

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, 18TH NOVEMBER, 2024 at 9.45 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor K. O'Hanlon, Cathaoirleach

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors Beasley, Benson, Butler, Donoghue, Doyle, Gavan, Hartigan, Hickey-O'Mara, Kiely, Kilcoyne, Leddin, McSweeney, O'Donovan, O'Sullivan, Pond, Secas, Sheehan, Slattery and Talukder.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Leahy), Senior Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. Gannon), Senior Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy (Mr. H. McGrath), Senior Engineer, Active Travel (Mr. S. McGlynn), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. M. Richardson) Administrative Officer, Property Management (Ms. T. Knox), City and County Librarian (Mr. D. Brady), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy (Mr. J. O'Leary), Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services (Ms. M. Hayes), Administrative Officer, Environment and Climate Change (Ms. S. Hourigan), 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 Jon Kenny, Comedian, Actor and Writer, who had sadly passed away. Condolences were also extended to the family of Johnny Duhan, Musician, who had also passed away following a drowning accident.

It was proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon, seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan to suspend Standing Orders in order to receive the Deputation from the Limerick City Centre Traders Association.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Members of the Limerick City Centre Traders Association to the meeting.

The Members of the Limerick City Centre Traders Association thanked the Members for the opportunity to address the Meeting. They explained that the Association represented the interests of 150 businesses, including fashion, restaurants, retails and professional services.

They highlighted the following issues:

- The decline in footfall in the city centre over the past ten years, resulting in the large amount of vacant commercial properties in the city;
- The continued exodus of retailers to shopping centres on the outskirts of the city, and the lack of new major retailers basing themselves in the city centre in the past twenty years;
- Anti-social behaviour and the need for increased additional Garda presence in the city centre;
- Lack of new residential accommodation;
- Commercial rates;
- Difficulties with traffic access in to the city centre and improvements required to public transport.

They outlined some suggested possible solutions including:

- Re-activate the car parking signs to advise numbers of spaces free in the city centre car parks;
- No commercial rates increase in Budget 2025;
- Increased Garda presence in the city centre;
- Promote city centre shopping with gift cards;
- Open bus lane on O'Connell Street to other traffic to relieve traffic congestion;
- Introduce a 'Leave Lights on' Campaign for city centre businesses after hours, similar to other businesses.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked the Limerick City Centre Traders Association for the presentation.

The Members proposed setting up a Sub Committee to include the Cathaoirleach, Príomh Chomhairleoir, a representative from Fianna Fail, a representative from Fine Gael, and two other representatives from the Elected Members and to arrange a meeting as soon as possible and meet regularly thereafter too.

Members also discussed the proposed road closure at The Crescent over three Sundays before Christmas and agreed that this should not go ahead and requested that John Gannon, Senior Engineer who was at the Meeting, take note of the Members feedback on this as part of the consultation process, which was closing on Tuesday 19th November.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 21st October, 2024.

Proposed by Councillor McSweeney;

Seconded by Councillor Kiely;

And Resolved:

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

2. Standing Orders for the Metropolitan District of Limerick

Circulated, Report of the Meetings Administrator, Metropolitan District of Limerick dated 13th November, 2024 and draft Standing Orders for the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

Proposed by: Councillor Kiely;

Seconded by: Councillor Hickey O'Mara;

And Resolved:

"To adopt the draft Standing Orders for the Metropolitan District of Limerick, in accordance with Section 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001".

3. 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.

4. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, Report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 24th October, 2024, setting out proposals for Disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 19 Pearse Avenue, Janesboro, 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 7th November, 2024, setting out proposals for Disposal of 0.7878 acres (0.3188 hectares) at Ballykeefe, Dock 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.

QUESTIONS

Councillor Donoghue stated that she was disappointed with the reply received to one of her Questions. The Cathaoirleach confirmed that, per Standing Orders, that Questions were not for discussion at the Meeting. He suggested that she should take this up directly with the responder to her Question.

5. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a list of all projects supported by Limerick City and County Council in the Metropolitan District under the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund, the lead applicant and the ranking provided for each project by this Local Authority.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council's Regeneration, Sports & Recreation Directorate provided support to the following projects, either by way of direct application, ranking within Appendix 6, LSSIF Application Form or letters of support: -

Project title	Lead Applicant	Ranking Provided within Appendix 6, LSSIF Application Form	Project Sponsor	Letter of Support
Integrated Sports & Educational Campus, Kilmallock Rd.	Limerick and Clare Education Training Board	1	Limerick City and County Council	
Markets Field Stadium Redevelopment	Limerick Enterprise Network t/a Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership CLG	2	Limerick City and County Council	Yes
Colbert Quarter Sports Provision	Limerick City and County Council	3	Limerick City and County Council	
Limerick Centre of Excellence, Munster Rugby	Munster Branch IRFU	4		Yes

Patrickswell Centre of Excellence	Patrickswell GAA Club	5		Yes
City North Arena, City North Sport Campus	Technological University of the Shannon			Yes

6. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on footpath and active travel infrastructure on the Rosbrien Road from Old Crescent RFC to Ballinacurra Gardens.

REPLY: The Rosbrien Road Active Travel scheme will provide a link from Childers Road to Old Crescent RFC and the upcoming Baggot Estate scheme.

It is anticipated that works will progress on the Rosbrien Road Active Travel scheme after the Baggot Estate scheme completion subject to funding from the NTA.

7. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on footpath proposed and funded for along the R503/Newport Road from Grangewood to Richhill.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with the NTA is advancing plans to implement a Park & Ride facility near Mackey roundabout as per Measure SM2 of LSMATS. As part of the process Limerick City and County Council will examine all options to facilitate such an objective to be serviced by high frequency public transport services. National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann will be requested to ensure any review of the existing Connecting Ireland services on the Newport Road, taking account of any demand for service from the residential areas represented (Grangewood, Richhill etc). Any Active Travel measures on this road will be considered by the Active Travel Team if justification is made through the advancing plans to implement a Park & Ride at Mackey Roundabout.

8. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the water dispensers in The People's Park and the Milk Market be fixed as they have been out of action for many months.

REPLY: Limerick City & County Council have a contract set up to complete maintenance or repair works where necessary to the public drinking water fountains that were previously installed throughout the City & County by the Environmental Department. Any necessary repairs of the drinking fountains in the City Centre area are due to take place in the near future.

9. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the Orchard Site Part 8 Housing Development and the Pineview, Cliona Park and Cosgrave Park Part 8 Housing Developments.

REPLY: The Kings Island Walled Town Framework is currently being finalised, this is a non-statutory Framework and serves as guidance for the transformation of this strategically significant area of Limerick City. The Framework has undergone significant public engagement in accordance with the New European Bauhaus. Based on the public engagement, the Framework identifies the Orchard site as a key site within the area, and is cognisant of the car-parking requirements for King Johns Castle, the importance of the archaeological features of the site including the line of the City wall and the potential to explore opportunities to utilise the Fosse (the existing moat around the city wall) as a Sustainable urban Drainage Feature (SuDS). Forming a new urban blue/green connector, the proposals would provide an opportunity to connect various urban/green spaces along with public realm improvements, creating an amenity for the local community and visitors alike. Arising from the Framework there may be a change to the Orchard site as currently proposed.

S179A planning for Cosgrave Park Phase 2 housing is about to be submitted for 20nr units. It is envisaged that a contractor will be appointed in Q3-2025 with handover of units expected mid 2027.

The design for Pineview Gardens is currently being reviewed with a view to further discussion with stakeholders in the coming weeks.

The design for Cliona Park Phase 4 is currently being reviewed with a view to further discussion with stakeholders in Q1-2025.

10. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, how many people on the housing waiting list are waiting on 4 bed units in the Metropolitan area and how many 4 bed units are expected to be delivered by 2026 and through what means.

REPLY:

Table 1

There are currently 153 people on the housing waiting list in the Metropolitan area with a 4 bed property as their first choice.

Metropolitan Area	
Beds	Number First Choice
4 Bed	153

Please find hereunder a breakdown of 4 Bed Units that have been delivered in 2024 and a breakdown of projected delivery of 4 bed units up to 2028. There are a total of 49 no. 4 bed units projected for delivery up to the end of 2028.

Table 2

4-bed units Delivered & Projected in Limerick Metropolitan District 2024-2028							
	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	
	Completed	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	Total
Local Authority - Build	3	4	2	14	6	1	30
Local Authority - Acquisition	2	0	3	0	0	0	5
Local Authority - Lease	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Approved Housing Body - Build	0	0	7	0	0	0	7
Approved Housing Body - Acquisition	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Totals	11	4	13	14	6	1	49

We are continuing to progress delivery of 4 bed units where Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage funding allows.

11. Question submitted by Councillor S. Benson

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if the Consultant's Report on the Long Pavement Dump has been completed.

REPLY: Consultants were invited to tender for the design of remediation works at Longpavement. This tender process closed on September 13, 2024, with three tenderers submitting applications for consideration.

An assessment board was convened on 4 November to evaluate and score the submissions against predefined criteria and we are currently in the process of finalising the tender report. Once this report is completed, we will proceed through the necessary procedural stages to formally appoint the successful consultant, which we anticipate, will be complete in the next few weeks. Once the successful consultant is appointed, we will be in a position to move forward with the next phase of the remediation works at Longpavement.

12. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for a breakdown of the footpath repairs that have already taken place in Caherdavin in 2024. I also ask if the Council can

give an update on future repairs: the areas that are due to have their footpaths repaired and the timescale of any planned repairs.

REPLY: In 2024 to date, footpath repairs including footpath upgrades were carried out by Limerick City & County Council Roads Operations in the Caherdavin area at the following locations:

- Walnut Drive footpath improvement Active Travel scheme Galtee Close/Avenue footpath repairs
- Shannonvale footpath repairs
- New link Road footpath repairs
- Willow Avenue footpath repairs
- Blackthorn/Fuschia junction footpath repairs
- Blackthorn Drive footpath upgrade
- Old Cratloe Road: TUS bus area footpath upgrade

Footpath repairs including footpath replacement and new footpaths in 2025 and beyond will continue and these works will be prioritised based on need and resource allocations and funding from the Department of Transport, the NTA including other sources of funding such as General Municipal Allocation.

13. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if there is a local bus service proposed for the Mill Road as part of the Mill Road Active Travel Scheme for residents who do not have access to public transport in this area.

REPLY: The Travel & Transport Strategy section has raised the issue of a local bus service for Mill Road with the NTA, who are currently considering the matter.

14. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick to clarify the current status of the proposed light sculpture commissioned from the artist Connolly Cleary and which was to be installed as part of the O'Connell Street refurbishment.

If this commission has been pulled:

- ***Why was it pulled?***
- ***How much was spent on it before it was pulled?***
- ***Is anything proposed to replace it with?***

REPLY: 1. Current Status of the Art Installation is that the proposed Light Sculpture did not proceed.
 2. The proposal was assessed by a multidisciplinary assessment panel who unanimously agreed that the proposal was not developed to a point where it could proceed to implementation. A consensus decision was made not to proceed with the shortlisted proposal following Stage 3 – Research & Development Phase. The assessment panel consisted of elected members, staff members and art experts chaired by the Director of Service.
 3. School of Looking Ltd, were appointed/paid €22,000.00 for Stages 1-3, Initial Proposal Stage, Shortlisted Competition Stage, Research & Development Stage.

4. Whilst there is no current artwork proposed for Thomas Street/O'Connell Street Junction, the location selected for the artwork is available to accommodate a suitable art piece in the future.

15. Question submitted by Councillor J. Pond

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick:

"that following on from the announcement that the Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme can proceed with a planning application, for an update and timescale for the Annacotty Flood Relief Scheme that includes Mulcair Drive and Mountshannon Road".

REPLY: The Annacotty area including Mulcair Drive and Mountshannon Road forms part of the Limerick City & Environs Flood Relief Scheme.

In 2018, Limerick City and County Council received funding under the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment & Management (CFRAMS) program to advance this comprehensive flood relief project. This large-scale scheme covers significant areas of Limerick City and surrounding locations, including parts of County Clare.

Throughout 2024, considerable progress has been made, notably completing hydraulic modelling and developing flood extent maps for Limerick City and its environs. The options development phase is underway, incorporating public realm enhancements into the design. By Q3 2025, we anticipate having an emerging preferred option available for public display.

Looking ahead, our focus in the coming year will include public consultation, continued extensive geotechnical investigations, and detailed ecological surveys, all of which are crucial for refining the options and advancement of the project. Further information on the project is available via the FRS website at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/limerick/home/>

16. Question submitted by Councillor J. Pond

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the proposed footpath that will link Rich Hill Woods / Grangewood to the Mackey Roundabout.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with the NTA is advancing plans to implement a Park & Ride facility near Mackey roundabout as per Measure SM2 of LSMATS.

As part of the process Limerick City and County Council will examine all options to facilitate such an objective to be serviced by high frequency public transport services.

National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann will be requested to ensure any review of the existing Connecting Ireland services on the Newport Road, taking account of any demand for service from the residential areas represented (Grangewood, Richhill etc).

Any Active Travel measures on this road will be considered by the Active Travel Team if justification is made through the advancing plans to implement a Park & Ride at Mackey Roundabout.

17. Question submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick has consideration been given to the use of Cleeve's Factory as a Limerick version of the Marina Market – with combined Cultural/Youth Space.

REPLY: Limerick Twenty Thirty Strategic Development DAC (LTT) purchased the Cleeves Riverside Quarter site (Cleeves) from Limerick City & County Council in December 2020. Since then, Cleeves has been the subject of detailed site analysis, Options Appraisal including Multi Criteria Analysis and a Preliminary Business Case which in turn allowed a non-statutory Master Plan to be developed for this strategic urban site. The Master Plan was published in October 2023 and identifies five development zones across 10 acres with a significant new public realm centred around the Flaxmill which is the historic core of Cleeves. The Master Plan provides for several uses including residential, commercial/educational and mixed use.

Some of the spaces identified as mixed-use may be suitable for cultural/community/food uses such as the Marina Market style events. The Master Plan ensures a cohesive and permeable development that can be delivered across a number of phases. Since the Master Plan was completed LTT have progressed with designs for the first phase of the development that includes the residential zones, public realm and the Flaxmill. As LTT progress through the formal design stages, the evolving strategy for the Flaxmill Building includes for a publicly accessible mixed use at ground floor level that could accommodate restaurant/bar/music venue or gallery space with the potential of educational use on the upper floors.

18. Question submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick has Limerick City and County Council been in contact with the owners of Debenhams re the building lying idle and what are the current plans for the building. Furthermore what taxes have the Council levied on the building as it remains derelict.

REPLY: I can confirm that new owners of the former Debenhams Building have and are engaged with the Planning Department of Limerick City & County Council around their future plans for the building.

The Property Department has confirmed that this building does not currently meet the definition of a derelict site within the meaning contained in the Derelicts Sites Act 1990 so is therefore not currently listed as a derelict property. Finance have confirmed that commercial rates charges continue to apply.

19. Question submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick has Limerick City and County Council requested UL for an updated plan for the redevelopment of the former Dunnes buildings as this building is paramount to the success and redesign of the city.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council, Planning & Placemaking Directorate has had ongoing engagement with the University of Limerick (UL) over the past 12 to 18 months in relation

to their future options for the former Dunnes Stores building on Sarsfield Street, now in use as UL learning space.

This engagement is ongoing and at this time the Planning & Place Making Directorate has not been advised when UL will be ready to bring forward specific proposals for the future of the building/site.

Given the importance of this location in Limerick city centre we will continue our engagement with UL.

20. Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the third time what the projected Per Cent for Art Budget is that is generated by the various capital project underway in each of the following departments: Housing; Roads; Active Travel; Regeneration.

REPLY: The Arts Office commenced a process in August 2024 to gather data on the Per Cent for Arts Scheme programme within each Directorate of the Council. Data submissions from Directorates will be compiled by the arts office. This process will inform in relation to projected budgets that can be generated from capital projects underway or planned.

Planning is underway to put in place structures for the implementation of the Per Cent for Arts Scheme, which involves recruitment of a public art coordinator and establishment of a public art advisory group following alignment of the Limerick City and County Council Public Art Policy with the new National Per Cent for Arts Policy framework when published.

The process of collating the information requested has commenced and when full details have been collated and checked, the information will be made available.

21. Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Arts Office and the Culture Department set out their anticipated plans to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Limerick City Gallery of Art in 2025.

REPLY: Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA) opened as a dedicated visual arts space in 1985 and is only one of two Local Authority operated Galleries in the country. It is the custodian of an important Collection of over a thousand works of mainly 20th century works. It also includes the National Collection of Contemporary Drawing and the Michael O'Connor Poster Collection (ca 2,800 works). The Gallery welcomes over 100,000 visitors annually.

In its 40th anniversary year, LCGA will have a full exhibition programme in place with 6 contemporary exhibitions. EVA International will also be taking place in Autumn 2025.

In addition, the Gallery will select and present exhibitions of works from the Permanent Collection which will reflect on “themes” in the exhibition programme and showcase the tremendous collection of artwork that the Gallery has acquired and preserved for the people of Limerick over the last 40 years.

Preliminary plans are also in place to mark the 40th anniversary with a series of historical art talks throughout the year. The Gallery is also exploring the possibility of producing a publication as a truly significant and enduring way to mark the anniversary.

The Gallery is currently in the process of applying for accreditation from the Museums Standard Programme for Ireland (MSPI) which promotes professional standards in the care of collections in Irish museums and galleries and hopes to have this completed in 2025. This commitment to the care and conservation of the Permanent Collection represents a legacy project for the Gallery and Limerick City and County Council in this anniversary year.

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 of lighting the Childers Road Railway Bridge given that a commitment was given last year on it.

REPLY: The Limerick City and County Council Public Lighting team is investigating options to improve street lighting at the Childers Road Railway Bridge which includes consultation with Irish Rail. Our new Public Lighting maintenance contractor is assessing a fault on an existing street light at the Galvone side of Childers road adjacent to this bridge. Once this fault has been addressed, it is expected that the public lighting in this area will be enhanced.

23. Question submitted by Councillor F. Kilcoyne

I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if it is intended to install traffic calming measures at the entrance to the new housing development at "An Tobar", Patrickswell and also if consideration is being given to reducing the speed limit at the same location from the current 50 kmph down to 30 kmph.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will undertake a traffic calming assessment on the L1401 Road at the entrance to the new housing development at "An Tobar", Patrickswell to determine if traffic calming measures are justified in accordance with the Limerick City & County Council Traffic Calming policy. Phase 2 of the Implementation of new speed limit defaults, which will include a full review with respect to the extents of 30kmph zones within County Limerick including Patrickswell, will commence in Q1 2025.

NOTICES OF MOTION

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council writes to the NTA to request an immediate extension of the Bus Eireann service to Annacotty to service route 310, given that the 2 year contract with Dublin Coach has now expired and that the Dublin Coach bus service in Annacotty has been very poor in recent months.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Secas referred to the large number of emails and messages she had received in relation to the poor bus service to Annacotty.

Members supported the Motion and highlighted the difficulties for students and residents in the area.

REPLY: The National Transport Authority (NTA) has the responsibility for procurement and management of all contracts for public transport with either state owned or private operators within the state. Whilst the contract for the 310 service in Limerick is currently out to tender with the NTA, the existing contract remains in place between the NTA and Dublin Coach until April 2025.

Travel and Transport Strategy Section will correspond directly with the NTA to seek clarification and details on the levels of service required under the current and future contract.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council writes to the OPW to request an update on their progress in identifying a site for a Garda Station in Castletroy.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Secas highlighted the urgent need for a Garda Station in Castletroy, which was one of the fastest growing suburbs in the area. She stated that funding had been approved in September 2023, with the process of identifying a site to be carried out by the OPW, and she queried the delay with this.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council engage with Limerick Libraries to take part in the One City One Book initiative for 2025.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Hickey-O'Mara, seconded by Councillor Gavan and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hickey-O'Mara highlighted the benefits of a One City One Book Initiative, which would promote reading among adults and children. He stated that this initiative was promoted in a number of other cities and he referred to the many well known authors in Limerick.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Library Service would be open to exploring the potential opportunity of a 'One City One Book' initiative for Limerick city and county for 2025.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Hickey-O'Mara

I will move at the next Meeting of Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council improve signage for the new 30km speed zones in the city, clearly identifying the starting and ending points and that it runs a public information campaign in tandem with this to highlight recent speed limit changes.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Hickey-O'Mara, seconded by Councillor Donoghue and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hickey-O'Mara stated the 30km speed limit was a positive initiative but in certain areas, such as O'Callaghan Strand, Clancy Strand and Charlottes Quay, the starting and ending points of the zones were not always clear.

Members supported the Motion and queried if the 30km speed limit could be extended to Wolfe Tone Street. Members also stated that marking the road would be beneficial.

REPLY: Phase 2 of the Implementation of the new speed limit defaults will include a full review with respect to the extents of the 30kph zone within Limerick City and this review will commence in Q1 2025. The review may result in the widening of the area covered by the 30kph zone. It is proposed that on foot of this review that a signage and road marking strategy will be developed to clearly identify the extents of the reduced speed limits.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor U. Gavan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can Limerick City and County Council liaise with Bus Éireann for late night bus services to the suburbs for the run up to and during the festive period.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Gavan highlighted the benefits that a late night bus service would provide for shift workers and late night shoppers.

REPLY: Limerick City & County Council has raised this request with Bus Éireann and the NTA for their consideration. We will revert with their response in due course.

Members requested that a Meeting would be arranged with a representative from the National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann in relation to the bus service in Limerick.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the bye-laws in relation to household and commercial waste bin storage on public footpaths, public lanes and public thoroughfares are more heavily enforced.

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Donoghue highlighted the difficulties for people with buggies and in wheelchairs when bins were left on footpaths. She also highlighted that bins were being turned over resulting in rubbish on roads and footpaths.

Members welcomed the introduction of the Pilot Laneway Project.

REPLY: The Litter Enforcement team take all practical measures for the prevention, control and correct disposal of litter in the city. Two Environmental Inspectors are assigned to the city centre to patrol for breaches of the Litter Pollution and Waste Management Acts and the Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye laws 2019. They issue warnings and fines to householders and commercial business where breaches of the regulations are found in the laneways and other thoroughfares. Where breaches are not rectified or fines paid the Council take legal proceedings against the offending household or business. Environmental inspectors work in close collaboration with the cleansing team to ensure incidents of dumping, overflowing bins and bin storage are addressed in a timely manner. Under the Anti-Dumping Initiative a pilot project on laneway rejuvenation is being trialled by the City Centre team and will include possible bin storage solutions for the laneways.

30. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that all the water fountains previously installed by this local authority be cleaned and maintained.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kiely, seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan and agreed.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Kiely highlighted the poor condition of water fountains and the importance of ensuring public realm was maintained.

REPLY: Limerick City & County Council have a contract set up to complete maintenance works where necessary to the public drinking water fountains that were previously installed throughout the City & County by the Environmental Department. Any necessary maintenance and cleaning of the drinking fountains in the City Centre area are due to take place in the near future.

31. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Dated: _____