

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON MONDAY, 15TH JANUARY, 2024 at 9.45 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Azad Talukder, Cathaoirleach

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

A/Director of Service, National and Regional Shared Services Centre (Ms. S. Reidy), Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Leahy), Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. A. Foley), Chief Fire Officer (Mr. M. Ryan), Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Mr. G. O'Donoghue), Senior Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. Gannon), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. M. Richardson), Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services (Ms. M. Hayes), Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services (Mr. J. McDonald), Senior Engineer, Environment and Climate Action (Mr. A. Finn), A/Senior Executive Officer, Tourism (Ms. A. Rizzo), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach and Members extended their sympathy and condolences to the family of Paddy Madden, former Member and Mayor of Limerick, who had passed away recently.

The Cathaoirleach and Members congratulated Seán O'Sullivan of Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom on winning the BT Young Scientist Exhibition.

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that the works on the Council Chamber in Merchant's Quay were complete and that the February Meeting of the Metropolitan District would be held there.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 11th December, 2023:

Proposed by Councillor O'Donovan;

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 8th December, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 5 North Claughaun 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.

- (b) Circulated, Report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 15th December, 2023, setting out proposals for disposal of 0.0106 acres (0.00428 hectares) at 1 Fitzgerald Place, Rosbrien, 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. National and Regional Shared Services Directorate

Part 8 – Development at Limerick City Fire Station, Mulgrave Street

Circulated, Report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Limerick Fire and Rescue Service, National and Regional Shared Services Center dated 2nd January, 2024 and enclosed Chief Executive's Report dated 22nd December, 2023 setting out details in relation to the development at Limerick City Fire Station, Mulgrave Street, Limerick. 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 5 of the report.

Members welcomed the upgrade works to the Fire Station, Mulgrave Street.

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

QUESTIONS

5. Question submitted by Councillor J. Pond

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can Limerick City and County Council erect a plaque in the memory of the late Joe Drennan who lost his life as a result of a hit and run on the Dublin Road Castletroy Limerick (plaque to be erected on the spot where Mr Drennan lost his life).

REPLY: Any proposal for the erection of a Civic Memorial such as the erection of a plaque, will entail the completion of a Civic Memorial Application Form which is then submitted for consideration and approval by the Councils Civic Memorial & Public Art Technical Committee. Other factors to be considered include the funding available for any proposed Civic Memorial, planning approval if applicable, and the possible consent of the landowner

to the erection of a Civic Memorial.

6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Pond

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick whether Limerick City and County Council and Bus Éireann are considering the relocation of the bus stop located on the Dublin Road, Castletroy where student Joe Drennan lost his life to a hit and run accident.

REPLY: We are not aware of any Bus Éireann plans to relocate this particular bus stop. However, Active Travel are considering the inclusion of this bus stop as part of the 2024 Bus Shelter Enabling Works Programme which requires approval from the National Transport Authority. As part of the proposed works, a concrete footpath build-out is being considered along with the installation of a new bus shelter.

7. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can Active Travel liaise with the Roads Department regarding the installation of a yellow box from Childers Road into Janesboro (Colbert Avenue side) as drivers are finding it very difficult to exit since cycle lanes have been installed.

REPLY: The works on Childers Road are ongoing and will be completed in the coming months. It is the intention to reinstate and upgrade all road markings as part of the works over the coming weeks.

8. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many rightsizing schemes will be available in Limerick in 2024 and can they be listed by area and date they will be available.

REPLY: The following Private Rightsizing Schemes will be available in Limerick Metro in 2024:

Area	Private Rightsizing Scheme	Available
Limerick City East	Brú na Gruadán, Castletroy (Phase 1 & 2)	Quarter 1, 2024
Limerick City North	Clonmacken, Condell Road	Quarter 2, 2024
Limerick City East	The Mills, Castletroy	Quarter 4, 2024
Limerick City North	Knockhill, Ennis Road	Quarter 4, 2024

We will keep Councillors informed of all Private Rightsizing Schemes in advance of advertisement.

9. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the cleaning schedule for Newenham Street, Davis Street and O'Connell Avenue and request that these streets be cleaned at least once a week.

REPLY: A large road sweeper services Newenham Street, Davis Street and O'Connell Avenue every

morning. Litter bins on these streets are emptied on a daily basis. A staff member is assigned to litter pick on Newenham Street and Davis Street and other adjacent areas on a daily basis. In addition, as needs require for example to remove fallen leaves or in response to customer complaints, a small sweeper is assigned to O'Connell Avenue.

10. 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.

REPLY: Please find attached a copy of an update report dated 23rd December 2023.

11. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick whether the Local Authority is considering appointing a caretaker for the Baggott Estate/Portland Park due to the increase in usage of the Park.

REPLY: The Council have no plans for a full time caretaker for Baggott Estate as the numbers utilising the amenity are not sufficient to warrant a full time presence.

The Council are monitoring the amenity from a maintenance perspective and undertake maintenance works accordingly. The Council will monitor numbers using the amenity going forward.

12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many derelict and unoccupied Council owned houses in Limerick City West currently and the target number to be refurbished in 2024.

REPLY: There are 9 units in Limerick City West for major refurbishment. It is anticipated to have 7 units completed in 2024.

There are 27 units in Limerick City West for minor refurbishment. It is anticipated to have 22 units completed in 2024.

13. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what plans are there to increase the number of EV charging points and in what locations are proposed.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council is preparing an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy which is due for completion in Q1 2024. The guiding principle of this project is the creation of a strategic direction for Limerick City and County Council to facilitate the deployment of Electric Vehicle charge points across the City and County.

The strategy will focus on identifying the demand for charge points across all types of charging and will specifically identify public residential and destination based charging

needs up to 2025 and 2030. The power demand and charge point demand will be identified at Municipal District level. We will then work with the private sector and other organisations to support the demand based requirements and to identify suitable locations within each MD area for chargers.

In tandem with the development of the EV Charging Strategy, Limerick City and County Council are progressing a pilot EV charging project. This project will focus on delivering public residential and destination charging solutions at a number of locations around the city and county. This initiative is one of the first of its kind in Ireland and will serve as a valuable learning experience, not only for Limerick but also for other local authorities across the country.

The pilot sites are located at:

1. Mungret Park,
2. Castletroy Park,
3. County Hall Dooradoyle (public area),
4. Dooradoyle Park,
5. Merchant's Quay (Newgate Lane),
6. O'Callaghan Strand,
7. Hyde Road, Colbert Park (22kw EV CarClub),
8. Bruff,
9. Kilmallock,
10. Newcastlewest
11. Dromcollogher,
12. Doon,
13. Caherconlish,
14. Patrickswell

In addition to the work taking place locally by Limerick City and County Council, the Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEV) office are developing a National En-Route EV Charging Network Plan and its implementation will have a number of schemes to deliver charge points.

Through the development and implementation of these local and national projects, together with the work being undertaken by the private sector, there will be a projected increase in EV charging infrastructure in the Limerick City & County area.

14. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what progress is being made with the planned refurbishment of the former Sailors Home on O'Curry St in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

REPLY: The Council's Architectural Conservation Officer has maintained contact with the owners of the building.

Following a recent meeting with key personnel, the following has been confirmed:

- A recognised Conservation Engineering Consultancy has been appointed following completion of the requisite procurement process.

- A recognised Conservation Architect Practice has been appointed following completion of the requisite procurement process.
- The site has been made safe through selective dismantlement of friable and fragile fabric by a firm of contractors following completion of the requisite procurement process.
- In parallel with the above there is ongoing dialogue between the owners and their insurance company;
- The Board and Management of the Shannon-Foynes Port Company are totally committed to seeing the Sailors Home comprehensively restored to its condition immediately prior to the fire and suitably repurposed.

15. Question submitted by Councillor J. Pond

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, as a number of Part 8 planning proposals are scheduled to be presented to forthcoming Metropolitan District Meetings, some of which are presented as proposed Community Dwellings, can I get clarification on who is eligible/entitled to be housed in these proposed Community Dwellings.

REPLY: ‘Time to Move On from Community Settings’ is a HSE strategy supporting the movement of people with disabilities from large institutions (congregated settings) to smaller and more independent settings within the community – i.e., Community Dwellings. Various Service Providers (e.g. Tusla, Approved Housing Bodies, HSE) would provide the supports that these persons would then require within their Community Dwelling. The HSE and Approved Housing Bodies, with the support of Limerick City and County Council, are both active in developing suitable housing (known as community dwellings) into which congregated settings residents can transition.

Any Community Dwelling projects delivered by or funded by Limerick City and County Council would be done so on the condition that the units are occupied by persons approved on the Social Housing Waiting List.

Housing circulars 45/2015 and more recently 32/2019 states that a maximum of four individuals with a disability and one support worker may be accommodated in an individual shared Community dwelling. In many instances, Limerick City and County Council works closely with Approved Housing Bodies for the delivery of Community Dwellings in the City and County to support the de-congestion of larger facilities such as the Brothers of Charity’s Bawnmore Facility or Avista’s St. Vincent’s Centre at Lisnagry.

16. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the Traffic Management Plan for the City Centre.

REPLY: The National Transport Authority (NTA) has now appointed a consultant team for the Limerick City Centre Transport Plan and it is intended to commence preparation of the plan in January.

17. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the proposed safety interventions proposed at Patrickswell National School and the anticipated timelines for a) the completion of the Section 38 process and b) construction.

REPLY: The NTA confirmed that they are agreeable with progressing with safety interventions at Patrickswell National School as a project. Active Travel has confirmed the preliminary design with the NTA and this is currently undergoing a Road Safety Audit (RSA).

A Section 38 process will follow once RSA has been finalised and is anticipated for February 2024. Construction is then expected to commence during the summer of 2024 however, works are subject to funding being confirmed by NTA.

18. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the Park Canal Bridge project and when Active Travel will come forward with proposals for pedestrian linkage from Lower Park to Rhebogue.

REPLY: Active Travel is working in conjunction with Travel and Transport Strategy to deliver better access to active travel measures on Lower Park to Rhebogue.

At present Active Travel is working on options and will be engaging with the NTA in the coming weeks in relation to funding and will follow this up with updates to Councillors.

19. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an outline of what funding streams are available to install additional public lighting in laneways and how to obtain such funding.

REPLY: The current Public Lighting budgets allow for the maintenance and associated energy costs of the existing stock of in excess of 23,000 public lights. The installation of new lights is generally project specific and they are funded through the capital project. As part of the future public realm upgrades of the city centre, some additional laneway lighting may be considered as part of specific projects there.

20. Question submitted by Councillor F. Daly

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, in relation to the Mill Road Scheme:

- a) Is the contractor going to take 18 months to complete works;***
- b) Is traffic management going to be in place for the full 18 months;***
- c) Can you guarantee the works in relation to Safe Routes to Schools at Scoil Íde on Mill Road side will be complete in school Summer holidays;***
- d) Safe Routes to School at Scoil Íde on Corbally Road side will be complete in school Summer holidays;***
- e) Can Active Travel install Nitrogen Dioxide NO₂ sampling tubes around Scoil Íde;***
- f) To date has the contractor incurred any delays.***

REPLY: a) Is the contractor going to take 18 months to complete works;

The programme for construction is 18 months in duration. There are significant works planned including, but not limited to, construction of a 3.5m wide path along the 1.4km length of Mill Road, road widening, junction tightening, raised junctions, drainage, kerbing, line marking, accommodation works, tree planting, masonry work and public lighting.

The Active Travel Project team will work closely with the appointed contractor to endeavour to reduce the overall contract duration of 18mths.

b) Is traffic management going to be in place for the full 18 months;

Traffic management will be in place to preserve traffic capacity, safety and reliability of the road users on Mill Road.

The Traffic Management System will only be in place when necessary to protect the road users.

c) Can you guarantee the works in relation to Safe Routes to Schools at Scoil Íde on Mill Road side will be complete in school Summer holidays;

The Safe Routes to School at Scoil Íde will be carried out in such a manner to minimise disruption to the schools during School Summer months.

The Project Team will liaise with the School Principals throughout the construction period.

d) Safe Routes to School at Scoil Íde on Corbally Road side will be complete in school Summer holidays;

The Corbally Road Safe Routes to School Scheme is a separate Project to the Mill Road Active Travel Scheme. Part 8 planning permission has been granted for the Corbally Road Safe Routes to School Scheme.

When the Corbally Road Safe Routes to School Scheme goes to site, works will be carried out in such a manner to minimise disruption to the schools during School Summer months.

e) Can Active Travel install Nitrogen Dioxide NO2 sampling tubes around Scoil Íde;

Active Travel will install Nitrogen Dioxide NO2 sampling tubes around Scoil Íde.

f) To date has the contractor incurred any delays.

The Contractor has not incurred significant delays to date.

21. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if the Active Travel Department could consider removing the current cycle lane separators from the Roxboro Roundabout to the Kilmallock Roundabout, and replace them instead with the separators that are currently on the road from Roxboro to Ballinacurra as the current cycle lane separators are bigger, more unsightly and more liable to cause damage to vehicles.

REPLY: The Active Travel Team will review the segregation utilised between Roxboro Roundabout and Kilmallock Roundabout as part of the 2024 works programme. We will keep the Elected Members informed once the National Transport Authority (NTA) 2024 funding allocation has been announced.

NOTICES OF MOTION

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council establish a cross department working group to assist and advise the owners of Georgian buildings with their redevelopment for residential use.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Leddin, seconded by Councillor Kilcoyne and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Leddin referred to the significant works being carried out in the city with a large number of buildings being upgraded in the Georgian Quarter. He highlighted the benefits of having an internal working group who could provide information and assistance to residents living in this area, who want to redevelop their properties for residential use.

REPLY: Since the advent of the Living City Initiative Tax Break the Council has operated a One stop Shop facility comprised of a core team of an Executive Planner, the Architectural Conservation Officer, a Senior Fire Officer, the Energy Officer, augmented by roads staff and architects as considered necessary. The team provides information on planning issues, exempted development facilities available under amendments to legislation and reforms of regulations, the workings of the Tax Break as well as the availability of grant aid under a variety of measures.

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 engage with Irish Rail to ensure that appropriate and suitable infrastructure is installed adjacent to the railway lines currently being upgraded in Dooradoyle and Rosbrien to ensure the security and privacy of residents affected.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Leddin stated that residents had raised concerns in relation to the ongoing works on the railway line close to their homes and the importance of regular communication and updates by Irish Rail.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will engage with Irish Rail advising them of the security and privacy concerns raised in Dooradoyle and Rosbrien and to seek clarity regarding their proposals in this regard along the proposed railway line upgrade at residential locations.

Members supported the Motion and asked that a Briefing be organised with Iarnród Éireann to discuss the issues involved relating to these railway line works.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council acknowledges and supports the Athlunkard Street 200 year anniversary celebrations.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheehan (C) stated that the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Athlunkard Street would be marked in April with a series of events being planned. He stated that the lighting on O'Dwyer Bridge needed upgrading and highlighted the importance of restoring this historical Bridge.

REPLY: The Festival & Events Officer is available to meet with the local organisers to discuss how the Council can support their plans for the Athlunkard Street 200 year anniversary celebrations.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council allocates appropriate funding for a dog park in Limerick City North.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheehan (C) referred to the success of the dog park in Mungret and the benefits of locating a dog park in the Limerick City North area. He stated that O'Brien Park, Clare Street would be a suitable location due to its close proximity to the Canal.

REPLY: The Council have identified a possible location for a dog park in Limerick City North in O'Brien Park. There is currently no funding source identified for the project. The Council will continue in its endeavours to source funding for the project.

26. 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 Irish Rail, asking them to clarify what security and protection measures do they plan to provide at the rear of the houses in Roundwood Estate, following the removal of trees, shrubbery, and foliage by Irish Rail along the railway line.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Talukder referred to the works being carried out on the railway line, and highlighted the need for Irish Rail to continuously communicate with residents as works progress in their location.

27. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated:
