

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON MONDAY, 20TH MAY, 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, Secas, Sheahan (M), Sheahan (C) and Slattery.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Service, National and Regional Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Leahy), Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation (Mr. J. Delaney), Executive Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy (Ms. C. Power), Administrative Officer, Property Management (Ms. T. Knox), A/Senior Executive Officers, Regeneration (Ms. F. McCormack and Mr. D. White), Senior Executive Engineer, Regeneration (Mr. E. Brennan), Senior Engineer, Road, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. Gannon), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. M. Richardson), Senior Executive Officer, Housing (Ms. S. Newell), LCDC Chief Officer, Community Development (Mr. S. O'Connor), Senior Engineer, Environment and Climate Action (Mr. A. Finn), Senior Executive Engineers, Environment and Climate Action (Ms. C. Lynch and Ms. A. Mellett), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

IN ATTENDANCE FROM THE LAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Mr. P. O'Neill, Head of Property; Ms. D. Lawson, Head of Strategic Planning; Padraig Noone, Programme Manager; Sinead O'Donoghue, Senior Planner.

At the outset of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach thanked the Members and Officials for their hard work and contributions over the previous 12 months. He wished all the Members the best of luck in the upcoming Elections.

The Members also condemned the recent racist attack on the canvassing team working for candidate Suzie O'Deniyi. They agreed that such behaviour was unacceptable for anyone to have to endure and that the incident should be followed up by An Garda Siochána.

The Cathaoirleach and Members extended their best wishes to Councillor James Collins who was retiring and to Councillor Michael Sheahan who was leaving the Metropolitan District.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 15th April, 2024:

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;
Seconded by Councillor Kilcoyne;

And Resolved:

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

Members noted that the Limerick City Centre Transport Plan was not listed as an item on the Agenda for the Meeting. The Executive Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy gave an update to Members on the Limerick City Centre Transport Plan.

Members thanked the Executive Engineer for the presentation and highlighted the importance of engaging in public consultation with all stakeholders, and that consultation needed to take account of the feedback from the public and that any proposed changes be communicated to the public.

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.

2(a). Disposal of Land

(a) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 2nd May, 2024, setting out proposals for Disposal of Property at 10 Hartstonge Street, 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 dated 8th May, 2024, setting out proposals for Disposal of Property at 34 Smith O'Brien 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 Head of Property Management dated 19th April, 2024, setting out proposals for Disposal of Freehold Interest of premises at 16 Mayorstone Crescent, Mayorstone, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

3. Regeneration, Sports and Recreation Directorate

(a) Part 8 Procedure – Moyross Avenue Upgrade

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation Directorate dated 7th May, 2024 and enclosed Chief Executive’s Report dated 29th April, 2024 setting out details in relation to the Moyross Avenue Upgrade. 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 8 of the report.

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Daly and seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan:

"That the bus stop on the western lane, opposite the church, be retained".

Proposed by: Councillor Daly;

Seconded by: Councillor O'Sullivan;

And Resolved.

"That the Part 8 in relation to the Moyross Avenue Upgrade, and subject to the agreed amendment, be approved in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended)".

(b) Part 8 Procedure – Thomond RFC Extension

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Regeneration, Sports and Recreation Directorate dated 7th May, 2024 and enclosed Chief Executive's Report dated 29th April, 2024 setting out details in relation to the Thomond RFC Extension. 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 8 of the report.

Members complimented staff and the stakeholders involved in this project, which they agreed would be very beneficial for young people in the community.

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

4. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads

(a) Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Transport and Mobility Directorate dated 9th May, 2024 seeking approval to the taking in charge of the Laneway and Access Roads to the rear of Nos. 4 – 8 Parnell Street, Priors Land, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Daly;

Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;

And Resolved:

"That the Laneway and Access Roads to the rear of Nos. 4 – 8 Parnell Street, Priors Land, Limerick be taken in charge in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993".

(b) Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Transport and Mobility Directorate dated 10th May, 2024 seeking approval to the taking in charge of Access Road to The Cloisters, North Circular Road, Kilrush, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Daly;

Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;

And Resolved:

"That the Access Road to The Cloisters, North Circular Road, Kilrush, Limerick be taken in charge in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993".

Members thanked staff for their work in progressing the taking in charge of these roads.

5. Update from Land Development Agency

The Head of Property, Land Development Agency gave a Presentation to Members, which included an update on the following projects:

- Project Tosaigh, Castletroy-81 homes projected;
- Mungret Housing Scheme-183 homes projected;
- ERVIA, Dock Road-240 homes projected;
- Lower Carey's Road--255 homes projected;
- St. Joseph's Hospital Land-600 homes projected.

An overview was also given in relation to projected timelines for the completion of phases for various projects in the Limerick Metropolitan District Area and also the likely constraints in relation to certain sites.

Members thanked the Officials for the presentation and made the following points:

- Delivery of houses was too slow in the current housing crisis. Members were seeing people living in housing conditions that were unacceptable, and the timeline that the Members wanted, was when keys could be put in the doors of a property, by those badly in need of housing;
- The development cycle, including the planning process, was taking much too long and should be shortened;
- Extensive engagement with local residents in relation to the St. Joseph's site was crucial.
- A full team of staff, based in Limerick, was urgently needed so as to progress developments in Limerick;
- Lack of transparency and accountability from the Land Development Agency and poor communication in relation to projects delivery;
- Community facilities and infrastructure must be provided at the same time as housing;
- Local Contractors and construction workers should be prioritised to work on these projects where possible;
- Homes being provided should be affordable and be a pathway for people towards home ownership.

The Leas-Cathaoirleach took the Chair as the Cathaoirleach had to leave the Meeting.

Suspension of Standing Orders

On the proposal of Councillor Kiely, seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon, Standing Order 4 was suspended in order to complete the agenda.

QUESTIONS

6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many ground floor units are currently unoccupied within the core city centre and what level of engagement is taking place with these property owners to repurpose these units.

REPLY: The 2024 City Centre Health Check Survey (February-March 2024), indicates the total vacant ground floor commercial space in the core retail area to be 16,585sq m (101 units). This represents 18% of the total eligible ground floor space (i.e. all uses excluding residential and religious).

There is regular and proactive engagement with the owners, or their agents, of vacant properties through the Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism Directorate to explore investment leads and business development opportunities. The Council also has a 'Vacant to Vibrant Retail Economic Incentive Scheme' available towards fit out and costs of business and retail within the city centre which comprises of grants up to €6,000 to encourage activation of vacant units.

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to consider the sourcing of a mobile swimming pool similar to the one used by Dublin City Council so as to provide an additional recreational amenity for people across the city.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will engage with Dublin City Council in relation to information on this amenity so that appropriate consideration can then be given to this matter.

8. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can you advise if areas such as Oakwood, Old Singland Road and Hilltop, St Patricks Road that have limited parking spaces but a lot of green area, can the green area be cut into to make up car parking spaces.

REPLY: Any proposals to reduce green areas to make provision for parking would need to go through a planning and consultation process.

Green areas and open space are typically considered amenities and a certain amount of green areas may be required to comply with planning conditions.

Where there is a perceived issue, the matter should be brought to the attention of the District Engineer to assess the extent of the problem and look at alternatives to resolve the issues without loss of green areas or amenity areas.

9. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, with the Factory Youthspace

Galvone due to close in December 2024, have the Council made other arrangements to provide youth/sport facilities in the area.

REPLY: The Council has submitted a business case to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the development of a new facility on the Kilmallock Road in conjunction with Limerick & Clare Education & Training Board and Limerick GAA. No decision has been made on this submission however the Council will continue to engage with the Department in this regard.

10. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the list of organisations who have received regeneration funding over the last 5 years from the Social and Economic Intervention Fund, and the amount they have each received.

REPLY: Please find attached a list of the one hundred and thirty-nine organisations that received Economic and Social Intervention Funding between 2019 and 2023. These are the allocated grant figures but they may differ from the amount the organisation has received to-date. This can be attributed to (1) lower activity levels arising out of Covid- 19 and/or (2) the detailed process of reviewing project documentation prior to final draw down.

Organisation-Approved Allocation Value	2023 €	2022 €	2021 €	2020 €	2019 €
Abbey Rovers AFC	5000	0	0	10000	0
AK ILEN	0	15000	20600	25000	25000
An Garda Siochana	0	0	0	4000	0
Ardscoil Mhuire, Corbally	0	0	0	0	2500
Athlunkard Boat Club	13000	6000	6000	5804	5804
Athlunkard Villa FC	8000	9800	0	0	0
Ballinacurra Gaels GAA Club	5000	5000	0	0	0
Ballyhoura Rural Services CLG	5000	0	0	0	0
Ballynancy Community Project C.L.G	0	0	0	6000	6675
Ballynancy Rovers AFC	0	8000	9826	10000	13000
Barnardos - Home Maker Project	36600	36600	36600	42082	37582
Bedford Row Family Project- Family & Traveller Support	247500	247500	246500	231500	251500
BlueBox (Creative Learning Centre)	15000	0	19200	19200	19200
Caherdavin & District Men's Shed	0	0	5000	0	0
Caherdavin Celtic FC	0	4000	0	0	0
Caledonians Football Club	3028	2850	2400	2400	3941
Carew Park FC	5000	4000	0	0	3000
CASP CSMT	0	0	0	5000	5000
CENA	0	0	2150	2044	0
Children's Grief Centre- Support Worker	17000	17000	17000	17000	17000
City of Limerick Pipe Band	0	0	0	2500	2500
Colaiste Mhuire Gan Smal (Mary)	40000	0	0	0	0

Immaculate College) research					
Coolmine TC	19500	0	0	0	0
Community Law and Mediation-Community Advice	60000	60000	60000	60000	60000
Corpus Christi Primary School- Skys is The Limit & Education Support Programme	80000	90000	135000	135000	150000
Crescent College Comprehensive School- Student Support Worker	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Eilish McCarthy School of Dance	1800	1800	1500	1500	1500
Extern - Janus & Time out Support	186000	186282	187494	188994	180000
FAI - LCETB Development Course	30000	30000	30000	30000	30000
FAI - Soccer Programmes	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Focus Events (GLR) Children's Run for Fun	0	0	0	0	7500
Fresh Film Festival	0	0	0	0	4640
Garrai Eoin Comhaltas Ceoltori Eireann	5000	5000	5000	6250	6956
Garryowen CDP- Community Centre Supports	67300	52300	52300	51688	51688
Geraldines AFC	8000	5000	2500	5000	0
GOSHH Ireland	0	0	0	0	3000
Hill Celtic F.C	10000	10000	8546	8546	8546
Hunt Museum - Culture on the Edge	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Hyde Rangers FC -Clubhouse	9000	0	4235	9000	0
Innovate Limerick	0	0	0	50000	100000
Irish Chamber Orchestra - Sing Out with Strings	20000	24000	24000	24000	24000
Irish Traveller Movement / CENA	0	0	0	0	2044
Janesboro Football Club	22000	0	0	0	0
JumpAGrade	0	0	10000	15000	0
King's Island Youth & Community Centre	0	0	0	0	10000
LC&CC Watch House Cross Community Library	8000	0	0	0	10000
LCETB - 34 St Nicholas Street	0	0	0	0	28100
LCETB - Hospitality Education and Training Centre	194000	193560	200000	200000	200000
LCETB - Learning Limerick	45000	45000	45000	45000	45000
LCETB - Limerick City Youthreach Counselling Initiative	0	28000	28000	28000	28000
LCETB - Limerick School of Music	6560	3561	3179	0	0
LCETB - Local Creative Youth Partnership	8500	8000	8500	0	0
LCETB - Music Generation	49000	49000	50324	50324	67099
LCETB - Thomond Community College	41000	13000	5000	9000	4000
Le Chéile Mentoring CLG - Restorative Justice	30000	30000	30000	30000	30000
Le Chéile N.S (Southill Junior School 2015)	37000	5000	5000	5000	5000

Le Chéile N.S H.S.C.L	0	0	4000	3200	4000
Limerick Autism Group	0	0	0	10000	0
Limerick Celtics Basketball	2500	2500	2500	2500	5000
Limerick City & County Council (Arts Office)	0	0	9500	25000	30000
Limerick City & County Council Social-Coordination (Regeneration Office)	0	0	125000	0	0
Limerick City & County Council Southside Boxing Club	113527	316834	0	0	0
Limerick City & County Council MUGA St. Marys Park	130105	0	0	0	0
Limerick City Build Ltd	80000	80000	100000	80000	80000
Limerick City CDP	69700	109220	107320	108176	115176
Limerick Civic Trust	50000	35000	35000	35000	35000
Limerick Community Based Education Initiative T/A Engage in Education	15000	15000	15000	15000	15000
Limerick District League	5000	0	0	0	0
Limerick GAA	0	0	25000	9999	0
Limerick Island Community Partners (Formerly St Mary's Aid)	211683	186383	195680	201180	217080
Limerick Mental Health Association	0	0	0	0	5000
Limerick Opera Festival	0	13750	0	0	0
Limerick Powerlifting Club	0	0	9538	0	0
Limerick Social Services Council	6000	0	6635	0	0
Limerick Sports Partnership	47310	44190	32810	28410	25910
Limerick Theatre & Performance Hub T/A The GAFF	9750	35000	35000	3810	3000
Limerick Women's Network	0	3800	0	5940	6080
Limerick Youth Service	205000	191000	169259	153000	100000
Limerick Youth Theatre	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
Mid-West Simon Community	0	0	30000	5000	5000
Moyross Adult Education Group	0	9919	0	6500	6500
Moyross-Community Enterprise Centre Ltd	158747	176347	153747	116210	152796
Céim ar Chéim, Moyross Probation Project	0	44000	44000	44000	44000
Moyross-Development Company	152000	108000	93000	73000	63000
Moyross Resident's Alliance - Project Believe	8000	8000	4000	4000	0
Moyross Resident's Forum CLG	58535	58536	58354	58536	58536
Moyross United F.C	10000	10000	8000	5000	3000
Na Piarsaigh GAA CLG	0	9360	9360	9550	0
Narrative 4 C.L.G	0	9950	9950	9950	9950
Northside Family Resource Centre-Supports & Counselling	55000	0	19000	14000	18000
Northside FRC - King's Island Community Creche	0	0	45223	10000	0

Northside Learning Hub Limerick	45000	45000	50000	50000	50000
Northside Legacy AFC	8500	7000	10000	0	0
NorthStar Family Support Project	20000	0	15000	15000	15000
Novas - Vulnerable Household Service	99000	98996	98996	102146	102146
Our Lady of Lourdes CSG -Community Activities & Family Support	187388	182000	142507	137917	159902
Our Lady of Lourdes Local Education Committee	0	0	0	0	2000
Our Lady of Lourdes Men's Shed	0	0	0	2500	0
Our Lady of Lourdes School – Clubs	35500	17100	0	5100	5000
Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School - Therapeutic Supports	30000	50000	0	0	0
PALLS Ltd.	10000	0	0	0	0
Paul Partnership	2580	2580	5000	70000	83000
Pike Rovers Football Club	10000	9000	5000	0	0
Presentation RFC	0	0	5000	0	0
Prospect Priory FC	4000	0	10000	0	9930
Reclaim Limerick CLG –Personal- Development Programmes	0	0	0	114000	114000
Redemptorist Centre of Music	14000	0	33530	0	0
Saoirse Addiction Treatment Centre CLG	50000	50000	50000	50000	50000
Shannon RFC	0	0	0	8000	0
Shannon RFC (Underage)	0	0	0	2000	2000
Shannon Rowing Club	0	0	9275	0	0
Sophia Housing - support	138000	138000	138336	138336	138336
Southend United FC	6000	6000	9000	8500	1000
Southill Afterschool Club	40000	9000	23634	12150	22150
Southill Area Centre (Southill Hub)	90000	317089	21419	5000	7800
Southill Family Resource Centre	25661	25661	25661	30000	30000
OL Queen of Peace Southill School Completion Programme	0	0	9000	0	8000
Southside Boxing Academy/Club	0	0	0	29000	0
St John's Brass & Reed Band	9999	0	3000	0	0
St. Francis Boxing Club	30000	1000	5000	5000	0
St. John The Baptist NS	6000	0	0	0	0
St. Mary's Community Adult Education Group Ltd	9000	9000	9000	0	0
St. Mary's National School	91120	43432	11707	10000	0
St. Mary's RFC	14000	0	4250	4000	0
St. Michael's Infant School	8500	4250	9500	2500	8573
St. Munchin's Boxing Club	0	7000	9000	0	2313
St. Munchin's Community Centre LTD (St Leila's)	104000	97000	97000	102000	119100
St. Patrick's GAA Club	10000	25000	17500	20000	30000

St. Patrick's Men's Shed	0	0	5000	0	0
Star Rovers FC	750	6000	2350	4820	12800
STEPS School Completion Programme	6000	0	0	6664	0
Tait House	70500	68000	104000	0	137000
Thomond Football Club	5000	0	0	0	0
Thomond Gate Whiskey	0	0	0	0	10000
Thomond Primary School	9000	9000	10000	10000	10000
Limerick-City & County Council Project @Thomond RFC	0	0	357595	0	13620
Treaty Gaels Camogie Club	2045	2600	2600	2646	3550
UL Engage, University of Limerick - CWELL Programme	25575	0	0	0	0
Young Munster RFC Youth Section	2000	0	0	0	0

11. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a pedestrian crossing to be placed on the Rosbrien Road from Roundwood Estate to Ballinacurra Gardens for the people crossing from Young Munster RFC to the Catholic Institute/Ballinacurra Gaels etc.

REPLY: Active Travel has no budget allocation for a pedestrian crossing at Rosbrien Road from Roundwood Estate to Ballinacurra Gardens for the people crossing from Young Munster RFC to the Catholic Institute/Ballinacurra Gaels.

Active Travel will examine the feasibility of creating this crossing as part of a more comprehensive scheme for Rosbrien Road.

12. Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the Council's plans for the old shop on the Mill Road including a timeline for delivery and breakdown of unit.

REPLY: It is proposed to submit a planning application by the end of May 2024. Drawings have now been completed and we await the results of the EIA and AA Screening reports. On completion of the planning process, tender drawings will be prepared and a stage 3 application made to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. It is hoped that works will commence on site in early 2025. A total of 7 units are proposed, 1 no. 1 Bed and 1 no. 2 Bed houses, 4 no. 1 Bed and 1 no. 2 Bed apartments.

13. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on noise mitigation measures that have been implemented or due to be implemented for residents of Glencairn, Dooradoyle from the M20.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council are working in collaboration with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) on proposed measures that, while not primarily aimed at reducing noise in the

Glencairin area, are expected to improve the noise environment for communities living near the M20 motorway. The measures are:

- (1) TII and the Council to undertake a pavement overlay on the M20 motorway with a new surface similar to that installed along the M7 between Junctions 28 and 30 in 2023.
- (2) The Council and TII are considering a speed reduction along the M20 from 120kph to 100kph between Junctions 1 and 3 in response to safety and capacity issues. The executive of the Council is committed to the proposal but it is noted that the setting of speed limits is a Reserved Function.

14. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update from Transport & Mobility and Planning, Environment & Place-Making on what action is being taken to deal with concerns from residents of Avonmore Road, Dromore Rise, Graney Close, Sullane Crescent, and Norbiton Hill in relation to cars parking in the vicinity of their home whilst visiting or working in UHL.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council carries out regular patrols in this and adjacent areas. So far in 2024, 376 fixed penalty notices have been issued in these areas including the adjacent St. Nesson's Road.

An Garda Síochána may also enforce illegal parking and are currently running their Think Before You Park Campaign which focuses on illegal parking on footpaths which blocks the passageway for pedestrians and those with disabilities.

15. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update from the Rural, Community and Culture Development Department on what progress has been made in the provision of a Community Centre for the Dooradoyle/Raheen area following the completion of a feasibility study in early 2023.

REPLY: Limerick City & County Council – The main findings of the above feasibility were previously presented to the Elected Members at a metro briefing for Limerick City West.

The next stage is to consider location(s) and design for Dooradoyle/Raheen as a distinct community for the purposes of community centre for the area. Any potential area(s) for the location of and development of a Community Centre is dependent on site specific feasibility study being carried out and this is subject to site and resources being identified to do so.

16. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what engagement has occurred between the Emergency Services and Active Travel in relation to the provision of segregated cycle lanes within our City and Suburbs. In particular, what consideration has been given to the movement of motor traffic in the event of an emergency since the changing of the kerb height from 60mm to 100mm alongside the road edge on some schemes.

REPLY: A number of recent Part 8 planning applications from Active Travel have been referred to An Garda Síochána, including the Fr. Russell Road Active Travel Scheme and the St Paul's - Ballykeefe Active Travel Scheme.

As part of Active Travel's internal consultation processes in respect of the statutory planning process, the Fire Service is consulted at pre planning stage and when necessary, as the application is lodged, and asked for observations on same.

Each scheme developed and designed by the Active Travel Department is designed to the standards set out in Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) and the Cycle Design Manual (CDM). The Cycle Design Manual specifically states that consideration should be given to emergency vehicles on constrained routes where there is a high likelihood of such vehicles passing.

In relation to kerbing, the CDM allows for a minimum step down of 60mm. The Active Travel standard details, which were discussed with elected members and the Operations Department, utilise a step down of 100mm. This is because the greater depth limits the potential trip hazard of a 60mm kerb and reduces the likelihood of public liability claims. This was the option preferred by the Operations Department. The depth of the stepped down cycle track also limits the risk of parking occurring on the cycle track. The cycle track kerb also has a chamfered edge to allow for bounce back in the event of a mistake by a cyclist that may otherwise result in the cyclist going over the edge of the kerb into live traffic.

A number of Active Travel schemes contain various dropped kerb locations, which facilitate cars pulling in, in the event of an emergency vehicle needing priority. Emergency vehicles will also be able to straddle the cycle kerb if required due to their greater wheel base height.

17. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if the report for the extension of the Castleconnell Playground has been completed and is available on request.

REPLY: The only report that is available in relation to the Castleconnell Playground is the quarterly inspection report for the existing playground, which details play items that require repair. In order to provide an uplift to the existing playground, the Council decided on a number of actions as an interim measure until the playground is fully upgraded and extended. A contractor has been appointed to replace the basket swing which is expected to arrive in 4-6 weeks' time costing €8,320.99 plus VAT. It was considered that this was the priority item, the cost of replacing the swing and carousel is €19,530 plus VAT but there is no funding in place for these items. The playground equipment and surfacing have been power washed and we are arranging for the existing equipment to be painted in the coming weeks. In relation to the extension of the playground, the Council are awaiting tenders from Consultants to upgrade and extend the existing playground.

18. Question submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on plans for a Park and Ride facility at Coonagh/Clondrinagh.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with the National Transport Authority is currently reviewing suitable sites for a Park and Ride Facility out at Coonagh/Clondrinagh.

Consideration is being given to establishing a temporary Park and Ride Facility to serve commuters in the short term. This option is in the early stages of development and further updates will be provided in due course.

19. Question submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the measurements of the table top and slope of the traffic calming measures on Brookville Avenue, and please detail if this meets guideline height and slope on routes used regularly by buses and trucks, as excessive heights are causing noise disturbance at night time.

REPLY: The concerns are noted. It is accepted (in particular now that Bus Connects has been finalised) that some alterations may be required to any traffic calming measures that do not meet guidelines for Bus Routes. It is also accepted that the installations in question having been reviewed by the district engineers and having regard to the updated Traffic Calming Policy (currently in draft for approval) are likely to require rectifications to meet compliance for Bus Connects routes.

20. Question submitted by Councillor O. O'Sullivan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the Shopfront Design Guidelines for Limerick City.

REPLY: The Forward Planning, Public Realm and Heritage Section have commenced the preparation of the Shop Front Design Guidelines and it is expected that the guidelines will be finalised in Q3 2024.

21. 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 crypt and church in Mt. St. Laurence old cemetery as a commitment was given previously on this.

REPLY: The temporary external security fencing and remedial works to the exterior crypt access have been rectified and reinstated so as to mitigate any potential access to the underground crypt, until permanent restoration work is carried out to the Mortuary Chapel.

A scope of work to inform the appointment of an accredited Conservation Architect and appropriate experienced contractor is in hand and procurement of this Consultant is underway. Once appointed, a method statement will be prepared for the proposed restoration works to the protected structure, which will be included in a funding application through the historic structures fund and thereafter procure a contractor to carry out the appropriate works to the Mortuary Chapel.

22. 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 a new location for the bring centre in Castleconnell as the current one is insufficient and not in a suitable location.

REPLY: The Environment Section of Limerick City and County Council is currently engaged in the search for alternative locations for Bring Banks in Castleconnell. We are actively collaborating with our property team and local businesses to identify a site that fulfils all the required criteria. This includes factors such as appropriate access, parking facilities, and compliance with health and safety regulations.

We are open to considering alternative locations proposed by the community or community groups. In fact, we welcome such proposals and are willing to work collaboratively with them to secure a new location that meets the necessary requirements. By fostering a cooperative approach, we aim to find the most suitable site for the Bring Banks in Castleconnell, benefiting both the community and the environment.

NOTICES OF MOTION

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. Butler

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council convert the Walled Garden in Mungret into a sensory garden for the people of Limerick.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Butler, seconded by Councillor McSweeney and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Butler stated that the provision of a suitable space would have positive benefits for people's well-being and the community.

REPLY: The Walled Garden in Mungret that is referred to in the Notice of Motion, is in the ownership of Limerick City and County Council, and is currently zoned as residential. A decision in relation to its future use has not been made as of yet and is something that may have to be looked at in an overall masterplan for this location area.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council prepare tenders for the design, build and operate of a new multi-purpose community centre on Council owned land that currently accommodates Dooradoyle Men's Shed.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Leddin highlighted the population increase in the Dooradoyle / Raheen area with further housing developments proposed for Mungret, and the urgent need to provide a centre for the community.

REPLY: There is an identified need for a community centre in the Raheen/Dooradoyle area. The Council Executive will consider the proposal that the Council owned site which currently accommodates the Dooradoyle Men's Shed Group will be considered in the context of the best use of this site. In the past the Council has supported community groups/organisations to develop and manage community centres but a community/group organisation has yet to be identified to lead this project should a suitable site be identified.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council request an urgent meeting with the National Transport Authority to fast track the provision of a park and ride site in Raheen to alleviate the chronic traffic congestion and parking in private housing estates.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Leddin highlighted the issue of illegal parking in housing estates, which was causing difficulties for emergency vehicles and waste trucks, and the benefits that a park and ride site would provide.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with the National Transport Authority is actively working on progressing the Park and Ride Facility in Raheen. Discussions are ongoing with local landowners with a view to acquiring a suitable site. Once secured a Part 8 planning application will be progressed.

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

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council reinstate estate managers in regeneration areas and funded through the community as this arrangement previously applied before the commencement of the Regeneration Programme.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donovan stated that the Estate Managers had been doing vital work in regeneration areas and were a huge loss to the community.

REPLY: The Council has an existing Community Sustainment team which supports estate management and individual tenancy issues. Additional resources in this area and the funding of estate management in general is a matter for the annual budget process.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council clarify the situation regarding bring banks and put in place a plan for maintaining the bring banks and that the Council considers installing CCTV at these locations.

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 of having a cleaning maintenance schedule in place for bring banks.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council is currently in the process of preparing a tender for the operation and management of the 65 Bring Bank sites within its jurisdiction. Many of these sites have experienced recurring incidents of illegal dumping so as part of the tender process, we will be including a response service in this contract for the clean-up of waste materials at these locations.

The recent implementation of the Codes of Practices regarding the Prevention, Detection, and Prosecution of Waste and Litter Offences utilizing CCTV and Mobile Recording Devices (MRDs) is regarded as a valuable tool in addressing the issue of illegal dumping at Bring Bank sites. In order to warrant the installation of CCTV at these sites, it is required to conduct a Data Protection Impact Assessment that is backed up by substantial justification. This justification will take into account various factors, including the frequency of reported incidents at these locations. If deemed necessary and supported by evidence, the installation of CCTV will be considered for all Bring Bank sites across the county.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council writes to the LDA to ask them to put in place a team based in Limerick to deliver the housing projects earmarked for Limerick in a quicker fashion.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheehan (C) noted the earlier presentation at the Meeting from the Land Development Agency and re-iterated that a full time and fully staffed office and delivery team were required in Limerick, as there were only two people assigned at present.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council outline its proposals to address the issues relating to the proper upkeep and maintenance of cemeteries, located within the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Slattery expressed concern at the poor condition of the cemeteries, with weeds, grass overgrown and bins overflowing.

REPLY: There are forty one cemeteries within the Metropolitan District, the four main cemeteries are managed by the Council, nine cemeteries with the assistance of Limerick Civic Trust and twenty two by local cemetery community groups with the remaining six having minimal

upkeep. The Council provides an annual maintenance grant to community groups along with them being able to apply for annual community enhancement programme grants towards the purchase of equipment.

The Council also provides an annual maintenance programme of works in relation to repair of walls, footpaths, drainage and tree surgery works and works prioritised in accordance with the available budget for these works. The Council are currently reviewing grass cutting arrangements in the main city cemeteries and general maintenance in those cemeteries to address the issues that have been reported. In addition, the Council are putting in place a Service Level Agreement with Limerick Civic Trust which will outline the level of service that is required to ensure an appropriate standard of maintenance.

30. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the restrictions on capacity at Mungret Recycling Centre for green waste from small businesses be lifted by Limerick City and County Council and a solution is examined as soon as possible.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Kiely highlighted the difficulties for small businesses, who had to travel long distances to dispose of green waste, and the need to resolve the situation.

REPLY: The Council had to restrict green waste coming in to the recycling centre in Mungret as there was insufficient capacity to manage the amount of green waste in the yard. The Council are currently looking at options to reduce the stockpile in the yard, the public can avail of the composted material free of charge but the stockpile is not being reduced as much as the Council would like. The Council are looking at the possibility of moving some of the material to Newcastle West and Kilmallock Civic Amenity Sites but advance works are required to facilitate this.

The Council will review the situation in a number of weeks to determine when commercial green waste can be received. It is important to point out that only green waste will be accepted, rubble and other construction materials mixed with green waste will not be accepted and will be turned away. The green waste material being received in the last number of months has been of good quality, allowing the Council to process and shred the material resulting in a composted material that was used for planters in the city centre. It is the Council's objective to further improve the quality of the composted material in the Mungret Horticulture yard and continue recycling the green waste and consider for further use, in particular for the flower baskets and flower tiers in the city.

31. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we write to the Gardai and request resources for the enforcement of the speed limit and the weight restrictions on the Commons Road and Drombanna Village.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Kiely highlighted the issues with speeding in the area. She stated that the hedges needed to be cut back close to the crossroads.

REPLY: Limerick City & County Council Roads Department has formally written to the Gardaí to review the enforcement of the speed limit and the weight restrictions on the Commons Road and Drombanna Village.

32. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. Butler

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council engage with the LCETB to look at retaining the basketball courts and adjacent space on Mungret Community College grounds for a Municipal sports area as they vacate it this summer.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Butler highlighted the importance of providing sporting and recreation facilities, in particular for young people.

REPLY: The Council will engage with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board in relation to this matter with a view to increasing the availability of sports facilities in the area subject to budgetary resources.

33. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated: _____