

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON MONDAY, 10TH JULY, 2023 at 9.45 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Azad Talukder, Cathaoirleach

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors Benson, Butler, Collins, Collopy, Hartigan, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, Murphy, Novak Uí Chonchúir, O'Donovan, O'Hanlon, O'Sullivan, Pond, Secas, Sheahan (M), Sheehan (C) and Slattery.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Leahy), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. A. Foley), Administrative Officer, Property Management Services (Ms. T. Knox), 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. M. Richardson), Architectural Conservation Officer (Mr. T. Cassidy), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll), Clerical Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. N. O'Connell).

Apologies were received from Mr K. Lehane, Director of Services.

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

- John Quinn, former Mayor of Limerick;
- Greig Oliver, Munster Rugby.

The Cathaoirleach and Members congratulated the Limerick Senior Hurling Management and Team on their All Ireland Semi Final win. Congratulations were also extended to the Ireland U20 Rugby Squad on winning the World U20 Rugby Semi Final.

Members also expressed their shock and sadness at the recent fire at the Sailors Home, O'Curry Street and noted that this issue would be discussed later in the Meeting in relation to two Notice of Motions received in relation to same.

1. Adoption of Minutes

(a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 19th June, 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Kiely;
Seconded by Councillor Pond;
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 19th June, 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Kiely;
 Seconded by Councillor Pond;
 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 9th June, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 66 Hyde Road, Prospect, 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 Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 20th June, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 14 Cregan 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.

- (c) Circulated, Report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 20th June, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 2 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.

- (d) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 30th June, 2023, setting out details of proposed land disposal of 7.2m² at Main Street, Patrickswell, 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.

- (e) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 30th June, 2023, setting out details of proposed disposal of land for the Plassey Park Road Improvement Scheme 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.

QUESTIONS

4. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hartigan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a written update on progress on ongoing issues with discharges to the Loughmore Canal that will address sources of discharges and engagement to date with those responsible, awareness among businesses in Raheen Business Park with the issues and involvement of the IDA and EPA in finding a solution.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council currently have a live investigation underway following a complaint received in the Environmental Enforcement Section of Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) in June 2021. The complaint related to a suspected pollution event from the storm sewer to the Loughmore Canal. In response, LCCC initiated an investigation into this complaint as required under the terms of reference of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977.

This investigation has been undertaken with the cooperation of IDA Ireland, the Estate Manager of the Raheen Industrial Estate. The scope of this investigation includes the examination of all businesses discharging to the IDA storm sewer from the Business Park and other businesses and connections on the R526.

Extensive desktop studies, site surveys, dye testing and CCTV surveys have been undertaken. Additionally substantial sampling was undertaken by LCCC at the discharge point at the canal. Concurrently the IDA also carried out sampling and flow monitoring at multiple locations within the business park. Out of hours sampling was also made available to the landowners to capture unusual events outside of business hours. Of the 40+ parameters being assessed, the results have highlighted a pattern of exceedances in two parameters.

In Autumn 2022, the IDA carried out further targeted sampling to try and identify a focus area for the investigation and the results of this were made available to LCCC in February 2023. LCCC are continuing to carry out sampling on a monthly basis at two locations on the canal in order to monitor the ongoing water quality.

Throughout this investigation, meetings have been scheduled and communications issued to the EPA, IDA and Landowners on a regular basis to ensure all stakeholders are aware of the investigation progress.

The IDA and LCCC have been actively engaging with Businesses within the Industrial Estate to try and establish a possible source of the exceedances and also to highlight awareness of the issues and ensure correct practices and procedures are in place for the use of Storm systems.

These communications are still ongoing and will continue until a source/sources of the

exceedances has been located or a resolution identified. LCCC and the IDA are actively working to establish a long-term solution to this issue.

5. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how much is the average fee to businesses and voluntary organisations for road closures for events.

REPLY: The fee charged for road closures for events is the cost of the advertisement of the two statutory notices in a newspaper.

This cost will vary for each road closure depending on the number of words required in the notices.

The typical cost would not exceed €1,500 if advertised in a local newspaper, please note this cost would significantly increase if the notices are advertised in a national newspaper.

6. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, the new development at Woodlawn Park called Woodlawn Close are experiencing flooding issues, what measures are being taken by the Council to rectify this issue.

REPLY: On the 19th June 2023, sugar cases were logged by tenants of 2 properties in Woodlawn Close with the case description "house flooding over rain". On inspection, there had been no flood damage to the properties, although there was evidence that some localised flooding had occurred in the gardens of both properties in the aftermath of the very heavy rain that occurred in the city that afternoon. The Housing Maintenance section are liaising with the Roads Department with regards the drainage in the area.

7. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, can the Council engage with the Limerick Civic Trust regarding funding as they are looking after our graveyards in Limerick City and Limerick Civic Trust have very limited resources.

REPLY: The Council provides ongoing payments to Limerick Civic Trust for works undertaken in Cemeteries. However, it is the Council's intention to enter into a new Service Level Agreement with the Civic Trust that will capture all areas where works are undertaken and to reach agreement on an appropriate annual grant.

8. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, can the Council advise how many dog wardens are in Limerick City and County, their functions and hours of work, and if their phone number has been published publicly.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council employs two full-time dog wardens, who work a standard 39-hour week. The powers of the dog wardens are specified in Section 16 the Control of Dogs Act 1986. A dog warden may:

- Request the name and address of a person thought to be offending, and confirmation of same.
- Seize any dog from any premises (other than a dwelling).
- Enter premises (other than a dwelling) to prevent a dog attack on persons or livestock.
- Enter premises (other than a dwelling), where more than five dogs over five months are thought to be kept, and examine such dogs.
- Request a dog owner to produce a dog license within 10 days of the request being made.

The dog wardens also implement the Dog Breeding Establishment Act 2010. In this regard, they carry out certification inspections of dog breeding establishments, based on a risk assessment, to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Dog Breeding Establishment Guidelines 2018 (made under the Act). The dedicated phone number for the dog warden service is 061 301604. This is advertised on the Council website www.limerick.ie and on the Limerick Dog Shelter Facebook page. Queries regarding dog control can be made to this number, or through Customer Services at 061 556000.

9. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what progress has been made on the Markets Field, what stakeholders are involved and what timelines should be expected.

REPLY: The Council has had preliminary discussions with the Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP) in relation to the future of the Markets Field Stadium. There is no outcome to these discussions at this point but engagement will continue with a view to concluding discussions by the end of the year.

10. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many homes are in "demolition zones" in Regeneration areas and what is the breakdown by geography and private/Council ownership.

REPLY: In order to deliver the objectives of regeneration within the statutory Development Plan, and to facilitate further the development and enhancement of the Regeneration Areas, including delivery of new roads, better accessibility, new housing schemes, community infrastructure, enhanced public realm and safer overlooked spaces, some targeted demolitions will still be required. There are currently 188 new dwellings / major refurbs either under construction or at an advanced stage of planning in the Regeneration Areas and there is a significant amount of residential zoned land in the areas where demolitions help unlock significant potential for mixed tenure housing growth. A breakdown proposed demolitions is provided below.

Moyross

Tenure	Units
Private	10
LA - Occupied	14
LA - Unoccupied	7
Community Use	3

Southill

Tenure	Units
Private	14
LA - Occupied	19
LA - Unoccupied	11
Community Use	2

St. Mary's Park

Tenure	Units
Private	9
LA - Occupied	4
LA - Unoccupied	8
Community Use	0

Ballinacurra Weston

Tenure	Units
Private	6
LA - Occupied	0
LA - Unoccupied	0
Community Use	0

11. Question submitted by Councillor F. Kilcoyne

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can the mobile library service Clarina retirement village.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council – Having reviewed the mobile library schedule, I can confirm that there is scope to provide a mobile library service to Clarina Retirement Village.

We will make contact with the retirement village and arrange the introduction of a mobile library service to this location.

12. Question submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what the operational plan is to manage and maintain the natural environment, such as management of reeds, trees and other, and social amenities, such as the paths and the viewing platform, in Westfield Wetlands.

REPLY: The Westfield Management Plan is in the final stages of drafting and we will be in a position

to present the Westfield's Management plan, AA screening and Natura Impact Assessment to the next meeting of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee and thereafter to the Metropolitan District.

The plan will address overall management of the Westfield's Wetland with particular emphasis on the preservation and enhancement of an important habitat and ecosystem. It will outline recommended maintenance, amenity enhancement and the addition or removal of additional features. In addition the plan will outline options in various categories, such as bulrush removal, water levels, invasive alien species, tree management, community engagement which will require further study and whose implementation will be dependent on compliance with the Habitats Directive and funding. Once in place the Westfield's Management Plan will be the reference document for all future works in the Westfield's Wetlands and park.

13. Question submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the progress update on the King's Island Flood Relief scheme and associated infrastructure development, such as a new pathway around St. Mary's Park.

REPLY: There is currently a conservation contractor on site, carrying out test repairs to the quay walls on George's Quay and the rear of the civic offices. This information will be used to finalise the tender package. Subject to OPW approval, the project will be tendered in Q3 2023 with a contractor on site in Q1 2024. The proposed works comprise a new landscaped flood defence embankment to the north of King's Island with new public lighting and shared footpath/cycleway. The existing sheet piles will be cut down to ground level and the existing outer walkway will be resurfaced from the handball alley to Star Rovers FC, where the path joins the new flood embankment. To the south, the existing quay walls will be upgraded with glass floodwalls provided at amenity locations. Public realm improvement plans include public lighting and paving upgrades to the riverside walkway along Merchant's Quay, George's Quay and Sir Harry's Mall.

14. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the details on the dog fouling bins present in Limerick City and who is responsible for emptying these bins.

REPLY: The Domestic Waste & Litter Team manage three dog bins located at Dooradoyle Road, Church Road, Raheen and Father Russell Road. Each bin is serviced weekly by an authorised waste collector. Any of the general waste litterbins provided by Limerick City and County Council's Cleansing Team may be used for disposing of dog waste.

Limerick City and County Council promotes the 'Any Bag, Any Bin' approach and request dog owners to take responsibility for the removal their pets' waste from public places and dispose of it in a proper manner

15. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick on how many parking fines

have been issued in Limerick city in 2022 and to date this year.

REPLY: In 2022, 10,147 parking fines were issued in Limerick City.

In 2023 up to 4th July, 7,216 parking fines have been issued.

16. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on water quality testing at Loughmore Canal and recent testing results from same.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council and the IDA have undertaken extensive sampling in the Loughmore canal and within the Industrial estate over the past 18 months. Samples were tested and compared with the Surface water standards that are presently in place in Ireland at the European Union and are contained in the 'European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Water) Regulations 2009 – S.I. No. 272 of 2009, as amended'.

For parameters where there were no emissions limit values in the 2009 Surface Water Regulations, samples were compared to the limits set in the EPA document; 'Parameters of Water Quality – Interpretation and Standards, Environmental Protection Agency, 2001 (EPA Surface Water Guideline limit)'.

Of the 40+ parameters being assessed, the results have highlighted a pattern of exceedances in two parameters. LCCC are continuing to sample at two locations in the canal on a monthly basis to monitor the water quality. The samples to date indicate that there continues to be exceedances in both parameters. We are actively engaging with the Businesses in the area and the IDA to try and identify a source of these exceedances.

NOTICES OF MOTION

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely (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 the fee for road closures for events in the Metropolitan District be immediately abolished.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, it was agreed that the Notice of Motion would be taken.

Councillor Kiely highlighted the difficulties that festival organisers and voluntary and community groups had in accessing information on road closures and the fact that there was no clear policy on this issue. She referred to the fees charged for road closures, which can be an impediment to groups arranging events, and bringing footfall into the city. The Members agreed that it was important to have greater clarity in relation to this area. It was agreed that a Workshop would be arranged for Members.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that additional funding be made available for the road at The Cat's Cradle to address the dangerous conditions and try

to prevent further accidents.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Kiely acknowledged the recent improvements works that had been carried out at this location and highlighted that there were still ongoing issues with speeding in the area.

REPLY: LCCC Roads have recently installed significant safety measures on the R512 at the Cat's Cradle, Ballyneety in recent months. These new measures will need to be reviewed over a period of time to determine their impact on road safety. It is not envisaged to implement any further measures at this point. In conjunction with these new safety improvements LCCC Roads have also contacted the Gardaí to review speed enforcement at this location.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Kilcoyne (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 identify suitable Council owned land in Mungret, Clarina, Ballybrown and Patrickswell areas to facilitate for allotments in our local communities.

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

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we write to the Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion, Josepha Madigan, TD to seek clarification if any staff redundancies are planned for St. Vincent's Lisnagry Special Needs School in Limerick by the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) for the upcoming school year 2023/2024, and to request that all measures are taken to ensure no redundancies are made at this school.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Secas highlighted the detrimental effect that any redundancies would have on staff, parents and children attending the school. Members supported the Motion and agreed the importance of providing the necessary resources required at the school, which was catering to some of the most vulnerable members of society.

21. 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 use its powers under the 1949 local authorities act to remove the submerged bench in the Shannon at the bathing area known as "sandy" at UL that is a danger to swimmers and pets using the area.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hartigan outlined his frustration at the lack of engagement and responsibility taken by the University of Limerick in relation to this issue and their general maintenance responsibilities. He noted the recent work carried out on the submerged bench, which had made it safer for swimmers, and thanked the staff of Limerick City and County Council for carrying out this work.

REPLY: In the interests of urgency and public safety, LCCC Roads have recently completed the removal of the submerged bench in the Shannon at the bathing area known as “sandy” at UL as requested. However, ultimately LCCC Roads deem that any maintenance issues in this area along the River Shannon such as the above should be dealt directly by the ESB or UL under their own property maintenance.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Novak Uí Chonchúir (to be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that a City Centre Forum be established, comprising Councillors from all three Metropolitan Wards, to ensure balanced and sustainable economic and physical development of the city centre.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council invite the CEO of the Land Development Agency to advise Members on their plans for the six sites listed in their strategic plan for housing.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Leddin expressed disappointment at the lack of progress by the Land Development Agency in developing strategic sites in Limerick. He referred to the current housing crisis and the urgent need to provide housing.

REPLY: The Land Development Agency have confirmed their intention to hold a briefing meeting with the Elected Members in early September in response to a previous request submitted.

It was agreed to take Items 24 and 25 together.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council communicate and liaise with Shannon Foynes Port Company about the task of restoring the 1850's former Sailors Home historical building on O'Curry Street, which was destroyed by fire recently.

25. 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 liaise with the Shannon Foynes Port Company and Limerick Civic Trust regarding the ongoing management and restoration of the Sailors Home on O'Curry Street.

It was agreed that both Motions would be taken together. The Notices of Motion were proposed by Councillor Leddin, seconded by Councillor O'Donovan and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Leddin referred to the shock and sadness that was felt following the recent fire at the Sailors Home and the key role that it had played in the cultural life of Limerick. The Members agreed that it was very disappointing to hear the news of the fire and the damage inflicted on the building. They agreed the importance of close co-operation between the local authority and the building owners to ensure that everything would be done to restore the property.

REPLY: Within hours of the fire the Architectural Conservation Officer had made contact with other stakeholders in our built heritage such as the Architectural Heritage Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Irish Georgian Society prior to contacting the Chief Executive of the Shannon Foynes Port Company to assure him of the Council's support for the conservation, restoration and reconstruction of the building. Subsequently, discussions were held with other interested parties.

A leading firm of conservation engineers has already been appointed by the Port Company to conduct initial assessments.

Ongoing contact will be maintained with the relevant officials in the Port Company to determine the appropriate next steps.

26. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated: _____