

## COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference Salmon Watch Ireland

Name of Conference Salmon conservation emergency

Location of Conference Castleoaks Hotel Castleconnell

Date of Conference 12/11/23

Summary of Conference Content

Salmon Watch Ireland held its 2023 conference on the 12th November in The  
Castle Oaks Castleconnell.

Delegates learned how the Shannon catchment has over the past century been  
impounded by the Ardnacrusha Dam and Parteen weir which have all but  
eradicated the unique salmon population which once inhabited this great river.

Some progress is being made with the Shannon Connectivity Project, which  
when implemented will increase mitigation for barriers and increase water  
flow when required for fish passage.

The work of the local fisheries development group, Castleconnell River  
Association was highlighted and their success over the years in regard to  
habitat regeneration.

Signature: Seán Hartigan

Print Name: Seán Hartigan

THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND  
SUBSISTENCE



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**  
**Limerick City**  
& County Council

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha,  
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,  
Ceanncheathrú Chorporáideach,  
Cé na gCeannaithe,  
Luimneach

Corporate Services,  
Limerick City and County Council,  
Corporate Headquarters,  
Merchants Quay,  
Limerick

**16<sup>th</sup> April, 2024**

**EIRCODE** V94 EH90

**To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council** t: +353 (0) 61 557150  
f: +353 (0) 61 415 266

### Context:

An invitation was received by Mayor Gerald Mitchell to attend the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, Georgia on the 16th March 2024. Councillor Sarah Kiely led the delegation on behalf of Mayor Mitchell. It would be the 200th parade in Savannah and it has grown to be one of the largest St. Patrick's Parades in the world, attracting crowds of in excess of half million people.

### Introduction:

At the January 2024 Council meeting, approval was given for a delegation to represent the Council in Savannah, Georgia from Thursday 14th to Monday 18th March 2024 to include participation at the St Patrick's Day Parade on the 16th of March.

The visit represented a great opportunity to continue the economic, social and cultural links between Savannah and Limerick. Savannah has a very rich Irish Heritage and ancestry dating back to the mid-18th Century once colonisation commenced there. Around the 1840's the influx increased dramatically as a large employment boom in Savannah attracted the Irish before and after the Potato Famine. Accordingly, recent census information states that 1 in 4 Savannahians claim to have Irish origin.

Savannah has many similarities with Limerick as it has similar population size and is built on an Estuary linking the Savannah River to the Atlantic Ocean. They have regular flooding events annually similar to those experienced in both the city and various locations in the county in Limerick.

With this in mind, several meetings were arranged with key players in Savannah to build on existing linkages and forge new contacts for our mutual benefit in the future.

These meetings are summarised as follows:

### Meeting with Mayor Van Johnson City Hall

The delegation visited City Hall to meet Mayor Van Johnson. The delegation was delighted to share learnings in relation to commonalities between Limerick and the City of Savannah. Mayor Van Johnson shared his experience and outlined the city's focus on poverty and economic inequality, as well as improving public safety and infrastructure. The delegation congratulated Mayor Van Johnson on his success in the recent election and extended an

invitation to Mayor Van Johnson and the Savannah Economic Development Authority to visit Limerick.

### World Trade Centre Savannah

The delegation travelled to the World Trade Centre Savannah to meet with Manny Dominguez, Senior Director of Economic Development and MarRonde Lumpkin-Lotson, Business Opportunity Manager from the City of Savannah to discuss regeneration activities. Joe Delaney, Director of Service LCCC gave a presentation on Limerick City and County Council's approach to Regeneration and outlined some of the challenges and opportunities. Representatives from City of Savannah gave a presentation on regeneration efforts in Savannah. The delegation held a roundtable discussion on the similarities between both regions – successful economic development and near full employment has brought its own challenges in the areas of housing and affordable childcare.

### Jasper Parade

The Council delegation took part in the ceremonial parade from Johnson Square to Madison Square where ceremonial remarks were made by the hosts. This parade is a formal ceremony honouring Sgt. William Jasper Green and all military personnel with or without Irish decent. The ceremony was also addressed by Minister Peter Burke, TD.

### Mass of St. Patrick

The delegation attended mass celebrated by the Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah, Bishop Stephen Parkes, in the Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist.

### St. Patrick's Day Parade

The delegation marched in the three hour parade from Forsyth Park on Abercorn Street through the Historic District, the riverfront and finishing at the junction of Bull Street and Harris St. Over 280 entries participated in the parade in front of approx. 500,000 people under the warm Savannah sun.

### Visit to Enmarket Arena

The World Trade Centre Savannah invited the delegation to attend the newly built Enmarket Arena for a sporting event and a tour of the newly built stadium. The arena is a multi-purpose complex built between 2019 and finished in February 2022 by the City of Savannah to replace the Savannah Civic Centre. The arena has capacity for 9,500 seats which can be expanded depending on the event and requirements. It has become a destination venue for concerts and events attracting visitors to the region. The local authority worked with private entities to ensure the venue continues to be financially viable and it is an example of successful economic development in the region.

*Sarah Kiely*

**Councillor Sarah Kiely,  
Delegation Lead on behalf of the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.**



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**ATTENDANCE AT ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION IN NEW YORK**

A Chomhairleoir, A Chara

As Members will be aware, a delegation from the Council travelled to New York for the Annual St Patrick's Day celebrations where the Grand Marshal this year was Margaret C. "Maggie" Timoney, President & Chief Executive Officer of Heineken USA.

The delegation was comprised of Deputy Mayor Dan McSweeney, Councillors Joe Leddin, Brigid Teefy, Fergus Kilcoyne and James Collins along with Mr. Vincent Murray, Director of Service and Mr. Donn O'Sullivan, Head of Marketing and Communications.

The group travelled from Shannon Airport on 14<sup>th</sup> March and returned on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

Members of the delegation took part in several events while in New York as well as taking part and representing Limerick in the 2024 St Patrick's Day Parade on March 16.

**Thursday March 14**

DFA Networking Event in New York City

**Friday March 15**

US Council Meeting at Metropolitan Club

DFA Meeting

Tourism Ireland Meeting

IDA Meeting

Delegate visit and tour of UN Buildings

**Saturday March 16**

Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral

St Patrick's Day Parade

Limerick Trade and Investment dinner NYC

Is mise le meas,

*Dan McSweeney*

**COUNCILLOR DAN MCSWEENEY**

**DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF LIMERICK**