

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON MONDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 2023 at 9.45 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, Novak Uí Chonchúir, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, Pond, Secas, Sheahan (M), Sheahan (C), Slattery and Talukder.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, National and Regional SSC (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Leahy), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. A. Foley), Senior Engineer, Roads (Mr. H. McGrath), Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services (Ms. M. Hayes), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. M. Richardson), Senior Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy (Mr. R. Gallagher), Head of Property and Community Facilities (Ms. J. Leahy), Administrative Officer, Property and Community Facilities (Ms. T. Knox), Senior Executive Officer, Regeneration (Mr. B. Troy), Senior Executive Engineer, Recreation (Mr. C. Lynch), A/Senior Engineer, Active Travel (Mr. S. McGlynn), Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel (Ms. T. Flanagan), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel (Ms. S. Kennedy), Senior Staff Officer, Active Travel (Ms. M. Hennessy), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach and Members extended their condolences and sympathy to the families of the following who had passed away recently:

Paul Tsang, Restauranteur

Martin Walsh, former President, U.L. Bohemian RFC.

Members extended their congratulations to University of Limerick on their recent win in the Fitzgibbon Cup Final.

The Cathaoirleach and Members welcomed the Co-Op Students who were attending the Meeting and wished them well during their placement.

1. Adoption of Minutes

(a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 16th January, 2023.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M);

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 Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 30th January, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of property consisting of a dwelling house situated at 28 Parkview Drive, Greystones, 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 Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 2nd February, 2023, setting out details of proposed Land Transfer and Lease Disposal at St. Brigid's National School, Singland, 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 8th February, 2023, setting out details of proposed Land Disposal of 0.0133 acres (strip) of land at 25 Hartigan Villas, Moyross, 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 9th February, 2023, setting out details of proposed Land Disposal of 28m² and Right of Way at Rosbrien 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.

- (e) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 8th February, 2023, setting out details of proposed Disposal of 3.164 acres (1.2806 hectares) of land at Liam Fitzgerald Park, Ballygrennan, 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.

Disposals – Derelict Properties

- (f) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property and Community Facilities dated 8th February, 2023, setting out details of proposed Disposal of Property at Drombanna, 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 9th February, 2023, setting out details of proposed Disposal of Property at Ballyclough Avenue, Castletroy, 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. General Municipal Allocation (GMA) Special Projects 2019-2024

Circulated, Report of the Director of Service dated 15th February, 2023, in relation to the reassignment of funding allocations under the GMA Special Projects 2019 – 2024 as follows:

Original Project	Amount	Reassign To
Raheen / Dooradoyle / Mungret Community Facility	€100,000	Mungret St Pauls GAA Community Hall Extension & Refurbishment Programme.
Construction of Footpaths Garryowen	€100,000	Geraldine's AFC to develop an All-Weather Astro pitch. This facility will be available to St. Patrick's Boys and Girls Schools, Richmond RFC and St. Patrick's GAA. Funding to be held in an account by Limerick City and County Council pending a successful outcome for capital sports funding.

It was proposed by Councillor Butler, seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed, to approve the reassignment of the allocation under the GMA Special Projects 2019 – 2024 as follows:

Original Project	Amount	Reassign To
Raheen / Dooradoyle / Mungret Community Facility	€100,000	Mungret St Pauls GAA Community Hall Extension & Refurbishment Programme.

It was proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Daly and agreed, to approve the reassignment of the allocation under the GMA Special Projects 2019 – 2024 as follows:

Original Project	Amount	Reassign To
Construction of Footpaths Garryowen	€100,000	Geraldine's AFC to develop an All-Weather Astro pitch. This facility will be available to St. Patrick's Boys and Girls Schools, Richmond RFC and St. Patrick's GAA. Funding to be held in an account by Limerick City and County Council pending a successful outcome for capital sports funding.

4. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

Part 8 Procedure – Active Travel South Circular Road Cycle Scheme

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Transportation and Mobility Directorate dated 10th February, 2023 and enclosed Chief Executive's Report dated 13th January, 2023 setting out details in relation to the Active Travel South Circular Road Cycle Scheme. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and noted that it was proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 10 of the report.

The A/Senior Engineer, Active Travel stated that a number of Workshops had taken place in relation to the Part 8 and he thanked the Members for their consultation and engagement in the process.

The Cathaoirleach, on behalf of Members, welcomed residents and members of the public in the Gallery and joining Online to the Meeting. She acknowledged the engagement of residents and businesses in the area in relation to the proposed Part 8 and she noted that over 1,000 submissions had been received during the consultation process. She thanked the Elected Members and the Active Travel Team for their extensive work and engagement in the consultation process.

Members referred to the proposed plans for the Part 8 development and noted that the proposed Active Travel scheme would be a huge improvement in the area for pedestrians and cyclists, but highlighted the need to also balance the proposed developments with the feedback and input from residents and businesses along the route.

The following amendments were proposed by Councillor O'Donovan and seconded by Councillor Leddin:

1. Filtered permeability at Lifford Avenue to be relocated to Ballinacurra Road/South Circular Road junction.
2. Residential parking to be agreed by Members in accordance with Traffic Management Plans.
3. Accommodation works for off road parking, where required, to be included in the construction contract.

The following amendments were proposed by Councillor Butler and seconded by Councillor McSweeney:

1. Removal of permeability filter north of the Lifford Avenue/South Circular Road junction.
2. Introduction of a permeability measure at the South Circular Road/Ballinacurra road Junction.
3. Introduction of a permeability measure north of the South Circular Road/Ashbourne Avenue/New Street Junction to allow local traffic only.
4. Introduction of a permeability measure north of the South Circular Road/Summerville Avenue Junction to allow local traffic only.
5. Introduction of a shared surface between Summerville Avenue and Laurel Hill Avenue with the reinstatement of car parking.
6. Residential parking to be agreed by Members in accordance with Traffic Management Plans.
7. Accommodation works for off road parking, where required, to be included in the construction contract.

Following a discussion on the proposed Amendments, and with the agreement of a shared two way surface between Laurel Hill Avenue and Quin Street, the Cathaoirleach called for a vote to be taken on the Part 8, to include the amendments proposed by Councillor Butler and seconded by Councillor McSweeney, which resulted as follows:

For the Proposal:

Councillors Benson, Butler, Collopy, Daly, Kiely, McSweeney, Murphy, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Pond, Sheahan (M), Slattery and Talukder (13)

Against the Proposal:

Councillors Collins, Hartigan, Kilcoyne, Leddin, Novak Uí Chonchúir, O'Donovan, Secas and

Sheehan (C)

(8)

Proposed by: Councillor Butler;
 Seconded by: Councillor McSweeney;
 And Resolved.

"That the Part 8 in relation to the Active Travel South Circular Road Cycle Scheme, and subject to the agreed amendments, be approved in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended)"

QUESTIONS

5. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many road sweepers the Council currently deploy in Limerick city and how many mini sweepers/cycle lane sweepers are deployed in the city.

REPLY: The Council currently deploys two large road sweepers, two mini sweepers and one small hot wash sweeper in Limerick City. The large sweepers service public roads throughout the city.

The hot wash sweeper is mainly deployed on high quality pavements, for example the refurbished O'Connell St. and nearby streets.

The mini sweepers are intended mainly for use on cycle lanes however due to the absence of two compact (medium sized sweepers) they are also deployed in the city centre for general use on streets and laneways.

The Council has procured two new compact sweepers which are expected to be delivered in the next couple of months, their arrival will allow the two mini sweepers to concentrate more on the cycle lanes and will increase the total complement of sweepers operating in Limerick city to seven.

6. 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 environmental concerns and ongoing work at Loughmore Canal.

REPLY: The Council's investigation is ongoing into the environmental concerns in the Loughmore Canal. The IDA has undertaken targeted sampling within the Business Park and a report on this is due imminently, which will help further focus the direction of our investigation.

In addition, the Council has commenced direct engagement with some businesses within the Park to help identify a possible source of pollution. The Council has also procured a contractor to carry out sampling on a monthly basis to monitor the profile of the parameters discharging to the canal. This monthly sampling will begin in February.

7. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick as to what mechanisms and supports are in place for front line workers in the Council, including Traffic Wardens and Street Cleaning teams, for dealing with aggression and intimidation and difficult and challenging situations, from some members of the public as part of their work.

REPLY: It is policy of Limerick City and County Council to protect, as far as reasonably practicable the safety, health and welfare of all its employees and of anybody who may be affected by its activities. The Council will conduct its activities in a way that complies with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005, and associated regulations, and any other legal or other requirements.

All reasonable measures will be taken to avoid risk, including, the provision of a properly designed and maintained safe place of work, safe systems of work, safe plant and equipment. The Council is committed to the identification of hazards and to their elimination, or reduction where practicable. The Council will provide training and information to employees and personal protective clothing and equipment as required.

Responsibility for staffing and also Health and Safety rests with the Chief Executive or to whoever he has delegated these functions.

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick the cost to install dog fouling bins and the current location of these bins in Limerick City West.

REPLY: The Council has three dog bins in Limerick City West. These were installed under a pilot programme circa 10 years ago. There are bins at Council Offices, Dooradoyle, Church Road Raheen, and Fr. Russell Road.

The cost of purchase and installation of a new bin is estimated to be in the region of €700-€1,000.

The current policy of the Council is that dog waste can be placed in any bin. "Any bag any Bin" is the slogan used to promote this.

Currently no funding is available for the provision of new bins and the costs of maintaining same.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what budget is allocated towards awareness campaigns to help inform dog owners of their responsibilities to clean up if their dog fouls the footpath.

REPLY: Approximately €10,000 is spent by the Council on dog fouling annually. This covers (i) the ongoing advertising on local radio; (ii) the purchase of promotional dog fouling bags for distribution to the public at events; to dog owners via renewal licences; to the public by Environment Inspectors/Park Wardens; (iii) the dispensing of refills for Castletroy Park and

Newcastle West Demesne; (iv) anti-dog poo stencils and signage; and (v) social media campaigns.

10. Question submitted by Councillor D. Butler

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick when will action be taken against the owner of the unfinished building and derelict site on the corner of Ellen Street and Carr Street. It's an embarrassment to this Council it is allowed remain as it is.

REPLY: The unfinished building is on the Derelict Site Register and the Vacant Site Register. Limerick City and County Council have exercised their full powers under the Derelict Site Act, 1990. LCCC made an application to An Bord Pleanala to compulsorily acquire this property under the Derelict Site Act, 1990. LCCC were refused permission by An Bord Pleanala to compulsorily acquire this site under Section 15 of the Derelict Site Act, 1990. LCCC have applied a derelict site levy on the site for 2019, 2020, 2021 totalling €149,000. LCCC Debt Management Unit is pursuing payment of the outstanding Derelict Site Levies. There is currently a live planning permission on this site.

LCCC will continue to monitor this case.

11. Question submitted by Councillor D. Butler

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick when will we see a derelict sites levy or other enforcement issued on the owners of the boarded up buildings of 35-37 Catherine Street.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council have exercised their full powers under the Derelict Site Act, 1990. LCCC made an application to An Bord Pleanala to compulsorily acquire this site under the Derelict Site Act, 1990. LCCC were granted permission to compulsorily acquire the site in question in November, 2019. The owners of the site obtained leave to challenge by way of Judicial Review the decision of An Bord Pleanala. Limerick City and County Council are still awaiting the outcome of the judicial review.

The site in question is on the Derelict Site Register and the Vacant Site Register. Levies can only be applied using either Derelict Site Act, 1990 or the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015. LCCC used the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015 to charge levies. The owners of the site appealed the valuation of the site to the valuation tribunal. In accordance with the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015 Limerick City and County Council cannot charge Vacant Site Levies until such time that the valuation tribunal has determined a valuation.

Limerick City and County Council will continue to monitor the case.

12. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the Council to outline the long-term plans for Donnellan's Field / Thomondgate Weir.

REPLY: These locations (Donnellan's Field and Thomondgate Weir) form part of the Shannon Accessibility Study being undertaken by the Tourism Section. There is also an objective to develop a connectivity link across the Shannon at Thomond Weir but no plans have been developed to date.

Engagement will take place with local Elected Representatives prior to any work commencing on such a plan.

13. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on Limerick 2030's plan for the Cleeve site. When will the masterplan be presented and what is the indicative timeline for lodging a planning application.

REPLY: The masterplan is currently being prepared. A draft copy will be presented to Elected Members in March 2023. A programme of public consultation and stakeholder engagement will then follow with preparation of a planning application envisaged to commence later in the year.

An initial public information session was held onsite in December 2022 providing an update on the design works completed to date.

The formal public consultation for the masterplan for Cleeves Riverside Quarter will commence in late March 2023. As part of this process, public consultation boards will be made available on site and online with two public information drop-in sessions to be held on site. The dates for the consultation are due to be released via the media and on Limerick Twenty Thirty's website and social media in the coming weeks.

14. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick the number of non-activated planning permissions for the period 2020 to date in the Metropolitan area in tabular form.

REPLY: The attached table lists the multi-unit residential developments (greater than 5 units) in the Metropolitan District, which received planning permission from 1 January, 2020 to 15 February, 2023, which have yet to submit a Commencement Notice as of 15 February, 2023. These developments include housing, apartments and communal residential dwellings.

Details were circulated as part of the reply.

15. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many paper copies of the Bin Waiver Scheme have been sent from the LCCC Customer Service Team to the members of the public and to date.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council do not automatically send out application forms with the reminder letter for Household Waste Refuse Scheme. The reason for this decision is to

encourage the usage of the online system. This has many benefits including environmental benefits, time and cost saving benefits and quicker approval of applications.

The number of applicants using the online platform is approx. 20%.

Up to the 31st January 2023, the Customer Services Department recorded 1996 formal requests for paper application forms to be posted out to members of the public. It is also estimated that another 30 paper forms were dispatched from the reception desk in MQ.

Workshops were held Mondays and Wednesdays in Merchants Quay from 10am to 12 noon where staff from the section were available to assist applicants as required.

16. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, in relation to Hyde Road safety measures that I lobbied for, what consultation process took place with the residents in the area regarding a cycle lane being added to the original plans to alleviate speeding in the area.

REPLY: The Active Travel team undertook a Section 38, under the Road Traffic Act 1994. The Section 38 clearly stated the intention to introduce the following road amendments:

- Install new road markings,
- Install new tactile paving,
- Install new footpath and drop-kerbs,
- Install new cycle lanes,
- Junction improvements,
- Install table top ramps.
- The works will involve the construction and installation of new footpaths, cycle lanes, road markings and associated works.

The Section 38 was published from Thursday 9th of June to Thursday 7th of July 2022 inclusive. The drawings and particulars of the proposed project were available on line through MyPoint and also for inspection at Limerick City and County Council, Dooradoyle Road, Dooradoyle, during the above timeframe.

During the open period of inspection of the documents and particulars only one submission was received. This submission related to the cycle lane segregation.

Additionally, prior to the publication of the Section 38 for Hyde Road the project was also presented to Elected Members in the area briefings, to Area East on Tuesday 7th June 2022 and to Area West on Wednesday 8th June 2022.

17. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, in relation to the extension at Mount St. Laurence Cemetery, the hedging around parts of the Cemetery has holes etc which allows dogs to gain access. Can the local authority close off these gaps to prevent dogs gaining access, as people visiting the graves of their loved ones are extremely frightened of these dogs.

REPLY: The Council will plant appropriate planting to block off the gaps in the existing hedging at the rear of Mount Saint Lawrence (Extension) Cemetery.

18. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, in relation to Mount St Laurence, what plans are in place to address the spoil area this area is an awful eyesore. While some works have been done the area is still not acceptable and needs immediate attention.

REPLY: The Council will further address this issue by seeking quotations to have a more permanent visually aesthetic solution to be put in place for the temporary storage of graveyard spoil.

19. Question submitted by Councillor J. Pond

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the proposed Flood Relief Scheme for Annacotty including Mulcair Drive and Mountshannon Road.

REPLY: The Limerick City & Environs Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) is currently in Stage 1 of its development which consists of options assessment, scheme development and design stages. The scheme area encompasses the City of Limerick and selected environs situated in both Limerick and Clare. The areas that are intended to benefit from, and be protected by the scheme are divided into three main subareas are;

- Subarea 1 – Annacotty;
- Subarea 2 - King's Island FRS (being advanced separately to the Limerick City & Environs FRS scheme);
- Subarea 3 - Limerick City Centre.

In particular, the Annacotty area (including Mulcair Drive and Mountshannon Road) has been identified as an area where potential “quick wins” (i.e. early flood risk management / scheme implementation) can be utilised for accelerated works. To inform this, Limerick City & County Council, in partnership with OPW, has requested the appointed consultant (RPS Consulting Engineers) to identify locations where flood defences may be required to inform specific locations for advance site investigation works. To facilitate this, ecological surveys (being undertaken by RPS) and ornithology surveys (by MKO Ireland) are currently ongoing in this area. Furthermore, an invasive species treatment contractor has been appointed on a multi-year contract to treat and survey areas where invasive species are present. Subject to environmental and other constraints, it is anticipated that a geotechnical site investigation contractor/or contractors will commence site investigation works in Q3 2023 in Annacotty and surrounding areas to determine ground conditions.

In parallel with the above, RPS is currently undertaking detailed hydrological and hydraulic assessments which will inform flood levels and flood extents in this area to confirm exact locations at risk of flooding. As per the current programme, the hydraulic assessment of the scheme area is anticipated to be completed by early autumn 2023. The programme for any potential advance flood protection works to Annacotty is subject to the above and is currently under review with a view to submitting for planning consent in mid to late 2025.

Limerick City & County Council has been in recent contact with landowners from the Annacotty area and is acutely aware of the importance to assess the potential for any quick wins in delivering flood protection to this key area and will continue to liaise with key stakeholders and landowners in the area.

Further information and ongoing updates for the scheme may be found at the scheme website; <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/limerick/home/>

20. Question submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the Mobility Management Measures for Business initiative, with the focus on the Scope 3 emissions and on enabling the big industries in the National Technology Park and Raheen Industrial Estate to switch to sustainable mobility alternatives.

REPLY: The Council is developing this initiative and is actively engaging with businesses at the IDA National Technology Park in Castletroy and the IDA Raheen Business and Technology Park. We have recently hosted open discussions with the businesses at both parks on the importance of sustainable mobility amongst staff and discussed measures for achieving behavioural change. Items discussed include:

- LSMATS – Proposed cycle network, proposed bus network and proposed rail network
- BusConnects
- Increasing active travel – walking and cycling
- Roll out of dockless bike scheme
- Shuttle buses during peak hours
- Car pooling
- Car sharing
- Park and Ride

We are currently developing a staff survey, using best practice, which will be administered through the IDA and individual businesses. The data will help us understand current travel patterns, modes of travel, and identify behavioural change measures, which will help achieving modal shift to sustainable modes of travel. We received favourable responses from participants to this initiative.

21. Question submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the progress so far and the future plans for Safe Routes to School at Scoil Íde and St. Munchin's College, Corbally.

REPLY: Consultation is ongoing with both schools on the development of measures under the Safe Routes to School Programme. A Preliminary Design has been prepared for these works which will require a Part 8 approval process. Subject to approval of the Part 8, the process for which will commence in March, these works will be included in the Mill Road Construction Project.

22. Question submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the plans for the next stage of O'Connell Street upgrade.

REPLY: The next phase of O'Connell Street will be funded by the Urban Regeneration Development Fund and the National Transport Authority. When initial concept designs are completed, a workshop will be held with the Elected Members to provide an outline of the proposed scheme and get their input. This is anticipated to happen in Q2 2023.

NOTICES OF MOTION

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council emulate the 'Clean it up you dirty Pup' campaign by Galway City Council to address the growing problem of dog fouling on our public footpaths, parks and civic places. This campaign has seen a 55% reduction in reported incidences of fouling in the selected areas chosen for their campaign.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Leddin referred to the successful campaign that was ran by Galway City Council, which included additional bins, leaflet drops and stencils on footpaths in specific areas where there were high incidence rates of dog fouling. He noted that this campaign in Galway is ongoing but has seen a big reduction in report of dog fouling incidents.

Members supported the Motion acknowledging the importance of it and the need to take action. Members indicated that if a Pilot Scheme was being rolled out in Limerick, that a location in all three electoral areas, Limerick City East, West and North, would be considered. Members also highlighted the need for citizens to be encouraged to report incidents of dog fouling, which could significantly help to reduce the problem also.

REPLY: The Council will undertake research into the Galway City Council campaign and will consider whether it could be implemented in Limerick.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council write to the Minister for Transport, Transport infrastructure Ireland and the National Transport to allocate additional funding to Limerick Council to prioritise footpaths in the city for gritting in extreme weather conditions.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donovan, seconded by Councillor Benson and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donovan referred to the lack of funding for gritting footpaths and that these should be prioritised in the future. Members agreed with the Motion, highlighting

the importance of it and the need for more funding.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that a suitable derelict site in Limerick city be retained by Limerick Council for community use as community groups have no spaces to use within the city centre.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donovan, seconded by Councillor Benson and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donovan highlighted the challenges experienced by Arts and Cultural Groups in locating spaces, with a scarcity of units to rent in the city centre. Members welcomed the Motion, and acknowledged the need to support and provide spaces to community groups.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council may acquire derelict sites compulsorily under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 (as amended) where an owner does not deal with the issue of dereliction on their land. Acquired sites may be used for purposes connected with the functions of the local authority.

Derelict sites normally require significant capital investment that needs to be addressed, particularly for those retained, prior to allocation. In addition, under Derelict Sites legislation, the Council is liable for the payment of compensation to the former landowner that would also need to be funded as part of any future use of suitable property.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Active Travel Department of the Council will consider a programme of works on the Fairgreen Road including traffic management and the installation of a proper footpath from Fairview AFC to St. Patricks Road.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheehan (C) referred to the large volume of traffic on the Fairgreen Road and the need to improve infrastructure in the area. Members welcomed this Motion, and noted the need for improvements on this road.

REPLY: Due to the existing narrow road widths, property boundaries and existing topography on the Fairgreen Road between Fairview AFC and the St. Patricks Road junction, the installation of meaningful improvements to the footpaths is not currently feasible within the current two-way traffic management system that currently is in operation on the Fairgreen Road.

Limerick City and County Council Roads Department will however examine the feasibility of introducing a one-way traffic management system on the Fairgreen Road from the Ballysimon Crescent junction to the St. Patricks Road junction which would include a public consultation process. This proposal could also cater for a new raised footpath on the

Fairgreen Road from Fairview AFC to the St. Patricks Road junction. The delivery of this scheme will be determined on the outcome of the consultation process and funding availability.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council engages if needed with An Garda Síochána to deal with the dangerous and illegal usage of scrambler bikes on the Canal Bank and in public and green areas.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheehan (C) highlighted the issues caused by the misuse of scramblers and if consideration can be given to setting up a Task Force to address the issues. Members supported the Motion, and pointed out that there is a big issue with illegal usage of scrambler bikes across the city, and acknowledged it needs to be addressed. The Notice of Motion would also be referred to the Joint Policing Committee.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the provision of body cameras for traffic wardens be re-examined as a matter of urgency given the seriousness of recent incidents.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kiely, seconded by Councillor Sheehan (C) and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Kiely stated that there had been a number of incidences of assaults involving traffic wardens in recent weeks and the provision of body cameras should be considered. Members welcomed this Motion, and noted the need to consider the provision of body cameras for traffic wardens.

REPLY: The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for local authority staff, including body-cams, etc. is an operational matter that is kept under constant review by Management having regard to Health and Safety requirements and situational assessments.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we write to the Minister for Education and the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals to ask that the Common Application System be amended to ensure no child is left without a school place next year and to intervene in the current situation where over 20 children have no school place.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Kiely referred to the difficulties and stress caused to families whose children were not allocated a Secondary School place. She highlighted that there is a need

to amend the current application system to ensure all sixth class children are guaranteed a school place. Members welcomed this Motion and thanked Councillor Kiely for bringing it forward. Members pointed out the difficulty the system is having on families, and noted that the issue has to be addressed.

30. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Pond

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council would as a matter of urgency engage with Uisce Eireann to provide a Wastewater Treatment Facility for the village of Montpellier and in particular the Brookhaven Estate in the village. At present raw sewage from the estate is gathered in a holding tank, and then flows directly into the River Shannon.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Pond, seconded by Councillor Slattery and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Pond highlighted the urgent need to upgrade the Wastewater Infrastructure in the area as the existing plant was not fit for purpose. Members supported the Motion, and pointed out that the current infrastructure was not suitable and agreed there is an urgent need to address the issue.

31. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors K. O'Hanlon and C. Slattery (to be referred to the Joint Policing Committee)

We will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council write to An Garda Síochána to request that extra Garda Patrols are dispatched regularly to St. John's Square to alleviate anti-social behaviour in the area.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Joint Policing Committee.

32. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated:
