

COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER, 2024

Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting if the Council can provide in tabular form from 2019 to end 2023 the details of schools that have been allocated funding under the Safe Routes to School Scheme, the amounts allocated to each school and the date of completion.

Reply:

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROCESS

Step 1: Schools applied to Department of Education March 2021

Step 2: Schools weighted and entered onto a list for safety measures near school

Step 3: Round 1 Schools – Announced in October 2021

Round 2 Schools – Announced in December 2022

Note:

Limerick City and County Council have been asked for suggestions into Round 3 Schools, however the final list is decided by the NTA and National Safe Routes to School Team. These schools MUST have applied to be included in the Safe Routes to School Programme in March 2021.

Step 4: SRtS Program Officer engages with school and parents through discussion and surveys.

Step 5: Based on these a Delivery Plan compiled by Program Officer to suggest works that would benefit safety for students in their commute to school

Step 6: **Active Travel (LCCC)** assist, through provision of engineering services, with the delivery plans as works are funded through the NTA



LCCC STAGES:

Phase 1. Under Review – awaiting

Delivery Plan from SRtS Officer

Phase 2. Options Stage

Phase 3. Consult and Agree with
NTA design for progressing

Phase 4 NTA approval to Proceed to
Statutory Process

Phase 5. NTA approval to Detail
Design and Tender

Phase 6. Tender Process

Phase 7. Construction

* Notes some stages may happen simultaneously.



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

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School	Rounds	Funding allocated	Stage	Notes	Funding Source
Model School	Round 1	€300,000*	Completed - Sept 2022		Safe Routes to School
Gaelscoil Sáirseal (Phase 1)	Round 1		Completed - March 2023		Safe Routes to School
St. Pauls National School	Round 1		Completed – Oct 2022		Safe Routes to School
St. Nessan's R510	Round 1		Completed – August 2024		R510 Scheme
Scoil Íde and St. Munchins, Corbally Road	Round 1		Phase 6	Works being completed as part of Mill Rd Project	Mill Road Scheme
Gaelscoil Sáirseal (Phase 2)	Round 1		Phase 6	Works to be completed as part of TUS to City Centre Project	TUS to City
Laurel Hill Ave. (3 Secondary Schools)	Round 1		Completed – April 2024		SCR Scheme
Limerick School Project	Round 1		Phase 3	Works are to be completed as part of South Circular Road Project	SCR Scheme
Lisnagry	Round 2		Completed – Oct 2022		Combined- Safe Routes to School and Operations
Crescent College Comprehensive	Round 2	€70,000	Phase 4	Currently under Section 38	Safe Routes to School
St. Patrick's Girls and Boys National School	Round 2	€100,000**	Phase 4	School has been withdrawn from SRTS Programme	Safe Routes to School
Caherconlish National School	Round 2	€100,000	Phase 4	Currently under Section 38	Safe Routes to School



Hazelwood College, Dromcolligher	Round 2	€30,000	Phase 4	Currently under Section 38	Safe Routes to School
St Bridgets NS					
Patrickswell National School			Phase 3		
Caherdavin School (Girls & Boys)			Completed		Funded through AT Schemes
Our Lady Queen of Peace			Completed	Works completed as part of Childers Rd Interim Project	Funded through AT Schemes
Our Lady of Lourdes			Completed	Works completed as part of Childers Rd Interim Project	Funded through AT Schemes

37 Schools in Limerick City and County Council – 33 are primary schools.

Breakdown of progress to date – 12 schools within that 37 moved to at least to Preliminary Design (Phase 3). Speed of roll out is dependent on the Safe Routes to School Programme nationally and as NTA funding permits.

Sean McGlynn, A/S.E.
Active Travel
Transportation & Mobility Directorate
19th September, 2024.

COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER, 2024

Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) how many claims were made by the public as a result of damage to vehicles due to potholes on our rural roads; (b) can I have a breakdown for each of the Districts; (c) how many were successful; (d) how many were not successful; (e) what was the total paid out; and (f) can I ask for a report also on damage/claims as a result of overgrown hedges.

REPLY:

2023 – 2024 YTD

	Adare/Rathkeale	Newcastle West	Metropolitan	Kilmallock/Cappamore
No. of Claims	123	49	49	108
Successful	45	0	9	46
Unsuccessful	17	48	28	43
Total Paid	€9,653.03	0	€2,044.64	€6,758.37

- Please note, some claims notified have been passed to Third Parties following investigation.
- Not all claims notified have been investigated to date.
- No claims have been notified to Limerick City & County Council in relation to overgrown hedges.

**John Gannon, Senior Engineer,
Roads, Traffic & Cleansing – Central Services.
Transportation & Mobility Directorate
Date: 19/09/2024**

MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL be held on Monday, 23rd September 2024.

Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara

I will ask at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council for figures to be provided for the number of people who presented to the Homeless Action Team seeking Supported Temporary Accommodation services over the past 12 months, including those who did not receive a service, so that we may be able to understand the true level of need in the city and county.

- How many people were advised to return home when they presented seeking STA's?
- How many people were considered not entitled to a service?
- How many were not able to access accommodation due to limits in capacity?

REPLY:

The following table sets out the no. of presentations to the Homeless Action Team. These presentations include both single and family presentations, in general single presentations constitute a higher proportion of the overall no. of presentations: -

Year	<u>Presentations Placed in Emergency Accommodation</u>	Presentations Not Placed in Emergency Accommodation
<u>12 month up to 31/08/2023</u>	569	689
Last 12 months up to 31/08/2024	643	591

It is important to note that many Homeless presentations take place where families or individuals are at risk of potential homelessness which may or may not materialise over the coming months. There are a number of schemes in place which are of valuable assistance in mitigating this potential risk such as the Tenant in Situ Scheme, the Cost Rental Tenant in Situ Scheme, HAP Place Finder etc. Every effort is made by the Homeless Action Team Office to prevent the Homeless presentation becoming an actual Homeless placement in Supported Temporary Accommodation.

There is a very different profile of reasons for Single and Family presentations and many of the families presenting are on a Notice to Quit sometime into the future and thus won't need a service when they present. In many of these cases the HAT team are able to prevent homelessness with the schemes that have been outlined above.

No one is advised to return home when they present to Homeless Services they are assessed thoroughly to ascertain their eligibility and service need.

Of the 591 presentations not placed in the last 12 months it should be noted that the Homeless Action Team successfully worked on a collaborative basis with all units in Housing to prevent homeless arising in almost 300 cases.

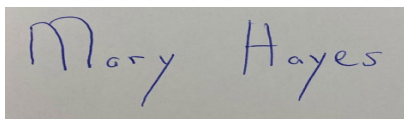
From an overview of the current year data it would appear that there is an overall reduction in the year on year no of people not able to access Supported Temporary Emergency Accommodation.

Many of the people who are unable to avail of the Supported Temporary Accommodation are rough sleepers who have a range of complex needs that prevent them from accessing services. In order to respond to this issue Limerick City & County Council commenced a new initiative in conjunction with Anna Liffey in early 2024, which endeavours to engage with rough sleepers who cannot access services and encourage them to avail of services provided by all relevant stakeholders. Many rough sleepers are often reluctant to engage with outreach teams and it can take a significant period of time for a trust relationship to be established owing to the many complex issues that may be present in these cases.

The reasons why emergency accommodation or HAP/social housing tenancy was not provided, are varied, but can include as follows: -

- Have presented with a Notice to Quit but the notice may not come into effect for a number of months so no service is required at that time.
- Subsequently secured private rented accommodation

- Secured RAS/HAP accommodation – HAP accommodation is sourced by the individual and records are not kept where individuals source their own HAP accommodation following an earlier presentation of homelessness
- Self-accommodated with family/friends
- Did not qualify for homeless accommodation in accordance with legislative requirements
Reasons for homeless presentation resolved i.e., family breakdown etc.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature reads "Mary Hayes" in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Mary Hayes
Senior Executive Officer
Housing Support Services
20th September 2024

COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER, 2024

Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will ask at the next Plenary Meeting of Limerick City and County Council if measures are being considered to clearly communicate and help implement the recent new laws forbidding e-scooters from using footpaths.

Reply:

The Limerick Road Safety Working Together Group plays a vital role in road safety promotion, together with its statutory obligations under roads and traffic legislation. The Working Together Group is led and chaired by Limerick City and County Council, and has representatives from a number of national and local groups and organisations, including An Garda Síochána.

The next working group meeting is scheduled for October, and it is intended to include the 'Road Traffic (Electric Scooters) Regulations 2024' on the agenda for discussion. At that time, it will be determined how the Working Group can help raise awareness of the implementation of the new e-scooter regulations in Limerick.

Limerick City and County Council have a positive working relationship with An Garda Síochána and will work together to clearly communicate the new e-scooter regulations.

**John O'Leary, A/S.E.,
Travel & Transport Strategy,
Transportation & Mobility Directorate
21st September, 2024**



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Limerick City
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Stiúrthóireacht Forbartha Tuaithe, Pobail & Cultúir
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh
Ceanncheathrú Chorpáraideach
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MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER 2024.

Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will ask at the next Plenary Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that in relation to the number of Derelict Site notices issued in the past 5 years, how many sites have been placed on the Derelict Sites Register with levies issued, and what subsequent actions have been taken to encourage suitable occupation of these sites?

REPLY:

Since 2019 to end August 2024, Limerick City and County Council has issued 2,672 no. statutory notices pursuant to the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 (as amended).

Limerick City and County Council has entered the particulars of 537 cases on to the Derelict Sites Register since 2019 and the details of 208 cases have been removed in the same period.

Vacant Homes and Derelict Sites come to the attention of the Council in various ways - Council staff proactively survey local areas in our towns, villages and city; reports are made by the public, and complaints on offending properties are received from local residents, community groups, and from elected representatives.

To deal effectively with derelict sites, the Council uses powers available to it under the Derelict Sites Act and will serve owners with statutory notices when, for example, certain remedial works are required, when the site is entered in the Derelict Sites Register, when a market value has been determined, to demand payment of a Derelict Sites Levy, or, to notify the owner of its intention to acquire the derelict site compulsorily, and if a vesting order is ultimately made for the property.

The Council advises engaging owners on the remedial works required and on relevant financial supports available, such as the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, heritage and conservation schemes, and social leasing schemes such as Buy and Renew and Repair and Lease.

The Council shall notify the owner when the details of the derelict site are entered in the statutory Derelict Sites Register. The case details shall remain entered in the Register until the site comes out of dereliction, and it no longer detracts from the area, and is ideally put back into more effective use.

In cases where no progress is being made by an owner to solve the dereliction and the site continues to detract from the neighbourhood, and where the owner has already been served with a series of statutory notices, the Council may consider the compulsory acquisition of the site with the intention to make the property available for more productive and beneficial future uses.

Once a property vests to Limerick City and County Council, it is either allocated to meet LCCC objectives, whether that is housing, community or other. If no viable funded purpose is identified, then the properties are brought to market. All disposals remain on the Derelict Site Register until they are no longer considered derelict.

The Derelict sites team monitor progress on all disposed properties.

Jayne Leahy
Head of Property Management Department

19th September 2024



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Limerick City
& County Council

Comhshaol, Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide agus Seirbhísí Comhroinnte
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Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services
Limerick City and County Council
Dooradoyle Road
Dooradoyle, Limerick
V94 WV78

**MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 23rd
SEPTEMBER 2024**

Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Plenary Meeting of Limerick Council for an update on Council responsibility and plan for the water quality of the River Deel considering the recent fish kill in this river.

Response:

Limerick City and County Council were notified of a pollution incident in the River Deel at Castlemahon on 29 August. Upon investigation, the source of the pollution was traced to the local water treatment plant. In response, the Council, along with Inland Fisheries Ireland and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), began working closely with Uisce Éireann to confirm the precise cause of the contamination.

This process aims to fully understand the cause and impact of the pollution and ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to prevent a recurrence. Uisce Éireann has been requested to review and strengthen its operational procedures at the plant and to prepare a report on the incident, which we are currently awaiting.

The situation is being monitored closely by all relevant bodies to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and to protect the water quality of the River Deel.

Aidan Finn
Senior Engineer
Environment and Climate Action
20th September 2024

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2024.

Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will ask at the next Meeting what is the amount paid and the outstanding balance on each individual entry on the Vacant Site Register, including any of those who have been removed from the Register, by register code.

REPLY:

As per GDPR restrictions Limerick City and County Council is not in a position to release individual account information.

Jayne Leahy
Senior Executive Officer,
Property Management Department.

19th September, 2024

MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL be held on Monday, 23rd September 2024.

Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will ask at the next Meeting how much did the project at the Crescent this summer cost and can the cost be outlined in tabulated format.

REPLY

The Crescent Activation was but one of several August Activations across the city. They saw the streets and some new spaces like the Wickham Way transformed into vibrant hubs of community engagement and cultural celebrations throughout the month of August.

Initially, it was planned to have activities near Nicholas Street, at the Potato Market, The Hunt, and the Crescent as refurbishment was taken place in Arthur's Quay. It became quickly clear that the Milk Market Trustees could not agree terms for the use of the Potato Market so it was deferred for another time.

A key focus in the timing was on providing free activities for residents not able to afford holidays away from Limerick over August and generating business in Limerick at a normally quiet time.

The initiatives, aimed at promoting civic pride and showcasing Limerick's rich cultural heritage, featured a series of events that brought together residents and visitors alike. The closure of the Crescent, as a trial, allowed for a safe and enjoyable environment for all activities, contributing significantly to the overall success of the initiative.

The Mayoral Programme and the Mayor's election promises already required him to "implement the New Town Park greening of the residential quarter of Georgian Limerick " and "finish off the development of O'Connell Street incorporating the New Town Park idea of a significant public plaza at the Crescent".

The Mayoral Programme more generally speaks of a world in which O'Connell Street and Georgian Limerick can be a globally recognised tourist destination boasting sports, shopping, museums and dining. A public realm where everyone enjoys quality and safe spaces and communities flourish.

The pilot changed many minds about the priority use of the public realm at the Crescent. Limerick Civic Trust in particular were supportive. Moreover, by revitalising the Georgian area, Limerick city not only enhances its cultural heritage but also promotes residential occupancy, economic activity and urban vibrancy.

The month long event led to increased community engagement with the space accessed by dance groups, Gaeltacht Groups, wellness activity events, International Rugby Experience, Mid-West Simon, Paul Partnership events and local primary schools and crèches and Sacred Heart Catholic Church making use of the area.

The Crescent also provided a space for cultural promotion with Ukraine Independence Day, groups from Brazil performing their traditional dances, to Hip Hop and Opera all being showcased during the month of August. Local singers had the opportunity to perform for locals and visitors in the Festival in a Van. At least two community dinners took place along with many lunch meetings.

Businesses reported increased footfall, with local coffee shops and takeaways benefitting from the rise in pedestrian traffic in the area and improved safety for customers and staff working late.

Local resident Lorna Hodgkinson said “I’m a local resident and we have thoroughly enjoyed the Crescent, the month of August was amazing with music and dancing, we had so much fun. The night that blew me away was the Open Night Dinner, with everyone coming together showing a great community effort”,

Local businesswoman, Janet from Angel Times said “I loved going up on my lunchtime to the Crescent, a fantastic little extra for the city bringing extra people into the city which is great from a retailer’s perspective.”

Local businessman Karim Hamadi of Khan Supermarket on Henry Street said, “I would be very happy to see more events in the Crescent, it is good for business and brings customers to the shop. You have my support for any future events.”

Alternative parking arrangements were managed for residents during the event. Residents were given permits to park in nearby streets. Although traffic chaos was predicted by some, the Mayor’s Office closely monitored it throughout the month with An Gardaí Síochána. On only one occasion was it felt necessary to open it to relieve pressure – namely during a weekend when numerous protests (on other grounds) were taking place in the city.

Local schools advised us they were pleased to use the open space, with many children enjoying their lunches outdoors at the Crescent, further enhancing the communal atmosphere.

Out of pocket costs were managed by

- (i) the reduction of initial quotes for out sourcing of traffic management from €60,000 to below €10,000
- (ii) use of Council Teams as far as possible
- (iii) calls to community groups to participate with modest stipends and
- (iv) activation of local residents to help in the project

The full such costs, averaging €1,500.00 per day, are set out in the table below:

The Crescent Costings		
Traffic Management	Crescent	€8,209.00
Stipends (Support for Community Activation)	Crescent	€11,900.00
Festival in a Van Concerts	Crescent	€18,750.00
Animation and Physical Preparations	Crescent	€6,900.00
Photography	All	€842.55
Total		€46,601.55



John Moran,
Mayor of Limerick.

MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL be held on Monday, 23rd September 2024.

Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next Meeting for the total amount spent on acquiring properties under the local authority tenant in situ scheme.

REPLY:

Since the Government lifted the Eviction Ban in March 2023, the Tenant In Situ Scheme was introduced for all Local Authorities for acquisitions of properties where a tenant is in receipt of social housing supports and has received a Notice of Termination due to the landlord's intention to sell the property. In additions, Approved Housing Bodies can also apply for the Tenant in Situ Scheme via Local Authorities.

Limerick City and County Council has delegated sanction in relation to these acquisitions, subject to those acquisitions being within Acquisition Cost Guidelines issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage which are issued on an annual basis. An independent valuation must also be obtained for each acquisition.

To date, Limerick City and County Council has received budget approval for €31,577,783.49 made up of €25,417,350.00 acquisition costs and €6,160,433.49 refurbishment costs relating to essential works, in accordance with the criteria of the Tenant In Situ Scheme.

This figure is broken down as follows between Council acquisitions and AHB acquisitions:

	Number of Units	Acquisition Cost	Refurbishment Cost	Total
Council Acquisitions	55	€12,264,350.00	€3,065,906.49	€ 15,330,256.49
AHB Acquisitions	57	€13,153,000.00	€3,094,527.00	€ 16,247,527.00



Sarah Newell
 Senior Executive Officer
 Housing Strategy and Non-LA construction
 19th September 2024



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**Limerick City
& County Council**

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REPLY TO QUESTION

Meeting of Limerick City and County Council, to be held on Monday, 23rd September

Question submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan

I will ask at the next Meeting how many planning permissions are inactive or dormant for housing broken down by electoral area for the last five years.

Response:

The total number of planning permissions relating to residential units that have not commenced since 1st January 2019 to date is 1,222. These are distributed throughout the Electoral Areas as follows:

Electoral Area	Total number of planning permissions for housing – not commenced
Limerick City West	129
Limerick City East	133
Limerick City North	83
Newcastle West	228
Adare Rathkeale	318
Cappamore Kilmallock	331

Maria Woods
Senior Planner