

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON MONDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 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), Sheehan (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 Executive Officer, Housing Support Services (Ms. M. Hayes), Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism (Ms. E. Coleman), Head of Digital Services (Mr. A. Dooley), LCDC Chief Officer (Mr. S. O’Connor), Administrative Officer, Property Management Services (Ms. T. Knox), Administrative Officer, Regeneration (Ms. E. O’Connor), Senior Engineer, Environment and Climate Action (Mr. A. Finn), A/Senior Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. T. McKechnie), Senior Executive Engineers, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. L. Browne and Mr. S. O’Reilly), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. E. Harrison), Senior Executive Engineer, Recreation (Ms. C. Lynch), Environment Awareness Officer (Ms. S. McDonnell), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach and Members congratulated the Limerick Senior Hurling Management and Team on their 5 in a row win in the Munster Final. Congratulations were also extended to Munster Rugby on recently winning the URC title.

Condolences were extended to the family of Limerick Artist, Billy Hayes, who passed away recently.

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Kiely;  
Seconded by Councillor McSweeney;  
And Resolved:

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

**2. 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, he was inviting those present to notify the Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

### **3. Disposal of Land**

- (a) Circulated, Report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 1 Hennessy 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 Head of Property Management Services dated 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of derelict property at Elm Park, Clarina, 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.

- (c) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management Services dated 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of derelict property at 2 Treaty Terrace, Thomondgate 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.

### **4. July Meeting**

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the date of the Full Council Meeting for July was brought forward from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July. As the 17<sup>th</sup> July had been the original date set for the Monthly Metropolitan Meeting, it was proposed by Councillor McSweeney, seconded by Councillor Kiely and agreed to hold the July Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 at 9.45am.

### **5. Transportation and Mobility Directorate**

#### **Part 8 Procedure – Clarina Roundabout to Brick Lodge Walkway Scheme**

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Transportation and Mobility Directorate dated 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 and enclosed Chief Executive's Report dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2023 setting out details in relation to the Clarina Roundabout to Brick Lodge Walkway 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 6 of the report.

Members welcomed the proposed development, which would be hugely beneficial to the area. They agreed that it was something that had been requested by the local community for many years and the Elected Members now welcomed the fact that the scheme was finally being proceeded with. They complimented the Team involved on their work on the scheme. Members raised a number of queries in relation to the timeline for the actual completion of the scheme and the type of bollards that would be used in the scheme. These were responded to by the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing.

The report, as circulated, was noted by the Elected Members.

## QUESTIONS

### **6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what engagement has taken place with the Road Safety Authority and the Council in selecting routes for instructors to use with learner drivers in the Metropolitan area.***

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council does not have any role in the selection of routes for instructors to use with learner drivers.

### **7. Question submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the details of the Council's flooding response plan, with a specific request on the details of how the risk of flooding is monitored and when the flood defences are deployed.***

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council Roads Department deploy flood defences during weather events when required based on information determined from a flooding forecast model. This model is prepared from various forecast information which includes Shannon Dock tide times, OPW's flood surge model, ESB's Shannon Level Forecast and Met Éireann's weather forecasts. This exercise is generally completed weekly or daily when deemed required prior to and during significant weather events.

### **8. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick when the housing development by Peter McVerry will start in Carew Park Limerick.***

**REPLY:** Peter McVerry Trust have advised that the anticipated start date is September, 2023.

### **9. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can Active Travel advise how many speed ramps will be installed on Hyde Road from the entrance at Childers Road to the traffic lights before the turn to Careys Road.***

**REPLY:** The Active Travel Scheme along Hyde Road from the entrance at Childers Road to the traffic lights before the turn to Carey's Road will provide 4no ramps at the following locations:

- City side of Creora Avenue
- City side of Lenihan Avenue
- Between Byrne Avenue (city side) and Lenihan Avenue and;
- On the Childers Road side of Meagher Avenue.

### **10. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hartigan**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the Council to present its policy on dealing with reports of attacks on people by dogs in public places.***

**REPLY:** There is no formal policy for the investigation of dog attacks.

The practice is as follows:

On receipt of a complaint, an investigation is commenced. Firstly, our wardens will try to establish the name and address of the dog owner. This is the first step required to be able to follow up with any enforcement action. If this cannot be established the case is closed.

If the name and address can be established then the wardens will take statements from both the complainant and owner.

Our wardens must gather evidence if they did not witness the incident themselves.

In order to issue fines, the same level of evidence is required as if we are going to Court. Similar to litter fines, hearsay or oral statements are of no evidentiary value.

In relation to a dog attack, we require a written statement from the complainant. We also ask them to report the matter to Gardaí and to send us a medical report if they have had to receive medical treatment. These all help us to build our case, provide the evidence to issue fines and prosecute the case in court if necessary.

#### **11. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hartigan**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many attacks on people by dogs have been reported to Limerick City and County Council for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 to date and what was the Council's response time in dealing with these attacks.***

**REPLY:** Report alleged dog attacks, Limerick City and County Council 2021, 2022, 2023

2021	Information	Outcome	Response time
	Staff type dog attacked person on Dublin Road	Dog Surrendered	Immediate
	2 pit bulls attacked child and her puppy	Wardens called to the house with AGS, licences produced, matter being investigated further by AGS, no further involvement from LCCC	Immediate
	Dogs attacked anonymous complainant	Section 16s issued to alleged offenders. No evidence so no further action.	Immediate
	Anonymous callers husband bitten by stray dog	Will investigate and monitor. No further issues found. No evidence case closed.	Case assigned and closed 9 days later
	Caller's daughter was bitten by stray dog. Statement requested	Statement requested, not received. No evidence case closed.	Immediate

	2 large Alsations followed caller with her buggy, dogs known in the area for attacking (Anglers Walk)	Ongoing issues here, will monitor. Gardai attended with LCCC staff. Improvements made by owners to prevent dogs escaping.	Case assigned and closed 6 days later
<b>2022</b>	<b>Info</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Response time</b>
	Wife of caller bitten on ankle by dog while cycling - medical attention required	Called to the area, no dog out, will monitor. No statement so no evidence to pursue.	Case assigned within 3 days.
	Attack by dog on person - medical attention required	Called to the owner and spoke with him re dog control of his dog. No evidence to pursue further	Case assigned within 1 week.
	Dog attacked customer while cycling	Patrolled area, no dog seen,	Case assigned next day.
	Lady bit by dog outside supermarket	Statement requested, not received. No evidence to pursue further	Immediate
	Dog got loose on country passage and attacked owner and her dog	Alleged offender spoken to by Warden. Warden satisfied it was a one off incident.	Immediate
<b>2023</b>	<b>Info</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Response time</b>
	Caller attacked by dog being walked off lead	Warden called to dog owner with AGS and outlined dog control responsibilities	Immediate
	Letter received reporting dog attack	Ongoing investigation	Immediate
	Cyclist attacked by 2 restricted breeds	Ongoing investigation	Immediate

## **12. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the acquisition of a site for a new cemetery for the Castletroy/Monaleen/Annacotty area. The Council planned to acquire a site by June 2023; has the Council identified a site, has the Council purchased a site yet.***

**REPLY:** The Council has not identified a preferred site for a new cemetery to serve the Castletroy area. While a number of possible sites have been identified, there is a site suitability assessment process, which is required in order to determine if sites are suitable for a cemetery from a hydrological perspective. The Council continue to review a number of sites and will advise in due course when a preferred site has been identified.

## **13. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if the NTA have approved all Active Travel Schemes for the Metropolitan Area, which we approved at the April meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick subject to approval of the schemes by the NTA. If not all those schemes have been approved by the NTA, can the Council provide the list of schemes NTA did approve?***

**REPLY:**

Project Code	Project Name	Status
LCC/22/0016	<b>Low Cost Permeability Measures</b>	Approved
	Adare Park	Approved
	Garryowen Green	Approved
LCC/22/0015	<b>Low Cost Junction Tightening/Pedestrian Crossing Schemes</b>	Approved in Principle
	30KPH multiple junction projects	Approved in Principle
	Garryglass Roundabout	Approved in Principle
	Mallow Street	Approved in Principle
	County Schemes	Approved in Principle
LCC/22/0003	<b>Metro Area - New Footpaths</b>	Approved in Principle
	Rosbrien Road Footpaths	Approved
	Lower Park Rd to Rhebogue Hill Footpath Link	Approved
	Condell Road	Approved
	Patrickswell to Adare	Not approved for 2023
	Mountshannon Road	Approved in Principle
	Drombanna	Approved
LCC/22/0010	<b>Metro Area - Asset Renewal (Cycle Tracks and Greenways)</b>	Approved in Principle
	Baggott Street Upgrade Cycleway	Approved in Principle
	Red Path Upgrade Cycle Ramp to Athlundard Bridge and link to Spring Grove	Approved in Principle
	Widen and Upgrade Cycle Way Clare Street to UL Boat Club (incl. connectivity links)	Approved in Principle
	Public Lighting for Cycle Tracks in Parks - Caherdavin Green	Approved
	Public Lighting for Cycle Tracks in Parks - Vartry Field	Approved
LCC/22/0011	<b>Metro Area - Asset Improvement (Footpaths)</b>	Approved in Principle
	Scanlan Park	Approved in Principle
	St. Patricks Road	Approved in Principle
	Hilltop	Approved in Principle
	Walnut Drive	Approved in Principle
	College/Janemount Park	Approved in Principle
	Clarina	Approved in Principle
	Laurel/Sycamore Park Patrickswell	Approved in Principle
LCC/21/0017	Safe to Schools Programme - Support Infrastructure	Approved in Principle
LCC/23/XXXX	Regeneration Projects	Approved in Principle
LCC/23/XXXX	Ros Mor to Childers Road Active Travel Scheme	Approved in Principle
LCC/23/XXXX	Active Travel Pathfinders Park Canal to Patrick St.	Approved in Principle
LCC/23/XXXX	Bloodmill Road Active Travel Improvements	Approved in Principle

**14. Question submitted by Councillor A. Talukder**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the installation of the railing at Steamboat Quay.***

**REPLY:** Sorensen Civil Engineering Limited has been appointed to carry out the Steamboat Quay hand railing works starting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023. It is intended these works should take approximately 4 weeks to complete.

**15. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for information on bike parking within car parks in the city centre and if there are plans for any more inside bike parking within the city centre.***

**REPLY:** At this time Limerick City and County Council is prioritising the provision of publically

available on-street bike parking in conjunction with the NTA programme.

There are currently no plans for expansion of the existing bike parking within car parks in the city centre; however, this can be further examined with the relevant stakeholders in due course.

**16. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if Treaty City flags can be placed along the bridges in celebration of the achievements of the club within Limerick.***

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council are currently working on a protocol for flags on the Shannon and Thomond Bridges. Currently the Limerick GAA flags are in place until end of the senior hurling championship. We are discussing the possibility of positioning two flags on a pole at once, but we are awaiting a response on this from an outside company.

Going forward the cost of putting flags up and taking them down again, is something that Limerick City and County Council will review and include in the aforementioned policy. As a proud partner and supporter of Treaty United and indeed all sporting organisations in Limerick, Limerick City and County Council are continuing to identify other poles, places etc. where we can hang flags and banners to highlight sporting teams and their achievements.

**17. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick which CCTV cameras are turned on and in the Canal Bank area from Lelia Street to UL/Shannon Fields.***

**REPLY:** The Canal and River Bank CCTV scheme operated by Limerick City and County Council consists of eleven poles with two cameras on each giving a total of twenty-two cameras. At present twenty cameras are recording back to our monitoring centre located at the Moyross Community Enterprise Centre. These cameras are not live monitored they are recording only. The one pole, which is currently not connected to the scheme, is expected to be online in the coming weeks.

**18. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many tenant in situ applications are currently open and how many have been processed since April 1st 2023.***

**REPLY:** The Housing Directorate are currently dealing with 231 open notice to quits.

At the 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 we have 43 homes at sale agreed, 54 sales are under negotiation, a further 120 at proposal stage and 14 households have been referred for consideration under the Cost Rental Tenant in Situ Scheme.

**19. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the number of HAP and RAS inspections carried out this year and the results of same.***

**REPLY:** In total 615 inspections have taken place to date in 2023 – 287 HAP Inspections, 140 RAS inspections and the remaining 188 being privately rented properties. 4% of these properties were deemed compliant on first inspection. The remainder did not meet the minimum standards for the following contraventions Structural Condition.

Regulation (4) of the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019:

Sanitary Facilities

Regulation (5) of the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019:

Heating Facilities

Regulation (6) of the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019:

Food Preparation and Storage and Laundry

Regulation (7) of the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019:

Ventilation

Regulation (8) of the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019:

Lighting

Regulation (9) of the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019:

Fire Safety

Regulation (10) of the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019:

Refuse

Regulation (11) of the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019:

Gas, Oil and Electricity Installations

Regulation (12) of the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019:

## **20. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick when will an economic assessment be conducted for Wickham Street / High Street regarding the proposed Active Travel Scheme.***

**REPLY:** An Economic Assessment is to be conducted over the coming months for Wickham Street / High Street regarding the proposed Active Travel Scheme. The estimated date for delivery of the Economic Assessment Report is November 2023. In recent weeks, Active Travel has engaged specialists for counting movement and traffic in the area, along with a specialist to undertake the Economic Assessment. Counting of movement and traffic will continue through summer and autumn while retail and local surveys are planned for September. Analysis is scheduled for October, and November will see the final drafting and completion of the Economic Assessment Report.

**Economic Assessment Schedule:**

- September 2023: Phase 1 - Discovery Phase



- October 2023: Phase 2 - Analysis and Plan Development
- November 2023: Phase 3 - Economic Impact Plan

**21. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick when Limerick City and County Council expect all work on O'Connell Street to be completed and when we can expect the 3 person cleansing team to be appointed.***

**REPLY:** The works to O'Connell Street are largely complete with the exception of localised work adjacent to some of the junctions. Arup Consulting Engineers (Arup) will determine the contractual completion date following final inspection of the works. The resolution of any snags identified by Arup will be addressed up to and after completion as is standard practice in the industry.

Limerick City and County Council has approved the appointment of the 3-person team. However, the Department of Local Government approval is required as this results in an increase in overall staff numbers. Human Resources have sought this approval and have identified the need for a quick decision by the Department. As soon as approval is received, Human Resources will work with existing panels to appoint staff.

**22. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many vacancies exist for School Wardens and when will they be filled if any exist.***

**REPLY:** One vacancy currently exists at John F Kennedy Memorial Primary School, this position has been offered to a person who is currently going through the on boarding process with Human Resources.

Outside the City centre area, one vacancy exists at St. Pauls School. In order to fill this post and other future vacancies, Human Resources will shortly be advertising for panels to fill permanent positions as they arise and for a panel to provide cover for posts where the assigned School Warden is unavailable, for example when School Wardens are on sick leave. Three School Wardens are currently unavailable for duty.

Recruitment for School Warden Panels, especially for cover positions, has proven to be difficult.

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**23. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Pond (referred from Meeting of Limerick City and County Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2023)**

***I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council would, as a matter of urgency, engage with National Parks & Wildlife, Waterways Ireland and any other stakeholders to ensure that the pontoon that is located on the Shannon at Montpellier is retained to continue allowing access to the water for residents and visitors, including Dragon Boat personnel.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Pond referred to the excellent amenity provided by the Pontoon in particular to the Members of the Dragon Boat Club and members agreed that this pontoon was very important to this group and to others in the area.

**REPLY:** Following a site visit and meetings between the Directorates of Sport and Recreation, Planning, Environment and Placemaking and Transportation and Mobility, it has been agreed that the Council will liaise with the statutory bodies to determine the permissions required to maintain the pontoon in place. In the meantime, the Council will maintain the access to the pontoon and have recently carried out repairs to it.

**24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin (to be referred to the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee)**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council identify suitable land in the Dooradoyle area to facilitate the construction of a new children's playground to meet the growing needs of the local community.*

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee.

**25. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin (to be referred to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee)**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council introduce a byelaw to address the growing problem of unused cars left in housing estates and driveways, which are an eyesore for residents and a magnet for antisocial behaviour.*

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

**26. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney (to be referred to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee)**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that in light of the many active travel improvements taking place in this district that we draft and implement a public engagement policy which sets out best practice for engagement with local stakeholders when this district is advancing Part 8 Planning Applications and Section 38s.*

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

**27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that more physical infrastructure for Community Space, as in Community Centres and spaces, are included in large-scale projects in Limerick City and County. Economic growth has been introduced in Limerick but*

***we are lacking physical infrastructure for our communities and community groups.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Slattery highlighted the difficulties that community groups had in finding suitable accommodation and the importance of providing facilities, in particular for youths and the elderly.

**REPLY:** The Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 seeks to improve the provision of community infrastructure and recreational opportunities for the wider community, in co-operation with relevant bodies. In assessing planning applications developments, there is a requirement to ensure that adequate social infrastructure is in place to support such development, however, there is no provision for developers to provide such infrastructure. An audit of Community Facilities was undertaken by Limerick City and County Council in 2022 and the findings of this audit will assist in a strategic approach for improved community physical infrastructure projects and support potential funding applications in the future.

Councillor Leddin proposed that an audit be carried out, in conjunction with Property Services, on sites and buildings in the Metropolitan Area zoned for community that could potentially be used for community spaces. This was seconded by Councillor Kilcoyne. Members also agreed that community facilities were important in areas of the Metropolitan District where the population was expanding and the importance of identifying suitable funding sources to provide same. It was also agreed to circulate the Community Facilities Audit Report 2022, referenced in the reply, to the Members.

## **28. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, that now that the area separating the two estates of Glenbrook and Glendale Old Singland Roads are taken in charge, that the Council implement the planning condition requiring that bollards be installed at this location, as per the original planning application approval.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Slattery referred to the increase in traffic that would occur with the opening of the new Bloodmill road, and the difficulties this would cause for residents in the housing estates.

**REPLY:** The request to separate the estates of Glenbrook and Glendale Old Singland Roads will be reviewed by Limerick City and County Council Roads and Planning Departments. Any conditions of this development that the Planning Department sets out will be determined and reviewed. Any proposal to close this road, if deemed adequate by Limerick City and County Council Roads and Planning Departments, would require a public advertisement procedure to take place given the time that has lapsed since the original planning for this development was granted over 20 years ago.

## **29. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hartigan**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council write to the Garda Chief Superintendent to outline Councillors concerns regarding the use of scrambler bikes, associated anti-social/criminal behaviour and lawlessness on the smarter travel paths from Lock Quay and Corbally to the University of Limerick and ask for regular police presence on this path.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hartigan highlighted the issues caused by the misuse of scrambler bikes and the need for additional Garda patrols and it was agreed by Members that this was a very serious issue given the potential dangers posed, and was not just confined to the areas referred to in the Motion. Members agreed that stronger legislation needed to be introduced which should deal with scrambler bike and e scooters as well.

Members also referred to other issues around anti-social behaviour in the Metropolitan District and on the proposal of Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr Butler, it was agreed to look at establishing a Joint Policing Sub-Committee specifically for the Metropolitan District where such issues could be discussed directly with representatives of An Garda Síochána with responsibility for the Metropolitan District area.

### **30. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hartigan**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council implement a daily and thorough schedule of cleaning and maintenance for the City Centre particularly for O'Connell Street.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hartigan referred to the recent Workshop that was held on O'Connell Street and welcomed the confirmation that a regular schedule of cleaning would be undertaken.

**REPLY:** A Cleansing Plan for O'Connell Street is being finalised and requires an additional three members of staff to be recruited to the Cleansing Team. This plan will include daily bin emptying and litter picking, power washing of footpath surfaces and stone street furniture, monthly hot washing of footpaths, cycle lane sweeping, carriageway sweeping, monitoring of litter levels and inspection of works. When this plan is well established, the intention is to broaden the plan to the other streets in the city centre. It should be noted that O'Connell Street is currently being cleaned in accordance with current cleansing operations.

### **31. 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 urgently consider installing CCTV and any other appropriate measures on The Castletroy Greenway to combat increasing incidents of antisocial behaviour both on the Greenway and in adjoining estates.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Pond referred to the increasing incidents of anti-social behaviour on the Castletroy Greenway and that consideration should be given to the installation of CCTV cameras.

**REPLY:** In order to utilise CCTV in a public space, like The Castletroy Greenway, it is necessary to have a legal basis to do so. The legal basis for public realm CCTV is based on Section 38 of An Garda Síochána Act 2005 and requires authorisation from the Garda Commissioner. The legislation provides a legal basis for Community CCTV schemes. The installation of Community CCTV involves a very stringent process balancing the right to privacy with the need for safer communities. Each location must have a legal basis and adhere to the principles of data protection. The installation of a camera in a public space requires a direction from An Garda Síochána.

For new Community CCTV schemes (or additions to existing schemes) to be considered:

- An Garda Síochána's analyst team must prepare a crime report detailing the historical levels of crime at each specific potential location of a camera (using GPS coordinates). If crime levels are deemed sufficiently high, this becomes the starting point of the official process.
- A report must be created outlining the case and rationale for CCTV, including all potential locations of cameras (including GPS coordinates) and must be submitted to the CCTV Oversight Board for review. The rationale for CCTV must be deemed to be proportional, justified and necessary.
  - The report must include details of all alternative measures taken to address the situation including results achieved/not achieved
  - The report must also include details of the funding sources for the cameras (including ongoing operational costs)
- A Data Protection Impact Assessment must be prepared and submitted to the Data Protection Officer for review.
- A Community CCTV application must be prepared by the Council for submission to the Garda Commissioner for review. This application must include evidence of public consultation, evidence of historical crime, evidence of approval by the JPC, among many other necessary supporting pieces of documentation.

These are sequential steps that must be taken to ensure all CCTV schemes are necessary, justified, proportionate and legal.

In view of the above, I will bring your concerns to the attention of the relevant department with responsibility for The Castletroy Greenway and ask them to consider other appropriate measures such as liaising directly with An Garda Síochána with the view to an increased presence of Gardaí in the area.

### **32. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Talukder**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council write to the Minister for Justice to request that the Immigration Appointment waiting time be reduced. Presently the waiting time is 14 weeks.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Talukder highlighted the difficulties that delays in the Immigration Appointment waiting time was causing for many people, including University Students.

### **33. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that a tourist information centre be retained on O'Connell Street in the city centre.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donovan highlighted the importance of maintaining a tourist information point in the city centre to encourage visitors and tourists to the area.

**REPLY:** Fáilte Ireland are responsible for the provision of Tourism Information Points around the city and county. Please see attached a report for Fáilte Ireland on their approach to tourism information in Ireland.

### **REPORT FROM FÁILTE IRELAND**

#### **Fáilte Ireland – Tourism Information Strategy Explanation**

To meet the evolving needs of our visitors and deliver relevant information in a manner that visitors are seeking, Fáilte Ireland is modernising its In-Destination Tourism Information service.

Footfall to Fáilte Ireland's TICs in Limerick declined by 60% between 2015 and 2019 while international and domestic visitor numbers increased by 30% and 32% respectively during the same period. The pace of this decline, which was accelerating, means that to continue to reach and influence our visitors, we must evolve our programme of activities.

Our new programme, which is being replicated in many locations across the country, is designed to reach far more visitors and to meet their needs on their terms. Fáilte Ireland will do this through the following channels:

- **Seasonal co-located TIC.** Our new base in King Johns Castle will allow us engage with more visitors and to influence them to visit Limerick City and County.
- **New Discover Ireland.ie.** The new mobile first Discover Ireland.ie website is loaded with local and hyper-local Limerick information. The site is content managed by Fáilte Ireland's TIC staff.
- **New Information Kiosks.** Our highly attractive, promotional kiosks are located in King Johns Castle (year round), The Hunt Museum, International Rugby Experience, Bunratty Visitor Park, Shannon Airport, and Adare Heritage Centre.
- **New Map Guides.** Fáilte Ireland produces a Limerick Town and a Limerick Regional Map Guide(s) in five languages.

- **New Literature Distribution Service.** Fáilte Ireland has begun a direct-to-Hotels literature distribution service, and all Hotels in Limerick City can available of a ready supply of local map guides.
- **The Local Expert Programme:** Lastly, the Local Expert programme, which is designed to empower frontline workers to solve the visitors 'what to do' problem in a timely and comprehensive way, was launched in Limerick earlier this year.
- **Extended Contact Centre Service(s).** Fáilte Ireland has extended its Contact Centre operations to 365 days from 9am to 7pm. Supporting Call, Email and Chat.

In summary, the aggregate of all our activities will allow us reach many more visitors to the area and to meet their needs on their terms.

#### **34. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that an awareness campaign is run to prevent people from parking on the pedestrian plaza at the front of Colbert Station.***

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 works carried out to the Plaza, which greatly improved the area and the damage being caused by vehicles parking there.

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council's Marketing and Communications Department is currently working with internal departments and An Garda Síochána to create an awareness campaign for parking in the city and county. This is expected to be launched very soon.

#### **35. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council writes to the Minister for Housing asking him to issue revised advice to local authorities in relation to the Croí na Cónaithe grant to make it easier to prove vacancy when the purchaser of the property cannot get a signed affidavit from the vendor or the necessary ESB bills.***

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 positive impact that the Croí na Cónaithe Scheme has had in redeveloping derelict properties. He highlighted the difficulties that applicants were having in proving vacancy and the need to ease the criteria.

#### **36. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council puts in place an information campaign and writes to every food vendor in the city centre asking them to take pride in the appearance of their business and to ensure that their shop front is kept free from litter and food waste.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheehan (C) highlighted the importance that businesses, such as restaurants and take-aways, ensure areas are kept clean and litter free, in particular during busy periods.

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council will undertake a campaign with food vendors in the city centre and reminding them of their responsibilities under litter and waste legislation and ask that they present their shop fronts in good order and take pride in Limerick.

### **37. Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Dated:**

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