LTT's communication with LCCC, from July 2022, LTT will provide an update as part of the Councils CE monthly report, which is an agenda item at the Full Council meetings.

It is quite difficult to get a descriptive/full list to date but please see below a representation of some presentations and updates provided by LTT to LCCC:

Presentations to Council:

- 4th March, 2021 - Virtual Briefing to Full Council
- 22nd November 2021 – Full Council Briefing
- 1st November 2021 –Corporate department of LCCC Briefing on Opera S183, Virtual Briefing to Full Council on.
- 8th October 2021 - Blended Briefing to Full Council in the Council Chamber, Dooradoyle, and Online
- 5th August 2021 – Adjourned Meeting of the Metropolitan District
- 19th July 2021 – Briefing on Georgian Sites
- 7th July 2021 - Local Electoral Area Briefing - Limerick City West - Mungret Part 8
- 4th March 2021 – LTT Briefing on all sites
- 27th June 2018 – Briefing on Mungret
- 10th December 2018 – Briefing to Full Council
- 30th June 2017 – Briefing on Opera

NOTICES OF MOTION

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will move at the next Meeting that the Metropolitan District of Limerick write to the Minister for Transport and to the NTA asking that the existing 304a bus service in Castletroy/Monaleen is extended to Annacotty and Groody/Ballysimon Road as soon as possible.

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

In proposing the motion, Councillor Secas highlighted the difficulties caused by the suspension of the private bus service to the Castletroy and Annacotty area. She stated this was an area with a growing population, which had further proposals for new housing estates, a primary school and a private hospital and a bus service to cover the entire area was urgently required.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will move at the next Meeting that the Metropolitan District of Limerick engage with the Data Protection Commission and An Garda Síochána to explore the feasibility of installing CCTV cameras at the following locations:

Castletroy Playground

Boro Park in Janesboro

Plassey Credit Union Bottle Bank in Castletroy.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Secas stated that damage had recently been caused to the newly refurbished Castletroy Playground and illegal dumping had occurred at the Bottle Bank in Plassey and if CCTV was installed at these locations, it would act as a deterrent.

REPLY: As a result of the Data Protection Commission's (DPC) audit and final report on Limerick City and County Council's use of CCTV, published in December 2021, the Head of Digital Services, Alan Dooley, lead an effort to remediate the serious and significant findings in that report.

One of the more significant outcomes from the DPC's final report was that all public CCTV cameras must have a valid legal basis.

In this respect, the only legal basis that exists for public realm CCTV is Section 38 of An Garda Síochána Act 2005. This provides the legal basis for Community CCTV schemes to secure public order and safety only.

Currently, there is no legal basis available at this time for CCTV to be installed in public parks or at bottle collection points.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that one of the soccer pitches at Kennedy Park, Limerick be left with the local Club so that the local community can benefit from the soccer pitch.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Slattery and seconded by Councillor Kilcoyne.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council advertised an Expression of Interest for clubs to submit an application for a 12-month licence over two pitches in Kennedy Park, Limerick. The issue of a Licence is an executive function and is not subject to S183 approval.

Following an appeal to the original decision, the Expression of Interest Process was reviewed and has now concluded with the final decision of Gordon Daly, Director of Service, Community, Tourism and Culture on the matter as follows:

1. To offer a 12 month licence over pitch 2 to Newtown Rovers FC
2. To offer a 12 month licence over pitch 1 to Carew Park FC

The clubs have been notified of this decision.

The Head of Property and Community Facilities outlined the process by which the licences were awarded.

After a discussion on the use of the pitches and benefit to the community, the following amended Motion was proposed by Councillor Kiely and seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M):

“That the original decision of the Review Board to award licences for both pitches to one Club be upheld”.

A vote was taken on the amended motion, which resulted as follows:

For the Amended Motion:

Councillors Benson, Butler, Collopy, Hartigan, Kiely, McSweeney, Murphy, O’Sullivan and Sheahan (M). (9)

Against the Amended Motion:

Councillors Kilcoyne and Slattery. (2)

Abstention

Councillor Secas (1)

The Meetings Administrator advised Members that the matter was an executive function but that their views would be passed to the Director of Service, Community, Tourism and Culture.

17. Correspondence:

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated:
