

**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, 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2025 at 9.45 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor F. Kilcoyne, Leas-Chathaoirleach

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director of Service, Environment, Climate Action and Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Ms. A. Foley), Director of Service, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Administrative Officer, Property Management (Ms. T. Knox), Administrative Officer, Development Management (Ms. M. O'Brien), Graduate Engineer, Development Management (Mr. E. Hannon), Senior Engineer, Housing (Mr. B. Kidney), Senior Executive Quantity Surveyor (Mr. C. Cooney), Project Manager (Mr. A. Doyle), Executive Engineer (Ms. M. Sayers), Administrative Officer (Ms. M. Donnelly), Senior Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy (Mr. H. McGrath), Senior Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. Gannon), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. M. Richardson), Senior Engineer, Environment and Climate Action (Mr. A. Finn), Senior Engineer, Active Travel (Mr. S. McGlynn), Administrative Officer, Community (Mr. P. Malone), Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services (Ms. M. Hayes), Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services and Governance (Ms. S. Carroll).

Apologies for his inability to attend were received from Councillor K. O'Hanlon, Cathaoirleach. In his absence the chair was taken by the Leas-Chathaoirleach, Councillor F. Kilcoyne.

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach and Members extended their condolences to the family of Eddie Wade, former Member and Chairman of Limerick County Council, who passed away recently.

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Slattery;  
Seconded by Councillor Hickey-O'Mara;  
And Resolved:

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

**2. Declaration of Interest**

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Code of Conduct, she was inviting those present to notify the Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

### **3. Disposal of Land**

#### **General Disposals**

(a) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2025, setting out proposals for Disposal of 9 St. Joseph Street, Limerick (Backyard) rectification and right of way 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 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, setting out proposals for Disposal, by way of lease, of Part Floor 1, Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle, 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.

#### **Ground Rent**

(c) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, setting out proposals for Disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 20 Glenview Drive, Shelbourne Park, 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.

(d) Circulated, Report of the Head of Property Management dated 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, setting out proposals for Disposal of Freehold Interest of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 18 Parkview Drive, Greystones, Limerick and the intention to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

### **4. Planning and Place-Making Directorate**

#### **Taking in Charge of Estates - Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads**

Circulated, Report of the Senior Planner, Planning and Place-Making Directorate dated 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 seeking approval to the taking in charge of Crannog, Dublin Road, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Slattery;  
Seconded by Councillor Benson;  
And Resolved:

“That Crannog, Dublin Road, Limerick be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993”.

## 5. Housing Directorate

### Part 8 Procedure – Twenty No. Housing Units at Ballycummin Road, Raheen, Limerick

Circulated, Report of the Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance dated 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 and enclosed Mayor's Report dated 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 setting out details in relation to the proposed development of Twenty No. Housing Units at Ballycummin Road, Raheen, Limerick. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and noted that it was proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 8 of the report.

The Senior Executive Quantity Surveyor, LA Housing Construction & Maintenance, gave a presentation to the Members on the proposed Part 8 procedure of Twenty No. Housing Units at Ballycummin Road, Raheen, Limerick.

Members thanked the team for the presentation and raised the following observations on the proposed part 8:

- Members welcomed the units designed for people living with disabilities, which will be managed by Enable Ireland, and highlighted how these units will be of huge benefit giving people living with disabilities the opportunity to live independently with support;
- Members supported the need for more Housing in Limerick;
- Some Members raised concerns over the height of the proposed developments, suggesting it was out of context with the development in the area, while other Members welcomed the development as proposed;
- They expressed concern over the number of car park spaces being removed as part of the development;
- Members referred to the cost of the development and queried if there was a cost implication if the height of the proposed development was reduced.

In responding to the Members queries, the Director of Housing outlined that if the proposed Part 8 Development was reduced in height then there would be a cost implication. She informed them that the same fixed costs will apply to build the development at a reduced height.

It was the view of some Members that the Part 8 procedure should go ahead as proposed.

Following discussions, it was proposed by Councillor Talukder and seconded by Councillor Donoghue to amend the Part 8 as follows:

“The density of the scheme is excessive at this suburban location and represents overdevelopment of the site. The application is proposing circa 80 units per hectare almost twice the 45 units per hectare prescribed in the City and County Development Plan for the delivery of housing in this area. A reduced density could be achieved by reducing the overall height which is out of context with the established pattern of development in the area. The proposal does not take cognisance of its immediate context, an area of predominantly two-and three-storey buildings. We would ask that the amendment includes a mirror sensitive response to the context by reflecting the adjacent building heights”.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach and on the proposal of Councillor Butler, seconded by Councillor McSweeney, it was agreed to adjourn the Meeting for 15 minutes.

On the resumption of the meeting Councillor Butler proposed to proceed with the Part 8 with an amendment to remove the fourth and fifth floors from the proposed development at Ballycummin Road, Raheen, Limerick, and this was seconded by Councillor McSweeney.

The Cathaoirleach declared that a vote be taken on the proposal of Councillor Butler, seconded by Councillor McSweeney, to proceed with the Part 8 with an amendment to remove the fourth and fifth floors from the proposed development at Ballycummin Road, Raheen, Limerick.

**FOR THE AMENDMENT:**

Councillors Butler, Donoghue, Doyle, Hickey-O'Mara, Kiely, Kilcoyne, McSweeney, O'Donovan, O'Sullivan, Slattery and Talukder (11)

**AGAINST THE AMENDMENT:**

Councillors Beasley, Benson, Gavan, Leddin, Reale and Secas (6)

**ABSTENTION:**

Councillor Hartigan (1)

The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal of Councillor Butler, seconded by Councillor McSweeney, to proceed with the Part 8 with an amendment to remove the fourth and fifth floors from the proposed development at Ballycummin Road, Raheen, Limerick, as carried and it was agreed that the following resolution be adopted.

Proposed by: Councillor Butler;

Seconded by: Councillor McSweeney;

And Resolved;

"That the Part 8 procedure of Twenty No. Housing Units at Ballycummin Road, Raheen, Limerick be approved, subject to the agreed amendment, in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended)".

Members extended their good wishes to Caroline Curley, Director of Service on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for all her work over the years.

**QUESTIONS**

**6. Question submitted by Councillor D. Butler**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what is the latest progress update following my passed motion for a sensory garden in the walled garden in Mungret over six months ago.*

**REPLY:** The Council has held a number of discussions with internal departments in the Council in relation to the proposal of a Sensory Garden at the Walled Garden site in Munget. The proposal has also been raised at the Senior Capital Group meeting. The matter is still under consideration as there is also a request from the Housing Department for residential use of this site.

**7. Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue**

*I will ask at the Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if the proposed bus route to Munget Community College, Gaelscoil An Raithín and Limerick East Educate Together be implemented without further delay.*

**REPLY:** The improvements as described are expected to be in place by 2027 under works provided in conjunction with NTA and Bus Eireann once the necessary facilities are in place including bus stop improvements, and the required resources to serve the increased buses and routes.

**8. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick when will works start on the St. Enda's Building for the state of the art sports facility and will residents and community groups be permitted to use the facility.*

**REPLY:** A Call for Tenders for Design Team Services for the project was published in January 2025. Submissions from Design Teams are currently being assessed with a view to an appointment of a Design Team to progress the Sports and Educational Campus at Kilmallock Road. This follows the Stage 1 Approval received last year from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). Upon appointment of the Design Team, the Council intends to progress a Stage 2 DHLGH application, and upon receipt of Stage 2 Approval, a relevant Planning submission will be made. Progression to each Stage of the project's development is dependent on the appropriate DHLGH stage and associated funding approval.

Completed facilities will be accessible to residents and community groups on bookable / timetabled slots, costs of which will be determined at a later stage.

**9. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

*I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can Limerick Council advise why the CCTV is not working on the Old Cork Road and when will it be reinstated.*

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council's Digital Services CCTV team is responsible for the installation and operation of Community CCTV cameras, with the primary objective of maintaining public order and safety. Under Section 38 of An Garda Síochána Act 2005, the Garda Commissioner has the authority to approve the presence of such cameras, ensuring that each scheme or individual location is justified, proportionate, and necessary.

The CCTV infrastructure installed at the junction of Crossagalla and Bawnmore Road are not operational. Following the Data Protection Commissioner's review of CCTV in Limerick, Limerick City and County Council and An Garda Síochána reviewed over 400 cameras, including this location, to ensure compliance with An Garda Síochána Act, Data Protection Act, G.D.P.R and The Law Enforcement Directive. It was determined that cameras at this location did not meet the required criteria of being justified, proportionate, and necessary.

As a result, the CCTV at this location is not authorised for operation under An Garda Síochána Act.

**10. Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick can the Roads Department advise if a drainage scheme is planned for under the bridge on the approach to the Old Cork Road, as it is constantly flooding.***

**REPLY:** Cleaning, jetting and maintenance works to the drainage network of this area is ongoing by the Limerick City and County Council Road operational team. Additional drainage gullies will also be installed in this area where required once funding for this year's drainage grant is confirmed.

**11. Question submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue**

***I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick if sites can be identified for the construction of new Community Centres for Raheen / Mungret / Dooradoyle, given the extent of new housing and the very significant population increase in these areas.***

**REPLY:** The Council owned land that currently accommodates Dooradoyle Men's Shed Group is being explored. As part of the overall project a community group/organisation needs to be identified which is prerequisite for the sustainability of any such centre. Provision has now been made under the Development Fund Allocations 2024 to support the pre development costs in certain areas including the Raheen/Mungret/Dooradoyle area which is essential to progress such projects.

**12. 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 upgrade to the Mackey Roundabout and the timeline of these proposed works.***

**REPLY:** The lands at the Mackey junction were purchased in partnership with the NTA to facilitate the development of the M7 J28 Mackey Junction Upgrade Scheme and a Park and Ride Scheme. Limerick City and County Council is working in conjunction with the NTA Park and Ride Design team to develop the project with the intention of applying for planning permission in 2025. The M7 J28 Mackey Junction Upgrade Scheme will be developed once funding is secured.

**13. Question submitted by Councillor F. Kilcoyne**

***I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick, on behalf of the Residents***

***of Ballinacurra Gardens, where the entrance stone to Baggott Estate, erected back in 2014, has disappeared to and can it be reinstated immediately.***

**REPLY:** The Council has investigated the missing stone plaque at Baggott Estate and wish to advise that the plaque has not been removed by the Council as part of any works undertaken in Baggott Estate. The Council were not aware that the plaque had been removed.

**14. Question submitted by Councillor P. Reale**

***I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the rollout of CCTV in Garryowen.***

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council's Digital Services CCTV team submitted a Community CCTV application for the City Centre East (Garryowen, Killalee, Johnsgate) area to An Garda Síochána on Friday, 30th August 2024.

Subsequently, on Friday, 11th October 2024, Limerick City and County Council's Head of Digital Strategy and the Data Protection Officer, plus the Chief Superintendent of the Limerick Division of An Garda and one of his team, made a presentation on this proposal to the Garda CCTV Advisory Committee for their consideration seeking authorisation under An Garda Síochána Act 2005.

The application is currently under review by the Garda Commissioner's team and are awaiting a response

**15. Question submitted by Councillor P. Reale**

***I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for the number of presentations to the homeless action team for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 and for the number of available beds for the same period.***

**REPLY:**

Below is a record by year for new presentations to the Homeless Action Team along with a summary of the placement and bed spaces previously provided and set out in the Director General's monthly reports for 2022, 2023 and 2024.

There will be a variance between new presentations and existing placements accounting for previous presentations already being placed and also there will be exits from placements throughout the year.

New Presentations Placed in Emergency Accommodation		
Year	Singles	Families
2022	118	131
2023	147	87
2024	137	116

Below is a summary of the number of Families and Singles placed in December of 2022, 2023 and 2024 as per the Executive Reports which are published monthly by Limerick City and County Council.

This is a demand led service and as such the Homeless Action team regularly review the demand and the supply of beds for singles and families who are in need of and eligible for a service. During periods of high demand such as winter we work closely with our NGO partners to increase capacity in Hostels across the City to cater for increased demand.

December 10/12/2024		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	37
Oak Lodge	Adults accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	77
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	23
St Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	8
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	66
TEP Edenvilla	Mixed low threshold night by night accommodation	17
Phoenix Lodge	Low threshold emergency accommodation for singles	10
Total		238

December 10/12/2024		
Families		
Location	Description	No. of Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency Accommodation	5
Hotel/ B&B	Families	82
Twin Oaks Hub	Family Hub	10
Total		97

December 08/12/2023		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	29
Oak Lodge	Adults accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	67
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	23
St Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	4
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	34
TEP Edenvilla	Mixed low threshold night by night accommodation	16
Phoenix Lodge	Low threshold emergency accommodation for singles	11
Total		184

December 08/12/2023

Families		
Location	Description	No. of Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency Accommodation	6
Hotel/ B&B	Families	54
Twin Oaks Hub	Family Hub	10
Total		70

December 01/12/2022		
Individuals		
Location	Description	Beds Used
McGarry House	Mixed Low threshold accommodation for singles	36
Oak Lodge	Adults accommodated in low threshold emergency accommodation	58
Thomond House	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	22
St Joseph Street	Higher threshold accommodation for single females	6
B&B (no children)	Adults without children accommodated in B&B	17
TEP Edenvilla	Mixed low threshold night by night accommodation	15
Phoenix Lodge	Low threshold emergency accommodation for singles	10
Total		164

December 01/12/2022		
Families		
Location	Description	No. of Families
Suaimhneas	Family Emergency Accommodation	6
Hotel/ B&B	Families	60
Twin Oaks Hub	Family Hub	10
Total		76

#### 16. Question submitted by Councillor F. Kilcoyne

*I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on a motion that was passed on 8 July 2019 with reference to a safety barrier and footpath that were to be put in place between Brick Lodge and the roundabout on the N69 at Clarina Village, where there have been numerous fatalities at this location over the years.*

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council is awaiting confirmation from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to proceed with the design and associated funding applications for this project. The contract is expected to go to tender once all land agreements have been secured by the Council and funding has been granted by TII. We will continue to monitor the progress of this scheme and provide updates as they become available.

#### 17. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely

*I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the provision of bodycams for traffic wardens given a motion on same was passed unanimously.*

**REPLY:** Body worn cameras have now been purchased. Training on the use of this equipment is scheduled to take place in the coming days after which a 6 month pilot on their use by Traffic Wardens will commence.

**18. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

*I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick when will the stage 3 road safety audit for O'Connell Street be completed and made available to elected members of this Council.*

**REPLY:** The O'Connell Street Road Safety Audit Stage 2 is currently in 'draft working form'.

The Council Engineering team are currently reviewing the recommendations of the Road Safety Audit Report with the Scheme Design Team (ARUP) to address the items highlighted by the Road Safety Audit Team.

It is expected that this will be concluded over the next couple of months and a final report agreed.

**19. Question submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

*I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick what projects have been submitted by Limerick City and County Council to the Department under the Historic Structures Fund.*

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Councils Conservation Section have submitted the maximum number of projects to the Department for consideration under the Historic Structure Fund.

- 3 Public Projects
  - a. Mortuary Chapel, Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery.
  - b. Former Garda Station, Mary Street.
  - c. 1916 Memorial, Sarsfield Bridge.
- 3 Private Projects
  - d. Adare Village Hall
  - e. Former Fever Hospital, Adare
  - f. Croom Railway Shed.

All projects relate to Protected Structures, and have engaged competent and accredited conservation professionals. All of the projects were considered to meet the criteria for H.S.F. applications, as set out in the guidance circular, issued by the Department, which is as follows:

- (a) Significance of the Structure.
- (b) Efficacy of the Grant in Achieving the Aims of the Historic Structures Fund.

- (c) Quality of the Methodology and Technical Merit of the Works Proposed.
- (d) Contribution of the Proposed Works to Keeping the Structure in Use, or Bringing it Back to Use.
- (e) Broader public or community benefit of the project.

## **20. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

*I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the Community Liaison Committee due to be established for the Mungrange/Raheen/Dooradoyle area as stipulated in the planning conditions in respect to Irish Cement.*

**REPLY:** As stipulated in the decision under PL91.248285 of An Bord Pleanála in respect to Irish Cement Ltd. a Community Liaison Committee is to be set up to manage and operate a community gain fund for the benefit of the community in the general catchment area. The stipulation provides for two no. Elected Members to be on the committee and this will be considered at a Local Area Briefing of the City West Electoral Area.

## **21. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

*I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on all environmental remedial work carried out in the Loughmore Canal and Common in last year and what ongoing remediation works will be completed in 2025.*

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council received a complaint in June 2021 alleging pollution of the Loughmore Canal, which initiated a comprehensive investigation under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977.

Initial investigations revealed elevated readings of Zinc and Phosphorus.

Over the past several years, LCCC has undertaken a variety of detailed investigations to understand the source and nature of these elevated readings. These actions have included site surveys, dye testing, water quality sampling, flow monitoring, and CCTV surveys. In 2024, LCCC remained proactive in tackling the issue, continuing their investigations and introducing new measures to improve the sampling process.

The Council has continued to undertake monthly water quality sampling at two key locations along the canal: at the outfall and downstream. In November & December 2024, the sampling procedure was upgraded from grab samples to composite samples in order to get an accurate reflection of the water quality entering and leaving the canal. This change is expected to provide a more representative understanding of the water quality.

The water quality monitoring results from November and December 2024 showed an improvement with no elevated levels of Phosphorus and Zinc, indicating a positive trend that may reflect the effectiveness of the Council's ongoing efforts.

Additionally, LCCC has been actively engaging with businesses both internal and external to the business park linked to the storm sewer system. The Council has been issuing notices under the Water Pollution Act 1977 when necessary. In 2024, 77 inspections of businesses were conducted, and 26 notices were issued. The primary issues identified included the

improper discharge of wastewater from activities like power washing vehicles on-site, discharges from ventilation equipment to the storm sewer, and other minor misconnections.

The EPA has also been involved engaging directly with the licensed sites in Raheen Industrial estate regarding their discharges into the storm sewer. The EPA are currently preparing a report on their findings which we hope will be completed in the next few weeks.

Furthermore, landowners have submitted an independent report, prepared by Tetra Tech, to assess the impact of the storm discharge on the Loughmore Canal and surrounding lands. To ensure a thorough evaluation of this report, LCCC has appointed consultants to review the Tetra Tech report, with the aim of assessing its findings and determining the appropriate next steps for further action.

Looking ahead to 2025 we plan to continue the monthly sampling program, reviewing the results regularly and adapting the approach as necessary. We will also be reviewing the report from the EPA once it is received and will take appropriate actions based on its findings. Additionally, with the completion of the review report from the appointed consultants, LCCC will implement any necessary actions recommended.

LCCC remains committed to liaising with businesses discharging into the canal, ensuring that they adhere to best practices. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and adjust its approaches as needed.

## **22. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan**

***I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick how many presentation of bins warnings and fines have been given in Limerick city centre in the last 5 years.***

**REPLY:** In the last 5 years 114 warnings and 172 fines have been issued for Presentation of Waste offences in the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

## **23. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey O'Mara**

***I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council provide a status report on the 2GoCup scheme and whether there is any plan to extend it in 2025.***

**REPLY:** The current 2GoCup scheme is part of a wider National project i.e. MyWaste Green hub - Phase 2. There is a further MyWaste Green Hub planned for Phase 3 in Limerick City Centre.

The objective of the MyWaste Green Hub projects is to –

- (1) Promote the FREE [www.mywaste.ie/business](http://www.mywaste.ie/business) toolkit which assists the business community to properly separate their waste and so promote the circular economy
- (2) Minimise waste and encourage a move to reusable items instead of single use again to promote the circular economy.

The MyWaste project is ongoing and progressing steadily with businesses being visited on an individual basis by a waste advisor. A number of coffee outlets in Limerick have decided independently to move to reusables in support of sustainability. This initiative is supported

by the ongoing distribution to the public of reusable coffee cups by Limerick City and County Council throughout Limerick city and county

**24. Question submitted by Councillor S. Hickey O'Mara**

*I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on any public art works that have been approved and are scheduled for completion in 2025.*

**REPLY:** A three year biodiversity mural project in Limerick city and county has been approved for funding from the National Parks and Wildlife Service. This project is being developed and delivered in partnership with Draw Out Limerick, Planning and Placemaking and Limerick's biodiversity officer. Work is continuing on identifying suitable locations and by the end of 2025 it is anticipated that a number of biodiversity murals in Limerick city centre will have been completed. This public art project aims to create high impact, true to life, high quality biodiversity artworks.

**25. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney**

*I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the motion passed at the May 2023 Metropolitan District meeting "that this Council draft a maintenance plan for Patrickswell Village and put the resource in place to action this plan once Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme is completed later this year".*

**REPLY:** The Council's Operational Departments are currently finalising plans for the future maintenance of the Patrickswell Village Renewal Scheme once the contract maintenance period expires this year.

**26. Question submitted by Councillor D. McSweeney**

*I will ask at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick for an update on the proposed new City Centre Library to include most up to date quantity surveyor costings and details on any funding applications submitted.*

**REPLY:** In June 2015, Limerick City and County Council submitted an application to the Department of Community and Rural Development for funding of €5m, which was the maximum grant allowable under the **Libraries Capital Programme 2016-2021** for a new city library for Limerick on the Opera site.

In February 2016, an initial sum of funding of €2m was approved and ring-fenced by the Department for the design and development of the project.

In July 2018, Stage 1 Approval in Principle application was submitted to the Department and subsequently approved in February 2019.

In May 2023, a comprehensive Stage 2 application for the planned Limerick City Library was submitted to the Department under the **Libraries Capital Programme 2023 – 2027**.

In April 2024, the Department announced the approval of 11 capital projects for funding. However, Limerick was not included on this list.

We were informed that, which the Stage 2 Design Plan submitted for the new Limerick city Library was approved, the project was placed on a waiting list for future funding due to the limited availability of current Library Capital Funding.

In November 2024, Limerick 2030 issued the tender for the New City Library and the adjoining office development. As this is a live tender process, the projected costs for this project are commercially sensitive.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **27. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council include:*

- a. *the section of road between the Mackey Roundabout and the Railway Crossing on the Newport Road in the Consultants review being undertaken for the Park and Ride solution and;*
- b. *residents from Rich Hill Woods and Grangewood in Stakeholder Engagement as part of the Consultant's review.*

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

**REPLY:** In conjunction with the NTA, the Council is preparing planning documentation for a Strategic Park & Ride facility on lands to the West of Mackey Junction in accordance with the objectives of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS).

This project will identify and examine the best site and site layout to facilitate the various sustainable modes within a new facility to facilitate modal interchange and in particular access to the high frequency city Bus Services (Under Bus Connects) as well as other strategic Bus Services to meet modal share objectives.

This project will not address any potential deficiencies in the existing hinterland road network including the location identified above on the Newport Road.

However, we are exploring other options. Due to the constraints of the road curtilage, providing a footpath connecting Rich Hill Woods and Grangewood estates would require the acquisition of additional lands. This could be achieved either through a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) or by agreement, along with a road realignment. The Roads Department will engage with the Department of Transport to assess viable options in this regard. An update will be provided once this process is completed.

In addition, the LCCC Active Travel Section has committed to funding a permeability measure with the communities interlinking the estates which can also be advanced.

#### **28. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Slattery**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we discuss setting up a humanitarian hub in the Southside of Limerick City.*

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Slattery referred to the recent storms and bad weather over the Winter period and highlighted the benefits and need for a humanitarian hub to support the communities left without electricity and water after severe weather events.

**REPLY:** This can be discussed in the context of the need for a Humanitarian Hub in the area and the existing support services. The purpose of the proposed Humanitarian Hub needs to be established and once this has been done it can then be considered having regard to the existing community facility infrastructure in the area.

Following discussions, the Administrative Officer, Community Department, agreed to meet with Councillor Slattery to discuss the matter further.

#### **29. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Donoghue**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the owners of the former Debenhams building are encouraged to expedite development and reuse this key City Centre site.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Donoghue referred to a number of key sites in the city centre which were vacant, including the Debenhams building, and highlighted the need to engage with the owners to ensure sites were occupied as soon as possible.

**REPLY:** The Council is in regular contact with the owners of the former Debenhams building. Please see below statement issued by the owners last week.

***"The project is progressing well and has reached an exciting stage in the design process. Over the past few months, the design team has been developing the detailed design, with the aim of submitting the Fire Safety Certificate, Disability Access Certificate (DAC), and Commencement Notice in the coming weeks. A contractor has now been appointed to undertake the works, and negotiations with a leading fashion brand as the anchor tenant are at an advanced stage. We will continue to provide updates as the project advances toward construction".***

#### **30. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Pond**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council would engage with all stakeholders including An Bord Pleanala if necessary to expedite the delivery of the proposed Link Road from the Golf Links Road to the Groody Road and also to complete the upgrade of the final phase of the Golf Links Road. These two pieces of infrastructure are vital to ease traffic congestion in this area.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Pond highlighted the serious traffic congestion in the area. He stated that the delivery of the new link road would provide better access for those travelling to the new Educate Together School and the surrounding areas, and he noted the construction of the new hospital was also underway which will cause further traffic when opened.

**REPLY:** Regarding the Castletroy Link Road (New road from Golf Links road to Groody Park road) it is expected that planning for this scheme will be lodged with An Bord Pleanála in the coming weeks.

Regarding the Golf Links Road improvements we recently received approval from An Bord Pleanála to proceed with this scheme and are currently preparing contract documents with a view to beginning construction before the end of 2025.

Members requested that a Briefing would be arranged for Elected Members of Limerick Metropolitan District on the Limerick City Transport Plan.

### **31. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P. Reale**

***I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that this Council carries out a safety audit in respect to the raised ramps in the Garryowen Green area and that appropriate bollards are put in place to stop them being used as launch pads for cars entering and joyriding in the green spaces.***

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Reale referred to the numerous calls he had received from residents in the Garryowen area in relation to joyriding and the difficulties this was causing for the community.

**REPLY:** The raised tables within the road network around Garryowen green were installed in line with traffic calming standards. Limerick City and County Council Operations will review the request for bollards in locations where suitable in line with any future development plans for Garryowen Green and pending budget availability.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing agreed to meet with Councillor Reale on site.

### **32. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

***I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that a budget be identified as soon as possible for the reinstatement of the pedestrian crossing on O'Connell Street.***

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 pedestrians crossing on O'Connell Street, in particular doming from Bedford Row, and stressed the urgent need to reinstate the pedestrian crossing here. She referred to the many calls Councillors had received in relation to

same.

**REPLY:** A cost estimate for this particular work element is being prepared by our design consultant. Once we receive this detailed cost estimate, it will include details such as design, work scope, materials, labour, and any other associated costs.

Once the cost estimate is in hand, we can compile an estimated budget that details the anticipated expenses.

This estimated budget will then allow Limerick City & County Council to identify potential funding sources. These may include organisational funding, external grants, or other financial resources.

When the estimated costs are received the next step will be to submit these for approval by the Senior Management Team and Elected Members.

Councillor Kiely requested that the Safety Audit for O'Connell Street be brought to the April Meeting of the Metropolitan District.

### **33. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Kiely**

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the installation of pedestrian crossings at Childers Road at the Parkway Roundabout, at the Ballysimon Roundabout and at Ballysimon Road be made a priority and be installed as a matter of urgency.*

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 pedestrians when crossing at the very busy roundabouts at the Parkway and Ballysimon.

**REPLY:** The Parkway roundabout junction will be considered for an overall upgrade as a result of Bus Connects and these improvements will include consideration for all transport modes.

Pedestrian Improvements are planned as part of works proposed at Ballysimon Road and the Tipperary Roundabout under Active Travel schemes currently being progressed.

The Senior Engineer, Travel and Transport Strategy agreed to contact the Operations Team and Active Travel to discuss the request for a pedestrian crossing at the Parkway Roundabout.

### **34. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan (to be referred to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee)**

*I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that a cost price municipal refuse collection scheme be piloted in illegal dumping hot-spots in the city including St. Mary's Park, Ballinacurra Weston, Lenihan Avenue, Coonagh/Clondrinagh, Johnsgate and Kilmallock Road.*

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment

Strategic Policy Committee.

**35. 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 contact Transport For Ireland to request that the TFI 90 Minute Fare scheme be introduced in Limerick.*

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

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hickey-O'Mara highlighted the benefits of the TFI 90 Minute Fare Scheme, which would support the student population and encourage the use of buses, reducing traffic levels.

This concluded the Meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_